

# नेपालको अभिवादन



GREETINGS FROM NEPAL

## **TO OUR FRIENDS**

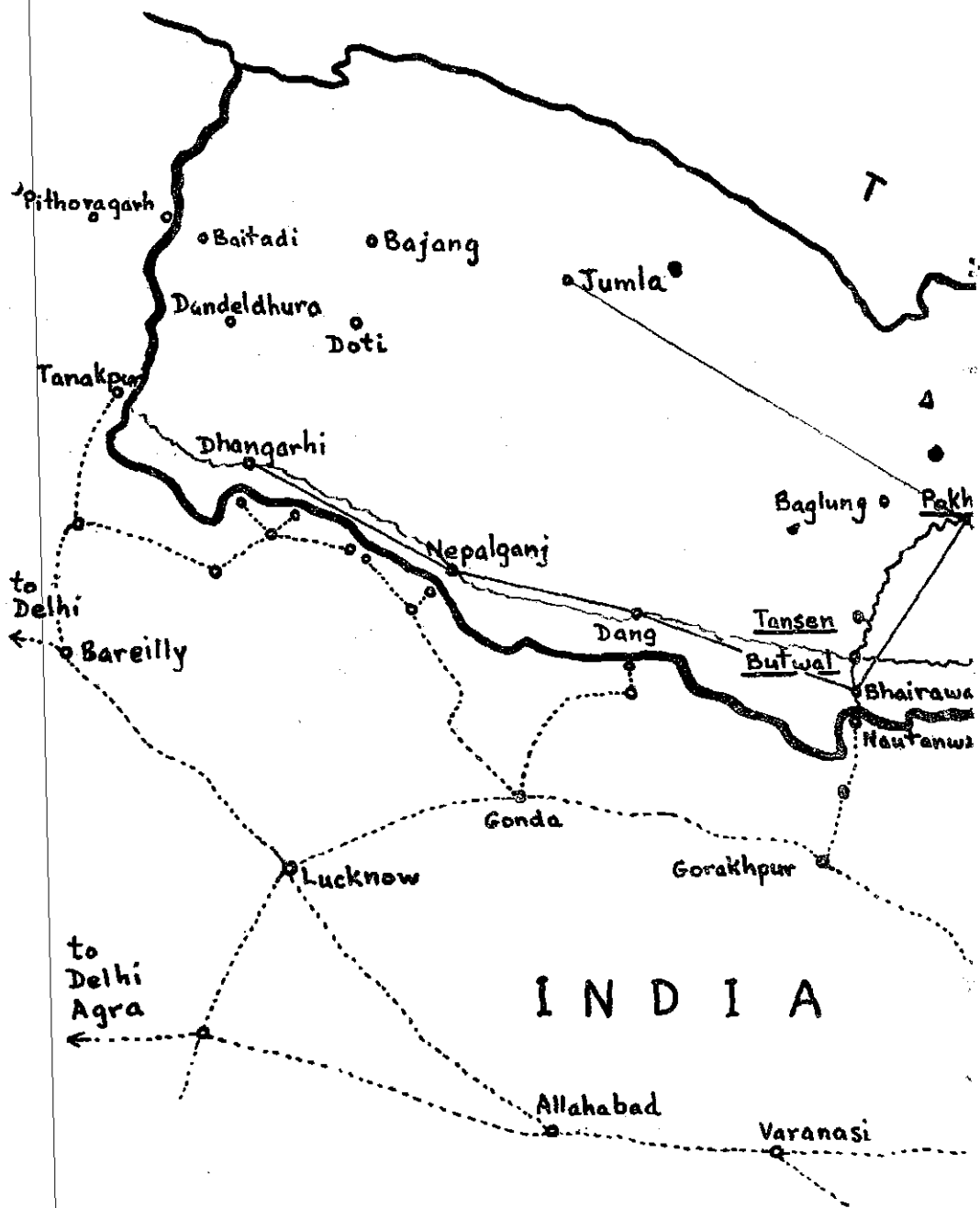
We would like to leave with you this collection of information about Nepal, and particularly about the United Mission to Nepal.

We hope you share our sentiments that this is a great country, that God is giving it a wonderful New Day, and that it has a very promising New Life in the future.

With the compliments of the  
United Mission to Nepal

P. O. Box 126  
Kathmandu  
Nepal.

December 1976





# NEPAL

u.m.n. stations underlined

- air routes
- - - railroads in India
- ~ auto roads in Nepal



## **C O N T E N T S**

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## 1. WHAT IS NEPAL?

### Nepal is a lovely piece of the earth

It is a small piece, but rich with variety and having many attractions for men. It is in central Asia, partly on the hot plains of the Indian sub-continent, and partly up in the young and rugged Himalaya Mountains. Climbers thrill to its snowy peaks. Cool breezes and refreshing rain give the central mountains a year-round invigorating climate. Abundant streams and hot sunshine made the plains productive in food and forests.

Area: 54,000 sq. miles (half of British Isles, same as Illinois).  
About 500 miles long and 120 wide.

Altitude: Plains — 600 feet; Kathmandu — 4,500 feet;  
Central mountains — 1,800 to 15,000 feet.  
Northern Himals — up to 29,000 feet in Mt. Everest.

Latitude: Same as North Africa, Florida, Taiwan.

Landlocked: Between India and Tibet/China.

### Nepal is a country of people

Away back in history there were a score of separate tribes with their chieftains, living in the isolated mountains. Among them the Newars of the Valley, in their naturally defended and rich valley bowl, developed an advanced culture of arts, crafts, architecture, writing, government and strong Buddhist and Hindu religious practices. About 200 years ago a conquering chieftain of the Gorkha mountains gathered together these many people into present-day Nepal, and initiated a dynasty of kings, of which His Majesty King Birendra is now the 11th in line.

Population: 14,000,000.

Kathmandu: 200,000

Occupations: 90% are based in agriculture. Small industry is just beginning. Training in professions is limited. Some go out and serve as mercenary soldiers. Literacy rate is 15%.

## 2. TRY TO SEE IN KATHMANDU VALLEY...

### Ancient life and culture

- x — The heart of the old city and the old country in the Hanuman Dhoka area: the old palace of the kings, royal square, roof-tiered temples. Pay rs.1/-, and go to the roof and look over the city and valley. This is 400 years old.
- x — From there go through the old city on the narrow bazar street from Indra Chowk (the hub) to Asan Tol, the most valuable real estate in the city. Look in at Machendra Nath (inner court).
- x — If time permits, go out to Swayambhunath (temple on the hill), Pashupathinath (temple on river), and Bodhnath (huge stupa). These are large, active places of worship, very old, a blend of Buddhism and Hinduism.
- x — The same pattern of ancient culture is repeated in the king-towns of Bhaktapur and Patan. See pottery making and wood carving.

### The last regime, or Rana-ism

- x — Singha Durbar, (Government secretariat), of which the original front block still stands, although the rest is being re-built along modern lines. There are a hundred large and small such "palaces" in the Valley, built and enjoyed by the former Rana aristocracy.
- x — The Tundikhel parade ground, Rana statues, Finger tower, Juddha Sadak (New Road) business street, Queen's Pond, Durbar High School, Tri Chandra College, Museum.

