

Supplies for Kolti

Part VI: Leaving the Village

Before we left, some of the men of the village gathered to make a list of all the fifty families so they could cross names off the list as each family came for its bag of flour.



Village leader lists names of families to receive flour

More of the villagers would meet us the next day after we purchased more flour. We met the village *pradhan* (or chief) who is elected to help the village deal in various ways with the government and various institutions. The *pradhan* speaks English and seems to do a lot to help the villagers with paperwork. He was helping another man understand the requirements for applying for a government loan, for instance.

Then Bulbir's brother, who had a sofa and chairs in his small one room house, invited us for tea and cookies before we left. He invited us to come back and stay a few days when we return to Mussoorie.

Bulbir and a young man volunteered to go back with us up the zigzag trail that involved a 2,000 ft altitude rise. We reached the top right as darkness fell. We asked Bulbir what he was going to do and he told us he had a friend with whom he would spend the night.

The next day we found that Bulbir had left to go to the village at five in the morning to get the milk and walk back up the mountain with it on his donkey as he had customers in the town who depended upon him. Then we went to purchase more flour and brought it back up the trailhead. While the men were loading up the flour on the donkeys to take to the village, there was a young woman with them.

We didn't realize it, but the young woman had come for the flour for her family. She didn't have a mule, though. She had one of the men help her put the 99 lb. bag of flour on her head and she started to leave for the village. I was astounded. I stopped her long enough to take a photo and to tell her that one of the men should carry the bag.



Village woman with flour ready for 2,000 feet descent to village

She just smiled and started off down the treacherous trail with the heavy bag of flour on her head. When I fussed at the men, they laughed and said that the men and the women in the village were all strong. Later, after I looked at my photos of her, I noticed that she was only wearing flip-flops.



So this is how treats, school supplies, and 4,959 pounds of flour were provided by compassionate members of two small churches in two small communities in Texas for fifty families of Kolti.

The Word of the Lord

Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. . ."

Matthew 25:34-35