

NEPAL TRIP REPORT TO WCV by John Rademaker

WAY BACK WHEN . . .

25 years is a long time to be in the missions business with the same people. It started in 1995 when we were introduced to Noel Isaacs as a young whippersnapper church planter following in the footsteps of his “once raise from the dead” father. He knew only one thing: bring Jesus to the lost at any cost. And he knew how to do it from his dad who came back from death and a visit to the Lord’s heaven, for a second life after he made a deal with the Lord in Heaven where he asked not to return to earth unless he could be twice as effective as an evangelist and church planter. He did come back and his wish was realized. You never took him for coffee: he had no time. My only chance to interview him about heaven and the Lord was me sitting in the back of his Jeep videoing him telling his story on the way to another meeting at a church he had planted. So for the first years I tasked myself to find out what kind of power of the Holy Spirit drives Noel and the Himalayan Vineyard leaders, and to see if it was applicable to me and WCV. We read the same scripture but the outcomes appear different. Matt 28:18 “Jesus said “All power is given unto me in heaven and earth, go therefore and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father.””

Basically it is an unadulterated simple gospel of pure truth without western thought overrides.

They know the message.

They know the methods.

They know the market.

They follow the master.

Fast forward to today, my latest trip In November and the WHAT’S GOING ON THERE OVERALL

1. The PEOPLE

There are multiple thousands of people scattered in the 28 VH churches in Nepal and West Bengal India. The KTM Church is the hub and admin centre. Most of the people are from the low-caste “Dalits” and have come to faith by the attractiveness of the Gospel of Christ through the salvation message and the compassion and mercy activities of the church. People hit a dead end with the religious grids they had and then found the mercy of salvation and the hope of eternal rewards coupled with a meaningful mercy missional lifestyle.

They are an army of passionate believers that want everyone to know about Jesus. So they have regular baptisms and are a vibrant witness to family and friends that see the difference Jesus makes and want the same. Psalm 27:4 “One thing I have desired of the Lord that I will seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold His beauty, and enquire in His temple.”

2. LEADERSHIP in the VH churches is a position in demand. There are a multitude of interns throughout the region that are learning to be leaders alongside the already trained ones. They get their training from a combo of bible study and unction from the Holy Spirit. The leaders at the KTM Vineyard are just ordinary folks that are committed and impassioned to lead others. This means they have to model leadership and stay ahead of the average curve. And they do.

I spent 3 hours with them one afternoon just telling them:

- Who they are (called by God to lead the people of God),
- Exhorting them to become significantly more effective on their efficiencies and effectiveness (so that the people could see the improvement in their models and follow the same way,
- Explaining that they were anointed by God to lead just as David was. (Knowing righteousness from evil is a huge responsibility and requires Gods anointing),
- The call to purity and perfection in our secret lives as leaders must be cultivated and given away to everyone,

1 John 2:20, 27 "You have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth" "As the anointing teaches you about all things...remain in Him."

- The missional call to the poor is of utmost importance

Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor...preach deliverance to the captives...set them at liberty."

SNAPSHOT of my WORDS of ENCOURAGEMENT to the KTM leaders

- God's anointing on you as a leader comes from His acceptance of your passion, intimacy, and obedience to His voice and direction. Your righteousness, purity and desire to be like Jesus is accepted by God as the primary prerequisites to hold your anointing.

- Anointing can be lost by sin and the wrong choices, attitudes and values that can creep in. The Holy Spirit protects you as long as you want it and choose the ever increasing challenges of leadership.

- Ps 45:7 "You love righteousness and hate wickedness, therefore your God has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

- 1 John 2:27 "The anointing you received remains in you and you do not need anyone to teach you." (The level of leadership awareness and growth appeared dramatically higher to me on this visit).

- What is your personal vision for this new year to become an even more effective leader and stay ahead of your flock?

- Hold fast to the basics: first love / righteousness (Rev 2:4 warning) / purity / intimacy.

- Mark 12:30 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength." (I became significantly impacted by their understanding of what our heart plays in their understanding of salvation and sanctification. All they do comes from their innermost being. Again I was reminded that calling people to faith by accepting and believing in Jesus *with our hearts* is fundamental to the first steps of supernatural faith. Narratives that challenge that seem incorrect to me.)