### The New Nepal

- x — Go on the Kingsway from Tribhuwan's statue, past Cottage Industries, Telegraph and General Post Office, Emporium, Bir Hospital, Embassies, King's Palace, Annapurna Hotel, Central Dairy, Science College, Kanti Hospital.
- x — Outlying Development: Balaju Industrial Estate, Timi Educational Center, Technical Institute, Ropeway, The University, Chinese road, Tibetan Village, Tribhuwan Airport, Ring Road, Botanical Gardens.

### The Church and Mission Projects

- x — Regular services at Lincoln School, Putali Sadak, Gyaneshwar and Sanepa, in English and Nepali.
- x — Projects of the United Mission: Headquarters Guesthouse and Offices, Shanta Bhawan Hospital and Community Health Services Program, Mahendra Bhawan Girls' High School (integrated into New Education Plan).

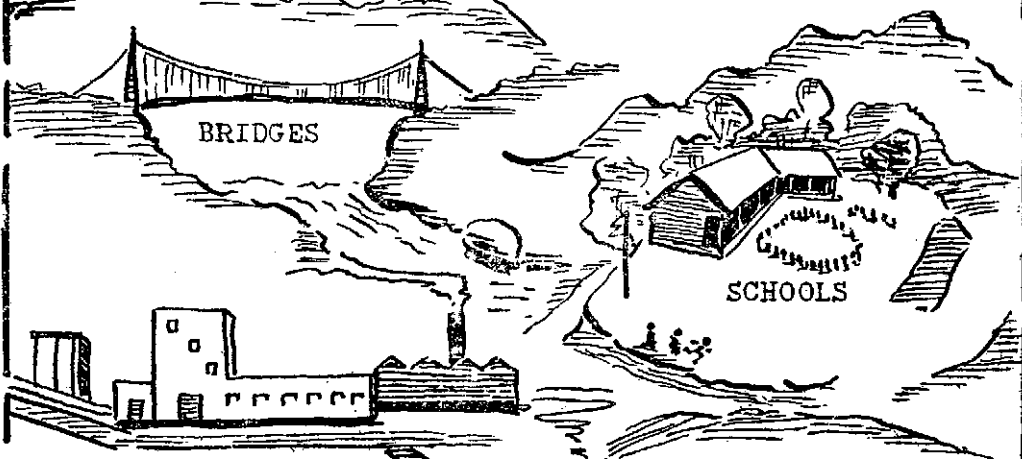
“... In conformity with the times and in tune with the prevailing climate in our country... a new socio-economic system has been set afoot .... It is a bold renunciation of the old and the outmoded and it is an affirmation of the aspiration for a NEW NEPAL....”



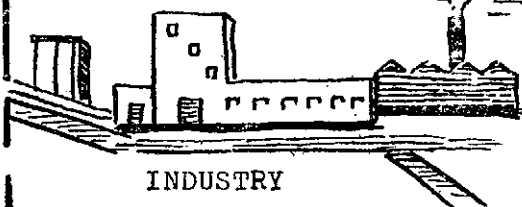
AIR SERVICE



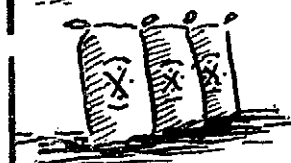
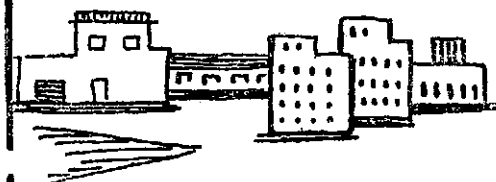
BRIDGES



