

## **BANGLADESH – NEPAL MISSIONS REPORT**

### **JANUARY 2023**

The new year of 2023 began for Bangladesh-Nepal Missions with several visits to report to supporting congregations. First was a trip to Florida to report in Palatka and Branford on Sunday, January 8. Brenda and I were also able to include a visit with our daughter and her family during the previous week.

The remaining Sundays in January were spent preaching at Highland Park (1/15), and reporting at Brilliant (1/22) and Gravel Hill, both in Alabama (1/29). I also taught Bible Classes on Sunday nights (except for the 8th) and Wednesday nights (except for the 4th).

In January I began a study of "How We Got the Bible" on Wednesday nights using material which I have written plus the book by Neil Lightfoot by the same name. Brother Lightfoot's book is in its 3rd (revised and expanded) edition and is an excellent treatment of the history of the printed and translated Bible as we have it today. I highly recommend it for personal or class study.

I have continued to meet with the administrators of Khulna Bible College every week via Zoom. This allows us to discuss the needs of the school and its progress in depth and keeps me current on any problems which may arise. One of the Bangladeshi preachers has reported 3 baptisms during January for which we rejoice.

For the last few years there has been unrest in the Hill Tracts of Eastern Bangladesh between tribal groups who have immigrated from India and Myanmar over several generations and the Bangladeshi majority and government. In late 2022 and early 2023 that has erupted into fighting between a "Rebel" army and the Bangladesh army which has resulted in several deaths. One of those battles occurred in late January in the village of Basatlang in Bandarban district of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (extreme southeastern Bangladesh), resulting in at least three Bangladesh army fatalities and several injuries. This is some of the most remote territory in the country. There are at least 5 congregations of Churches of Christ near Basatlang and most of the members there fled the fighting for safety. One of the preachers is now in the regional town of Ruma with his family and other members, where he has two brothers living. Several other Christians are "camping" in forested areas.

One part-time worker named Nehemiah was apprehended by the Bangladesh army and held in one of their camps for a few days but has now been released and is with his family. They are still in hiding.

Such incidents as these remind us that many people in the world face dangers that we consider remote or impossible here in the U.S. We are greatly blessed in this nation. Those blessings allow us to give comfort and support to those who do not share them. May we always be grateful and show our love for God by loving others who are less fortunate.

Michael E. Brooks



*Bangladeshi soldier killed in Basatlang*



*Christian family from Basatlang finding refuge in rental house in district town*