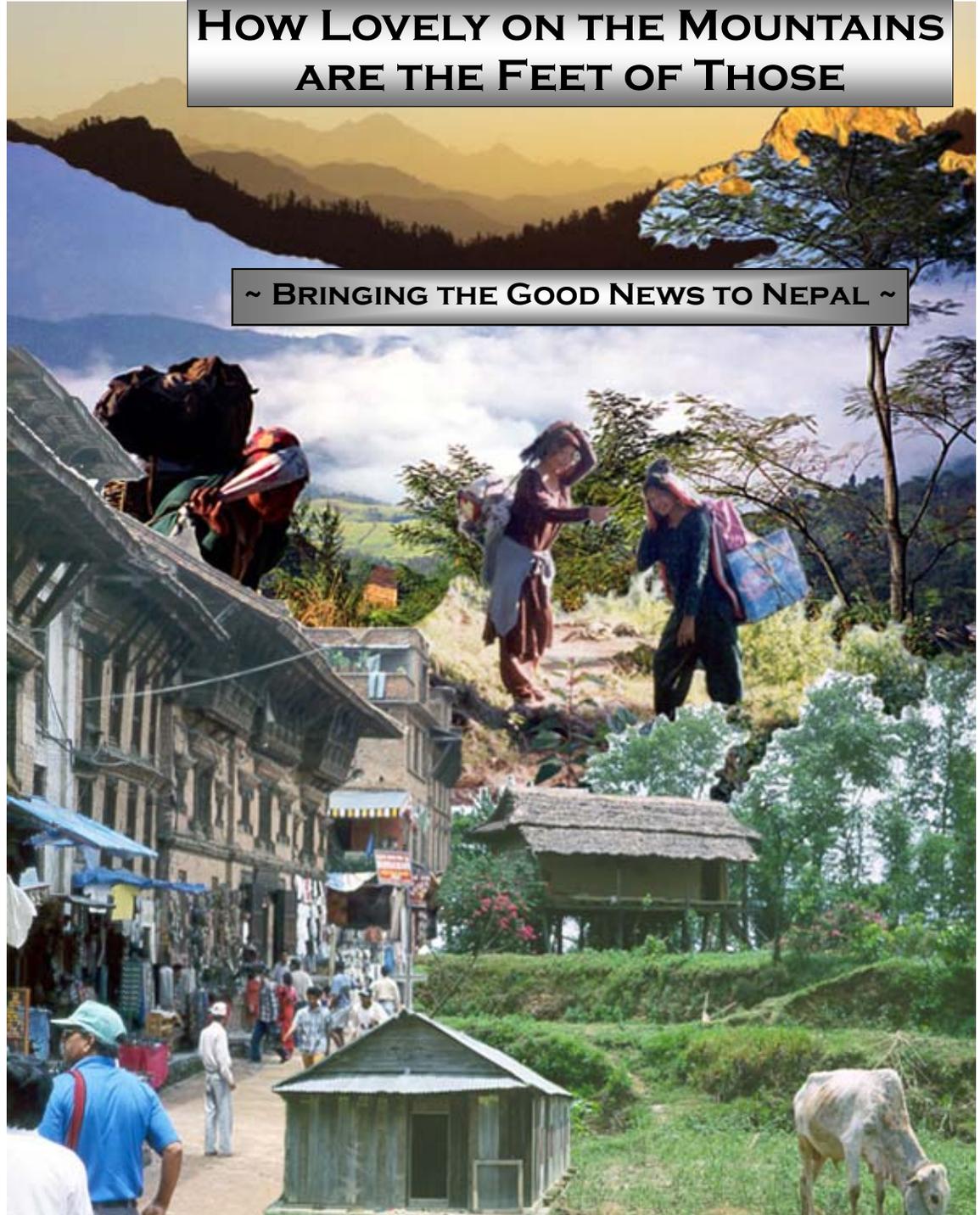


HOW LOVELY ON THE MOUNTAINS ARE THE FEET OF THOSE

~ BRINGING THE GOOD NEWS TO NEPAL ~



Nazarene Compassionate Ministries South Asia
Church of the Nazarene Eurasia Region

