

AMP 9-13-15 | 9:00 - 9:30am

Today's Service

- That God would draw unsaved people to our service, and into his kingdom.
- That Pastor Jon would preach in God's power as he is preaching a new series, Community & Diversity at Christ's Church in Queens, on how we function as a church.
- That God's presence would be palpable and that all in attendance would be changed by the goodness, power, and love of God.

RPC Outreach

- That we the people of RPC would desire to be a word and deed church.
- That God would open up great and lasting opportunities of community service for RPC.
- That the congregational meeting on September 13th will be well attended. We will be voting to ordain Tom Harmon as an elder, voting to install a pastor, and voting to petition Presbytery to become a particular church of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Pray also for the Presbytery meeting on the 19th.
- BBQ&A will be held at Cunningham Park on September 13 & 20. Pray that it would be well attended and that it would be a time of good fellowship, service, and edification for all involved. