

## TOPIC 5: BURRA SAHIB - THE GREAT MAN

### TIMELINE OF ED'S HELP IN NEPAL

Of all the mountaineers and explorers who came to Nepal to climb the world's tallest mountains, no one has given back to the country as much as Ed.

The people of Everest called Ed the "Burra Sahib" - which means "Big in heart".

For 60 years now, Ed's Himalayan Trust and its many supporters in New Zealand have helped make huge improvements to everyday life for people living in the Everest region of Nepal.

Here is a timeline of some of the major projects so far:

- 1961** Ed builds the very first school in the village of Khumjung to say thank you to his friends who helped make his Himalayan expeditions possible.
- 1963** Ed and his friends build a water supply in Khumjung, which is such a big and immediate help to the village that it causes tears of joy as the water gushes out of the pipe for the first time.
- 1964** Ed, with the help of many of the local people, constructs the airstrip at Lukla to transport in building materials for a hospital. Now, the Lukla airstrip is the gateway to the Everest region for visitors and the second busiest airport in Nepal.
- 1964-1975** Five bridges are built across Himalayan rivers, which takes hours off the journeys between villages.
- 1966** Kunde Hospital, the first hospital in the region, is completed. For many years it is staffed by volunteer doctors from New Zealand and Canada.
- 1979** Ed helps establish The Sagarmatha National Park Forestry Project to promote the sustainable management of the forests in the region and to help prevent damage to the forests from an increase in the local population and tourist visitors. New Zealand experts spend several years supporting the project, planting new forest, and helping train local people to manage the National Park.
- 1993** The Himalayan Trust helps rebuild Tengboche Monastery after it is destroyed in a fire. Most Everest expeditions, including the successful 1953 summit expedition, stop at Tengboche Monastery to be blessed on their way to the mountain.
- 1961-1997** In total, 26 schools, two major hospitals and 13 health clinics are built in the region.
- 1997-now** The Himalayan Trust starts work to help train primary and secondary teachers working at schools in the Everest region.
- 2002** Dr Kami Temba, who began his education at the school built by Ed in the small village of Thame, becomes the first Nepali doctor to run the Kunde Hospital. Today, the hospital is staffed entirely by Nepali medics.
- 2014** The Lukla Drinking Water Project is completed, piping clean safe water underground to homes and businesses and benefiting 3,000 people.
- 2015-2018** The Himalayan Trust responds immediately following the devastating Nepal earthquakes, providing emergency supplies to affected families. A programme is launched to rebuild and repair 150 seismic-resistant classrooms at 36 schools.

**Today**, the Himalayan Trust is working with our friends in Nepal to:

- help the people of a small farming village build a new drinking water system;
- improve the way 5-8 year-olds learn to read and write through training for teachers and providing new books;
- develop libraries and computer rooms in high schools; and
- improve access to medical care, especially for new mums and their babies in remote areas of the mountains.