

Special
Report:
NEPAL



The Climbing Way

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Only God can save

BY GARY FALLESEN

Founding president, Climbing For Christ

The big brother – a young boy sitting in front of mother and child – turned and kissed the sick baby’s forehead as they waited, patiently, to be seen by our good doctors. The baby was 1 or 2 months old, but looked like a newborn. Dr. Matthew Fisher, a Climbing For Christ member from Alberta, Canada, treated the baby as best he could considering the setting. His examining room was a dusty, dirty rooftop in the remote village of Takla in Nepal’s Far Western district of Humla.

“Only God can save that baby,” Matthew would say.

Only God is a common expression when you are at the end of the earth and the end of yourself on an Evangelic Expedition with Climbing For Christ. Only God can save, heal, provide, and glory. Only God can do the things that need to be done.

His power is made perfect in our weakness, as Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 12:9.

So we turn it over to Him. We lean into Him as we trek through the Himalayas. We rely on Him to show us the way, to open doors, to deliver the lost we encounter in every Hindu and Buddhist village.

Matthew prayed for the sick baby, and our Mission: Nepal 2015 trekking team – consisting of Matthew, his wife and C4C Canada coordinator Brandy Fisher, Eduárd Nitkovszki of Hungary, Megh Gurung of Nepal, and C4C spiritual coordinator Jordan Rowley and me from the United States – continued to pray in the days after this divine encounter.

During a time of prayer, God led me to 1 Kings 17:17-24 and how He used Elijah to heal a widow’s dead son. “*Now I know that you are a man of God,*” the widow said to

Elijah, “*and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is true.*”

We made this truth our prayer: that God (the Great Physician) would reveal Himself through healing and once again demonstrate His power over all the false gods worshiped by the followers of Hinduism in Takla and neighboring Bamta.

We have seen and heard testimonies about God’s superiority over all false gods since we began ministering in Humla in November 2012. C4C has conducted nine expeditions to Nepal since 2008. [See HIStory on page 5.]

Mission: Nepal 2015

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ONLY GOD CAN SAVE CONT.

God uses power encounters, like Elijah's showdown with the prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 18, as a way to lead the lost to Him. He shows His people the futility of praying and sacrificing to false gods. He then uses us to deliver the Gospel truth. "As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!'" (Romans 10:15b)

We know that "faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17).

We were blessed to preach to many again in Humla, and to witness seven souls hearing Jesus call them out of the hell-bound shackles of false gods. As we trekked, the rest of our Mission: Nepal 2015 team – Leanne Bohn and my wife Elaine – worked in the Kathmandu-area orphanage that Climbing For Christ supports. [See "Young souls on fire for Christ" on page 6.]

While encouraging the body of Christ in Nepal, we also were encouraged. God may use us to reach the unreached, but He's also working on us at the same time.

Brandy Fisher, who was participating in her fourth Mission: Nepal, said she had been "challenged about completely relying on God and trusting Him in all things" before meeting two new sisters in Christ on our way to Takla. After hearing Urmila and Baachakala's story [see Testimonies, page 3], Brandy said: "May we rely on God like that and not just take things for granted, but know they are from God!"

And only God.

As the Apostle John wrote: "All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:3) †



A mother looking for help for her sick baby. (Photo by Gary Fallesen)



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The primary purpose of Climbing For Christ is to GO and deliver the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the mountains of the world, where other missionaries cannot or will not go.

Mission Statement

Members of Climbing For Christ agree that we are called to:

- Bring praise, honor and glory to God — the Creator of all things, including the mountains we love — and to our Redeemer, His beloved Son.
- Inspire believers to achieve greater spiritual and physical heights in this world.
- Introduce the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, to those living in or visiting mountainous areas who don't know Him personally in a new, exciting and everlasting way.

