

Himalayan Church of Lutheran Confession (HCLC) Nepal

A Brief Annual Report 2014

Praise the Lord!

Honorable CLC Missionary, Respected Chairman of the Conference, Respected Leader and pastors and delegates of the CLCI, BELC and CLC Myanmar!

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! It is my honor to present a report on HCLCN to Joint Asia English Conference 2014.

MISSION REPORTS

Present scenario of the ministry environment:

The political background of the country is getting better and stable. Now the Democratic Party is leading the government. Different kinds of development activities are going on around the country.

Overall scenario is satisfactory however there are potential threats and persecutions towards the Christian communities. The Hindu fundamentalist groups such as Shiva Sena (Army of Shiva) and others are raising their voices against Christians and they are being active and accompanied with violence to stop the growth of Christians in the country. They impose pressure to law making bodies to make conversion illegal which is going to hamper solely Christian community. They see Christians as traitors and a big threat to Hinduism and to the national security.

We hear that the several place in the country these activists are making efforts to discourage our Christian brethren especially pastors and leaders.

PASTORAL MEET

We are glad to offer monthly training to the pastors and leaders from our affiliated churches. HCLCN pastors meet every month in Kathmandu for pastors' fellowship and Bible study. We use the Holy Scripture as it is the ultimate source of truth and the materials provided by the CLC and published Lutheran books. Some new pastors who are

weak in understanding are interested in our fellowship and we welcome them with Christ's love which eventually helps everyone to learn and grow in faith.

The pastoral meetings are motivating and informative; our pastors from remote villages come to study with us. These meetings help them to carry out the good news to the unreached people in the mountains.

EVANGELISMS:

Public evangelism is prohibited however we go to individual houses to share the message of salvation. This is going to be difficult to keep up our evangelism campaigns. Even though the resisting forces both physically and spiritually are active in this time, a number of attempts have been made in order to saturate the land with the soothing Gospel of our Savior.

CHURCH VISITATIONS/ CONFERENCES

Pastor JB makes visitations to the local churches in the country. He receives calls and invitations from different parts of the country. The new churches seek some sort of assistance from the HCLCN. The HCLCN helps to develop new churches and encourage them to be self-supportive. This is an effective way to sustain churches for a long time period because there are many churches that run through the financial support from different organizations which are not certain and not a sustainable method to operate a church.

Pastor JB when he visits, he also organizes conferences, seminars and such with the pastors and the church members. He encourages the pastors and teaches them to be good stewards of God.

There were a number of baptisms held in the year. This year alone we had 35 baptisms. We are still having some problems with infant and child baptisms because of the Hindu dominance and also the evangelical (reformed) influence in the country in general.

In this year we had conferences in different parts of the country. About 7 conferences were held in different places in the country. It is always exciting to share the saving Gospel to the lost people. The places where the conferences were held are as follows: Tulsipur, Salyan, Siddhi, Supar, Pachthar, Sarlahi and Banepa.

Special visitations to Eastern and Far Western Regions:

This year pastor JB visited the Eastern and the far-western region as well. As he went on the trip, he visited likeminded pastors and leaders. They are learning from the doctrinal materials that we mailed to them. They are in touch and we hope and pray that one day they will come in fellowship with our church body. The new churches just mentioned are from Humla, Salyan, Illam, etc. and especially traveling to the north western part of the country is still problematic; alternative options are flying however flights are not regular and are pricy. Therefore it is a big challenge for us to plan new mission works in those areas because of lack of resources.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

We conduct youth fellowships in every church on monthly basis where they prayer, Bible study, learn new songs, etc. The younger new comers are encouraged to join these fellowships where they can participate in these activities which help to build their faith. We are praying and planning to have a Joint Youth Seminar among the youth of the HCLCN congregations to help them to build up their faith and to encourage each other.

PUBLICATION

As we have published some books and materials in the past years we are still using those materials to teach our Pastors as well as church members. We would like to thank the Mission Board that helped to publish such useful books. These books are handy materials for our pastors in their ministry. This year we did not publish new books or study materials but we need to publish more books and materials and distribute them to our local churches so that more people could get opportunity to read from the Word of God and grow in their faith.

ORPHANAGE

It is a great opportunity to take care of the children that are in need. Our God encourages us to share our food to the hungry and clothes to the stripped. As the Word of God urges us; we are excited and pleased to help these kids from the abject poverty and deprived from the message of salvation. As we are serving these ten destitute children since 3

years where are providing them their basic needs such as hygienic food, clothing, medicine and education at a public school. They are growing in a healthy Christian environment where they are learning about our savior Lord and growing in faith. One day when they grow up and realize that only through Jesus' love all these kinds of help were made by the generous hands so that they are at the position where they are.

The CLC kinship project as well as Eternal Life Church is sponsoring the orphans for their basic needs and other expenses. They are doing well in their studies and extra-curricular activities.

MISSION HELPERS TRIP 2014

This year we had a great privilege to welcome mission helpers. We were excited to welcome 12 mission helpers led by Pastor Todd Ohlmann. We also appreciate their sacrifice for the mission works; they left their comfort zones and came to work with us to reach out to the unreached. The mission helpers went to different parts of the country. We are thankful for their visit and work in the Hindu dominant country. They conveyed the Gospel to the children mostly living in the villages and many of them never heard of the name of Jesus. They got to travel different districts and got to evangelize the tribal groups like, Tamang, Chepang and Tharu. While their stay in Chitwan district (southern plains) some of the Mission helpers got some kind of flu and illness however they did not stop working for the glory of God. The hiking was not comfortable and not easy at all and on the other hand the temperature was hot and humid but they enjoyed all the situations and praised God. We appreciate their efforts to extend the kingdom of God in Nepal.

While on the trip the mission helpers had an evangelism program in Rautahat district which was about 20 km away from the Indian border. On the other hand mission helpers also traveled to Tatapani which is just about a couple of kilometers from the Chinese border.

The host churches and all of the members of HCLCN enjoyed and thanked for their visit.

Pastoral Conference

On July 21, we had a pastoral conference in Kathmandu; currently we have 15 churches in our fellowship however we had 27 pastors at the conference. We are glad to say that many new pastors and leaders are interested to join HCLCN to learn from it so that they could serve their respective congregations in a better way.

Pastor Raju's Training in the US

Presently Pastor Raju is receiving his final year of pastoral training at Immanuel Lutheran Seminary in the US. He came to visit us in this summer. While his stay he went on some mission trips to the remote areas of the country and also did many visitations to the church members and to the pastors. In his two months of vacation he worked on planning some projects for near future. We discussed about establishing a Bible training center in Kathmandu and in long run a seminary. We and the HCLCN pastors enjoyed his presence among us. We hope that he may have a great time in the US and learn more so that he can come back and train the pastors and leaders for their ministries because “the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few”.

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. For a pastoral training center near future that there could be more workers for the kingdom.
2. For the effective proclamation of the Word of truth.
3. For the organizations like World Hindu Federation and others that are threatening the Christian community in the country.
4. For the pastors that they could be able to get supported from their local churches.
5. For the orphans that we take care of, for their health and education and most importantly to their spiritual welfare.
6. For the publication of more books and materials that are helpful to the pastors serving in the rural areas.
7. For Pastor Raju and his training in the US and the future plans of Mission Board for Nepal.

Prayerfully submitted,

On behalf of HCLCN

Rajan Bhitrakoti