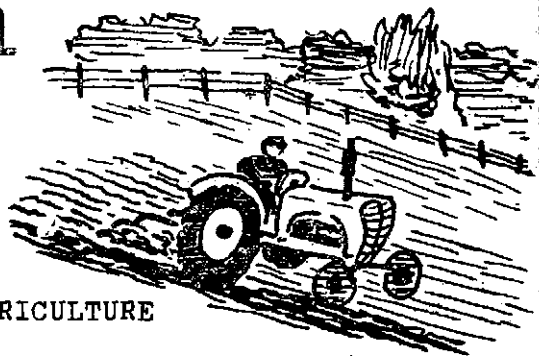
SCHOOLS



INDUSTRY

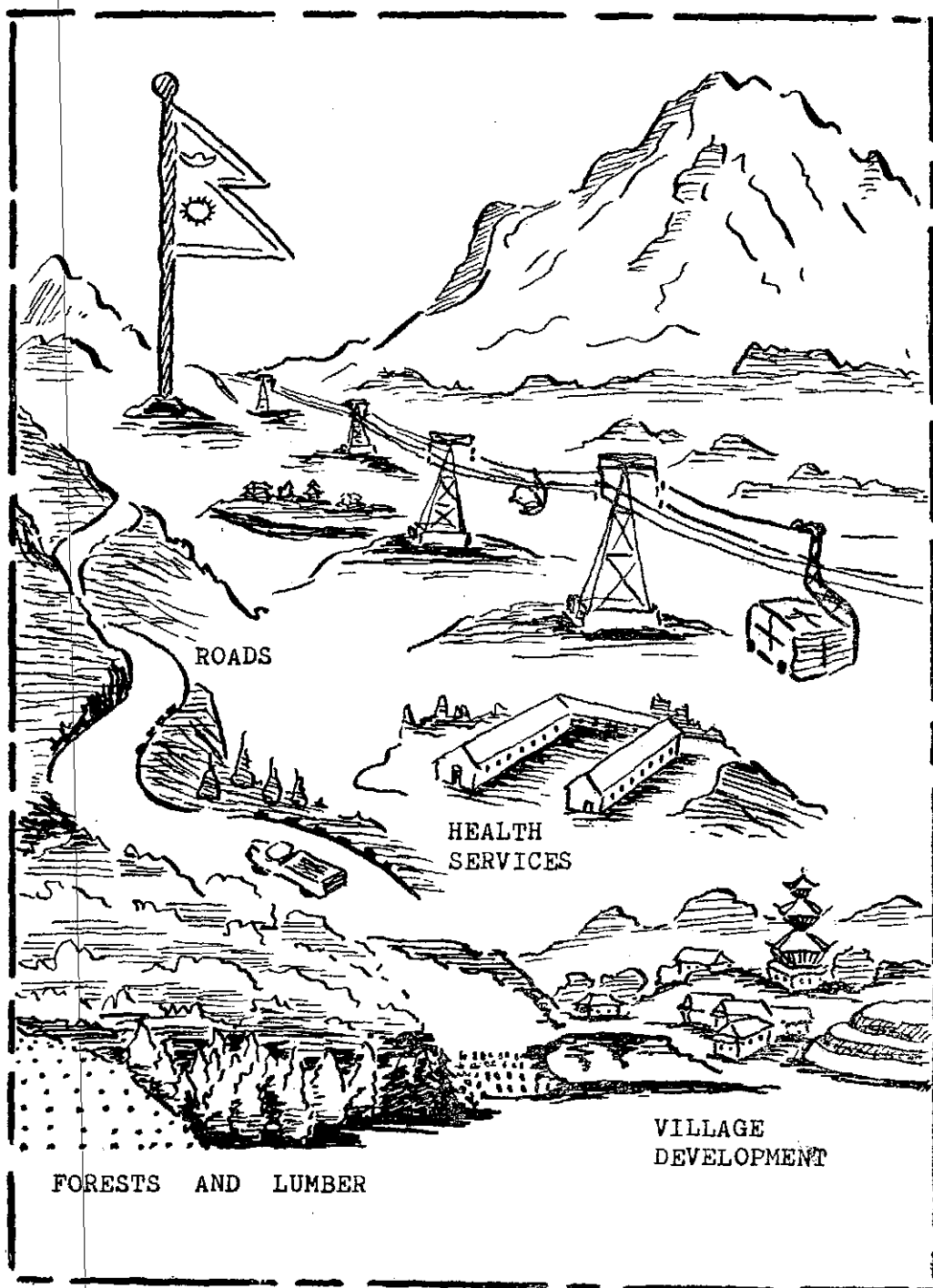


TRADE



AGRICULTURE





### 3. MAKING A NEW NEPAL

Up until 1951 the prevailing policy in Nepal was to remain closed, aloof from others, and to keep the status quo. The people have described their condition as a dark medievalism. Then a mild revolution took place in 1951 which brought to an end the old regime, threw open the doors and set loose a vision for a new life.

Today, under the personal guidance of His Majesty, Nepal is setting aside its medievalism and seeking to become a progressive nation in the world family of nations. She has joined the United Nations, entered the World Postal Union, made new treaties with her neighbours, opened embassies abroad and received embassies of foreign nations into her capital.

Today, the total resources of the country are focused on the single purpose of developing a New Nepal. This development is the chief characteristic of the country today.

For example, there is an unfolding nation-wide plan of education, which is aiming, within a few years, to cover the country with schools. This includes buildings, equipment, books and trained teachers. In 1975 the goal of the New Education Plan was to have 4,735 high school teachers and 118,363 high school students. These figures allow for giving a high school education to only 12½% of the high school age population.

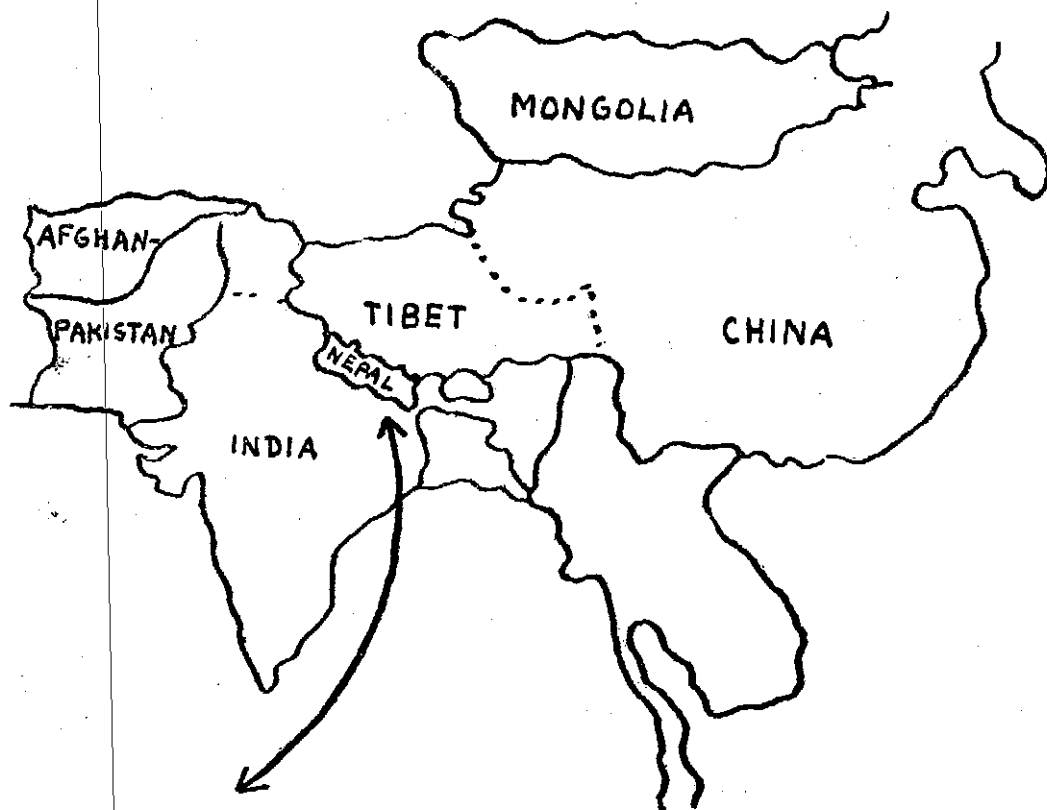
Every day sees changes in this Old Nepal as it becomes new. More miles are added to highways. Trucks now carry goods in and out of India on several roads, on one road to Tibet, and along the East-West Highway across the terai. The number of vehicles is greatly increasing. Planes fly schedules to a dozen airfields. New water, lights and telephones are going into the homes of Kathmandu, Pokhara and a few other towns. Hydro-electric plants are being built. There is city planning in some places.

Factories are producing sugar, jute, cigarettes, matches, and a string of small items such as torch batteries, fruit juice in bottles, shoe polish, shoes, cane furniture, etc. Every time you make a trip out you see something new: buildings, wires, pipes, torn up streets, posters, chickens, tourists, shops, items without number.

An ancient political philosophy is expressing itself in a modern age. It is a cooperation between absolute monarchy and elected people's committees. His Majesty, King Birendra, is the supreme ruler of Nepal. His Government, headed by a Council of Ministers, branches out into the numerous ministries, departments and sections needed for administering the affairs of government throughout the country. But to carry out its work it joins hands with a similar structure of elected committees (Panchayats) on the local, district, zone and national levels. There are no political parties. These elections are arranged by a Commission, and all persons of 21 years and over

may vote. This "marriage" of the monarchy and panchayat democracy is said to be the most suited form of government for the people and conditions of Nepal. Much effort is being expended to make it work. The continued peace and stability of the country depend on its success. There is much to be said for it.

Into this situation Christian missions have also received an entrance, and, we believe, a welcome to join in the nation-building work. For them, the daily challenge is to take the things which God has given, His Word and His Gospel, His grace and gifts, and share them with the people of Nepal in His Name.



#### 4. NEPAL IN ASIAN MISSIONS

When Christian missions first came to the shores of Asia in the early days of the modern missionary movement, they found the continent largely closed to them. But by persistent faith and effort they established footings along the shores and little by little, as decades passed, penetrated deeper and spread out widely across the densely populated coastal countries. The church was established.

