



**A LOOK AT THE PARTNER SCHOOLS
AND LEADERS BEING REACHED**





JOHN BERNARD
PRESIDENT, UNITED WORLD MISSION

The global church needs few things more urgently than its own well-trained leaders, and they're needed at every level. Church planters and house church pastors need biblical training accessible where they're serving, and at their level of education. At the same time, the Church in every region of the world needs thought leaders educated at the highest academic levels. United World Mission seeks to equip leaders from the grassroots to the seminary classroom. Thank you for partnering with our Overseas Council ministry and seminaries around the world. Together, we're confronting the Global Leadership Challenge!

As John notes, confronting the Global Leadership Challenge is critical. Nine out of ten churches in the Majority World are led by individuals without formal training. Closing the gap has motivated the Overseas Council's ministry for more than 40 years. We partner with more than 100 strategically selected seminaries located where the Church is growing the fastest, or the needs are the greatest.

We carry out this mission with you because of our shared vision for flourishing churches around the world led by well-equipped leaders.

The Covid-19 pandemic brought government restrictions on in-person teaching, in turn creating financial and emotional stresses. In the stories that follow, you'll learn the challenges our partner seminaries have faced, and the innovative ways they have persevered and overcome. For instance, the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Lebanon halted in-person teaching, shifting the program permanently from residential to online. ABTS is now offering several short, on-campus sessions each year. This new approach is more financially sustainable and will allow ABTS to reach more students who might have been hindered from coming for a full-time residential program. Some seminary leaders wrote to say that enrollment actually increased because of the accessibility of innovative online programming.

You'll also read inspiring student testimonies expressing gratitude for your scholarship support, and stories of alumni who are now fruitfully serving

and multiplying. These students are among the 88,000 students who are being equipped each year by OC partner schools, and together their global impact is staggering.

Our Regional Directors' important ministries of walking alongside seminary partners have also recalibrated due to travel restrictions. They're conducting virtual workshops for faculty who are learning how to teach in an online environment. They and their seminary leaders are encouraging each other, praying for one another, and learning together. Their ability to adapt has been extraordinary!

Friends, this is why you and I invest in OC's Kingdom work. I trust you'll be informed and inspired as you read. And on behalf of our seminary partners and their students, thank you for your critical part in confronting the Global Leadership Challenge.



SCOTT CUNNINGHAM
DIRECTOR, OVERSEAS COUNCIL

ASIA



REGIONAL UPDATES FROM JAISON THOMAS REGIONAL DIRECTOR, SOUTH ASIA

OC serves the churches in my region by equipping Christ-like leaders through our partnerships with 14 premier seminaries in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. I am witnessing how multi-faceted, wholistic training can lead to the transformation of South Asia – village by village.

The pandemic lockdown provided us with the opportunity to accelerate different forms of online theological education initiatives. Some schools were not capable of launching online education by themselves, and so, one of my major projects this year was to establish a consortium of four seminaries in Nepal, Bangladesh and India to cooperate in online education. Now digital education has become a reality for our seminaries, with a combined enrolment of 300 students. Despite the challenges of Internet connectivity and access to digital devices, about 80% of their students returned through online education in the pandemic. In addition, 120 new students freshly joined the academic programs. Please pray with us as we tread this new path with faith and prayer.

Binda and Bimala are BTh students at Nepal Ebenezer Bible College, one of the four consortium schools. They are first generation Christians from their Nepali village. Their story of joining the online learning mode



is one of incredible creativity and passion. Hailing from a location with no Internet connectivity and frequent electricity failures, they had to build a small hut on a hilltop (where they could get Internet connectivity) to make their educational dreams come true. They did it! Every morning they get up early, pack their lunch, walk up the hill and join Zoom classes with lots of enthusiasm and gratitude!

The commitment to provide a meaningful learning experience for faculty and students coupled with an excellent digital platform has been an incredible journey for both students and faculty. Thank you for holding hands with us.

