

HeartCry

MAGAZINE

FROM NEW BRUNSWICK
TO NEPAL

The Transcendent Power of the Gospel

GREETINGS

Welcome to the Fall Edition of the HeartCry Magazine. We are continually overwhelmed with the love and kindness that you all show toward us with your sacrificial support, whether in prayer or in giving. It is a tremendous yet sobering privilege for each of us in the office to be able to spend our daily lives working to advance the gospel. We are grateful beyond words. Please keep us in your prayers – apart from God’s guiding hand, this ministry is useless!

Many of you have been faithfully praying for HeartCry Director Paul Washer since his heart attack in March, and many of you have recently been asking for an update on his health. Thank you for praying! While Paul is not quite back to full strength, he is getting very close. He still has to be cautious with regard to travel, but his life is otherwise very close to being “normal” again. He has had to spend much more time at home over these months, which the Lord has used to allow him to enjoy his family and to spend countless hours studying and writing. The Lord’s grace has been unmistakable throughout the entire situation, evidenced both in Paul and in his family. Again, thank you for your prayers!

As surely as our planet revolves each day, so fresh pain emerges with each rotation. Natural catastrophes, senseless tragedies, and global threats have become mainstays in our news cycles. One does not need to look far to find recent instances of this reality: the hurricanes that ravaged Houston, Florida, and the Caribbean islands, rendering individuals and families homeless or worse; the horrific shooting in Las Vegas that killed dozens, leaving behind heartbroken and confused family members and friends; or the verbal jousting matches between world leaders, intimating their ability to inflict unimaginable damage on those they deem enemies.

Days like ours are often labeled, “times of uncertainty.” And, in a sense, this is an accurate depiction.

None of us can control or predict the future; we have a hard time even understanding the past. Indeed, for many of us, the examples above feel distant – we can acknowledge their tragic or fearful nature, but they do not often personally affect us. But pain does not spare us either, stabbing its icy fingers into our daily lives and into the lives of those we love. No man, woman, or child escapes from pain in this life or the uncertainty that it brings.

However, in a greater sense, the pithy phrase “times of uncertainty” could not be more inaccurate; for *time* itself is governed by One alone, and every event is *certain* to fall according to His holy plan!

For God, there are no “times of uncertainty.” The mightiest hurricane is but a faint whisper compared to His limitless strength. The deadliest killer can neither surprise nor overcome Him for even a moment. The most powerful ruler is but a pawn in His hand. The most painful situation will assuredly be used by Him for His own glory and for His people’s good.

Amidst all the hurt in the world, we as Christians have a singular source of hope: the gospel of Jesus Christ. Pain permeates the life of every person; the gospel guarantees hope for any person. Pain consistently reminds us of the fleeting nature of this world and all that is in it; the gospel promises us an everlasting and unfading inheritance. Pain gives us a gnawing, unrelenting feeling of not belonging here; the gospel reveals that this world is indeed not our home. Friends, we are citizens of a better Kingdom, *one that is eternally free of both sin and pain*. What a glorious thought!

Nothing can alleviate the plight of every nation, save the gospel. Brothers and sisters, let us be diligent in our individual and collective callings to bring that one gospel to every land on earth.

In His love,
Forrest Hite (General Editor)



THE TRANSCENDENT POWER OF THE GOSPEL

According to *Webster's Dictionary*, the fourth meaning for the word "transcendent" is "universally applicable or significant." This is the meaning we intend in our title "The Transcendent Power of the Gospel." In our post-modern age, where "truth" is viewed as uniquely individual, Christianity makes the bold claim that our message is universally true and applicable for all humanity.

Christianity's universal claim is certainly central in this issue

of the HeartCry magazine, which highlights the regions of Nepal and New Brunswick, Canada. The differences in these regions could hardly be more pronounced. **Geographically**, one is coastal; the other is landlocked and holds the highest mountains on earth. **Ethnically**, one is primarily European; the other is Asian. **By religious heritage**, one is mostly Catholic and Protestant Christian; the other is Hindu and Buddhist. To the post-modern mind, Christianity's claim that both regions

require the same spiritual solution seems naïve at best and blatantly arrogant at worst. Yet our source of authority, the Bible, de-

clares our gospel to be the only accurate assessment and answer to the human condition.

A UNIVERSAL CURSE

On the morning of September 10, Hurricane Irma made landfall in the Florida Keys as a Category 4 storm with 130 mph sustained winds. Regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religion, or economic status, all residents of south Florida faced one common problem – a massive and deadly storm. All of them sought the same things – shelter and safety. The Bible diagnoses the entire human race with one spiritual disease, leading everyone to the same drastic consequences:

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible

man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. (Roman 1:18-25)

...through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.... (Romans 5:12)

Humanity was formed by God and placed in a perfect environment, that they might walk with Him and with one another in unhindered intimacy and that they might govern creation as His representatives. However, rather than trusting His loving commands and care for us, we preferred to make our own way and define our own morality. The holy, righteous, and just God could not allow this rebellion against all that is good and pure in Himself to go unpunished. The tragic consequence of our treason was instant and eternal spiritual separation from our God, resulting in disorder, decay, and death in all creation, all physical life, and all human relationships.

Today's news headlines broadcast the catastrophic fruit of our refusal to trust God's love and wisdom and to honor Him with lives of grateful obedience. Like cutting the roots of a tree, we have cut ourselves off from the source of all goodness – an action which has allowed nothing but destruction and dismay to spread to every area of human existence.

Regardless of ethnicity, geographic location, or cultural and religious heritage, the Apostle Paul pronounces the same solemn verdict for all humanity:

What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; all have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one.... There is no fear of God before their eyes." ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.... (Romans 3:9-12, 18, 23)

A UNIVERSAL CURE

A good doctor labors to help his or her patient understand the nature of a life-threatening disease in order to prescribe life-sustaining treatment. Similarly, in the first two and a half chapters of his letter to the Romans, Paul labored to drive home the grim reality of human depravity. Then he quickly transitioned to a glorious message of hope – God has provided a universal cure for humanity's universal curse:

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He

would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:23-26)

For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.... But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. (Romans 5:6, 8-10)

Humanity's greatest problem is our separation from God. This separation is sustained from both sides – our proud rebellion against God, and God's righteous wrath against us. Such a standoff must surely end in humanity's destruction, unless a mon-

umental solution can be found. God's justice against our rebellion must be satisfied; His wrath for the dishonor of His holy name must be appeased; the broken relationship between God and humanity must be restored; and our corrupt nature must be renewed.

Our jaws should drop and our hearts should tremble before the majesty of God's merciful solution. It is a solution entirely foreign to every other religion in the world, a solution solitary in its ability to solve the greatest dilemma of divine justice and mercy. In the most astounding act of humble condescension,

eternal God clothed Himself in human flesh! Divine nature was miraculously united with perfect human nature. Jesus Christ entered the wasteland of our fallen existence, lived a flawless life of worship and obedience to His Father as the representative of His people, and offered Himself as a sinless substitute to die under the wrath of God that they deserved. God vindicated His perfect sacrifice by raising Him from the dead. Jesus Christ returned to His Father and took His rightful seat on heaven's throne, where He intercedes for all His followers and rules history for their good.

A UNIVERSAL CALL

What better news could cursed humanity receive? Yet God's universally sufficient cure is not universally applied apart from a humble response.

But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness.... (Romans 4:5)

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.... (Romans 5:1)

We are called to respond to God's gracious work in Jesus Christ by repenting of our rebellion and trusting only in the Rescuer that God has provided. The same Spirit of God who enabled such a response in us continues with a lifelong process of transformation, empowering ever-increasing degrees of loving obedience to God.