Moving on still further into the continent they came up to the borders of another group of countries and there they were stopped. These lands of Central Asia forbade the entrance of almost all foreign influence and became known as the "Closed Lands of Central Asia" — Afghanistan, Tibet, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Singkiang.

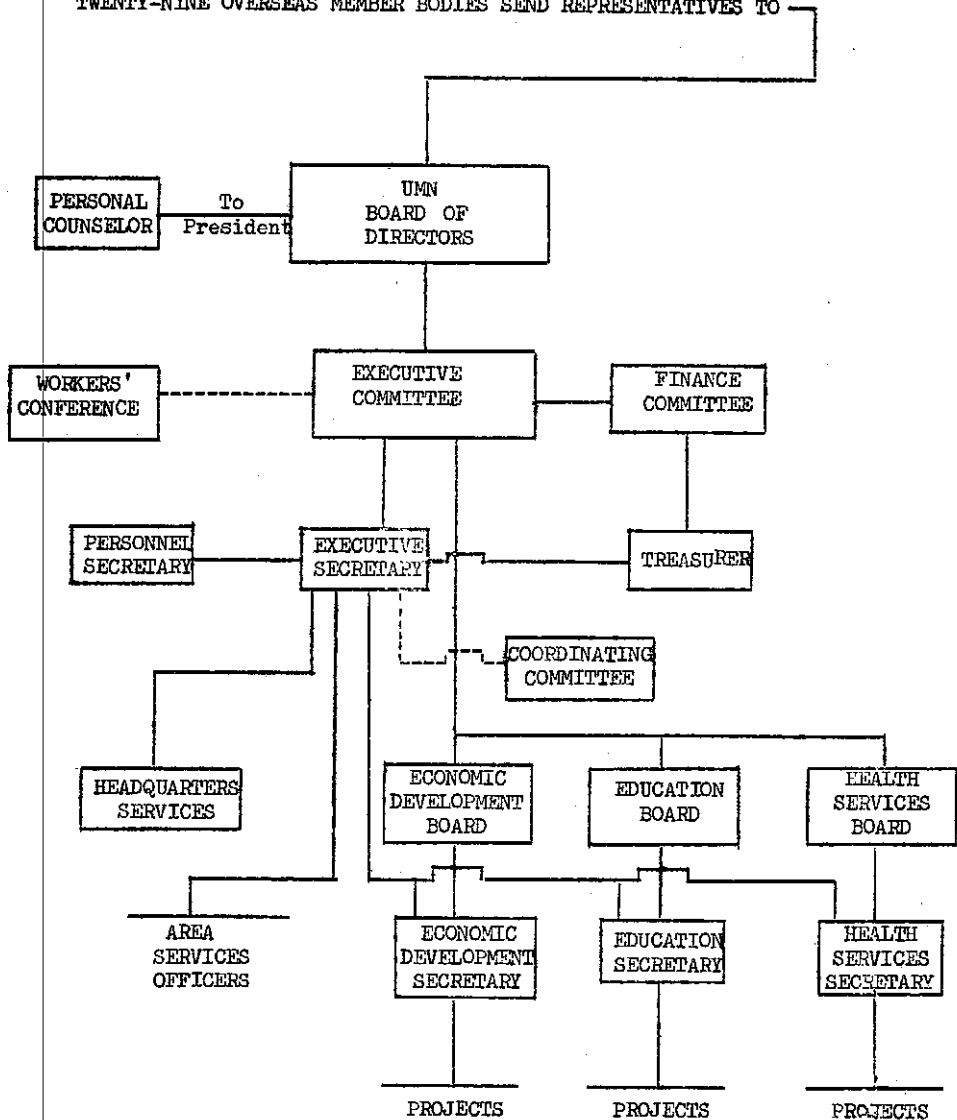
Through the years the winds of political change have blown over these lands, but so far as Christian missions are concerned they have remained for the most part closed — except Nepal.

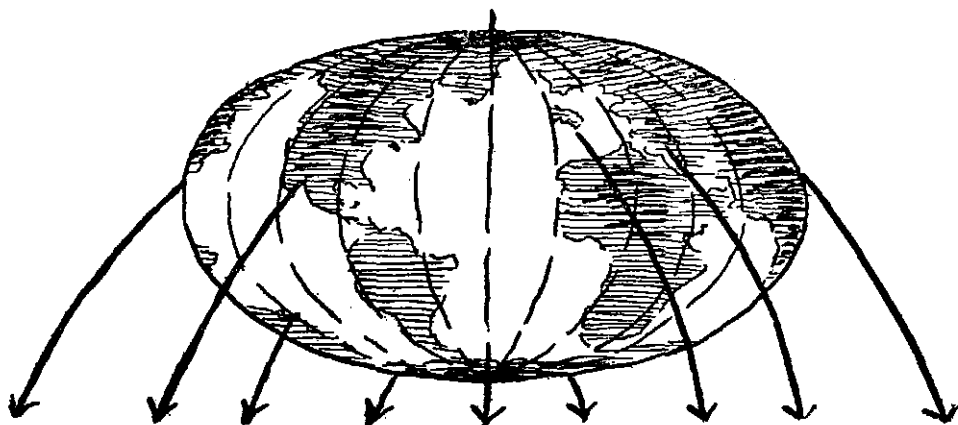
Christian missions toward Nepal go back over 300 years when in 1662 Catholic missionaries were admitted to Kathmandu but expelled again 100 years later. William Carey and his associates published the New Testament in Gorkhali of Nepal in 1828. Mission Boards and Societies, and their associated churches, in nearby India took an interest in the "unknown Kingdom", working along its borders and among the Nepalis who moved in and out or settled in India. The whole of the Bible was published by 1900. Other literature was used. Individuals like Sadhu Sundar Singh went on preaching trips in Nepal but couldn't stay (1920's). Direct work and witness among Nepalis in India grew markedly. An awakened concern in prayer was present in many places. By 1940 there were a dozen societies working in border areas and interest was to such an extent that a Nepal Border Fellowship was formed to help coordinate and encourage work and prayer for the land.

Then came the change of regime in 1951 with a new policy of openness and development. This offered open doors to Christian missions who saw in these events God's hand and time for action. The Roman Catholics were the first to enter. They established schools in the capital Valley. A society, the International Nepal Fellowship, which had worked on the border, received permission to open a hospital in Pokhara in 1952. Then came the formation of the United Mission in 1954 which drew together many boards and societies which pooled their resources to work as one body. In 1958 the Seventh Day Adventists opened a hospital on the east rim of the Valley at Banepa. The Leprosy Mission opened another hospital in the Valley in 1957. Up to the present time, the move of Christian mission is still strong and growing. It has many opportunities to serve and witness.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE  
of  
THE UNITED MISSION TO NEPAL

TWENTY-NINE OVERSEAS MEMBER BODIES SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO





CHURCHES AND SOCIETIES FROM MANY LANDS HAVE JOINED TO FORM

## 5. THE UNITED MISSION TO NEPAL

### ORGANISATION

In 1954 ten Boards and Societies joined to form the United Mission to Nepal. Since then others have joined, until in 1976 there are 29 member bodies, of which 1 is an associate. They are from Japan, New Zealand, Australia, India, countries of Europe, Canada and the United States. They represent a dozen different denominations and churches.