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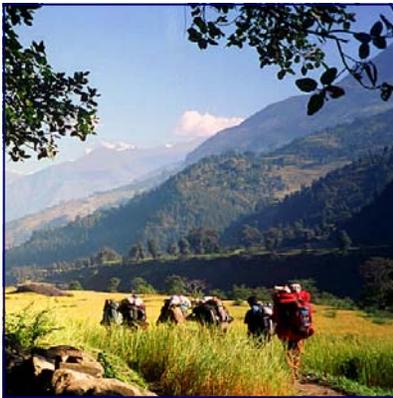


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A Land of Lofty Heights, Magic, and Mystery

Nepal – roof of the world, shrouded in mystery and magic, a land of lofty heights and vibrant colors, legendary mountain paradise of old. Nepal – a country rent by civil conflict and terrorism, a land scarred by abject poverty, a history of suffering, misery, and death. The birthplace of Buddha, and tomb of many kings, Nepal is a country of great diversity, strange and exotic: one of those places that the adventurous dream of and the imaginative clothe in drama and mystery. But it is also one of those places that cry out for deliverance – a land that must be reached with the transforming power of Christ.



A Bloody History

A country that, in the West, is mostly known for trekking, mountain climbing, and terrorism, the Kingdom of Nepal is a land of great diversity: great riches and great poverty, great hope and great suffering. Sandwiched between the two South-east Asian giants, India and China, with no direct access to the sea, Nepal's political and economic position has never been easy. Since the earliest records, Nepal's history has been defined by instability, massacres, and war. Having passed through six different dynasties since the Kiratis in the 7th/8th century BC, with each but one being deposed by war and massacre, Nepal finally adopted democracy in 1991. But the change to democracy is slow in coming, and fraught with difficulties. Since the start of the Maoist rebellion in 1996, and the massacre of most members of the royal family in 2001, Nepal has been haunted by suspicion and terror. In early February 2005, the King sacked the

How to Contact Us

For further information, visit us on the internet:

South Asia website: <http://www.southasiafield.com/>
 NCM website: <http://www.ncm.org/>
 Child Sponsorship: <http://www.ncm.org/ChildSponsorship/>
 NCM Needs List: <http://www.ncm.org/needslist/>
 (scroll down to *South Asia*)
 volunteer opportunities: <http://www.wmmobilization.org/>
 Mission Corps: <http://www.missioncorps.org/>
 Work & Witness: <http://www.workandwitness.org/>
 Youth in Mission: <http://www.youthinmission.org/>
 Jesus Film: <http://www.jfhp.org/>

... or contact us at one of the following addresses:

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 office@eurasiaregion.org
 wmvolunteer@nazarene.org

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries

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There is nothing more rewarding than experiencing missions firsthand and giving your own life in service to others. The following opportunities for volunteer ministry are currently available through the Church:

Nazarenes in Volunteer Service (Mission Corps)

Dedicate 90 days or up to two years of your life to missions and serve where needed – in a field office, hospital, school, or wherever you and your skills fit best.



Work & Witness

Serve together with a team from your church or district for a one- to three-week period in construction or medical work.



Jesus Film Ministry Trips

Experience the Jesus Film ministry in Nepal first-hand by taking a new set of video projection equipment to a team and assisting them for a week.



Tentmakers

If your job takes you to Nepal, we invite you to join the local Nazarene ministry in your free time and serve where needed – as you would in your local church at home.

Youth in Mission

If you are under 25, you can join a group of young people and spend six weeks of your summer break in Nepal, helping with kids clubs, English classes, construction work, and many other ministries.

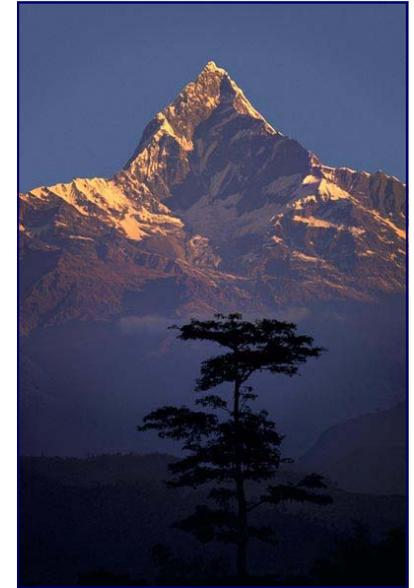


government and took control of the situation, which has added to the instability in a country with one of the world's worst human rights records. The people yearn for peace, but it seems a long way off.

