

CROSSOVER GLOBAL

COMMUNIQUE



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The Communiqué is Crossover Global's quarterly publication sharing life-transforming stories among unreached people groups.

www.crossover.global
803-691-0688 | hello@crossover.global



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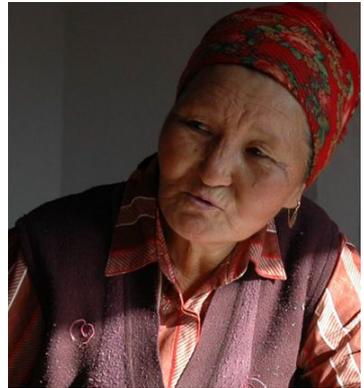
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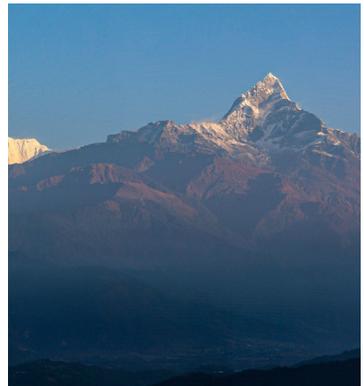
Crossover Global passionately seeks to glorify God by providing gospel access through the planting of multiplying churches among the unreached peoples of the world.



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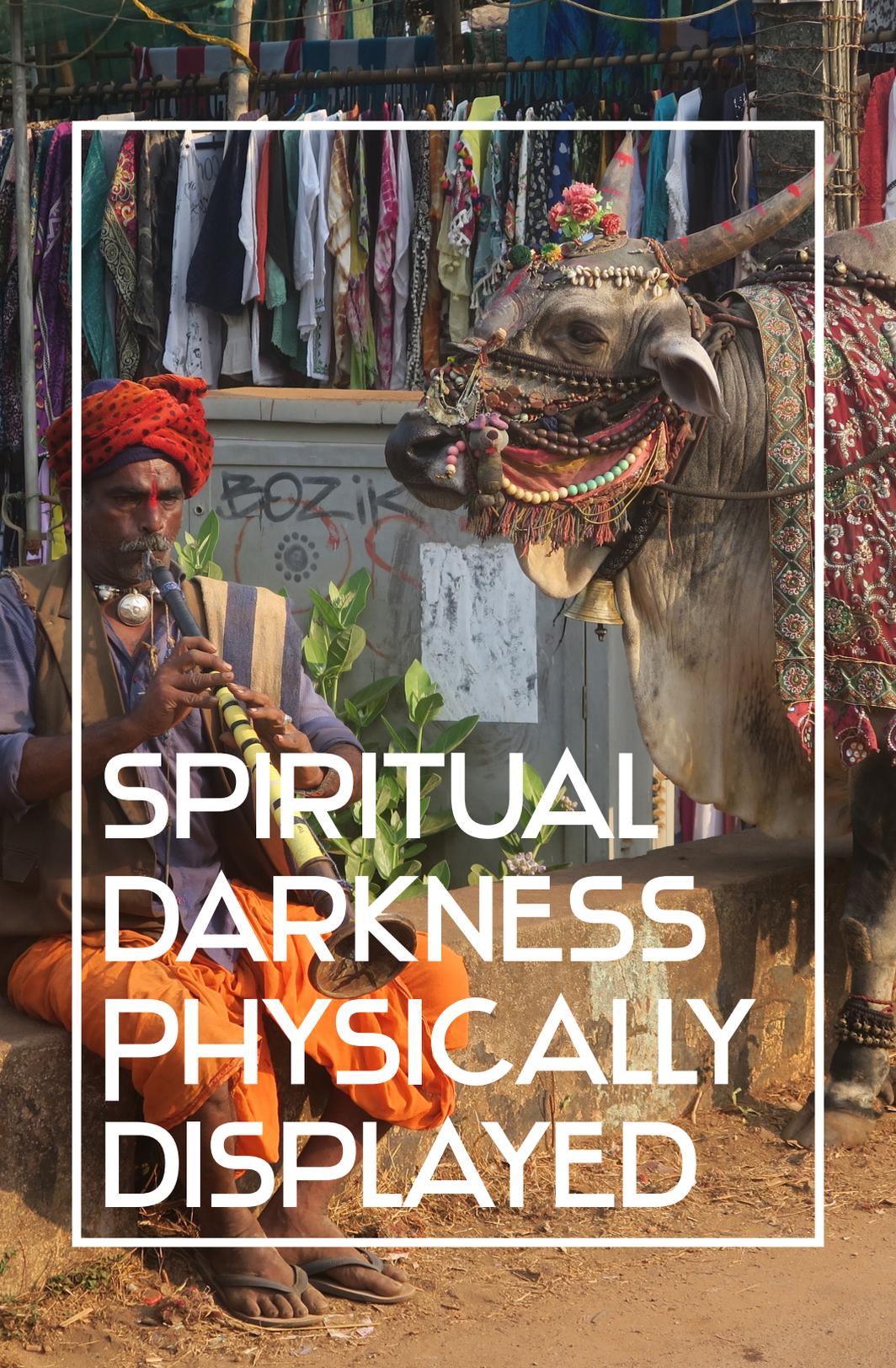
UNVEILING THE UNREACHED

