



Nepal

Lesson 6

Himalayan Church of the Lutheran Confession of Nepal

Lesson: History of the HCLC-Nepal

Pastor Raju Bhitrokoti – Pastor Raju was the first to contact the CLC through email inquiries about pastoral training. He was brought up in a Christian family as the oldest of two sons of an independent Christian pastor living in Kathmandu. He has become very involved in the ministry of the congregation his father serves and has been called to serve as the youth pastor and also assists his father with the regular ministry of the congregation. With his father focusing more and more on encouraging and training other pastors for the ministry, Raju and his father realized the need for structured and systematic doctrinal training for themselves if they planned to train and equip others for the ministry. With his father's blessing and advice, Raju began searching the Internet for Lutheran organizations that would be willing to offer pastoral training in Nepal. Raju "stumbled" upon the websites of a few CLC congregations. In reading and searching these sites he read reports concerning the CLC efforts to assist the CLCI and BELC in training pastors in India. Specifically he read reports from previous CLC Mission Helper Trips where mention was made of "pastoral training seminars." Raju began to send emails asking for assistance in training pastors in Nepal. Pastor Raju plans to support himself with secular work in the healthcare industry in Kathmandu while dedicating the rest of his time to training pastors and proclaiming the Word of God in Nepal. He has also mentioned that he would appreciate the opportunity to attend the ILC seminary for intense doctrinal training. Raju is a dedicated, resourceful, and highly organized individual. As evidence to his maturity and dedication, his father and the other eight pastors who are all working together (all of whom are older than Raju) unanimously and without hesitation elected him to serve as chairman of their newly formed Lutheran Church body. Raju has also started his own translating and publishing business. He has already translated a few short Gospel booklets from English into Nepali as well as several other doctrinal books and Luther's Small Catechism. The Lord has truly blessed this remarkable young man with the gifts necessary for serving as a very capable leader and spokesperson for the newly formed Lutheran Church body in Nepal. With his love for the Lord, his nation of Nepal, the lost sheep who have yet to be gathered, I expect the Lord to accomplish much through this man.

Pastor JB Bhitrokoti – Pastor JB is the father of Raju and serves as pastor of Eternal Life Church in Kathmandu. JB was brought up in a Hindu family living in a rural village several hours from Kathmandu. He is not sure how old he is but estimates that he is in his early-fifties. JB was brought to faith at a time when conversion to Christianity brought many challenges. About twenty years ago JB picked up a tract that had been thrown into the gutter. It was a small Gospel tract telling about Jesus. This was the first time in his life that he had heard anything about Jesus. Pastor JB carried the Gospel tract with him for quite some time. At some point the Holy Spirit worked faith in his heart through the Good News found in the tract. When he finally worked up the courage to tell his father what he had learned and the Good News of salvation, he was met with anger and resentment. His father kicked him out of his home and has not spoken with him since. For the past 17+ years JB has dedicated his life to telling others about their Savior and encouraging other men to take up the ministry. Many of the pastors we met while in Nepal are men that Pastor JB had baptized over the years. As JB turns his focus more to training and encouraging men in the Gospel ministry, he has come to the realization that his depth of knowledge and understanding in the Scriptures is lacking. He is of the opinion that most of the Christian materials that are available in Nepal are written from a very liberal and reformed viewpoint and have very little Scriptural support. He also reports that many evangelism organizations come with financial assistance but have little, if any, desire to offer sound Biblical training to pastors and teachers in the church. Pastor JB is convinced that what the church in Nepal needs more than financial assistance is solid

Biblical training. He told us that there are organizations that will come in and build a church but have no interest in training a man to teach the truth of God's word. He mentioned that a Methodist organization was willing to build church buildings with the condition that the congregation change their name to Methodist but they were not concerned with what the pastor would teach. He is a very dedicated individual who seems to be truly committed to building a church body upon the solid foundation of Christ and the Word of God alone.

Rajan Bhitrokoti – is the youngest son of Pastor JB. He is currently pursuing a degree in Rural Development. He is very enthusiastic about the opportunities to spread the Gospel to the rural and unreached areas of Nepal. He told stories of trekking far into the hills of Nepal to reach tribal villages that are only accessible by footpath. He has plans to make missionary trips to far western regions of Nepal where currently there are no Christian churches. He too plans to support himself with secular employment in Rural Development while using this type of work as an avenue to carry out his greater goals of evangelizing the rural and tribal areas of Nepal. He is also very fluent in English and assists his brother with translation work. Rajan is a very adventuresome young man with a big heart for those in need.