Since the curse is universal in every human culture, and since God's cure is universal for every human culture, then the call to respond must also be universal for every human culture. Before Paul launches into his explanation of God's wrath against sin, he begins with a triumphant declaration of the gospel's power to save:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (Romans 1:16)

Much later in his letter, Paul repeats his confidence in the miraculous multi-cultural power of the gospel:

For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same

Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for “whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? (Romans 10:11-14)

Paul was absolutely confident that the same simple gospel of Jesus Christ could transform both slave girls and Roman governors, both simple laborers and Greek philosophers. He and his fellow

apostles preached the same simple gospel to Jews, Asians, Greeks, Romans, Africans, and Spaniards with the same miraculous results!

What wonderful confidence this gives us in evangelism and missions! The same simple gospel message is as powerfully effective in the Canadian coastlands as it is the Himalayan mountains, the Amazon jungle, the African plains, or the Arabian desert. Like Paul, do you confidently rest in the power of the gospel as you travel to distant lands or as you encounter international students in your hometown?

A UNIVERSAL CLIMAX

In closing, we move from Romans to Revelation, where we are given a glimpse of the climax of human history. Here, again, we find a declaration of the gospel's universal power, as it is sung by heavenly creatures in praise to Jesus Christ:

And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.” (Revelation 5:9-10)

Please pause and allow the wonder of these words to sink in!

Former proud rebels from every people group on earth have become rulers and priests to God! Can you picture such a

scene in your mind's eye? *Imagine* one universal kingdom of God, ruled by people from every culture on earth, cultures that once hated one another and fought to advance their own national agendas. Saints from the United States and from North Korea; French, English, and German saints, whose nations fought so many wars throughout the centuries of history; Arab and Jewish saints; Hutu and Tutsi saints from Rwanda; Zulu and Afrikaner saints from South Africa – all these diverse and opposing cultures finally united for a single purpose, governing the universe together with only one agenda: to carry out the perfect will of Almighty God!

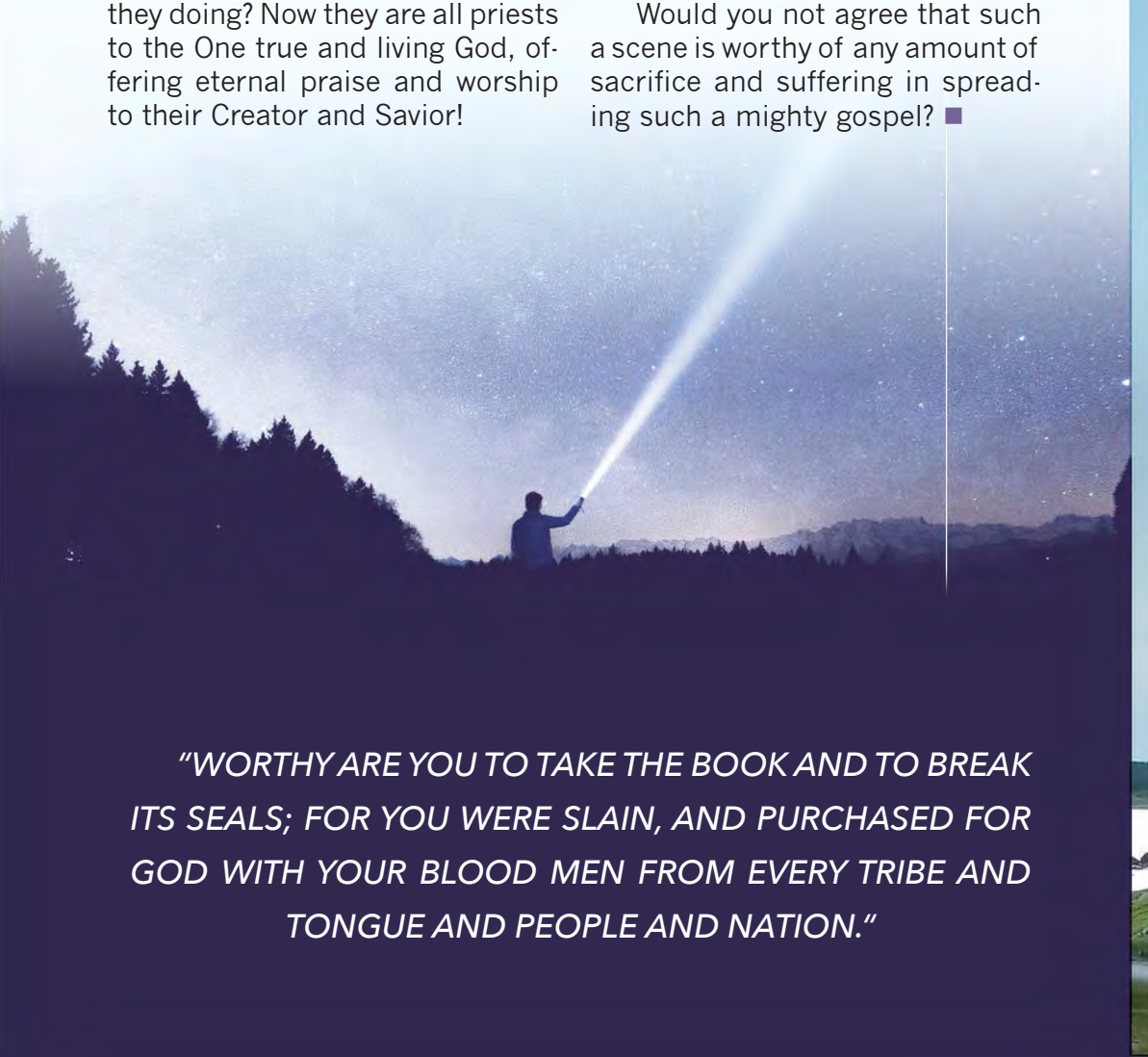
Think of the Olympic games or the World Cup. For weeks, we watch our nation's athletes competing to defeat other nations in a celebration of national pride. Now *imagine* all those countries who compete in the Olympics some-

day together exerting all their talent and energy for all eternity in one united purpose – to do the will of God and exalt His glory. Incredible! But we must add even another element to this amazing scene.

Imagine former worshipers from every world religion – Italians who once followed the Vatican, Arabs from Syria who once prayed to Allah five times a day, Tibetans who once wore the orange robes of Buddhist monks, Indians who once bathed in the Ganges River and worshiped thousands of gods, fierce Massai from the plains of Tanzania who once practiced witchcraft and prayed to their ancestors – men and women who once followed every false religion on the planet, and now what are they doing? Now they are all priests to the One true and living God, offering eternal praise and worship to their Creator and Savior!

Imagine such a scene! All the education and philosophy and politics and religion of humanity *could never accomplish this*. What centuries of humanity's best efforts could never do, *Jesus Christ accomplished alone* through His victorious death on the cross! Men and women joined from every culture, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, reborn and transformed by the power of the Spirit, will worship God and reign as His representatives. The culmination of human history is a return to God's ultimate intention for creation. All of history is designed and destined for this moment, when God receives the beauty of multi-colored worship from those He has redeemed from every culture on earth.

Would you not agree that such a scene is worthy of any amount of sacrifice and suffering in spreading such a mighty gospel? ■



"WORTHY ARE YOU TO TAKE THE BOOK AND TO BREAK ITS SEALS; FOR YOU WERE SLAIN, AND PURCHASED FOR GOD WITH YOUR BLOOD MEN FROM EVERY TRIBE AND TONGUE AND PEOPLE AND NATION."

CANADA

Canada is a sparsely populated nation located in the northern half of North America, the majority of its land territory being dominated by forest, tundra, and the Rocky Mountains. About four-fifths of the country's 36 million people live near the southern border, and roughly the same percentage is urbanized. The majority of Canada has a cold or severely cold winter climate, but southerly areas are warm in the summer. Canada is officially bilingual (English and French) at the federal level and is one of the world's most ethnically diverse and multicultural nations, due to large-scale immigration from many other countries. Canada has the tenth-highest nominal per capita income globally; and it ranks among the highest in international measurements of government transparency, civil

liberties, quality of life, economic freedom, and education.

