

External Ministries Newsletter 7:

The temperature outside is definitely dropping as we head through Advent and prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. Here is a selection of news from around the globe and some of the various ministries that CCW supports.



NEPAL: SAGOAL, CCW-Tearfund Connected Church Partner

October news



Tomas* (name changed) lives in Bhadaure, Bardiya district. Bhadaure is a rural village which takes least 16 hours to reach from the nearest city, usually it takes longer (as the CCW team found out in 2018 !!) At 18 years old, Tomas has just completed class 10 at the local secondary school about 2km walk from his house. He lives with his father, step-mother and three siblings. As is most common here, the whole family live in a tiny house with one room and have no accompanying land. Without land families can't grow crops to eat themselves or sell for income, so are plummeted further into poverty.



Tomas in front of his house (Photo: Sagoal/Tearfund)

To try and stay afloat, Tomas' father works as a migrant labourer in India. He sends money back every few months but hasn't seen his family for two and a half years. His step-mother works in a nearby hotel washing dishes. She works from 6am-6pm daily for just 225 Nepali rupees (about two dollars). Unsurprisingly this is not enough to feed the whole family. With no other skills

or educational qualifications for other work, she was not able to afford Tomas' school fees. Instead of going to school, he was forced to work as a labourer on road construction sites to support his family. The Z... Church is the local congregation in Bhadaure and has been engaging with the Sangsangai process. Tomas' mother attends each week for worship and prayer. She told the leaders how Tomas was unable to go to school regularly because she couldn't afford to send him.

AND SO THE LEADERS PRAYED

Seeking God's wisdom through prayer they felt called to pay Tomas' tuition fees. They set up an arrangement with the school and Tomas has been able to start back in class 10, surrounded by his friends and a renewed hope for the future. Praise God!

'I am so grateful for my church family coming together to get me back into school. I have been spared from a very painful situation and given a chance to break the cycle of poverty that has kept my family trapped for generations. I am so blessed!'

After he finished school Tomas plans to attend two months discipleship training with Z Church, and after that get some skills training so he is able to find a job that pays a fair wage to support himself and his family.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM SAGOAL

Dear friends, we wish you a Merry Christmas on the advent of our Lord Jesus Christ!

THIS YEAR, WE ARE THANKFUL FOR...

We were able to complete the first phase of the Sangsangai (CCMP) process in Western part of Nepal in which **135 local facilitators were trained** on the Sangsangai process modules.

Some churches were able to access local government funding for the construction of their church building.

We were able to train local churches on local government planning processes, proposal writing and basic accounting, all of which have helped them be better equipped internally.

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We were able to train some local elected representatives in Surkhet district (mid-western part of the country) on local disaster management.

Some very poor families in Surkhet were supported by Sagoal to rebuild their houses because they were in such bad condition but the families could not afford to rebuild themselves.

THIS CHRISTMAS, PLEASE PRAY FOR...

We are in the process of recruiting new staff members. Please pray that the right people would be found.

We are continuing the Sangsangai process in Bardiya and Kailali districts (mid-western part of Nepal). We plan to reach almost 400 churches and envision them on integral mission in the coming three year period. Please pray for us as we are on the preparation phase of this project to scale up our work.

Thank you for your continuous prayers for the work of Sagoal and Merry Christmas!



AANANDIT FELLOWSHIP NEWS:

