
MISSIONARY JOURNEY IN NEPAL

“Greatness is determined by service.”

-Martin Luther King

After the completion of my Master's in Social Work, I was missioned to Nepal since 28th July 2017. After a tedious journey from Nagpur by train, cycle-rickshaw and bus, I reached the Pokhara Hemja Community, was welcomed by sisters and children with a green grass garland and a Katha, a specialty of Nepal culture.



I worked as a Project Coordinator in the Anti-human trafficking project for 4 years and am currently working as director of the Opportunity Village Nepal, a Non-Governmental Organization. My deep faith in God and fervent prayer helped me to overcome the uncertainties and struggles of a new ministry in a foreign land. The image of Jesus, the Good Shepherd going after the lost one inspired and sustained me as I worked with the survivors of human trafficking. Nepal is a source country for human trafficking. Promoting a safe environment for those who come to our office and work towards their socio-economic empowerment is the goal of our intervention. As a non-Nepali, it was difficult to handle this responsibility at first. However, winning the hearts of Nepalese, supporting their endeavours and upholding the team spirit made it possible for me to be a missionary in Nepal.

From childhood days I disliked rain, so much so that I skipped classes when there was heavy rain. With continuous rain from June to September, there is no way of absencing myself from going to the office. Despite wearing a raincoat I used to reach the office and back in the convent, fully drenched. Travelling on an age-old Scooty Pept on the Nepal roads and an accident affected my health. Thank God I was healed by the Divine Healer.

The biting cold of Nepal coupled with hailstone rain often left me speechless. The hardships, pain and suffering endured on the roads became a thing of the past when I got a new vehicle. During difficult movements, I was encouraged with the bible verse “Your sorrow will turn into Joy.” Jn. 16:20. The many inspections and monitoring by the government to make us stay outside the Opportunity Village where our girls reside was another challenge we had to face. Our God proved to be true to His promises; “For I am the Lord your God, will hold your right hand and say to you fear not; I will help you.” Is. 41:3 Nepal is also an earthquake-prone country. Time and again we experience mild tremors. Even during Covid 19 pandemic while providing groceries and health materials, we felt God's providence watching over us and protecting us.

All the sisters in Nepal are a source of inspiration and strength for me. We encourage one another to be courageous daughters of St. Mary Euphrasia and grow through difficulties and problems, keeping in mind her words: ***“One person is more precious than the whole world.”***



Looking beyond the horizon: Mission Centric life in Nepal: In Nepal, the Shepherd sisters and the Partners in Mission follow the principles of **equality and inclusiveness** which is a call to look beyond the horizon and stand united to fight for justice. The Opportunity Village Nepal is focused on building a strong partnership to take the GS's mission to a great height serving the marginalized, vulnerable women, young girls, and children at risk. "Unity is strength" is the golden rule for mission-centric life which influenced mission expansion. Good Shepherd sisters implement an anti-human trafficking project in Nepal to save children, young girls and women from Human trafficking, sexual exploitation and cybercrimes



Human beings are not to be sold but to be valued: Poor Girls from interior villages of Nepal being sold with the false promise of a better job in garment factories in India and in other countries. Cross border surveillance committee is strengthened to identify those girls and stop them from crossing the country. The awareness is raised to prevent human trafficking. The prime focus of GS's mission is to eradicate poverty, educate the ignorant and restore their dignity. It's a call to action to save the poor lives, let's not close our eyes from seeing the exploitation rather stand united and fight to end violence against women mainly Human trafficking. Human trafficking is the biggest crime. It's a humane act. It's a violation of human rights. Empowering women to raise a voice against exploitation brings a change in the lives of the needy. It's a call for humanity to restore the dignity of those who are fallen under the clutches of human trafficking.

Psycho socio and economic empowerment of women youth and children

There goes the saying where there is a will there is a way likewise, we have witnessed that women who have strong determination always achieve their dream. Nurturing Courage and self-confidence in every woman to overcome life's struggles and binding the wounds of wounded, making them economically independent is the soul and essence of the GS empowerment project in Nepal



Their voice their future: Self-transformation lead them from undignified jobs at the dance bar hotels, cabin restaurants and be empowered and earn a decent living. Their story is not a fairy tale. "everyone has a story" that inspires others. One of the youth expressed "organization understood her pains in life and kept alive her dream to earn and support her daughter and live on her earnings" The sisters and partners in the mission empower and enlighten them to make **better choices that influence change in their life.**

Youth has shown that the *weight of suffering never wore them down.* Their hope resulted in being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness. The Various project activities, the livelihood support from the organization keeps alive their dreams and recognize heroism in every woman.

Real story influences the other: Most of the survivors of human trafficking are empowered and ensured economic stability. Some have shared about their U-turn experience in their life. Few of the programme participants were employed as staff in the organization who take initiative to organize the rally and raise awareness on human trafficking which are broadcasted on Television

Good Shepherd International Foundation Nepal (GSIF) was established in 2018 to support the Good Shepherd mission in Nepal that aim to support vulnerable communities. It is committed to addressing the issues of children and women in difficult circumstances through the development of programmes in the areas of Anti-human trafficking, economic justice, migration and elimination of all forms of violence through advocacy in partnering with opportunity village Nepal and other like-minded NGOs and consortiums



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