

August 2022 #2

Dear Friends,

Just a couple of days after I sent the last email, the waters of the Ganges River started rising dramatically. Since my house is lower than most, I called a few of our older students to help, and we moved most of everything out of my house last Saturday. On Thursday, when the river actually entered my house, I moved the bits that I had left inside (on top of my kitchen counter). Now the whole house is empty, and I'm staying in



You can still see the tops of the blue doors of my house. This photo was taken on Saturday; the water has risen since then.

another (higher) room on the same property. By now there are over 4 feet of water in my house.

The river entered the school playground on Friday evening; now the entire playground is covered to a height of about two feet. A few inches are left before it will enter the ground floor. At this point, it seems likely that some water will enter the building since flood forecasts show no abatement through Monday. As those of you who have visited the school know, it will not create a lot of problem if the water enters our ground floor. The main building is essentially built one floor above the ground, supported by pillars throughout a large open hall on the ground floor. The only room on the ground floor is our kitchen, which was emptied (everything moved upstairs) last night. To recover after the flood, we would only have to put our kitchen back in order and clean the mud off the floor. Our classrooms will all stay dry. As far as the school goes, the biggest problem will be that the higher the water rises, the longer the school will have to remain closed. It will be too bad to have an unexpected closure (maybe two weeks?) when we were off to such a good start and now on the home stretch before our first term exams which are scheduled to start on September 19th.



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Taken at school on Friday morning. The river is approaching the playground.



Taken Saturday afternoon. The water has since completely covered the ground.

The bigger problem is for our community. Several of our students (like me) have already had to shift all their possessions to higher ground. By and large, they have alternate places to stay. But if the water continues to rise, many more will be displaced. Daily routines like bathing and cooking are more difficult. Obtaining clean water during

the flood costs money. It's hard to maintain hygiene standards. On top of this, sicknesses always follow in the wake of a flood. If the water continues to rise, we are in for a few difficult weeks ahead.

If it's not one thing it's another . . .

love,
Connie

PS. Our new school is being built on higher ground. I visited the site yesterday. Here's the progress since my last email:



Working on the east interior wall



The arch and a circular window are in place. The west interior wall vents are in progress.