FROM JOANNA SOBERANO REGIONAL DIRECTOR, SE ASIA

The pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges for partner seminaries in Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar, and South Korea. As in other parts of the world, because of government restrictions on gatherings, all of our partner seminaries in the region had to stop all in-person teaching and then pivot quickly to fully online delivery of courses. Those with on-campus dormitories had to send their students back to their villages. Schools also faced financial challenges, and OC's financial assistance through the Stabilization Fund was timely evidence of God's faithfulness to them. These school leaders expressed deep gratitude to OC friends.

During this pandemic, one seminary in particular I have journeyed with is the Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology. Prior to the pandemic, they had no experience in online teaching. So, via Zoom I facilitated a faculty development workshop to assist them to prepare for online teaching. Faculty members were eager to learn to be effective through this new mode of teaching, as this would be the only way to continue engaging with students. The leadership shared that the generous financial support they received from OC was used to purchase new laptops for faculty and a new book scanner for the library.



In my conversations with leaders, I see how their personal lives have been affected, too. And, so I also see the need for regular times of spiritual refreshment for the leadership, faculty, staff and students. This need should be seriously factored into the online curriculum.

The stories of these seminaries attest to the goodness of God in seeing them through this pandemic. Thank you for your continuing support! Do continue to pray for the work that I have started, assisting the seminaries to continue to serve the Church during these challenging times.

ASIA

REGIONAL UPDATE ***FROM PETER DENG*** ***REGIONAL DIRECTOR, CHINA***

This year has been rather challenging for my ministry, as the general atmosphere has grown tighter, security-wise. In addition, the pandemic resulted in all of my travel and much of my substantive communications with our Chinese partners to come to a sudden stop. Before the pandemic, I conducted 10 workshops with close to 300 leaders trained on various leadership development subjects.

The challenges within the country have actually resulted in further growth for the church. With the trend of large churches splitting into smaller groups for security reasons, an urgent need for more leaders emerged. In partnership with church-training programs, we responded to this need with new efforts to train small group leaders. These new leaders are starting new groups and even planting new small churches. One small group more than doubled in size in only three months, growing from 8 people to 20 people, before splitting into two groups. With the outbreak of the pandemic, church gatherings stopped. Yet, Chinese churches reacted quickly, shifting to the online format, which actually resulted in increased attendance. The enrollment of one church training program doubled using

the online format, while the residential model had previously experienced lower enrollment. Although we can't generalize from a few examples, this does point to the resilience of the church and the positive potential.

Our OC project to provide Chinese-language library books for training programs has continued even through the pandemic. We donated 930 books to two strategic seminaries. The smooth delivery of books has been a remarkable help to these training programs.

I'm very grateful for your generous support and faithful prayers. Please continue to pray for OC's partner churches and their training programs to respond to challenges with innovative approaches, thus experiencing growth by the mighty power of our Lord.

ALLAHABAD BIBLE SEMINARY (ABS)

INDIA



PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Diploma in Christian Studies
- Bachelor of Divinity
- Bachelor of Christian Studies
- Bachelor of Theology
- Master of Christian Studies

CURRENT ENROLLMENT

2,759 Students

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN THE FORM OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NEEDY STUDENTS. WE PRAISE GOD FOR THE VISION OF OVERSEAS COUNCIL FOR YOUR FAITHFUL PARTNERSHIP IN DEVELOPING THEOLOGICAL FORMATION AT ABS.

God has uniquely placed us and equipped us to serve the Indian Church through our diverse programs. While we offer rigorous academic programs, we believe strongly in the holistic formation of our students, and so we also have requirements for significant practical student ministry. We are also one of the few seminaries which offer degree programs in both English and Hindi. We understand the need for grassroots training, and so we offer a very popular degree program through extension. Nearly 2,400 grassroots evangelists are taking extension courses, sent to us by many of the indigenous Indian mission agencies. We believe that it is critical for Christian leaders to understand Hinduism, since it is so dominant in our culture. So, three years ago we established a Centre for the Study of Indian Culture and Society which offers short courses on Hinduism, equipping grassroots pastors and church planters to speak the Gospel more clearly to our Hindu neighbors. Nearly 300 students have completed these courses.

