



Praying with a project beneficiary

A MESSAGE FROM NCM CANADA TEAM

Thank you for your ongoing support of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Canada! In the next few weeks, as we participate in Missions Conventions and District Assemblies I encourage you to stop by the NCM Canada display table and meet with members of our team.

This spring, after a long gap with no travel, Alan Cristales and Nicky Solis visited our projects in Malawi, Kenya, Nepal and Bangladesh and have returned with lots of interesting and inspiring stories and pictures to share. Some of those are in this newsletter and others will be on our website or sent out on social media over the next few months. Please like and share!

This will be my final year with NCM Canada. As I pass the baton of ministry to a very passionate and capable team led by Alan Cristales, I encourage you to pray for the NCM Canada team as they faithfully serve God and lead the ministry of NCM Canada into the future!

Signed, Elaine Bumstead, Executive Director

In this newsletter, read about a recent visit from NCM Canada team members to countries we are serving in:

- A new Church Plant in northwestern Kenya
- Healing through Relationships in Nepal
- Church growth & Water Wells in Bangladesh
- Sustainable growth in Malawi

More stories and project updates available on our social media.



Learning about paper making as an Income-Generating Activity (IGA)

A NEW CHURCH PLANT

Following a Food Assistance project in 2021 funded through Canadian Foodgrains Bank, 5.5 acres of land in the Turkana area were gifted to the Nazarene church by a local Tribesman. He was moved to give this land after seeing that the church responded to the needs of the people. This led Pr. Yoli, a local minister, to initiate a new preaching point on this land.

During their recent visit, Alan and Nicole met with local church leaders, community and church members at the site of the 5.5 acres. During their gathering, Rev. John, District Superintendent for Northwest Kenya, accompanied the team to dedicate the land. Leading into a time of prayer, he reminded those present that, "God has his eye on Turkana". As he prayed, he took soil in his hands, and slowly released it into the wind giving thanks to God for what He has done. As part of the gathering, several church leaders were also presented with their ordination credentials. This was a clear message that the church is present.

Once the construction of a Solar Water System is completed, there are plans to introduce Conservation Agriculture to the nomadic people of Turkana to help address food insecurity. This comes as a result of the people expressing their desire and willingness to learn new farming techniques. The Turkana area experiences periods of prolonged drought. Despite recent rains which lasted for about a week – the first significant rainfall since 2020 – this part of the country is typically dry and semi-arid.



Elder Credential presentation



Praising God with church plant members



Planning meeting with local church leaders

*Join us in prayer as
God leads us
further into the remote
corners of Kenya!*

HEALING THROUGH RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Upon visiting a Self-Help Group (SHG) in Nepal, we had the opportunity to discuss the benefit of forming SHG's and how they help to make communities more resilient. During our discussion, we learned that many people in the project area fell victim to a corporation which ended up stealing from them. Their trust in outside groups was shattered.

Since joining the agriculture and livelihoods project being implemented by NCM Nepal, the people's perception of outside groups – in this case, the church - has changed for the better. The chair of the SHG expressed her gratitude towards the church (NCM) for their integrity in carrying out this project. The Kirat religion, a form of animism, is the dominant religion in this part of the country. As ministries of compassion are being implemented, the perception of the church is gaining strength. In turn, with intentionality and over time, people seek to learn more about the church. Many times, it is the project staff who are the evangelists, leading people to Christ and linking them to a local church to plug into. Join us in praying for NCM project staff and volunteers as they witness to people from all walks of life, in word and deed!



Meeting with an all women's Self-Help Group



ESTABLISHING CHURCH PRESENCE

Formal greetings are expected when starting a meeting in the community. Our visit to an all-women's Self-Help Group (SHG) in Bangladesh was no exception. Before spending an enriching time discussing project activities, our session opened with a few formalities. First, a reciting from the Quran, followed by a Hindu prayer. Then, a prayer led by a Christian Nazarene woman.

After visiting a few beneficiary homes in the area we began to make our way to leave. As we were headed towards our vehicle, a woman approached us wanting to share some news. She was part of the women's SHG. She is also part of a local Nazarene home church meeting in the area. She eagerly showed us an area on her land with banana trees where she hopes to construct a physical church building.

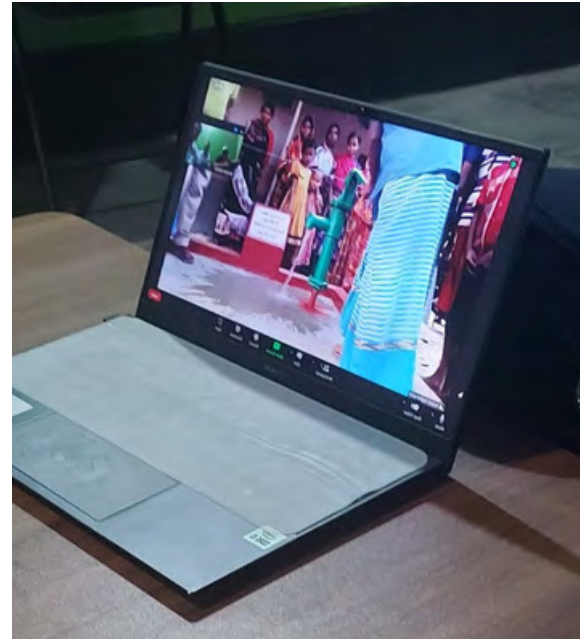
This is an example of how ministries of compassion can help to establish the church's presence as people are empowered!

Members of Kennedy Road Church of the Nazarene in Ontario were moved to give towards a much needed gift of clean water. The scarcity of safe, potable water is high in several identified areas of Bangladesh. The local people often resort to using water from wells, rivers and canals for drinking, cooking and showering. This impacts their health negatively as they experience water borne diseases frequently.

As the community physically gathered around the newly built deep tube well, they then connected virtually so that NCM team members gathered in the office of the District Superintendent could join them. As God's people, we came together to dedicate the well and anything that happens on the premises to God's glory!

9 more deep tube wells are in process of being installed.

WATER IS LIFE



SUSTAINABLE GROWTH IN ZUKUMA, MALAWI

NCM Canada team members had the opportunity to visit Zukuma in March 2023 as part of their regular project management activities. As they walked through the area, they noticed small buildings being constructed near the homes of the teachers, which are meant to serve as food storage and cooking areas.

The community has come together to supply the handmade bricks and all the associated labour for these structures. As part of a Teacher's Houses and Latrines project in 2019-21, a committee comprised of key leaders was formed to manage any ongoing maintenance needs of the properties. As part of their function, they are overseeing the construction of the new, self-funded and locally built kitchens, and renovations to the headmaster's house.

The Zukuma community is well on its way towards sustainable growth, depending less and less on external bodies to move forward.

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