A WEEKLY SOCIAL MEDIA POST ADVOCATING
FOR UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS



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**SPIRITUAL
DARKNESS
PHYSICALLY
DISPLAYED**

I was not prepared for my first experience in India. I have traveled to over thirty countries around the world, but India was different. Different not in the sense of their language, their cuisine and their culture. I expected that. It was different spiritually.

A couple of years before my time in India, I traveled to Nepal where I was exposed to Hinduism. But India was different. As I stepped into the heart of Hinduism, the spiritual darkness of India was the most shocking that I have ever experienced in over two decades ministering with Crossover Global.

The best way to explain what I experienced is summarized by this understanding - the whole world is spiritually dark, however, in India, the spiritual darkness is physically displayed.

For instance, while traveling through the country, we often got stopped by cows crossing the streets or laying down in the middle of the street. For the Hindus, cows are sacred. So much so, that people seek to own a cow in order to bring blessings to their home. Others go even further by bathing in the cow's urine or even drinking it as they seek for healing.

One evening our team leader took me to Varanasi to the banks of the Ganges River. Varanasi is a major religious hub in India. It is the holiest of the seven sacred cities in Hinduism. There, I had the opportunity of watching the Ganga Aarti, the ritual of offering prayer to the Ganges River, which is held daily



at dusk. I witnessed thousands of Hindus making their prayer and offerings.

As we slowly cruised the river on the boat we rented, I was heartbroken to see the ritual of burning bodies at the banks of the river. They explained to me that the only way to guarantee paradise in Hinduism is to have your body burned at the Ganges River. Otherwise, you are most likely to reincarnate.



As bodies were physically burning in front of me, it hit me that this was exactly what was happening to their spiritual bodies in hell. The Bible is explicit about the eternal condemnation of those who die apart from Jesus.

Later that week I visited the largest Hindu Temple of the region. There were three floors of images of different gods. The smell of candles burning, food rotting and fresh flowers was disgusting. Once again, the sad physical display of spiritual poverty.

While I was in the country, I remember having mixed feelings about India. In my journal I wrote:

The people are great. The harvest for the Kingdom is greater! The situation is sad. People give more respect to monkeys and cows than they give to people from a lower cast. The spiritual darkness is physically displayed. The temples are loud and full of incense burning and the food offered is rotten. There are beggars around the temple. People sleep on the floors and on the sidewalks. Very hard on me. Praying.

India is the home of one-third of all the unreached people groups in the world. The majority of them are lost seeking thousands of gods that offer no hope to them. They continue seeking because God created them with a natural desire to find their Creator. Ecclesiastes 3:11 says that God “has also set eternity in the human heart.”

When people lack access of the true God, they continue to seek. The unreached peoples of India, lost in Hinduism, are seeking right now. They have been seeking for thousands of years. As they continue to seek, they physically display their spiritual poverty.

This story was provided by Ken Katayama the Senior Vice President of Operations of Crossover Global and Executive Director of the USA Base.

Some names and locations have been omitted for security reasons.