Canada is religiously diverse, encompassing a wide range of beliefs and customs. The nation has no official church, and its government is officially committed to religious pluralism. Freedom of religion in Canada is a constitutionally protected right, allowing individuals to assemble and worship without limitation or interference. The practice of religion is now generally considered a private matter throughout society and the state. With Christianity in decline after having once been central and integral to Canadian culture and daily life, Canada has become a post-Christian, secular state. Most Canadians consider religion to be unimportant in their daily lives, but would still hold to a belief in God.





NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT: CHRISTOPHER SIPPLEY

Chris is pastor of Cornerstone Church in Richibucto, New Brunswick, Canada. Although he made a profession of faith at the age of twelve, it was not until later in life that he truly repented. After six years of evangelistic work, he was burdened to see a healthy local church planted in Richibucto. He and his wife Paula have two children: Zoe-Lyn and Nathaniel.


CHRISTOPHER'S TESTIMONY OF CONVERSION

My name is Christopher Sippley, and I was born and raised in New Brunswick, Canada. I grew up in a Roman Catholic family, went to mass, and was taught to believe in God and to believe that the Bible was a sacred book.

When I was about twelve years old, a friend of my mother's invited her to attend a Pentecostal church. My mother and I both went, and that day I responded to an altar call and made a profession of faith in Christ. Howev-

er, though I began to identify as a Christian and would regularly attend church, my life was not transformed; rather, in the years that followed, my life was characterized by worldliness and immorality, not by love for Christ and a desire to be like Him.

After several years passed, I started attending a Word of Faith church; and upon graduating from High School, I enrolled in a two-year Bible school program that was offered through the church.



During my second year of attending the Word of Faith school, Paula and I were married. After graduation, we were sent by our church to work overseas with another Word of Faith church in Ireland for nine weeks. By God's grace, upon returning to our sending church, I began to dislike what they were teaching. I couldn't explain it, because at the time I did not really know much about sound doctrine, but I felt that we had to leave that church. So that is what we did. We then began attending the Nazarene church where my wife had attended while growing up.

Later, I began working for a construction company, the owner of which was a bi-vocational Baptist pastor. We would talk about Christianity as we worked together, and I soon discovered how little I rightly understood about God and His Word. Some time later, he gave me a couple of episodes from "The Way of the Mas-

ter" TV series by Ray Comfort. As I watched them, I was initially upset at what I was hearing; but as I continued to listen, I grew more interested.

One night, I was up late studying the gospel and reading about repentance. All of a sudden, a flood of thoughts went through my mind: "Why do I think that I'm a Christian? Because I believe in God? Even the demons believe that, and they tremble! To be saved, one must not only believe but also repent. Have I ever truly repented?" I was filled with sorrow for my wicked heart, and I mourned over my sins. I cried out to God for mercy and forgiveness and asked Him to truly save me.

From that day forward, I had a love for Christ and His Word. I was hungry for the truth and wanted to know as much as I possibly could. I was immediately burdened for the lost and desired to reach souls for Christ and teach others what I had learned.

CHRISTOPHER'S CALL TO MINISTRY

Immediately after my conversion, I felt a burden for the lost and began to share the gospel alongside a local evangelist. I had a strong desire to be in the ministry, and after two years God graciously allowed me to join an evangelism ministry. Over the next six years I traveled, preaching on the streets and helping to train believers in evangelism.

After meeting countless people who grew up in church but didn't understand the gospel, and after having many wonderful witnessing encounters with the lost but not knowing where to send them, I began to see and to feel the need for sound local churches. Also, several people expressed how they had felt that God was

shaping me into a pastor, including my own pastor at the time. As I sought the Lord about it, I began to desire it more and more.

In the spring of 2014, Pastor Dave Storey was visiting the church of which I was a member, and he talked to me about church planting. After a time of seeking the Lord's will, I began to be mentored by Pastor Dave.

A few months later, a friend of mine, who had been hosting a Bible study with a small group of believers each week in his home, was going away for a month and asked if I would be willing to teach in his absence. I was reluctant at first, seeing it as a distraction from where I thought God was calling me, but eventually I agreed.

After the first night, I asked Pastor Dave to come to the next meeting. He came and then told me that he thought it was a church plant ready to happen. The following week at Bible study, as the believers were praying together, one woman was crying out to God in prayer because she had no church of her own to attend and hear God's Word preached and to honor Him on the Lord's Day. This group of believers would travel with my friend to churches that were one or two hours away. But now that he was gone, they had nowhere to go. After praying, the same woman said, "Jerry told us that we could make ourselves at home while he's away. Since I have no place to go on Sunday, I'm going to come here to sing and then listen to a sermon." Some of the other believers nodded in agreement and made plans to gather there on Sunday morning.

They wanted to hear the Word preached, but they had no place to go. It was like seeing sheep without a shepherd! My wife and I talked about it on the drive home. We both knew what we should do. How could we just drive by them on our way to church? Was I not training to be a pastor? Was I not praying for His direction and leading? And then, right in front of me, there was a need. I called Pastor Dave, and he agreed, telling us to "go for it." So on Sunday, April 19th, 2015, sixteen people met in a living room on Main Street in Richibucto for what would be the first worship service of Cornerstone Church.

Over the past year, we have seen God's faithfulness in working in people's hearts and lives, in adding to our number, and in providing for all of our needs. I believe that we are here by the will of God. It is a privilege to serve Him!

PAULA'S TESTIMONY OF CONVERSION

My name is Paula Sippley. I was blessed to grow up in a Christian home in New Brunswick.

I was six years old when God graciously saved me. I remember hearing the gospel every Friday in chapel at the Christian school I attended. Week after week, I sat there listening. But one Friday God convicted me of my sin, and I was broken before Him; I saw how He had shown me His great love for me by sending Jesus to take the punishment for *my* sin. He opened my eyes to see that John 3:16 ("For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life") was not just a nice Sunday school verse, but a verse that showed His great love for me – that, even though my sin was so great, He sent His Son to

die for me! I asked Jesus to forgive me, and I trusted Him as my Savior that day.

For nearly thirty years, God has kept me by His grace; He continues to give me a greater love for Jesus and His Word each day. I am so thankful to God for the work He did in my heart as a child, for keeping me by His grace through the years, and for so faithfully working in my heart to convict me of sin and draw me closer to Him.

God has given me a wonderful husband to serve and two wonderful children, Zoe-Lyn and Nathaniel, to teach and train for His glory. He has shown his faithfulness to us in so many ways over the last seven years that my husband has been in full-time ministry. I pray that by God's grace I will joyfully serve my family and His church.

RECENT UPDATE

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ who has bought us with His blood and has given us the inestimable honour of serving Him and His church here on earth – against which the gates of Hell will not prevail! Your partnership with us in the work is an immense privilege, and we thank you for your prayer and support. May the Lord grant much fruit and increase to your credit (Philippians 4:17)!

Our family is doing well in the Lord. We enjoyed the warmer weather by spending more time outside and working in the new garden we planted in our backyard.

Last month, we were very blessed to have brothers Mack Tomlinson and Michael Durham come and minister to the churches here. I was both challenged and encouraged as brother Michael Durham spoke on the necessity of feeding on Christ, sharing from his own struggles and victories. Sadly, I have noticed in my own life that much studying can be done without meeting with Christ and that much ministry can be done without sensing His presence. The Lord used that word to refresh me and to renew my desire for His presence and His power in my life and ministry.

The work here is moving forward by the grace of God amidst both trial and blessing, as the past month brought the most difficult church discipline situation we have faced thus far in the church plant, but also clear signs of God's hand at work in our midst. Over the past several weeks, we have had several new people attend Sunday morning

worship, and three people have professed faith in Jesus Christ!