The UMN Constitution defines its aims and purposes, statement of faith, terms of membership and administrative structure. Other rules, documents and actions taken by the Board give further details of the Mission's policies and practices.

Each member body appoints one or two representatives to the Board of Directors, depending on their amount of contribution. This Board owns all Mission property and controls its work. It meets in the spring of the year, and its Executive Committee meets in the spring and the fall. The Minutes of its actions, together with related plans, budgets and reports, are published twice yearly and are sent to all concerned personnel of member bodies.

The Board and Executive Committee appoint officers from among the body of the missionaries to have administrative responsibility for the conduct of the work. These are the Executive Secretary, Personnel Secretary, Treasurer and Functional Secretaries, who serve three-year appointments. Appointments of Project Directors, etc. are made by the Functional Boards of the United Mission.

These officers meet to study together overall plans, budgets, personnel needs and policies which are recommended to the Board and Executive Committee. The Board and Executive Committee take deciding, final action on such matters.

## PURPOSES

The purposes and aims of the Mission are defined broadly in the Constitution thus:

- (a) To minister to the needs of people in Nepal in the Name and Spirit of Jesus Christ, and to make Christ known by word and life.
- (b) To train the people of Nepal in . . . care of the sick, prevention of disease, education, agriculture, industry. . . in the service of the country and the church.
- (c) To help strengthen the church in its total ministry.

The Mission has developed its work in the direction of these purposes in several ways and to varying degrees. In doing so it is limited by the terms of its agreements with government, by the laws of the land, and by its own resources.

Along these tracks and within these fences, the Mission to date has undertaken service projects in medical care, community health, education, agriculture and development in industry and economy. It is doing work in the training of nurses, para-medical workers, teachers, technical craftsmen. It assists students in higher training through its Scholarship Program. It promotes the use of literature and related aids. Workers of the Mission join as members in local congregations and contribute their gifts and talents in the worship, witness and work of the church.

## AGREEMENTS WITH GOVERNMENT

The basis on which the Mission as a whole works in the country is a written permission-agreement, whereby His Majesty's Government and the United Mission to Nepal agree to work together for a five year period (1975-1980). The terms of this General Agreement are, in brief: (1) to conduct our activities under separate agreements with concerned ministries. (2) No financial help from HMG, except in joint programs. (3) To train Nepalis at all levels. (4) Annual reports to be given to HMG. (5) To operate within the framework of HMG planning. (6) To be subject to the laws of Nepal. (7) Projects to be subject to the rules of the concerned ministries. (8) To get new permission for new work. (9) To confine activities to the work of the projects. (10) To get HMG permission to dispose of property. (11) Government may nationalize any project any time. (12) To give preference to employment of Nepali workers. (13) Government may cancel the agreement if we violate it. (14) Application for renewal of agreement may be made.

For each expansion or the starting of new work the Mission has sought agreement from His Majesty's Government. Written negotiations have been undertaken many times. Some have been refused, but most have been granted.

All UMN workers receive one-year non-tourist residence visas in their passports which allow them to reside in the place of their work and to travel to places where their work requires. Special permits must be obtained to trek in the mountains, off the main roads of the country.

#### WORKERS

The UMN Functional Boards, in accordance with the authorised plans of the Mission's work, approve lists of personnel needs and opportunities from year to year. These are long lists, evidencing the desire of the Mission to pursue its purposes as widely in the country as possible. The total list runs to some 300 posts, of several general categories, as well as certain specialties.

The Mission makes known its personnel needs to its member bodies, and these offer workers to the UMN as they are able. The parent bodies care for the salaries, allowances and travel of their workers according to their own rules and practices. Lengths of term and furlough also follow the parent body arrangements. But workers accepted by the UMN come into Nepal as UMN workers, and follow its rules and arrangements in all other respects.

Member bodies have seconded workers to the UMN in goodly numbers. There are at present (1980) 254 such "Board Appointees" in the UMN. Some are short-term workers, but most are long-term. Some are on furlough and the rest in Nepal. They come from 16 countries. British and USA nationalities are in the majority. Member bodies contribute all the way from 1 to 50 or more workers. The categories of workers in assigned posts are:

Doctors.....	26	Technical.....	37
Nurses.....	45	Administrative/Service...	33
Para-medical.....	20	Wives.....	64
Teachers.....	19		
Agriculturalists...	10	Total.....	254

Besides these "Board Appointees" there is an arrangement for appointing "Direct Appointees" also in the work, and of course for the employment of large numbers of national workers in the several projects.

How does such a crowd of people work together, coming from such diverse cultural, financial, church and mission backgrounds? Our experience these years has been that it has worked well. The main cement that holds it together is the belief in each one of God's leading to come and live and work together in this way in this place, and they have given themselves gladly and fully to do it.

#### FINANCES

The ongoing activities of the Mission are financed by member bodies, church-related agencies, voluntary, non-governmental and government development organisations, His Majesty's Government of Nepal (in joint HMG/UMN programs), Nepali citizens and expatriates using some services (such as health care), and friends of UMN.

Financial management of the annual budget is divided into two systems:



The General Recurring Budget. This is used to support the administration and services of the Mission including Nepali salary support. The funds come from member bodies (in the form of per capita workers grants, at \$600 per worker per year, and special gifts), fees charged for services, HMG/N support and some endowments.

1979	Actual expenditures:	Rs. 9,575,680.
1980	Budget:	Rs. 10,838,185.

The Capital Budget. This budget supports major equipment purchases and multi-year programs in education, health services and economic development. The annual budget is approved by the Finance and Executive Committees before funds can be solicited. Support for these activities comes from member bodies, church-related agencies, voluntary, non-governmental and governmental development agencies, HMG/N, and friends of the UMN.

1979	Capital expenditures:	Rs. 20,596,039.
1980	Approved Budget:	Rs. 66,018,316.
	(inclusive of multi-year project askings)	

#### MEMBER BODIES OF THE U.M.N.

American Lutheran Church  
 Assemblies of God, USA  
 Baptist Missionary Society, UK  
 BMMF International, UK, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand  
 Christian Church (Disciples), USA  
 Church Missionary Society, Australia  
 Church Missionary Society, UK  
 Church of North India  
 Committee for Service Overseas, Germany  
 Darjeeling Diocesan Council & Church of Scotland  
 Finnish Missionary Society  
 Free Church of Finland  
 Gossner Mission, Germany  
 Japan Overseas Cooperative Service  
 Leprosy Mission, UK (associate member)  
 Lutheran Church in America  
 Mennonite Board of Missions, USA  
 Mennonite Central Committee, USA  
 Methodist Church, UK  
 Orebro Mission  
 Presbyterian Church in Canada  
 Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
 Regions Beyond Missionary Union, UK, Australia  
 Swedish Free Mission  
 Swiss Friends Mission  
 TEAR Fund  
 United Church of Canada  
 United Church of Christ in Japan (Kyodan)  
 United Methodist Church, USA  
 United Presbyterian Church, USA  
 Wesleyan Church, USA  
 World Concern  
 World Mission Prayer League, Norway  
 World Mission Prayer League, USA

## WORK OF THE U.M.N.

Since the early years of the Mission, the work has been organized into projects in various geographical areas. Each project has had its own appointed leader, and has followed its own approved work plans, with assigned personnel and budget.

