

# Report from Nepal

Our missionary in Asia kindly agreed to answer the following questions concerning her work in Nepal.

Ed.

“ THERE IS GROWING OPPOSITION TO THE GOSPEL IN THE POLITICAL WORLD; THERE IS ALSO PERSECUTION FROM EXTREMIST HINDU ELEMENTS. WHEN PEOPLE TRUST CHRIST, THERE IS A LOT OF OPPOSITION IN THE FAMILY AND THEIR COMMUNITIES. ”



**ED: How did you sense the Lord’s call to missionary work in Nepal?**

**A:** I can remember hearing about what God was doing in Nepal and it touched my heart to pray and to follow the reports about the work. Then, in 2012, a friend and I were talking about where we would love to visit if we could and both of us said together, “Nepal!” So, we started to plan a trip for the following Easter. However, situations changed and neither of us were able to go, but the desire to pray and my interest in the work never left me – but intensified. In October 2015, the Lord opened the door for me to visit Nepal and, during the visit, Paul extended an invitation to come over and work with the Nepalese church. One of the main verses that God used to speak to me concerning the land of Nepal was Isaiah 30:21: “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This *is* the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.” I returned to Spain burdened greatly for the land and its people. During the next weeks, God confirmed His call to me to leave Spain. Although it wasn’t an easy thing to do, as Spain had been my home for over 18 years and the ties with the people there were very strong, I realised that God had been preparing me for this move for some time. God had issued His call to come over and help, and I needed to obey Him.

**ED: What is life really like for a Christian in Nepal?**

**A:** The short answer is very difficult. Christianity is a new and strange religion for Nepalese people to comprehend. The majority of people know little about Christianity, therefore it is a new religion to them. This has caused enormous fear among people in general. In the 2001 census, only 0.5 % of the people were Christians. Now, 20 years later, that percentage has risen to 10% (approximately 3 million people). That’s an incredible increase, but such a sharp increase has caused many problems. There is growing opposition to the gospel in the political world; many politicians wish to bring the country back to be a Hindu nation, thus reversing the freedoms that were won during the civil war. There is also persecution from extremist Hindu elements, who would wish to stop any form of preaching of the Word of God and close down all churches. It is a strange religion for the people because they follow a polytheism belief system, where the worship of many gods is practiced. The Hindu religion of Nepal has over 33 million deities of varying levels of importance. Therefore, to start believing in the one true and living God is very confusing and difficult for the people to grasp. When people trust Christ, there is a lot of opposition in the family and their communities. In rural areas, many people have had to

## MISSIONARY VISION

leave homes and jobs as a result of trusting in Christ. There would even be a reluctance to hire Christians in certain circles for fear of them sharing the gospel with fellow workers.

**ED: Please describe the missionary work you do in Nepal.**

**A:** The work I do is a teaching and encouragement ministry. It is illegal for anyone to proselytise in the country, so it is not possible for me to be involved in open evangelism. However, I am involved with the Sunday School work through teacher training classes. I endeavour to encourage the teachers concerning the importance of reaching their own children and those in their towns and villages. I supply them with materials for stories and pictures, along with some teaching and doctrinal books, to help them understand the scriptures better and, therefore, be able to reach the children more effectively.

I am also involved in teaching the catechism in the Young People's meetings and encouraging them to learn one each week. The catechism is an excellent tool to help people understand the fundamentals of the gospel, especially when most haven't grown up in a Christian home. God willing, we will soon be able to recommence this ministry. I am involved in the ladies' meetings, speaking in our own church regularly and holding one day conferences for ladies in the churches outside Kathmandu. I also have the opportunity to write an article in a weekly newspaper. This has been a wonderful door of witness as, even in the lockdown, I have continued with it. Those who read the article write regularly to me and it's wonderful to explain more the truths of Christ. Please pray for this valuable door of service that God will continue to keep it open.

**ED: How are the local pastors and congregations in the Nepal Free Presbyterian Church?**

**A:** In Kathmandu valley, there are about 5 congregations of varying sizes – from about 35 members upwards. The



majority of the pastors were converted to Christ from a Hindu background and then, they started talking and witnessing to family, friends and neighbours. It is from these small beginnings that the churches have been formed. Some of the churches meet in their own buildings and others rent or have the services in the pastor's home, but all have a love and zeal to see the church of Christ grow.