Village ministry is one of the very important ministries of ABS. Our students go to various villages on the weekends, bearing the Gospel. Many people are very receptive to the Gospel. They give their own houses to have children's ministry and worship services. Often our students find it very difficult to reach the villages, due to poor transportation. However, once we reach there and see the villagers and their receptivity, we feel that it is worth the challenging travel. The students are exposed to realities on the ground. They get involved in uplifting rural society by creating awareness of the social issues. Each year we identify new villages and venture into them. At present we have about 32 worshipping groups in as many villages. The students and faculty face spiritual power encounters which they overcome with much prayer.

ASIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (ATS) PHILIPPINES



PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Graduate Diploma
- Master of Arts
- Master of Divinity in Biblical Studies
- Master of Divinity in Christian Education
- Master of Divinity in Counseling
- Master of Divinity in Intercultural & Urban Studies
- Master of Divinity in Theology
- Master of Divinity in Transformational Urban Leadership
- Master of Divinity in Pastoral Studies

CURRENT ENROLLMENT

216 Students

WHEN THE PANDEMIC CAME TO MANILA AND LOCKDOWN WAS IMPLEMENTED, WE SHIFTED ALL OUR CLASSES TO FULLY ONLINE. WHILE WE HAVE BEEN OFFERING TWO FULLY ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAMS SINCE 2017, SHIFTING ALL OUR CLASSES TO ONLINE STILL MEANT DISRUPTION AND MAJOR ADJUSTMENTS. WE ARE GRATEFUL, HOWEVER, THAT AS EARLY AS 2013, WE ALREADY IDENTIFIED ONLINE LEARNING AS A STRATEGIC INITIATIVE. IN DEVELOPING IN THIS AREA, WE RECEIVED MUCH GUIDANCE THROUGH A STRATEGIC PLANNING CONSULTATION FOR ATS WITH HELP FROM OVERSEAS COUNCIL.

We rejoiced in June 2020 as we virtually sent off 44 graduates, and then began our new semester in September, again, all virtually, with a total enrolment slightly higher than last year's. We also press on with our non-formal certificate programs via webinars and maintain key extension centers in the provinces and rural areas. Glory to God for His faithfulness!

A major hurdle to our shift to online learning is that not all our students have laptops or tablets and a stable Internet connection. However, the students have been extremely grateful for the efforts of their professors, who have shown flexibility in the submission of requirements and were considerate with everyone's individual struggles.

We are continuously enhancing our work-from-home scheme with online systems for faculty and staff to effectively provide our services and assistance to our students. Inevitably, home and work responsibilities overlap, so difficulty arises in terms of maintaining balance and boundaries. Even so, we are deeply grateful to God that we can still fulfill the mission God has for the seminary of equipping God's workers for the harvest, even in a time as this.

We are together in this journey of making God's truth known to all the nations – despite the ongoing pandemic. Your continued partnership has encouraged us to work with humility and joy. Please pray with us as we continue to make major adjustments, since everything, including our chapel services, is being done virtually. All glory and praise to our God for the LORD's amazing grace to us all, even to Asian Theological Seminary!

HANOI BIBLE COLLEGE (HBC) VIETNAM



PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Bachelor of the Bible
- Bachelor of Theology

CURRENT ENROLLMENT

72 Students

HANOI BIBLE COLLEGE TRAINS LEADERS FOR THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF VIETNAM (NORTH), ONE OF ONLY A FEW SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY ALLOWED TO DO SO. WE CURRENTLY HAVE 72 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY PROGRAM. MOST OF OUR STUDENTS COME FROM ETHNIC MINORITIES IN THE NORTHERN HIGHLANDS OF VIETNAM. THEY COME FROM CHURCHES SCATTERED IN FAR-FLUNG MOUNTAINOUS AREAS. IN PARTICULAR, THE HMONG PEOPLE MAKE UP THE MAJORITY OF OUR STUDENTS.

