

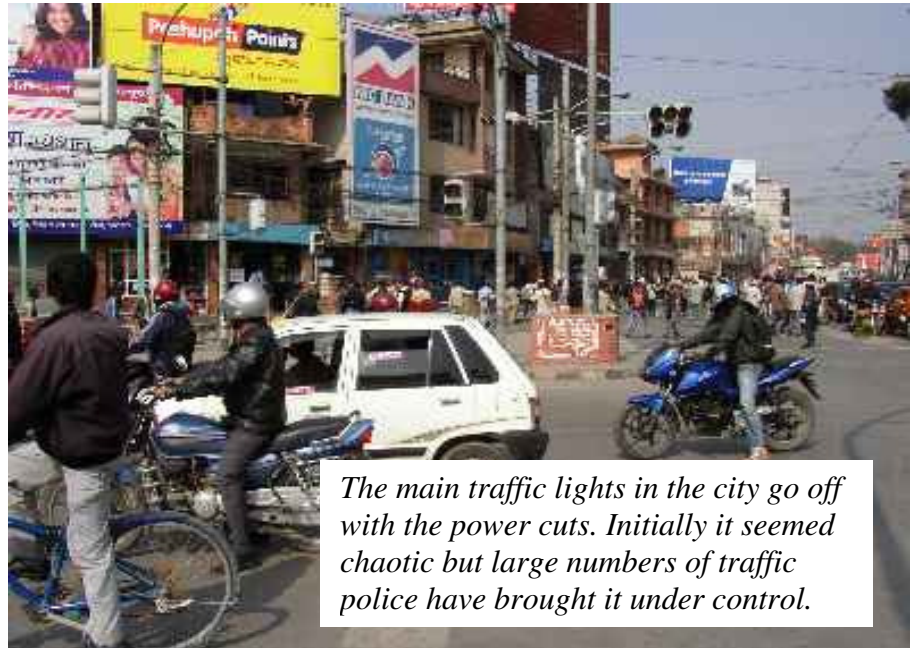
# News from the Wrights

March 2009

Since the start of the year the government has declared a national state of emergency in the face of a power crisis. Demand outstrips supply and several means of power supply are out of action due to flood damage or poor maintenance.

**So, what does it mean to have power cuts for 16-18 hours a day?** For industry and small businesses here it is crippling. Many are struggling to maintain a reasonable level of output and the impact on the economy is extensive.

Some public transport runs on electricity but those clean vehicles are able to run less routes than previously. A schedule dictates when the power goes on and off. The power is on twice in each twenty four hours, once during daylight and once after dark.



*The main traffic lights in the city go off with the power cuts. Initially it seemed chaotic but large numbers of traffic police have brought it under control.*

**How does it affect us at work?** NCRS, UMN and home fall in three different areas and all have different schedules. That keeps Paul on his toes! He was recently able to buy a small laptop

that has a six hour battery life for work. It has been a blessing and really helps him keep working. UMN has a generator but it cannot be run during the entire duration of the cuts. There is a feeling of frustration as it is hard to get things done.



*I got caught out at Christmas having planned a pass the parcel game at a Christmas party when the power was off. My friend picked up the Christmas carol sheet and we played accapella. Thanks Cynthia!*

**And at home?** The challenge is to be in when it is on so that you can write email, use the oven, etc., but that is easier said than done.

The schedules change fairly frequently so it is not realistic to change weekly commitments. Household water has to be pumped from a ground tank to the roof. That can only be done when with the power on - sometimes the roof tank runs dry and we have to wait up to 8 hours before we can pump water again. We are getting better at keeping the roof tank regularly topped up! The fridge is not getting enough power to stay cold; that means much more frequent shopping and keeping food fresh will be hard as the weather gets hotter. We are wondering whether to get a solar panel just to run the fridge. We already have solar powered 12 volt lights and we realise we are very fortunate compared to those who live around us. Most rely on candles which is poor light for those who need to study.



*Candle lit dinners are no longer special. This year newspapers advertised generators for Valentine dinners with the lights on!*

Last week we finally started the teenage fellowship at church. The pastor suggested two teachers neither of whom have taught teenagers before. The first session went well but the teacher I worked with needs to grow in confidence to use the materials without just reading from them. The teenagers were also very shy and reluctant to answer any questions. There is no spare room at church in which the teenagers can meet so we sit on the landing half way up the stairs. Paul is going to continue working alongside the teachers in the younger group each week.

*Please pray that the teenagers' group will get going well and that the teachers will gain confidence quickly.*



*Our church recently baptised 8 new believers.*

Paul has had a very 'interesting' time at work recently. NCRS found themselves with a financial deficit which made it difficult for them to seek new funding. After prayer, lots of meetings and emails, the Methodist Church made a grant to clear the deficit, opening the way for another donor to approve funding for their programme for the coming year. *Praise God!* Certain conditions have been attached to that funding and Paul needs to work alongside NCRS to help ensure that they meet the conditions and manage the money well.

*Please pray for Paul as he advises and for NCRS to embrace the challenges of the coming year.* Following the appointment of a new expat technical advisor in the Disaster Management team in UMN, the colleague Paul supports has been demoted. Obviously, this is hard and Paul is trying to support and encourage his colleague.

*Please pray for new team relationships and for Paul and his colleague in this sensitive situation.*



Asha is looking forward to a night camping with her class in the school playing field. It is less than 5 minutes walk from home but to her it feels like a big adventure! We are glad of the good opportunities they get through school.

Jack has enjoyed five months without any asthma medicines at all. As it gets drier and dustier we pray his chest will stay clear.

*Praise God for good health!*

**Thank you for all your prayers and support.**

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**Support details:**

We are sent by the Methodist Church of Britain to work with the Christian development agency the United Mission to Nepal. If you would like to contribute towards our support or the work of UMN please contact us directly for details, or write to The Administrator, Methodist Church World Church Relationships Office, 25 Marylebone Road, LONDON, NW1 5JR. E-mail:

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