



Mission Update

News from Renaissance Outreach Ministries

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Preaching in the slums of Kathmandu

By Bishop Jan L. Baderstadt
President

The rain had turned the road into a sea of mud next to what is known as the Holy Bagmati River in Kathmandu, Nepal. According to the Hindu religion, this is a sacred river where people's ashes are dumped after cremation in order to have a better next life. In reality, the river is an open sewer filled with garbage and old tires. I have observed that Hindus do not treat what they call sacred with respect.

I am preaching this day at a church in the slums of Kathmandu. The church is pastored by one of my students named GB. He has been teaching in this place for a number of years.

GB is in the master's program at the Jesus Seminary of the Himalayas. He's 40 years old and single. His church is located upstairs of his house.

In Nepal, there is no law that allows churches to own property. So property is by owned usually the pastor. That sometimes makes for difficulties.

The members of the church are mostly Rai people, an ethnic group from the eastern Himalayas. GB lives here with parents and extended family. They too are from the eastern part of Nepal, but are part of a higher caste.

Kathmandu is a crowded city with a population density of 52, 550 people per square mile. The official population as of 2020 is 1.442 million, although it is probably much higher. People from the villages keep coming to find work in the capital city. Because of the overcrowding, rents are very high, requiring several generations to live in a standard four room apartment.

We turn off the Ring Road that circles the city just before the bridge over the Bagmati River. You cannot easily see the squalor from the road. Going under the bridge opens us into a new and different world.

GB and his family own the building which is made of concrete and tin. It is very narrow. We go down an alley to get to the home's single
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Bishop Jan Baderstadt holding Swastika Rai at Blessed Church of Heaven (BCH) Church in Sukonbasi Slum of Kathmandu. Swastika is 2, her name in Sanskrit means "good luck". It is a common sight to see swastikas all across Hindu countries. The symbol has no connection with the Nazis.



Every Monday morning there has been a Pastor's Bible Study in the Nepali home of Bishop Jan Baderstadt. Average attendance has been eleven. It was started when Bishop Jan learned that most pastor's did not have a Bible study at their churches. The reason was that most did not know how to do a Bible Study. They have been studying the book of I Timothy at a chapter a week.

Conversion happens despite laws against

The Nepali constitution declares freedom of religion. Sadly it comes with a few strings attached. One of them is a law that prohibits people from changing religions.

The law stipulates that you can spend up to five years in jail for changing religions. Another requires that a person who becomes baptized has to sign a paper stating that this is of their own free will and accord. These laws came on the books when the Nepali Congress party was in power. They were bowing to pressure from fundamental Hindus.

Hindus work to convert foreigners. It is not uncommon to see white Westerners dressed in saffron robes and walking barefoot on the streets of Thamel, the tourist area. Most don't understand that when they convert to Hinduism, they are becoming Untouchables, the lowest of the Hindu castes.

The Brahmin priests can be a greedy group as they charge money for everything. This includes prayers. A priest won't pray for you unless you hand them cash. And they usually dictate the amount they want.

For the Hindu priests, they see conversions to Christianity as a loss of income. Nepal was for many years the only Hindu nation in the world. The fall of the monarchy removed that title from Nepal. The Maoists were about religious freedom. *(Continued on page 2)*

Mission Update

News and stories about the work of Renaissance Outreach Ministries

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Remembering forgotten people

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entrance. From here, we climb stairs so steep it's almost a ladder to get to the second floor where the church meets.

There are about 30 people packed tightly into the room. There is barely enough room for the preacher up front. But we make it where they have reserved a chair for me.

Pastor GB starts playing the guitar while another accompanies him on a drum. They are singing praise songs in Nepali.

Pastor GB has asked me to speak about hope and opportunities that Christ has given us. In the congregation today are some Hindus who have been listening to the Gospel message.

I spoke on Exodus 20:1-17, *The Ten Commandments*. My emphasis is that Christians must be the light of the world. I discuss the problems of corruption in Nepali society. I tell them that if we want to see change, it must begin with us.

I then shared with them that if they are in Christ, they have the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16). If we have the mind of Christ, shouldn't we be making use of it?

The worship service was followed by a typical meal of dhal bhat, which is rice, some vegetables and surprisingly we had chicken. For these people, this is a major expense.

I was to learn that the land they have built their homes on is on government land. Recently, the mayor sent bulldozers to take down their homes as the city is trying to restore the beauty of the land next to the Bagmati River.

Most of the slums of Kathmandu are along the rivers, which has contributed to the pollution. The people protested as they have built semi-permanent structures on the land.

Land in Kathmandu is out of reach for the vast majority of people. A small piece of land may cost over USD \$100,000. Only the very wealthy can afford to buy land these days in Nepal's capital city.

"We're citizens of Nepal," said Pastor GB. "We need a place to live."

For these people, Kathmandu hasn't been paradise. They left their ancestral lands in hopes of a better life. The good news is that they found salvation in Jesus Christ. Now the new challenge is to employ the mind of Christ to break the chains of poverty.

