

NEPAL EARTH QUAKE

The April 2015 Nepal earthquake also known as the Gorkha earthquake killed more than 8,800 people and injured more than 23,000. It was the worst natural disaster to strike Nepal since the 1934 Nepal-Bihar earthquake.



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At present it is very unsafe to live in the buildings. In Kathmandu not so much of buildings have fallen down but most of the buildings have cracks. So they are unsafe to live. This is a very big loss for all businessmen and for the realtors who build buildings. I met one boy in the children home who lost his mother in the earthquake. Now Pastor. Binod has taken the boy as a student in the bible school and training him. He will go back to the same village where his mother died in the earthquake to preach the gospel.



The building which Pastor Binod lived is completely empty now. No one lives in the flat as it has cracks inside, outside and all over the flat. Further the scientists says more earthquakes may come. So at present no buildings can be built. Hence Pastor Binod suggest we will build temporary house with sidewalls in bricks and floor and roof it with tin sheets instead of concrete roof (Plastic sheets are not available in Nepal). So the immediate need is to build Pastor. Binod a temporary house. So that when he have a place to settle down, he can work for others.

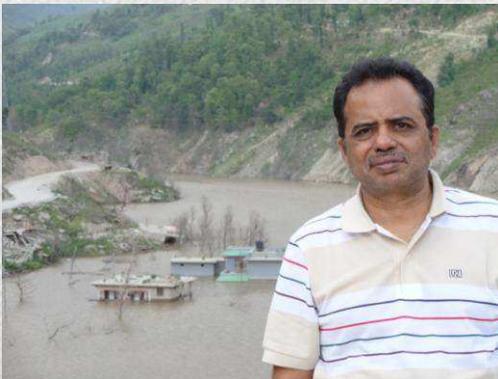
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At present Pastor. Binod and family are homeless and they live in a tent. Everywhere the government is removing the ruins and the rescue efforts are taken to make the environment safe for the people to live. But people still live in fear. All the schools in Nepal are closed because many of the school buildings are damaged and the furniture are destroyed.



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Hundreds of thousands of people were made homeless with entire villages flattened, across many districts of the country. Every house in the villages is damaged and every church is destroyed.

The first earthquake happened on a Saturday where most of the believers were in church. At least 1000 believers had died and thousands of believers are injured and many are reported missing. Pastor. Binod said it happened on a Saturday which is holiday in Nepal and if it had happened on a working day, thousands of people would have died in their workplaces, schools and other institutions. Buildings which did not have strong foundation collapsed and buildings with strong foundation did not collapse but have cracks all over.

A village was totally washed away which earlier got affected in last monsoon. I wanted to go to one of the village but they said, it would take at least 5 hrs to reach there and I did not make it as I did not have time.

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Scientists say that there is a plate underneath the mountain which has moved towards south India, so the next big earthquake may come to south India. Even Calcutta is quite near to Nepal and it is said Calcutta will be also affected. So we really do not know how things will move on in coming days.

The present bible school building did not flattened but the basement weakened and the floor is cracked down. If an other earthquake comes the building may go totally destroyed and its unsafe. so the children in home and students have gone back to their respective places and very few now live in the building.

Even high grade government officers are now living in the tent outside their houses. And I too stayed in a tent along with Pastor. Binod.

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They were safe staying in tent even when an earthquake and tremor came early in a morning.

Pastor Saadhuram of IPA Church from Gorkha District said that it was in between the service while the earthquake came and the church started to shake that they could not come out. They started praying and after some time they came out and found that the village is totally damaged. The church also got damaged and few got injured but no one lost life by the grace of God. His house was not destroyed completely but inside the house was damaged. There are 10,000 people living in the village and the Pastor Saadhuram along with believers did relief works. As they helped other religion people giving them food and place to stay, the non-believers were happy for their love toward them.

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Most of the people have lost their job because many of the shops, industries, schools are all closed. Most of them work as daily wages and as they don't have job they don't have any money to live. That is why we did some relief work.

We collected money even from our church and other places to give to the people in Kathmandu and also to the nearby villages.

Because of earthquake miscarriage happened among women. Nearly about few hundreds of women along with their baby in the womb died in the earthquake. Also some of the believers have lost their cattle which were their livelihood. Few of them died of heart attack because of fear. Even few committed suicide frightening to live in such an unsecured situation and hence killed themselves.

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I take this opportunity to thank all our friends in our partner countries especially in Netherlands and Sweden for all their contributions to do the relief work . May the lord bless each one of you.

Peter Prakasam