

*This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.*

*Psalm 118:23*

**N**

**EPHAL**



*The birth of the Free  
Presbyterian Church*



# This is the Lord's doing



A number of years ago, as I walked among the foothills of the Himalayas in the district of Pyuthan, in the mid-west of Nepal, the clouds came down and settled among the hills. It was truly a remarkable spectacle and a wonderful sight to behold. Nahum 1:3 comes to mind, where God speaks of the clouds being the dust of His feet, and that day it seemed that the Lord had come down to meet with earth. In that same region of Nepal, nearly twenty

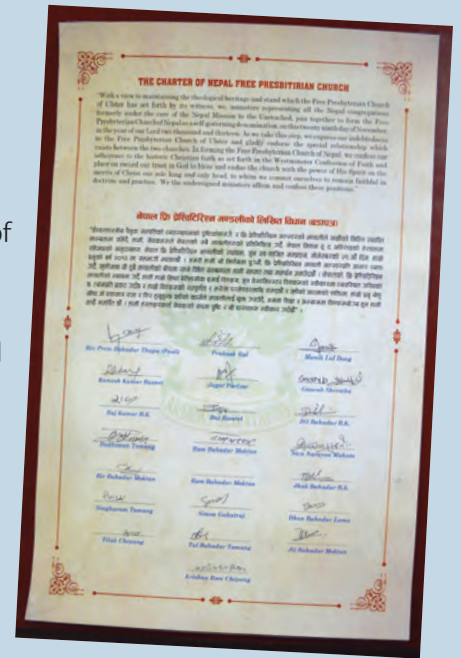
years ago, God did come down and touched a young man and changed his life. This young man was to become an instrument in the Lord's hand, seeing many others brought to a saving knowledge of Christ and dozens of churches formed in the villages of Nepal.

It was while Paul and Mandira were involved in Christian work and witness in the city of Kathmandu that they became heavily burdened for the village people of Nepal. Paul saw that there were many churches in the cities, but the villages were largely neglected. This drove him and his wife into action. In March 2003 Paul and Mandira and another woman set time aside to fast and pray about this matter. They met in the small room they rented as their home. All they possessed was a bed and a mat on the floor, with very few personal belongings. One thing they had, of course, was the Lord. This became evident in the days that followed when five people were converted in Kathmandu through their witness. This was a token for good to this faithful band that there were greater things ahead. As time progressed, Paul came into contact with some men from various parts of Nepal who had come to Kathmandu to work. These men were converted and Paul sent them back to their own villages with the gospel, and people were saved and little churches were formed. Those men then became the pastors of the small fellowships and began reaching out to other villages. The work grew rapidly, with the conversion of thousands of individuals, until there were over one hundred churches and fellowships of Christians, gathering under the name of the Nepal Mission to the Unreached. This growth is down to the vigorous evangelism of the pastors and people, as well as the radio broadcasts of the Let the Bible Speak radio ministry. The radio broadcasts commenced in September 2006 with one station and now there are twenty stations taking the gospel to a large proportion of the population. Such has been the response from these broadcasts, that five evangelists were appointed to make contact with people who had made enquiries about the gospel. At least twenty fellowships have been formed as a direct result of this work.



The question is often asked as to how Paul Thapa and the Nepal Mission came into contact with the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster. The answer to this is a demonstration of the providence of God, which always brings to me the greatest assurance that the Lord is most definitely at work in Nepal. The coming together of the two churches could never have been arranged by men, no matter how careful the planning. In the Autumn of 2003, six months after Paul had begun his outreach work, my son Timothy went to Nepal on a medical elective, in connection with his degree at Queen's University in Belfast. One day, in the hospital where he was working, a man approached him and began to speak to him about his son who was a patient in the hospital. It was probably a case of mistaken

identity, for Timothy knew nothing of his son, and they parted company at that point. A few days later Timothy was transferred to another ward and there he came into contact with this same man, whose son was in that ward. They became friendly and this man invited Timothy to speak to a group of children in his home. Timothy agreed and went to the home, and the interpreter at the meeting turned out to be Paul Thapa. The meeting finished and they went their separate ways, but the night before Timothy was due to return to the UK, he went to this man's home to say farewell. When he arrived, Paul Thapa was visiting in the home. Timothy and Paul got into conversation and then exchanged e-mail addresses. A few months later Paul contacted Timothy and they kept in touch over the



