

## 2017 Nepal Update

Psalm 115:3 tells us that our God does whatever He pleases. Through friends of friends, I was put in touch with a Nepali Pastor Tika Ram (TR) Baral. The village of Gumdu was destroyed in the earthquake of 2015. Pastor TR and his friends had helped shortly after the earthquake but they wanted to do more. He requested a medical team anytime from January to April because it never rains during that time of year and once it rains, the roads are impassable so we picked the beginning of March. As we climbed the mountain, it began to rain and we began fishtailing on the steep, narrow mountain road. We kept reassuring each other that God is in control as we looked down the drop off with no guard rail. The guys in the truck carrying our luggage had to get out and push their vehicle numerous times. Then we stopped because of the huge boulder in the middle of the road. Now what do we do? Moments later, an excavator came down the mountain and cleared the road for us. We sat amazed that God sent an excavator just when we needed it. Next came the snow which caused more fishtailing and pushing. Finally, when we were about five miles from the village, we made the decision to abandon our vehicle because it was just too dangerous and walk the rest of the way. The plan was to send a tractor back for our bags so we began to walk. We had been squeezed in a vehicle so the walk felt good until it started raining, thundering and lightening. The people of Gumdu walked with blankets and hot water to meet us and escorted us to their village where a campfire awaited us. Because of a strike in Kathmandu, we had left three hours ahead of schedule and when we walked into the village just before sunset, we again praised God for directing our steps (Proverbs 16:9).



Job 42:2 says that no purpose of the Lord can be withheld. As we were hiking in, I was praying and trying to figure out what God was doing. I'm thinking that satan is not happy that Stan has a sermon prepared for the next morning about the Unknown God, sharing truths about the One, True God to people who worship many gods. Then when we arrived, we discussed where we would hold the clinic. We always hold them in the church but they were afraid that the hindu people wouldn't come into the church and had planned to hold the clinic outside until it started pouring rain two months ahead of schedule. We had no choice but to have the clinics inside the church and the people came. Day after day they came to receive medical care, reading glasses, medicine, clothes and the Gospel. Some of them received a double or triple dose. I heard Stan and Barrett sharing the Good News while trying on glasses and on several occasions, I heard Drs. White and Bobo pray with their patients. I had the privilege of praying with one lady that walked four hours to get to the clinic. These were the kindest, most loving, generous people I have ever met. Even the unbelievers, greeted us and welcomed us into their village. We learned the week after we left, many unbelievers attended the church service and three ladies accepted Christ as Savior!



"But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:16). We learned that it is illegal to give Gospel tracts in the school so TR asked the school to meet our team in the road so we could give them something and take pictures with the Himalayan mountains in the background. He presented soccer balls for the school then each child received a colorful children's Gospel tract and of course, a MoonPie. Evidently, the principal wasn't too upset. He brought the entire school back to say good-bye to us and present each of us with flower leis. We know God's Word never returns void (Isa. 55:11) and that church in the middle of the village is definitely shining their light before men (Matt. 5:16). As we were leaving, the church thanked us for coming "because without you all we would have never been able to present the Gospel to as many people." I'm so excited to hear what the Lord will continue doing in that village and beyond. As we looked out on the mountains and the people scattered all over them but no roads to reach them, I prayed for more workers to go to the unreached people.



We decided that we would leave a day early since the rains had continued for three days and we would need to walk out just as we had walked in but God intervened again. He sent a big truck delivering supplies the night before. TR asked if he would spend the night and take us out the next morning. He graciously did that and took us to our awaiting vehicle. There are so many more stories where we witnessed God's sovereignty and your answered prayers! I can never thank you enough for your faithful prayers on our behalf! May God bless you for partnering with this ministry! If you would like a glimpse of our trip, check out the YouTube video <https://youtu.be/BBGqTtT28FM>



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