



Ram Prasad Shrestha

*CMS & Missions Commission of Nepal
co-mission partner serving in Nepal*

PO Box 4689
Kathmandu
NEPAL

Letter No. 13 July 2006

Dear Praying friends,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I trust in the Lord that this finds you all in good health and spirit!

I do not have proper words to express my thankfulness to each one of you, for how much you have prayed for Nepal and ministry that I am involved in. Your prayer and good wishes have tremendously ignited my spirit and boosted my commitment to serving the Lord. I have been experiencing God's unfailing goodness in my life.

A few months ago, Nepal received a lot of coverage on the international news regarding its political turmoil, which I know you are aware of. Nepal has lived with 13 years of civil war, which has claimed more than 13,000 people. But 19 days of continued peaceful strikes and shutdown in April, has brought Nepal into new era in history. Nepal has been historically changed in various ways.

Due to united agitation, including the seven political parties, rebellion has resulted in great changes in Nepal. The parliament and ministerial cabinet dissolved for 4 years, has been reactivated. The House of Representatives has unanimously declared Nepal as a secular state, which is great news for Nepal. Nepal had been a Hindu state for 230 years and the King of Nepal is considered as an incarnation of Bishun, in other words as a god. The power of the King has been massively limited.

Nepal's government was known as "His Majesty's Government" has been changed into "Nepal Government". The army of Nepal was directly under the King, which was called "The Royal Nepal Army" which has been changed into "Nepal Army", and the army has been put under the parliament's control. Nepal is religiously and culturally divided in to a caste system, but the recent government has passed a resolution declaring Nepal as a Free Caste nation.

You might be thinking, what would be the status of Christianity or the Church? Well, the church will have more freedom in doing its activities but the law of conversion has to be amended in the new constitution, which the present government is planning to write in the near future. It has not been finalized yet whether Churches and Para-Churches would be registered officially.

The unceasing prayer of people in Nepal and people like you have helped to bring about these changes. We thank the Lord that our prayers have been heard and answered.

Let me share with you some of the updates of Missions Commission of Nepal:

Mission Day at NEBC on 24 April:

I thank the principal of Nepal Ebenezer Bible College (NEBC) for inviting me to be main speaker at their "Mission Day" celebration. I spoke on God's Mission and role of the church in Mission. There were about 60 student faculty members who took part at the celebration. Students had divided into different groups, representing different tribal groups in Nepal. Each student group was dressed in the custom that they represented and they had stalls where their foods, cultural vessels, dresses and household stuffs were displayed.

It was very unique and exciting event where every body enjoyed the different cultures, food, fellowship and challenging message of Mission. I thank the Lord for using me to mobilize churches and students of the Bible Colleges into Mission. It is my earnest prayer that the church would have a vision for mission and use their resources to reach out to the people.



NEBC Students

Easter Rally April 14th-16th



Easter Rally

As usual every year the church organizes a united rally in the city to proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It has been an Annual Festival for Christians. Even the government allowed us to march on the street with the banners and evangelistic tracts.

This year also, the Church decided to hold 3 days of evangelistic meetings and a healing crusade besides the

rally. An evangelistic crusade began on 14th June until 16th June. Thousands of people came everyday and received God's healing with new life experiences. On the last day, Sunday, churches marched on the streets and gathered at a big football stadium to hear a sermon on the resurrection. After the sermon was over, all the church members regardless of denomination took communion together and celebrated God's love and unity.

I was in charge of Christian literature and distributing the evangelistic tracts. By the grace of God, our group distributed about 10 thousand literature to almost 10 thousand people in three days.

Visit to USA/UK

God gave me a tremendous opportunity to visit USA to attend a Leadership Seminar for 3 weeks from April 26th - May 17th that was organized by the Elmbrook Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin City. I thank the Lord and the leaders of the church for inviting me to represent Nepal. There were 21 participants from different parts of the world. I was the only one from Asia and most of them were from Africa, Europe and South America.