More recently His Majesty's Government of Nepal has developed ambitious plans for the progress of the country in many spheres of life and service, and the role of the UMN is changing to adapt to the altered situation in Nepal. The stated policy of the Mission is to work towards turning over the established work to government or other Nepali agencies, and to train Nepali staff for positions of administration in the various projects. In some areas of work the government has already integrated programs in which the UMN is deeply involved into its own programs, in others it is expected that this will soon take place. Very often the Mission is not being asked to hand over a project and then withdraw, but rather to work in cooperation with a Nepali agency on a joint cooperative basis. In several cases Nepali limited companies have been formed to take control of technical projects, and these are progressing well under Nepali leadership and management.

Another line of service which has been opened to the United Mission is that of secondment of personnel into various programs of work which are not necessarily related to the UMN in any way administratively: technical advisors, teachers, medical personnel, etc., all giving assistance in teaching, advising and practical work in many government or private institutions. The UMN is interested in developing this mode of assistance, and in recruiting qualified personnel to second to institutions and programs across the country as permitted by HMG.

The main projects of work which are administered by the Mission, or with which the Mission is very closely associated, are presented one by one on the following pages.

### HEADQUARTERS

The Headquarters of the UMN is in Kathmandu. It is set up like a Project with its staff, budget and work. The staff consists of the Executive Director, Personnel Secretary, Treasurer, Functional Secretaries, Central Services Director, Language & Orientation Director, Information Officer, Counsellors, Auditor, Treasurer's Assistants, and office assistants. They live in rented houses and apartments, and work in several Guesthouses, office buildings and a supplies warehouse. There is accommodation in the Guesthouses to receive new workers for their beginning months of language study and orientation, and to offer hospitality to Mission visitors and outlying workers who come to town.

Headquarters serves the Mission in matters of administration, finance, business and supplies. It keeps in close touch with all the projects in the field, with the UMN Board, with the home offices of the member bodies, and with a circle of partner-friends.

## JUMLA PROJECT

A new opportunity for work is opening up in the north west corner of Nepal in a place called Jumla. It is the most remote area of any of UMN's work, being located a 5-6 day walk from the nearest road. However, during 8 months of the year there is limited air transport into Jumla.

This area of Nepal is the least developed and there is also a food deficit which presents numerous problems for the local people.

In this location the UMN is planning involvement in the following works:

1. Technical Secondary School - for training village level agriculture, health, and construction workers in a village based, life oriented, community development setting.
2. Secondment of UMN teachers to local schools - primary, lower-secondary, secondary and institute levels.
3. Forest management and afforestation of the hydro-electric watershed area.
4. Establishment of a sawmill.
5. Agriculture development activities.
6. Health development activities.

In all of the above mentioned work, the emphasis is upon working with His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the local people rather than doing something for the people. This new venture of work offers the UMN many new challenges in how best to carry out its ministry.

## ANDHIKHOLA PROJECT

The highway from Butwal to Pokhara passes through the beautiful Andhikhola valley for nearly half of its length. In this valley and surrounding hill districts the United Mission hopes to start up a rural development program which may run over the next decade. In this very densely populated area people are at present nearly 100% dependent on agriculture for a living. The pressure of the growing population has resulted in destruction of forests and cultivation of marginal land, followed by serious land erosion. The purpose of this new project is to enable the people in the area to stop and reverse this catastrophic process.

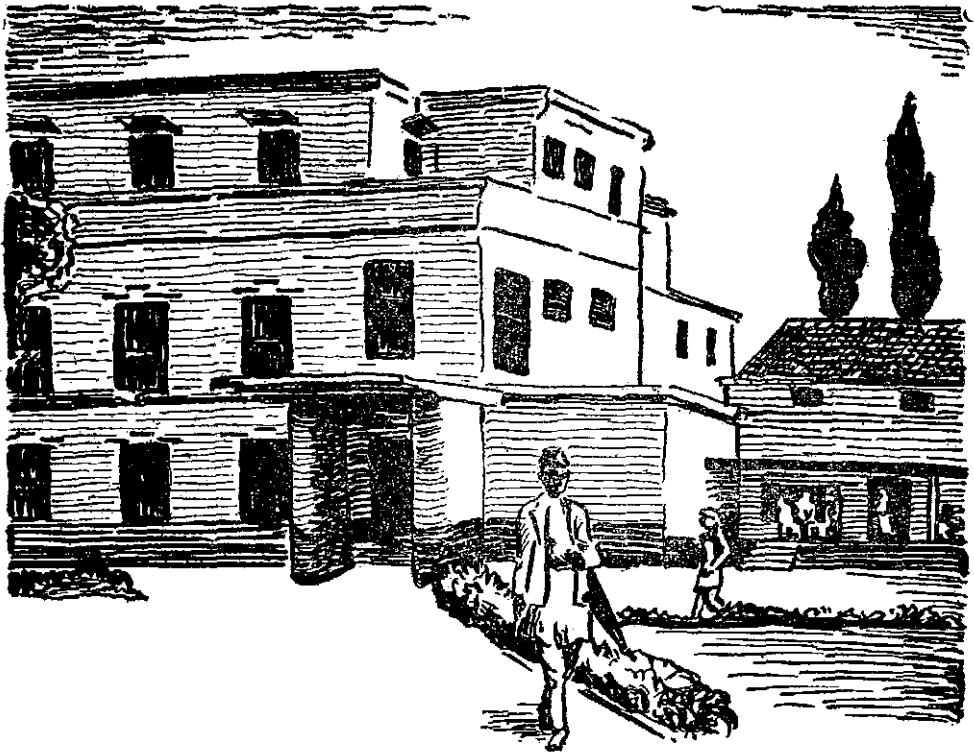
A 5000 kilowatt hydro power project is a cornerstone of the project. It will supply power for rural electrification, which, together with various other rural development activities, will increase farm production on land which is suitable for farming, and provide alternative employment for landless people and those farming land not suitable for cultivation. There will be irrigation projects, partly by using electric pumps, small scale agrobased and other industries, electric ropeways, reforestation, and programs for community development with emphasis on people's participation and motivation for self-reliance.



### GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

Early in the history of the Mission a team of teachers came and opened a vernacular girls' high school in Kathmandu. This has been very much needed and appreciated. Step by step the school has built up until now it has a full set of classes from Infants through Class X, a staff of 20 teachers, and a student body of 600 girls. An important feature of the school is a boarding department of 170 girls. Students are receiving vocational training, and graduating with qualification for college entrance.

