



## Pastor's Perspective — The Fields Are Ripe for Harvest

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

The church that I spoke to in Nepal three weeks ago Sunday was in Sunkhani, a remote mountain village about 20 kilometers from Kathmandu. I was told that travel there would take two hours and require special transportation due to the difficulty of the terrain and the need to walk the 45 minutes once we reached the end of the road.

When we left Kathmandu that morning, the plan was to arrive in Sunkhani at ten for the start of the worship service. As it worked out, we didn't get there until noon, but everyone was still there, waiting for our arrival. Two hours later (after an hour of singing and testimonies, and another hour of translated sermon) the service concluded and we shared a meal with the church before making our way back to the city.

As we walked in and out of the village that day, I was accompanied by Pastor Goré Tamang, the man who had planted that church, and others, and had also given overall direction to the conference that we had been part of earlier that week. At several points along the way, Goré stopped to direct my attention to various hamlets dotting the hillside. Pointing to one he said, "There are five Christian families in that village that walk 6 to 8 kilometers to Sunkhani every Sunday. When there are ten families, we will start a church there." Pointing to another, he said, "There are three

Christians in that village, Pastor Aaron Tamang (no relation, but the Pastor of the Sunkhani Baptist Church) will be going there tomorrow to study the Bible with them and to help them reach their community for Christ." Another time, "There are twenty-two houses in that village, but no Christians. We are praying that God would give us people in that village for Him." Then, "There are five Christians in that village. They face many pressures. We must encourage them in the Lord." This went on again and again.

Is it any wonder why Nepali churches like the one in Sunkhani are seeing village after village won to Jesus Christ by the Gospel? It seems to me that they have taken seriously what Jesus told His disciples in John 4: "...open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." These churches have opened their eyes to see. They have set their hearts on working those fields, and now, village by village, house by house, from one family to another, they are reaping the harvest that God has prepared. There is no reason to believe that God works differently here.

### 2010 Bible Memory Challenge

Our verse for November is Luke 16:13:

*No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.*

## Expressing Our Gratitude

A Thanksgiving Eve service will be held in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday evening, November 24. This gathering allows us to share with each other how the Lord has met our needs over the past year

*Psalm 107:1 Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever.*

as individuals, families, fellow servants of the gospel, and American citizens. Please plan to join us as we rejoice in God's goodness and faithfulness, expressing our gratitude to Him through the singing of songs, reading of Scripture, and sharing of personal testimonies of thanksgiving. Guests are welcome. Light refreshments will be provided.

## Strengthening Our Men

The 2010 Men's Retreat is scheduled for Friday evening December 10 through late Saturday afternoon December 11 at Skycroft Conference and Retreat Center in Middletown, MD. Comfortable lodging will be provided in their motel facility. Skycroft also offers a wide variety of indoor and outdoor recreational activities as well as places to simply relax.

The retreat is a great opportunity for beneficial quiet time and personal reflection as well as meaningful fellowship with our brothers in Christ. Our speaker is Dr. Milo Thompson, former President of Baptist Bible College & Seminary in Clarks Summit,

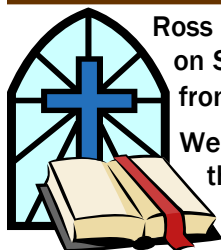
...[Jesus] said to them, "Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place..."  
Mark 6:31

PA. Dr. Thompson spoke at our 2006 retreat, and his ministry was very much appreciated. We look forward to how the Lord will use him in our lives this year.

A sign-up sheet is available in the church foyer. Participation is open to all men and young men grade 7 and above. The registration deadline is November 24, and the cost is \$70 per person. Our prayer is that all of Fellowship's men and young men will take advantage of this opportunity to grow in their walk with the Lord and in their relationships with one another. Our men are also strongly encouraged to bring friends.

**Christmas ensemble practice begins on Sunday, November 7 at 4:30 PM. If the Lord has given you the ability to sing, please consider serving in this music ministry! Our vocal ensemble will present Christmas music during the evening service on Sunday, December 19.**

# Success in Bible Teaching



Ross Martello, from Regular Baptist Press, will lead a *Success in Bible Teaching Seminar* at Fellowship on Saturday, November 20. We will start with a light breakfast at 8:00 AM, and the seminar will run from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. There is no cost for this training.

We already have a good number of our Christian education staff signed up for the seminar, but there is room for more. We believe that all of our teachers, leaders and helpers will benefit as Mr. Martello equips us to share the Word more effectively. This seminar will be open to people from other churches in our area, so we need to know very soon how many people from Fellowship will be attending. See Joe Robinson, our Deacon for Christian Education, with any questions.

## Pictorial Directory

Jill Porter, who has her own photography business, has graciously agreed to produce a pictorial directory for Fellowship. She will hold sittings at the church on Saturday, November 6 and Saturday, November 13. We would really like to see each person and family in our church included in the directory. This will be of great benefit to those



who are relatively new to Fellowship, and will also allow us as a church family to be reminded of one another and pray for one another. There is no obligation to purchase photographs, and you will even be given a free 8 x 10 just for participating. Please see Jill at the next worship service to sign up for your sitting.

## Service Opportunities



Women's Ministries is sponsoring the Operation Christmas Child project once again this year. This involves filling shoe boxes with items for needy children, and these boxes are used by Christian workers around the world to share the love of Christ and His life-saving gospel. Flyers are available in the church foyer with detailed instructions. Everyone is encouraged to help out! We hope to exceed the 34 boxes we filled in 2009.

Our Fall Workday will be held on Saturday, November 13 from 8:00 AM to about NOON. Please come out and give us a hand! We will be raking leaves, washing windows, clearing gutters, etc. See Doug Mount for more information.



## Calendar

Nov. 6, 13	Church Directory Pictures
Nov. 9	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Nov. 13	Fall Workday (8:00 AM)
Nov. 20	Teacher Training Seminar (8:00 AM)
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Eve Service (7:30 PM)

Women's Ministries' annual Christmas party will be held on Friday, December 3. Ladies, please put this event on your calendar and plan to attend.

## Thanksgiving Offering

Throughout the month of November, the congregation is encouraged to demonstrate our thanks for the Lord's goodness by contributing to a Thanksgiving offering. Our goal for this offering is \$5,000, and these funds will be used to help build a \$30,000 emergency reserve in the Building Fund. Establishing this reserve is the first phase of our Post-Mortgage Ministry Plan designed to address facility needs in order to enable the church to expand the impact we are having for Christ in our community.

## Money Matters

Like September, General Fund giving was low in October, falling \$2,926 short of the monthly need. For the first time this year we ended the month with a shortfall in year-to-date contributions to the General Fund. Please pray for the Lord to continue to provide.

October Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,705
Weekly Need	\$5,290
Year-to-Date General Fund Giving	\$231,501
Year-to-Date General Fund Need	\$232,770
Year-to-Date Building Fund Giving	\$2,946