One man started attending about two years ago and professed faith in Christ, but after several months he fell away and returned to his former life of sin. He recently started coming again and came under conviction on Sunday morning as Brother Michael Durham preached on idolatry, unbelief, and repentance. He said that God truly saved him that afternoon and that the Bible has come alive to him! He has since asked to be baptized.

A woman who had attended a home Bible study for several months about a year ago really struggled at first to understand and accept the gospel of grace; however, as time passed, she started to understand and cherish it. It was several months before she started attending regular meetings, but once she did, it seemed apparent that God was dealing with her heart. Last Sunday, as I preached from Ephesians 2:1 ("And you were dead in trespasses and sins"), she was in tears and left the meeting visibly broken, saying that she needed to get alone with God. She returned to the next Bible study very hopeful. I asked her about Sunday afternoon, and she joyfully answered, "I am finding a living God!"

We praise God for His amazing grace and His unfailing love, and we rejoice in seeing His hand at work in our midst. Please pray that the presence and power of God would be mightily at work in bringing conviction of sin, the conversion of sinners, and the sanctification and Christlikeness of His people for His own glory. ■



NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT: COREY BETTS

Corey and his wife Amy live in Fredericton, New Brunswick, where he began pastoring a church plant in 2015. He grew up in a Christian home and was converted at the age of 16, feeling an immediate call to full-time ministry. He graduated from Bible college in 2011 and was ordained for ministry in 2015.

COREY'S TESTIMONY OF CONVERSION


I grew up in a home where both of my parents were believers. We went to a typical, small-town Baptist church for most of my childhood. I actually started going with them to the Sunday morning service when I was five years old.

One Sunday our pastor gave a vivid sermon on the terror of hell. Like I said, I was only five or six at the time; but I remember thinking about how terrible a place it was and that I did not want to go there. When we came home, I stopped by the washer and dryer in the mudroom of our house and asked my mother how to not go to hell. I was crying in fear. She told me to pray after her, and so I did.

And on that day I received absolutely nothing. Though the Lord certainly was kind to me, I was still unconverted. He kept me from any kind of grievous sin, but as I grew, so did my desire for the sin that surrounded me. Oh, of course I didn't get involved with any of the partying or the fornication or the drinking; but it was not because of any love for the Lord – it was only out of pride.

I wanted to be the good boy. I wanted my parents to think well of me. I didn't want to be "bad." So I behaved very morally, but inwardly I longed for sin and despised God. I wanted nothing to do with prayer or the Word.

However, I started going with a local youth group to a monthly



retreat when I was sixteen. Month after month I was deeply convicted, but it did not have a lot to do with what was preached – I cannot remember any of it. But I remember the Lord drawing me. I knew I had to surrender my pride and my life and to follow Him, but I was unwilling. Not once, not twice, but *six times* I resisted.

At the seventh youth rally, however, I confessed my pride before God and asked for forgiveness. I remember feeling like a fish on the end of a hook, and I had finally given in and submitted to the Lord. I went up to the front to pray for forgiveness, not because going there would save me; rather, it was an expression

of my repentance – as a young man who prided myself on my self-righteousness, nothing was more offensive to me than going forward, thereby admitting I was a sinner.

But I did. And I am so thankful the Lord drew me. Immediately after I arrived home, I began reading the Bible; I remember weeping over the pages in Matthew. I saw my sin for what it was, I saw God for who He is, and all of it brought me to tears. Life did not get easier after my conversion; but, thankfully, Matthew 10 prepared me for that.

Since then, the Lord has continued to teach, stretch, grow, and sanctify me.

COREY'S CALL TO MINISTRY

From the time I was converted, there was a strong pull toward ministry – not like a bolt of lightning or a mental zap, but a steady, growing knowledge that the Lord was calling me into ministry. He used the affirmation of godly men, a desire within myself to learn and to teach, and the constant drawing of the Holy Spirit to show me this reality.

Unfortunately for me, I decided instead I would go to Acadia University and take pre-med, with the aim of becoming a doctor. I did this fully knowing it was not the Lord's will for me, and I really felt like Jonah in the belly of the fish. The Lord confounded my thoughts and made me miserable. It was as if His thumb was pressing down upon me, and the pressure was great. So at the end of the year, I left medicine and went to Bible college.

Since then, the Lord has continually prepared me for whatever ministry He has had in store. After graduating from Washington Bible College in 2011, I worked as a carpenter during the winter and directed Bible camps for an organization called "One Hope Canada." It was my job to oversee the entire camp ministry, and the Lord used the high-demand jobs to prepare my wife and me for church planting here in Fredericton.

Pastor Dave asked me in 2011 to pastor the church in Fredericton. I initially had no desire, but I told him I would pray about it. After four years of prayer, the Lord changed my entire disposition toward pastoral ministry. In 2015, I was joyfully ordained into the SBC as a minister, and we began the church plant here in Fredericton.

AMY'S TESTIMONY OF CONVERSION

I did not grow up in a traditional Christian home. My Dad and Mom met in church, but as soon as they married, he stopped going. Growing up, my Mom was a guidepost for me to the Lord. She would read the Bible to my sister and me and would have us write down our prayers. She always brought us to church and taught us about God. Looking back, I can see that she demonstrated her faith in the Lord many times by trusting Him to provide for her and her daughters on those occasions when we needed to leave the house while she was looking for work or a place to stay. He always provided.

When I was about five or six years old, I saw a play at my church called "Heaven's Gate and Hell's Flame." In that play, there is a scene where a mother and her daughter get separated – one goes to heaven and the other to hell. I knew where my Mother was going, and I knew I was not going there. I also wanted Jesus to be my father, since I didn't have much of one in my Dad. I remem-

ber going down and talking to my Sunday school teacher, who led me to pray to ask Jesus into my heart. I did not quite understand. Later that night, my Mom talked to me about the play and why I went to the front. I told her I knew where she was going and that I did not want to be apart from her; but more importantly, I wanted Jesus as my father.

I went through a time of rebellion as a teenager – knowing what the Lord required but refusing to listen – for about a year. The Lord disciplined me during this time; though it was unpleasant and led to a lot of strife with my family, He was patient toward me. I began to realize I had been taught a lot of things about God that were wrong, and though I was sure He loved me, I realized I knew very little about Him. Over the last five or six years, He has begun to open my eyes to see Him truly: how He would have me serve Him, how He would have me be in a relationship with Him, and what He is like according to His word.

RECENT UPDATE

The month of May was full of encouragement mingled with trials for Christ Community Church. In my previous updates, I asked for prayer for an outreach we would be doing every Monday for each of the five weeks of May. We were going into the streets to share the gospel and hand out tracts with a full-time evangelist named Kirk Hubick. At the end of the five

weeks, there were two things apparent that the Lord was doing.

First, He was putting a spirit of receptiveness and seriousness into the hearts of those with whom we had the opportunity to share. Many times the tracts were earnestly considered, where in the past they were simply thrown out. The people appeared to have a genuine concern for their spiritual

condition and the God they had offended. Of course, neither of those things indicate conversion, but it seems the water of our prayers started softening the soil of their hearts. This was evident not only in the Monday outreach, but also in day-to-day opportunities and religious conversations. Pray that the Lord will continue to increase this here in Fredericton and that it would not come to nothing.

Secondly, the Lord increased our boldness collectively. Though our church is quite small, most of the members decided to come out into the streets and share the gospel. Kirk was encouraged and told us that, aside from his own church, it was the highest turnout he had ever seen.

As good as all of this is, I ask that you would pray that all the wonderful evangelistic work already done would not hinder a spirit of ongoing evangelism among our people. It is easy for us to think that, because we have done an “outreach,” we have now filled our “evangelism quota” or gotten it out of the way or that the only time it is appropriate is when we set a special time aside to go and do it. For most Christians, the gospel will come up in regular conversation, and I pray that the congregation here would not lose sight of that and that the Lord would continue to give a Spirit of boldness as people draw near to Him!

