

## **Nepal Mission Trip 23/10/2024 to 27/10/2024**



Having been at the helm of chairing the Nepal Focus Group since July 2016, we have conducted 4 medical mission camps, 4 spiritual development training, paid for Pastor Timothy's salary as our mission enabler, paid for office space for our operations, supported two tuition classes, provided relief for covid 19, financial

assistance to children education and disaster relief for flood victims; it is timely to take a pause to take stock of what we have done and to learn and listen to God as to the work ahead.

The Lord impressed upon me a verse taken from Proverbs 1:5 Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance. We can only learn when we are listening. We cannot learn when we are talking all the time. Knowledge is based on what we learn from experiences, however wisdom is discerning from the Holy Spirit what He requires of us to give Him all the glory, honor and purpose. Knowledge comes from our human learning and experiences while wisdom can only come from God for us to carry out His will and purpose in our lives.

There was a law passed in April 2024 by the authorities in Nepal that foreign Christians are not allowed to conduct Christian activities in the public domain. If one is caught doing this, he or she can be arrested and deported by the authorities and the local pastors can be jailed for organizing such activities.

As such we decided to repurpose and redirect our recent trip to learning and listening from various sources on the ground instead of a spiritual development training program.

Elder Justin Lee (Vice Chairman of NFG), Elder Dr Yeap (committee member and coordinator of our medical mission) and I decided to make a short trip from 23/10 to 27/10/2024 for the purpose of hearing from God through the various contacts we have on the ground.



Our flight out of Singapore on 23/10 was delayed due to some technical issue of the aircraft. As such we missed our connecting flight from Bangkok to Kathmandu on 23/10. We had to stay one day in Bangkok with hotel and meals provided courtesy of Thai Airways.

We finally departed on 24/10 at 10.15am to Kathmandu. After checking into our hotel, we went to visit the Chinese Missionaries from China who set up a kitchen on level 6 in one commercial building to conduct Barista Workshop for the locals. It was their first day of training to teach the locals coffee making skills. Their plan is to eventually start training courses like cooking, baking and coffee making. This will enable and empower the locals with job skills.



At level 7 of the same commercial building, they have plan to start a café and employed the trainees as interns to work in the café.



After one or two years, these interns can seek employment elsewhere or even start their own café. While undergoing these training, the Chinese Missionaries desire is to



reach out to these locals with the Gospel Truth. This project is certainly a blessing to the community at large to provide a livelihood to the locals.

In the evening, we had a fellowship dinner with 4 Chinese families, Sister Asangla and his nephew from Bishram Ministries and Pastor Timothy and his families. It was a great time of sharing, listening and learning from these fellow workers on the mission work that they are doing in various parts of Nepal. The Chinese Missionaries are from SIM or send by their churches. Most of them have been in Nepal for more than a decade giving their all to share the good news of salvation to the locals. It is indeed heartwarming and encouraging to hear their stories but at the same time knowing that it requires steadfastness and faithfulness in serving the Lord in this tough terrain. We hope to learn more from them and explore the possibilities of any collaboration for the furtherance of His Kingdom with these Chinese Missionaries. One of them, Brother Johnson Wang may come to Singapore in 2026 for sabbatical under SIM. We hope to engage him further to see if they are any work we can do together. Brother Johnson Wang and Brother David are the ones who started the training kitchen in the commercial building.

On 26/10 we visited Sister Asangla at her farm that is run by her brother-in-law Lipo. The farm rear mainly pigs, some ducks, chickens and grow some vegetables to sustain the livelihood of 150 children that are taken care of by Bishram Ministries.



The profits from the sale of the pigs go to support the livelihood of these children and staff. Sister Asangla hosted us to a sumptuous home cook meals with the produce from the farm as we discussed the medical mission for next year March 2025. The

deployment for the next year's medical mission camp will be at two locations. One will be in Majhaue Fishing Village in Chitwan and another at Thumki, Maknwanpur. The trip will take place from 22/3/2025 to 30/3/2025. We also had a great time learning and listening to Sister Asangla's 33 years of experience of her mission work in Nepal. It is certainly very enlightening and there were many takeaways from the fellowship.

After lunch, we visited the Reform Presbyterian Seminary. We were hosted by Principal Amin, the Registrar Elder Umesh and one lecturer from the US by the name of Mark.

We had a good dialogue session understanding the courses offered by the seminary, the fee, scholarships and intake of students thus far. We also wanted to hear from them the law that was introduced by the authorities recently. Currently the seminary has 27 lecturers, 50% of whom are Nepalese. There are about 80 students in the seminary and each intake is about 15 to 20 students. The school fee is about USD \$100 per month with food and lodging. Those with scholarships pay between USD 35 to USD 50 per month.



Principal is second to the left and Registrar is second to the right. The lady is an administrative staff member.

After the visitation, we headed back to the hotel and had our follow up with Pastor Timothy on his role as our mission enabler, the possibility of his ordination, his church being denominated as Presbyterian, order of worship, liturgy and sermon series for his church service. We end the dinner with a sumptuous dinner at a Chinese restaurant nearby the hotel.



The last day on 26/10 we went to the worship service of Pastor Timothy's church. Elder Jimmy Lim preached from John 10:10 on Life and Life Abundantly in Jesus Christ.



There are about 50 worshippers in attendance, and some are not there as it is their public holiday in Kathmandu for four days. Some of the worshippers have taken the opportunity to visit their home outside of Kathmandu. Some of the worshippers who are sick came forward to be prayed for by us. We thank God that one sister by the name of Pabita came forward to surrender her life and accept Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and Savior. All praise and glory to God for the salvation of sister Pabita.



After the service, we had a working lunch to meet up with Pastor Timothy and his church leaders. The main discussion was on the possible ordination of Pastor Timothy as a Presbyterian minister and for the possibility of the church to be denominated as Presbyterian. The order of worship, liturgy and sermon series were also discussed. More importantly is the vision and mission statement of the church and the direction that they are heading in 3 to 5 years' time. The other topics discussed were the selection of Elders and Deacons as part of the leadership of the church.

We hope to focus on building up Pastor Timothy's church, his leadership team and the discipling of his church members. We further encourage the church to work with the school nearby to provide tuition for the students. This serves as a community outreach and provides the students with tuition to help them cope with their studies.

We will take all that we have learnt and listened for the past few days that we were in Kathmandu, take time to pray, look to God for an answer, work out a plan for the next 3 to 5 years, expect great things to happen, give God the credit and ultimately to point more people to God and His salvation plan for them in the vast harvest field in the land of Nepal.

Submitted by Elder Jimmy Lim

Nepal Focus Group Chairperson

29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024