



Editor – Rebecca Sheerin
PFGM Coordinating Office
Grace Cottage
Sydney

PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT

Family Group Goss



Fr Peter's Corner—The Power of Listening

I wanted to share this with all of you. I received a letter from a Family Group that had been meeting for 30 years. It contained this message. "We are so grateful for our Family Group over these 30 years. We started off young and enthusiastic with little children and

now we are well and truly grandparents and seniors. "We have become ONE FAMILY. We are so grateful to our Leaders over this time who have loved us and cared for each and every one. The greatest gift we have given to each other has been, no doubt, LISTENING. Thus we have shared our joys and sor-

rows and been able to practice down to earth loving one another as Christ would have us love.

Does this ring a bell for you? What would you say about belonging to a Family Group?

Alstonville to the Himalayas

This was too good to let pass. There are so many things that our Family Group members get into which are quite remarkable. Here's a case in point.

Helen and John Niven are the Leaders of a Family Group in Alstonville. Little did we know that John is a Dental Practitioner, & Helen, Dental Assistant, who share their skills and care with people in need. Recently they returned from their 5th trip to Nepal where they were caring for villagers in remote communities on the original route to Mt. Everest.

In two weeks Helen & John treated almost 300 patients in the Village Ghandruk on the Annapurna Sanctuary Track. This required a 3 hour 4WD journey followed by a 2 hour trek up to the

Village.

As if that was not enough, they trekked on to Junbesi where they had the assistance of a wonderful Dentist from Canberra, who came to Australia as a 'boat person' from Vietnam with her family, at the age of 14yrs, and treated another 389 patients. John wrote, "At Junbesi we were able to see and treat many teenagers from the school, which we hope will reduce their dental problems."

When the first earthquake struck, all their folks back home at Alstonville were anxious; fortunately Helen & John had left 8 hours before the 'quake. The second earthquake almost totally destroyed Junbesi Village where they had been working. John said, "Hopefully once they clear all the rubble, most of the dental gear should be retrieved as we packed it in solid boxes.

The Alstonville parish, and wider community, with the help of all the Family Groups, had a fund-raiser dinner for the Village of Junbesi, Nepal. They raised over \$6,800, and another \$3,000 at a Trivia Night, which Helen & John were able to send to their contact, Ang Tshering, to be used directly for the Village.

Norm and Carol Heyhorn, former Directors of the Passionist Family Group Movement write, "We are proud to have them as fellow parishioners, friends, and Leaders of our own Family Group.

We join in congratulating John & Helen and we see this as inspiration for perhaps other members of our Family Groups to make similar contribution to families less fortunate than ourselves.

Have you any similar stories that we can share with our Family Group network??

Father Peter McGrath cp



Opening wide in Nepal

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter with either an editorial or photos please forward to Rebecca Sheerin at bjsheerin@hotmail.com. The newsletter will be published bi monthly.

Further information about the Passionist Family Group Movement can be found on the website www.pfgm.org or follow us on Facebook—PFGM International.