To join Climbing For Christ, visit www.climbingforchrist.org/Contact/MembershipApplication.aspx

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Cover Photo: Megh Gurung, left, and Jordan Rowley traverse a snow-covered trail in the Himalayas. (Photo by Gary Fallesen)

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THE CLIMBING WAY

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**"Publish his glorious deeds among the nations.
Tell everyone about the amazing things he does."
– 1 Chronicles 16:24 (NLT)**

His Word does not return empty

BY GARY FALLESEN

Founding president, Climbing For Christ

When we first arrived in Humla in November 2012, we did not think there were any Christians in that Far West district that is the size of the U.S. states of Rhode Island or Delaware. Only trails connect the villages. No roads. No vehicles. The only pavement is the short airstrip in the district headquarters of Simikot, which welcomes daily flights of planes that can carry only 12-15 people.

After first landing, we discovered there was a house church hidden away in Simikot. Our Mission: Nepal 2012 team visited the church and met seven brothers in Christ. They asked us to pray for the Lord to lead women to Jesus so they would have someone to marry and the church could grow. We prayed – and have since attended the first two Christian weddings in Humla. (One couple was expecting their first child when we were there in March 2015. They gave birth to a son in early April.)

Our brothers also told us about a sister in Christ in a village called Thehe (“tay”). We hiked there to encourage her and pray with her – in secret. Before our arrival, she had led her own brother to Christ. That man, Dhanmansingh, trekked with our Mission: Nepal 2015 team.

From that beginning in November 2012, when we met and prayed with and for nine members of the body of Christ, we have carried out four Evangelic Expeditions in Humla and witnessed the church’s growth to more than 120 believers. During Mission: Nepal 2015, the Lord added to that number as we saw seven souls saved.

We have planted and we have watered, “*but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor*” (1 Corinthians 3:6-8).

Here are the testimonies of a few of the believers we have been blessed to minister to during the past 2½ years:

SATHYADEBI

When Sathyadebi heard us sharing the Gospel in March 2014 in Hildum she was angry. She thought, “My goddesses also can provide salvation. Jesus is not the only One who can provide salvation.” A Nepali missionary from Nepalgunj (a southern town near the India border) – a man from her tribe and caste – visited after our Mission: Nepal 2014 team left and challenged her. He talked about fallen angels and the Holy Spirit showed her she was wrong. The Hindu gods cannot save. She accepted Christ.

Her parents were discouraged when she did this. But after her conversion they saw she was different – full of peace and joy, not angry. They have not yet come to Christ, but they provide a room for fellowship in Hildum.

“I am so excited I received Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord,” said Sathyadebi, who asked to be called the Christian name of Mary. “I am sad my parents have not accepted, but one day they will.

“I am so glad (to be Christian). If I am alone (as a believer), no problem. But I want to share the Gospel and expand the kingdom of God.”

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We dubbed Sathyadebi “Super Debi” because of her boldness, which includes wearing a cross and carrying a Bible, in a village that was a Hindu stronghold. She is only 18 years old. (Photo by Gary Fallesen)

HIS WORD DOES NOT RETURN EMPTY CONT.



Brother Megh Gurung of Climbing For Christ and our 2012 team praying with Reshma when she first accepted Jesus. (Photo by Elaine Fallesen)

RESHMA

Reshma was one of the first people our Mission: Nepal 2012 team met upon reaching Hildum. She was playing volleyball with a group of girls. Two team members, Brandy Everts (now Fisher) and Melissa Waheibi, stopped to join the game. By the time we left the village the next day, Reshma accepted Christ.

But this 18-year-old fell away after being pressured by her family. Her older brother, the man of the house since her father is dead, told her if she kept going to church she would have to go somewhere else to live. She stopped going to church. She was sad. That's when we saw her in 2014 – encouraging her, but seemingly to no avail. We walked out of Hildum in March 2014 feeling we would not return. There was no fruit.

“...if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town.” – Matthew 10:14 (ESV)

But after we left in 2014, Reshma was moved to go to church again. She told her brother, “Who is your father? He is my father, too. He made this house. I am not going to leave.” God moved in him to say, “You can make your own choices (about God).”

Reshma chose Jesus and, along with Sathyadebi, became part of a fledgling church. Her mother, meanwhile, worried about who she would marry. She needed to be Hindu to find a husband. She needed to believe in the 300 million Hindu gods. But she told her mother, “My God will provide someone.” Her mother's heart softened.

