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co-mission partner serving in Nepal*

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NEPAL

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Dear Praying friends,
Greetings in the highest name of our Lord Jesus Christ!
I trust in the Lord that this finds you in good health and spirit!

It is my great privilege to write to you with the heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your prayer and partnership. God has been faithful in His promise to guide us, as we undertake the ministry for His glory and he is gracious to supply the resources to meet the needs.

The people of Nepal have been praying for religious freedom for several decades. Nepal being an official Hindu kingdom, had suppressed other minorities. The recent People's Movement has achieved significant changes in Nepal. The king was forced to hand over the executive power to the public, which he had taken over by dissolving the parliament a few years before. The King reactivated the parliament and allowed them to form a ministerial cabinet. The present cabinet has changed the name of the Government from His Majesty's Government to "Nepal Government". The title of the Royal Nepal Army has been changed to the Nepal army. Nepal was officially a Hindu Kingdom and now it has been changed into a secular state. Now, churches are no longer underground, however, there is still no right of conversion. We are hoping that as the political situation gets better, the parliament would write the Religious Act, as regards to conversion and role of the church and state.

Due to partial political stability in the country, churches have been actively holding several activities to equip the body through meetings and seminars. Similarly, we have been able to undertake several programmes to meet the goals for His mission. Once again, I would like to thank all of you for your fervent prayer and partnership for the ministries. The following is the update of Missions Commission of Nepal. I hope you would enjoy reading and feel led to lift us up in your prayers.

Missionary Commissioning Ceremony

A Missionary Commissioning Ceremony was held on 28th of June at Koinonia Grace Home. Around 60 key pastors and leaders from the Kathmandu valley attended to bless the missionaries. The ceremony began at 3pm, with opening prayer led by Rev. Dr. Mangal Man



Commissioning of the Fourth Batch

Maharjan, a senior pastor of Koinonia Patan Church. As director of MCN, I gave the welcome speech to the respected participants and thanked them for their continued prayer and partnership.

The Missionaries Candidates were called one by one on the stage introducing and talking about their missionary destination. Pastors and leaders were requested to come forward to offer a dedication prayer laying hands on the Missionaries. Likewise, the pastors and leaders came up on stage and asked the missionaries to kneel down for the dedication prayer. All the pastors and leaders joined in the dedication prayer and commission them to go to their target un-reached regions.



The Fourth Batch

Rev. Dr. Simon Pandey, General Secretary of the National Churches Fellowship of Nepal gave a message of exaltation from the word of God. He challenged all the missionaries to be committed in their work and firm in their faith as they are going to different places to work for the Lord. They need to witness to the world as salt and light for God.

Each Missionary who work in the plain areas received a bicycle for the ministry as they do not have local access to transportation in their region. Missionaries and their supporting churches have been grateful to God and provision to go to work as missionary in partnership with Missions commission of Nepal. We would like to sincerely thank the churches and individuals for supporting our missionaries through finance and prayer. We thank the Lord for granting funds to purchase 10 bicycles for our missionaries. After the sermon, Rev. Hari Gurung, former president of Nepal Baptist Association closed the meeting with the closing prayer and benediction.

Teaching at NMTC:

I thank the Lord for using me continuously to teach at Bible Schools and training Centres. I had the privilege to teach at Nepal Mission Training Centre which is a training wing of MCN. I taught a weeklong class from 24-28th July on tent-making Missionary. We have enjoyed the interaction at the classes. The students were very attentive and interactive because this was very new subject and interesting to them. As result of the class a few students decided that they would serve the Lord through the tent-making ministry in the future.



NMTC Teaching

Teaching at OM:

Due to my active involvement in equipping the church in Mission and mobilizing missionaries to the unreached areas, I am asked to teach at training schools. I was asked to teach at OM Missionary training school from 31st July to 4th August. I taught Biblical Mission and the Role of Church in Mission. I have given a book to each student entitled "Introduction to Mission" as a text book. Students have been blessed with the classes. As soon as the class was over they were sent for practical work in the mission field in the mountainous region of Nepal.



Teaching at OM

Partnership with Mission Society:

The Nepal Training Centre of MCN has agreed to partner with the Nepal Mission Society in the training of Missionaries. It was a great joy to meet officials of NMS at

their office. I and Mr. Manoj Pradhananga, co-ordinator of NMTC attended the meeting with them. We met twice and have agreed to training their missionary candidates at our training centre from February next year. We thank God for giving us a similar vision and working relationship with the mission society. We hope that our partnership will be strengthened the future.