next eighteen months, with Paul keeping Timothy up to date with the progress of the gospel. In November 2005 Timothy returned to Nepal for a brief visit to see for himself what the Lord was doing. He came back with the report to me in Bristol and the plea, "These people need help!" In March 2006 I found myself in Nepal preaching at a pastors' and leaders' conference and so becoming familiar with the work there. Over the following three years, these conferences were to become an annual event. Just at the end of 2005, when the work was beginning to show real signs of growth, Paul's deep concern was that his men should have proper training. God, in His matchless providence, used Timothy to link up myself, and then the Free Presbyterian Church, to the training of the men of Nepal. There was no planning or organization by any of us - it was the Lord's doing!



As time went on it became apparent that more training was required than an annual pastors' and leaders' conference - a Bible college was needed to equip the pastors. In April 2010 the Mission Board sent me, with my wife Carol, to help in the establishing of that college, and since that time about 110 men and 50 women have undergone the training. About the middle of 2012, the Nepal Mission to the Unreached made application to become part of the Free Presbyterian Church. After investigation by our Mission Board and Presbytery, it was recommended that a number of men be

ordained to the gospel ministry and the Presbytery of the Free Presbyterian Church of Nepal was set up. This took place at the end of November 2013. We rejoice in the workings of God in the land of Nepal, and are thankful that God has brought the two churches together. We look forward to close cooperation in the future, as we both seek to spread the gospel in our respective spheres of service. We believe that this is but the beginning and that the Lord will do greater things than these.

**Rev. Wesley Graham, Missionary to Nepal**



# The Conversion of Rev. Paul Thapa



“I was born on 25th July 1974. It is wonderful to think that even from before that day God had chosen me, though born into a Hindu family. It was a family where they boasted about their religion and the fact that they were Hindu. I thank God that He chose me from that family to be a servant for His kingdom.

Let me tell you a brief history of my tribe. My father was chief priest among my tribe. My family was very devoted to their religion. The religious works they did gave them cause to be very proud. It is amazing that the things my father used to do were exactly what the priests did in the Old Testament. He did not know about the religion of the Bible, but believed in the sacrificing of the blood of an animal once a year. The goat to be offered had to be male and spotless. It reminds us of the true blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we can be saved - I am saved through the sacrifice of Christ, the absolutely spotless Lamb of God.

So I was growing up with this family background. As the time passed, my father taught me many things about the Hindu religion and the religious practices of my tribe. The reason for teaching me about these things was that he wanted me to follow in his footsteps. As far as back as I can remember, he always emphasized to me that I should be a Hindu chief priest. I have one brother and one sister. Of course women are not allowed to be priests, but my father chose me, the younger boy in the family, to be a priest.

The days passed and I finished my high school studies. I was greatly involved in religious works with my father, but I never felt peace in my heart and mind. After high school, in 1993, I left home to get a job in the Mid-West of Nepal. I was working as a school teacher. After about six months a man came to the area and gave me a small tract. He told me to read it and contact him if I wanted to know more about this God. Because of the religion I practised, I just rejected the message that the man brought. Being a Hindu, I knew I should not accept a foreign religion. The man came again and again, giving out tracts about this new God and the new religion. After five times of rejecting the message, God spoke to my heart, “There is some one you have to trust for your salvation and peace.” The title of the tract he gave me was, “ARE YOU HAPPY?” It made me think about this God. I realized that I was not happy; in fact, I never found happiness in practising my religion.

Finally the God of the Bible found me on 25th March of 1994. After my conversion I returned to my home with the great news of my happiness, something my father had never experienced. I was excited about telling him and the other members of the family, but that did not make them happy. My family and the tribe rejected me and I left my home and my community. After that I went to Kathmandu for work, but God had a plan for me. He provided for me to go to a Bible College for a one-year course. After the completion of this course, I went to another Bible College for three years. Now I am serving Him to bring precious souls into the kingdom of God. This has become my chief work, though I am also working for a Masters degree.

