

Nagrakata, Mirik of India and East Nepal Campaign August 11 – 19, 2012

By the grace of God the Father and prayers of my brothers and sisters in Christ, I got the invitation to do the campaign works in Lord with the brethren and churches in Nagrakata division of west Bengal state of India in the late July. I got this invitation from Brothers Samuel Majhi, Paraju Majhi of Nagrakata and Shanti Chettri of Anarmani Birtamode Church of Christ. Brother Shanti is working in this area from over 20 years and planted churches there. I am thankful to God that he invited me to join him and brethren there in this Lord's work in 2002 December. Since then I am working with him, churches and brethren there.

Aug 11, Saturday, I left home at the mid afternoon and reached Anarmani Birtamode at late afternoon. After visiting Brother Shanti and his family we had evening devotional with his family and few other church member there in Birtamode that night from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. There were 12 people there with me in the devotional.

Aug 12, Sunday, we had morning worship service at Anarmani, Birtamode Church of Christ. Including me there were 17 people in the service. After the service Shanti and I have visited Brother Bharat Rayamajhi from Surunga whom I know from over 10 years. Since there was transport strike that day we couldn't able to visit other churches in Jhapa. We also had evening service and devotional at Birtamode.



Bible Study at Anarmani Birtamode Church



At the Sulkapara Church

Aug 13, Monday morning at 7:00 am Brother Shanti and I left Birtamode and went to Kakarvitta a border town of Nepal with India. We enter to India through Panitanki town and we got a 9:30 am bus from Raniganj (Panitanki) to go Nagrakata. We traveled in a overcrowded bus in a hot summer day of August of India via Siliguri city, crossing Tista River by coronation bridge constructed by British India over 100 years ago. When bus dropped us in Sulkamore of Nagrakata it was almost 1:00 pm, from there we got a cycle rickshaw and reached Sulkapara. We were glad to see and visit our brothers and sisters there. That evening from 6:00 – 8:00 pm we had fellowship service with 22 brothers and sisters there in Sulkapara.

Aug 14, Tuesday morning we have visited brothers and sisters in Sulkapara. At 2:30 pm afternoon me, Shanti, Samuel, Paraju and his younger brother traveled in two motorcycles to Dudumari, around 25 KM east south of Nagrakata. It's a monsoon season in south Asia, due to heavy rain we stopped in two places and reached Dudumari at 4: 30 pm. When we reached Dudumari we were almost soaked by the rain. We were visiting a family of Brother Jagannath Mahali there who and his wife were baptized 10 years ago when they were in Luksan nearby Nagrakata. Later they left Luksan and settled in Dudumari village. Recently Brother Paraju and Samuel reestablish contact with him, visiting them regularly and brought them back to the church since they were going to a denomination church there. They are also teaching and preaching Jagannath's neighbors. We were there to encourage him and his family in Christ. We had fellowship with the family till 6: 30 pm and including us there were 10 people. We left Dudumari village at 7:00 pm, it was raining, not hard like afternoon, when we reach Sulkapara it was dark and almost 8 pm.



Brother Jagannath's home at Dudumari



Jagannath family

Brother Paraju and Samuel are working to establish a congregation in Dudumari through Brother Jagannath's family. At present they work in Sulkapara Church a 55+ members congregation and Kurti Church a 45 members congregation nearby Nagrakata. This area is a tea plantation area of northeast India, called Dooars near from eastern boarder of Nepal. In this area mostly Nepali origin and Sadri tribal people lives. Most of the people speaks Nepali and Sadri Language. When we goes there we mostly teach and preach in Hindi language a national language of India as asked by the brethrens there.



Bible Study at Kurti Church



Gospel Meeting at Kurti of Nagrakata division

August 15, Wednesday, It was the day when brothers have organized a Bible study and gospel meeting in Kurti church of Christ. At 8: 00 am we went to Kurti, it is 30 minutes drive northeast of Sulkapara. Sulkapara is on the southwest and Kurti is on the northeastern part from Nagrakata town. Church here at Kurti was planted by Brothers Shanti, Paraju and Samuel around four years ago and the church meets in a brother Samuel Hemrum's house. It is a growing church and there were 12 baptism there in Feb 2012. We have started fellowship from 9:00 am and went to 11 am. There were little over 70 people including church members and children were gathered inside Samuel's house for Bible Study. There were also 20+ members from Sulkapara church. From 11: 30 am to 2: 00 pm we had gospel meeting outside the house, and there were 100+ people were there including children. Brother Shanti and I took the Bible class and preached the gospel. After the gospel meeting 7 people came ahead for baptism. Brother Paraju Majhi baptized them in the small stream nearby. After coming back from Kurti to Sulkapara, we have visited brothers and sisters at that night in Paraju's house.



