

Church Multiplication in Nepal: Training that catalyzes church planting movement

God has been doing a marvelous work in Nepal. When I was born in 1953 there was only one church there. At first the iron-fisted rule of the “Shah” of this Hindu kingdom prevented Christians from gathering and outsiders from bringing the gospel. When his descendant was deposed in 2008, a civil war broke out. Then a Marxist president led the country, but greater freedom of worship and witness was allowed. According to 2010 *Operation World* and other reliable sources, there are about 10,000 Christian churches. They are indigenous. In many of them, believers sit on rugs on the floor, with the men on one side and women on the other for hours on end, praising God and hearing from Him. In spite of these spectacular advances, the percentage of true Christians is still under five percent, and many of the 100 major tribal groups do not have a sustainable church.

In 2011, a newly-formed Coalition for Church Planter Training invited us to better equip church planters and help them move out to unreached. Two ReachGlobal trainers went to Kathmandu in September 2012. One hundred church planters were expected, but 120 showed up. Who are these planters? Most are pastors and evangelists who have a passion for the lost. One as a Nepalese lady working as a personnel director on a cruise ship. She witnessed to Pilipino and Nepalese staff and wanted to know how to better start churches on the ship. A Sherpa evangelist told me God called him, and healed him from muscular atrophy in the legs, so that he could preach the gospel in Himalayan villages. He now knows how to disciple and plant reproducing churches.

We asked the coalition leaders to contact the church planters, and inquire about their progress and needs for further training. They reached sixty-one of the participants by January 2013, some in person, and others by phone. Of those, 38 had already started new churches and another twenty had strengthened existing church plants. Only those who had participated in Level-1, and were putting the principles into practice, were invited to Level two training. Eighty completed Level-two in April 2013. We heard more stories of how God used simple disciples to start new churches of 30 to 50 people. One pastor taught the *Fruitful Practices for Multiplication* to his church leaders. Three of them were immigrants from Bihar, India – a very resistant area. But armed with a plan, and burdened for their people, they returned and formed three Bihari churches. The Nepali fellowship is preparing to send them back as full-time workers.

I noticed a very young man, at Level-2 training, whom I had not seen in Level-1. One of the leaders explained: Fifteen-year-old, Prohbin, is the only believer from a Hindu family. When Pastor David taught the principles in their church, he felt called by God to go back to his town, Chitwan, 200 miles away. He had been baptized only nine weeks earlier. When he returned to Chitwan, and shared his testimony, several neighbors and friends agreed to study the Bible with him. He is returning with the help of his church to start a new kingdom community there.

God is already creating a church planting movement in Nepal. One leader said: “It’s like a great fountain shooting up and watering the land. You help us channel it with good Biblical principles for church planting.” The next step was to develop Nepalese trainers for the outlying regions. We did that in the spring of 2014 through our Level 3 training. Participants braved a transportation strike and came to get their teachers on motorcycles. We were able to complete the

training and participants decided to work together for eleven second generation training events in the following 12 months.

Pictures:

- First church in Nepal
- Training
- Nepalese indigenous church
- Prohbin and his pastor David