November 28th 2019

Top 11 matters to Praise God

1. It is such joy to report that 5 people received baptism on 22nd of Nov. at Aanandit.
2. Ezra Leadership (Pastor) Training started since October for 3 months, but this time we will finish just before Christmas. This is the 1st Batch where 12 participants from around the country learning from the Words. We are really enjoying teaching what we have learnt from Ichthus Training and also our own experiences in the ministries. We have few other teachers for different subjects.
3. Youth Program in Nagarkot took place on Oct 5-6 around 50 youth have participated. All youth have been inspired by the Words, worship, teaching, prayer ministries and other activities.
4. Money Management Course taken place at Aanandit Church on Sept 30. Thanks to Catriona and Juliet for your valuable input.
5. Church Building Dedication in new location has taken place Oct 4th, where we have travelled on that day but it was during the festival so taken almost 8 hours to get there which normally takes 3 hours. Though it was such hectic time still we could dedicate the building on that day.
6. Oct 7-8 we had 2 days program at the church as it was during the Hindu Festival time. We also invited other churches and our friends blessed them with inspiring words.
7. Shusma travelled to Canada for 3 weeks in mid -October. She has been blessed a lot and manage to share and speak in different churches and meetings. I was particularly enjoyed looking after 3 daughters. Phew !!!

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8. Again another Youth Camp was held for for 3 days, during Deewali Festival time in Sankhu. Praise God for their hearts for the Lord.

9. Shusma and me (Milan)are and were preaching at the different churches and teaching at the Training Centers and seminars. We often invited to speak at the Devotions and also as a guest Speakers. We love it.

10. Claire and Steve from St.Albans, UK has been a great blessings to our Children and also they are giving Bakery Training to our people at the Aanandit church. Two dozens of people are learning to bake. We hope we will start a Bakery shop at the church soon which was originally the Bread Factory 20 years ago!!!

11. Another Church has been planted at the Training Center but it is called Destiny and our Training co-ordinator Mr. D B has been ordained as a Pastor to lead that church. We are so glad for these all.



Prayers Please:

1. Please consider to join Aanandit Partners Week, 24-30 April 2020 or pray for this. For more details please feel free to contact. This is the first time we are having such program in Nepal.

2. New Church Building going to be built in M B so please pray that we will find the right builder and more finances too.

3. More church could be planted as we train people through the training. Please pray that next batch of students of the Training, that will start from April to June 2020.

4. For the forthcoming Carol Singing and Christmas Celebration at our church in Nepal.

5. For our health and strength as we serve the church/community and look after our daughters.

6. We are planning to build a house for the Young ladies (Girls Hostel) so that they could have safe home to continue their study and stay after the Children Home.

7. Please pray for our all the church Pastors and Leaders and for their family. All could be inspired to serve Him continually to make Him glorified in this nation.

8. Our country still needs prayers for the development and for the religious freedom.

Thank you so much for your kind prayers and thoughts. We really appreciate your prayers and partnership for the Aanandit Church and Charity.

MARTINA AND TONY

They have been busy in Northern Cyprus as well as having to cope with times of separation with ongoing visa restrictions making life difficult for them. Here are some updates covering the last few months.

23rd October 2019: Greetings from a warm but increasingly autumnal Cyprus! The days are still warm and mostly sunny, but nights have started cooling down, and for a couple of days wind swept over the island. The sea is still beautiful, and the water warm and inviting for swimming - the locals though would think that the season for swimming in the sea is over, e.g. all the sunbeds got removed from the local beach after those gusts of wind last weekend. We're at the end of the first month of the training program. All six students have settled in well. We've enjoyed food from different countries, as



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everybody takes turns in cooking - Martina reckons she's never had such a variety of breakfasts in her whole life, picked olives and almonds together, worked in the vineyards.

The hotel garden has changed remarkably - ever since Tony set eyes on it, he's had that desire to see the garden restored, and he's been consistently working on it with periodic help from the students. Martina is still spending a lot of time in the kitchen, and is in the process right now of gradually handing over responsibility to the students in areas such as planning the menu, getting the shopping done, keeping the kitchen tidy (seems to be more of a challenge than producing food), etc.

The students are developing an understanding of how to study the Bible. They are required to read right through the scriptures within the three months, and it's been exciting for us to see how they start putting OT and NT passages together and discover connections between different parts of the Bible.

We've done some prayer walking in the village. It's been very moving to see the abandoned village church (this used to be a Greek village) and to pray and worship inside the ruins. We've had a day of silence - the peace and quiet being welcomed by the introverts, and a real challenge for the extroverts. The students have been writing and sharing their own Psalms, daring to reveal their inner journeys, including the struggles.

