



Mission Update

News from Renaissance Outreach Ministries

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Anglican cathedral collapses in Nepal

Heavier than usual monsoon rains have caused the collapse of the New Jerusalem Archcathedral Church of the Church of the Himalayas in Kathmandu, Nepal. The building collapsed on Sunday, August 9.

Fortunately, no one was in the church as Nepali churches worship on Saturdays (it's the national day off, no theological reason).

Amazingly, the roof still stands. The block walls of the sanctuary collapsed with the heavy rains.

Kathmandu does experience monsoon rains each summer. While nowhere near as bad as what Bangladesh gets near the Bay of Bengal, it usually does minimum damage in Kathmandu. This year has been an exception.

Flooding has taken place across the country. In the Himalayas, villages have been wiped out by landslides. The sedimentary rock of the Himalayas can only absorb so much water. Once it reaches saturation point, the land gives way. Many people have died this year from landslides.

The year 2020 has proven to be a challenge for many around the world. In addition to the COVID-19 crisis that has shut down much of the world, weather conditions across South Asia have created additional problems.

According to Most Rev. Barnabas Titung, Archbishop Primate of the Church of the Himalayas, the sanctuary has been rendered unusable. Because the roof is still standing, so they can rebuild.

The Anglican Church is new in Nepal, having been established in 2008. The New Jerusalem Church was established in 2006. It became the



Photo courtesy of Archbishop Barnabas Titung

Heavy monsoon rains in Kathmandu, Nepal have caused the collapse of the New Jerusalem Archcathedral Church of the Himalayas. The walls collapsed on Sunday, August 9. The church is now in the process of rebuilding.

archcathedral in 2018 following the death of founding bishop Dr. George Pierce.

The building has also been one of the classrooms for the Jesus Seminary of the Himalayas. As this is a new seminary (established in 2012), they have been using rented facilities in the city.

Property in Kathmandu is very expensive. A small lot in the city can cost as much as \$50,000. These prices have made purchasing land for churches cost prohibitive.

The New Jerusalem Archcathedral is located near the American Embassy in the Nepali capital city. Other churches are located in rental facilities across the Kathmandu Valley.

According to Archbishop Titung, he and the congregation are busy rebuilding the church. Like all Christians in Nepal, they will persevere. Nepalis are a hardy group of people.

The Church of the Himalayas serves the Himalaya region. Under its jurisdiction are the countries of Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and the Himalayan region of India. The denomination has grown to 600 churches with four diocese. A new diocese is in the process of being created in the Dhadhing region.

**Remember to save those
"G" \$ and \$2 bills**

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News and stories about the work of Renaissance Outreach Ministries

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Renaissance Outreach Ministries is a non-profit ministry with a 501(c)3 classification. All donations are tax-deductible. Financial data available upon request.

Update on Rev. Jan's medical condition

Rev. Jan L. Beaderstadt, president of Renaissance Outreach Ministries is still in USA. He had planned to return to Nepal in late June. Unfortunately, the airport was still closed and no flights were going in and out of the country. New return date is planned for late December.

With the delay, Pastor Jan plans to have back surgery to relieve the sciatic nerve pain that is keeping him from walking. At this time, he is trying to schedule the surgery for early October.

In addition, he plans to use the time to get cataracts removed.

"With me having to be home in USA rather than working overseas, I may as well take care of some of my medical conditions that I've been putting off," said Pastor Jan.

The ankle replacement surgery has gone very well. The doctor at University of Michigan is very pleased with the recovery. Pastor Jan is now able to walk without a cane on paved surfaces, although he still needs it for standing.

During this time, Pastor Jan has been busy. He's teaching at the Seminary remotely from USA. He has finished a new book that will serve as a training manual for rural pastors. The book will be made available free of charge as part of a program to certify rural pastors in developing countries.

"Most of these pastors have little to no training," notes Pastor Jan. "It's important that we work to provide proper training in all areas of ministry."

Besides Biblical training, the course will focus on Christian leadership, church finance, church history as well as other areas of development.

His wife Barbara is continuing to work at Head Start in Whittemore. This will be her last year teaching as she plans to retire in June of 2021.



Pastor Mike Murray and his wife Janet at their retirement party Dec. 29, 2019.

Pastor Mike Murray to become a chaplain

Rev. Mike Murray, vice-president of Renaissance Outreach Ministries will be studying to become a certified chaplain in his retirement. The program is through the International Federation of Christian Chaplains.

Pastor Mike, who has made many trips to Bangladesh and Nepal, retired as a pastor Dec. 29th. He found retirement to be rather boring and felt a call to return to some form of active ministry.

Pastor Mike has always had a strong gift for chaplaincy. When the word got out that he was planning to enroll in the program, donations through Renaissance Outreach came in. We are pleased to note that we have reached the 100% mark. He's planning to start the program in October.

Zoom teaching at Seminary

The Jesus Seminary of the Himalayas may be having to deal with a second shut-down of the country, but it doesn't mean that classes have come to a halt. Teachers are now *zooming* to the rescue!

The COVID-19 pandemic has been teaching everyone new ways to communicate. In education, Zoom and the internet have proven to be effective as well as inexpensive tools to teach and train.

The Jesus Seminary of the Himala-

yas in Kathmandu is now using Zoom. While not as good as having actual classes, these virtual classes are able to fill the gap.

Instructors in Nepal are now using Zoom to teach classes. In September, Pastor Jan will start teaching via Zoom. Other American instructors are now being scheduled to teach classes via Zoom.

Renaissance is looking for volunteer instructors to teach at the Jesus Seminary. You can contact Pastor Jan at be.kultraining@gmail.com

Save those "G" dollars

We've been telling you to save those dollars with the letter "G" on the left hand side. Those are "God's Dollars" and you can use them to support the work of Renaissance Outreach Ministries.

In the month of April, Rev. and Mrs. Beaderstadt were able to find 61 \$1 "G" bills. Each month, it is easy to find those dollars in your change as you shop.

When you get those "G" dollars, fold them in half and tuck them in a corner of your wallet. Each night at home, take them out and put them into an envelope. What people find is that this way, they don't miss those dollars. Together, they add up!

CLUB 100 APPLICATION

Yes! Please enroll me as a member of the Club 100. I want to be a supporter of the Jesus Seminary of the Himalayas. I agree to give \$_____ a month/year (circle one).

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Please send your tax-deductable donation to Renaissance Outreach Ministries, P. O. Box 121, Greentown, IN 46936. Minimum membership is \$6.25 a month/\$75 a year. Larger contributions will be accepted. Make checks payable to Renaissance Outreach Ministries.