

## Update from Nepal

“Namaste”—and warmest greetings from the land of Mt. Everest. In this land of the highest mountains on earth, we also experience monsoon rain for three-full months of the year. Torrential rain, mud, humidity and more rain will continue to be the order-of-the-day until late September. This is the type weather upon which growing rice thrives, but sometimes it is a bit trying on humans.

### Church Building Renovation Continues...

Last newsletter we mentioned that our church building was undergoing renovation, primarily to solve the chronic problem of a leaky tin roof. A new concrete roof was poured soon after that, so the problem of leaks has been solved. Even with the new roof in place, however, necessary internal-renovations will continue over the next several months. Last newsletter some of you “picked up” on our request for prayer—and a few even went as far as to contribute. Thank you so very much! That was a very special sign of support.

### “Critical Presence” in Patan Hospital

One of the numerous “hats” that Bethsaba wears includes that of patient counselor at Patan Hospital. Holistic medical care is relatively rare here in Nepal. Instead, the general focus of treatment is upon physical symptoms — with little consideration given to their underlying causes. Hence, there are no paid counselors in 300-bed Patan Hospital, where Bethsaba serves as the sole volunteer. Talk about mission “critical presence”! Recently Bethsaba completed her periodic report. It may interest you to know that 80% of her cases involved attempted suicide and 20% involved alcohol abuse. 72% of these attempted suicides involved young people (25 years or less). This is probably a consequence of a number of factors including the fact that Nepal has lived on the brink of civil war for the past decade, students face extreme pressure to excel in academic performance, recent-graduates face a dismal job market where there are very few jobs, and young people are expected to live with and financially provide for the older generation.

*Building renovation—the way that it's done here!*



### “Great Commission Companies”

Recently we completed the third in an ongoing discussion of this challenging book. Pick and read a copy, if you get the chance! One of the terms the book uses to describe Christians involved in business is “kingdom professional.” Being involved in a company that continues to lose money like a sieve, I (Dale) generally don’t feel either very kingly or very professional!

*Bethsaba in her patient counselor uniform*



One of the things that the group dialogue has served to enlighten us on, however, is that very few companies are actually making money in Nepal nowadays. We all hope and pray that necessary political changes will continue; the most essential of which includes constructive dialogue between the government and the Maoists.

### Something That Recently Inspired Us—That We Hope Might Inspire You Also!

There were five Sundays in the recent 32-day month of Shrawan (mid June – mid July). On each of these Sundays a group from our church came and met at our house, praying for guidance with regard to outreach in the village where we live. It is quite exciting to see the way things have developed in the time since this exercise began. There is one young man now in our congregation who went to well-known Middle East country as a common worker a few years back (like the hordes of people from South Asia that flock to the Middle East annually). While

there he became quite sick, with "major" blood coming out every time he needed to relieve himself. He spent a lot of money on doctors and medicine, but nothing worked. Then, one day, another South Asian worker invited him to an underground church for prayer. He refused several times, but (after all medication had failed and he was symbolically at this wits end) he finally conceded. They prayed for him, and within a few days he was totally healed. He became a believer and was actually baptized.

Needless to say, all of this did not excite the locals to any extent of the imagination. They quickly "caught on" and interrogated/threatened/enticed him (conversion to anything but Islam is highly forbidden)—all to no avail. Our friend remained firm in his resolve. About a month ago (at the time we started praying about outreach) he "coincidentally" returned to Nepal—after the company he was working for in the Middle East was forced to close. He was in the process of arranging for a different tour-of-duty in Malaysia, when he caught a vision for being the outreach worker we had been praying for. He spent most of a recent-July week in prayer and fasting, after which he stood up in church one morning and said he had decided to forgo the high-paying job abroad, and become the servant that we have been praying for. His life and testimony have been a real challenge to all of us. We would ask that you also remember "Kris," his wife and their little son—as they embark on a journey that will probably be every bit exciting as the past couple years in the Middle East have been!

*Recent, weekly time of prayer—at our house.*



For Sushma, Shova,  
Bethsaba & myself—  
Dale

*Dale & Bethsaba Nafziger are missionaries with the United Mission for Nepal. Dale serves as an electrical engineer. Bethsaba works for the health department of the United Mission to Nepal in midwifery and general nursing.*