

Nepali Moravian Outreach Newsletter

December, 2015



Dear Friend,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2015/16

“Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again rejoice.” Philippians 4:4,

For the people of Nepal, things have been hard this year and we often hear people saying, “*can’t wait for 2015 to be over, it has been the worst year. First the earthquake and now the unrest and economic blockade.*” It is hard to rejoice when people have just seen death and destruction, and before they have had a chance to get over this trauma, the very occasion to rejoice, such as the festivals in October and November became a nightmare with no cooking gas to prepare meals for guests and families, nor fuel to travel and visit loved ones. We all have journeyed through the jolts, destruction, loss, pain, fear, uncertainty and frustration, however, apostle Paul’s reminder to rejoice! rings clearly for us. As the people of hope, we rejoice as we see God’s hand upon this land. God is doing something new. Through earthquakes and hardships we are learning to be vigilant, more careful in our walk with God. We saw that all things including life could be gone in seconds, hence the realization to set our minds on things above while we continue to be Christ’s hands and feet in this world. As believers we have a stronger conviction and zeal to rejoice as we have survived the earthquake and live to tell of God’s mighty works in our lives. God is Good all the time! We may never understand why or how.... but it is by faith alone we can say this.

Blessings

Your brother and sister in Christ

Pradhans

Nepali Moravian Outreach Newsletter

Our Purpose: Is to support the vision of the Nepali Moravian Outreach to share the Good News of Christ through the ministries of the Nepali Moravian Church, transforming lives, educating and impacting the community and the nation at large.

In this Edition

Ministry

The two Moravian churches, one in the city and the other in the village of Khokona continue to grow in both faith and number. However, the April 25th earthquake forced the Khokona church to find a new location and the purchase of land for the church.

Mission Trips

Mission trips to serve NMO included members of the NMO committee in April and helped with moving the preschool to a new location.

Ken and Trina Holmberg spent several months in Nepal to help with the church and school.

Vani, Shanti and Nahum traveled to the USA several months ago to reconnect, visit churches and attend the Moravian Women's conference.

A Minnesota mission team consisting of 10 members will travel after Christmas. They will be working with the church youth, Sunday school, church leaders, music team and with the winter camp at the preschool.

Education

The IKG preschool has moved to a new location and reached a new enrollment milestone with 74 children. The school is seeking to expand to include grades 1-3. Three Moravian children who are benefiting from the tuition aid program will graduate in April 2016. The new Higher Education program is providing continued education for one young adult Moravian woman.

Government

We celebrate the new constitution but people who have close ties to India on the southern border of Nepal were not pleased and they began to protest. As a result India implemented an economic blockade, which has affected normal life in a significant way.

About NMO

Learn about the history of Nepali Moravian Outreach ministry and how it is organized.

Support

Learn how you can support this ministry through your time, talent and treasure.

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Two Churches

The two Moravian churches in the city and in the village of Khokona continue to grow in both faith and number. The church in the Khokona village, which was on a rented space, had major cracks and damages after the April 25th earthquake. On the advise of engineers, the church stopped gathering there and moved to open fields and worshipped under temporary tarps and tents for several weeks. Then a land was identified for long term use and purchase.



Redevelopment effort

We rejoice at the blessing of this new church land in Khokona. Despite the enormous amount that is still required to purchase this land, we already feel the blessing of seeing new faces, being able to gather for evening prayers every day of the week, gather for choir/music practice, celebrate end of life service, conferences, workshops etc. without the pressure and intervention of Landlords, neighbors or strangers. This has been a huge blessing to the local community as many individuals and organization are considering using it on hire for their meetings and programs. We have come a long way and the relief support has reached the affected families too.



So far we have paid off the first installment for the land and built a light structured church hall, Sunday school, kitchen and bathrooms. Greatly appreciate your prayers, love and support in a tangible way. The second installment for the land is due on January 13, and despite the unthinkable amount the Lord has used people and churches to raise the required USD 60,000. Praise the Lord!



Our hearts are full of praise and gratitude to our Lord and all our brothers and sisters from around the world who have supported us with prayers and finances raised by the Moravian community in UK, USA and the World Wide Moravian and non-Moravian community. It was encouraging to know that they were there, praying and raising support for Nepal.

Education

School (IKG)

After many months and years of prayers, the pre-school moved to a bigger, brighter and better space. It is a rented building but very strategically located, almost certain that it was hand picked by God. What a blessings to have a team from the US along with the Holmbergs to help us pack, move, clean up and set up in the new space. Having Ken, Trina, Alice, Craig, Mike, Myra and Jenny made the graduation and movement so much easier and absolutely memorable.

