



@BRBC_Horsham

Mission Lines

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Mt. 25:35 (NIV)

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No.44

NEWS FROM INF IN NEPAL

1. The race against time

Do you often see women labouring on a construction site in the UK? In Nepal, after the 2015 earthquake, there was a shortage of stonemasons needed to do the work of rebuilding nearly 500,000 homes. The government set up a scheme for training and subsidised house reconstruction. ACN, an INF Nepal's partner organisation, successfully applied for a grant and plans to train 325 stonemasons, 50 plumbers and 50 electricians. Priority is given to women who apply and these women are given food tokens so that they can be freed from traditional food gathering to do the training. On graduating, participants receive new tools and equipment. They will focus on helping some of the most disadvantaged peoples in the Gorkha region to rebuild homes. The government scheme finishes at the end of 2018.

2. New cases of leprosy

Despite the availability of multidrug therapy to cure leprosy, the number of new cases in India and Nepal has gone up since 2005. This can be linked to poverty. Children are more likely to contract the disease as they come into contact with sufferers and cannot take care of their own personal hygiene. In Surket the Shining Hospital staff are assisting government health personnel in early diagnosis. They offer training and equipment for microscopy and laboratory services in health posts and primary centres. A dramatic increase in patient numbers at the health posts has been seen since communities became confident in the service. In the hospital, patients with disabilities are fitted with prosthetic limbs and walking aids. People who have been treated as cursed and outcasts are shown that others care.

3. Banished

INF staff are using self- help groups to educate communities about health and sanitation. This helps conversation about Chhaupadi the practice of banishing women to cowsheds when they are menstruating. It is more effective than criminalising any who make women observe the practice.

4. A New Chapel

The building of the new chapel for Green Pastures hospital started in July. Toby, a construction manager, and Gordon, a civil engineer, both from the UK, will work with Binaya who has been involved in Nepal's new airport construction. With over £130,000 contributed by UK donors, it is hoped the building will be completed by April next year.



Shree feeding his goats

A leprosy sufferer gains meaningful employment



Design plan for the chapel

Design for the new Chapel

CLAIRE BEDFORD VISITS BRBC

It was lovely to welcome Claire Bedford to our church on the 7th October. She travelled up from Torquay on the Saturday and stayed overnight with Rosemary and Joe King. She did a quiz for the children in the morning service on Sunday and then talked to the congregation about her work at Guinebor 11 hospital in Chad. Her role there is as a pharmacist but she told us how her job entails many other roles and different duties. She talked about her colleagues, the patients and the very hot weather. Her work at the hospital can be very demanding and sourcing the right medicines can be challenging. She made a very good presentation about her life in Chad showing pictures etc on the screens. So nice to meet her 'in the flesh' and chat with her informally afterwards. Makes our support of her far more personal. Please keep an eye on the mission notice board for updates about Claire or visit the BMS website for more information about Claire and others that we support.

Pray for Claire as she is now back in Chad getting used to the heat and the dust again and taking up her busy role in the hospital. Pray that she may have opportunities to share the gospel in the course of her work.

WHY IS BIBLE TRANSLATION STILL NECESSARY?

In these days of globalisation, increased urbanisation and wider use of international languages such as English, why is Bible Translation still seen as an important issue for the worldwide church? "Wouldn't it be better to teach everyone English?" is a question I am often asked. I can think of several reasons why I would definitely answer in the negative.

Firstly, language is an integral part of one's personal identity. Giving place and honour to a person's language shows honour and respect for the person. (Note how Prince Harry was received when he addressed a crowd in New Zealand in the Maori language.) A person's native language is also the language of his heart. Even though people may be able to understand and speak several languages well, their own language will speak to them in a much deeper way. People will invariably pray in their own language, even if they use other languages for other things. They will also gain more from studying Scripture in their own language.

