

## Summary report on Assessment visit

**Date:** May 4-9, 2015

**Team members:**

Rev.Kabi Gangmei, Director APBAid

Mr. Anderson Tokbi, Project Officer APBAid

Mr. Atungo Shitri, Secretary Peace & Justice, CBCNEI

Mr. M S Dawngliana, Secretary Relief & Development, BCM



Darshan church where over 20 persons killed

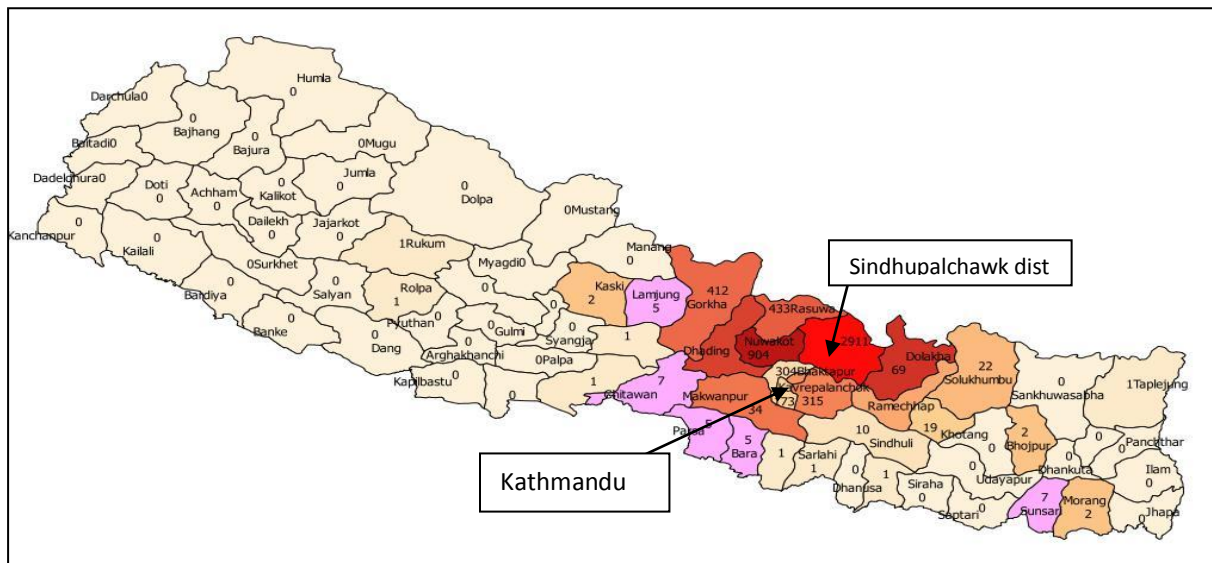


Roadside shelter in Kolangki area, Kathmandu

On 25 April 2015, earthquake with magnitude of 7.8 struck the Himalayan country of Nepal, leaving behind great devastation across the nation. The country continues to feel aftershocks causing fear and tension among the people, yesterday (May 12, 2015) series of 5 shocks ranging up to 7.3 occurred.

**Earthquake affected areas:**

13 districts were declared as ‘disaster-hit crisis’: They were Gorkha, Lamjung, Dhading, Rasuwa, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Kavrepalanchowk, Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha, Nuwakot, Makawanpur and Kaski.



**Update information** as on 05.05.2015 (*source: Government of Nepal*)

	<b>Dead</b>	<b>Injured</b>	<b>Govt. Houses Fully Destroyed</b>	<b>Govt. Houses Partially Destroyed</b>	<b>Public House Fully Destroyed</b>	<b>Public House Partially Destroyed</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,652</b>	<b>16,392</b>	<b>10,761</b>	<b>14,804</b>	<b>279,234</b>	<b>237,068</b>

The latest quake yesterday (May 12, 2015) resulted in 68 deaths and over 1000 injured (NTDV).

**Objective of the visit and NBCC**

APBAid mobilized a team from the churches of North East India and led a pastoral visit to our Baptist brethren in Nepal. The objective of the visit was to stand with them in this time of difficulties and do assessment of the situation how best we can help them. This is in view of the fact that the first Baptists in Nepal were of NE India origin, and there is close rapport between the two Churches.

The strength of Nepal Baptist Church Council (NBCC) is 167 churches, 250 fellowships with 17,000 members. NBCC also run a Bible College with 5 faculty staff and 36 students. (*Source: Rev. Jirman Rai, General Secretary NBCC*)

The overall situation in Kathmandu was fast returning back to normalcy, and life moves on as usual. However in remote villages people are still gripped with fear, and there are many villages even at the outskirts of Kathmandu city where aid did not reach, and bodies were not retrieved.

