



# Mission Update

**News from Renaissance Outreach Ministries**

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## Forest Fires devastating Nepal

By Rev. Jan L. Bederstadt  
President

Some days in Kathmandu the air is so thick with smoke that you can't even see, reports our people in Nepal. Forest fires in the mountain regions have blanketed the country with smoke.

Even satellite images from space are showing the fires along the high peaks. The fires are also in the lower regions as well, creating plenty of lung problems.

Springtime is the dry season in South Asia. Monsoon rains last from mid-June to mid-September. The rest of the year is relatively dry. Rains are very occasional, creating very dry conditions.

The fires started several weeks ago. While some sources blame climate change, others point to the traditional way of farming. Farmers will burn the leftover crops and weeds. This creates better soil, but does come at a cost.

The fires appear to have spread when the farmers lose control and they spread into nearby forests.

Unlike the US, Nepal does not have good fire fighting equipment. A major fire in Kathmandu destroyed a landmark store as fire trucks were hampered by the narrow streets that only allowed for smaller trucks to enter. It was very hampered when the fire hydrants were dry, due to water shortages in the Kathmandu Valley.

Schools have been ordered closed and the government has told everyone to stay indoors. Gopal Shrestha, managing director of Trekking Mart reports that people are sick and lethargic because of the massive smoke that has settled into the Kathmandu Valley. Going to his home village in Gorkha District offers no relief because the hills around the village have fires.

Pray for early rains as that is the only way these fires will be put out. The people of Nepal have suffered enough.



**Fires are consuming large amount of acreage across Nepal. Right now there are over 200 fires burning across the country.**



**Satellite photo from space shows fires from the Everest region in the east to the far west in Nepal.**



**Forest fires are burning out of control across Nepal. Only early rains can stop these fires from causing more destruction across this country that has suffered so badly over the last six years from natural disasters.**

## Stuck in USA

By Rev. Jan L. Bederstadt

Last month I reported that on Palm Sunday, I would be on my way back to Nepal to teach for two months. About four days before I was to leave, I learned that Qatar Airways was not going to honor my return ticket.

I was supposed to return in February of 2020, but decided to wait until June to return rather than just going for a couple of months. Of course, no one was predicting a worldwide pandemic that would shut down the world for over a year. There was no way anyone could go to Nepal then as Qatar Airways was not flying, and the airport in Kathmandu was closed.

I waited until I got both of the COVID shots so I wouldn't have to quarantine both in USA and Nepal. I thought I was acting responsibly. Sadly, Qatar Airways found a loophole to prevent me from returning.

Of course, what we didn't know then was these forest fires would become a problem. Having asthma, it may have been devastating as there is no place free from the smoke in Nepal. So I'm home until fall. God does indeed work in mysterious ways.

### Mission Update

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.

## Can I come to your church?

Because of the COVID-19 virus, it's been nearly two years since I was making presentations at various churches. As we enter the summer season, things are relaxing around the country.

Since I'm not going back overseas until mid-September, I would like to come and give an update on the work of Renaissance Outreach Ministries. Even though I haven't been overseas since late June of 2019, a lot has been happening that we've been able to direct from USA.

Please let me know dates that work for you and your church. A love offering is appreciated as Renaissance Outreach Ministries operates on a very small budget. If you would like me to come and make a presentation, please con-

tact me, Rev. Jan L. Bederstadt at (989) 254-1279 or my personal email : be.kultraining@gmail.com

## Teaching Seminary Remotely

We may not be able to travel to Nepal right now, but we can teach remotely at the Jesus Seminary of the Himalayas. We plan to be doing this over the next several months.

Renaissance Outreach Ministries is seeking people willing to teach Master Level classes. Classes are two weeks with a total of 16 hours. Can be taught be Zoom or Facebook. All Master Level classes are in English. Will send our curriculum. For more information, contact Rev. Jan L. Bederstadt at his mobile at (989) 254-1279 or at be.kultraining@gmail.com.



## 12 Years Later

Dite Mondol was our brightest student at the Alo Schools in Senganti Mission, Bangladesh. She also was quite the tomboy. When she was 5 she would beat up any other child we tried to sit next to Rev. Bederstadt. No one could sit next to her American. I heard from her last week for the first time in several years. She is now 17 and in class 10. Quite a young lady!



# Yak Milk is the Best!

## Wonderful new products from Nepal

There is nothing quite like yak milk! It's the world's richest milk produced by the Himalayan yak. Only found at elevations about 8000 feet, these animals are found both wild as well as domesticated.



Nepalis have used the milk for making butter tea, lighting their homes with yak butter, and making it into wonderful cheese. It also makes for the best soap for moisturizing one's skin. Gentle, yet great for skin health. Renaissance Outreach Ministries is one of very few outlets outside of Nepal to offer yak milk soap as well as Himalayan Dog Chews made of yak cheese.

## Himalayan Dog Chews

Made of Himalayan Yak Cheese, dogs go crazy over these. Hard but chewable, they will chew on it for days! 100% healthy for your dog, our prices are about 1/2 of Pet Smart®

1 100 oz stick—\$6 or \$2/10

## Yak Milk Soap

We now have seven varieties of these soaps made by a cooperative of Tamang ladies in the mountain of Nepal

- Yak Milk  Yak Milk with Sandalwood
- Yak Milk w/Amber  Yak Milk w/Rose
- Yak Milk w/Fruity  Yak Milk w/Vanilla
- Yak Milk w/lavender

\$6 each or 2/\$10

Please send your order to:

## RENAISSANCE OUTREACH MINISTRIES

P. O. Box 121—Greentown, IN 46936

Be sure to add 15% for shipping and handling. Make checks payable to: Renaissance Outreach Ministries. Product purchases help to support the work of Renaissance Outreach Ministries in training pastors. See our website at: [www.renaissanceoutreachministries.com](http://www.renaissanceoutreachministries.com)

## 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).

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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.