The pre-school has been a blessing to the church and local community as many took shelter immediately following the earthquake. The move to the current building was God led, for we would have been displaced as the previous landlord required the space for himself. The school saw some unexplainable developments immediately following the earthquake. Though there were some physical damages to the walls, roof top water tanks, underground water tank, solar panels, front patio etc, enrollments continued to come in and as of today there are 75 children enrolled and more coming in for the January term. Its amazing, when lots of schools have closed or have had to let go of their staff after the quake our school is seeing a blessing unlike our expectation.

Our vision for the future is a grade school where the same quality education may be provided for all the Nepali children regardless of their difference in caste, religion or ethnicity.

IKG Tuition aid program

In May 2012, little Grace was 23 months when she joined the playgroup, our youngest class. Philip was 18 months and still requiring his mother to spend time at the school to nurse him. Today it is hard to believe that Grace and Philip are now in UKG, which means they will be graduating in April 2016. They have turned into energetic, smart and very talkative five year olds. A recent addition to UKG was Pragati Devkota, who transferred from another school. We also have Josiah in LKG and Eslie in Nursery. Two more are lined up for next year. We thank the Lord for all the partners in this ministry for enabling the children to receive quality education and sound foundation for their future years. We hope to continue offering tuition aid to many more needy and deserving children in the future. One child at a time, one small change for a long time.



Antioch Program/Mission trips

We greatly appreciate Board of World Missions partnership and mission outreach to Nepal. Since 2005, we have had so many mission trips and Antioch servants who have felt a call from God to be with the people of Nepal. We are very grateful for their time and contribution in Nepal.

Last year, Rev. Trina and Ken Holmberg came to Nepal in early October to help at the school and church. Their presence and contribution in the school, especially during the move was a great help. They experienced the earthquake, stayed through it and also took care of the school while we were gone for three weeks to the US in June/July 2015. We always appreciate Antioch servant's presence which has helped us to integrate new methods in our teaching methodology and improve the administrative work.

Members of the NMO committee traveled to Nepal in April 2015. They had initially planned to be in Kathmandu to be a part of the graduation program. But God's timing enabled them to help with the school movement, unpacking, cleaning the new place and beginning the new academic year with prayers from both Nepali and American Moravians. They missed the earthquake by just a few days, for which we are thankful to God.

The Pradhans travelled to Bethlehem, PA in June 2015 for three weeks. This trip was planned several months ago, with the hope of reconnecting, visiting churches and attending the Moravian Women's conference in Maryland. However, the disastrous earthquake in April made the plans to visit the US more meaningful. It became a time of sharing the destruction and survival stories of our people and the church. It also became a God ordained time to refresh and strengthen ourselves for the tasks that lay ahead. Nahum also got an opportunity to visit the Moravian College and get a tour of the campus with the hope of coming to Moravian in the future.

We are excited that A Minnesota mission team consisting of 10 members will travel after Christmas. This trip has been in the planning for over a year. They will be working with the church youth, Sunday school, church leaders, music team and with the winter camp at the preschool.



Higher Education program

When God begins to move in a certain direction, we acknowledge and move accordingly instead of contemplating or resisting. After the preschool, Higher Education was another such direction that we felt God was directing us to explore. It began with one individual's desire to study and another group of people being led to support this academic aspiration. Higher Education Program started with the vision to support deserving candidate of lower income levels.

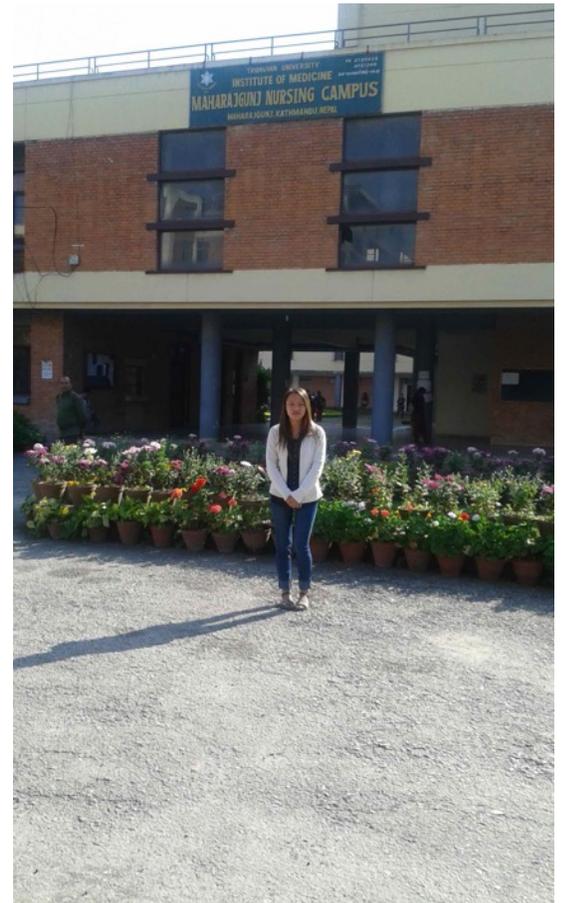
After many months of prayers, talking to people, raising money, exploring ways to make this happen, Jayanti Rai was chosen to be the first candidate for the HEP.

