

2021-07-30

Dear Brothers and Sisters in HIM,
Greetings.

Thank you for your continued support with prayers and encouragement for our trip to Beshishar and from there to transport relief supplies to the flood-affected areas in Manang. After completing the task, we were back by the late night of 28th July.

We reached with supplies to villages which were highly affected by the flood around a month ago. This is the 2nd trip meeting 170 households with supplies. We reached the villages called Timang covering 95 households and Dharapani 70 households. There were tarps for 25 families who were displaced and some mobile chargers, some of them are to be kept in the churches so that neighbors could come there and get their mobile phones charged.

Around a month ago, we reached the most affected place called Taal with supplies for 66 households. Until that time, there were some houses still standing and some people were living there. This time, the whole village has been totally covered by the rubble and only the roof of those houses could be seen by helicopter.

We left Pokhara on Monday despite bad weather conditions and it was forecasted heavy rain for the week. Prayed and left for the destination with an expectation of a miracle from God. We reached Beshishar by the evening and had a meeting to get ready for the next day. We had heavy rain at night and in the morning the sky started to open. The helicopter arrived from Pokhara and started loading stuff for Timang to cover the longest distance first. We were able to do some shuttle with supplies but after a while weather got worse. One trip had to be landed in Dharapani as it was not possible to reach Timang due to very thick clouds. The helicopter with a member of our team had to come back leaving the stuff there for the next day. Some of the team were in Timang and had to stay there for that night. Hope they enjoyed warm fellowship with the local church people and experience their condition. Some of us were in Beshishar and could get ready the supplies for the next day.

The next day on Wednesday, by the grace of God, the weather was very clear and started flying from 6:30 in the morning. After Timang, we reached Dharapani with supplies for 70 households. It took 13 trips/shuttles for the helicopter to transport it. We were able to complete all by around 2 pm afternoon and the weather was still clear. After having lunch we returned home with very joyful hearts, thanking God for His miracle as the answer to many prayers going to His throne from around the globe. We strongly experienced the answer of prayers as there were many challenges in reaching the people we wanted to serve. All government documents were available on time. The local church really became light and salt for their neighbors by facilitating this work. They spread the news of relief coming to them and collected name lists, coordinated with the local wards, and supplied documents to us.

Not only the direct victims are suffering there for food but also others due to road damages and they are disconnected from neighboring villages. No way to reach each other. No other organizations have been able to reach there with food supplies. There were some Provincial Parliament Members who had gathered supplies of daily necessities and were waiting for the Army helicopter for days. They appreciated our work, as we could see how our work was going on. We had a nice time with them building relationships and helping them understand our work, background, and also about our faith.

Story:

Man Kumari Gurung is an old lady with 8 members in her family. She lost her house before her eyes, as the flood pushed it and broke in parts, in the moment it disappeared into the flood. She never had seen such a flood before over her life. She had a son working in a local electricity power station which was also swept away by the flood. While the flood was heading, she didn't want to leave the house and wanted to go with it. But her neighbors pulled her forcefully and she survived. Fortunately, it was in the evening and she didn't die in it. All the villagers came out with only what they had in their bodies as everything they had was swept by the flood. Nothing they could save. Cattle/goats also disappeared in the flood. Man Kumari worries about her future, who will help her to restore life. Children have no other income, only one son who was employed also lost his job. The shops in the village have already been empty, nothing is available, everything is finished. Even the people who have money can't survive as there is no stock of food in the shops. Man Kumari also says that people get sick with corona and this disaster has created additional hardship for them. She has questions that if the government will help them to recover from this disaster or anyone will help her to make a shelter for her family.

The ward Chair of this village says, that he had just finished building a nice hotel with cost almost 10 million. He had hope, after corona, there will be a good opportunity for business as tourism will rise. This is the road/track to Jomsom and the very popular Himalaya. Another young man also adds to it, that he also lost a good hotel and everything in it. All hope for the future is gone and says "now we are in this position to expect relief to survive". There are many such heartbreaking stories.

We had Rural Municipality Chair, Vice-Chair, and local leaders in the distribution program. We had a good opportunity to share about our effort though it is nothing before what they have lost. However, all beneficiaries (no one left in those areas) and the present leaders much appreciated the support they receive and particularly the effort to bring help even by using helicopters. The Chair, said, "One sack to come to this place cost NPR 10,000 but you considered the life of people, their need to survive, and did all you could for that."

Future plan:

There is need still for those villages who are not yet able to come to contact and are isolated. Chame village is also one of the areas badly devastated by this flood. There is a need to plan the next trip for those villages. Now they have enough food supplies for around one month but the rain is going to be until the next 2 months, minimum. The

Festival will start in September and if the road condition remains the same, there will be further needs of help. Local government people feel unable to think about how they should plan for the future. Village offices, health centers, and public buildings, as well as many banks, were collapsed too by this flood. Recovery and reconstruction need is there. They invite us to help with this work.

In the end, thank you for your prayers, words of encouragement, and for providing us financial support also. We are really indebted to you all. We are just a channel of the love that you, many from around the world entrusted to us.

We feel good together as we are able to work together in collaboration - Pokhara Christian Community, Asal Chhimekee Nepal, NCF Nepal, NCS Nepal tother. This is our first experience and hope this will bring something good for the future. Having many churches, people, and our supporting organizations and people in the background and God's grace, it has been possible.

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for the Manang Disaster Response Collaboration Team

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