Baptism



Seven people added to the church

August 16, Thursday at 6: 30 am we have decided to travel back to Siliguri by train and went to Indian Railways station at Nagrakata. Train came to the station at 7:15 and left after five minutes. In the train we have been able to meet some Nepali people. One of them was Lab Kumar Bhujel a school teacher and a Baptist church member from Hasimara further east from Nagrakata. We have talked with him about the church of Christ and how we can restore New Testament church now. He has given me his address and cell phone number and requested me to send Christian literature. We reached Siliguri at around 10:00 am. We took a 12: 30 pm truck to Mirik reached there almost at 3:00 pm. Brother Markus Thapa was waiting for us at the downtown Mirik. Again we took a truck to go to Okaiti Tea Garden

where Markus and his family lives. When we reached his house it was 5:00 pm. We have visited him and his family to encourage them in Christ. A congregation meets at his house and mostly members there are from his family. Okaiti is a border village of India with Nepal. Samalbong church of Christ is on the other side at Ilam, Nepal. It is little less than an hour walk west from there. These Samalbong and Okaiti congregations are working together to evangelize both parts of Nepal and India. They were brought in to Christ by brother Shanti in mid nineties. It was my 2nd visit to Mirik in this year 2012. If we regularly work with the brethren there Shanti and I see the possibilities of growth of church in this area in future. That evening Shanti and I had fellowship with 10 people mostly Markus, his family and some members of the church there in Okaiti, Mirik.



Bro Markus and family



Mirik town from hilltop

August 17, Friday we left Markus house and Okaiti at 7 : 00 am, reached downtown Mirik at 8: 30 and took 9:00 am truck to Kakarvitta a border town of Nepal via Panighatta. We reached border at 11:00 am and when we reached Shanti house in Anarmani, Birtamode it was little after noon. Having rest at his house for some time we left for Surunga, Jhapa at 4 pm. There is a congregation at Surunga that meets at Brother Bharat Rayamajhi's house. After reaching there at Surunga at 5:00 pm we had fellowship there from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at Bharat's house, including me and Shanti there were 12 people in the fellowship. After service we visited brothers and sisters and we stayed that night in Bharat's house.



With brothers in Surunga



Sister Radha and Brother Bharat Rayamajhi

August 18, Saturday noon we left Surunga to go to Dharan a city in east Nepal where our brother in Christ Kaziman Shrestha is living from last six years with his family. He work with the church there in Dharan and evangelizing nearby villages also. Because of his and Brother Chandra's effort

church at Dharan is growing. They are having Sunday morning and evening services in church now. That afternoon after reaching Dharan we had Bible study with 10 people at Kaziman's house from 4:00 – 5:30 pm. After that we visited Chandra and his family and as usual we stayed at Chandra's home that night.



Bible Study at Dharan Church

August 19, Sunday we have participated in morning Bible study and worship service from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon with the church at Dharan. There were 27 people with us. Church meets at the upper floor of brother Chandra's home. Dharan is a city with over hundred thousand people in it. There is a medical college and few other Art and Science colleges also in it. It is a hub town of several hilly districts and towns of east Nepal. We see possibilities of growth of church here and we can use Dharan as a launching pad for evangelizing eastern hill town and districts like Dhankuta, Hile, Khadbari, Bhojpur and Basantapur as well. After the service brother Shanti and I had farewell visit with brothers and sisters in Dharan church. At 1:45 pm I took bus to Biratnagar to come back home.

This trip was encouraging to me and I believe we have been able to encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ in these areas. I always feel very near to Lord, whenever I visit my brethrens and churches there. I strongly believe that by the help of our brothers like Shanti, Kaziman, Chandra, Ganesh, Bharat in east Nepal and Paraju, Samuel, Hemrom, Markus, and Kanchan (Markus' son) in west Bengal, India we can work more effectively in Lord. If we can have more evangelical trips in these areas and more Bible study and seminar we can evangelize more areas and people and encourage brothers and sisters in the service of our Lord. For that we have to have at least 10 to 15 days three trips a year and have Bible study classes and evangelism as well. For that we are in need of more tracts and literature for Church and spiritual Growth. We need your prayers and help for this endeavor in Christ.

Other needs of the churches in these area that will help the churches to grow:

- 1) Church Buildings in Kurti:** This is a growing church of over 40 members in it now. Brothers and sisters are very active in this church in evangelism and fellowship. The church here and in Sulkapara made of by the tea plantation Indian Tribal workers whose income is very low. Though they are very generous in their service to saints. Brother Samuel Hemrom and Bikram Sabar are working together with Sulkapara brothers for the growth of church here. Church meets in the house of Samuel Hemrom. Since the church is growing they are in need of a building. Bikram Sabar have already donated a piece of land for that and brothers and sister are ready to do the construction labor work building consruction. Church in need of US \$ 2,000

(Indian Rupee 100,000.00) only to construct 28' X 14' zinc roof building that can hold little over 70 people in it.

- 2) **Church Building at Sulkapara:** Church of Christ at Sulkapara have a land purchased in the name of church where they have constructed a temporary meeting shed earlier. We have done Gospel campaigns, Bible studies and fellowships there several times in the past. When we reached there this time we have found out that shed is destroyed by recent rainstorm. Brother Samuel and Paraju requested us to convey church request for building to all of you. As I have told earlier all of the members here are tea plantation laborers. Bro Shanti and I know that building here not only be a better facility for church here, it will help them to grow and we can have Bible classes and gospel meetings as well in that building. In the past we have hired tents to conduct such meetings. A 32' X 16' feet zinc roof building for church meeting, classes and 10' X 12' two extra rooms for office and store will cost US \$ 4,000 (Indian Rupee 200,000.00) only.



Sulkapara Church building in Feb 2012



in Aug 2012

We hope you will kindly consider these requests and pray for it. We are always thankful to God for your continuous encouragement and generous support to us in His service. Keep us in your regular prayer as you in ours. God bless you richly in His service.

In His Service,

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