Also, please pray that obnoxious zeal would not be mistaken for boldness, but that love and compassion would color all of our words to the perishing. There have been a few times where I have had to speak to people about this. There is nothing honoring to

God when we berate people, are yelled at in return, and call it persecution. When the Lord was reviled and did not revile in return, it was not because He had to bite his tongue. He loved the people, and because He loved them, He endured their insults patiently. Please pray that the Lord would further cultivate this kind of spirit among us – a spirit that would rather sacrifice for their enemies than beat them in a verbal tussle.

We were blessed mid-way through the month by having brothers Mack Tomlinson and Michael Durham come to stay with us in New Brunswick for a week. We were all so thankful that they could come, and Brother Tomlinson addressed the attitude that must influence our evangelism, how it is one of mercy and compassion. It was an answer to prayer and greatly appreciated.

One other thing the Lord has been doing is increasing a spirit of prayerfulness in His people. We have been led to start a monthly Saturday night prayer meeting (in addition to our weekly prayer and Bible study), and we had our first one in May. It was encouraging to see so many people come out to pray together. We prayed for the lost, for one another, and for the glory and reverence of God to be known in our city of Fredericton.

We thank God for you all, for your support, and for your prayers. There is a small flock here who is very grateful for all that the Lord is doing through your financial help, through the people who are coming to teach and exhort us, and through your prayerfulness. The effects of our combined prayers are tangible, and they are not going unheard or unanswered! ■



NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT: ROBERT GREENWOOD

Rob is serving in various ministry roles at Miramichi Valley Church while training to be sent out as a church planter in the near future. Rob is a gifted and faithful evangelist. He is married to Chantelle, and they have just been blessed with the arrival of twin girls.

TESTIMONY OF CONVERSION

I was saved at the age of sixteen. I grew up in a Christian family and first made a profession of faith when I was five. I remember hearing about hell and being sure that I did not want to go there. As a result, I prayed the sinner's prayer. That is all I remember about my first profession of faith. The next several years of my life, before I actually got saved, I did not think much about God or meeting Him on Judgment Day. God was not a reality in my life. Even though there was a form of godliness, there was no power. I lived my life for myself, and I was not concerned about Jesus or about people dying and going to hell. I just lived to have fun and to hang out with my friends.

However, in the summer of 2006, God intervened in my life. That summer, I went to work as a counselor at a Bible camp in Quebec, and it was there that I genuinely came to saving faith. God actually used my co-counselor to open my eyes and to awaken me. While the other staff members were all sleeping, he would wake up early in the morning to pray and read God's Word; this really made me question myself, because I barely ever read the Scriptures or spent time alone in prayer. I was also impacted by how he would preach to the campers during "cabin time." I worked at a few camps before and knew that it was hard to get the children's attention; but he had their

complete attention (as well as my own) as he preached the gospel of Jesus Christ.

One day during the second week of camp, he came up to me and asked if I would like to learn how to share my faith. Then he put me in a position that no preacher had ever put me in before – eternity! He asked me if I died and stood before God in judgment, would I be seen as innocent or guilty? I said that I thought I would be innocent. He then asked if I considered myself to be a good person. I said yes. Finally, he asked me if I were to be judged based on God's commandments would I still be a good person in His sight?

I had never really thought about that before. So my co-counselor proceeded to go through some of the Ten Commandments with me. He asked me if I had ever told a lie, and if I had ever stolen something. At that moment, an amazing thing happened: the Holy Spirit brought to my memory a time (when I was about four years old) that I stole a toy car from my friend. This was still on my conscience after all that time!

The more commandments we went through, the more convicted and guilty I felt, realizing that God could see my heart. I confessed that I had indeed broken all of God's commandments. So, having walked through this with me, he asked me again: would I be innocent or guilty? It was now clear to me that I would be guilty. When he asked if I would go to heaven or hell, I looked at the ground and acknowledged that I would go to hell. There was a moment of silence; then he shared the gospel of Jesus Christ and what He actually did for me so that I could be forgiven of my sins. After he explained the gospel to me, the bell rang, and

The newborn twins



he left to get our campers. Before I did anything else, I went to the cabin by myself and got down on my knees by my bed and confessed to God in prayer. I walked out of that cabin a new man!

That is when I truly got saved, though at first I did not realize that what happened to me was conversion. I was confused, because people were telling me that I only “rededicated my life to Christ” or now was “on fire”; but all I knew is that God did something in my life, and now I really wanted to live for Him.

I did not come to a full understanding of what had happened to me until a couple months later when I was back at home. I found a message on the internet called “The Shocking Youth Message.” After I heard that sermon, I was so broken that I wept profusely, because I realized that I had just been saved that week of Bible camp – any time before that, if I had died, I would have said to God, “Lord, Lord, did I not pray in Your name, go to church in Your name, and work at camps in Your name?”; and God would have replied, “I never knew you, depart from me you worker of lawlessness.” I wept because I knew this was true, but at the same time I rejoiced that God had saved me.

RECENT UPDATE

God has been working in me a great deal lately; it seems that the more God is at work in me, the more I realize how small I am and how little I know. In this past month, God has really burdened me to reach the younger generation. Working with the youth and seeing the things to which they are exposed and in which they are getting involved at such a young age – my heart has been so grieved. My country will soon be in a hopeless state if something does not change and the Lord continues to tarry. We have such a desperate need, and nothing can reverse it unless God comes down.

What is the need of my country? I think of what Leonard Ravenhill once said, that the worst thing a country can lose is not its military power or its strong economy and prosperity but the true gospel of Jesus Christ. That is the worst thing a country can lose, and that is exactly what has been lost in my county. Please pray that God would have mercy upon this land!

During this past month, as I have been working on the native reservation, I have had opportunities to witness to some of the aboriginals. Please pray for the conversion of these people, that they would see the sinfulness of their sin before a holy God and that they would be convicted and turn to Christ for salvation.

I continue leading a meeting for youth on Fridays as an outreach to the lost in the community. I have been teaching them about the claims that Jesus and

His disciples made about Him. Every message, I have been aiming to exalt Jesus for who He is according to the Scriptures, all the while praying for conversions. Not only have I been reaching out to them when I preach a message but I also make it my intention to engage them in personal, one-on-one conversations to witness to them. Many have become convinced that they are sinners who deserve hell, and many who thought they were saved because of a prayer are now convicted that they are lost. Pray that God would break their hearts and that they would call upon the name of the Lord and be saved! ■



NEPAL

The Democratic Republic of Nepal is located in the Himalayas of South Asia; it is landlocked by India and the Chinese region of Tibet. The mountains of northern Nepal are home to eight of the ten tallest peaks in the world, including the highest, Mount Everest. The capital and largest city of Nepal is Kathmandu, having a population of over 2.6 million people. Historically a monarchy, Nepal was ruled by the Shah dynasty of kings from 1768-2008. The civil war of 1996-2006, between Maoist fighters and the existing government, ultimately led to the end of the monarchy and the establishment of a secular democratic republic. Nepal is relatively low on the U.N. human development index, with their economic growth continuing to be stunted by political uncertainty.

The first church in Nepal was not formed until 1952. From then on, the number of Christians experienced much growth, reaching 200,000 people in 1990. Together with this increase, however, came much persecution. Yet even in spite of this continued persecution, there are now over 850,000 professing believers in Nepal, and there is a church presence in every one of its 75 districts. Although some of these statistics are encouraging, the need for prayer for Nepal is undeniable. Hinduism and Buddhism still remain the dominant religions of the Nepalese by far (75 percent and 16 percent respectively). Evangelicals comprise only 3 percent of the population, and the country has the fifth-highest number of unreached people groups in the world (332).



Letters FROM NEPAL

CHANDRA C.