There are still many in the world, especially in remote locations, who only speak their native tongue and who would not be able to understand the Gospel without it being put into their language. In areas where there are no translated Scriptures and even in some areas where they do exist, preachers depend on interpretation. As Scripture is read in a national or trade language, it is interpreted into the local language phrase by phrase. If you know both languages, even a little, it will not be long before you realise how easily mistakes and distortions creep in. In one church in a rural area of Ethiopia, as 1 Timothy 5:16 was being read in Amharic by someone not very conversant with that language, he pronounced one vowel in the word for 'help' wrongly, which gave a totally different meaning. Unfortunately, the interpreter translated what he heard, rather than correcting the mistake. So the meaning became, "If any woman who is a



believer has widows in her family so the meaning became, “If any woman who is a believer has widows in her family, she should ‘slaughter’ them so that the church will not be burdened by them”!!! Give thanks for the many people around the world who are serving the Lord by translating the Scriptures, teaching people to read and encouraging people to use the translations. And pray for wisdom and perseverance for the translators, many of whom face difficult challenges.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW BMS WORLD MISSION PARTNERS

Since the Wells and the Diamonds are no longer working within BMS, two other couples have been chosen for us to take a particular interest in. Both have recently begun work with BMS. They are:

Nathan and Rose (pseudonyms because of their work in a sensitive location) from Camberley Baptist Church, Surrey. They are involved in developing community programmes in Afghanistan, where they previously served for a while. They have two children of primary school age.

Louise and Peter Lynch from Worle Baptist Church, Weston-super-Mare, who will be joining the Bangladesh Baptist Church to be involved in ministries to develop younger leaders, support a team of regional leaders and teach and train in the national church context. Peter is a pastor and Louise is a trained social worker. At they moment, they



are learning Bangla and getting to know the work of the church.

They ask that we pray that they will be able to build good relationships with local Christians so that they will have a strong platform for sharing in the coming years.

NEWS FROM TARA GEOGHEGAN IN BANGLADESH

Tara is part of a Voluntary Service Overseas team made up of 8 UK volunteers, 8 Bangladeshi volunteers and 2 team leaders working to improve the lives of young people in the rural communities. She is assigned to the Governance team and has been helping with leadership training for 25 leaders of youth clubs in the area. The team has also been instrumental in seeking to set up an Anti-Child Marriage committee for the community, as it is a huge problem in the area. The whole group have been involved with 2 ‘Active Citizen’ days, one focussing on the problem of litter in the area and the other focussing on mental health, which is rarely spoken about. No facilities are available for addressing mental health issues at all.



Tara has found her recent experience in the Peruvian Amazon invaluable; lizards and mice dropping from the ceiling now don't faze her!

Pray for Tara as she will be continuing to work in northern Bangladesh until 13th December. Pray especially for on-going good relationships amongst the team and for stamina for living and working in a challenging environment.

Continue to pray for our other friends involved in mission work overseas:-

Cally Magalhaes – The Eagle Project, Brazil – Praise God for the provision of a new office for the project and pray that the necessary renovation will be able to be completed soon. Praise that the sessions in the women’s prison and the youth prison are going really well. Pray for Cally as she prepares to speak at the Brazilian Lawyers’ Conference in early December. She is happy that son Ben has qualified for entry into the UK universities of his choice.

Kagando Hosptial, Uganda (known to Andy Leach) - Pray concerning two big problems facing the **Democratic Republic of Congo** and spilling over into neighbouring **Uganda**. Islamic groups have been attacking villages and abducting people in the area bordering the two countries and the area is one already being affected by a deadly ebola outbreak. Pray urgently for an end to attacks on innocent people and for protection for the staff and patients at the Christian hospital.

The Bench Translation Team – Praise God that the team has finished the revision of the New Testament, bringing the basic work on the translation of the whole Bible to completion. However, careful proof-reading and cross-checking still need to be done. Pray that the team may be given perseverance, patience and ability for these tedious yet important tasks. Pray that their ancient computer will keep working or that they will be able to be provided with a new one.

Cambodia Hope Organisation – Praise God for the growing churches in the area. Five new members were added in one month. However, it remains a challenge to get people to attend church. Because they are so poor, they need all their time for tending crops or running small businesses in order to make enough money. Pray that God will bring people to church and that he will provide for their needs.

If you have a news item for inclusion in the next edition of Mission Lines, send it to mission@brbc-horsham.org.uk