Now the school has completed a substantial "Improvement Plan", which includes the purchase of the property, construction of new buildings and improvement of the old main building, and adding vocational classes. In 1973 the school was incorporated into the New Education Plan, which means that the administration and financing of the school is in the hands of HMG. The UMN is continuing its participation in the school with personnel and financial assistance for deserving students.



### SHANTA BHAWAN HOSPITAL

This hospital has been growing and serving in Kathmandu since 1954, and has had an active out-patient department, 135 beds for in-patients, a school for nurses and a Community health program.

In addition to the present running of this project, the UMN has signed an agreement to build and develop, on a joint basis with HMG, a new 150-bed hospital on the outskirts of Patan, which will be the District Hospital. This will serve as a base hospital for community health, and a well-rounded general hospital to offer the proper content for high-quality training of nurses.

The capital Valley used to be a lake in pre-historic times. Now it is like a huge bowl, very fertile and supporting a heavy population in towns and villages. In the valley the Mission is assisting a government program of community health services, which is organised as an outreach program of Shanta Bhawan Hospital.

The clinics are in villages and towns in the southern half of the valley. The staff undertakes training and services in maternal and child welfare, and in community health teaching and preventive measures. Local village women give supervised assistance in this work.



## OKHALDUNGA DISPENSARY

Nepal is mostly a country of high mountains, with all the deep interior and isolated people still largely reached by foot over rough trails. The Mission has sought to go out into these mountains and open work. One such project is six days' trek eastward, and south from Everest region, in Okhaldhunga District, on the side of a mountain at 6,000' altitude.

So far the Mission has opened a 'glorified dispensary' with a doctor and nurses. It has acquired land and has constructed a set of buildings for dispensary, 'dera' patients, and staff quarters. One staff nurse gives all her time to community health work in the town and in surrounding villages. The very small staff, the isolation and the limited living conditions add difficulties to the work. It is served part of the year by small plane service to Rumjatar, four hours' walk from Okhaldhunga.





### GORKHA PROJECT

Five hours by road and seven hours' walk, or 20 minutes' plane ride and four hours' walk, from the capital is Gorkha District, where the Mission's "Gorkha Project" is centered in the farming village of Amp Pipal, on the top of a 4,500 ft. high ridge. The idea of this project is to enter into the basic living needs of the people. Hence, it has placed a team of workers who are engaged in a cooperative group of services in medicine, community health and education. These services have spread out into surrounding villages, and staff are resident in several places other than the centre at Amp Pipal.

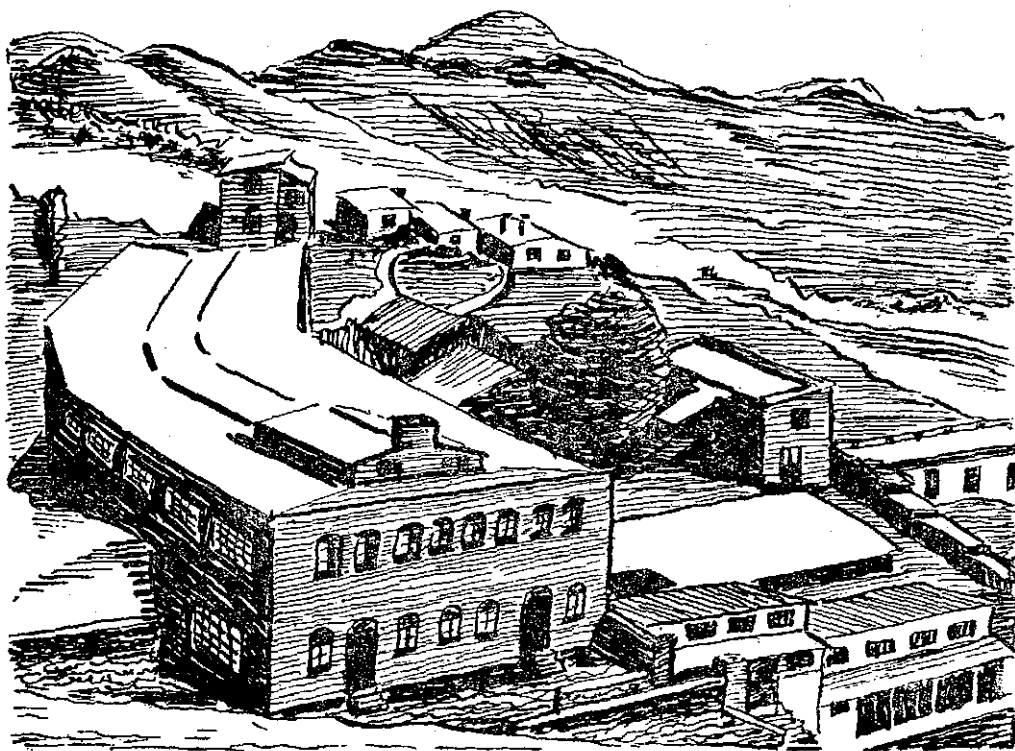
The Mission seeks to second teachers to local schools, now run by HMG. The Luitel High School, previously run by UMN, continues to be academically one of the strongest in the country. The Mission also works through the facilities of a small hospital, which is a base for an expanding community health program. A strong impact is being made on the community, and changes are discernable.



## PALPA PROJECT

Tansen is the district seat of the Palpa area in the central mountains at about 5,000 feet altitude, an important town on the new auto road which stretches from the plains up to Pokhara. Here the Mission opened its second project in 1954, a general hospital. It began in rented town buildings, but since has moved into its own fine buildings.

The services in this area thus far are medical, and consist of: (a) a modern 100-bed general hospital with 5 doctors, well-qualified support staff and good equipment; (b) a leprosy work within the framework of the general hospital; (c) a community health program based at the hospital, but working out among the villages around Tansen and West Palpa, and also extending to Bojha in Nawal Parasi; (d) training programs for Auxiliary Nurse Midwives and Assistant Health Workers in conjunction with HMG training schools.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORK, BUTWAL

The New Nepal wants industry and needs technically skilled workmen. The Mission sought for years to find a way of serving and witnessing in this new area of society. The opening, which came in 1963, took the form of a Technical Institute, a production centre also offering apprenticeship training, located at the foot of the mountains on the plains in the frontier town of Butwal. Two important highways cross at this point, and an airfield is not far away.

Since that time the Mission has had opportunity to expand into the establishment of a hydro-electric power scheme and a plywood factory (both now Nepali limited companies). It is involved also in economic development which includes the manufacture of bio-gas plants, research into the production of effective farm implements, etc., and has wide possibilities for further expansion. A strong emphasis is placed on training for leadership.



## POKHARA BOYS' SCHOOL

Vision and concern for good education is growing in the country. People want their children under the care and discipline of boarding schools, if possible. A committee of influential citizens in the Pokhara area wanted such a boarding school for boys, and asked the United Mission and the Shining Hospital Mission in Pokhara (INF) to help them with it.