Now Reshma wants to share the Gospel and keep others from the fire of hell.

Both Reshma and Sathyadebi asked that we pray for Christian men that they may one day marry. It was similar to the request we heard in Simikot in 2012. We are praying with and for them.

NOTE: After hearing the testimonies of Sathyadebi and Reshma, a 26-year-old man named Chincsirrangib, who was sitting in the doorway videotaping them on his phone, and a 15-year-old girl named Sirjana asked Jesus into their lives!

LAKHANE

This old man listened intently as our Mission: Nepal 2012 team shared the Gospel in Thehe, a village that was not originally receptive to Jesus. We'd trekked a few days to this remote village because we knew there was one Christian (Dhankali) there and we wanted to encourage her. After sharing with a large crowd of children and some adults, we prayed in secret with our sister in Christ (and her brother). We needed to pray with them out of sight to protect them from persecution. While I was praying in a dark room too small for most of our team, I instructed the others to start trekking out of the village. They left to a shower of stones thrown at them by children.

The places Climbing For Christ goes can be hard to reach – both physically and spiritually.

We rejoiced in 2013 when we returned to Thehe and found a church of 18, including Lakhane. We worshiped with our brothers and sisters on a rooftop, where 10 months earlier we'd prayed in secret and been stoned.



Hearing about Jesus in November 2012 and listening to an audio Bible in March 2014. (Photos by Gary Fallesen)

I didn't realize until I was looking through hundreds of photos from our time in Nepal that this was the same man who, 16 months earlier, had heard us speak about Jesus.

He told us how he had sold land to buy animals he sacrificed to demon gods – eight goats and 10 chickens every month – so he would get what he wanted. But the sacrifices failed. Then he heard our team share about Jesus. He found out that Christians did not need to make sacrifices – the sacrifice had already been made by the Son of God. He acknowledged, “If I have Jesus I don't have to sell anything and make sacrifices.” He accepted Christ and felt an unspeakable joy.



Urmila and Baachakala. (Photo by Gary Fallesen)

URMILA AND BAACHAKALA

One of the highlights for our Mission: Nepal 2015 team was meeting this mother and daughter in an area called Kumalika. The women – and the father and son of the family, who were away – live in a house sandwiched between Hindu priests. Yet they are Christ followers.

We learned about them as we trekked to the village of Takla. We climbed up to their home across the river from Takla to encourage and pray with them.

“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”

– Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV)

The daughter, Urmila, told us her mother had suffered from bleeding for some time when they heard about the healing power of Jesus. Dhanmarsingh shared the Gospel with them, and they asked Jesus into their hearts. Baachakala was healed. Soon after, their subsistence farm that used to provide two months of food began to provide food for seven months. They give thanks to the One True God, Who provides for all their needs.

“Meeting them was encouraging for me, too,” said Eduárd Nitkovszki, a teammate from Hungary (our first European team member).

We learned that Urmila and Baachakala will hike for 3 hours (probably 5 or 6 for a non-Nepalese) and climb about 3,000 vertical feet to go to church each Saturday in Simikot. After worship, they make the same walk back home. †



Nepal, surrounded by China to the north and India to the south.

HiStory

2008: Staff member Jim Doenges led nine Climbing For Christ members on a trek to Everest Base Camp. Along the way, they met Megh Gurung, serving with another Nepali conducting a medical mission in the Everest region. C4C assisted at two days of clinics. Megh later joined Climbing For Christ and became a key player in the work God is doing through C4C and his own Kathmandu-based Milap church.

2009: Kyle Austin represented C4C when Gary Fallesen was called away to Haiti on an emergency. Kyle had served for two years in Nepal and on Mission: Nepal 2008. While living there, Kyle attended Pastor Tej Rokka’s SARA (Savior Alone Redeems Asians) church in Kathmandu. This led to a relationship between C4C and Pastor Tej. Kyle returned from Nepal in 2009 with a vision for C4C to help SARA build a church in Dapcha in Nepal’s Central region.

2011: A small team (Kyle, Gary and Alyssa Kaelin) visited Dapcha and helped break ground for the building of a church. The church was completed mid-year and dedicated in September.