**May 4, 2015**

The visiting team first came to Living Baptist Church, Lalitpur and Rev Kabi briefed the leaders of NBCC-MCDS about the purpose of the visit. It was reported that the Church was converted into relief centre shelter for families who could not stay at home and centre for relief distribution. The youths of the church also actively helped the relief tasks.

Crisis Relief & Services Training (CREST) team from Malaysia led by Eddy Hew joined hands with NBCC Disaster Response Team to do immediate assessment and relief services. We were impressed to see CREST team funding relief materials for 100 families being sorted out by the NBCC Disaster Response Team (NBCCDRC) / MCDS at Living Baptist Church in Kathmandu. Rev Victor Rambeth, Chair of APBAid, who was also in Kathmandu on behalf of his Indonesian Government, came to the Church and interacted briefly with Mr John Narayan Rai (NBCC-DRC Coordinator), Mr Dipak Rai (MCDS Executive Director).



Sorting out of relief materials for 100 families



Relief tents at public ground, Kathmandu

**May 5, 2015**

Kabi and Anderson had a day long visit to the office of NBCC-MCDS and worked on a proposal for immediate relief response with focus on the rural areas, and outskirts of Kathmandu city.



Atungo Shitri visited affected areas of Dolakha district in coordination with Pastor Rajendra Malla and Pastor Deepak. They were able to visit places like Khadichaur, Lakuridanda and Panchkhal Kavre where the impact was heaviest. At Panchkhal Kavre, Alfa Church was completely destroyed and 8 members of the church were buried alive – 5 belong to the family of Pastor Sitara. He claimed that relief effort of the government had not yet reached the area.



Destruction at Khadichaur villages in Dolakha district

M S Dawnga visited the 2 Mizo missionaries from Baptist Church of Mizoram, Rev. T Rodingliana and James Lalnunhlua, and inquired their well being. Later in the afternoon, the team went out to see the affected areas in the Kathmandu valley.

**May 6, 2015**

Anderson along with Dipak Rai, Director of MCDS prepared a proposal for emergency relief while Rev Kabi worked with Mr John Narayan, the Coordinator of NBCC Disaster Response Team on formulating a long term project proposal. There was intense discussion on strengthening the capacity of NBCC-MCDS.

In the afternoon, the team visited the office of International Nepal Fellowship (INF) and met Alastair Seaman, the head of INF and interacted with him on points of common interest. He opined that shelter and health care would be of great need as monsoon rains start to arrive. As much of historical sites were destroyed and high peaks were closed for mountaineers tourism would be affected, and livelihood would be of great concern.

**May 7, 2015**

Eddy Rubble, a representative from Cooperative Baptist Fellowship joined us for a meeting with the NBCC-MCDS leaders. There was discussion again on capacity building and issues pertaining to operation of disaster relief and recovery services.

The team met and interacted with Rev Joseph Tseng, from Chinese Baptist Convention (CBC-Taiwan) at the NBCC office. A small CBC team had come earlier and were working NBCC-MCDS.

Kabi, Atungo and Anderson went to visit Nepal Baptist Bible College and had a good interaction with the principal, Subash Pradhan. The rented building in which the college was running was safe, except for a few cracks and the entire 5 faculty staff and 36 students were fine. At the time of the visit they were given 2 week recess to visit their respective families.

In the afternoon the team went to visit the earthquake affected sites in Kathmandu district and later on had fellowship dinner hosted by 2 missionaries from Nagaland, Moa Jamir and Demo at Agape Day Care Centre. Rev Victor Rambeth also joined us. It was informed that all the missionaries from NE India were fine, and they were able to communicate their news to their respective homes.



### **May 8, 2015**

NBCC leaders convened a special consultation (09:00 AM to 12:00 Noon) on the response to the need aftermath of earthquake. Important leaders of NBCC participated in the consultation - Rev. Ratna Bahadur Rai, President; Rev. Jirman Rai, General Secretary; John Narayan Rai, Coordinator DRC; Dipak Raj Rai, Executive Director MCDS; and Rev. Rajendra Malla, Treasurer of NBCC-MCDS and pastor of Living Baptist Church. Rev Kabi, Eddy, Atungo and Anderson participated in this consultation. Concerns like overall capacity of MCDS, structures, policies, staff matters were deliberated and felt the need to be further enhanced and streamlined. It was agreed in principle to prepare a 3-years recovery proposal with the following points -

1. concentrate on 4 districts of Lalitpur, Dolkha, Gorkha, Sindhupalchowk; and start on the gains of MCDS program in Lalitpur district in 6 months time after the emergency phase is over.
2. focus on 3 broad areas – (a) Community Support program (Psycho-social, education, health etc), (b) Livelihood recovery program, and (c) Reconstruction program (homes, schools, churches, water sources etc).
3. seek and work with a mentor (consultant), who will be posted by the donors in Kathmandu.