Chandra was a fortune teller until he was converted out of orthodox Hinduism after being evangelized by HeartCry missionary Gopal G. He later took leadership of a church that Gopal had planted. Chandra has been pastoring this church since 2005.

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We all are doing well by God's grace, and I hope that you all are also fine.

By God's grace, our weekly church services and cottage meetings have been fruitful. This month, I visited Mr. Kal after I heard about the many difficulties he has had. He has gone through many medical treatments and has sought help from several witch doctors. I shared the good news of the gospel with him, and I also prayed for him. He is now feeling better than he had been and has been able to get some sleep. In the grace of God, Mr. Kal and his wife have started to attend the church service. I am sharing the Word of God with them and encouraging them to believe in Christ. May God lead them!

A man named Mr. Rajkumar and two of his friends came to my house recently. They had been assigned to work on construction on a nearby road, and they came to our house to try to buy a goat so that they could offer it to

their gods before they started the construction project. They believe that offering such animals will protect and give success to their works. It proved to be a great opportunity to share the gospel. I told them that only the Creator God is great and that there are no other gods. Everything, therefore, is in His hands. I told them to believe in Christ, who is our only true offering for our sin; and I explained how He was sacrificed on the cross so that we could gain eternal life—eternal protection. It is my prayer that God brings them into His kingdom according to His will.

Please pray for complete healing for Mr. Kal, and pray especially that God would grant him and his wife faith. Pray for the conversion of Mr. Rajkumar and his friends, that God might bring them into His kingdom. Continue also to pray for me and the ministry here in Nepal.

Sincerely,
Chandra C. ■



KHEM C.

Khem is the son of a Hindu priest. As a young man, he followed the Hindu tradition together with his family. Shortly after the Lord saved him in 2003, he went to study at a Bible institute in India and then returned to Nepal to begin a church plant in an unreached village. He continues to pastor this church.

Warm greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. By God's grace, the church services and the cottage meetings are going well. Following the church services, I have been teaching from the book *The One True God*, and we recently studied the subject of "God's Perfect Will." We were encouraged to consider the truth that God has a perfect will because of His holy character. He has shown His will in His infallible Scriptures. As children of God, we must submit ourselves to His will and trust Him confidently.

This month, I had the opportunity to visit Gangi and Dili in Gabu Dada. Neither of them is able to attend the church services due to their physical health. I encouraged them from Revelation 21:1-9 that God will give an eternal dwelling place to His children, where we will have fellowship with Him forever. They were encouraged and rejoiced in the Lord while hearing this message.

I also visited Mr. Ran and his wife. They are members of the

church, but they had not been attending the church services regularly. I reminded them about the dangerous consequences of sins, and I also pointed to God's love toward us, demonstrated in His provision of a way of salvation through His Son Jesus Christ. I encouraged them to continue weekly fellowship. I thank God for helping them to accept this counsel, for they have since been attending the church services regularly.

I give thanks to God that He continues to strengthen and enable me in His grace for His glorious gospel ministry.

Pray for the spiritual growth of Mr. Ran and his family. Pray for Gangi and Dili's health, and pray that their faith might be strengthened in the Lord. Thanks be to God for His guidance in ministry; please pray that I would grow deeper in knowing Him, that I might do more effective ministry.

Sincerely,
Khem C. ■



SARVAJIT G.

Sarvajit graduated from a seminary in North India in 2010 and returned to Nepal in order to work alongside his father. He has a great desire to see Nepalese believers grow in their understanding of the Scriptures. Pray for him as he serves the church in Nepal.

Dear brothers and sisters, greetings to you in Christ our Lord from the land of Nepal. We are thankful to the Lord for His grace and mercy in enabling us to grow in Him. My wife Arpana and our two baby girls are doing well. Arpana is standing by my side in caring for the kids as well as encouraging and praying for me. She has been reading some solid books (*Shepherding a Child's Heart*, *Living by the Book*) which have been helping her to grow spiritually and in biblical soundness. I am so thankful to the Lord for her support and for His grace in strengthening our marriage as we seek to please Him.

It is my privilege and joy to share about the work of the Lord here in Nepal and how He has used me over the last couple of months.

The most important part of my ministry is the local church, where I am shepherding the

flock that God has entrusted to me. Brother Dul and I have been feeding the hungry souls by taking them through a series of sermons from the book of Romans. So far, we have taught through Romans 1:1-3:18. We have spent nine weeks in this book, and it has been very wonderful (as well as encouraging) to walk in His living Word. Some of the subjects on which we have taught so far are the righteousness of God, man's problem of sin, and the solution to that problem—the gospel of Jesus Christ. The saints were encouraged and challenged. They are slowly and gradually gaining a deeper understanding of the gospel. Please pray that the Lord would continue to edify His church through the preaching of His Word.

For the last few months I have been involved in teaching the brothers in the internship, as well as some other young brothers

who are joining the training class. Brother Dul has been teaching the Old Testament Survey class and the Hermeneutics/Homiletics class. I have been teaching from Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology*. We have just finished considering the doctrine of the Scriptures. We have gone through the four characteristics of Scripture: authority, clarity, necessity, and sufficiency. Now we have started the doctrine of God. May God open our minds and hearts to know Him more and to humble us as we come to Him. These young men are very excited; they are learning, immersing themselves in the truth, and growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ through these lessons. My sincere prayer is that God would raise some leaders to send out into His harvest. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few (Matthew 9:37).

God has also given me an opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus Christ among a Tharu tribe at a wedding party in Kapilvastu. Brother Hari invited us to this program. I had the privilege of sharing the gospel to the bridegroom and bride, and many others were there. People were listening to what I was sharing, but they did not respond. May the Lord change

their stony hearts and give them hearts of flesh!

I have been reading the book 9 *Marks of a Healthy Church* by Mark Dever. This has been very encouraging and challenging. I have read through the first ("Expositional Preaching") and second ("Biblical Theology") marks thus far. Praise the Lord! He is helping me to grow deeper in understanding. This is God's wonderful blessing in my life—giving me a high view of Himself and helping me to adore Him alone. I am continuing to read this book in order to understand the biblical truth which will help me to grow, to worship, and to lead His flock according to His will.

Thank you for your prayers and support. It is very encouraging to my family and me. We desire to grow in His grace and to advance His kingdom. May Christ be proclaimed and honored in this needy land through the establishment of biblical churches! Let Psalm 117 be our prayer: "Praise the Lord, all nations; laud Him, all peoples! For His loving-kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord is everlasting. Praise the Lord!" Amen!

In Him,
Sarvajit G. ■

GOPAL G.

Gopal was converted from an orthodox Buddhist background and has been planting churches in Nepal since 2002. God has used him to plant multiple churches in southwestern Nepal. Gopal is privileged to work in the ministry together with his son Sarvajit.

Greetings in the name of Christ! In this month, I was sick and was unable to take care of myself. So my son Sarvajit brought me into his house. I stayed there for three days before returning home. I was very discouraged because of my sickness



and had even lost my hope of living through it; however, in God's grace, I am feeling better. Pastor Khem looked after the church for two weeks. I have started going to Karna Dada and Siluwa for church service, but still I cannot go to Gorlikharka, because it is too far for me right now. Mr. Tek is handling the fellowship of Gorlikharka. I hope that God will help me to go there and to see the believers soon. I am praying that God would raise leaders in each church before my death. I believe He will feed His church. I am praying that God may help me to serve Him even in my sickness and in my old age.

In the grace of God, the believers are moving forward. The youth and children of Siluwa are growing in God's knowledge, and I am seeing a need for leaders in this area. May God provide in His time. Thanks be to God, we were able to buy a small portion of land and have made a temporary structure for meeting. Many times we had been meeting in the open air, but our God is great and has provided for all our needs. I am very grateful to God for supplying our needs.

I am quite concerned about Karan Dara. The believers there do not seem to be very serious about God's Word. I am trying to visit those believers and share with them the truth. May God help me to guide them in Him and praise Him through their lives.

