

Harvest Among the Tharu

For six days in February, David Robbins felt he was transported to another world by Monoj Mohanty, AIM's India Director, and Madan Singh Radan, a local indigenous mission leader. He walked alongside them and learned from these vibrant leaders as they spent time with an intriguing people group, the *Tharu*.

"I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest."

-John 4:35



Tharu Believers in Nepal rejoicing in the Lord

Historically, the Tharu supported themselves through nomadic living, but are now settled near the border between India and Nepal. Mixed farming has become their way of life. After centuries of being considered a subordinate ethnic group in the region's caste system, and having a Hindu identity forced upon them, many Tharu are now experiencing freedom and dignity with their status in the family of God.

Monoj and Madan agree that this small, remote ethnic group in the foothills of the Himalayas is experiencing a seismic shift. Roughly 10% of the 1 million Tharu have emerged as formerly-

underground Christians, and many more are now turning to Jesus. Indigenous Christian leaders expect the percentage to grow to 20% or 30% over the next ten to twenty years as the Body of Christ continues to expand among them.

The Lord has been creating opportunities for individuals and church groups in Canada to come alongside Tharu believers. Last November and December, donations designated toward the construction of two churches were passed on to the Tharu, and AIM now hopes to raise enough for three more church buildings before the end of the year. In addition, AIM and a group of Canadian Pastors are joining Monoj and Madan this coming fall to conduct Family Life and Mission training seminars.

The future for the Tharu appears increasingly bright. The Lord of the harvest is undeniably moving among the Tharu. God is blessing them as a people group, and many are coming to Jesus. Praise the Lord!



New Website!

AIM is excited to announce that we are moving ahead in our communications on the internet. Recently, we adopted a new domain which basically means that we have a new web address where the public can have access to current news, upcoming events, how you can get involved, and more.

We are also hoping to extend the use of the internet and its advantages through the way we pass on our latest news. If you have access to e-mail and would like an electronic copy of our newsletters instead of through snail mail, please let us know and we will set that up right away (e-mail: info@aimi.ca). Through sending our publications via e-mail we will be able to save on printing costs and postage.

PRAY FOR MYANMAR

The devastating cyclone that Myanmar (Burma) has experienced affects the ministries that AIM is connected to in that country. Even though they have experienced losses themselves, they are nevertheless in a position to help many people. Please pray that the Lord would use them to extend help and His love to the many in need at this time.

If you would like to make a donation, you can direct funds to these indigenous Myanmar ministries through AIM.

Moving Forward

AIM is pleased to announce that as of April 15, Keith Peters is working as the mission's full-time administrator. This is a huge step for AIM, as we have not previously had full-time administrative staff. Having someone at the office on a regular basis is essential in order for us to be able to move forward with our work. Keith began as a volunteer in the fall of 2007 and then worked as part-time administrator while he finished his university degree.

Keith grew into his call to missions. In 2000, he went to Columbia on a short-term mission trip with YWAM, where he discovered what a blessing it is to connect with people from another culture. The following year he spent three weeks in West Africa, also with YWAM, and was invited back by the team to spend another two years there. It was during this

time in West Africa that his heart to serve God in full-time ministry really grew.



Keith and Lorilee Peters happily anticipate the birth of their first child. Recently, Keith took on the position of administrator with AIM.

Besides having just completed his four-year BA in International Development Studies at the University of Winnipeg, Keith Peters comes with practical experience. While in West Africa, he was responsible for overseeing one of the main projects that the mission ran. Keith feels that his degree has greatly helped to familiarize him with issues in the developing world, where AIM primarily works. Keith hopes to help AIM fulfill its mission of linking Canadian churches to indigenous missions. These relationships take time but are extremely beneficial in terms of mutual encouragement and support.

Keith and his wife, Lorilee are expecting their first child in May, 2008.