

27 April 2015

From: Nepal BIC Church/Brethren in Community Welfare Society

Greetings in Him!

Thank you so much for your concern and prayer in this time of difficulties. Because of the earthquake all our mobile, telephone and internet connection were disturbed and therefore our communication with our people and churches was completely disconnected and we were unable to send any information to you also. Just from this evening the internet began to work and so I am able to send this mail.

A strong (7.9) earthquake hit Nepal in the area halfway between capital Kathmandu and tourist town Pokhara. The earthquake was followed by many powerful aftershocks and a new earthquake (6.7) hit Nepal on Sunday 26 April. According to a news report, a total of 45 tremors above 4.5 in Richter scale and 15 above 6.5 in Richter scale were felt in Nepal until Sunday evening.

The earthquakes caused extensive damage to buildings and thousands of deaths and injuries and were even felt in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. Many (historic) buildings collapsed, temples have been ruined, and roads destroyed, more than 3400 deaths in Nepal.

Saturday is the worship day in Nepal and most churches have worship time between 10.00 AM to 12.30 PM. The terrifying earthquake came just in the last part of the worship hour at 11:56 AM Nepali time and most believers ran out from the church to save their lives; some got injured badly while running out, some were trapped under buildings, whereas others were buried alive in the church building as it collapsed. Although it is unclear, some have reported 100 believers of a church in Kathmandu who were worshipping on the 7th floor of a rented building which completely collapsed; some 40 dead bodies were taken out whereas others are still missing. It was a great loss and day of misery in the history of Nepal. All of our BIC Church believers in Kathmandu are safe, except two were injured while running out from the church. Although the epi center was between Kathmandu and Pokhara, and most damage took place in the surrounding area, it also terrified people throughout the country and many lost their lives and houses were damaged.

Most of our BIC Churches are in eastern Nepal and all our church members are safe, but it has affected church buildings and homes of our believers. Our BIC Church office and SPISE Hostel building are also safe, but two sides of the boundary wall of SPISE hostel in Biratnagar have collapsed and the other side is cracked. As in small Richter scale the earthquake continues to tremble in every hour and on the other hand there is rumor spreading out that there will be another earthquake in bigger Richter scale and so people are very frightened and sleep outside their homes at night. While I was writing this mail, I felt another earthquake. Sister Cynthia, from India, is also with us, and experienced this earthquake. She had come to meet and help all BIC Nepal delegates and non-delegates for their preparation to the MWC Assembly. While I was writing this mail I felt another earthquake. The media news reported that the earthquake center is moving towards the east. Please continue to pray for the grieving families and daily life.