Nepal is a Hindu-majority nation of 27 million people sandwiched between India and China along the Tibetan border. The first entire Bible was translated into Nepali in 1914.

In the 1940s, it was illegal to change religions in Nepal. It was also illegal to preach anything other than the Hindu religion or to teach any other way of governance than the "Rana" royalty that was ruling Nepal. This included democracy, for example, and four pro-democracy activists were executed in 1944. That same year, eight Theravada Buddhist monks came to Nepal and began to preach and draw large crowds. As the government did not trust anything that might cause a crowd to gather, the monks were arrested and brought before the prime minister. They were told not only that they could not preach, write, convert or ordain, but they also must sign a written statement promising that they would not engage in proselytizing. This they refused to do. They were escorted to the border by the army and crossed
over into India. The effect of this action was the opposite of what the government anticipated. They received extremely bad international press and the eight monks received sympathy from around the world. Two years later, Theravada Buddhism was allowed back into Nepal with diplomatic urging and pressure from Sri Lanka. Kumar Bhante, one of the original eight, returned to Nepal and died this year at age 85. His passing reminded reporters of his dedication and loyalty to his religion.

Seventh-day Adventists organized in Nepal in 1989

Current membership: 8447

While persecution is not as common as it used to be, it is still a major issue for believers there. Attacks against Christians are especially frequent when one converts from Hinduism and they flex their majority muscles. Persecution can also happen when they convert from Buddhism, which is around 16% of the population.

While the anti-conversion laws are not officially in effect in Nepal, the Nepali government in their ongoing process of drafting a constitution has used anti-conversion law language. Nepal is particularly unstable during this process.

For Seventh-day Adventists the focus is that “grand old story within which all stories find their meaning.” That quote is from a Nepali/Seventh-day Adventist Youth pastor. He knows that Seventh-day Adventists are called to be “witnesses” for their faith in Nepal. A witness tells a personal story. It is true because they testify of what they have seen, heard and handled of the living Word. These witnesses need to have a loyalty that exceeds the loyalty of the monks in 1944 because it is based on the living Truth.

“God has given us the gift of speech that we may recite to others His dealing with us, that His love and compassion may touch other hearts, and that praise may arise from other souls also to Him who has called them out of darkness into His marvelous light. The Lord has said, “Ye are My witnesses.” Isaiah 43:10.” “These precious acknowledgments to the praise of the glory of His grace, when supported by a Christ-like life, have an irresistible power that works for the salvation of souls”. Christian Education, page 129 and Desire of Ages, page 347.

We ask that this be our prayer focus. The Nepalese need to know what we know, and are experiencing with Jesus.
“What the church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use - men of prayer, men mighty in prayer.” E. M. Bounds

“He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” John 8:12

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