How the CLC became involved in Nepal – As mentioned above, Pastor Raju, with his father's blessing and advice, began searching the internet for Lutheran organizations that would be willing to offer pastoral training in Nepal. He "stumbled" upon the websites of a few CLC congregations. In reading and searching these sites he read reports concerning the CLC efforts to assist the CLCI and BELC in training pastors in India. Specifically he read reports from previous CLC Mission Helper Trips where mention was made of "pastoral training seminars." Raju began to send emails asking for assistance in training pastors in Nepal. Pastor Ohlmann and two other CLC pastors received inquiries from Raju. Pastor Ohlmann began corresponding with Raju in September of 2007. After the first few email exchanges it became evident that Raju was sincere in requests for training. He mentioned that his father had received a Lutheran catechism and a couple of other Lutheran books and was convinced that Lutheran doctrine was Scriptural. Over the next several months Pastor Ohlmann led Pastor Raju, by email, through the adult instruction manual written by Pastor John Schierenbeck, titled "Shadows and Substance." Pastor Raju also shared the lessons with his father and his brother as together they compared the lessons, answers, and Pastor Ohlmann's comments with Scripture. Through this process they learned more and more and became convinced that the CLC was indeed a true teaching church body with whom they would like to work. Following the completion of this correspondence course, Raju was sent a few other books such as a Sydow Lutheran Catechism and workbook along with Mueller's Summary of Christian Doctrine, the Augsburg Confession, and other books.

A trip to Nepal planned and approved—Becoming more and more convinced that the CLC held to and proclaimed the true teachings of God's word, Pastor Raju asked if Pastor Ohlmann would be willing to come to Nepal to offer pastoral training seminars like the Mission Helper Trips he had read about on the internet. Raju mentioned that there were eight other independent pastors in Nepal who were associated with him and his father. Together they had already begun an organization they named Nepal Christian Organization. Raju also mentioned that there were several other pastors in Nepal who would most likely attend a training seminar. Pastor Ohlmann explained to Raju that it would be best if an initial meeting could be held first at which time our doctrine could be more thoroughly explained and we could also discuss the opportunities that the Lord might have in store for us if we are committed to spreading the truth of God's word together in a God pleasing way. Raju was pleased with this answer and began to make plans for such a visit to take place. Along with

his secular studies in college he, along with his brother and father, began an in-depth study of the materials that had been sent with an understanding that doctrinal unity was of great importance to God.

With the approval of the CLC Mission Board, Pastor Ohlmann began looking into the possibility of combining a trip to Kathmandu with his already scheduled trip to India in May and June of 2008. It was also decided to ask Missionary Matt Ude to accompany him to Nepal. With the trip approved and scheduled, correspondence with Raju continued. With the advice of Missionary Koenig a seven day trip to Nepal was planned and scheduled for the end of May and the first week of June.

A New Lutheran Church Body –

Following three days of discussions with Missionary Matthew Ude and Pastor Todd Ohlmann in May of 2008 an hour was set-aside for Pastor JB and Raju to lead an organizational meeting with the other independent pastors who had gathered. Pastor JB told me later that he and his sons were so convinced of the truth and validity of Lutheran doctrine that even if the other men would have decided not to go along with them, they had already decided to start a Lutheran Church body on their own. After an hour or so of discussion by the pastors a resolution



to join together and form a Confessional Lutheran Church body in Nepal passed with a unanimous vote and enthusiastic clapping of hands and singing. Advice was sought about what they should name their new church body. No specific suggestions were given but they were told that they should choose a name that best represents them and the doctrine they intend to proclaim. They chose the name: Himalayan Church of the Lutheran Confession of Nepal. Their first act was to elect Pastor Raju to serve as chairman. As chairman he was assigned the duties of continuing correspondence with the CLC, organizing and leading ongoing training of the pastors, and to begin the task of writing a doctrinal platform and constitution.

What follows is the text of a letter written by Pastor Raju on behalf of the pastors of the HCLCN and sent to President Schierenbeck and the CLC Board of Missions:

Greetings from the land of Mount Everest, Nepal!

There is a short history of Nepalese Christianity and there are many difficulties with us due to lack of the proper Christian foundation and teachings. Therefore we were praying for a church body that can assist us to know more about the truth of the Bible that we can carry out ministry in Nepal.

At that time we came to know Faith Lutheran Church of St. Louis and I started correspondence with Pastor Todd Ohlmann and he encouraged me to do ministry as well as taught many new things which were not known to me. I completed a correspondence course of "Shadows and Substance" as well as

Luther's Small and Large Catechism, My Church and others and some other books which directly help me in my ministry. I came to know about the CLC Statement of Faith and Purpose and Pastor Todd guided me on this.

In May 27, 2008, God gave us a privilege to welcome Pastor Todd and Pastor Matthew Ude among us. We started doctrinal discussions and other information regarding CLC Board of Missions.

We had a meeting in June 1, 2008 at Kathmandu and 8 pastors participated the meeting and all of them were greatly interested to know more about CLC. Pastor Todd Ohlmann and Pastor Matthew Ude taught about the doctrines of CLC and they clarify each section of CLC Statement of Faith and Purpose.

After the doctrinal discussion we all came to conclusion to seek affiliation with CLC to extend the kingdom of God in Nepal.

*From the several months of studying and doctrinal discussions we formed a Lutheran Church Body in Nepal. We have chosen the name "**Himalayan Church of Lutheran Confession of Nepal**" for the body.*

We have a great desire to establish a fellowship with the CLC and also working relationship with CLC Board of Missions with the sole purpose and hope of receiving on going training in the Word.

