
NEWS FROM NORLAN DE GROOT

Working with MINTS International Seminary

December 2024

Celebrating a New Building for Bhaktapur Theological Seminary

In October, I traveled to Bhaktapur, Nepal, to attend a building dedication for Bhaktapur Theological Seminary. Pastors from



One of the new classrooms at Bhaktapur Theological Seminary.

churches throughout the Kathmandu Valley attended the dedication ceremony. Rob Brinks from Reformed Mission Services also attended. RMS was instrumental in providing funding for the construction of the building.

The seminary has been training church leaders for several years. With the construction of a seminary building, it can begin making plans for a residential campus, where students from all over Nepal will come to study. Christianity is growing in Nepal, and Bhaktapur Theological Seminary will be an excellent



Celebrating through music at the building dedication for Bhaktapur Theological Seminary.

resource for providing church leaders who are trained with a solid theological foundation. In Nepal, the academic year begins in February. Bhaktapur Theological Seminary is already preparing for another batch of students to begin at that time.

Always Be Ready

Last year in one of my newsletters, I wrote about my experience sharing the gospel with a husband and wife at the Tokyo airport. Well, it happened again. This time, I was heading home from Kathmandu and waiting in line to go through customs at the Tribhuvan International Airport.

I met a young man from Israel who had been trekking in the Himalayas. We spent a few minutes discussing the war in the Middle East until we were called to meet with the customs officer.

After customs, we had about an

hour to relax before the flight, so we had time for a good conversation. It turns out that while he was ethnically Jewish, he followed Scientology. He spent some time telling me about L. Ron Hubbard's book *Dianetics*. Then he asked me what I believed, so I told him I was a Christian.

He said, "Oh, that's interesting. I've studied many different religions, and they all have one main purpose. What would you say is the main purpose for Christians?"

I told him, "To glorify God and enjoy him forever."

Then he said, "Many religions

who believe in a god try to glorify him. What makes Christianity unique?"

"Other religions focus on what man has to do for God," I said, "but Christianity focuses on what Christ did for us."

"But if that's true," he said, "why do you still have to glorify him? Isn't that something you have to do for God?"

"No," I answered, "We glorify God because we are thankful for what Christ has already done for us. We don't earn our salvation. Christ earned it for us. So now, we just want

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Always Be Ready (continued)

to show him how grateful we are."

"That's beautiful," he said.

He tried to explain how I could incorporate Scientology into my Christianity, but he could tell I wasn't convinced. So he ended up encouraging me to study Scientology. I, in turn, encouraged him to find a Christian friend and investigate Christianity further.

I doubt this man became a Christian that day, but I don't think the hour I spent with him was wasted. It reminded me of 1 Peter 3:15, "In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect."

God gives us many opportunities to tell others about the hope that is in us. Twice now, he opened an



Tribhuvan International Airport

opportunity for me while I was standing in line at an airport. But it doesn't have to be there. It could be

anywhere at any time. Even so, I'm still kind of looking forward to the next time I have to fly.

Items for Prayer

- Please pray for me as I make travel plans for 2025. In particular, please pray that God would grant me some relief from recent back pain.
- Praise the Lord for the new seminary building in Bhaktapur, Nepal. Pray that God will use this new building for his glory and the strengthening of Christ's kingdom in Nepal.
- Please ask the Lord to give strength to Suraj Kasula as he takes over more responsibilities as the new South Asia Coordinator for MINTS. Pray that he may continue to meet all the responsibilities in his roles of pastor, teacher, administrator, husband, and father.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will work in the heart of the young man I met at Tribhuvan International Airport. Pray that the Holy Spirit will turn his heart from a heart of stone to a heart of flesh.
- Pray that the Lord will provide many more opportunities for me to share the gospel with unbelievers.
- Pray for Reformed Mission Services as it supports many mission projects throughout the world.

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Lethbridge, AB T1H 6B7

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