2012: There were two short-term missions. A team of four (Brandy Everts, Gary, Marissa Gardiner and Dave Stoessel) joined Megh and Pastor Tej in January to: visit the church at Dapcha, trek in Langtang, and visit the church at Korchabang in the Midwest district of Rolpa. C4C’s second church build – this time in Rolpa in partnership with Megh’s Milap church – was completed mid-year. In November, a team of seven trekkers and five orphanage workers ministered in Humla and Kathmandu, respectively. This was the beginning of C4C’s work in Humla.

2013: An eight-person team returned to Humla in September.

2014: The year began with the completion of C4C’s third church build in Nepal: this one was Pastor Tej’s main SARA church in Kathmandu. There were also two short-term missions. A team of four (Brandy, Gary, Matthew Fisher and Megh) returned to Humla in March and April. In September, Gary, Megh and Dave explored a new area – trekking into Makalu for outreach among the Sherpa people.

2015: Six trekkers (Gary, Brandy and Matthew, Megh, Eduárd Nitkovszki and Jordan Rowley) and two orphanage workers (Leanne Bohn and Elaine Fallesen) served in March. The trekkers returned to Humla for the fourth time in 28 months. This resulted in a God-breathed desire to build C4C’s fourth church in Nepal – this time in Simikot, the district headquarters of Humla. Can you help with this church build? Use the enclosed envelope to contribute.

Young souls on fire for Christ

BY ELAINE FALLESEN

Family ministry coordinator,
Climbing For Christ



Elaine Fallesen and Pastor Tej teach children about the Trinity using the book, '3-in-1: A Picture of God.' (Photo by Gary Fallesen)

How do you explain the Trinity to 29 orphans ranging in age from five to 15? Grab an apple!

The Three Persons of God was the lesson focus each day during Climbing For Christ's March mission trip to the orphanage it supports in Kathmandu, Nepal. C4C members currently sponsor 20 of the children through C4C's Project 1:27 ministry ("...to care for orphans and widows in distress"). The children live and thrive at two orphanage sites run by Pastor Tej Rokka of Savior Alone Redeems Asians ministry and C4C partner.

During this second visit to love on and share Christ with the kids, Leanne Bohn and I used the three parts of an apple to help the children get to know God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

- The Father protects us like the peel of an apple;
- The Son feeds us with His Word like the apple's flesh, and
- The Holy Spirit plants seeds of faith in our hearts like those found in the core.

Like kids everywhere, the orphans soaked up the Good News like sponges, and the teachings were reinforced with crafts to help remind them of their powerful Helper. Under Pastor Tej's care, the kids attend church and "Saturday School"

each week (Christians worship on Saturdays in Nepal) and are gently led to their Savior. Because Nepal is a Hindu nation with a large number of Buddhists, most of the orphans came from a non-Christian background – just as Tej once did as an orphaned child.

We rejoiced at the most recent baptism of Gideon, for whom the Word took root and he accepted Jesus as his Lord. Gideon is learning guitar and is being groomed to become a worship leader at church. He aspires to enter the ministry one day. Before that, Lydia, Manisha and Rajendra were also baptized.

And again like kids worldwide, the orphans could still sing the Bible songs they'd learned two years ago, and delighted in learning a new one, "Soul on Fire," by the band Third Day. The theme of the week-long study was beautifully wrapped up in the message of becoming a soul on fire for Christ.

Our prayer is that these children who are precious in His sight will be bold and shining witnesses who will rescue others for Christ halfway around the world.

"The love you have shown them will be rooted in their hearts," Pastor Tej said, adding a "*dhanyabaad*" (thanks) to those who sponsor the orphans. †

SPONSOR A CHILD

If you'd like to sponsor one of the nine unsponsored orphans cared for by SARA ministry in Nepal, go to www.climbingforchrist.org/Articles/tabid/545/ID/90/categoryId/13/Project-127-Nepal.aspx.