God has given me a beautiful wife and blessed us with two children, Isaac and Sarah. Both of them have expressed a desire to be doctors in the future.

Both my wife and myself opened a children’s home in 2003. We now have twenty children from different parts of Nepal. It is our desire that these children might be converted and then take the gospel to their own people in the villages.”

**Rev. Paul Thapa, Moderator of the Nepal Presbytery**



# Ordinations and New Presbytery



In November, the Ulster Presbytery sent a delegation to Nepal to ordain a number of men to the Gospel ministry and to establish a presbytery to oversee what is now the Free Presbyterian Church of Nepal. This historic development was in response to an application to our Presbytery, favourably received earlier in 2013, from representatives of the Nepal Mission to the Unreached. Plans were then put in place by the Ulster Presbytery to have a group of men ordained and the presbytery formed.

The ordination of the Nepalese brethren took place at a special historic meeting on Friday, 29th November, 2013. The hearts of the men from the Ulster Presbytery were deeply moved at the sight of twenty- two brethren being ordained and set apart to the Gospel ministry. Certainly, in the history of our denomination, there has never been such a unique occasion involving the ordination of so many men in the one instance. Moreover, when we laid our hands on this group of men, all of them first generation believers, saved out of the darkness of pagan religion, our souls were made to feel something of the meaning of the exclamation of Numbers 23:23 – *“What hath God wrought!”*

The ordination service was led by the Rev. Wesley Graham, with various members of the Ulster delegation taking part. When the Nepali brethren had answered the prescribed questions, they subscribed the Westminster Confession of Faith and were duly ordained. I then had the privilege of preaching the ordination sermon, with the newly ordained Rev. Paul Thapa interpreting for the benefit of the Lord’s people.

At another special gathering on the day following, the Presbytery of the Free Presbyterian Church of Nepal was formed. As moderator of the Ulster Presbytery, it was my duty to conduct the initial parts of this historic meeting by bringing the Word, leading in prayer along with Mr. George McConnell, and conducting the election of the first moderator of the new presbytery. The Nepali ministers unanimously chose Mr. Thapa, and he then took the chair and ably conducted the rest of the business.

The Ulster Presbytery rejoices in what the Lord has done and continues to do in Nepal. We are also truly humbled in that the Lord has blessed us as instruments of help in His work in that nation. With the Apostle we say with deep thankfulness: *“...we are labourers together with God.”*

**Rev. John Greer, Moderator of Presbytery**





# The Youth Conference

The visit to Nepal commenced with a special Youth Conference. It was a residential, with about 150 young people attending from various parts of the country. The theme was 'Young People in the Local Church,' and each visiting minister was appointed to speak on two subjects.



Rev. Greer dealt with 'Desiring to do the will of God,' and 'Keeping Christ Central.' Rev. Harris spoke on 'Church Membership' and 'Attitudes to Adopt in the Local Church.' Rev. Park was given the subjects of 'Holiness of Life for the Sake of the Testimony,' and 'Labouring in the Church.' Rev. Curran preached on 'Listening and Learning the Word of God,' and 'Working for the Lord when Young and Healthy.'

These conference meetings became a highlight of our visit. Our souls were thrilled to see the keen appetite of these young Christians, drinking in the Word of God. They sat on the floor, as is the custom, with open Bibles and notepads, giving diligent heed to the various messages.

One day, in particular, we arrived for the conference meetings at 9.00am. Passing the open door of the meeting room, we could hear Rev. Thapa speak with evident fervency at morning devotions which had started an hour previously. Our conference day ended at 5.30pm after five preaching sessions. One Ulster visitor remarked that he had never sat through ten sermons all at one time – a reference to the five messages and the five interpretations.

The hunger for the Word and the respect for spiritual things, shown by those in attendance, was truly 'marvellous in our eyes.' Pray for the ministry among the young people, that the Lord will be pleased to bless them, and that their love for God and His Truth will intensify.

**Rev. David Park, Missionary Council Chairman**











# Precious Orphanage

I first visited Precious Orphanage, Kathmandu, in November 2006. Paul and Mandira, although involved in evangelising in the villages, saw another great need - many orphans, some only five years old, were working in hostels and homes to help keep themselves alive. This need really affected them and Paul felt he should make his home an orphanage and care for some of these children. Within a year all the legalities were completed for the first five children for adoption, and the Lord touched the hearts of some friends to help him financially. Paul and Mandira's great burden was to see the children brought to Christ.

