

Nepal- Chitwan- 11th Mission School

January 2021 – May 2021

The 10th Mission Training School to equip men and women to take the Gospel to the remote areas of Nepal began in January 2020, in Kathmandu. After 2 months, it was interrupted because of an imposed lockdown in Nepal and all the students were sent home. I had planned to travel to Nepal to teach at this school in March 2020, however obviously this was impossible. The Nepalese borders had been closed. (It was perhaps a blessing in disguise that I had to remain in France throughout 2020 as it was then that Don became so very ill, and I was caring for him during the rest of 2020 until his death in late October.)

In November 2020, with great faith, Pastor Krishna began to discuss with me the organisation of the 11th Mission Training School. Quite frankly, I was a bit sceptical in view of all the unknowns concerning the virus and the threat of future lockdowns. However, Krishna was persuaded that he was to run a smaller training School for a group of 12 male students, to start in early January 2021 and to run through to May. Up until now all the Mission Schools have been held at the New Life Training centre in Kathmandu Valley. However, because of the greatly increased persecution from the Brahmin neighbourhood surrounding the School, it has sadly become evident that it is no longer possible for us to hold such Christian Training schools there. (The Brahmin caste is one of the highest castes in Hinduism and they are specialized as priests, teachers and are protectors of sacred learning across generations.)



10 of the students on the roof top of the rented house, with Pastor Krishna and the house keeper

Subsequently, Krishna decided to rent a large, isolated house in the Chitwan region, south of Kathmandu on the northern border of India, and to run two smaller schools during 2021; the first one for 12 male students, to start in January, and the second one for 12 female students, to start in September. So this is where the 11th School has successfully taken place, very much thanks to Krishna's hard work and fierce determination. We thank God that this 11th school had just enough the time to complete, before another nationwide lockdown was imposed in Nepal. It was amazing how everything worked out just perfectly.

Krishna asked me if I would consider holding my whole teaching course for the students at the 11th school via 'Zoom', since it was impossible for me to travel to Nepal. My mind 'boggled' at the prospect of attempting to give my 15 day course via Zoom to the

students as I knew from 10 years travelling experience to Nepal, that the reliability of the Nepalese electrical power grid was a bit of a nightmare! However, swayed by Krishna's enthusiasm I suggested that we should do some trial runs to see how we could work this together. So we prepared during the weeks prior to my course and set up the classroom in such a way that I could actually see and interact with each student present. Because my course also involves the use of many evangelistic visual tools, I had to learn how to present them effectively via the computer screen. It was initially a bit tricky, but as one says,



Teaching how to use the visual tools at 9th Mission School in Nepal -2019



On the road to the Bible school- encountering a very common and typical Nepalese 'eletrical situation'!

'practise makes perfect'! The electrical grid was amazingly stable during the 3 weeks of my Zoom classes; we just had 2 short power-cuts throughout the whole time! (That was answered prayer.) Although, teaching via Zoom is not the same as directly teaching 'sur place', I was surprised at how much interaction and feedback we were still able to have together. During the frequent breaks, when I left my computer's 'sound' on, all the familiar sounds of ongoing life in Nepal streamed into my living room... at times it seemed as though I was actually there! I felt strangely nostalgic.

My course time spent with the students was rich and encouraging and we covered much ground together. As usual, we spent time examining the foundations of the Christian faith, and how to share the Gospel using the visual tools which are particularly helpful when working amongst illiterate people-groups. The course covers the central doctrines of the Christian faith, but also focuses on other topics such as 'God's inseparable love, truth and holiness', 'the Persistent shadow of the 'Old Man', 'the Importance of Forgiveness', 'God's refining fire', 'God's timing', and other things. Having the illustrated teaching manual (containing my whole class course) translated into Nepalese, was a huge blessing, specially this time when teaching via Zoom. (We completed and printed this manual 3 years ago, and we never imagined how useful it was going to be in the future.) The students had fascinating stories to tell about their conversions. Shree Shresta had been a witch doctor in his village for many years, following in the tradition of his forefathers. One day he got sick and was desperate for healing. He happened to pick up off the street a tract with John 3:16 on it, and an address of a church. He went to the church. He was saved, and also healed! Immediately he stopped doing witchcraft, threw away all his instruments, deciding to learn more about



Shree Shresta

Jesus. Now he plans to set up a church in his village. Needless to say, he suffered severe persecution from his family and the people in his village. The Hindu religion permeates every aspect of the Nepalese culture and when one chooses Christ, one automatically excludes oneself from so many cultural rituals and traditions.



Sharing on Graduation Day!

Following my teaching block, the students had several more weeks to complete at the School until graduation day. 11 of the 12 students successfully completed the course. (One had to return precipitately to his village due to family issues.)



Pastor Krishna and Pastor Yam baptising a new convert in Piutar earlier this year. (5 people were baptized in the icy cold water that day!)

Several of the students shall be starting house churches under the pastoral wing of Pastor Krishna. It is exciting to see the Gospel going out into the Himalayas and it is a privilege to be able to continue to partner with Pastor Krishna and his team in this great work. I would like to thank you all for your invaluable prayer and financial support, without which none of this would be possible.

And... I thank the Lord for His great faithfulness.
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