

Works of Grace

GRACE COVENANT INTERNATIONAL

October 2024

River of Hope!



It was an incredible honor to travel with DR Missionary Tyler Franca to Nepal and visit GCI Missionaries Antonio and Graciela Chavez. This year they are celebrating 25 years as missionaries. Their home nation is Paraguay, where Ministry Director Dallas Elder met them more than 15 years ago. They have been serving with GCI for over ten years. They have been involved with serving the needs of people in the love of Christ. They have won souls and been instrumental in planting churches in this predominantly Hindu and Buddhist nation. I (Dallas Elder) asked them to take us to the place where they have recently baptized a host of new believers. They took us to this spot on the river, upstream from Katmandu. Eleven months ago they planted Harvest Church in the capital city. The church now has a congregation of 60 people. We had a powerful time of prayer. We prayed that this river would be symbolic of the Holy Spirit flowing into Katmandu, that people would find

new life in Christ and put their hope in Him. The river flows through the heart of the city. The next day we visited the major complex of Hindu temples on the downstream side of the city. Pictured are funeral pyres. Wood is placed on the platform. The bodies of recently passed loved ones are positioned the wood. The fire is lit. As the fire dies down, the person's ashes are pushed into the river with the "hope" of reincarnation through the power of their "gods." I stood on the bridge viewing this scene. My heart wrenched within me knowing the absolute hopelessness in this whole ritual. The Spirit of God rose up in me and I said, "Come Lord Jesus! You are the only hope!" May the prayers we prayed over the river upstream, bring cleansing, truth and Light where darkness has ruled. May the deceived and desperate find Life and Hope in the Savior who died for them. We are grateful for Antonio and Graciela and their supporters for bringing His Hope here!

More Scenes from Nepal



Meet Pastors Bhim and Sanju and Harvest Church Katmandu, Nepal

Christian churches in Nepal meet on Saturdays because it is a day off of work for everyone. Pastor Sanju led worship and the Presence of the Lord was powerful. Dallas and Tyler ministered the Word of God. The Spirit of God is moving in the work, that's just eleven months old. New people are coming and connecting to the fellowship.

On Sunday, we travelled to another city in Nepal that arranged to gather on that day to host us. Once again, we preached the Word of God. This is the first church that the Chavezes planted. Antonio met the now pastor, years ago on the local soccer field. He complimented him on his soccer play. So began a relationship, that ultimately led to Bikau coming to Christ. This led to his family coming to Christ. Then the Lord called him into ministry. He became the Pastor of this church. He and the church surprised Antonio and Graciela with a grand celebration of their 25 years in ministry in Nepal. What a huge honor!



GCI-West Africa Conference

Pastor Kevin Clancy of The Firehouse Churches-Bremerton, WA was the special speaker at our West African Conference hosted by Missionaries Rob and Lori Mangus in Accra, Ghana. The conference included our GCI point-leaders from Liberia, Nigeria, Benin, Togo and Ghana. There were also a few pastors from Ghana attending for the first time. In total, there were 11 pastors, one School Principle and other guests. The GCI 2024 theme of "Enlarge My Heart" was extended into this conference.

"Pastor Kevin brought teaching on how to hear from God, and the different ways He speaks to us. This was very well received. All the pastors were talking about the fullness of the teachings, and how their hearts were open to being careful in hearing from God. We were all encouraged to be harvesters with revelation, interpretation and application in ministry." ~Lori Mangus



Young Man on the Job!



We are grateful to God to welcome Marquis Harris to our GCI Office Staff. His position is Executive Ministry Director. He serves as an assistant to Ministry Director Dallas Elder. His role is to share in the ministry responsibilities of serving the leaders and ministries of our GCI Ministry Family. He will also shoulder administration tasks, implement and monitor office systems and communications, and provide logistical support for our GCI ministry events. He will further develop our NEX GEN Leadership Connection and Community. We are blessed to add Marquis, Makayla and kiddos: Simone, Jaiden, & Gracelyn to our Team. His start date was September 16.

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"Simply Breath-Taking!"