Children with pinwheels they made on the day they learned about the Holy Spirit. (Photo by Elaine Fallesen)

The parable of Nepali grass

BY BRANDY FISHER
Canada coordinator,
Climbing For Christ

I returned to work in my parents' greenhouse in Alberta, Canada after Mission: Nepal 2014. My job was to transplant native grasses. The process was long and tedious. I would take each individual blade of grass and stick it in a container. As I continued this monotonous task, my mom came to check on my progress. She found me crying as I plucked each piece of grass.

"Oh, boy," she thought, "this has got to be good."

I showed her how I was struck by the parallel between my plucking a piece of grass and how God plucked individuals such as Dhankali and placed them in the village of Thehe in Nepal's Far West district of Humla. When the sun comes out, a blade of grass will wither and die because it's all alone in a container and not protected – or it will be like Dhankali.

Dhankali was by herself in her faith in Jesus before we went to visit her on Mission: Nepal 2012. Then she led her brother to the Lord. And when we arrived in Thehe, we prayed with her and encouraged her. She grew from a single blade of grass into a small field. The church in Thehe has gone from 1 to 19, and may continue to grow until it covers the side of a mountain in the Himalayas.

As I transplanted grass in Canada, I wondered what kind of grass others in Nepal will be. Will they wither and die in the heat of persecution or will they do what is written in 1 Chronicles 16:11? If they "*Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face continually,*" they will grow. The Son will turn them into a beautiful field spreading all across Humla. †



Dhankali with children in Thehe in April 2014.
(Photo by Gary Fallesen)

A VIEW CONT.

different columns of people. I knew that each column represented different nations, tribes, faiths, and beliefs. Each was on a direct course for the edge of a cliff. Everyone in these columns of people was mindlessly marching toward the same cliff in unison. I saw flames at the bottom of the cliff. People were walking off the edge and into the fire. They seemed to be in a trance, ignorant or indifferent toward their fate – none had any real sense of what lay ahead.

Suddenly, I saw myself marching in one of these columns toward the cliff and flames. A hand grabbed my shoulder and shook me awake (I understood that I had been awoken with the Gospel). I immediately jumped out of line and began trying to wake others. I ran up and down the columns, shaking people, trying to snap them out of their mindlessness. It seemed only a few would wake. I saw others running around, trying to wake the people, but there weren't enough for the job. The harvest was plentiful, but the laborers were just too few. The columns kept moving forward and the people kept marching off the edge and into the flames.

Shortly after this experience I did some research. On our planet, there are about 7.2 billion people breathing right now. It's been estimated that about one-third of the world is Christian (of course, most of us would say that estimate is incredibly high for true believers in Christ, but let's go with it). Of the 7.2 billion people in the world, 150,000 die each day. If one-third of the world is saved, then that's 100,000 people falling into the flames every day, more than one per second. Every second, someone is perishing without Christ!

Eternity is... forever. One million years from now, those in hell will not be one single second closer to the end of their agony. It's heavy to think about, so we can't stick our heads in the sand. We need to be on mission 24/7. We need to be faithful and fervent in our prayers, in our giving and our going. We need to obey the radical call of Christ to make whatever sacrifice is needed to reach this dying world for Him. †

[Editor's note: Jordan Rowley prepares daily devotionals for every Evangelic Expedition. He wrote a series called, "The Greatest," based on John 3:16 for Mission: Nepal 2015. Each day focused on a different part of what Jordan calls "one of Christianity's all-time favorite and most beloved Bible verses." This was Day 9 of "The Greatest" series.]



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A View

The greatest deliverance

BY JORDAN ROWLEY
Spiritual coordinator, Climbing For Christ

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him SHOULD NOT PERISH [the greatest deliverance] but have everlasting life.” – John 3:16

I’ve always had a good imagination so sometimes it’s hard for me to tell my own thoughts apart from when God may be speaking directly to my heart. With that said, I’m not sure if I’ve had a true vision or dream from the Lord, but recently during a time of prayer I saw and was a part of a terrible drama that played out before me.

I was praying for the world. It was an intense prayer time as I cried out to the Lord for those in the midst of extreme persecution, facing great poverty and suffering from prosperity. All of a sudden I saw many

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Megh Gurung, left, and Matthew Fisher pray with new believers Prem and Padam in the Humla village of Takla. (Photo by Gary Fallesen)