And not only the political climate in Nepal has been defined by rough weather. Religious issues have been and remain to be a major stone of contention in the country that gave birth to Buddha, but is today the only official Hindu state in the world. Since 200 AD, Nepal has been predominantly Hindu (90%) and has now only a small number of Buddhists and a scarce minority of Muslims and Christians. While people are in theory free to choose their religion, it is illegal to convert anybody, and Nepali Christians may face a prison sentence and foreigners expulsion. Religious persecution is still existent, especially from Hindu officials.

An Uncertain Future

Despite (or maybe because of?) its bloody history, Nepal boasts a certain magic and has attracted millions of tourists



and pilgrims for centuries. Famous for the Himalaya mountain range and the world's highest mountain, the Mt. Everest, Nepal also features a so-called "hill" area (up to a modest 10,000 ft. high), as well as a plains area, the *Terai*, with its lowest point at 230 ft. Visitors to Nepal who stay in the major tourist towns, such as Kathmandu, the capital, or Pokhara, at the foot of the Annapurna Range, may receive the image of fairly well-developed holiday resorts, with neat and sturdy houses, pretty cafés, spectacular

mountain views, and lake-shore walks. But most of Nepal's inhabitants live in abject poverty, with a GNP of US\$ 240 per capita, a life expectancy of 60 years, and a literacy rate of less than 50% (less than 30% among women).

A country the size of Arkansas (56,827 sq.mi.), present-day Nepal is divided into five regions: the Eastern, Central (Kathmandu), Western, Mid-Western, and Far West Region. The Western regions are the least developed, and remote mountain villages can often only be reached by plane or a 10-day hike on foot. 85% of Nepal's population (25 million total) is rural, and many of the remote areas do not have electricity. Health care is minimal or non-existent, with only four physicians for every 100,000 people. Leprosy, though offi-

cially "eradicated" worldwide, still destroys thousands of lives in Nepal, and HIV/AIDS is becoming more and more of a problem, especially due to the enormous amount of girls trafficking and migrant workers who are traveling to and from India.

The Kingdom of God

A land of lofty heights, magic, and mystery – a land of abject poverty, suffering, and fear – Nepal has much to offer, and much to ask. Political stability, economic advancement, and holistic development may seem like fools' dreams for the future, but through the transforming power of Christ's love they will become reality, and the Kingdom of the Living God will be established in the Kingdom of Nepal.



Nepal Needs YOU

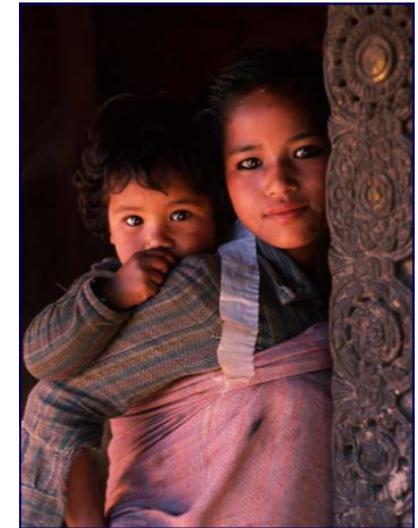
You can help build the kingdom of God in Nepal – through prayer or financial support, or by going yourself to touch Nepalis with God's love.

Pray

The first and foremost way in which every Christian can be involved in ministry is through prayer. *"You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed"* (John Bunyan). For prayer requests, visit the South Asia field website or contact us by email.

Give

There are various ways to contribute financially to the ministry. For a longer commitment, you can choose to sponsor a Nepali child – a small monthly amount will provide the child with nutrition, education, health care, and vocational training. You can also help in spreading the Good News through sponsoring a Jesus Film team or supporting other special projects in church planting,



such as the construction of ministry centers.

If you prefer to make a single donation, you can financially support a development project, either by sending a designated check to NCM or by contributing through the needs list, an online list of projects currently waiting for funding.

Go

Alternatively, you can give your time and talents – and spend a week, a month, a year or more in volunteer service.

running Sunday School programs in some churches, but we definitely need to expand that. In all these we also have to keep in mind that we need to encourage our church members to faithful tithing and offerings. Only through stewardship can we build strong and healthy churches.

That is right. Are you planning any special NCM projects?

I would really like to start some kind of agricultural project, and other projects that empower people to develop themselves. Our vision is to serve especially the needy and disadvantaged. And then, of course, we are planning to build some training centers in different parts of Nepal – at least six, a central one in Kathmandu, which is already in progress, and one in each of the five regions of Nepal.

What will the relationship between NCM and the church be in the future?