Once again, I would like to give thanks to God for healing me from sickness and giving me strength to serve Him again. I am old, and often I get sick, but the Lord is with me, and He will provide more shepherds for His sheep before I pass away. I am thankful to HeartCry for your love and prayer for me and my country. May God bless you richly.

Please pray for Mr. Tek, that God would continue to help him do His ministry. Pray for growth in the Lord for Mr. Top, Mr. Kashep, Mr. Homnath, and Mr. Sunil as they further their studies. Pray for my health and the ministry that God has given to me, that I might serve Him faithfully.

Sincerely,
Gopal G. ■

RAGUNANDAM V.

Ragunandam is serving as a church planter in Nepal, where he returned to serve full time in the ministry after studying at a Bible school for a year in India from 2003 to 2004.

Warm greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the month of May, I got sick and was unable to do my regular ministry. In the grace of God, Elder Dal helped me in this situation. He looked after the cottage meeting as well as some of the Saturday services. May God bless him. In the Lord's grace, I am feeling better, though I am still receiving treatment.

Though I could not serve as I normally do, God helped me to study a book called *Church Elders* while I was on bed rest. I recognized several of my own weaknesses as I read this book, and I asked Him to guide me to be a better shepherd for His sheep. The book also helped me to understand better the characteristics of believers, which is very helpful to me in shepherding them. Thanks be to God for helping me to study, understand, and learn from this book.

One year ago, I shared the gospel with Mr. Pramash and his wife Ms. Vachani. In the grace of God, they were converted and have been growing in the Lord. In the month of April, they were baptized in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Thanks and glory be to God for bringing these two souls into His kingdom!

In June, we held a women's program in our church. In this program, Ms. Rani (my daughter-



in-law) and Ms. Hemlata taught from God's Word. They taught on the true gospel, marriage and family, tithes and offerings, and other topics. The women were very happy to receive this teaching and to be able to fellowship with each other; they are requesting more such programs in coming days. May God supply our needs. We have begun planning the youth program for next year. May God help us with this, that the young people may know the Word of God and may live according to His words.

Once again, I would like to give thanks to God for His grace in my life and for helping me to recover from sickness and to continue to do the works to which He has called me. Thank you to HeartCry for your great support and prayer. May God bless you!

Please pray that we may indeed have a youth program next year. Pray for Mr. Pramash and his wife, for their life and growth in the Lord. Pray for my health and also the ministry that God has given to me.

Sincerely,
Ragunandam V. ■



GHAN S.

Ghan serves as a leader of a group of pastors with whom HeartCry partners in Nepal. He also pastors his own local congregation. Ghan is married and has two sons and two daughters.

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The weekly church services are going well. I am preaching from the book of James, teaching the believers not just to believe, but also to express faith through good works. They are growing in the Lord by His grace!

I would like to give thanks to God for giving us biblical truth. In the past, we were wandering without true teaching. We would work hard, but we would do so without proper knowledge. But our God is gracious, and He will not leave His children without His truth. Through HeartCry, He has provided us with biblical teaching, books in our own language, and several other ways of support. Thank you! May God bless you and your mission work!

I recently visited Ms. Buddhi and her family to try to help them through some confusion in doctrine. Her husband had been following an elder who was confusing them. Her husband told me that Reformed Churches of Nepal was following false teaching, which was the reason this elder had given for leaving the fellowship. I had to explain to him the truth. He asked why we do not

have close fellowship with other churches. I told him that many churches in Nepal say they are Christian, but evidence suggests that they are not born-again believers. I explained the true gospel to the family and encouraged them to follow biblical truth. Ms. Buddhi is now attending the church, but her husband is not. Pray that the Lord would guide this family in His truth!

Mr. Sewa is attending the church regularly, and it appears the Lord is working in his life. I am sharing the gospel with him often and encouraging him to have faith in the Lord. He is reading the Bible, attending the cottage meetings, and participating in other church activities. May God guide him to know Him, and may he believe in the Savior.

Once again, we are thankful to God for His provisions for our life and also to HeartCry for your love and care. May God bless you!

Please pray for the believers who are still confused in their faith. Pray for Ms. Santa and Ms. Kamala, elderly widows who often are ill; the church is looking after their medical needs. Please pray also for our youth to evangelize more. Finally, please pray for me and my family and the ministry.

Sincerely,
Ghan S. ■

RAM B.

Ram began working in the ministry in 2003. In 2005 he became an elder and soon after began working to plant a church. He remains the pastor of this church today.

In the grace of God the weekly church services are going well. Most of the believers are really eager to know God's Word and are trying to walk according to it. They are meditating on God's Word. It is my joy in the Lord to guide His people. I am also meditating on God's Word, learning from it, and growing in the Lord. The Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path (Psalm 119:105), which shows my weakness and corrects me in the Lord. I am serious in my responsibilities toward God for my family and my church.

In the grace of God, I am studying the books which have been sent to us. I am reading the books *The One True God*, *The Truth About Man*, *Living by the Book*, and others. Now we have received a systematic theology and *Expository Preaching* in our own language. May God help me and my friends to know His Word more and to lead His people.

I am preaching from the book of James in the church services. I am teaching the flock that those who are in Christ need to have good deeds to show their faith in Christ. I am encouraging the believers to be an example in their lives so that people may know Christ. I would like to thank Brother Jeff [the HeartCry Coordinator for South Asia] for teaching us from God's Word. Brother Jeff preached from 1 Timothy 3 and 4 to answer several questions about



godly leadership. Who is a good leader? What does a good leader do? What are the characteristics of a good leader? This time really showed me my own weakness, especially when we were encouraged that a good leader is not one who forcibly pulls up their believers from above them, but instead gets down on their level and picks them up. I had made that very mistake, but now I am trying to get down and hold up the believers to help them rise up to the Lord. May the Holy Spirit help me to do this for Christ!

Lastly, I would like to mention my wife Bidhya, as she is struggling with her health. She has gotten treatment after treatment with different doctors, but still has not found the right treatment for the pain and swelling she is experiencing. She is still going through treatment and taking medicine. Please pray for her health, that God would supply her needs in this condition.

Please pray for the believers in our congregation, that they would grow in the Lord. Please continue to pray also for my life and ministry.

Sincerely,
Ram B. ■



NEEL G.

Neel was saved out of a Hindu and Buddhist family. After his conversion, he was used to start a church plant in his home village. Since then, he has begun another church plant close to his home and serves there now as pastor.

I am very thankful to God for the responsibility of looking after His flock. James 3:1 says, "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment." This verse always hits me and reminds me of the responsibility God has given me and encourages me to be faithful and diligent. Therefore, I am ever growing more concerned about my responsibility from God, and I desire to do hard work. I am studying God's Word and visiting the believers and encouraging them to walk according to His Word.

Brother Jeff's teaching on the qualification of elders challenged

me even further. He taught that a church leader must manage his own household and lead his children in obedience, for God has given him this responsibility. Throughout this conference I saw many weaknesses in my own life and also in my ministry. I am seeking to correct myself and to grow in Him. It is my heartfelt prayer to God that He would lead me and help me to be faithful in ministry.

In the grace of God, the weekly ministry is going well. We are going through the book of Acts as a church and have reached chapter 21. I am preaching about God's sovereignty and the work through His chosen people to accomplish

His mission even in the midst of difficulties. From this truth I encouraged my flock to extend His mission, no matter what it costs. May God use every one of us to be witnesses and to extend His kingdom!

This month, we visited Mr. Bhim, a man who does not attend the fellowship regularly and has a bad reputation in the village. Though he confesses that he believes in Christ and that he has been following Him for many years, there is no fruit in his life. I had already visited him many times and encouraged him to have a good relationship with Christ, but there had been no change. Therefore, we elders and other church leaders went to visit him together. We counseled him, but he rejected it initially, claiming a status of being the oldest believer. I read from 1 John 2 and explained that those who proclaim that they are Christian ought to follow Christ and obey Him. After a long time of counseling, he promised to change his life

in Christ. May God give Mr. Bhim strength to trust Him completely and follow Him wholeheartedly.

