

FRIENDS' CHE MINISTRY

Nepal

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NEW HORIZONS: OUR 10 DAY VISIT TO JUMLA AND DOLPA

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The book of Ephesians deals very strongly about struggles in missions, but this is especially true in Ephesians 6:10-20. I think we need to be aware of this struggle as we seek to serve the Lord in new areas. One of the dangers in missions is that we sometimes take things for granted. If we look at verse 10, Paul uses the word *strengthened*. It's not something we can do in our strength, but it is the Lord who strengthens us. And, if we look at verses 10-14, we see four imperatives: "you must be strengthened" (v. 10); "you must put on" (v. 11); "you must take up" (v. 13); and "you must stand" (v. 14). I felt very strongly about this as we were praying and planning for the Dolpa trip. Janak's daughter was suddenly sick just two days prior to our trip, so we began asking the Lord to take control. Yes, it was spiritual warfare. The Lord healed her at the right time so they could go as planned. After a grueling 36-hour bus ride from Nepalganj to Jumla, we started to walk towards Dolpa, but Narayan had problems walking in that high altitude. There was no way he could walk any farther because he was breathless even after walking just a few steps. We had already walked for almost 12 hours from Jumla. Finally, we decided our friend should return to Jumla, which was easier than walking any farther. Our fight is not against flesh and blood, but it is against the power of the darkness that tries to stop us in our efforts. But the Lord *was* and *is* in control. We praise God for that!

According to the new federal system in Nepal, Dolpa is one of the ten districts of Province No 6. The population of Dolpa is not more than 37,000 (2011 census), and the low demographics don't warrant expensive road construction. There were no road connections until July of this year, and the terrain makes it difficult to travel. The new gravel road helps, but it is not in very good condition yet. We have to walk days to cross from one village to another. People are mostly Hindu (60 percent) and Buddhist (40 percent).

A church in Kathmandu initiated Christian missions. Tul Bahadur Dharala, who was an influential person from high caste family, came to know the Lord in 2002. He moved to Jiu (Sue VDC) and shared the gospel with his villagers. The work of the Lord has spread to the neighboring districts of Rukum, Jajarkot, and Jumla. But our travels revealed many villages that Pastor Dharala did not reach with the gospel.

"Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation"

(Isaiah 12:02).



Dangerous and lonely roads uphill to Dolpa and Jajarkot.



Personal evangelism as we meet fellow travelers while walking to Dolpa.



Please pray:

- for the people of Cha'pur who are affected by floods because Gaidatar remains unreachable by road. We had to cancel some of our training programs, which were scheduled for last week.
- that the November vision seminar will effectively train leaders for Far West Nepal.
- that our CHE ministry will accomplish all our plans for 2016 by the last quarter of this year.
- for our adult education groups, teachers, and students in Tapara (Bardia) and Gaidatar (Rautahat).

Our ministry support is currently at 79%.

Please help us get to 100% so we can continue our ministry and expand to West Nepal

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Outcome: We could build a good network at Sarmi (Dolpa) where Jay bahadur Thakulla is leading a house church; he also looks after small fellowships in nearby villages. At the same time, we were able to have a good network with Tul bdr Dharala in Jiu; he is an overseer of the smaller churches and house fellowships in the region (Rukum, Jajarkot, and villages in the Dolpa district). At the same, we were able to share the gospel with great joy with some new people we met while walking along the way.

Next step: Our hope is to organize a vision seminar for people from the villages we travelled to. We are looking for people who have a zeal and heart to serve the Lord, so we are in prayer about the process. We aim to have the vision seminar in the month of November so we can identify key people to train in discipleship for a few months before they begin working in the field.

Challenges: As we visited churches and leaders in Dolpla and Jumla, we realized that sound biblical teaching is one of the core needs in those regions. In fact, this seems to be a general need in other parts of Nepal, too. At the same time, there are mushrooms of organizations (NGOs/INGOs) that are involved in the name of "alleviating poverty" or "development," and they pour out financial aid and help. This is actually hurting the locals more than helping them because it makes them dependent on donor funds. People have become more dependent on outside help and rely on others to fix their needs even though many of them are capable of fixing their own necessities; however, they are not encouraged to do so. My fear is that these sorts of beliefs and notions will adversely affect the church and our mission. So, our major thrust in addressing that problem is to provide sound biblical teachings through a holistic discipleship program. As you pray for the Far West Nepal mission, please pray that the existing churches will rely on the Lord Jesus Christ absolutely and not on anything or anyone else.

SHALOM!

Samson, Priscilla, and Prateek