With the pandemic, this past year has been an adventure for us. We admitted our fourth batch of new students in August 2019. After one semester of study, COVID-19 hit Vietnam. The outbreak shut down the school for several weeks as the entire country went into lockdown. We had one week with students before sending them back to their homes. We were able to shift to online instruction for our Batch 2 students for about nine weeks. Unfortunately, our Batch 4 students did not have computers, so we had to send them home for the semester. Through online instruction and then several weeks of in-person instruction, our Batch 2 students completed their graduation requirements in June 2020, a month before the second wave of the virus hit Vietnam in July. Thankfully, the outbreak was contained, and we started a summer intensive in early August and then started our Fall semester at the end of August, all in-person. Our Batch 3 students spent all of last year, as planned, with their home churches doing internships. They completed their internships and have returned to classes since August.

We thank God that our second batch of students were able to finish their program. They are now back in their home churches, sharing the Gospel and serving their churches.

You can pray for God's continued protection for the school, so that the program may continue in-person. We discovered that online education is difficult for our students, due to their remote locations. It was impossible for our Batch 4 students to study online. Please pray also that as a school we will continue to grow in our ability to provide good quality instruction with reliable administrative support.

NEPAL EBENEZER BIBLE COLLEGE (NEBC)

NEPAL



VIDEO FEATURE



**I CONVEY GREETINGS FROM NEBC IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.
I THANK YOU FOR THE SELFLESS SUPPORT YOU ARE RENDERING TOWARDS THE
DEVELOPMENT OF NEPAL EBENEZER BIBLE COLLEGE AND OUR STUDENTS.**

Despite the pandemic, we are able to continue the ministry of the college, though some changes had to be made. We were not able to continue with in-person classes for two months as the government restricted all gatherings and movements at the end of March 2020. We had to send our students to their homes, but we started fellowship and prayer meetings with them and with our faculty and staff through Zoom. We started online classes in June and completed the 2019/20 academic session. Four students from the M.Div. program and eleven students from the B.Th. completed their studies; but the graduation service has not yet taken place.

In response to the needs of rural pastors, this year we planned to start vocational training for the students and also to start a diploma by extension for pastors and leaders who are in the villages. However, these new projects are paused because of the current situation. We are praying and planning to start these programs once the situation allows.

PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Diploma of Theology
- Bachelor of Theology
- Master of Divinity
- Master of Theology

CURRENT ENROLLMENT

72 Students

We were able to enroll 24 new students for our M.Div. program for our new academic session which started in August. We decided not to enroll any new students for the Dip.Th. and B.Th. program. Nevertheless, we are praying and waiting for the right time to do so. The other programs are continuing through online (Zoom) with teachers and students adjusting and coping with the new method of online education.

We would like to thank the team of OC for your prayers, encouragement and support towards NEBC. The amount which we receive from Overseas Council for the students is of great help as we provide scholarships for those who need it. We praise God for His providence and for enabling us to meet the needs of the college through generous contributions from you. We look forward to work as partner organizations even in the days to come.

NEW THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE (NTC) INDIA



PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Certificate in Theology
- Diploma in Worship & Music
- Bachelor of Divinity
- Bachelor of Theology
- Master of Divinity
- Master of Theology

CURRENT ENROLLMENT

280 Students

COVID DESCENDED ON US AROUND MID-MARCH. THE COLLEGE WAS IMMEDIATELY CLOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT. STUDENTS QUICKLY TRAVELLED BACK TO THEIR HOMES AND CHURCHES. FOR A MONTH OR SO, THE COLLEGE WAS LOCKED DOWN AND ALL ACTIVITIES CAME TO A STANDSTILL. WE WERE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THINGS MIGHT CHANGE AFTER A MONTH, BUT THEN WE REALIZED THAT THIS WOULD LAST. SO, WE FACED THE CHALLENGE TO COMPLETE THE SEMESTER AND BEGIN THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR.

The Lord gave us a theme in February for the next academic year and that was 'God is our Refuge' (Ps. 46). We claimed this as God's promise for us, and the Lord remained faithful to us all these months. All academic activities were switched to online mode, using Google Classroom and Zoom for lectures, chapel, and counselling and pastoral care group meetings. We also provided the necessary training for teachers and staff.