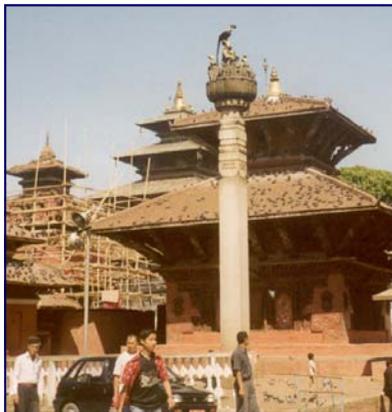
NCM and the church have to work closely together. We need a strong church to serve people compassionately and effectively. But NCM also needs to

keep thinking of the church. The two are firmly connected – one cannot do without the other.

What about registration with the government? NCM is registered through Samaritan Nepal, of course, but will you be able to register the Church of the Nazarene too?

We do have a vision for that. If the different Christian NGOs and churches work together on this issue, I believe we'll be able to register the Church of the Nazarene in maybe two or three years. But that will need a lot of prayer.

God bless you in your ministry in Nepal!



A DECISION IN THE PAST

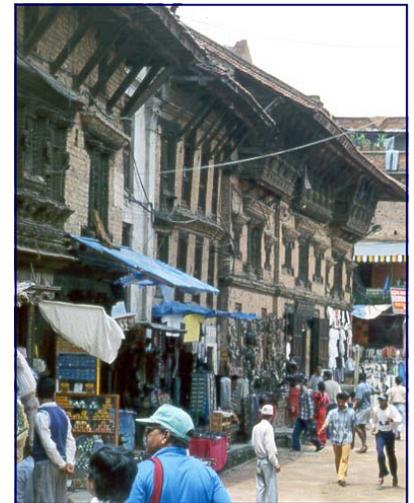
Beginnings

"I decided to join the Church of the Nazarene because I wanted to do something that gives glory to God. I was still teaching at the university then, but I thought that unless and until I have peace in my mind about my work, I cannot do it. And if as a Christian I must do something, why not with the Church of the Nazarene? I liked the principles and values of the church, and its democratic, strong organizational structure. It also appealed to me that the church was neither entirely Episcopalian nor completely congregational. So I decided to join." (Dipendra)

Praying and Giving

Even though preaching Christianity is still illegal in the Kingdom of Nepal, many missionaries have ministered in the country during the past decades and centuries. The Church of the Nazarene started its ministry to Nepal in the late 1990s. Nazarene missionaries had vis-

ited the country, and all over the world Christians were praying for the people of Nepal to hear about the love of Christ. Nazarenes in India were preparing to assist in starting the ministry, and during the Centennial Celebration of the Nazarene ministry in South Asia (1998), a large offering was collected to start the work in Nepal.



Present at this conference was one Mr. Ashish from Eastern Nepal. He had already come

in contact with the Church of the Nazarene through its influence across the border in India, as well as through his friend Brother Vijay, the cousin of a Nazarene superintendent in India. In May 1998 he had met the Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Coordinator for South Asia on his first visit to Nepal, and had been invited to the Centennial Celebration, during which his already good impression of the Nazarene church was confirmed.

Returning to Nepal with new confidence, Brother Ashish was determined to join the Nazarene church, and he and his wife became the first Nazarenes in Nepal. He found a few people to work with him and started two Jesus Film teams in Eastern Nepal in the spring of 1999. Thus the work of the Church of the Nazarene in Nepal started out of small beginnings.



Another Small Beginning

Another small beginning arose about the same time in Kathmandu in Central Nepal. Two Nepalis who were studying theology in Southern India had become acquainted with the Church of the Nazarene, and approached their friend Dipendra about it. Some East Nepali leaders also talked to Dipendra – they felt that he had the experience and talent to work with the church, and wanted him to leave his job as university lecturer. "But I have no idea about mission and evangelism and such things!" Dipendra objected. Nevertheless, he asked his friends to find out more about the Nazarene church. They discussed the issue at length, but came to no conclusion and the matter rested there for more than one year.

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The Next Decade

An interview with the Nepal NCM Coordinator, who shares his vision for the future of the Church of the Nazarene in Nepal.

Brother Dipendra, what is your vision for the future of the Church of the Nazarene in Nepal, let's say, for the next five to ten years?

In five to ten years, I expect that the Church of the Nazarene will be quite strong in Nepal. Most churches (of any denomination) in Kathmandu have below 300 members, and I believe that the Nazarene churches will be among the highest in attendance. I'm also sure that the church will be fully self-supporting within fifteen years hopefully.

