

HE RAISES THE POOR FROM THE DUST AND LIFTS THE NEEDY FROM THE ASH HEAP; HE SEATS THEM WITH PRINCES AND HAS THEM INHERIT A THRONE OF HONOUR. 1 SAMUEL 2:8

DEAR FAMILY AND FRIENDS,

What is God doing in this region? Jiri is our second mission base — reaching the unreached Himalayan-Tibetan people groups of north Nepal. We now have six fellowships growing in this region, led and pioneered by our people that we (Compassion for Asia - CFA) raised. Through *Mahima Children's Home*, we give vulnerable children not just a future, but a faith. Here are two people's life-changing stories.

Mother. Survivor. Staff at Mahima Children's Home - Hastamaya Jirel:

Hastmaya is a 40-year-old widow. She has two daughters. For a long time, she carried the weight of raising these children on her shoulders — quietly, without complaint, the way so many mothers do. Her husband could not find work in Nepal. Like thousands of Nepali men before him, he followed the only road he knew — across the border, to the Gulf. To Qatar. A foreign land, a hard life, a family left behind in the hills of Jiri.

"It became too heavy. I had two girls to feed, to clothe, to send to school — and I had nothing," she says.

Then the worst happened. Her husband died in Qatar, and Hastmaya was left alone. No husband. No income. No land. No property. Just two little girls looking up at their mother, trusting her to find a way.

Without land or savings, life became too difficult. The future — the education, the opportunities she dreamed of for her daughters — seemed to slip further away with each passing month. She was not just grieving. She was drowning.

She reached out to us after hearing about CFA and the work we are doing. She heard that we took care of vulnerable children, providing shelter, food, and education. A place run with love and purpose. Today she helps with cooking food for the children, growing vegetables, cares for the children who live there, and her girls live with her in the little staff house.

From a Broken Home to the Front Lines of Mission - Dinesh and Rita Bhandari

How a boy from Parsa — raised by CFA— became a church planter reaching Nepal's unreached peoples. Dinesh grew up in Parsa district, southern Nepal, in a home fractured by conflict. His father had two wives, and peace was a stranger under that roof. "I do not want to remember my childhood," Dinesh says. "It was not so great." He carries those early years lightly now — not with bitterness but has forgiven and moved on.

"God took a boy with no future and gave him a purpose that reaches beyond his own lifetime."

Everything changed in 7th grade when Dinesh received an opportunity to join Mahima Children's Home in Kathmandu — run by us. A roof, a school, a community of faith. For a boy from a broken home, it was nothing less than a second birth. For a few years, he moved back to his own village.



Hastmmaya with with her two girls



Growing their own potatoes



Dinesh and Rita with their two kids



Dinesh and Rita with leading fellowship

Later, Dinesh married **Rita**. Together they have two kids, a daughter, **Ridina**, and a son, **Ridim**. But life was still hard. He was not doing well and started to drink and smoke cigarettes to cope with the pressure. The future of his children — their education, their stability — seemed out of reach. He asked if he could come back to Kathmandu and get a second chance. He repented, cleaned his life, and joined the ministry team a few years ago.

CFA stood with him. Trusting him not for what he had achieved, but for who God was shaping him to become. They moved to a Northern mission base.

When they started planting a church in Jiri, it was not easy. He says people were suspicious. Neighbours questioned why they had come at all. Yet Dinesh and Rita held on. God remained faithful, and slowly God opened the doors.

At the beginning, it was just a small fellowship with a few other people. From the small beginning, God started moving. A few more families also came to faith. What started as a small meeting has grown into a living, growing church — Mahima Church, Jiri.

Jiri is not only a town. For CFA, it is a strategic northern mission base — Jiri sits at the crossroads of Tibetan-influenced peoples who have had little access to the Gospel for generations. These are the communities Dinesh and Rita are called to reach.

Dinesh thanks CFA not with words alone but with his life: "We thank you for giving us this opportunity. We thank you for trusting us. We are faithfully working here."

Jiri, Dolakha fellowship hall: We are almost there. We are close to placing windows and doors. Please pray for the completion of the building and that many would come to know Jesus for the very first time. I especially like to thank Kristen Tjeneste in Norway for their contribution to this church.

Unreached & least-reached peoples around Jiri: Please join us in your prayers. These are the communities we are called to reach:

- **Jirel** — Tibeto-Burman indigenous people of the Jiri valley; rooted in animism and shamanism
- **Sherpa** — Tibetan Buddhist; renowned mountaineers of the high Himalayas
- **Tamang** — one of the largest Buddhist peoples of Nepal, with deep Tibetan roots
- **Thami** — small indigenous group in Dolakha; animist and Hindu traditions
- **Sunuwar** — Kirant indigenous people; animist and Hindu; many men absent to foreign work

Bhote / Tibetan communities — ethnic Tibetans living in northern Dolakha; zealous Tibetan Buddhists, largely unreached. These communities speak Tibeto-Burman languages and follow Buddhism, animism, and shamanistic traditions passed down through centuries.

Thank you for standing with us. Your generosity makes stories like Hastmaya's and Dinesh's possible and supports many native missionaries. Because of your faithful partnership, broken lives are being restored, children are receiving an education, and the Gospel is reaching the unreached hills of Nepal.

Blessings,

- Sudip Khadka



The Jiri group



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