The admission process was conducted completely online, and we admitted 88 new students for this year, our maximum capacity. All campus life and programs were shifted to online, which was a difficult task, but by July we were ready to go fully online for this academic year. Now that mode is continuing and there is an excitement. In some locations, students have Internet connectivity problems, so we send them recorded lectures.

OC sent an increased amount of scholarship funding. We gave full scholarships to 14 deserving students and partial scholarship to 16 others. I want to give OC and the donors a big thank you.

Prayer Requests:

Pray for students who are unable to attend online classes due to connectivity problems • Financial needs of 30% of our students who are unable to afford online classes • Covid is on rise in rural India, and so pray for God's protection • Pray for the income of the college. Churches are not meeting, so the income in churches is less. They are finding it difficult to support their students • Before the end of this academic year, we wish to have a few months of on-campus learning and mentoring.

SHALOM BIBLE SEMINARY (SBS)

INDIA



PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Bachelor of Theology
- Master of Divinity
- Master of Divinity in Youth Ministry & Family
- Master of Theology in Practical Theology

CURRENT ENROLLMENT

204 Students

THE SLOW, PAINFUL UNCERTAINTIES OF LIFE UNDER THE PANDEMIC HAVE PARALYZED LIFE ON A GLOBAL SCALE. INITIALLY, WE LIVED UNDER A CLOUD OF GLOOM. HOWEVER, I WANT TO PUT THE PANDEMIC IN A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE - TO COUNT ITS BLESSINGS.

With the sudden lockdowns, we had just a few hours to send our students scrambling across borders that were soon to close. With great difficulty, they safely reached home. Trusting our students into God's able hands took new meaning.

"We will wait for normalcy to return," we thought, to conduct our final exams, and also our entrance exams for prospective new students. When that did not happen, we resorted to open book exams, and everything went well. For the first time, local church pastors and our alumni helped to conduct entrance exams remotely. The new candidates were interviewed via Zoom and video calls. And, this year was our largest intake on new students!

We also had to prepare to teach online, a new educational mode for us. Fortunately, we received much help from colleagues and others. And, now our students are enjoying the novelty, and teachers have zealously taken to the new way of teaching.

On campus, where all the staff and faculty lived, we got to appreciate the natural bounty during the lockdown food scarcity. Our Shalom community foraged for food in the jungles around our seminary. We also tilled the land around our backyards to grow vegetables.

With the pandemic restricting gatherings for church services, we adapted to online preaching to encourage our community members. This pushed us to become innovative in video and audio, a path many of us would not have learned unless compelled.

I wonder if God might have brought about the pandemic to revitalize our Shalom community. Indeed, we have learned to trust Him in many new ways and seen His blessings. We thank God for leading us faithfully thus far. All glory and honor to our God!

TYRANNUS BIBLE SEMINARY (TBS) INDONESIA



PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Certificate Programs
- Bachelor of Theology
- Master of Divinity
- Master of Theology

CURRENT ENROLLMENT

142 Students

WE ARE REALLY THANKFUL TO THE LORD FOR THE GENEROSITY OF OUR DONORS, SUCH AS OC, WHICH ENABLES THE SEMINARY TO CONTINUE OUR MINISTRY AMID THIS DIFFICULT TIME.

WE ARE EXCITED TO WELCOME NEW STUDENTS FOR OUR TWO MAIN ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, 15 FOR OUR BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY PROGRAM AND 2 IN OUR MASTER OF THEOLOGY STUDIES. WE NOW HAVE 87 STUDENTS IN OUR BTH AND 55 IN MTH PROGRAMS.

The pandemic has brought significant changes to our campus. Both faculty and students are adjusting to our new online learning system. We are facing some difficulties, as our Internet connection is not always stable. Some students are living off-campus, and it is difficult for them to visit the library. Some older faculty are still learning to manage online teaching. Online teaching has also resulted in costs for Internet bandwidth capacity for both the campus and the students.