How many churches do you hope to have?

Well, if we continue with the Jesus Film plan (ten church-type missions per team per

year), we should have around 250 churches in ten years. That is a little optimistic, of course, but I'm hoping for at least 100. But these need to be strong and healthy churches! We hope to have around 7-10,000 members in these churches.

Well, that is certainly ambitious. But I'm sure it can be done with the help of God. What about different programs within the church, like youth work?

We are hoping to build up our youth work during the next few years. Our young people need to grow in the Lord and be trained to become leaders in the church. Maybe we'll be able to have a youth congress in Nepal at some point.

Have you started with local mission groups in Nepal yet? What about Sunday School?

We do not yet have a local mission program, but we hope to start that soon. We are already



training courses, and will also contribute to the self-support of the Nepal district through income from renting the centers to other groups.

offer them with integrity and professionalism. To improve the latter, NCM Nepal has started building a training center in Kathmandu, with another one planned in Damak. These centers will be well-equipped, include a hall and offices, and will be used for awareness programs and training for project beneficiaries, as well as for pastoral and leadership trainings. They will be a major tool in serving the poor and oppressed and transforming their communities by offering them good

But most of all, the centers will enable NCM Nepal to continue pursuing its mission: teaching the destitute to help themselves, giving a voice to the voiceless, lifting people out of poverty, empowering the powerless: transforming darkness into light.



In late 1999, Brother Ashish and Brother Vijay contacted Dipendra and invited him to meet with some Nazarene leaders from Germany, India, and other South Asian countries. Dipendra accepted the invitation and shared dinner with them at Vijay's house. They made an appointment for the next morning. But on the following morning as Dipendra was racing to the hotel on his friend's motorbike, one of the tires blew and they were much delayed. They finally arrived at the hotel with only 15 minutes left to talk before the others had to leave. In this short time Dipendra could not make a decision, but they decided to keep in contact.

Only a few months later, the next chance for a meeting arrived. By that time, Dipendra had already decided that the work of the Church of the Nazarene appealed to him so much that he wanted to join, and so he started his work with NCM in July 2000. Now not only the Jesus Film Ministry, but also Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) had officially begun service in Nepal.



A few years earlier, in 1995, Dipendra and some of his friends had started a non-profit NGO called *Samaritan Nepal*, established to "serve the helpless, exploited, victimized, deprived, poor and other disadvantaged groups of people within the Kingdom of Nepal". Since the goals of this NGO corresponded with the ideas of NCM, and as it was already registered with the government, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries entered the country through Samaritan Nepal and also ministers under that name.

Today

Today, the Church of the Nazarene has grown and is a witness of God's blessings on the country of Nepal. Besides the NCM work, which includes several development projects and the Leadership Development Program, there is functioning church work in sixteen areas in Nepal (in the Eastern, Central, and Far West Regions), with 19 organized churches by the end of 2005 (with a membership of ca. 900), 20-25 church-type missions, and more than 50 preaching points with an additional average attendance of 600. This church work includes the Jesus Film Ministry and Pastoral and Theological Education (PTE). While the

ministry is managed by local leaders under the administration of the NCM Coordinator (stationed in Kathmandu), colleagues from India and Germany still offer advice and continue to challenge their new friends to "enlarge their tents" (Isaiah 54:2).



business enterprises. These have already made quite a difference in people's lives and living standards. One family purchased two oxen for labor, and with the income built a new and much bigger house (see pictures, p. 22). Another beneficiary was able to regain land he had lost to the bank with the income he had earned with a cycle rickshaw.

In addition to the savings program, NCM Nepal has conducted awareness trainings on self-support, nutrition, sanitation, safe drinking water, the importance of education, and social and human rights issues. With people being more aware of dangers and opportunities, project activities become more effective and development is more sustainable.



In the context of the Leadership Development Program, a good number of additional self-help groups were started all over Nepal, and many lives are being touched through this source of sustainable development. NCM Nepal is in the final stages of preparing a major integrated Community Self-Help Groups Program in Eastern and Central Nepal, which will change the lives of some 25,000 of the poorest and most disadvantaged Nepalis through literacy classes, awareness workshops, skills training, health and nutrition classes, and self-help groups with micro-credit schemes.

