

Grace in Action

Stories of God at work in and through the GIS community

Nepal Disaster Changes Hearts

[For security reasons, the missionaries mentioned below will have the pseudonym "the Taylors." They live in Chiang Mai and minister throughout southern Asia; their children attend Grace.]

As Prem Maya and her fellow believers sat in a Nepali church the morning of April 25, 2015, they couldn't know the ominous future, as the earth began to shake violently during the sermon. Then the church front collapsed outward, pulling their pastor through the hole with the rush of air.

People scrambled to get outside, but the doorway was too narrow, so many members were trapped by the crumbling walls, including Prem. She was pinned underneath the rubble for almost three hours before being rescued. Incredibly, she suffered only minor injuries. However, sixteen church members did not survive, including Prem's mother.

The earthquake injured 22,000; nearly 9,000 died. When news of this devastation reached the Taylors in nearby Thailand, they flew immediately to Nepal to minister to the national believers as well as the missionaries living there. They brought tarps, food, relief funds, and provided trauma care. Critical debriefing and trauma care the Taylors provided enabled foreign families to recover and remain in the country, ministering to others. Many Nepalese and missionaries were afraid to sleep in their homes for many weeks after the quake. And they relived the ordeal with each new aftershock.

Because the Taylors and their teammates quickly attended to people's physical needs and mental worries, churches were also enabled to give survival care and spiritual support to their community. Before the disaster, members of one congregation were often spit upon and had rocks thrown at them, when they walked to and from church. Following the quake, their church became a shelter for the whole community. Today, believers continue demonstrating Jesus' unconditional love to people who were previously their enemies.

Grace International School exists to enable international Christian workers to remain in their field of service by providing for the educational needs of their children.



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