Assuming that online classes are here to stay, we are remodeling some classrooms for online teaching and learning. Four small rooms will be used for video recordings to be distributed to students, churches and partners in need, and one bigger room will be for blended learning.

The Indonesian government regulates quality standards for all schools in the country, including seminaries. Because of these requirements, one of our current needs is for the training of additional faculty at higher academic levels. The government requires seminaries to have 5 full-time trained faculty for each program of study. We have a sufficient number of lecturers, but it is essential that we train younger staff because of impending retirements. We were so pleased to receive the renewal of our government operating permit for our MTh program in August.

Please pray along with us for:

Recruitment and development for new faculty • Renewal of government accreditation for our BTh program • Coping with the effects of the pandemic: The learning progress for new coming students who cannot come to the campus • Management of online learning programs • Internet connectivity development • Development of online classrooms and blended learning facility • Revenue to support the institution. Our budget is \$22,000 per month.

*STUDENT PROFILE***ISREAL B. VILLA***MASTER OF ARTS IN PASTORAL STUDIES*

I praise the Lord for OC scholarship assistance for almost two years. This scholarship was my top prayer request after I graduated from my bachelor's degree. I really dreamed of pursuing further studies, however, my church and family are less fortunate when it comes to finances. We are full-time ministers in an independent church here in the Philippines. Somehow, I knew that the Lord would use me, even if I did not pursue further studies, but if it is His will to equip me more for the benefit of His Kingdom, then I will follow.

It is not easy to study in the Master's program, especially when everyone is affected by the pandemic. But the ATS community extended their love through their extra efforts by providing the same quality education and service even in this time. The administration, staff, and faculty are very interactive when it comes to our concerns, whether with online technicalities, or emotional, spiritual, and financial needs. When I struggle with my Internet connection our professor exerts extra effort to record the session and send the link in Moodle. And, there are online groups that I can join. It makes me feel that I have a community who cares for me.

Studying at ATS helps our church and personal growth. The training and guidance from courses like Hermeneutics, Homiletics,

and Preaching Clinic gives me more confidence to preach the gospel clearly, and I become more dependent on the Holy Spirit. The Spiritual Formation and Education courses help me to teach our church members according to their needs. All of the pastoral studies subjects are shaping me as a pastor.

Today, I am helping my church in conducting services, seminars, and events online. With the partnership of Alternative Learning System in public schools, I am also currently teaching values education to students online, sharing the story of Jesus and God's kingdom.

Again, thank you for your generosity. May the Lord bless you and gives you more strength in helping others!

“THIS SCHOLARSHIP WAS MY TOP PRAYER REQUEST AFTER I GRADUATED FROM MY BACHELOR’S DEGREE.”

**ASIAN THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY (ATS)
PHILIPPINES**



STUDENT PROFILE

NAI

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY



My name is Nai, and I am from the Dao ethnic group. I grew up in the countryside in a godly family of rice farmers.

My parents brought me to church every Sunday, where I heard the pastor share the Bible, but I didn't know God personally. When I left home to go to high school, I stopped going to church.

I was seduced by classmates and fell into bad behavior. My life was so empty and lonely. I would wonder why I was going to school and what my life meant. But each time I had a difficulty, I remembered what I was taught as a child. I would read the Bible and began to pray, and I felt comforted and at peace. My faith in God grew stronger.

Once I trusted Jesus, my life was strangely changed. I became aware of my sins. I came to know that God has a purpose for my life. I began to love the Bible and no longer liked hanging out with my old friends.

After high school, I decided to go to Hanoi to work and live at the church. There I heard good preachers explain the Bible. I thought of my homeland where not many people hear God's Word clearly. I wanted to learn God's Word and help the people in my hometown.

I met friends who studied at Bible school who understood God's Word and were full of love and encouragement.

I knew then that Hanoi Bible College would be a good environment for me to train my character and learn God's Word.

I appreciate studying with pastors with long experience as well as extensive Bible knowledge.

After graduation I will return to my people to share God's Word. My vision is that all Dao people hear the Gospel. I pray that God would use me for His work in the future, first of all for my people and then other peoples who have never had a chance to hear the Gospel.