Professionalism

NCM Nepal is dedicated not only to provide services to the poor and disadvantaged, but to



various programs with a health component, which will improve the health status in a country with truly harrowing public health conditions. One of these is a Nutritional Rehabilitation program which will be conducted in 15 districts, targeting 10,000 children and 5,000 mothers, trying to reduce morbidity due to malnutrition by offering nutritious meals and regular health check-ups to school children, as well as by teaching mothers about health, hygiene, and nutrition, and promoting breast feeding.

Comprehensive projects that approach development more holistically are called *Community Development Programs*. NCM Nepal started one such program in December 2000 in Bhokra and Madhuban, Eastern



Nepal, among members of the Jhangad and Mushar tribes. This village-based program concentrates primarily on forming self-help groups in which women and men commit to a savings scheme. Members of about 250 households meet regularly and save what for them are quite substantial amounts. From May 2002 on, group members have received loans and started various income generating ventures, such as livestock raising, cycle and van rickshaws, or other small



A MISSION OF THE PRESENT

Their Backs are Bent with Heavy Burdens

A small group of people is struggling up the mountainside, finding their way across wild rivers, along narrow trails, through thick jungle. Their backs are bent with heavy burdens; they stumble under the weight of their luggage and the heat of the Himalayan sun. But though their bodies are tired and bowed, their faces are cheerful and they radiate peace as the sun radiates light. Their destination: a remote mountain village, with no road access and no electricity. Their heavy burdens: a TV set, a video player, a generator, and Christian literature. Their mission: to show the Jesus Film to people who need the love of Christ.

Sharing the Story

The Story of Jesus the Nazarene is not a secret to whisper in hidden places. It is a story of triumph, the greatest news that could be shared, a tale that must be told over and over again to people in every corner of the world. Over the past decades, thousands and millions of people worldwide have heard the Story through the Jesus Film. Christians in many countries have dedicated their lives to reach their people with the Story, traveling from village to village and showing the Jesus Film wherever they find open hearts and listening ears. Some use big screens or parachute cloth sheets, allowing hundreds of people to watch the life of Jesus unfold in the film. At other times and other circumstances, a handful of people may huddle around a small TV screen, prepared to hide the film if danger nears. Wherever they go, Jesus Film teams encounter challenges and bless-



ings, adversity and acceptance, public rejection and merciful forgiveness of sins.

Fruit That Remains

In Nepal, the Jesus Film teams deal with their own specific set of challenges. The ministry started in early 1999, after Brother Ashish had attended the Centennial Celebration of the Church of the Nazarene in India (1998), where he was impressed with the church's principles and ministries and decided to join. Encouraged to get involved in the Jesus Film ministry, Brother Ashish first started with two teams in Eastern Nepal. Later, more teams were added in Kathmandu, and currently five teams receive funding through the Church of the Nazarene, coordinated by two JF coaches, one in the Kathmandu/Central Region, and Brother Ashish in the East.



As their brothers and sisters worldwide, the Jesus Film team members have faced opposition and difficulties, but also enjoyed blessings and rewards. Their journeys are often fraught with hard labor, since most of the remote hill areas of Nepal have no electricity, and so the teams carry TV set, video player, and generator on their backs over rugged mountain terrain to reach even these distant places with the love of Christ. Permission restrictions force them to use small 14-inch TV screens rather than large sheets, and so average attendance remains low (25-40 in the East, 15-25 in Kathmandu). In areas frequently visited by missionaries, people are often familiar with the gospel stories and show little interest, or have even developed a negative attitude towards Christians.

But rather low attendance and hardship cannot detain the teams from pursuing their mission. In the course of one month, each team performs an average of 7-8 showings and starts numerous preaching points, as well as a church-type mission every other month.



no major disasters have occurred in Nepal since NCM began service there.

Focusing on Women

NCM has a mission to the poorest, outcast, and most powerless of society. Since women are usually more open to change and implement new ideas much more quickly, many of the projects, such as savings schemes, small business enterprises, and vocational training, focus on women. A project thus also functions as an agent of social change. Women have no social status; they lack awareness, education, and professional skills and often face discrimination. Through skill development and income generating programs, women can be empowered, become economically independent, and raise their status in society. Uplifting the situation and status of women is an integral part of long-term, sus-

tainable development in Nepal.

While holistic development programs are needed to really deal with social problems in a sustainable manner, skill development projects can introduce some change. NCM Nepal (*Samaritan Nepal*) started early to offer vocational training to underprivileged women. A first tailoring school was begun in Itahari in 1998/99, a second in Damak in 2002 (both Eastern Nepal). Dozens of women have been trained already, and the demand is continually increasing.