When we visited in 2006 the number of children had increased to eleven. They were all sleeping in one room, in bunk beds in a small two-room house. On returning home we brought the need of the Orphanage before some of our churches and in a short time over £15,000 was raised. This amount, along with other gifts, enabled Paul to purchase a larger house and add two storeys to it, sufficient to meet the growing need of the Orphanage. Other help came from the little village churches; some sent money and some sent rice to help feed the children. Other kind friends from the United Kingdom gave gifts and still others, including one Sabbath School, 'adopted' one or two of the children and helped with their schooling.

As the number of children grew to over twenty, Mandira was feeling the strain, so a servant girl was hired to help with the work-load and a washing machine was purchased. These expenses are being met from our Orphanage Fund. Priscilla, Paul's sister, whom he describes as "like my right arm", is invaluable in all her help with the children.

Returning in November 2013, we had the joy of spending an afternoon in the Orphanage. Once more they have out-grown the premises and the authorities are insisting that more space is needed, as the children have no outside space for play. Rev Thapa's burden is to see the Orphanage grow and be a blessing to the children God has given him. Already the two oldest boys have completed the Bible College course and moved to a village outside Kathmandu and commenced a small fellowship. One of the oldest girls is also involved in village evangelism and another is training to be a nurse, hoping to use her skills in the mountain villages and also spread the gospel. Again the call comes to us across the miles, "Come over and help us." They need to move to a new site with space for the children. Dare we close our ears to such an appeal when God has brought us to the Kingdom for such a time as this?

**Mr. George McConnell, Presbytery Missionary Officer**





## ***SPECIAL APPEAL*** *for a New Orphanage*



The Mission Board supports the project of re-locating the Precious Orphanage to more suitable facilities. Purchasing a site in the capital city will be a considerable sum, costing approximately £80,000 at present exchange rates. A site has become available, located beside the Kathmandu Church and Bible College, and, if secured, will allow the Orphanage to expand and provide a more appropriate area for the Children's requirements. We look to the Lord for the financing of this project, recognising that He is able to supply the need 'according to His riches in glory.' **If the Lord touches your heart, and you are able to help with funding, please contact the Mission Board Office (Tel. 028 4176 5574. Email: [office@fpcmission.org](mailto:office@fpcmission.org)), or one of our Presbytery missionary representatives (see back page).**

# Kathmandu Bible College

The Lord Jesus Christ, during the days of His flesh, called men to be His disciples. They were His pupils who had enrolled in His school of learning for the work to which they had been called. We can but only begin to imagine all that they must have learnt at the Master's feet, as He instructed them in the things of God. If such training was important for the first disciples of the Saviour, a precedent was set for future generations. Those who would be Disciples of Christ and serve in His cause, must be prepared to submit themselves to training in order to prepare for God's work.

The first training programme in which our Mission Board was involved in Nepal centred on a week of conference meetings to which Rev. Wesley Graham was sent in 2006. Though intensive and very beneficial for all who attended, in the subsequent years it was quickly recognised that something more was needed to give depth to the work.



At various interviews with Rev Graham, the Mission Board saw the need for a Bible College in Nepal to offer further training and preparation for those who were called to serve God. The Mission Board felt the man from our side who could help spearhead this work and get it established was Rev Graham. Thus it was put to him in 2009 that this was something which he should pray about and consider as the will of God for his life.

After prayer and careful consideration, Rev. Graham came back to the Mission Board to say that he believed this was something that God would have him to do. Thus in April 2010 Rev. Graham was sent forth by our Mission Board to help the brethren in the Nepal Mission to the Unreached to establish a training course which would be suitable for the work in Nepal. Together with the brethren in Nepal structures were put in place and a building erected and opened in 2011, in which the work of the Bible College would be conducted.