**ED: What outreach opportunities are there at present?**

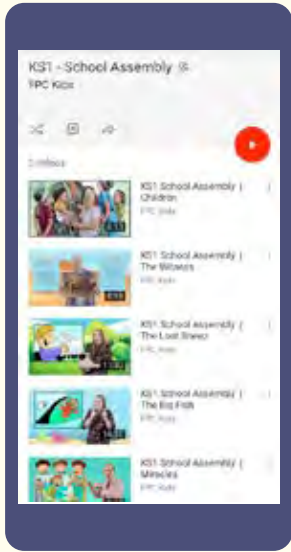
**A:** Outreach opportunities are restricted in Nepal – things like tract distribution or open-air meetings are forbidden. Personal witness is dangerous but, over the years, it is what God has used to bring men and women unto himself. However, Nepal Free Presbyterian Church does have a very extensive radio ministry covering nearly all of Nepal and into the borders of China and India. These broadcasts have continued throughout the lockdowns and I would ask you to pray for the preached word – that this door of opportunity would continue unhindered. Many of the churches, over the years, have commenced as a direct result of the radio ministry. At present, the churches are still closed in Kathmandu, but some restrictions have been lifted in the last week. In some areas, this has allowed small groups of people to meet together for fellowship in the city. ■

## Prayer Requests

Firstly, I would thank God for the continued opportunity to write in the local newspaper and pray that God would open the eyes and understanding of those who read the articles regularly. Pray, too, that the readers will come to know that Jesus is the only door for salvation (John 10:9). Please pray that churches across Nepal will soon be able to open again, without restrictions on any of the meetings.

We ask that God continues to bless the radio ministry and the faithful word preached by the ministers and, also, the evangelists, who travel to the different villages to follow up on the contacts made through it. Remember the children's home, the staff and children that they will know the presence of God in their midst. Lastly, pray that God will keep the door open for the preaching of the gospel in an increasingly hostile environment. ■

# FPC KIDS



📌 Above: FPC Kids playlist  
📌 Top: FPC Kids recording

FPC Kids was set up in March 2020, during the first Covid-19 lockdown, as an online outreach for boys and girls. In the past year, there have been many videos produced, including 'Bible Corners', 'Wee Words', along with Summer and Winter Holiday Bible Clubs. These Bible lessons have been taught by Robert McConnell, Joyce Walsh and Christina Logan. Important technical work is done by Alastair Hamilton, Kathryn Kane, who records and edits, and Glenn Hamilton, who looks after the Facebook page and YouTube channel. We are thankful that these videos have been used by the Lord to speak to children about spiritual matters.

Another aspect to FPC Kids is the school assemblies which have been produced for primary schools to use as, due to Covid-19, we are unable to take assemblies in schools. These assemblies are available on YouTube for schools to use. There have also been assemblies recorded for secondary schools by Jonny Smith, Noel Shields and Colin Maxwell. We would ask you to pray that God would use these assembly recordings to speak to children and young people, and they will open doors into new schools. We appreciate your prayers and support greatly, as we continue this work among the children and young people. ■

📌 Christina Logan

## New Opportunities in Australia

A new ministry opportunity has opened up for our Australian churches. A fifteen-minute radio broadcast is being aired each Lord's Day morning in the Philippines, as well as a 15-minute broadcast in a rural district of New South Wales. It has long been the desire of the Australian churches to see a radio witness commenced, but our requests for airtime have been refused. We rejoice that the Lord has opened a door in His perfect time, in a way we had



📌 Pastor Dennis Kablingue and family

not anticipated. The three Australian ministers share in the preaching for these messages, and we are also receiving help from a brother in the Philippines, Pastor Dennis Kablingue, who is recording some messages for us.

Please pray that people will listen regularly and will contact us desiring further information on the way of salvation. ■

📌 Rev Philip Gardiner, Australia.

# New Sunday School in Kenya

“ PRAY THAT OUR LABOURS WILL YIELD MUCH FRUIT FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THAT THESE CHILDREN WILL KNOW CHRIST. ”



We are thankful to report that we started Kakamega Sunday School at the apartments. We were allowed three rooms with seats and small tables. Currently we are utilising only two classes. With three teachers available, my wife Gladys, Ben and myself, we can only handle two groups. This ministry started towards the end of 2020 and there are 43 children attending. There are so many children, but we are restricted to a controllable size. We are hoping to involve a few more students in the work and already two of them have developed an interest. Pray for these students and the rest of the team.

Before Sunday School commenced, we visited homes around the apartments to request parents to send their children. We took precautionary measures as required by the government for such meetings. We provide water and soap for washing hands and masks. Some children find it strange wearing the masks, but we try to encourage that.

During the lessons, we realised that about 70 percent of these children have never been in a Sunday school class. They say that they attend church with their parents occasionally. For this reason, we teach basic things and try to teach in the simplest way possible to help them relate. We do provide them with juice and biscuits after class.

Pray that our labours will yield much fruit for the Kingdom of God and that these children will know Christ and take Jesus with them to their homes. They may well be the gateway to their parents with the gospel. Who knows? Pray with us for God's blessings upon this work dear friends of the cross! ■

✍ Pastor Patrice Akali

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