Jayanti is the oldest of three children and has excellent academic records in her 10th grade and PCL exams. Two years ago, her desire to study was put on hold due to financial constraints, and she started working as a nurse in a mission hospital. When this opportunity to study again surfaced, she quickly prepared and appeared for the nationwide competitive exams for Bachelors of Nursing. She scored the highest in the entrance exams and got accepted into the college of her choice. Her classes began from the last week in November. Her journey has just begun and she has four years to go. The Higher Education Committee in Nepal and the Nepali Moravian Outreach committee is working to ensure that sufficient money is raised to complete her education. The cost for her entire program for the three years is USD 5000-6000, (all costs included). For further information on how you can contribute to this program, please contact the College Hill Moravian Church (Nepali Moravian Outreach Committee)

For a country like Nepal, there are many more Jayantis who have dreams of studying and are capable but are not able to continue their study due to financial constrains. We pray and hope that the Lord would send people to support this program to make it an ongoing ministry. We would like to appeal to all our partners and donors to help us extend this ministry to educate and transform lives in this struggling country.

Government

We celebrate the new constitution but people who have close ties to India on the southern border of Nepal were not pleased and they began to protest. As a result India implemented an economic blockade, which has affected normal life in a significant way. Rebuilding the country after the earthquake is still a on going process. Please keep this country in your prayers, especially the churches so they can be the people of hope and love for all.



About NMO

The Nepali Moravian Outreach was formed in May 2009 while the Pradhans were still in seminary and getting ready to return to Nepal. Their heart's desire was to continue serving the Lord in the church and other ministries, but were unsure of how they were going to raise the support they required. That is when the three churches they served as student pastors came together along with the Board of World Mission to form a committee. Until the Pradhans are reasonably self-sufficient, the objective of the Nepali Moravian Outreach Committee was to provide adequate funding to enable them to devote their time needed to accomplish their vision of sharing the good news of Christ and to grow His church. Today the Nepali Moravian Outreach is blessed to be involved along with the British Province in supporting not just the Pradhan's but many more exciting works as shared in this newsletter.

The committee consists of members from three Moravian Churches of Bethlehem. Edgeboro Moravian Church, Central Moravian Church, College Hill Moravian Church and Board of World Missions along with the Pradhans (Moravian Church Nepal - under the British Province) not pictured: Rev Judy Ganz, Sue Yoltz, Rev. David Geyer

The ministry in Nepal is part of the South Asia mission work under the jurisdiction of the British Province. The British Mission Board provides some financial support, but in time the Nepali mission is expected to become self-sufficient in respect to normal operating expenses of its ministries.

In September Bro Robert Hopcroft and Bro David Howarth from the British Mission visited Kathmandu to meet the Moravians and check on the post earthquake situation as well as the new land site in Khokona. Bro David Howarth will be in charge of the South Asia Missions from now on.



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Prayer concerns

1. Please continue to pray for grade one registration and all the legal documents that is being processed.
2. For another building/space for expansion
3. For the unhealthy competition in all areas of work: Right next to the school another school has started in early December, and this is creating confusion among the local community and parents. Please pray for God's intervention and guidance.
4. The the church land in Khokona:

The ministries of the Nepali Moravian Outreach have been supported by friends, individuals, churches and organizations. Donations can be mailed to:

College Hill Moravian Church
72 W. Laurel Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018

On the Memo line include one of the following.

MEMO Line	Purpose
NMO	Used for the general needs of the ministry.
NMO IKS	Used for the purchase of items to maintain and grow the school.
NMO TA	Used to provide IKS tuition aid for Moravian children.
NMO HE	Used to provide higher education assistance for Moravian adults.

PICTURES OF THE YEAR



school movement



children having conversations with a visitor



Candle light Service in the new church hall



Khokona village after the earthquake



picture with a tuition aid child and her family



queuing up for petrol ... for days



Preschool group picture