The outcome has been the establishment of the "Nepali Model School", a boys' boarding High School in Pokhara. The UMN is helping to develop it under the auspices of the HMG New Education Plan. Graduates qualify for college entrance, with very strong emphasis on vocational training in agriculture, industrial arts, and secretarial science. A great job and opportunity lie here — to gather a qualified staff, to raise money and build a set of buildings, and above all to raise 350 boys, ten months of the year, through their first ten years of schooling. Further opportunities are developing to use the school as a base for assisting other schools in teaching special subjects, and also in HMG teaching course material development.



## 6. AUXILIARY MINISTRIES

There are certain agencies or organisations in India and Nepal which are an important help to the work of the church in this land. They include:

The Bible Society, which prepared the Scriptures in various forms in the Nepali language. There has been a revision of the Old and New Testaments in recent years. A branch of the Society has now been formed in Kathmandu.

The Darjeeling Hills Bible School, which offers a two-year course to Nepalis of study in the Bible, doctrine, church history, etc., and which fits Christians for stronger work in their home places. Over half the students of this school have gone on to work in Nepal.

The Jiwan Jyoti Prakashan (Light & Life Press), located in Darjeeling, has a staff of workers engaged in a planned program of Christian literature, production and distribution. This is the main source for such materials for use in Nepal.

The Bible Correspondence Institute, based in Kathmandu, sends out Bible courses in Nepali, to thousands of people in and out of Nepal who have asked by mail to receive these lessons.



## 7. THE RELIGIOUS SITUATION

There are remnants of ancient animism among some of the people of Nepal. Early in its history, Buddhism spread across the country and has a strong place in the capital Valley and in northern reaches. Later, Hinduism has come over all and become the dominant state religion.

For several generations, Nepal has had laws designed to hold intact the Hindu structure of society. These laws control inter-cast relation, forbid converting to another religion, and, until recently, excluded foreign influences so as to preserve the sacredness of the land. The people are given the liberty to remain in the religions of their forefathers and are protected from converting pressures. The changes in society since 1951 have touched this position very little. The new National law (1963) forbids disturbing Hindus, forbids converting and defines penalties for breaking these laws.

Since the change of 1951 there have come Christians into the country. Some are with government aid missions. Some are Indians, a good number of them being Nepali by race and language. These have found work in government posts, in schools, in missions. There are perhaps 1,400 active Nepali Christians in the whole of the country, scattered in over 40 places in the country in small groups, and over wide areas as individuals.

Wherever these Christians are located, they have formed themselves into small groups or congregations which carry out the normal functions of the church. Where they are of sufficient size they arrange for a pastor, handle a treasury, administer the sacraments, and in some cases have built church buildings. In this way Christian worship, preaching and teaching is going on.

Very little has thus far developed in matters of membership, constitution, creed, etc. There is a Nepal Christian Fellowship to which groups and individuals may belong, but it has a very loose structure. Only recently has it adopted a common creed, and no membership rolls are maintained. It has officers and an annual conference, and is serving to hold the Christian community together in a spirit of unity, concern and prayer. Short-term Bible Schools are held in different places. Literature is used in various ways and there are a couple of bookstores. The pastors of the congregations have taken the lead in instructing enquirers and baptizing those asking for this. This is, of course, illegal. Both do it knowingly. It is a matter of grave concern and prayer on the part of all who are involved. So far, in these recent years, there have been several cases of legal action against Christians. The authorities do not seek offenders, but only investigate and take action when a complaint is filed with them.

The United Mission is not creating or building the Church in the traditional missionary pattern. The Mission does not baptize or pastor congregations. The church is growing up independently, on its own, and is responsible to develop its faith and order. Mission and church work parallel to each other. The Mission as such has no organisational connection with the church. Workers of the Mission join and share as individuals in the worship, life and work of the groups and congregations where they live.

## 8. SOURCE MATERIALS ON NEPAL AND THE UNITED MISSION

### BOOKS

- Gorkha, the Story of the Gurkhas of Nepal*, by F. Tucker, Constable & Co., London. A British army man's scholarly and reliable work.
- Window on Nepal*, by Tibor Sekelj, Robert Hale, Ltd., London, 1959. With 21 photos. A visiting writer's popular and brief view.
- Nepal*, by Toni Hagen, published in Switzerland (German and English), 1960. Large, beautifully illustrated, scholarly.
- Nepal, A Physical and Cultural Geography*, by P. P. Karen, with 35 maps and 60 illustrations. University of Kentucky Press, Lexington, Ky., USA. 1960.
- The Fabulous Flemings of Kathmandu*, by G. N. Fletcher, Dutton & Co., N.Y., 1964. The story of two doctors of the United Mission in Nepal by a visiting writer.
- Nepal and the Gurkhas*, by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1965. 158 pages with maps and illustrations, on Nepali races and culture.
- Himalay*, by Herbert Tichy. Large, beautifully illustrated.
- Nepal on the Potter's Wheel*, 1970, by United Mission to Nepal, 50 pp, with 20 illustrations, about Nepal and the UMN. Obtainable from UMN, Nepal and offices of UMN member bodies.
- East of Kathmandu*, by Tom Weir.
- Gurkhas and Ghosts*, by Luree Miller.
- The Himalayan Kingdom*, by P. P. Karen and William Jenkins.
- Himalayan Pilgrimage*, by David Snellgrove.
- Nepal in Transition*, by Horace and Mary Reed.
- The Magars of Banyan Hill*, by John Hitchcock.
- The Newars*, by G. S. Nepali.
- Nepal: An interesting account for Foreigners*, 1971, Department of Information, HMG, Nepal. 76 pages with many illustrations and informative materials for visitors.
- The Himalayas, a Journey to Nepal*, by Takehide Kasam. Kodansha International Ltd., Tokyo & Calif. 154 pages, 110 coloured plates.
- The Himalayas, Nepal*, Dept. of Tourism, HMG, Nepal, 24 pages of illustrations and information about the highest peaks of the snowcapped Himalayas.

### ARTICLES, LEAFLETS, PAPERS

- The National Geographic Magazine has several articles about Nepal over many years. See Periodic Guide to Literature.
- There are articles appearing regularly in the magazines of UMN member bodies and occasionally in other church and mission papers.
- The UMN office in Kathmandu regularly mails out a "News and Prayer Letter" to its co-partners and interested friends. It publishes annual reports on all its projects with its Minutes of Board Meetings. It also distributes occasional informational leaflets.
- The Publicity Department and Tourism Department of H.M.G. of Nepal publish calendars, posters, informative leaflets and folders at regular intervals.

### VISUAL AIDS

- Black and white photographs: Information obtainable from UMN Headquarters, Kathmandu.
- Slides: Set of 46 colour slides on UMN, with script. Available from UMN Headquarters, or from Norske Tibetmisjon, Brogt 8, Oslo 1, Norway.
- Film: "Nepal on the Potter's Wheel", 16mm, sound, colour, 36 minutes, 1970. Obtainable from offices of UMN member bodies, and information from UMN Headquarters, Kathmandu.
- Film: "Living Water for Nepal", 16mm, sound, colour, 28 minutes, 1975. Obtainable from offices of UMN member bodies, and information from UMN Headquarters, Kathmandu.

# KATHMANDU AREA