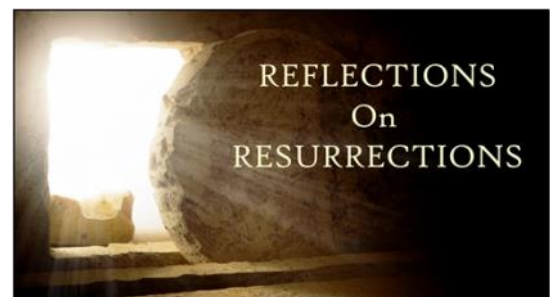
By Dallas Elder

My recent trip to Nepal was simply "breath-taking." It was my first-ever trip to an Asian nation. Going to Nepal required the consideration of extra precaution. It has the reputation of persecution of Christians by Hindu extremists. We planned to visit some of those locations and minister the Word of God. I am very proud of our Missionaries Antonio and Graciela, who have served and persevered through 25 years to gain some tough ground for the Kingdom. It was an honor to be with them, experience the culture and serve the churches. They warned us about the intense spiritual warfare. We prayed and had prayer covering. Nepal is a land of expansive idol worship through Hinduism and Buddhism. There is deep devotion to these "gods" and the associated spirits who serve the Prince of Darkness. There is great resistance to protect these fortresses of evil dominion. To bring the Light of Jesus to bear on the people of the land, invites the fight for supremacy. You are absolutely fully engaged in the conflict between the Kingdom of Light and the kingdom of darkness. But this is what we are called to do!

To fly over the Himalayan Mountains was breath-taking. Their majesty and beauty is only surpassed by our awesome God who created them. They are the highest peaks in the world. The highest peak, of course, is Mount Everest. The region is called the "top of the world." It will take your breath away.

The way the Lord orchestrated our trip was amazing: from our accommodations, to Divine people encounters, revelations He gave us, churches where we ministered, lives that were touched (one man healed). It was like the old song: "I felt the earth move under my feet." (Carole King) We saw the Light advancing in a land of shadows; the power of God conquering and overcoming the powers of darkness.

Continued >>>



Spiritual Growth Seminar: "Reflections on Resurrections." Saturday, November 9 (9am-12:30pm) at Living Hope-Oakdale, CA
Register now through:
www.GraCov.com

Mark Your Calendar!
GCI Ministry Conference 2025
March 4-7
Platte City, MO

It was as if God took us to one of the Himalayan peaks. From that lofty precipice, we could see clearly that He is bringing breakthrough. There is definitely a Kingdom shift taking place. In a land, like some other nations, that has been wrought with intimidating persecution, spiritual barrenness and “called the graveyard of missionaries,” there is a harvest being reaped. Spiritually, it was an enrapturing and breath-taking experience.

Taking ground for the Kingdom is a serious and arduous effort. The battle can be intense. There is opposition and spiritual warfare, attacks and counter-attacks. I have learned through the years, that you pray prior to the Kingdom mission, during and after. It stands to reason that you pray before and during. However, praying following the mission is equally important. When you have wholeheartedly served and spent yourself for the mission, “left it all on the field for Jesus,” it is then that the enemy often launches the counter attack.

We logged 35 hours of airport and flight time to go from Kansas City to Katmandu. We hit the ground running. We served five straight days. Then did the same 35 hours on the way back, plus two more hours due to delay. It might sound like I’m whining. It’s been said, “There’s no crying in baseball!” (*A League of Their Own*-movie) There’s no crying in ministry! I came back depleted and with a severe chest congestion that made it difficult to breath. It was as if one of the snakes of the Hindu idols was coiled around my rib cage and constricting. It was a work of a Serpent. It was more than physical. It was also spiritual, an oppressive counter-attack. I had great Kingdom victories to share, but no breath to do it. Be aware, the devil wants to take your breath away. He wants to stifle your proclamation of the Gospel. He wants to muffle your declaration of goals scored and victories won for Jesus. He wants to silence your God stories to deny their hope for people in desperate circumstances. He will attempt to mute your praise and hinder your prayers. He wants to take your breath way! People don’t like to talk about it, but suffering is part of the faith walk. It’s par for the ministry course. It’s part of the Kingdom conflict to bring more of Jesus into more of the world.

“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that

has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. For it is time for judgment to begin with God’s household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And, “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.” (I Peter 4:12-19)

Wait! What? There will be Godly people who suffer according to God’s will? That can’t be right! Can it? Anybody come to mind who suffered according to God’s will? Well, ...there was Jesus. He suffered. He was put down. But then, He got up!

There was Paul. *“Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. ...”* (Acts 14:19-20)

There is ebb and flow in the battle to claim ground for the Lord Jesus Christ. You’re going to deliver some blows and you’re going to take some shots. Not all stones launched your way will be of the physical “rock” nature. Some are spiritual stones. So when you’ve been pelted with stones and laid out for bit, you’ll have a decision to make. Will you take a deep breath, get up, get back in the fight, and declare what Christ has done? *“he (Paul) got up and went back into the city.”* ...I got up!

**“Let everything that has breath,
praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.” (PS 150:6)**

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