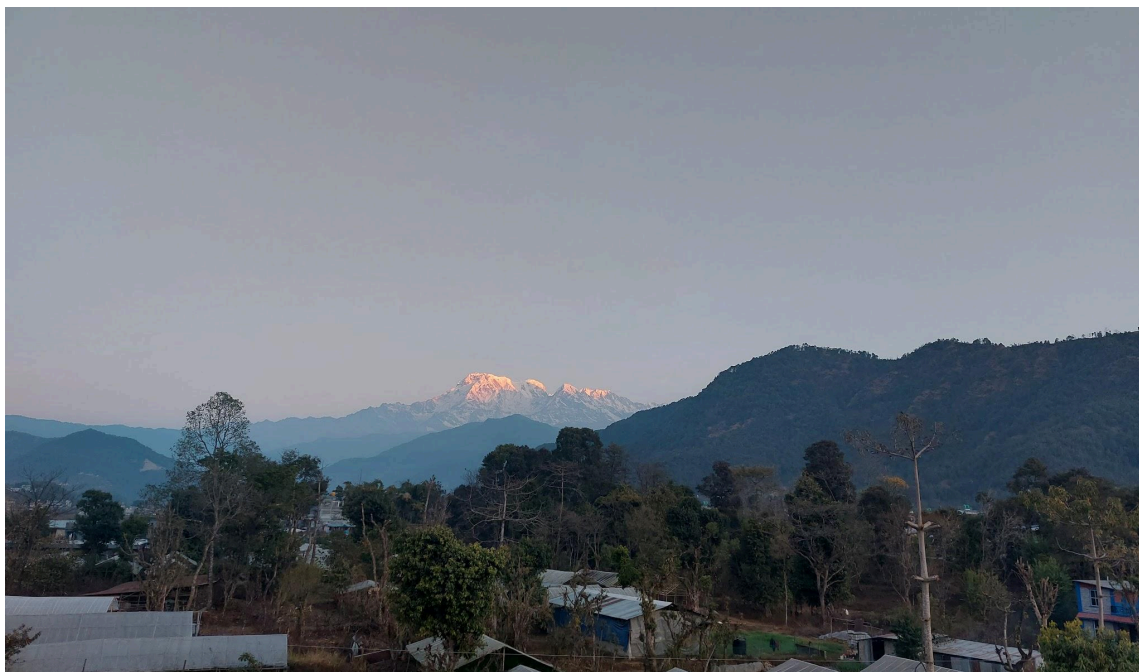


THE IN-BETWEEN



नमस्ते (NAMASTE) & સર્વસંમિત (SAWASDEEKA)

Since my studies concluded in December (I now have a certificate in Scripture Engagement), I have been back in Calgary, preparing to move overseas. I am now officially a member of Wycliffe Canada! I am still working on a placement, which has been a slow process, as I am also in the works of sorting out some health problems I have been struggling with.

A Quick Visit

At this point in my life, I don't know what to do other than go to Asia in the winter. For the last three years, I have led outreach teams of SBS (School of Biblical Studies) graduates to partner with churches in Asia to lead Bible teaching and training seminars. This year looked a bit different. I still took a trip, but solo this time, without a team. I spent some time visiting friends in both Thailand and Nepal, and met with people I might (hopefully) get to work with in the future. I also had the opportunity to teach in Nepal at a Bible school I have a longstanding relationship with from past outreaches.

Every year, the students at this school blow me away. Many come to the school with little to no knowledge of the Old Testament, which is quite common because it is estimated that *only one in ten Christians worldwide have read the entire Bible through*. While I was there this year, we celebrated that the students were $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way through their course and had studied through the entire Old Testament. Not only that, but they have been attending local churches on

Saturdays (church is on Saturday in Nepal) to share what they have been learning. One of the books I taught while with them was Ezra, and I saw them living out Ezra 7:10: *“For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.”*

One of the challenges with short-term outreaches is that it can be difficult to see the impact that a few short weeks or months can have. Even though it is a challenge, I don't think that should change. Immediate results are not necessarily the way the Lord works. Continually returning to the same Bible school has helped me see the long-lasting impact of the work I have been a part of. Students from previous years have returned home to continue their work as pastors and elders in their churches. Some have gone to work with other ministries or started new ministries. And some returned to the Bible school as leaders and teachers. Those are the ones I get to meet, year after year, as I return to Nepal. I have watched the Lord grow their character and understanding of the Word, and I see them now passing that on to others.

Rest

My trip was good, but it was also difficult for me. Travelling with IBS was much more challenging than I expected, between change in routine and not always knowing what was in the food I was eating. Now that I'm back, I am taking time to rest and explore what I need to be healthy, especially as I prepare to move overseas. I am still waiting to see a specialist, which is a definite must before I make any final decisions about the move. As frustrating as it is to be caught in the in-between, I have found it a blessing in disguise. I needed this time to rest and recover from IBS flare-ups. I have also found the space to reflect on my habits and routines and invest in practices that are healthy for any person to engage in, but are crucial for maintaining health and preparing for all the change that comes with an international move. And of course I have been able to spend quality time with family, which is the biggest blessing of all. I am still going to the YWAM base in Diamond Valley (formerly known as Turner Valley) to teach and lead worship, but I am so grateful for the rest I have found in this season as well.

Please Pray!

- Pray for my health. The perfect world scenario is full healing, but I am trusting that even if not, *“[God's] grace is sufficient for [me], for [His] power is made perfect in weakness”* (II Cor. 12:9). I would also love prayers that I can get in to see a specialist soon, so that I can continue to move forward with moving plans
- Pray for the Word of God to continue to go forth in Nepal, and that God would raise up more teachers in Nepal (and all of Asia) to teach the Word and build up the church

God bless!

~CHRISTINA/ TINA