

BANGLADESH – NEPAL MISSIONS September – October, 2018 REPORT

The months of September and October were extremely busy and productive for Bangladesh – Nepal Missions. I was transitioning between the two countries as the calendar changed, and immediately began traveling in remote areas where I lacked both my computer with its stored pictures and data, and reliable internet connections, making it very difficult to impossible to send the September report as it was due. Rather than send it belatedly and then follow with an abbreviated October report I have chosen to combine the two months into one record.

The "A" session of Khulna Bible College's Fall semester came to an end Saturday, September 29. All ten students who began the fall semester completed the session, though one student missed about 2 weeks due to illness. He recovered and resumed his studies and was able to make up his work with little difficulty.

One major project that was completed in September was the construction of a new church building in Shikarpur village in Barisal district. This is about 3 hours drive from the KBC campus and necessitated three trips, the last of which was the dedication and opening of the building September 25. We were grateful for the ability to meet that need and continue to pray that the church there will grow and prosper in their new facility.



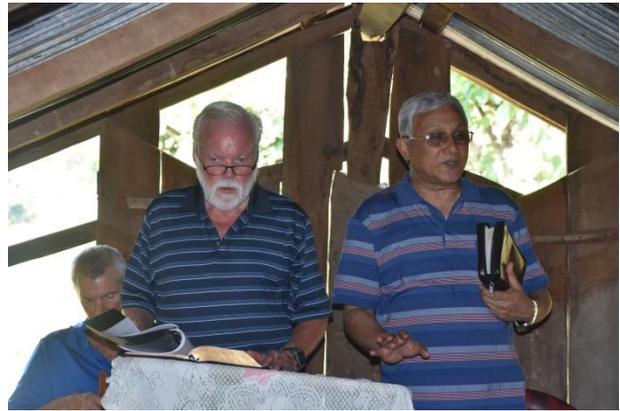
New Building for the Shikarpur Church of Christ in Bangladesh

Another reason for celebration was the continued recovery of Mridul Biswas from his broken leg and arm, resulting from a traffic accident in May. He and his parents came to KBC on Friday, September 28 for a special "thanksgiving" dinner. It was his first time out of his home since the accident, other than for medical treatment. It was especially enjoyable to see him able to walk without crutches, even though it was slowly and for only a short distance.

Sunday, September 30, we drove to Dhaka where we worshipped that evening with the Kalachandpur congregation. Thomas Sarker, a 2005 graduate of KBC, is the preacher there. This is a congregation that was planted in the late 1990s by Arthur Shah, the Dean of Students at KBC.

Brenda and I flew from Dhaka to Kathmandu, Nepal Monday morning October 1. We were joined there by my brother, Steve Brooks, and Mike Pepper. Steve and Mike both are members of the West Hobbs Street Church of Christ in Athens, Alabama. Mike was making his fourth trip to Nepal, and Steve his third.

We spent three weeks in Nepal, visiting 10 churches and speaking a total of 38 times. We taught from the book of Hebrews and on topics primarily concerning Christian living. Included in the itinerary was a three day seminar for preachers in Dharan, during which we gave 4 lessons each day. We also spent one night in the village of Palashe in the middle hills where three young people were baptized after the worship assembly on Sunday morning.



Mike Pepper (left) and Steve Brooks Teaching at Palashe in Nepal



Three New Christians in Nepal

There is still considerable rebuilding going on in Nepal as they continue to recover from the massive earthquake of 2015. We met in a new church building at Kathithok. Subi Ghale is in the midst of rebuilding his house which was destroyed in the earthquake. We also saw new construction in Thakre, where Mencha Tamang leads the church. There is still much to be done but the progress is obvious and it is good to see people and congregations rebuilding.

Our final lessons this trip were with the Dhitalthok church in northern Kathmandu Valley. This is a congregation of Tamang people from Rasuwa and Dhading districts who have relocated to the valley for better jobs and educational opportunities for their children. There are 50 or 60 members here and that number is increasing.

Only twenty-five years ago the gospel was being preached for the first time in the mountains of Nepal. Now there are more than twenty congregations in three or four mountain districts. But not only that, there are also new churches which have been planted in towns and cities further south by Christians who have relocated for better opportunities or because of the earthquake. The Lord's Church is growing throughout much of Nepal, and we pray that this will continue and multiply in the very near future.

We returned to the U.S. October 22 and since that time have begun to travel and report to supporting congregations. I have appointments in Alabama, Arkansas, Missouri, Alabama, and Florida for November, December and January, and will be adding other places and dates to those already confirmed. I am grateful to all who are involved in this work and pray God's blessings upon you.

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