The founding pastors of the HCLCN pray that the Lord will bless this newly formed Lutheran Church body in Nepal. We are also praying that the Lord will establish a long and fruitful relationship with the CLC that we may work together to proclaim the Word of the God throughout Nepal and glorify our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

On Behalf of the pastors of the HCLCN,

*Pastor Raju Bhitrakoti,
Chairman*

A New Orphanage – In 2011 JB and his wife Rama decided to start an orphanage with seven children. The CLC KINSHIP program has agreed to find sponsors for up to ten orphans. (see attachment)

Mission Helper Trip in 2011 – In July of 2011 ten CLC Mission Helpers spent three weeks working with their brothers and sisters in Christ of the HCLC-Nepal to assist them in spreading the Gospel to over 1,500 children in the mountain villages of Nepal.

More information: www.lutheranmissions.org/history/history-of-nepal/

HCLC-Nepal Orphanage

Background:

Nepal came through more than 10 years of the Maoist insurgency, conflicts, and civil war. The conflict claimed thousands of lives. The consequence is thousands homeless, numerous children became dis-placed as they were stolen and carried to Kathmandu or forced to become as enslaved and brainwashed child Maoist fighters, and many more children have been orphaned and forced into child labor in hotels, transportation, and other places and are now deprived of their Nepali Child Rights of food, health and education.



The most important thing is for these children and all people to be saved spiritually through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Introduction:

The story abovementioned put a burden on us and the Lord gave us vision for those children who are in need of food, education, health and care of a family. We prayed a lot and our gracious heavenly father answered us with "yes, start." So we came to start this HCLCN orphanage to help the children in need. We have started orphanage by faith and we are confident that the Lord will provide the necessities for the children.

These orphans are directly under our care and living with our family and we are actively them to the Christian faith and life. The Lord is blessing them abundantly and they are progressing in their education.

We are determined to serve these children and show them our Lord's love and care for them.

To date we have 7 Children and they are from different locations (rural areas) of Nepal and also from non-Christian family backgrounds. They are happy to be with us and as they are also growing in faith we ask you (our beloved brothers and sisters) to pray for them and for us as well that we can keep them in faith and teach them and build them in our Lord God.

Goals and Objectives:

1. To show the compassion of our Lord to these needy children.
2. To teach and lead them to be a faithful Christians and leaders in future.
3. To assist more needy children in the future

Prayer Requests:

1. Children's health, education and strengthen their faith in Christ
2. Wisdom and effort that we can care them and guide them.
3. Funds for the orphanage.
4. We want to add 3 more orphans next year 2012 and we may need more funds for them
5. For a long term we need to build orphanage.



1) Lemaya Tarung Magar Age: 9 yrs Sex: F

Description: She is from Nawalparashi District and Orphan Girl. She is from remote area, she belongs to Magar tribe. She was deprived of education, food, health and proper care. When we met her, her condition was very awful now she is happy to live with us in good care and love. She is attending grade one this year.

2) Kapindra Shahi Age: 8 yrs Sex: M

Description: He is From very remote Part of Nepal, Humla where there is no road transport system. To reach his home we need to fly and it takes 3 days walk. When we met him for the first time he was deprived of education, food, health and proper care. Since he was orphan and from very remote area he had no good future. Now he is very happy to live with us in good care and love. We gave him a new name Joseph. He is attending grade one this year.



3) Sharmila Waiba Age: 9 yrs Sex: F

4) Sarita Waiba Age: 7 yrs Sex: F

Description: Sharmila and Sarita are sisters from Makwanpur District of Nepal. They were from very remote area, from Tamang Tribe and are orphan too. They didn't get opportunity to go to school and have good food and clothes to wear and no one to show love and care to them. When we met them they were very unclean and

thin. Now both of them are very happy to get love and care. Both are attending in same class Grade one.





5) Rohit Nepali **Age: 7 yrs** **Sex: M**

Description: He is From Surketh District of Mid western region of Nepal. Since he was from marginalized community and he use to speak less and had fear inside. He didn't get chance to go to school, didn't had good food, cloth, love and care. Now he is very happy to live with us and he is attending grade one this Year.

6) Swarsofi Pariyar **Age: 9 yrs** **Sex: F**

Description: She is from Lamjung Distirct of western region of Nepal. She also belongs to marginalized community. She is with us before we decided to keep more orphans so that she is much healthier and in grade two than other. When we met her for the first time her condition was also very pitiful and we decided to let join her in our family. Now she is very happy to live with us in Christian environment and love. She is attending Grade two this year



7) Manoj Mahat **Age: 6yrs** **Sex: M**

Description: He is from Gorkha district, land of THE GORKHAS- the warriors! When we met this orphan boy for the first time he was very much skinny and deprived of proper food, cloth and education. Then we decided to make him a part of our family. Now his health is good and happy to live with us in Christian environment. He is attending Grade one this year

