

# TRAINING THE TRAINER

## Brother Choi's Story

Growing up in his native South Korea, Joseph (Geunmin) Choi never dreamed that he would one day be a missionary to Nepal. By the age of 37, he was happily married to Hannah (Sangsuk) Lee, had a son, Ji Hwan, and had forged out a successful career as a manager in CJ Group, a subsidiary of Samsung. Nonetheless, he began to feel the call of the Lord to serve overseas.



Joseph and Hannah with their son, Ji Hwan

### THE CALL TO MISSIONS

Joseph resigned from his desirable position, turned his back on a life of relative comfort and, together with his family, set off for Kathmandu, Nepal. He remarks that he was quite a beginner when he became a missionary. Being among the first generation of South Korean missionaries, it was typical for him to receive relatively little formal, structured training in mission, thus being largely left to "work it out" through experience.

### NEPAL YEARS

Despite their humble beginnings, God has used Joseph and Hannah in mighty ways in Nepal. Their experiences in this mountainous, largely Hindu nation have been dramatic and varied; ranging from having to stay indoors for several days during a military assault on Kathmandu, to living through the chaotic aftermath of the disastrous 2015 earthquake.



Joseph gives a graduate an award

As Nepal does not officially issue visas for missionaries, Joseph and Hannah were required to set up a tent-making ministry as a springboard for further ministry. They accomplished this by acquiring a family hotel business in Machhegaun, a suburb on the outskirts of Kathmandu. They then looked for ways to make contacts with the local community, composed largely of the Newar people. The Lord provided a unique opportunity through a local school, the New Horizon Academy, of which Joseph took management. Through this school, which became known for its high standard of education, Joseph and Hannah gained standing in the local community. This provided not only opportunities to preach the gospel, but also led to a church plant nearby. Today, Machhegaun Assembly has over 120 believers, and two further church plants have arisen.

### GLO AUSTRALIA

Recognising both Joseph's passion for training and his mission experience, GLO offered him a proposal. It was suggested that he undertake half a year of study to improve his English in the CrossTalk ESL program, followed by 6 months in the mission-oriented CrossTrain program. GLO felt that undertaking CrossTrain, though in many regards covering material familiar to an experienced missionary, would offer Joseph ideas that may one day form a foundation for his own training of future missionaries.

Joseph and Hannah have now completed their sabbatical year in Australia. They look back with fondness on their time here, having particularly enjoyed Australia's outdoors. Joseph remarks that his time undertaking the CrossTrain course has been very useful, having witnessed firsthand an example of structured training for cross-cultural mission. He was also able to attend GLO's National Committee meetings, and this has challenged him to adopt a similar format for the leadership team of the New Horizon Academy back in Nepal.

### FUTURE PLANS

Their immediate plans are to return to South Korea for a few weeks to catch up with their son, and then to head back to Nepal. They feel this will be their final leg in Nepal, and are praying about how the Lord may use them once they retire from the mission field. No doubt the possibility of training future South Korean missionaries will remain at the forefront of Joseph's mind. Please pray for the Lord's continued guidance for Joseph and Hannah into the future. We look forward with anticipation to what the Lord will continue to do in and through them.

By Oskars Stubis



Children at a rural school camp