Blessed Church of Heaven shows great opportunities. Pastor GB has a real heart for these people as he works to create disciples for Jesus. He'll soon have his Master's Degree in theology. He's a good leader.



REV. GORDON D. FLICK

Renaissance New Treasurer

After nearly ten years as our treasurer, Ron Simpson of Greentown, Indiana has announced he's stepping down from a job he did so very well.

Ron just turned 89 Dec. 27, and thought maybe it's time to start giving up his secretarial duties that he's been tapped for in many community organizations.

Bishop Gordon Flick of Indianapolis, Indiana will be taking over. Bishop Flick is involved in ministry in the city with training fathers on how to be fathers in the inner city.

Donations and any other correspondence can be sent to him at:

Renaissance Outreach Ministries
ATTN: Rev. J. Gordon Flick
418 E. 34th St.,
Indianapolis, IN 46205-3702

It is important to put "ATTN Rev. J. Gordon Flick" as his office is in a large Indianapolis church. This way it doesn't confuse the office staff.

Kathmandu Weather ☀

Weather is always perfect in Kathmandu. Sunny every day with highs in the mid to upper 70s while nights around 55°. Rain starts in June.

Anti-Conversions Laws fail to stop conversions

(Continued from page 1)

Initially the Maoists were opposed to religion, especially "foreign religions" like Christianity. Over time, they softened their stands and by the time they took power in 2008, religious freedom was common.

For five years, all religions were free to share their religion and they did. Sadly the Maoists did not do a good job in leading the country. Even though they were in power, they continued their habit of regular strikes that would shut down the country. In 2013, they got voted out.

Nepali Congress took over and while they finally got a Constitution approved, they were totally unprepared to handle the 2015 earthquake that killed over 9000 people. In 2018, they got voted out.

Nepali Congress was the ones who passed the anti-conversion laws to appease their Hindu base. Still, people continue to convert. Enforcement has been sporadic. It has also caused a lot of conversions to be done in secret.

Freedom of religion is something that is no longer common in South Asia. India has made life more difficult for churches under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a fundamental Hindu. His election with his fundamental Hindu political party a decade ago gave hopes to fundamental Hindus in Nepal. At first, Modi was considered a hero for Hinduism. His closure of India's borders with Nepal in September of 2015 soured local people's attitudes toward him and his government. The 4½ month closure stopped the flow of medicine and fuel along with other goods. In the end, Prime Minister Modi's attempt to control Nepal failed.

Persecution of Christians throughout the centuries has failed to curb the growth of the church. It was said centuries ago that the blood of the martyrs grows the Church of Jesus Christ. The more the church is persecuted, the stronger it becomes.

The Nepal church is strong. There are a number of problems, but they are solvable. The draw of Christ's salvation gives hope and joy.

New Address for Renaissance Treasurer

Send your donations to: Renaissance Outreach Ministries

ATTN: Rev. J. Gordon Flick, Treasurer

418 E. 34th St., Indianapolis, IN 46205-3702

Be sure to put on the envelope ATTN: Rev. J. Gordon Flick so mail gets to him!

Post Easter Crusade set for April 10—25 in Uganda

Renaissance Outreach Ministries will launch a country-wide crusade right after Easter in April.

Rev. Brenda Smith of The Glory Ministry of Gladwin, Michigan and Rev. Keith Reinhardt of Hale, Michigan will be joining Bishop Jan L. Beaderstadt for a life-changing event in the East African nation of Uganda.

The team will spend three days in the capital city of Kampala where they will be hosted by six Ugandan denominations. The crusade grounds will hold a minimum of 5000 people. Local

churches will be providing music and assistance.

The Kampala crusade will take place April 13—15.

The trio moves to the western city of Kigadi for a two day crusade April 18 and 19. While a smaller city, these places often offer the greatest of results.

The invitation came after seeing Rev. Reinhardt preach at the Festival of Light & Life in Tawas City last August. The annual festival in Tawas City is part of the Iosco Ministerial Association. It had been broadcast on Facebook.



Glacier Traveler's Suites of Kasese, Uganda is almost ready to open. Our good friend Bwambale William and his wife Jovia have been working hard to get the resort ready for the arrival of the Crusade team in April.

New Resort almost ready to open in western Uganda

We've received a new, updated report that Glacier Traveler's Suites of Kasese, Uganda is almost ready to open. The crusade team may be its first official customers.

Bwambale William and Jovia (in Uganda, your last name comes first!) are the proud owners of the resort. William started construction in the town of Kasese last year. He had to pause construction in September when he and Jovia were married. After a bit of a honeymoon, they started work again.

A small resort right in downtown Kasese, it is unique as it's the first resort to feature suites. It makes the perfect home away from home when visiting the national parks of western Uganda.

While Uganda has been called the "Pearl of Africa", the city of Kasese is truly the gem of the pearl. It touches two leading national parks on its borders.

To the north is Queen Elizabeth National Park, a large savannah home to wild elephant herds, hippos, water buffalo as well as the only place to see tree-climbing

lions.