Vocational training schools include an aspect of awareness raising, especially in such areas as health and hygiene, including awareness about infectious diseases like HIV/AIDS, which has become a major problem in Nepal. NCM Nepal is planning

Transforming Darkness into Light

"Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?" (James 2:15-16). As Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, it is our mission to serve the destitute and underprivileged in society, to help those whom nobody else helps, to give a voice to the voiceless, to empower people to improve their lives through holistic and long-term development, to lift people out of poverty and make their lives worth living: to transform darkness into light.

Lasting Transformation

An old Chinese proverb says: Give a man a fish, feed him for a day; teach him how to fish, feed him for a lifetime. The various types of development projects which NCM conducts focus on this goal: to effect long-term, sustainable change. In Nepal, several government economic improvement plans over the past years

have brought little change. Health and educational facilities are beyond the means of the poor and disadvantaged. Political conflicts and growing insecurity, destroyed infrastructure and frequent strikes make the situation worse. Resources and opportunities are inaccessible to the poor, and illiteracy, unemployment and gender and caste discrimination create a never-ending vicious circle.

This is where NCM wants to make a difference, with various programs geared towards holistic development, sustainability, and transformation. In addition to this, NCM offers relief work to victims of natural and man-made disasters, such as distributing blankets to needy Nepalis during the particularly cold winter of 2002/03. Fortunately,



Nepalis find salvation and churches are started as a result of the teams' relentless labor in sharing the Story. And despite the political upheaval and the fact that it is still illegal to convert Nepalis to Christianity, the teams have been unusually blessed with safety and have not yet encountered any serious obstacles in the form of attacks or threats.

A significant aspect of the Jesus Film ministry is the follow-up work. After showing the film, team members re-visit the villages on a regular basis, support the new believers, start preaching points which may develop into full organized churches, and distribute follow-up booklets designed specifically for this ministry and translated into the local language.

Rather than just sowing a seed which might easily be strangled by outward circumstances, the follow-up ministry aims to produce fruit that remains, to change people's lives and to allow the new believers to be transformed by Christ's love. Through dedication and integrity, the team members set an example for the new believers in reflecting God's love in their own lives.

The Jesus Film ministry and its follow-up program is an important part of the work of the Church of the Nazarene in Nepal. And while its strategic emphasis changes over the years, the vision always stays the same: to share the Story of Jesus the Nazarene with people who need His forgiveness and love.

I Have a Mission to Minister to My People!

"There is no work for you in Nepal!" the father scolded his young son. "Go to South Korea, or to the Gulf area, and earn money! Then you can come back and support your family." But the son had different values: as a Christian he felt it was his duty to serve his country. Despite his father's wishes, he joined as an LDP trainee. It didn't take him long to realize: "Yes, there are many things to be done in Nepal! And I am going to stay to do some of them. I have a mission to minister to my people!"

Making a Difference

Sharing the story of God's love is only one aspect of evangelism: people need to know that God can actually make a difference in their lives, and not just in their religious beliefs, but in all areas of their existence. To realize this idea of holistic development in a tangible way, NCM South Asia and the Jesus Film ministry have joined forces in the *Leadership Development Program (LDP)*.

This ministry aims to transform South Asia by an army of passionate disciples of Jesus who emulate Christ's compassion by serving their world and particularly the poor and powerless with integrity, professionalism, and love.

The Leadership Development Program trains, equips, and empowers indigenous leaders in South Asia to become agents of Christ's compassion, who will reach out with God's transforming power to those not yet reached by the gospel, serve victims of disasters, and enhance understanding and cooperation among various Christian groups. Trainees meet regularly



Leaders to Guide

In Nepal, the PTE program started in February 2002 in conjunction with LDP, and is conducted under the direction of the South Asia Nazarene Bible College (SANBC). An average of 40 people are participating in the trainings, including all JF members, LDP trainees, various potential leaders from local churches, and some non-Nazarenes.

Trainings are conducted for a few days every few months, primarily in two locations: Kathmandu in the Central Region and Itahari or Damak in the Eastern Region. In order to save funds and empower local people, qualified Nepali Nazarenes (B.Th. degree) have acted as facilitators in the trainings, who in turn receive training to

teach these courses in professional development seminars, conducted by the principal of SANBC.