3. CHURCH DEMOGRAPHICS

VH has grown predominantly in rural remote villages. Of the 28 churches only 6 are in larger centres. The remoteness of most villages has been a boon to the receptivity of the gospel. In places the entire village has come to faith. The church has become the primary activity of the area. During the house rebuilding after the earthquake, the church gave new homes to both believers and non-believers. The witness from that decision was significant for an attractive living gospel.

Noel and Dona as directors have 30 Leadership teams they mentor. They have done this very well as Noel is a remarkable net worker and equipper.

The new KTM complex provides adequate admin, spiritual, and social activities for all needs. It's just getting underway and seems to have exciting possibilities in the future. There are not many locations to do complete events for all the people. KTM now is ready to provide that.

4. The new CHURCH and BOUTIQUE HOTEL facility is poised to become a serious activity centre with the 26-unit hotel coming on stream in March. The Hotel will become a provider for funds that will support the VH budget and eventually move VH towards self-sustainability.

This rebuild carries a major vision for the future. The church building is already in use with the sanctuary and overflow floor used every week. The boys and girls floors will eventually see resumption of those ministries for children at risk. Housing, community, and education have provided a foundation for independence for many children. All in all, the rebuild initiative has met all expectations to date and holds significant possibilities for the future.

5. MINISTRY in the name of Jesus to the needy has become foundational to all mercy activities and missional direction.

Matt 25:40 is the call to their vision and mission.

Specifically there has been a growth in activity and effectiveness on the following areas:

- Support for widows that need financial assistance for transportation and food,
- A keen awareness of all community needs inside the church and outside in the community,
- Tailoring schools for women to learn a trade and eventually become self-sufficient with their new machine at graduation,
- Riverbed ministry centre for women and needy families with a new water tank drinking water provision for the people living there,
- Ministries to women from the proceeds of the Nepali Women's Co-op craft sales.

6. The biggest need today is to reestablish a meaningful RELATIONAL CONNECTIVITY to our Himalayan family. It's not only about money as much as it is about the impact they can make on WCV. They are a biblical model of a faith community that we see in scripture. Simple theology that brings the offer of eternal life to the lost.

FINANCIALLY they still need our substantial support. We have faithfully supported them for many years. Closing out the rebuild project together with increased costs from expansion and general living costs calls us forward to keep doing our part. We *cannot* afford to let relationship slip over distance. We've simply been too important a family together for each other, and for the broken world. We are churches separated by distance but knit together in purpose.

7. OVERALL

VH is a vibrant Christian missional effort built on the love of and passion for Jesus. The people are visibly empowered supernaturally by the Holy Spirit. Their lives transmit a message of intimacy and thankfulness for being redeemed from the spiritual darkness they were born into. Now the results of their spiritual rebirth is being translated to a life of invitation for those they love and for all they encounter.

WCV's part in this family has been strategic and a lifeline for VH over these 25 years. Of course it's difficult to stay connected at a distance without personal contact. We are trying to have Noel and Raju here in April. We will rekindle the ties. These folks are wonderful people and we can learn a lot from them going forward.

Let's continue to pray for them and the massive harvest field they live in.





NWC scarf source

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Dona & tailoring school instructor

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7



Noel & Dona Isaacs, Directors of VH

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Church & Boutique Hotel

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Boutique Hotel

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Church – front view

10



Church – top view

12



13-15 Hotel interior

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16-20 Riverbed ministry centre / food distribution

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17



18



19



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Riverbed water tank

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22, 24-25 Riverbed community