We praise God that brother Jimmy Li was able to give us training in God's Word. The topic "Biblical Manhood and Womanhood" was a relevant subject to us. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to hear biblical truth about God's grand design.

Once again, I would like to give thanks to God for His wonderful plan to strengthen His churches through sound teaching and equipping us from His Word to extend His kingdom. I also thank HeartCry for your labor to train us in sound doctrine.

Please pray for Mr. Bhim and his family. Pray for Mr. Suraj and his sister Ms. Roshni for their faith in Christ. Pray especially for Ms. Roshni, that God would show her His way. Please pray for me, that I may grow more in the Lord and may do ministry faithfully.

Sincerely,
Neel G. ■

TUL B.

Tul began a church in his home village shortly after his conversion. He later went to Bible school in India and has now returned to Nepal to serve as a church planter and pastor.

In the grace of God, the weekly church services and cottage meetings are going well; we have started constructing a building for Sunday school. The children were having fellowship in the church's kitchen room, which be-

came quite congested. Because of this, we decided to make a small hall for Sunday school. Thanks be to God for supplying our needs for this project.

This month, I visited Ms. Chandra. She wanted to be baptized at our last baptismal service, but we did not baptize her because she had not shown evidence of salvation. My wife and I visited her and encouraged her to keep faith in the Lord and trust Him, because only Christ

can give eternal life. She seems to be growing in knowledge and is still willing to be baptized in time. May God help her to believe in Him.

Ms. Sita, one of our members who lives near our house, has struggled with mental illness. Sita used to run away from home and was unable to sleep at night. So I brought her into our house; I prayed for her and counseled her from God's Word and gave her medicine. In God's grace, she has recovered! Praise the Lord for His grace in her life and for healing her!

I have started studying the book *The Truth About Man*. Chapter 1 taught that God created all things out of nothing according


to His plan and for His glory and that God made man in His own image. This shows that God is sovereign in all things. Praise God for His wonderful works!

Please pray for Ms. Chandra and others who are interested in baptism, that God would guide them to know Him and believe in Him. Please pray for Sita's health and her life in Christ. Pray also for my life and ministry.

Sincerely,
Tul B. ■

A recent pastors conference involving all of HeartCry's supported missionaries and interns in Nepal, in addition to some non-support pastors.





MURDER AND MERCY

BY FORREST HITE

Gomati, who was raised in a Hindu family, used to live with her husband and her son. Her husband was a wicked man, who every day would get drunk and abuse her physically, mentally, and emotionally. On several occasions, he grabbed a knife and tried to kill her and her son. As time passed, this way of life never changed for Gomati. She became utterly exhausted by her husband's hurtful, never-ending activities. One day, losing her mind in exasperation, she killed her husband.

In keeping with Nepali law, Gomati spent the next ten years in jail. After she had served her sentence, she was released, but her relatives and her entire neighborhood rejected her. The Nepali society considers criminals to be horrible and holds them in great contempt. Eventually, she decided she could not stay in her home village, moving to another region just so that she could survive.

Gomati lived with her son and his family in the village, but her son began to grow ill. In God's providence, some of Gomati's new neighbors were believers, and she had heard that he would be healed if Christians prayed for him. So she asked her Christian neighbors to pray for her son, and they went to her house and prayed for him. After some days, God miraculously healed the young man! Gomati was suddenly much more interested in Christianity; she attended a cottage meeting that was held at the home of her Christian neighbor, who actually is a member of the local church where HeartCry missionaries Sannu and Neel are serving. In this cottage meeting, Sannu explained to her the truth about man's original sin and the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Gomati believed that she had not become a sinner until she murdered her husband; but she was also convinced that there

was no hope of forgiveness for her because of the greatness of that particular sin.

Nevertheless, she started regularly attending the fellowship; however, after a while, her son and daughter-in-law would not allow her to go anymore. Sannu visited the family, and eventually he and Gomati were able to convince her son and daughter-in-law to change their minds. Though they were unhappy about it and still had no interest in Christianity for themselves, they were willing to let Gomati attend the cottage meetings. She has continued to do so for about half a year now.

Gomati continued to struggle to believe that she could ever be forgiven for her horrible crime. She told Sannu that she wanted to believe in Christ, but this still proved to be a great obstacle for her. Even so, Neel and Sannu patiently continued to share with her the truths about the work of Christ and the availability of forgiveness for our sins. After listening to these faithful brothers share the gospel with her on numerous occasions, she at last found hope in Christ! Praise the Lord for His wonderful work of salvation in her life!

"I will follow Christ until my last breath!"

Gomati continues to fellowship with the same body of believers, and by all accounts she is growing in faith and in her desire to be like Christ. In the face of continued difficult circumstances, she is encouraged and happy in the Lord and is pressing on in prayer and fellowship. She told Sannu, "I will follow Christ until my last breath!"

She is also growing in her knowledge of the truth, as Neel has taught her (among other things) about the holiness and righteousness of God and also has explained how believing sinners are declared holy and righteous through the work of Christ. She is eager to know these truths and is rejoicing in the Lord as she learns!

Gomati repeatedly has been neglected and even persecuted by her family over her decision to follow Jesus. In talking with Sannu, her son showed some limited interest in Christianity, but he has yet to attend any church services. His wife has totally rejected Christ and has forbidden their children from attending any church meetings. She has also treated Gomati harshly on several different occasions. In spite of these circumstances, Gomati is thankful for the Lord's forgiveness and for the family of believers He has given her.

Praise God for displaying His might through weak vessels! Praise Him for His gift of salvation and His power to transform even the darkest hearts and the most desperate sinners!

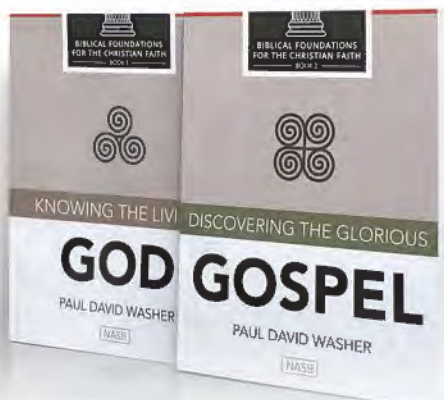
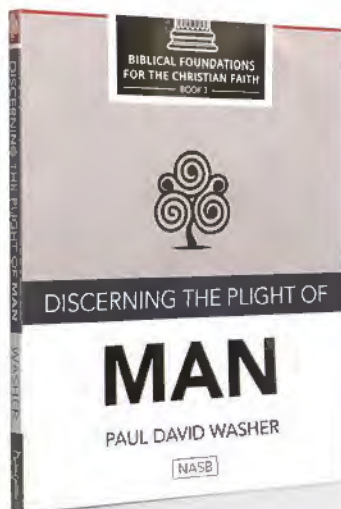
Pray for Gomati as you think of her, that the Lord would continue to uphold her with His steadfast and loving arms even through the difficulties in her life. Pray that her faith would not waver and that her hope would always be in Christ. Pray also for her son and daughter-in-law and their children, that the Lord would bless abundantly with His gift of salvation, that His love would permeate the entire family. He has demonstrated His power over darkness in this family already; pray that He would do it again, many times over, for His own glory and for the encouragement of His saints! ■

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"The world lives in a time of crisis. Christians alone are in a position to rescue the perishing. We dare not settle down to try to live as if things were normal."
– A. W. Tozer

"If by excessive labor, we die before reaching the average age of man, worn out in the Master's service, then glory be to God, we shall have so much less of earth and so much more of Heaven!"
– C. H. Spurgeon



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