One hundred and ten men, plus fifty women have since passed through the Bible College in the various courses. God has raised up men of God in Nepal who are able to teach the subjects: Rev. Prakesh Rai – Worship; Rev. Prakesh Basnet – Christian Doctrine & Pastoral Theology; Rev. Manik Lal Dong – Church History, Bible Survey and Hermeneutics; Rev J.K. – Introductory Greek; Rev. Paul Thapa – Homiletics, Mission and Evangelism. Rev. Graham now lectures in the Distinctives of Free Presbyterianism.

As a Mission Board we see the role of the Bible College in Kathmandu as pivotal to the future development of the new Free Presbyterian Church of Nepal. We thank God for men and women in the Master's Harvest Field who have graduated from it and look to the Lord for His continued blessing upon it.

**Rev. Ian Harris, Mission Board Chairman**



# Office bearers of the New Presbytery



Rev Paul Thapa,  
Moderator



Rev Manik Lal Dong,  
Clerk of Presbytery



Rev Prakash Rai,  
Treasurer

## Newly ordained Ministers and members of the New Presbytery



Rev Simon Gahatraj



Rev Gaurab Shrestha



Rev Krishnaram Chepang



Rev Jit Bahadur Moktan



Rev Ram Bahadur Moktan



Rev Raj Komar BK



Rev Singharam Tamang



Rev Ram Bahadur Moktan



# Newly ordained Ministers and members of the New Presbytery



Rev Dil Bahadur BK



Rev Siva Narayan Mahato



Rev Tul Bahadur Tamang



Rev Bir Bahadur Moktan



Rev Tilak Chepang



Rev Dhan Bahadur Lama



Rev Budhiman Tamang



Rev Jagat-Pariyar



Rev Ramesh Kumar Basnet



Rev Jhak Bahadur BK



Rev Raj Ramtel

# Let The Bible Speak Radio Ministry

The first LTBS broadcast in Nepal was aired in September 2006. It was a weekly 15 minute programme transmitted on just one station. The preaching was in English and the response limited, but very encouraging. Though the beginning was small, the Lord had opened a great door for the preaching of the gospel. Soon the ministry expanded and in March 2007 the programmes were going out in Nepali, with Rev. Paul Thapa undertaking the translating of the messages and also compiling the entire programme. An increased response from listeners was immediate and gospel literature was needed. Rev. Thapa translated Dr Cairns' booklet 'A New Beginning' and thousands of copies have been distributed over the years. A third print run will soon be required. Rev. Thapa was also eager to extend the witness to other stations and gradually the list lengthened. Now twenty FM stations take our programmes - ten have a daily schedule and ten broadcast twice weekly. This is a huge workload for our brother and he needs our prayers. Some 250-300 letters still come in per month and Rev Thapa's sister, Priscilla, is of immense assistance in getting out letter responses. She willingly gives time to this, in the midst of studies and other labours. She too needs our prayers. Follow-up work with contacts was done initially by Rev. Thapa, but the number proved overwhelming. We now have several young men fulfilling this role. Travelling mainly on foot, they have covered many hundreds of miles to reach people in remote villages. Many have come to Christ, so their labour has not been in vain. As full-time field workers they are supported by LTBS. At least twenty churches have been formed as a result of our broadcasts. The Lord has privileged us, and all who support the ministry, to have a small part in the establishing of the Free Presbyterian Church of Nepal. The work is not finished. There are a multitude of souls still to be reached for Christ, and believers are requesting Bible teaching over the air waves. We can only purchase more air-time as resources permit, and so we look to the Lord for yet greater things as He builds His church in Nepal.



**Rev. Leslie Curran, LTBS Director**





Paul Thapa has translated several books into Nepalese, including The Westminster Confession of Faith, The Shorter Catechism, and a number of volumes by Dr. Alan Cairns. These books are available on request.



# The Village Churches

As we look across the mountains around Kathmandu, and Nepal in general, and think of all those villages scattered across the hills and valleys, we rejoice in all that the Lord is doing through the preaching of Christ; the souls that have been saved and the churches founded. We have to declare: 'This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes!' Hearing the accounts of the mighty workings of God through the Nepal Mission to the unreached, now the new Free Presbyterian Church of Nepal, is like reading a history chapter from the Acts of the Apostles. What brother Paul Thapa has witnessed reminds me so much of the Apostle Paul's missionary journeys; conversions, followed by the establishment of little congregations.