Directly south of the Rwenzori Mts. National Park where William has been a trekking and climbing guide. The mountains feature glaciers, hence the name of the resort.

Western Uganda contains seven of the ten Ugandan national parks, which include the giant gorillas.



Looking inside one can see large, spacious rooms that will have king size beds. All of the bathrooms have western toilets for convenience as well as on-demand hot water showers. The grounds are pleasant with places to stop and relax.

Crusade Schedule

MONDAY, APRIL 10—Leave USA

TUESDAY, APRIL 11—Arrive in Entebbe, Uganda where we will be met by our Ugandan team. We travel to Kampala to check into our airport. Welcome dinner at our hotel.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12—Orientation meeting and opportunity to interact with our Ugandan team. Visit to crusade site along with a visit to the Ugandan's Martyr's Museum which commemorates the Christian martyrs of Uganda.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13—First day of Kampala crusade. Pastoral training in the morning with crusade in evening.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14—Second day of Kampala Crusade. Similar program.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15—Final day of Kampala Crusade. No pastor training during the day. Crusade in Evening.

SUNDAY, APRIL 16—Travel to Kigadi in Bunyoro District near the shores of Lake Albert, the 27th largest lake in the world. It will be a day of travel as we head west to Fort Portal, then north to Kigadi. Meet our Kigadi Ugandans upon arrival.

MONDAY, APRIL 17—Today is a day of rest as well as some sightseeing in the area as we orientate ourselves to a different culture. We

will be working with area Pentecostal churches in Kigadi.

TUESDAY, APRIL 18—First day of Kigadi Crusade. Like in Kampala, we will be doing a two day pastoral training seminar in the mornings. The Crusade is in the evening.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19—Final Day of Crusade. Schedule same as April 18th.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20—Travel to Kasese, Uganda where we will spend two nights at Glacier Traveler's Resort in the city. Dinner in Kasese.

FRIDAY, APRIL 21—Sightseeing in Queen Elizabeth National Park. We will enjoy exploring the park along with taking a river cruise down the Kazinga Channel to look for African animals which are prevalent. Lost of elephants, hippos and more. If we are lucky, we will see some lions. Cultural program in the evening.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22—We will return to Kampala where we will spend two nights.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23—Preaching in local churches in the greater Kampala area. Departure dinner in the evening.

MONDAY, APRIL 24—Travel to Entebbe to board our flight back to USA.

TUESDAY, APRIL 25—Arrival in USA.

Our Website:
renaissanceoutreachministries.com



Himalayan Spices

For centuries, the Himalayas have been known for their spices. Harvested by hand, the soil of the Himalayas creates some of the finest spices in the world. Through our contacts at Renaissance Outreach Ministries, we can now offer freshly ground spices that are better than anything you've every encountered!

- Black Pepper (Ground)
- Black Peppercorns
- Black Cardamom
- Coriander Seed
- Cinnamon
- Cloves
- Cumin
- Dalle Khursani (World's hottest spice!)
- Garlic Powder
- Garlic Salt
- Ginger
- Ground Avocado Seed
- Green Cardamom
- Himalayan White Salt
- Himalayan Pink Salt
- Himalayan Red Salt
- Himalayan Black Salt
- Long Pepper
- Mace
- Mixed Masala
- Mustard Ground
- Mustard Seeds
- Nutmeg
- Sesame Seeds
- Turmeric
- Timur Pepper

Visit our website for all of our amazing products from the Himalayas!

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Jesus Seminary may open Ugandan campus

The Jesus Seminary of the Himalayas may soon find itself with a second campus in Kampala, Uganda as six East African denominations are looking to come together on the project.

The sponsoring groups include the Worldwide Anglican Church and a branch of the Orthodox Church in Uganda. The six denominations coming together at present do not have their own seminary.

"We like your thinking," said Dr. Kakuba Mamre of Kampala. He will be one of the men responsible for the Kampala campus

The thinking is that the Jesus Seminary is a practical seminary. Not only does it teach theology, it also trains pastors in developing businesses and agriculture. The concept is to allow for bi-vocational pastors who can work to open churches. It also allows for pastors to develop churches in areas where the people may not be able to support a pastor full time.

One advantage of training pastors in these fields is that they can go and teach their people how to do such activities in order to improve their lives.

The proposed campus has ten acres of land that can be developed into agriculture. Students would use this land for experimental agriculture, whereby they would find new ways to increase yields as well as find higher profit crops that can boost income.

Bishop Jan will be meeting with representatives on March 28 in Kampala. While not official, it is exciting to see the possibilities.

CLUB 100 APPLICATION

Yes! Please enroll me as a member of the Club 100. I want to be a supporter of the Jesus Seminary of the Himalayas. I agree to give \$_____ a month/year (circle one).

Name _____

Address _____

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State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Please send your tax-deductable donation to Renaissance Outreach Ministries, P. O. Box 121, Greentown, IN 46936. Minimum membership is \$6.25 a month/\$75 a year. Larger contributions will be accepted. Make checks payable to Renaissance Outreach Ministries.