

BANGLADESH – NEPAL MISSIONS
MARCH - APRIL 2021 REPORT

With the resurgence of Covid cases in many states and the emphasis upon vaccinations I have still not attempted to resume travel to report to congregations. And, of course, I have not yet attempted to return to South Asia. We continue to pray that travel will resume soon.

My wife, Brenda, and I are now fully vaccinated. Highland Park has resumed all worship assemblies and classes but continue to have special adult classes and early worship with masks required for our older and more vulnerable members. I teach a Bible class (adult) on both Wednesday afternoons (masks required) and Sunday evenings (masks recommended).

Jesu Soren, a young preacher and Khulna Bible College graduate reported 5 baptisms during the last week of April, one of which is shown in the photo below. He is in Naogaon district in the northwestern corner of Bangladesh. His congregation is Desi Para, which he established in his home village upon graduating from KBC.



Jesu Soren baptizing 1 of 5 in Desi Para, Bangladesh

Both Bangladesh and Nepal have issued new lockdown orders within these past 2 months because of surges of new cases in both nations and especially because of the huge surge in cases in India. These two countries each share most of their borders with their larger neighbor. India is currently reporting more than 400,000 new cases daily, and are greatly short of hospital rooms, oxygen, and other medicines and treatment equipment and facilities. The lockdowns in the two smaller countries are in part motivated by the need to prevent exposure from India.

Khulna Bible College is in the last few weeks of the 2020-21 academic year. If the lockdown continues beyond the end of the semester most of our students will have to remain on campus for a few days or weeks until they are able to travel to their homes. Only intra-district (local) transportation is functioning during the lock-down; there are no long-distance buses or trains operating. This same situation is true in Nepal as well which means that travel is largely stalled until the restrictions are removed.

In spite of Covid restrictions in these countries and limitations on my ability to travel, the work continues. Preachers are visiting in their communities to encourage their brothers and sisters as well as to study with non-Christians. Many appeals for help have been received and responded to generously by the congregations.

While unable to return to Asia I am regularly conducting Bible studies virtually using Zoom and other media. I write and send a brief publication called "Stirrings" monthly in which I seek to teach and encourage the preachers and other leaders in those nations. Meanwhile I plan and pray for opportunities to resume travel and mission campaigns.

Your support is needed now more than ever, both financially and through prayer and encouragement. Not only is there much activity in Nepal and Bangladesh now; we must also be prepared to quickly resume previous programs just as soon as that is possible. Thank you for your interest in and support of this good work.

M.E.B.

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Memorial Gifts:

Donations were made in March to the work of the Bangladesh/Nepal Missions in memory of the following:

Mary Alice Wilhelm
Ronald Kendrick

Sterlin Smith
Grant Azbell Sr

Shirley Butler
Jerri O'Dell

Scott Hollimon
Veston Logan