



## Update from the Burkinshaws

Dear family and friends,

We hope you all have had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's. We had an excellent time with family and friends on both coasts, and feel very blessed that we were able to be with both sides of our families near Christmas day.

The last you heard from us we had just returned to Canada after we were unable to renew our visas. Things looked pretty dismal then and we felt a lot of confusion about the turn things had taken in Nepal. ([see August 2011 Update](#)) But once we reached North American shores, there wasn't anything else we could do, until we were able to re-enter the country on tourist visas after the new year. So we enjoyed being back--Andrew was able to work part-time for a local beekeeper, the girls had grandparent time (which meant we also had baby-free time!) and we enjoyed lots of walks, picking blackberries, apples, pumpkins, making cider, etc, etc. We thank God for the great fall we had.

During the last several months we have wrestled with the decision as well as talked with many of you about our plan to return to Nepal. Though we were not excited about the prospect, we did not think seriously about not returning to Nepal, until we sat down to buy our plane tickets. At that time, we realized that neither Andrew or I had peace about acting on our plans, so just before Christmas, we started a new round of prayer, seeking wisdom, and evaluating the direction God was taking us. Below are some of our thoughts regarding that issue and the decision we have reached. It has been a roller coaster but we are now thankful for the clarity we have received.

After our babies were born we felt compelled to return to Nepal. It was an exercise of faith that we do not regret. We knew it would be hard, and that we needed to trust Him and be faithful. The months in Nepal with the girls were challenging and when things fell apart in Nepal, which ended when our visa was not renewed, we left the country quite confused. Since our departure, we have asked some hard questions of ourselves and the ministry that we have been apart of in Nepal. We have spoken with people much wiser and more experienced than ourselves. We were expecting that a renewed vision and desire would follow our determination to return to Nepal, despite the circumstances, but it has not. We also want to respect our Christian Nepali friends and the leadership of our church in Jumla in regards to their request that foreigners not be an integral part of the national church movement. The conclusion is that although we have been sincerely planning to return to Nepal until two weeks ago, we have decided to not return. I think this has been the toughest decision of our lives.

We want to thank you all for supporting us through your encouragement, prayers and financial support. There have been times over the last three years that we have known without a doubt that our supporters were praying for us. We hope and pray that you have known that it has been a team effort, and that we have not taken this partnership with all of you for granted. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

We love hearing from you:

[acburks@gmail.com](mailto:acburks@gmail.com)

Andrew & Colleen Burkinshaw

c/o 2780 Sheffield Way

Abbotsford, BC V2S 4C1

TEAM Canada

#372-16 Midlake Blvd SE

Calgary, AB T2X 2X7

800-295-4160

[www.teamcanada.org](http://www.teamcanada.org)

TEAM USA

PO Box 969

Wheaton, IL 60187-0969

800-343-3144

[www.teamworld.org](http://www.teamworld.org)

I (Andrew) will return to Nepal in early February for a couple of weeks to wrap up our Nepali lives. Please pray for Colleen and the girls while I am away and for His favour as I travel to Jumla. We plan to spend 2012 in Abbotsford, B.C., so we will see many of you then. It looks like I will be working for a beekeeper in Aldergrove and Colleen will look for a part time nursing job south of the border.

TEAM will be in contact with those of you who have been involved in our financial support. This letter should arrive within three weeks. Again, we are grateful for all of you, and for your partnership on this journey. It is a momentous act to close this chapter in our lives, and we feel certain that God is leading us away from one set of circumstances, but more importantly, he is leading us to himself. He is worthy of our love, our obedience, and our worship, so though our circumstances have changed, we rejoice knowing that our Father is the same and that He is with us.

In Him,  
Andrew, Colleen, Maya and  
Elise



