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Letter No. 16 April 2007

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.

Nepal has been experiencing a tremendous growth of the church. It has almost doubled every five years! It might surprise those who are living in the west but spiritual warfare is the daily encounter for Christians in Nepal. There are several prayer groups and prayer ministries that have been initiated. Fasting and prayer is going on 24 hours a day by these groups of people. For instance, 79 woman from our church have just finished their 40 days of fasting and prayer this week which has boosted the churches to growth.

I believe that due to the earnest prayer by the churches of Nepal, the political situation has improved. The Moist party, who led the insurgency for 12 years killing more than 12 thousand people, has joined the mainstream party forming an interim government. We do hope that God will grant peace and stability in Nepal. Due to frequent killing and unrest Nepal has been left behind and it is the least developed country in South Asia.

Nepal Mission Training Center:

Nepal Mission Training Center is a training wing of the Missions Commission of Nepal that runs 2 times a year. This year we began our training in February with 13 missionary students. We have missionary students from across the country. Most of the students are from the Midwest and far west of Nepal, which is the least evangelized region of the country.

Visiting Pune and Hyderabad:

We thank the Lord for the privilege to visit Pune and Hydearabad. It was the first time in our 17 years of marriage that my wife and I have been invited as a couple to attend a seminar outside of the country. My wife Keshari and I were invited by Partners International to attend a Crisis Management Seminar in Hyderabad from 13-17 February. We had a great time together attending the seminar and learnt about the principles of Crisis Management such as disaster management, leadership management

and self management. My wife attended a special woman's training during the seminar. We both have been blessed so much through learning new things and meeting many friends from around the world. Right after attending the seminar my wife was encouraged to fast for 40 days to pray for the church and people around her.

Visiting Schools:

We visited two primary schools to teach about health and hygiene. We met several pupils who hadn't had a shower for years. They had head lice and their nails were as long as animals. We cut their hair, cut their nails and cleaned them one by one. Both pupils and teachers were quite happy with our visit and help. We wish we could have brought some cloths to distribute. Very few students make it to the high school because they cannot afford it.



An encounter with prostitutes!!

It has been our compelling desire and vision to send missionaries to a few cities in India to rescue and restore Nepali women who are sold to India and forced to be sex slaves. My wife and I visited Pune from 9-11 February to survey the actual situation. We met with Dr. Lalita Edwards (CMS Co-mission partner), who has long experience in working among HIV affected patients and those in need. She is closely associated with the local NGO "Saheli" (Friends of Woman). Saheli is an NGO situated in the midst of Red Light district in Budhbarpet, Pune looking after the welfare of prostitutes in the areas of health and education.

We were taken to the office of Saheli to meet the workers and look for the opportunity to visit some brothels. We met the boss of the Saheli and requested if we could be escorted to visit and get some facts about the brothels. The boss told us that it is very hard to attain facts from them. Even though we work for their welfare, they would not let us go inside their brothel for fear of disclosure or the removal of their girls. She told us that they have a group of woman who visit the brothels to distribute condoms and do health awareness called "Peers". We asked if they could let us in and meet the girls.

We went with my wife and the social workers to the office of the old ladies, who have access to brothel. Our guide from Saheli told them our purpose for visiting the brothel and requested if they could help us get access to visit them. The people in charge are very suspicious about outsiders who they don't know because they might reveal their network, identity, and may report to the officials or even take their girls away.

The old lady told us strictly that we must not ask about the girls personal information. They also told us to tell them that we were there to check whether workers of Saheli are distributing condoms regularly and help them in areas of health concern and other assistance. They also told us that if they show an interest in talking to us then we may pursue a conversation, otherwise just simply ask how they are doing. If they found out that we had gone to spy on their work then the relationship between Saheli and them will be broken in the future. It was quite sensitive for us as outsiders because we do not know their context. The old ladies made a few phone calls and got approval for access.

The houses were quite old and small and the roads very narrow and messy. We were taken to one of the old houses and climbed the staircase towards the narrow, dark rooms. On our left there was a room with a curtain.

