In Nepal, youth revival meeting is denomination

A weekend youth rally in Nepal earlier this month, the first for the Seventh-day Adventist Church there, underscores how the denomination is growing in the formerly Hindu nation.

You are subscribed to email updates from IAD News. To stop receiving these emails, you may unsubscribe now.

Google Inc., 20 West Kinzie, Chicago IL USA 60610
In Nepal, youth revival meeting is denomination

Inter-American Division  >  Communication Department

Libna Stevens  SHARE  May 31, 2011

A weekend youth rally in Nepal earlier this month, the first for the Seventh-day Adventist Church there, underscores how the denomination is growing in the formerly Hindu nation.

27 May 2011, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States...ANN staff

A weekend youth rally in Nepal earlier this month, the first for the Seventh-day Adventist Church there, underscores how the denomination is growing in the formerly Hindu nation.

Some 350 Adventists under the age of 30 from Nepal and Northern India met from May 4 to 8 for the Nepali Youth for Christ conference in Banepa, about 20 miles east of the capital Kathmandu.

Many walked for days from their remote villages to bus stops to attend the conference, which included preaching and workshops on spiritual leadership, Bible study and health. At night, attendees slept on cement floors with a thin mat and blanket.

"These were some of the most earnest young Adventists I've ever met in my 10 years of preaching to youth," said Jeffrey Rosario, an instructor at the Sonora, California-based ARISE Institute in the United States, who spoke at the conference.

The conference leadership team was comprised of eight people, all between the ages of 16 and 21. Eighteen-year-old Madeline Cardona led in organizing the meeting.

Rosario said other young Adventists are helping to lead the church in Nepal. Flora, 20, helps run an orphanage that rescues children, many of whom are born and raised in prison with their inmate mothers. "For $400, a child can have food, clothing and shelter there for an entire year," Rosario said. "I felt like the guy at the end of Schindler's List: 'this car, it's worth 10 people, this gold pin, it's worth two more people.'" It made him think of his own possessions, he said.

"In my world, most 20-year-olds are more interested in Lady Gaga's new single or the latest gossip on Facebook," Rosario said.

Rosario's language interpreter for the conference, Philip Dangal, 19, and his younger brother David are recent converts and developing preachers. Their father was a witchdoctor who converted to Adventism.

"The gospel has clearly changed their entire family," Rosario said.

Attendees spent Saturday afternoon on the streets of Banepa and surrounding villages sharing literature about Jesus, including church co-founder Ellen G. White's book Steps to Christ, translated into Nepali.

"It is heartening to see how the young people longed for the Adventist literature in the Nepali language, but that there are so few in print," said Bhaju Ram Shrestha, the first Adventist in Nepal.

"We want Jesus to come soon, and he is too kind to come soon because millions of Nepalese have not heard the sweetness of his presence, for what is the use of his second coming if the people have not experienced his first coming," Shrestha said.

Much of the Adventist Church's infrastructure in Nepal surrounds Scheer Memorial Hospital, an Adventist institution established in 1960.

According to the Adventist yearbook, there are about 8,000 Adventists in Nepal, up from about...