

THE LORD DIRECTS

His Mission

He Says No in Order to Say Yes



It seems to me that God uses different ways to set us on the right path. One of those ways is frustration. Let me explain.

I am a Brahmin and married to Bimala. We were new Christians, excited about going to GLO in Australia. Our plan was to do the Discipleship Course in Tasmania and then go to Sydney and do the

Internship Course. Notice I said “our plan”? It wasn’t God’s plan, as it turned out. Talk about frustration! But we’re glad it worked out that way.

That was in 2009. We had finished the course in Tasmania and getting ready to move to Sydney but “the Spirit of Jesus would not allow us to.” Actually, that expression comes from Acts 16:6-10. It reads like this:

“Paul and his companions travelled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us’. After Paul had seen the vision, (he and his companions) got ready at once to

“instruments for noble purposes” (2 Timothy 2:20-21).

The first thing we did was to start free English tuition and language classes, thinking I’d be able to use my master’s degree in English. That lasted a year. A lot of people took the classes but we didn’t see much in the way of eternal fruit. We tried other methods but they didn’t work either. We came to the conclusion that these were not the skills God was going to use in our ministry. To be honest, it was a humbling time for us.

his rented room in Pokhara. But it suddenly started to rain. He was late for his class and he didn’t have an umbrella, so he ran toward someone he didn’t know who was sheltering under an open umbrella, and he sheltered under the umbrella with him. The man’s name was Amrit, a new believer who fellowshipped with us. Amrit introduced himself as a Christian and invited Mohan to come to church. To Amrit’s surprise, Mohan said, “I was actually searching for a church. I heard the gospel on the radio



leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called (them) to preach the Gospel to them.”

The experience of Paul and his team seems to have been our experience too. They found that God sometimes says no in order to say yes. We certainly did.

Instead of going to Sydney we “passed by” South Korea and went to Kathmandu in Nepal. We knew Kathmandu well because Bimala and I are Nepalese. We stayed there for a month. Then God directed us to the town we now live in, Pokhara.

“Come over to Pokhara and help us”

The first two years here were challenging. Trials and tests of different kinds hammered at us. Looking back, we now recognise the work of God in making us

We prayed and preached and people got saved

Then we started to see God working in his way. He started sending his chosen people to us by means of personal contacts as well as by disease and other problems of life. A few of them had suffered as the result of demonic activity. We simply prayed and preached and people got saved. As a result a new church was established in Pokhara. About two dozen people have been saved as well as three to four dozen children. We praise the name of the Lord together every week in the Sunday school. We are happy to see God working with us in such ways.

Of course, God’s work is people-work.

Take Mohan for example. Mohan was walking to his campus from

in my village when I was still just a child. I wanted to join a church but there was no church in my village. God knew my heart and brought me to you so that I can go to church from now on”. Mohan started coming to church regularly and in a few months he accepted Christ as his personal Saviour from the fire of hell.

Demolishing strongholds

The story of another young man, Shyam, is also exciting and encouraging. He was newly married and had worked in South Korea but had returned to his home in Nepal because he was troubled by evil spirits. On the 12th of November 2012 I got a call from Amrit who had been home to Parvat, his village, to spend time with his parents. He said to me on the phone, “A family in the village wants you to come and pray and preach the



A new church is underway in the village of Parvat. This new church is largely made up of new Christians like the young man named Maha Lal. He had the idea of visiting homes in the village with gospel literature. He was keen to do this, so he decided to give it a go. So far he has visited 1200 homes, going door to door with Christian booklets. This is even harder than it sounds as the average walking distance from one house to the next is about 25 minutes! He has now been to every house in the greater village, distributing the Good News of Jesus Christ. That's hard work but it's a good work.

gospel to Shyam as no one can help him". He told me that Shyam was nodding his head as fast as a fast-moving ceiling fan! The medical treatment he'd received in South Korea and Nepal hadn't helped him at all, neither had the sacrifice of animals to Hindu goddesses healed him. So they felt helpless. People in their village had never heard the gospel.

When I got the call I was not sure how to respond to them so I spent a week asking God to show me his will about this. It was a new situation to me and I wasn't sure how to handle it. God gave me Proverbs 12:6: "The speech of the upright rescues..." Having received this promise I went to Shyam's village straightaway even though it meant a three-and-a-half hour motorbike ride on a windy single-lane dirt road. I was scared. I only did it in obedience to God for the sake of the gospel.

I spent nearly a week there and shared the gospel with the whole family and prayed for him. Shyam's family said that all of them would follow God if he got healed. As I preached the gospel and prayed for him, God showed his power and Shyam was miraculously healed, so

the whole family and some others—neighbours who had witnessed the superior power of the Christians' God—believed in Christ.

I then wanted to visit there every week but couldn't because of my job in Pokhara. I was working part time teaching to support my family and the ministry. I was very busy translating Christian literature into Nepalese and needed more time for ministry, so I resigned in order to have time to do other things, like visiting Parvat. I used to go there only in the holidays but God set me free from my teaching job after a year and so I was able to visit the place with the gospel every week for about four months. Some other people were saved.

We asked God whether it was his will to start a new church in this area. Eleven people had been saved and baptised. We had a place

Having received this promise I went to Shyam's village straightaway... in obedience to God for the sake of the gospel.

available for meetings. God had called a Christian couple from my home assembly in Kathmandu to head up a new congregation. And, interestingly, the owner of the Hindu temple in front of the



place where we were thinking of establishing the church had destroyed the temple when he came to the Lord. We put all these factors together and came to the prayerful conclusion that it was his will for us to start a new church.

Frustrations are like the finger of God

At the beginning of the new church there were a lot of conversions. That's slowed down now. One reason is the persecution some face, such as parents of new Christians refusing to pay school fees for their teenage children who convert to Christ. Hindu activists in the area also make life difficult for these new Christians. However, God is working in the hearts of many in that village and in the surrounding towns and villages.

The frustrations we experienced, and sometimes still experience, are like the finger of God pointing us in the direction we should go. We are excited now as we wait to see what God is going to do.

By Kamal Pokahrel