A photograph of an elderly woman with a red patterned headscarf and a dark vest over a patterned shirt. She is sitting at a table with a white cup and a plate of food. The text "THE HIGH COST OF FAITH" is overlaid on the image.

THE HIGH
COST OF
FAITH

In a city located in the North Caucasus, less than a hundred miles from the Caspian Sea, a woman named Eliiza and her family live in an apartment building. Like others, Eliiza and her family live in this building with other families but unlike others, Eliiza's neighbor is an informant for the police who tells the police everything that happens in the building.

After Zayan, a Crossover Global Church Planter, and his team arrived at Eliiza's house, her neighbor went to the police and told them the Christians had arrived. The neighbor also went to all of the residents of the building and told them Eliiza had Christians over and they would gather together in Eliiza's apartment. As a result, police and radical Islamists would wait for our team near the apartment building as they went to visit Eliiza.

One day, Zayan and Eliiza set up a time to gather and study Scriptures. As he and the team were on their way to meet with her, they called to see if she was ready for them to come and she responded, "Do not come here. They are looking for you." She told them not to come to her apartment building until things calmed down.

A short time later, two policemen came to Eliiza's home and ordered her to pack up and follow them to the police station. She had to leave her two small children with a neighbor. The police brought her to the station where they first threatened her verbally and then began using electric shocks on her. Eliiza lost consciousness four times. When she came to, she found a large bump on her forehead where the police had hit



her while she was unconscious. This wasn't enough for the police, they decided to show Eliiza to the whole city on the local television program accusing her and others of sorcery and fortunetelling.

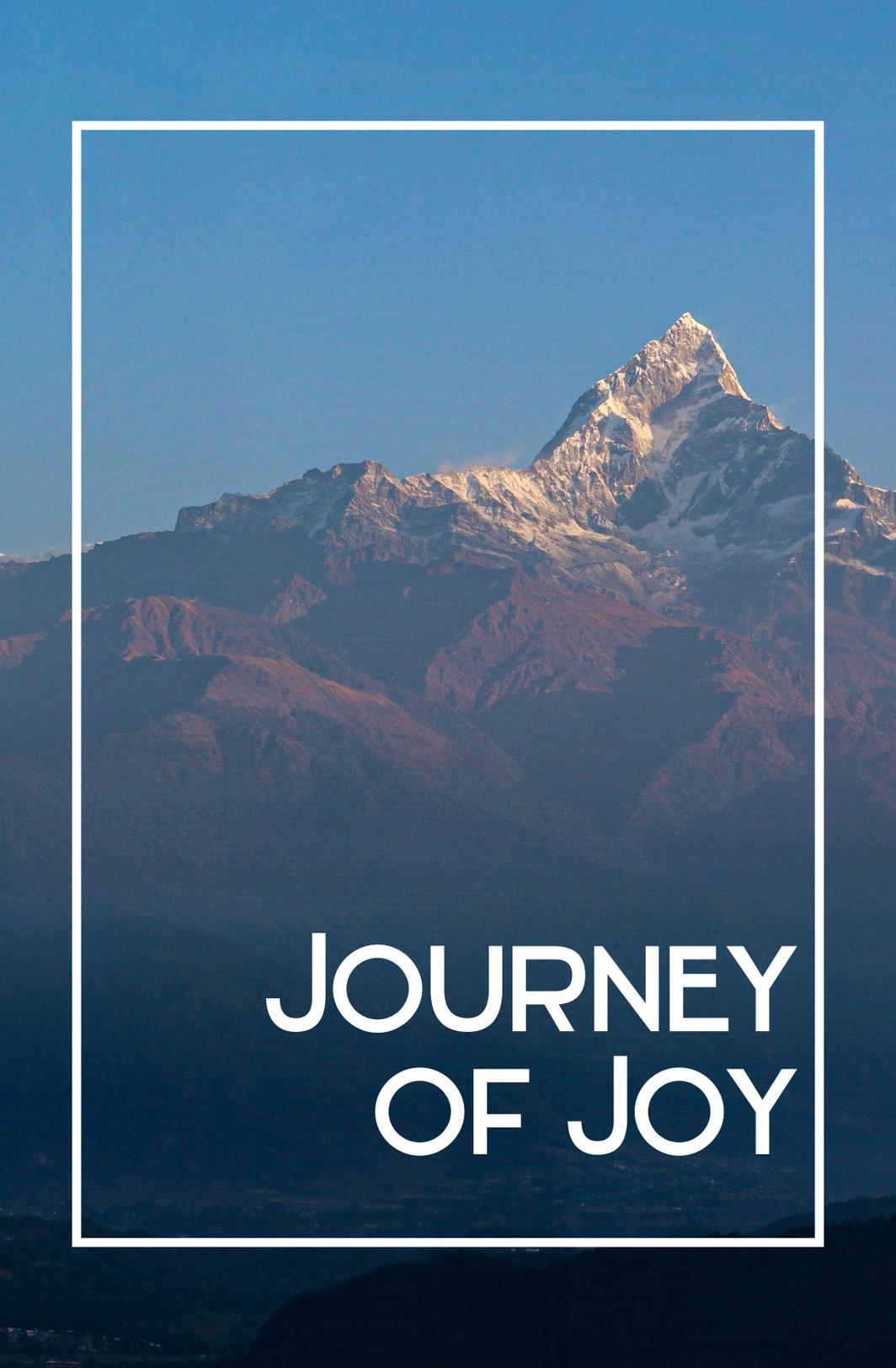
After several trials, beatings, and other things done to humiliate her, Eliiza was allowed to go home. When she arrived, her friends and some of her family, particularly her 20 year old son, began harassing her by constantly calling her names, ridiculing, threatening, and shaming her. Eliiza did not know where to go from the nightmare that her life had become. She became broken, fearful, and deeply depressed. She trembled with every knock at the door and was also afraid for her husband. In the part of the world were Eliiza lives, it is not uncommon for someone to be taken for interrogation by the police or for them to simply go missing.

