THE VOICE

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Waves of Grace

By Denise Green



While we in the White Mountains have been enjoying the beautiful rains this summer and fall, in other parts of the world, people are experiencing catastrophic flooding. Many members of our church family have been asking about the churches and the people of Nepal after the devastating flooding that occurred in August. The good news is that our mission pastors Joseph Rai and Niko Thapa, along with their families and churches are fine. Pastor Joseph's church is in Dharan and Pastor Niko's is in Kathmandu. The ladies in these pictures with me are Nepali women that I discipled and prayed with. My heart longs to know of their safety.



On August 26, a massive glacier collapsed in Northern Nepal. An enormous chunk of ice and bedrock sheared off of the glacier and plunged thousands of meters into the valley. The impact was so severe that it registered a seismic magnitude of 5.2, which initially caused the catastrophe to be labeled an earthquake. The glacier collapse and flash flooding have impacted many communities throughout the country. Many villages are along river valleys and have suffered severe destruction of homes, roads and bridges. This makes rescue and clean up difficult. Over 5,285 people are still missing, with over 1,400 bodies found. There are more than 70 Americans still listed among those who have never been found.

The beautiful fields in Gorka, one of the areas hardest hit by the flooding





Food Delivery Day!

Rice, legumes, green tea, and clean water have helped struggling families survive

The only people being allowed to travel have been the military and police. Christian people wanting to help have had to work with government organizations. The churches have brought in hundreds of pounds of rice, legumes, green tea, and clean water. Some have been able to help remove tons of mud from homes so people have a place to stay as winter is coming. Churches have gathered to pray for Nepal, its people and that God will use this as a way to draw people to Him. Our brothers and sisters in Christ ask that we pray for them to have power and courage to reach out to help with physical needs and for them to shine the light of Christ to others.









After the floodwaters receeded, the difficult and backbreaking work of mud abatement began...done with shovels and wheelbarrows!

As I write this article, I am reminded that I was supposed to be serving in Nepal this year (right now, actually), along with Don and Ferol Ireland from Mission Ready, and Rick and Kim Fernau from WMBC. Though God closed the door for us to be serving there, our hearts remain united in prayer for the Nepali people. Watching the news coverage has been devastating, as my previous two mission trips there have allowed me to form lifelong friendships with the precious people in Pastor Joseph's and Pastor Niko's churches. We communicate often via email. I am grateful that God has spared these two men of faith, along with their families and their churches. It may take years for the infrastructure to be rebuilt. Please continue to pray for Pastors Joseph and Niko, the work of Mission Ready, and for the Nepali people. May this flooding bring salvation and growth in Nepal, as in-country Chrtians serve and share the good news of Jesus with those in need. I pray that one day, I can return, and hear their stories in person of how God's hand of protection brought waves of grace in the midst of devastation.



Christian Nepali women in prayer following the flooding

"Claiming Ezekiel 37:1-14 'Dry bones, hear the word of God. I will make breaths enter you and you will come to Life.'

I had a silent prayer walk to the place where badly damaged by the flood."

Pastor Niko