

## **BANGLADESH – NEPAL MISSIONS REPORT OCTOBER, 2020**

The Covid 19 pandemic continues to impact the people of Bangladesh and Nepal, just as it does the U.S. and most of the world. Total cases and deaths from early 2020 in the two mentioned nations as of November 3 are: BANGLADESH: 410,988 and 5,966; NEPAL: 176,500 and 984. To put these numbers in perspective, according to the site “World Population Review” Bangladesh has a total population of 165,260,263. Nepal’s population is 29,299,496. Much of those populations live in remote areas where accurate Covid reporting is difficult at best.

Restrictions on travel, work, and school continue but are considerably less rigid than earlier in the year. Most Christians are now able to work and travel to markets and for other purposes within their own immediate regions.

In Bangladesh Khulna Bible College reopened with 14 resident students on Monday, October 5 for the first half (A Session) of fall Semester, 2020. This was two months later than our normal schedule. Fall semester classes will continue through the end of January with a one week winter break at the end of December. The spring, 2021 semester will begin Monday, February 1 and conclude Saturday, May 22.

I plan to teach classes at KBC for the second half of the spring semester (April – May) in 2021 if travel is feasible at that time. I also hope to conduct an evangelistic and teaching campaign in Nepal next March, prior to going into Bangladesh. Please include these plans in your prayers.

Speaking of your prayers, we have received distressing news that the wife of Barnard Biswas (preacher and Bible Correspondence Course Director in Khulna) has been diagnosed with cancer and heart issues. She and her family request our prayers.

In spite of the restrictions imposed because of the pandemic evangelism has continued in both countries. A recent report from Bangladesh records 9 baptisms in addition to the 14 which we witnessed in March, or a total of at least 23 for 2020. We have received no recent reports of baptisms from Nepal, but occasional conversions have occurred throughout the year.

Here in the U.S. I have traveled twice during October to Kentucky to give reports to three congregations. I teach one of the adult auditorium classes at Highland Park on Wednesdays, and have filled in for other classes (Sunday and Wednesday) three times during the month.

Wednesday, October 28 I spoke again on the Nepal Center for Learning Webinar via Zoom. My topic was “The Christian’s Relationship to the Festivals.” Nepali Hindus (that is the majority religion) had just concluded their largest festival of the year – Dashain – and would soon be celebrating Tihar, also known as the festival of lights. I discussed Colossians 2:16-19 and Romans 14:1-15:13 and made application to their situation. About 40 to 50 Nepali Christians participate in these virtual meetings. I have spoken each month since June, 2020.

As these countries gradually recover from Covid the needs of congregations, evangelists, and individual Christians will continue to grow. It will take many months or even years to

recover from the economic impact of the pandemic. Many have had to incur debt, or have fallen behind on medical and other emergency needs. I have been limited in my opportunities to seek new and additional funding for this work which is needed to provide for growth. Please accept my sincere thanks for your consistent support and consider this work when you have opportunity to increase your giving to the cause of Christ, especially in the area of missions. May God bless you in all that you do.



*KBC Teacher Ranajit Biswas with 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Class at KBC*



*Cornelius baptizing young lady in SE Nepal during summer 2020*

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