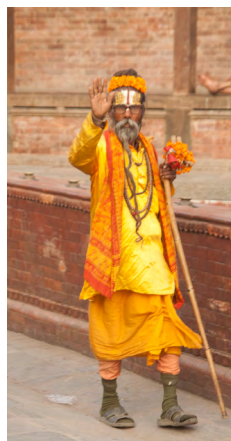


I recently returned from ministry in Kathmandu, Nepal. What a privilege it was to lecture at Nepal Theological College [NTC] and preach for nearby pas-



tors on the weekends. I would lecture for most of the afternoon each week. And on Saturdays, I would preach two or three services in a nearby church. No, the Assemblies of God in Nepal hasn't gone sabbatarian. The national day off from work in Nepal is Saturday, so that's when congregations meet—

except for the international church, which meets on Sunday.

Christianity in Nepal in Recent Decades

The story of Christianity in Nepal is one of Christianity's highlights for the last quarter of the twentieth century. In the mid-twentieth century, the Assemblies of God congregations were few and scattered. One person told me there were eight in the whole country: four in western Nepal and four in Kathmandu. When I asked people, "How many now?" I got all kinds of answers, which varied from about 600 to about 1,000—pretty big spread, huh?

So I said to myself, "Apparently they're not big on keeping accurate statistics."

As I moved around more and asked more questions, I realized that "church" was a matter of semantics. Even the village church I preached in was mothering other congregations, and all of them had active preaching points that they hoped would grow into a congregation. So the answer depended on

whether you call this or that congregation a "church," "daughter-congregation," or "preaching point." Wow! Wish the Assemblies of God USA had a problem with that kind of fuzzy statistics.¹

As you might guess, with that kind of growth, the Assemblies of God in Nepal needs many more pastors. For example, I met a former student that I taught at Southern Asia Bible College in Bangalore, India. He's lecturing at NTC and pastoring a village church in the mountains. His congregation has no property, so it rents rooms above a village shop. The Saturday that I preached for him, he was missing in the first service and most of the second. He came back just in time to do the honors for me as guest preacher. To be honest, I was a little miffed that he was gone—until I realized why. He had been out preach-

ing at a church they're mothering. *Now that's a heart for planting churches.* What's not to like about that?

One weekend, my top student wanted to spend the day with me. He picked me up early morning on his motor cycle, and we checked out one of



the main tourist sites in town, a mountain-top Buddhist temple.

Later we rode up into the mountains above Kathmandu. It was good to get some relief from the polluted air of Kathmandu and breathe good clean mountain air for awhile. Once we got above the city's smog level, we could see the majestic Himalaya's in the distance. And on the city side, we



Worship time in chapel at Nepal Theological College, Kathmandu, Nepal

1. Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandryk, *Operation World* (2001, updated 2006, pp 469–70), cites the following figures: Hindu (75%), Buddhist (16%), Muslim (5%), Christian (2%), other (2%). They note, "the boundary between Hinduism and Buddhism is not distinct." They speak of the first known Christian congregation numbering 29 in 1959; and in their present edition suggests that there are 500,000 gathering in 3,000 congregations. Their figures for the Assemblies of God are 315 congregations 37,000 adherents, but I see no indication whether those were from 2001 or 2006. In either case, you see explosive growth by 2011.

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could dimly see the huge city of Kathmandu through all of its heavy smog.²

Sometime early in the morning, my student began making and taking phone calls. I started to think, “What’s up?” Turns out, he was checking with his parents to see if he could bring his teacher home for dinner. The answer from them was yes. So then he asked



me if I would like to go meet his parents. I said yes. Then he asked me if I could stay for dinner, and I said yes. Above, you see a picture of his father, grand mother, his younger sister, who is working and helping him attend Bible college.

Prayer Requests and Needs



Can you help fill the shelves for students at nrc?

Needs at the College

NTC presently runs about 80 students, but they’re needing to grow to about 200 to meet the needs for pastors in all of those baby congregations being mothered by the existing churches and birthed at all those

². Population of 1.5 million for the metropolitan area, after explosive growth as the rural population of Nepal fled the Maoists, who operated in the mountains from 1996–2004

preaching points. *The college has two pressing needs:*

- They need to develop their library, and any funds would be helpful there. If you would like to contribute, let me know, and I’ll find out what account you should use to make your contribution.
- The school really needs a deep-bore well, which would run about \$50,000 to drill and supply the school building. I know that’s a big project to take on, but it’s a big need. Kathmandu suffers from a severe water shortage, and the school gets *no* water from the municipal supply. They have to buy water that’s trucked onto the campus. That’s expensive and unreliable. And as the student body grows, it’ll become totally unworkable. If you can take that on, I’ll definitely find you the account number for contributing to that.

Brueggemann Needs

Janice and I are operating on about \$2,000 below our monthly budget. I know these are hard economic times for churches in the USA, so we’re so thankful for how sacrificially faithful our supporting churches are. Praise the Lord for that! But Janice has taken a job in Springfield, so that we can self-fund and keep going somehow. That means she can’t travel with me, which we hate. And even so, it’s nip and tuck. We’re still paying off our personal credit card from the recent travel and looking forward to booking the travel for teaching in India and the Ukraine as the school year starts up again in the Fall. *The Brueggemanns have two pressing needs:*

- We need an increase in monthly support from anywhere God might supply, by about \$2,000 per month.
- We can use some special cash offerings that we wouldn’t ordinarily need or request. So we can pay off the bills from this Spring’s ministry travel and book the ministry travel for the Fall.



Hosting the college staff for lunch, having been honored with a Nepali hat of my own.

If you would like to help us in one of those ways, do this:

- Mail it to AGWM for our account #231897
- Click [HERE](#) or go to our website at www.bible-resources.org and click on [partners and SUPPORTERS](#) at the left of our screen
- Click [HERE](#) or search for our name under the missionary directory button at the AGWM site <http://worldmissions.ag.org/>

Blessings on your own life and labors in the kingdom of God.



Kathmandu congregation praying following my sermon.

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