The PTE program has had a solid impact in the Nepali church. "We do not have a regular Bible School or college in Nepal", the district superintendent explains, "so this is the only way we can teach and train our people. They are very eager to learn. They need to be grounded in our doctrines, and our Wesleyan-Arminian theology." A herd of sheep needs a shepherd ... and thanks to PTE, believers in Nepal have leaders to guide them on the right path.





But the churches and preaching points need leadership, shepherds to guide their people on the right path.

Learning While Doing

This is where *Pastoral and Theological Education (PTE)* steps in. PTE trains pastors and lay leaders close to their home, in an environment the students are familiar with and in a time-frame that allows them to continue serving their churches. Courses offer basic theological training, such as Christian doctrine, evangelism, Old and New Testament, homiletics, prayer, worship, Sunday school, and Christian leadership principles, as well as Nazarene-specific subjects such as the History and

Polity of the Church of the Nazarene. The material for the courses has been developed by leaders from South Asia to ensure that it is relevant in the context of the subcontinent.

Some people may believe that it is necessary to attend a residential school for "proper" theological training. But it has become obvious that students that serve as pastors and study at the same time are learning much more, because they are able to implement immediately what they have learned. Many pastors and lay leaders in South Asia are using this option, with the result that they learn well and the churches grow.

for courses ranging from one to four weeks, with on-the-field training and accounting. These courses include holistic missions and various development courses (health care and nutrition, community empowerment, micro-enterprise, project management, coaching methodology), as well as disaster management courses including trauma care and counseling.

Eventually, all trainees will be able to start or be involved in development, health care, education, or disaster response projects. They will also be significant in the education of their own and other churches. Part of the program is to enable people from other groups and churches to be trained. The trainees will thus play a role in changing society, growing and leading churches, and even guiding JF teams. Leadership Development is developing true leaders: leaders that will help fulfill the mission of the Church and aid it on the way towards a vision for the future.

Ministering to Nepalis

In Nepal, the Leadership Development Program was



launched in February 2002 and has already made a great impact. Nine LDP trainees are being trained, all with high-school diplomas or BA/MA degrees, and other trainees regularly join the sessions. Their learning experience has been as varied and holistic as their future projects are planned to be. While they have gained an understanding of development in general, they have also become aware that evangelism is not confined to showing a film or preaching from a pulpit, but can also be done through many other approaches like social development work. They have realized that funds can be gained from a variety of sources, and that cooperation with others is necessary and fruitful. Throughout their training, they have regularly started self-help groups (33 SHGs by late 2004) and out of those have

developed animal rearing programs, as well as adult education courses. They have also been able to encourage people to meet for community sessions where they learn to solve their problems together.

The Nepali trainees have by now finished most of the LDP courses, and are finalizing their own projects, which range over the whole country, even areas where the Church is only just entering. Before their training started, the trainees had thought of a project as a grand scheme, immense and unapproachable. But now they have realized that projects can also be simple awareness programs for a clean environment, and can be started

by anybody. Thus the trainees are also busy passing on their knowledge to others and multiplying themselves in other people's lives and ministry. The LDP program as an integrated model of evangelism, compassionate concern, leadership training, and pastoral training will reach far beyond the boundaries of the Church and make a difference in the lives of many, as more and more accept the mission to minister to their people.



To Guide Their People on the Right Path

A herd of sheep needs a shepherd. But the shepherd has to know his task. He needs to know where the best grass is to be found, which stream flows with the purest water, how to protect his flock from wild animals, when to lead them home to the shelter. It is no different in a church. A flock of new believers needs a leader. And the leader needs to be trained in his tasks. That is the mission of PTE: to train new pastors and lay leaders to guide their people on the right path.

A Growing Demand

During the past decade, hundreds and thousands of lives have been touched by the gospel through the ministry of the Church of the Nazarene in South Asia. Churches have grown in membership and attendance and more and more churches have been started in new areas. Both the Jesus Film ministry and Compassionate Ministries in connection with the Leadership Development Program have substantially in-

fluenced church growth, and new preaching points, church-type missions, and organized churches are added each month. But as local congregations grow and new ones are added, the need for new pastors and lay leaders increases.



Over the years, many Nepalis have received biblical and theological training abroad. But most Nepali Nazarenes have neither the money nor the time to leave their homes for years, maybe even leave fledgling ministries to fend for themselves. Many hesitate to leave their local church to try on their own without proper training.