NMTC Graduation

A Graduation Ceremony was held at Nepal Mission Training Centre - MCN on 1st September. We had 5 missionary students in this batch. The duration of the training was 3 months. In the last week of the class, their wives along with the few missionary couples were invited to take special weeklong class. All of them graduated on the same day. Around 50 pastors and leaders attended the Graduation Ceremony. At the end of the session, all the pastors jointly led the dedication prayer for the missionary students. We are praying that they will be sent soon to their mission field.

Attended Pro-Public Meeting:

It was a privilege for me to attend the consultation on 6th of August, involving a discussion meeting on whether Nepal should remain as a secular country or a Hindu country. Several religious leaders and people involved in Human Rights and Women Rights were present at the consultation. It was organized by Pro-Public who advocates for justice and runs talk shows on TV.

Every religious leader shared their opinions. Besides Hindu, all the religious leaders including Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Jain and other tribal groups voiced that Nepal must become a secular state. Other religious groups commented sharply, arguing that Hindu religious extremists and their oppressive practices in society has marginalized the other groups in the areas of education and other privileges. The present government has declared Nepal as a secular state. However, the constitution still needs to be written regarding religious freedom and privileges.

Dharan Mission Conference: Eastern Nepal

We thank God for enabling us to complete this conference successfully. It was held in Elohim Church in Dharan from 18-20th September. A total of 150 pastors and leaders from Eastern Nepal attended the 3 day conference. Although the pastors and leaders have been serving the Lord for several years, such a conference and learning experience was a first for most of them. They expressed with thankful hearts that they have been blessed through the conference and they will return to their church and teach what they have learned at the conference.

We had several speakers at the conference. Rev. Val Hayworth, a former mission pastor of Elmbrook church in USA taught on Role of the Church in Mission. Rev. M.J. Joseph, Chairman of MCN and pastor of Beth-Shalom Church, Kathmandu spoke on Prayer Life and the Role of the Holy Spirit in Mission. Rev. Dr. Simon Pandey, the General Secretary, spoke on Leadership in Mission. Mr. Manoj Pradhanang a Training Co-ordinator of NMTC spoke on Cross-cultural Experience and I spoke on the Biblical Foundations of Mission. The conference has impacted the lives of many pastors and leaders, encouraging them to be more involved in mission and mobilize the Church.



Dharan Conference

God Saved from the Jeep Accident:

We took off for Dharan for the conference with our office Jeep on the 17th of September, early in the morning. Rev. Dr. Simon Pandey was driving the car and Rev. Val Haywoth, Mr. Manoj Pradhang and myself were passengers. While we were driving near Chitwan, (about 200km from Kathmandu) suddenly a motorcycle from opposite side of the road badly hit our Jeep. It was very sudden, and the driver did not see the motorcycle coming from the front because it was trying to overtake the truck, which was coming toward us.

The motorcycle's driver were thrown to the edge of the road. We stopped and went to see the driver. He was badly injured on his feet and the motorcycle was also damaged on the front side. So many people gathered and surrounded us. The crowd demanded that we take responsibility of the accident and take the patient to the hospital. Due to broken glass, Rev. Simon Pandey also got some cuts on his face and was bleeding. However, we took him to hospital. We did x-rays and other check ups. Thank God that the Motorcycle driver did not have any major injuries except the deep cut on his feet and wounds on his body.

Relatives of victims filed the case at the police station and the key of the jeep was confiscated by the police. We were forced to stay overnight and look after the sick people. Somehow we left next day early in the morning, leaving some cash advance and assuring them that we would come back to see the patient and settle the case after we had finished our conference.

We returned to the Hospital on 21st of September to see the patient. He had had an operation for the deep cut on his feet. When we met the relatives and patient they demanded that we must repair the motorcycle and pay all the bills of the hospital. We tried to work it out but the police and relatives of the patient demanded that the expenditure for hospital and motorcycle repaired must be borne from our side. Finally, we decided to pay off the bills of both. We have given around Rs. 20,000.00 as advance for the expenditure and case still pending. The patient is still in hospital. The case will be only dismissed once all the payment is made by us. We were able to come back on 22nd of September from Chitwan.

We thank the Lord that he protected all of us and the motorcycle driver from being seriously injured. If the driver had become disabled, we would have to pay life long expenditure for his survival.

Please pray that God intervenes in this situation and help us to settle this case without any future problems.

Please pray for the following needs:

1. Missionary support
2. LCD projector for Training
3. Up coming National Mission Conference in October 2007
4. Missionary Retreat in November.
5. Motorcycle for Office use.

Ram Prasad

