

Nepal

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"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

Colossians 1:13-14 (NIV Version)

Buddha was born at Lumpini, Nepal. Even though Nepal has been primarily a Hindu country in the past, Buddha is equally honored along with Shiva and other Hindu gods.

In 2008 a new opportunity began when the Hindu monarchy finally ended after pro-democracy protests. This initially led to an era of opportunities for Christian ministry. However, the backlash against religious conversion and the "hurting of religious sentiment" have now been criminalized. These laws are specifically directed at Christian missions.

Thousands of Nepalese Buddhists live in the high mountains of Nepal. They deal with a harsh climate, limited agricultural land, and intense poverty. Families traditionally send one son to the military and one to serve as a Buddhist monk. Some children are sent to charity schools in larger cities. Frequently a daughter is sold to an "employment broker" who is really taking them to India and the sex trade.

The image of Christianity in Nepal is as a foreign, mostly Western, intrusion that undermines traditional culture and values and appeals only to the lower castes. Despite this we are seeing a growing strength among Nepalese Christians as they forge a fully Nepali, fully Christian identity.

That being said, persecution remains and is intensifying. This comes from the religious majority, but also socially within families and communities. Pray for grace and perseverance for believers, and that Christians will be accepted and appreciated for their contribution to the nation's well being.



Ways To Pray:

- Pray for the Nepal Christian Society as it seeks to provide a forum for prayer, sharing, unity, and cooperative ministries.
- Ask that God will send dreams and visions of Jesus to lamas and the heads of Buddhist households across the mountains of Nepal.
- Pray for laborers who will travel from village to village in the high mountains, telling the stories of Jesus to whole families.

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