Participants in the seminar

The meeting involved more interactive sessions than lectures. We were asked to share our testimony, ministry activities and Christian lives of our country at the meetings and churches. It was kind of sharing, encouraging and praying together.

Since they had several ministries in the church, each ministry pastor would come and facilitate at the session and we would discuss it together on various issues including: mission, leadership, youth, social issues, prayer lives, women ministry and cell groups etc.

I was given an opportunity to speak at their church, which was a great time of blessing. I spoke on mission and shared about church growth in Nepal and the mission initiative of Nepali churches.

Visiting CMS London.

On my way back to Nepal, I went to London from May 21st – May 26th, where I was invited by CMS London to meet and renew our partnership. It was like going back to home after 3 years to reunite and refresh the relationships. The Church Mission Society in London has been a great help to Missions Commission of Nepal. CMS has been sending significant grants to support missionaries, training and mission activities, mission work in Bhutan as well as sponsoring 2 co-commission partners.

I am very privileged to serve with CMS as a Co-commission partner since January 2003. My visit to CMS, Partnership House was to renew the agreement and reconnect with the personnel in different departments.



In the UK

I appreciate Rev. Jess and Ann Mary for inviting me to their house in Norwich where I spent one night with them. It was good to meet the believers of their church and spend time to fellowship with them. It was good to learn that the Mulbarton Church is praying for us and for Nepal.

It was good to meet Sister Gillian White who served as World Mission Officer for the Church in Wales. She arranged a meeting with Rev. Cannon Stuart Bell, in Aberystwyth. I stayed with them for one night. Stuart and his wife are planning to come to Nepal in September to help us with our training. On my way back to London from Wales, I met Rev Peter Lewis in Cardiff. We enjoyed our meeting and talked about future possibilities. Dr. Bill and Wanda Lovett welcomed me at their house where I spent three nights. I do appreciate their warm hospitality and love.

Fourth Batch of Missionaries at Nepal Mission Training Center

The fourth batch of missionaries at Nepal Mission Training Center, which is a wing of MCN, began training on June 4th. We were expecting 10 missionary students but unfortunately this time only 6 missionary students have been able to attend the session. The classes are going very smoothly and students are enjoying the learning

and fellowship. We are hoping to finish this batch in the last week of August and starting another batch in September.

Missionary Commissioning Ceremony:

We have been able to raise fund for 12 missionaries this year and we are planning to commission them on 28th of June. We have been working with several churches in sending local missionaries to plant churches in un-reached regions of Nepal. Please pray that missionaries would be able to travel to Katmandu to attend the missionary commissioning Ceremony.



Ram speaking, wearing traditional cultural dress.

My family:



Ashama

Thank you very much for your prayers for my family. My son Amulya aged 16 has been promoted to class 10 in High school. Please do continue to pray for him as he is going to take board exams this year. My daughter Ashama aged 10 is in grade 4. She is doing quite well in her studies. She is performing excellent jobs in school and she is growing very fast. She helps her mother at home.

My wife Keshari has just finished 40 days fasting (she used to take one meal in 24 hours). She feels physically weak but spiritually very strong. Actually she is the pastor in our home. She is actively involved in prayer ministry. Every week she meets with her group of 7 women who fast and pray every week. She keeps herself busy in the church teaching at Sunday school and women's fellowship. She does all this as a volunteer. She has been praying to God that she would find work in Christian ministry so that

she can give more time. Her vision is to mobilize women in prayer and look after the children.

Praise points:

We praise God for helping with grants to support 12 missionaries.
We praise God for helping with the finance to run this batch of NMTC.
I praise God for giving me an opportunity to visit USA and UK.

Prayer points:

Please continue to prayer for the ongoing needs for partial (50%) missionary support.
Please pray for the upcoming Mission Conference in Eastern Nepal.
Please pray for needed funds for the next batch of missionary trainees in September.
Please pray for one Motorcycle for office use.
Please pray for an overhead projector for Missionary Training Centre.

With best wishes,

Ram Prasad