There have been moments of crises, which, though troublesome at the time, passed without lasting damage to relationships.

There seems to be more of an ease in relationships developing, the ease that comes when people are familiar with each other and accept each other the way they are.

It was a great privilege to be present at the baptism of three new believers, all from the Middle East, all part of the Turkish fellowship in nearby Famagusta.

Our involvement in the fellowship unfortunately is limited to Sunday meetings, as public transport is very poor, so we are dependent on getting lifts to anywhere that is not in walking distance from the hotel.

We are grateful for the weather, a bit cooler but still pleasant, and less itching insect bites, for growing relationships between the students, and an overall good spirit that continues. Some of the students have revealed some inner struggles, please pray with us they would meet with God in the midst of these struggles

Laws in Cyprus concerning foreigners are changing, which is putting extra stress on various colleagues of ours.

Martina will be returning to Ankara in two weeks time, while Tony continues to stay. Please pray for a smooth transition. Thank you for your continued prayer. A lot of our input to the students is by living with them, please pray that they would see something worth noticing in us.

25th October: I'm on my way back to Ankara, my flight is at 10pm local time, will be in Ankara at 11.15pm, Tony stays on in Cyprus

26th October: I'm safely back in Ankara, and happy to find our flat in good order, even the internet, and the hot water is working! It's a lovely sunny autumn day, and I'm looking forward to meeting up with the fellowship here for worship night tonight, and the service tomorrow morning.

28th November: Yes, it's strange to be here without Tony. it's been necessary for me to come back as soon as I could to sort out things in the flat - there was a problem with the water pipes which urgently needed sorting out.

It's been a strange in between time as I'm going back to re-join the group for their last two weeks - I definitely want to see them graduate!

I'm actually flying to Cyprus this Saturday Nov 30 and will be back with Tony in Ankara on Dec 16.

With all this coming and going it's difficult to get involved in a Journey Group. I'm glad the groups are going ahead, there will be a Turkish group starting again probably sometime in

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spring, and for the first time with local leadership (i.e. one of the newly trained local lady together with one of us more experienced foreigners). Whether or not I will be able to be part of that depends on our visa situation.

Meanwhile I've been continuing with meeting ladies one to one, just today I've been doing an OT Bible study, time well worth spending with that lovely local lady. And I've been continuing being involved with Sozos, encouraged by what I see happen through it.

7th December: We are now approaching the last week of the program in Cyprus. The students are graduating on Friday, and our flight back to Ankara has been booked for Monday Dec 16. The weather has changed, nights are cold, days cooler but still sunny most of the time. There have been downpours of rain, very welcome in this part of the world.

Martina has just returned to join the students for the final stretch after having been in Ankara for five weeks. She was sorting out water problems in the flat. As the flat had been empty for three months, there was a lot of cleaning, washing curtains etc. to do while weather still permitted. She got back into meeting up with people, doing prayer ministry, Sozos, and Bible studies, encouraged by seeing the church well attended all five weeks.

In Martina's absence the group has been discovering more of the island, they went hiking in the mountains and feeding carrots to wild donkeys on a trip to the tip of the peninsula.

The hotel garden is still in bloom, and different citrus fruits are ready for harvesting.

Tony found himself cutting down banana trees damaged by storm, being advised by the African students. Olive picking has continued till recently. The group became quite efficient at it as time went on, nevertheless glad it's all done now.

That experience has given us new insights into biblical references to olives and olive trees.

The students all finished reading through the Bible, and clearly have grown in their understanding of the scriptures, which shows by the way they are doing devotions.

They've become a tight knit group with very good relationships and a lot of joking and banter going on between them.

They have all grown and matured, a noticeable change for such a short period of time. With some of them the change is quite striking.

Now the big question for them is: What next?

Some will go back home to continue their education. Others knew already where they were heading before coming to the program, and will be continuing to the next stage.

Some have just made decisions about what to do next. Others are still unsure.