"I THOUGHT OF MY HOMETLAND WHERE NOT MANY PEOPLE HEAR GOD'S WORD CLEARLY. I WANTED TO LEARN GOD'S WORD AND HELP THE PEOPLE IN MY HOMETOWN."



*STUDENT PROFILE***AKASH SHRESTHA**

In the beginning of 2020 my ministry was as before: I am involved in worship ministry as a sound technician, preaching and leading fellowships. The biggest challenge was to manage my time due to my busy schedule, combining study at NEBC with ministry. But, with the pandemic, challenges came to every aspects of my life. As a Christian, I believe that God brings beauty out of the chaos, and I experienced the beauty of God in my life and ministry in various forms over the last year.

Since the lockdown was implemented all over Nepal, I could use the more time for study. With the online virtual class schedule implemented by NEBC, I could acquire more knowledge and understanding through my study.

Our local church also started to fellowship online. I coordinated with the church to set up arrangements at my home for video recording the fellowship, as there was no internet connection at my church. Now with my team each week I serve in worship, video shooting, and livestreaming our fellowship on Facebook.

After some weeks, God gave me the idea to combine other like-minded churches in a fellowship. So, I coordinated with the deacons of two other churches, Koinonia Thankot

church and Koinonia Balambu church, and we were able to do a combined fellowship every Saturday, where preachers and choir groups of all three churches work together. It came to be a good example for other churches.

With the success of the combined church fellowship, God encouraged me to coordinate a combined youth fellowship also. So, I worked with the youth leaders of three other churches, and we started a combined youth fellowship.

As I am studying theology, I have zeal to teach others. So, I started chapter-by-chapter Bible study in youth fellowship every week for two hours. My aim is to build our youth in their basic understanding of the Scripture and to prepare them for future discussions about the Bible. The next step will be to introduce theological topics as part of their Bible study.

“AS A CHRISTIAN, I BELIEVE THAT GOD BRINGS BEAUTY OUT OF THE CHAOS, AND I EXPERIENCED THE BEAUTY OF GOD IN MY LIFE AND MINISTRY...”

**NEPAL EBENEZER BIBLE
COLLEGE (NEBC)
NEPAL**



*STUDENT PROFILE***HARI BANSA DAHIT***GRADUATE OF CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY*

After graduation two years ago, I returned to my village on the Nepal-India border for ministry. The Lord quickly gave me an opening in the interior regions of Nepal.

My wife and I entered these remote hill regions through a ministry program for women, teaching them about health and hygiene. This was a subject I studied at NTC, and it is really helping us in ministry now. From our meager means we began to provide some simple medicines and basic hygiene needs to these women. This brought much attention among women, and others began to attend our classes.

These classes then became prayer sessions where we prayed for healing and health. The Lord began to work wonders among these illiterate and poor women. A number of them experienced God's healing touch and deliverance from evil spirits. Then we began Bible study sessions. People began to see changes in their health and in their families.