Shortly after all of this happened, Zayan reached out to her and was able to help find a temporary place for Eliiza and her family to recover. While there, they were able to relax both mentally and physically. It was a great time of renewal for their family. Once they returned to their apartment it was necessary for Eliiza to limit her interactions publicly with other believers because of the informers, surveillance, and pressure from the police. Even in the midst of these difficulties the local community of believers reached out to Eliiza to encourage her in her faith.

This story was provided by leaders at the Crossover Global Caucasus Base who work directly with our church planters in this area of the world.



Some names and locations have been omitted for security reasons.



JOURNEY OF JOY

It was the first week of January, in the severe cold of winter, when Bibek from Kathmandu, Nepal, woke up at 6:00 a.m. in the morning to catch the public bus. After 8 hours of a long bus ride, he reached Chokdey, but that was not his final destination. He stepped off the bus at Chokdey and started the next leg of his journey on foot. After 2 hours of walking, he reached the village of Narja where he met two of his friends, Girvesh and Sejun.

The next day, the team of three went on a gospel outreach to an extremely far unreached village in the Rasuwa District,



near the border of China and Nepal. On the way, they prayed for this new opportunity, asking the Lord to build His Church on the mountain. Traveling through the Himalayan Mountains is tremendously difficult. There are no places to stop along the road until you reach the village, so they walked for 12 hours before they were able to find a place to stop.

Tired, thirsty, and hungry they finally reached the village. This particular village in the Rasuwa District is home to 50-60 families. The vast majority of them are from an ethnic unreached people group called Tamang. Many are Buddhist but some are also animists. At the time of this trip, no churches or believers was known in that local village.

During their two-day stay, they shared the gospel with almost the entire village. Some people welcomed them but many refused to hear the gospel. By God's grace, three people from

two families became followers of Jesus Christ. Girvesh was given the responsibility to visit twice a month to follow up and minister to them. After serving together Bibek, Girvesh, and Sejun returned to their homes.

This difficult and tiring journey literally turned into a journey of joy when the people of this village heard the gospel. Hopefully, Jesus Himself will become their courage and all of the people in the Rasuwa District will have their lives transformed by the gospel.

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you, through his poverty, might become rich.” 2 Corinthians 8:9

This story was provided by the Crossover Global leader of the Himalayan Initiative.

Some names and locations have been omitted for security reasons.



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as He builds His church.**

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