In the afternoon, the team met Zanietso Vero and (Ms) Asangla Sangliar, missionaries from Nagaland who came to visit the team.

Kabi and Eddy had a fruitful meeting with TAI representative Dan Skehan. They had outlined together how the BreaD network would work, general idea of their focus and the coming of Roundtable conference to be held on May 19-22, 2015. Later we met together with Chris Seach of World Concern. It was discussed together that one of the best efforts would to help our Baptist brethren be active in their own communities, and tap resources coming through government, and the UN Aid. In this way they would be helping more of the poor/needy and at the same time be able to witness with their service.

It was also shared that Psycho-social inputs will be crucial in the coming months as people come to term with the realities of the earthquake-aftermath. It was heartening to see that NBCC-MCDS is working on this and we need to strengthen it.

## **May 9, 2015**

Saturday being a worship day for Christians in Nepal, Rev. Kabi went to share the message at Living Baptist Church and Anderson Tokbi went to join Dhapakhel Baptist Church with Pastor Hari Gurung. He also shared the message in the worship service. Early in the morning Anderson went to visit Yanger Longkumer, a missionary from Nagaland who has been running a training Institute for lay leaders. He worked with NBCC closely.

After the worship service Rev. Kabi went to visit Rise and Shine office, an organization involved in helping widows in Central Nepal areas. Sabina Chamling, the head of the project informed that all the member- widows were safe, except two of them having their homes collapsed in Butwal area. They start to form SHGs and about to launch a small kitchen garden project with the support of a lady in Malaysia.

### **Outcome of the project**

- **Fellowship and interaction** with leaders of NBCC-MCDS, Principal of Nepal Baptist Bible College including Rev Hari Gurung (Pioneer of NBCC) missionaries from North East India
- **Immediate (Emergency) Relief Proposal**
- **Longer term Recovery Proposal** which will be ready by May 16 2015.
- **Reaffirmed commitment to support and enhance the capacity of NBCC-MCDS** in providing relief and recovery services to the affected community.

### **Team who had come and work with NBCC-MCDS:**

1. Hungarian Baptist Aid, (arrive on April 28 and left on May 2, 2015)
2. CREST team from Malaysia,
3. CBC team from Taiwan,
4. BGR team (Southern Baptists)

### **Conclusion**

It is observed that Baptist churches in Nepal are growing and are more or less self dependent, not too overtly dependent on assistance from outside. They had kick-started their relief program and along the way came a contribution of \$10,000 each from TAI and BWAid. APBF-APBAid along with the missionaries from NE India would like to reaffirm their commitment to further build up this strength of NBCC-MCDS. The team was impressed by the service given by team like CREST (a Methodist team from Malaysia) and CBC team from Taiwan who were working hard to reach out to the affected people.

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### **Abbreviation used:**

1. APBAid: Asia Pacific Baptist Aid
2. APBF: Asia Pacific Baptist Federation
3. BCM: Baptist Church of Mizoram
4. BWAid: Baptist World Aid
5. BGR: Baptist Global Response of Southern Baptist
6. CBC: Chinese Baptist Convention, Taiwan
7. CBCNEI: Council of Baptist Churches in North East India
8. CREST: Crisis Relief and Service Training, Malayasia
9. INF: International Nepal Fellowship
10. NBCC: Nepal Baptist Church Council
11. NBCCDRC: Nepal Baptist Church Council Disaster Response Team
12. MCDS: Multipurpose Community Development Service
13. TAI: Transform Aid International (Baptist World Aid Australia)

**Mail Address and electronic contact of NBCC-MCDS:**

**Rev. Jir Man Rai**

General Secretary, Nepal Baptist Church Council (NBCC)

P.O.Box 8975, EPC. 1051

Kathmandu, Nepal

**Phone:** 977 (01) 6915648, 977-9841233198

**Email:** [nbccnepal@gmail.com](mailto:nbccnepal@gmail.com); [gsnbcc@gmail.com](mailto:gsnbcc@gmail.com)

**Dipak Raj Rai**

Executive Director, Multipurpose Community Development Service

Nepal Baptist Church Council

**Contact No:** 9851121650 (mobile) & Office land line: 012230245 (Off)

**Email:** [mcds.executivedirector@gmail.com](mailto:mcds.executivedirector@gmail.com)

**Rev John Narayan Rai,**

Disaster Response Committee, Nepal Baptist Church Council,

**Email:** [narayanrai155@hotmail.com](mailto:narayanrai155@hotmail.com); [nbccdrc@gmail.com](mailto:nbccdrc@gmail.com)