Please pray for the students at this important time.

Love and greetings, *Martina and Tony*

Good News Foundation Hungary

The Iszak church has been refurbished and looks more like a church now. During Gareth's most recent visit the attendance at the gypsy church was not as high as previously however due to it being harvest time fewer might have been able to attend but the numbers at GNF were also down. One big development is that Kori is now working with a Pastor from Budapest, who has had experience planting gypsy churches and the oversight of gypsy church will now come under his remit. It is still early days and remains to be seen how this might work. It is expected that there will be further requests for Gareth to visit however the funding of such visits will need to come from Hungary. Currently CCW supports the work in Hungary via a monthly gift (it is combined over several months as we have to pay transfer costs for each payment), which is divided equally between GNF and Kori. This will continue for now but we will need to be reviewed next year.



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After two very successful summer camps, with good follow up meetings with the young people who attended, this autumn has seen the development of a new initiative and the start of a project called **"Fă un pas"** which literally means **"Make a Step"**. The main goal is to

help the younger generation of Romanians by visiting schools and doing various activities with young people between the ages of 13-19. At the beginning of September FI were invited to give a presentation to all school counselors from Bihor, Romania and to explain what the plans were for starting „Make a Step” in the high schools. There were questions and a lot of interest as to what the program is about and recognising that it is not just ‘another program’, but finding a way to reach the younger generation together!

The program can reach dozens of young people a week and through the various activities try to connect with them, make them think about themselves, about others and about situations in which they are themselves. There is little actual teaching but a lot of interaction trying to stand at the same level as they stand. The team (usually Nelu & Christina plus others) do this for example by sharing about their own lives and challenge the young folk to take concrete steps and to be transparent. To support this the leaders take a first step themselves and ask the others to follow. The programme aims to make young people realize that they are valuable and that they can support each other. It also teaches them that bullying is harmful and challenges them to step out of their own comfort zone. The

atmosphere in which these activities take place is from a positive approach. The motivation from the FI team is to seek to make God known as a God of love! At every school the drive is not to "condemn bad behaviour" but to "encourage good behaviour". Various methods are used including worksheets, giving the youngsters something to drink and eat, and providing music & spec. The audio system is Nelu's but is quite old and it costs around £40 per session which is currently paid for from the FI teams own pockets and a limited amount of donations. Both students and school leaders (teachers, mentors and / or social workers) are very positive and enthusiastic. The sessions last for 2 hours and it is important that the teachers responsible for the participating classes attend too. Before the program there is a meeting with the teachers to explain what is happening and to help them to participate actively. After the completion of the session the teachers are asked to make an evaluation of the programme. So far on each occasion the teachers have been cooperative and generally very enthusiastic. There is also a questionnaire for both students and teachers to complete. The desire of the FI team is to continue with this, to come up with good new material and to show these young people that they, but also the country in which they live, are NOT lost and that there is hope for everyone! It would be wonderful to see the young generation stand up and make a positive difference! This year the programme is scheduled to reach around 600 students in Oradea with negotiations ongoing with other schools. In October and November the team had 10 sessions and a total of 525 students participated. Nelu and Cristina were at all 10 meetings, and Ligia attended 8 meetings with help from 5 volunteers when available.



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Two or three teachers attended each meeting and generally, they were very excited and also moved by what they found out about the students. In all cases the teachers said they would contact us about going to other classes. The FI team have been encouraged to talk especially with students who have certain problems and to ask us if anyone wants specialized help. To one of the questions: *What did this program help you with?*, one of the students said that he had decided not to commit suicide, another that he decided to give up alcohol, others that they had improved relations with other colleagues, and that they felt sorry for they made fun of their colleagues. At one of the schools they were called and have privately met with three students, two with alcohol problems in the family and a girl with problems due to the parents' divorce but also with the alcoholic father.

The FI team are looking forward to reach out to as many high schools as possible with encouragement and to share God's love!

CAN YOU HELP TO FINANCE THE PROGRAMME? Speak to Frank Collins for more information