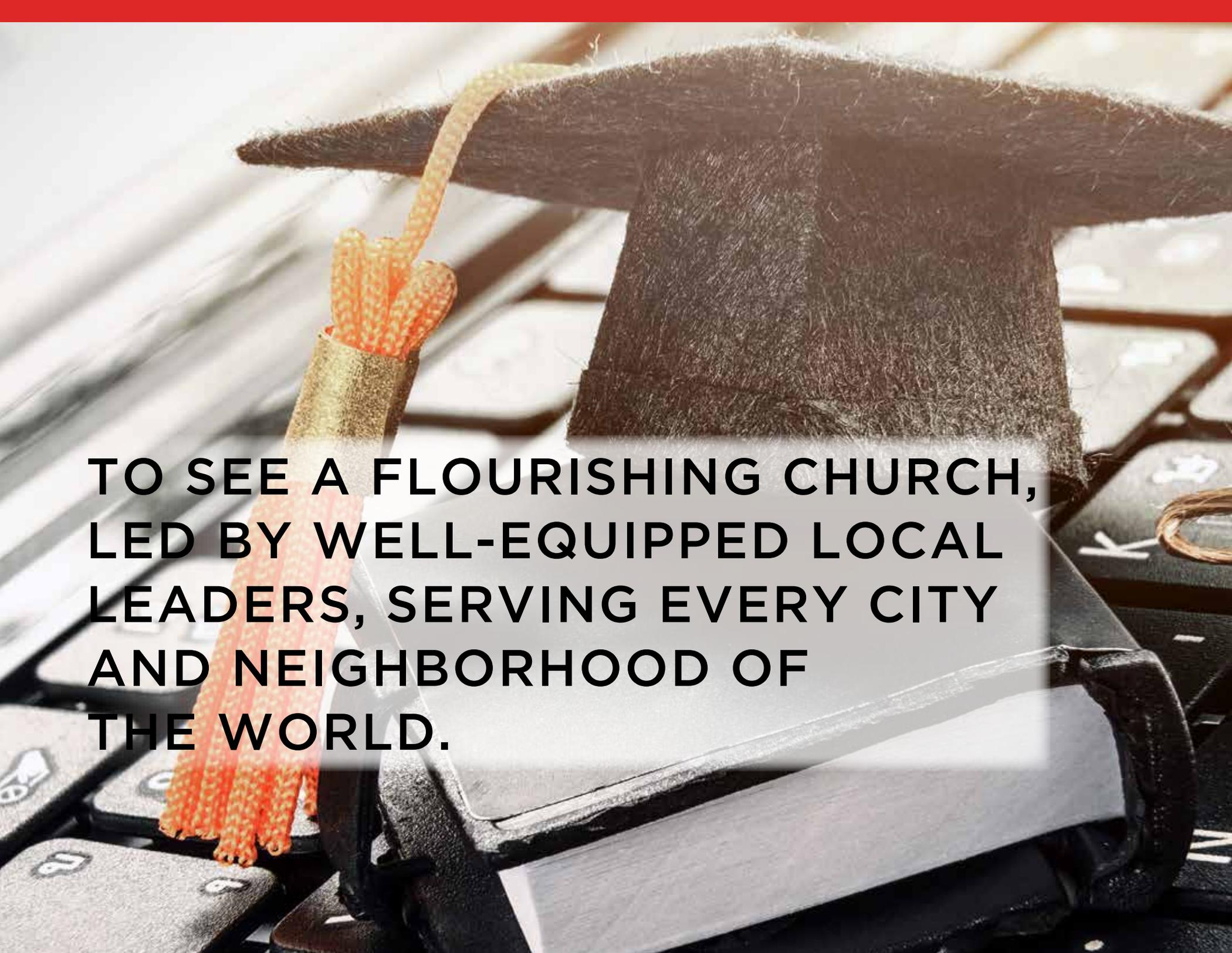
As a result, a number of people expressed their desire to be baptized, and in the last two years we baptized hundreds of people. With the help of NTC's church planting wing called Christian Evangelistic Ministries, we built a few church buildings. Other gatherings continued as house churches.

I conducted revival meetings here in October. In November we conducted youth meetings where all youths of the house churches gathered. Once a month we come together for a Bible study and also a watch night service which begins at 10 pm and goes until 3 am. Believers who come for the watch night service rest here in the night following prayers and attend Bible study the following day before they return their homes in the hills. The Lord is doing mighty work in this region.

I want to thank OC for sponsoring my studies in NTC. I have a desire to study in the MDiv online. I understand that NTC will launch online classes for pastors, and I plan to do that when it starts.

**“THE LORD BEGAN TO WORK
WONDERS AMONG THESE
ILLITERATE AND POOR WOMEN.”**



A close-up photograph of a typewriter. The focus is on the brown felt wiper and the orange braided cord. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white rectangular area in the center of the image.

**TO SEE A FLOURISHING CHURCH,
LED BY WELL-EQUIPPED LOCAL
LEADERS, SERVING EVERY CITY
AND NEIGHBORHOOD OF
THE WORLD.**

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR PARTNERSHIP.
WE COULDN'T DO
THIS WITHOUT YOU.**



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