

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful privilege it is to know Jesus Christ and to make him known! Our passion is teaching faithful men and women who will do just that. Recent months that passion has taken Craig to Nepal, Russia, and Germany.

Nepal

April 20-28 Craig joined coworkers Gene Wilson and John Yoder for a follow-up training for church planters sponsored by the Nepal Church Planting Network, an entirely indigenous-led group of church leaders from various movements and denominations. The explosive growth of the church in recent decades to nearly a million believers has meant that most pastors and leaders have little if any formal theological education.



The best way to travel in the traffic of Kathmandu, Nepal

We had the joy of meeting the Nepali church planter who started one of the first Protestant churches in the capital city of Kathmandu in the early 1950s. At the other end of the spectrum was a sixteen year-old participant at our training who had traveled several hundred miles to be able to attend. His vision was to plant a church in the unreached village where he had recently moved!

Such events are rarely "uneventful." Each of us in the training team had an unplanned day off due to foods that rearranged our digestive systems. Gene fainted in the middle of his presentation and Craig had to jump in and pick up where he left off. All in all we were heartened by the zeal and commitment of these

dear brothers and sisters. One Nepali pastor said "God is bringing living springs of water from our land. You are giving us channels to take it to more people and to train others." *Please pray that God will use this teaching to continue to grow and strengthen the church in Nepal and beyond.*

Why We Love Teaching at Trinity

What a joy to invest in such diverse and gifted seminary students. One of our students, Vivek, is from India, the son of indigenous Indian missionaries. Here is an excerpt from his story:

"Seeing everything that my parents had to go through and seeing them struggle to just survive on a daily basis, my dream of being a preacher was shattered. I didn't want to struggle and have nothing to eat at times like they did. But my parents always prayed and wanted me to be in ministry and as a result of their diligent prayers God got a hold on my life. In the year 2002 September 19th, I accepted Lord Jesus as my personal savior during 21 days of fasting and prayer.

"My whole life changed when I was severely attacked by Hindu extremist groups. God spared my life, although I was almost killed. I was admitted to the hospital for four months. Today two of the 3 people who attacked me are saved and are attending our church. The church [in the region] has grown to 10,000 members; all are poor and tribal people. My vision is to go back and do ministry among them and train hundreds of youths for ministry and encourage them to spread the love of Christ in North India.

"I want to go back to my country and serve my people. So I want to learn more about the word of God and present it to right context and culture and I believe that MA Intercultural Studies program will help me to do that."

Now you know one more reason why we love teaching at Trinity! *Please pray for Vivek and others like him preparing for ministry in some of the most difficult and dangerous places.*

Germany and Russia

Shortly after returning from our dream vacation in Hawaii, Craig left for a five week trip to Germany and Russia. June 7-9 he spoke at a national German church planting summit. For the first time 120 German leaders from 35 different denominations



Church planting workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal

and agencies came together to consider how they might better reach their country for Jesus. How encouraging to see leaders praying and planning together towards reaching this goal. *Pray that networking from this conference will result in many new churches being planted in Germany.* From there Craig went to teach for one week, as he does each year, at the German Free Church seminary in Ewersbach.



In the classroom-studio in Kursk, Russia

Then from June 15-22 Craig made his first trip to Russia. In the city of Kursk, an eight hour drive south of Moscow, he taught a course on church planting at Trinity Virtual Seminary. The real influence of this school extends far beyond the few local students. Courses are video recorded in a highly professional studio, edited and translated into five languages, then distributed throughout Russia, Siberia, China, and the various “Stans” in central Asia. Literally thousands of students have access to these



In the mixing room

courses. Many local churches use them with their leaders. Alice presented a professional paper in England related to the history of missions. She then met Craig for a week of vacation in eastern Germany. Afterwards Craig taught a course at the Academy for World Mission near Stuttgart. His students were missionaries in Japan, Papua New Guinea, Kenya, China, Mexico, and of course Germany.

Next Up

August 28 will be the first day of the new academic year at Trinity. In addition to our regular teaching, we especially look forward to our spiritual formation group where we meet weekly with a small group of promising students. *Please pray for Trinity’s search for a new President and for our search for a professor of Evangelism.*

Later in the semester Craig anticipates a return trip to a restricted country in Southeast Asia. After his visit there nearly three years ago, they translated his coauthored book *Global Church Planting* into the local language. At a pastors’ conference 1,000 copies were quickly sold, and another 1,000 copies had to be set aside for students.

There seems to have been a dam-burst of interest and commitment to evangelism and church planting even among leaders of registered churches. Craig has been invited to teach church planting at the major Protestant seminary there, **September 30- October 5.** *Please mark these dates to pray for effective teaching, health, and spiritual fruit for the growing church in that country.*

Your faithful gifts and prayers make this ministry possible, and we deeply appreciate each one. We know that many of you are already doing all that you can. But perhaps some of you would like to begin giving, or consider an increase in giving to help us keep up with ever rising costs. That would be a great encouragement to us.

Sincerely,
Craig and Alice Ott



Thank you note from Craig’s students at the Academy of World Mission in Germany

P.S. Did you know that you can give online to our ministry? Simply go to <http://www.efca.org/give>, click “Give to a Missionary or Project”, then under donation information choose “other” and designate your donation for “The work of Craig Ott, M-1399” Or you can mail a check made out to “EFCA” to 901 East 78th St., Minneapolis, MN 55420, with a separate note designating the donation for our work.