

Global Report

Changing Lives
Changing Nations

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CBSI Partners With Asha Nepal

God's Healing and Hope for the Sexually Exploited

This is no place for a woman, let alone a girl. That is what Bimala, who manages a safe house in Kathmandu, Nepal, thought when she stepped into the sordid world of brothels in Mumbai, India. The stench of immorality nearly overcame her. In Christ's love she persisted, however, and now she and others, including CBSI, are a conduit of God's healing power to many women and girls abused by the sex trade.

Bimala directs a foundation called Asha Nepal, which advocates for

women and girls who suffer from extreme human rights abuses. It offers a safe haven, counseling, medical care, legal support, education and job training, helping its residents become self-sufficient and re-integrate into society. The word *Asha* means *hope*.

In the past year CBSI has partnered with Asha Nepal, forming an adult CBSI study group in the home and in recent months sending a team of CBSI Children & Youth Ministry trainers to Kathmandu to help children of women there experience the love of Jesus

through Scripture study.

CBSI is a valued addition to life on the Asha Nepal campus, where 11 women and 19 of their children now live. Over time, the ministry has sheltered 33 women and 41 children, including boys. Residents of all ages are engaged in CBSI's *John* study this year. "We absolutely love it," says Bimala. "CBSI is a wonderful fellowship centered on the Word for all ages. In it we laugh and learn!"

Bimala has visited the Indian city

See **God's Healing**, continued on page 4

God has instilled hope in Manisha and Pooja, teens at Asha Nepal. They were brought to Asha Nepal at a very young age. When CBSI Children & Youth Ministry training was recently offered at the home, these girls embraced it and now help extend the gift of Scripture study to younger children of adult residents.

I Will Rise Like an Eagle

"I suffered much in my past, but I can see that God used this to draw me closer to Him, to show me that I am precious and to help me feel that He loves me. I have started to believe that I will rise up like an eagle in the power of His love. I used to feel awkward and left out, on the edges of groups, but now God has empowered me to share my views and my testimony of faith in front of all. He is so amazing! Before CBSI came here, I was not in the habit of reading the Bible, or I was satisfied with what I heard in devotions and worship services. Now God is speaking with me more from Scripture. He is blessing me from His Word and has become my encouragement and strength."

– Manisha

I Have Hope and Am Not Afraid

"When God starts to work in our lives, He completes His plan. He loved us so much that He gave us His only Son to die in our place for sin. He struggled, felt pain and received



Manisha, left, and Pooja, rescued from an unwanted life in Mumbai, India, have fellowship with Christ in CBSI's joint venture with Asha Nepal.

hateful treatment to bring us God's forgiveness, give us new life and put us on the way to heaven. He loves us and is always with us. Knowing this, I feel encouraged and have hope! When I get sad and feel alone, I remember God's Word and get happy because I know God supports and helps me no matter what happens. I used to be afraid to speak in front of people. After getting this CBSI training, I became confident. I speak with assurance in the Bible study. I feel no hesitancy or anxiety about sharing Jesus anywhere."

– Pooja

God Blesses Eager Learners In New Children & Youth Classes

By Jean-Claude, C&Y Leader, Burkina Faso

After I applied to be part of CBSI's Children & Youth Ministry, Pastor Michel, the president of our denomination, announced at worship service that something new is coming to Burkina Faso — a Bible study opportunity that will bless and spiritually awaken the country. This will be a special experience for children, adolescents and youth, he said, and it will help parents who want their sons and daughters to grow up knowing their Lord and to have strong faith in Him.

Everyone in the church was hungry to know what this would be. But Pastor Michel's words troubled me. I was afraid that I would not be able to fulfill this vision. I did not want to lose the privilege of being a blessing for the children and youth of our country, but I was not sure I could live up to the calling. Even when I was being trained, I felt unsure of myself. It was a difficult time.

On the third day of the training, with the help of Caleb/C&Y Trainer, Lisa Bye, I tried training new Children & Youth leaders at the church based on what I had learned during the previous two days. Lisa told me that my instruction was very good. I am excited now, for I know that with God's help nothing can stop me! I know that He is in control.

At first the pastor of our church was hesitant to bring CBSI Children & Youth classes into Sunday mornings. Traditionally, educational

programming for these ages has taken place on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. He came to see, however, that CBSI on Sunday mornings would reach more kids — since some families live 18 to 20 kilometers away and do not stay for afternoon activities. Now we have two CBSI classes on Sunday morning, one for younger children and the other for adolescents.

Last Sunday I cried when some of the children who did not get a lesson book became upset. Seeing their classmates answer questions the leaders asked according to the lesson book, they felt left out. They cried, and it was difficult for us to comfort them because they were so deeply affected. Before the end of the worship service, I told the congregation about this, and when the service was over, four members bought 50 lessons for us to share with children who had not received them. Praise God! He will make this work.



