

## Nepal 2018

### Kathmandu

We had a good third year conference in Kathmandu. It was hosted by Pastor Puran and Kathmandu Capital Church. We had pastors, church planters and elders come from the far west of Nepal as well as around Kathmandu. Many are now good friends and keep in regular contact throughout the year. The teaching sessions on the Trinity were especially well received and in the testimony time many pastors said how blessed they had been, with many of their wrong ideas or questions about the Trinity being cleared up.



### Dharan

John then joined me and we had a long 14-hour overnight bus journey to Dharan for our 3<sup>rd</sup> year conference. This is a very hot area on the Ganges plains adjoining India and is called the Terai. We had over one hundred and twenty attending and this made the group workshops a little hefty to manage, but the LORD graciously



undertook for us all. The younger pastors especially seemed to enjoy and really engage in the preaching workshop sessions on Philipians. Again, John's teaching on the Trinity was very well received and mentioned in a good many testimonies. I took some sessions preaching through Acts, looking at how the LORD uses persecution to build His church. These seemed to be very well received and many found it challenging, especially in the light of the anti-conversion law recently passed in Nepal.

One evening, while having a cup of tea in a tea shop, John and I got chatting to a young ex-Gurkha soldier. He was a believer and had planted a church while stationed in Folkestone. He asked if John and I could do some mock interviews as Gurkha officers for all the potential recruits at his Gurkha training school. He also wanted us to share the Gospel with them as few were believers. So Brigadier John and Major Mervyn spent a few hours talking



to more than thirty very nervous young Nepali men, doing mock interviews and trying to weave the Gospel in as well. We were handsomely paid with a genuine Gurkha Kookri (knife) and several boxes of Nepali tea as well as many smiles. Who knows what fruit will echo on into eternity through this meeting.



### **Pokhara**

Then it was another 14-hour bus journey to Kathmandu, a well earned sleep-over in Kathmandu and then an 8-hour bus journey to Pokhara to be with our dear friend Pastor Samuel. If we felt hard done by because of such an arduous journey, spare a thought for some pastors who had travelled down from Mustang and beyond. They had walked for three days to their nearest road and then spent 48 hours on several buses to get to the conference. They did four days with us at the conference and then had the five day journey back! Such was their desire to learn from the Word of God so that they could then teach others. Very humbling.

We had some very encouraging testimonies at the end of the conference. Many said that they thought that the God of the Old Testament was God the Father and that Jesus was the God of the New Testament, but that John's teaching on the Trinity had really cleared up many, many misunderstandings. Again we found that it was mainly the younger pastors who really engaged with the preaching workshops through Philipians.

We trust that good foundations for Biblical expository preaching have been laid, and will be used to edify God's people throughout the Himalayas. Please continue to pray that there will be much spiritual fruit in the lives and ministries of these dear brethren and that the Church of Jesus Christ in Nepal will continue to grow despite the increasing persecution.

Yours in Christ,  
Merv and John.