



NEPAL

Leah Weldon



Highlights: Nepal trip January 31st - February 10th 2006

My trip to Nepal was so amazingly powerful! I could truly see God's hand in every aspect of the journey. I could especially feel the power of people's prayers while there. It was wonderful to hear the other side of the story when I returned. Many people shared that God brought my trip to their mind an uncommon number of times, and some prayed for me at least three or four times a day. God answered my personal prayer by reminding people to pray while I was in Nepal.

The whole trip was wonderful. The Nepali people are touching, and the scenery is breathtaking. I would like to share a few highlights of my experience. Most importantly, God answered my main prayer by confirming that Nepal is definitely where He wants me to go as a missionary.

God gradually began leading me to Nepal about a year ago through small, but obvious steps. However, the confirmation came during a church service while I was in Nepal. The Nepali people were singing in their language, and although I could not understand the words, I had no trouble worshipping the Lord with them. As I was there in perfect peace enjoying all that was around me, I could plainly hear God speaking to my heart saying, "Leah, this is where I want you!" I questioned whether this was God or just my own desire. As I was asking God for sure, a little orphan girl who was sitting on the floor kept tugging on my hand. When I opened my eyes to look at her, she was holding my little pink Bible in her other hand (see picture above), and one of my favorite verses came to mind. Isaiah 45:2 says, "*I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight.*" I have often prayed that God would go ahead of me and make my path straight, then come back to my slow pace, take my hand and pull me through. From that moment on I had no doubt of my calling.

The church I was visiting also "happened" to have their communion service on that day, so I was then able to commit to God that I would identify with His body and blood on this new field to which He called me. The symbolism was sacred.

During my trip God also showed me some areas that I can be involved in ministry, including an opportunity to use my Sign Language degree. Amazingly, I came across some Nepali deaf that were taught American Sign Language.

One of the verses I claim is 1 Peter 4:11 which says, "*...if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability that God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified.*" I want God's calling to be so obvious in my life that there is no other way to explain it but God. Why? So that only He can get the glory for it! This will also strengthen my resolve when the calling gets tough (and I know it will). Satan will never be able to make me doubt my calling because God made it so clear.

Another remarkable highlight of my trip was on the plane ride back. During the flight, I had the privilege of leading an Indian Hindu man named Soumibra to the Lord. He was sitting next to me on the airplane making small talk, which eventually led to a conversation about religion. He said that he was Hindu, and I told him that I was a Christian. He believed the common lie that "all paths lead the same way. ...we can all get to God our own way." I kindly told him that was not true - there has to be an absolute. I then spent at least 30 minutes explaining the difference between truth (Jesus Christ) and religion. He listened intently and asked questions. When the time came, I asked if he would like to pray and invite Jesus into his life. He said yes. I stressed that it must be a genuine prayer to God, confessing with his mouth and believing in his heart. After he prayed, there was a difference in his eyes.

His salvation reminds me of the passage that talks about the fields being white unto harvest. There are so many people who are ready to be saved, but just need someone to tell them how. I asked Soumibra why he was so receptive to hear something other than Hinduism. He said that he was Hindu because that is what he was taught growing up, but he never really believed it. When he heard the Truth, he knew that was what he needed. Please pray for Soumibra, I warned him that his life would probably not be easier now that he is a Christian, especially based on his background, but I also assured him he would have peace within and be more fulfilled following Jesus.

I want to thank all of you who prayed so hard for this trip. I believe your prayers are one of the main reasons God blessed so much. Please continue to pray as this is only the beginning of the journey. I am applying with a mission board in order to join a wonderful team that is already there. The prayers and support of God's people are what I desire most.