When Rev. Wesley Graham first reported to the Ulster Free Presbyterian Churches about his visit to Nepal, it was in Ballymoney at our annual Missionary Convention Weekend. We listened with raptured attention to those early reports of how the Holy Spirit was working with power in the last great Hindu Kingdom of Nepal. I can remember hearing



about fifteen hundred conversions and around twenty-seven churches which had sprung up. Today there are over one hundred churches and fellowships in this new denomination which has been so wonderfully owned by God.

Five years ago I had the privilege of visiting a little village called Panchkhal, located in the district of Kavre, approximately twenty miles east of Kathmandu. Two of my committee members had travelled with me, Jonathan McAuley and Ivor Buick.





There was a strike in the country at the time, so the roads were blocked and we had to travel through the dirt mountain roads to our destination - that was some experience!. A group of the Lord's dear people assembled and sang to us and we sought to encourage them. They showed us a small parcel of land where a goats' shed stood - they wanted to purchase it to build a meeting house. This they accomplished by the grace of God, and five years later, I had the joy of standing in their house of worship to minister the Word of God. Pray for the pastor, Raj Kumar and the little flock of God in that part.

Financial assistance has been given to help with the erection of some church buildings in Nepal. Unlike the

United Kingdom, a simple meeting house can be built for approximately £4,000. This includes a small area for the pastor's accommodation, enabling him to stay overnight in order to evangelise and conduct visitation. There are presently three congregations which have purchased land with a view to erecting a place of worship. Pray that the Lord will be pleased to meet the need, and that His cause and Kingdom will be advanced throughout the hills and valleys of Nepal.

**Rev. David Park, Missionary Council Chairman**









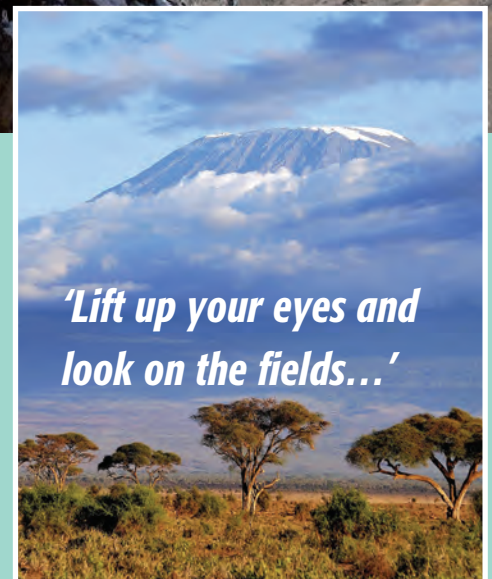
# *Please plan to attend a Special Missionary Night*

*In Ballymena Free Presbyterian Church  
On Friday 28th February 2014 at 8pm*



- To Highlight Free Presbyterian Missionary Endeavour*
- Focus on recent visits to Kenya & Nepal • Multimedia presentations and Reports will be given and Special Missionary Projects announced*

*Information will be outlined on how you can be involved practically as churches, individuals, Youth Fellowships, Sunday Schools, Ladies' Fellowships, etc.*



Missionary Website: [www.fpcmission.org](http://www.fpcmission.org)

**Mission Board Chairman**  
Rev. Ian Harris  
23a Moneydarragh Road  
Annalong  
Newry  
BT34 4TY  
Tel. 028 4376 8040  
Email: [ian.harris960@btinternet.com](mailto:ian.harris960@btinternet.com)

**Presbytery Missionary Officer:**  
Mr. George McConnell  
3 Carginagh Road  
Kilkeel  
Co. Down  
BT34 4NE  
Tel. 028 4176 5574  
Email: [office@fpcmission.org](mailto:office@fpcmission.org)

**Missionary Council Chairman:**  
Rev. David Park  
55 Market Street  
Ballymoney  
Co. Antrim  
BT53 6ED  
Tel. 028 2766 62039  
Email: [revdavidpark@gmail.com](mailto:revdavidpark@gmail.com)

Photography by Glenn Owens [www.GlennOwensPhotography.com](http://www.GlennOwensPhotography.com)

(We are indebted to the professional services provided by Mr. Glenn Owens of Ballymoney, and acknowledge his dedicated work in the field of photography)