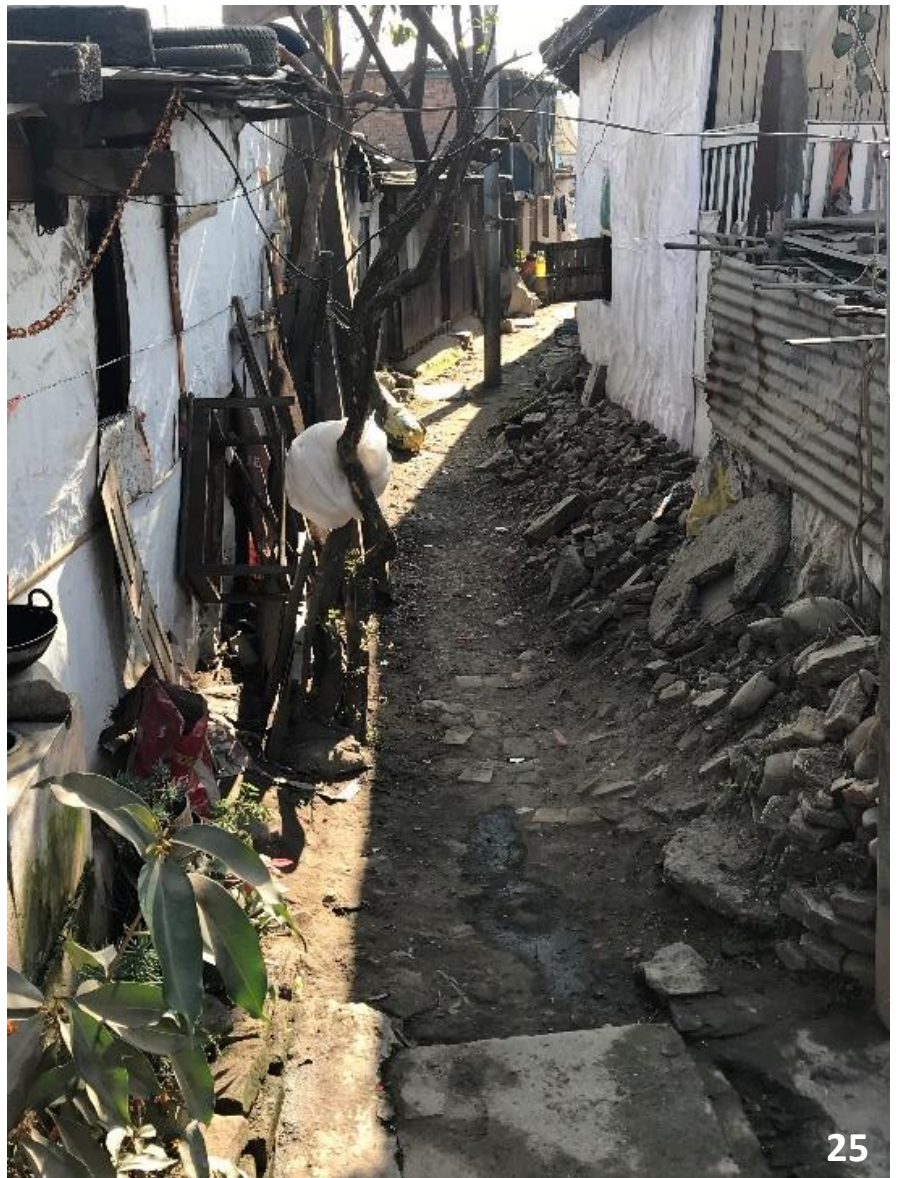
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23



24



25



26



Church gathering

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Baptisms

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29-31 Church lunch sponsored by WCV support

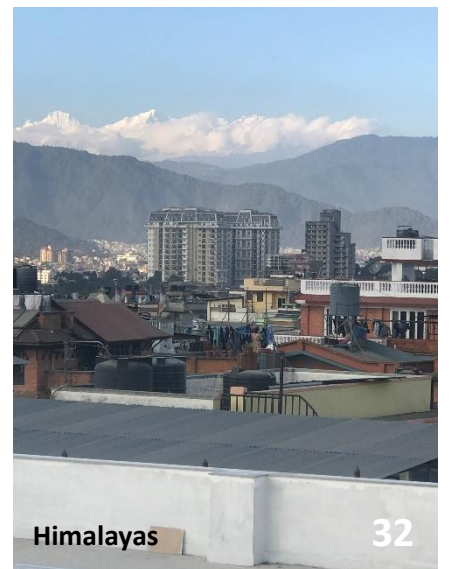
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31



Himalayas

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33-34 KTM leadership team

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Granite staircase to new church

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Local grand opening to Boutique Hotel Nov 2018

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