God Has Given Me Confidence

By Omar, Youth Class, Guadalajara, Mexico

My name is Omar. I am 15 years old and in 10th grade. I accepted the Lord when I was 10 years old. Four years ago I began to study the Bible in CBSI



at my church. We have studied *Acts*, *Mathew*, *Servants of God* and *John*, and now we are in *Divided Kingdom*.

When I did not know anything about the Word of God, I felt insecure and was very fearful. The study of God's Word has helped me not to be afraid

because God is in control of everything and is always with me. As Joshua 1:9 says, *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*

In studying God's Word, I have learned more than I ever knew about Jesus and about His disciples' lives. This has taught me a lot — not only to be a better person but also to acknowledge my sins and confess them to God to receive His forgiveness and help.

Studying the Bible has also taught me that I have to give the Lord all my problems, especially when I am going through difficult moments, so that through prayer I can have peace in Him.

Now I have the security that when the Lord decides to call me into His presence, I will be with Him for eternity. I continue to study His Word because I enjoy learning more about Him. In this way I have fellowship with Him so I can live as He wants me to live.

Ready for Christ to Come

By Jada, Age 11

Youth CBSI, Antigua

Burkina Faso Children & Youth Leader Jean-Claude, below, cried when some of the children who did not get a lesson book became upset. Here are some of the faces in this growing ministry.



One day I had my friend Amaya over to my house, and we were having a conversation. We started to talk about when the world is going to end.

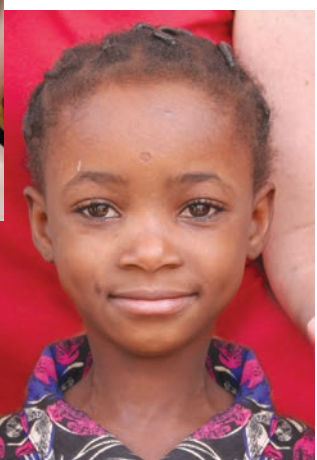
She said that this man said that the world would end. So I said that I learned at our CBSI Bible study — and I am glad we have this! — that no man or angel knows when the world is going to end; only God knows. I went for my Bible study bag and looked through my lessons and showed her.

I also remembered reading about it at Bible study but could not remember the verse. So I called my Auntie Holly, who teaches me about the Bible and Jesus Christ to ask what Scripture it was, and she told me it was Revelation 7.

I went onto the Internet, on YouTube, and showed her videos and other things about when judgment day comes — that locusts would fall upon us and harm us for a long time, and we would not be able to die, and we would burn in the fiery furnace.

After all this had happened, I turned to her and said — and I also say this to you who read — if you don't want that to happen, you have to give your life to Christ because that is only way to avoid this. You would have to repent of your sins, worship and praise Him every day and thank Him for what He has done for you daily. You also have to read His Word and speak to Him and follow His commands, and if the enemy tries to take over, rebuke him in the name of Jesus, because when the devil sees Jesus coming, he surely will flee, so tell him to get behind you.

I belong to the Lord and always will belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a bit difficult to always worship and keep His commands, but if you love the Lord and believe that He is King, ask Him to come into your heart. He will guide you through and will not let anything happen to you.



God's Healing, continued from page 1 of Mumbai as part of Asha Nepal's association with Mumbai Teen Challenge. Walking through dreadful neighbourhoods there, she thought of her own daughters:

"What would happen to me if they were here, I asked myself," she says. "Then I felt a powerful urge to give my life to these unwitting victims of human trafficking. Do not tell anybody they are prostitutes. They are where they are only because someone tricked them.

"I treasure them as I would Rahab of Jericho because, like her, many of those we have rescued have become believers, and as a result of their testimonies their families have believed in the Lord and been saved. Now they are totally free from sexual problems and exploitation. God has made them new in Christ, and actually they are stronger believers than some of us who work with them."

As Bimala sees it, God has produced the fruit of labor on the part of many He has called to care for "the least of these," as Christ referred to the world's needy.

"Lives are changed when people hear about Jesus," she declares. "When I was in the brothels, working with Asha Nepal, I preached the gospel, and three brothel owners became Christians and freed all of their girls.

"We had hard roads to travel for many years. I lost many important things of this world, but I experienced God! I saw Him at work, always keeping His promises. I want to go on doing this, helping people know Him deeply, and CBSI will be an invaluable help."



Left: Participants in a CBSI C&Y training session hang out at Asha Nepal in Kathmandu.

“
He loves us
and is always
with us.
”



Below: Bimala, right, joins in a game with a group of passionate young leaders being trained for Children & Youth CBSI in Kathmandu.



Left: Trained CBSI C&Y leaders, once mistreated in a distant city, find healing and blessed friendships in CBSI's partnership with a human rights ministry in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Caleb Ministry Volunteers Needed

Self-starters who can pioneer classes overseas. Foreign language is helpful but not required. Interested? Available? Want to Talk?

Call or e-mail

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CBSI Children & Youth Ministry Volunteers Needed

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