It was like sitting in a room for prostitutes where customers would come and choose which one they would like to have sex with. We entered the room, it was small and there were benches around the room where 10 girls aged between 12-25 were sitting with the best of their make up and erotic dresses. As I looked around the room, I could see a few half naked posters around the wall and Television set with Indian music. One lady in the middle was preparing vegetables to cook. They eat there, sleep there and do their business in the dark and crammed rooms. The girls are not allowed to go out. They are forced to stay inside and work like a machine to earn for the owner of the brothel. My heart broke seeing such pain and suffering. They look very innocent and tender.

We entered the room and greeted them "Namaste". Only the one in charge responded to our greetings and rest of the girls seem to be suspicious and astonished. The old ladies told the boss that we were from Nepal and had come to visit them. We were asked to sit on one of the benches near the door. I asked them how they were? The only response came from the boss, the rest of them were staring at us like sheep ready to be slaughtered in front of the master.

After a few minutes of silence, I was wondering what else I could ask. Suddenly a group of Nepali young guys came toward us. I was a bit fearful and thought they could be their pimps. But it turned out that they were their customers. I felt that I was taking up their time and business and thought I'd better leave the place and let them get on with it. After a while, I thanked them for giving their time and talking to me.

Though my wife was with me, she just kept quite like children keep quite while elders talk. She was just amazed to see the completely different world and life style. And of course she felt pity on them.



We left and tried to enter another brothel. As we approached to the main door, the lady standing at the door did not allow us to get in. She literally stopped us from going inside. I peered inside the room; I could see some girls with men. They must have been negotiating prices or doing business. Walking a few meters, we passed dozens of brothels, where the ladies would stand in a group to entice the man and put on their fake love.

We went to another brothel which was on the ground floor. It was very crowded. There were about 12 women of different ages. As we went inside, I greeted the leader and they welcomed us in. I tried to speak to them but they didn't pay attention to us. They seem to be sending a message from their facial expressions that it was none of our business.

I asked the ladies how long they had been there. Some said for 10 years, some said 15 years to 20 years. I asked one of the ladies who was from my tribe in Nepal if she had been to Kathmandu recently. She told me that she goes to Kathmandu very often. I thought she must be involved in trafficking woman to do sex work. As the other girls were not interested in talking to us, we felt we should leave.

The social workers of Saheli told us that every prostitute has a boy friend whom they call "Marad" (man). Man plays a role of leadership and tells them where to go and what to do. As I inquired from a local source about income of prostitutes I was told that when they serve a man they usually get generally NR 100. Out of NR100, NR50 goes to her boss (Gharwali), NR10 for police, NR10 for cleaning and NR 10 for food. She gets only 20 rupees per man.

Women have to work from 10 am to 2 am as slaves. The Gharwali forced them to work day and night. They do not have any one to speak for them. They are bitten and persecuted if they do not obey the Gharwali. They are completely disconnected with the outside world. They are like goats in chains.

They work there until they get infected by HIV. Once they get HIV they get thrown out on the street and they die of HIV and hunger because they cannot return to Nepal because their family and society will not accept them any more.

We returned back to Shaheli where they take care of the children born to prostitutes. We met a Nepali lady in the drop in center, whose prostitute name was given as a Ashina but her real name was Maya. A relative sold her at the age of 18. She has been in Pune and Mumbai doing sex work for 23 years. Now she has HIV and was thrown out of the brothel. There is no place for her to go. When I asked her to go back to Nepal, she told me that she will not go back to Nepal because she does not have any people to stay with. She often goes to Shaheli to meet Dr. Lalita Edward to ask for prayer and medication. When we talked to her in a Nepali language she just burst in to tears. We laid hands on her and prayed for the restoration of her life.



There are thousand of girls like Maya, many of whom are HIV positive. Many have already died. Thousands of girls are sold every day from Nepal to the cities of India by friends, family and fake husbands or through false assurance of good jobs. They have to live like animals. There is a high demand for Nepali girls in Indian cities because they are fairer and pretty.

As God's people, we have prayed for a missionary to go to those cities to rescue and restore their lives in the Lord and society. We also strive to find the culprits who are involved in sex trafficking and bring them to justice. Please join us in your prayer to eradicate the inhuman acts in Nepal and India.

God bless you all

Ram Prasad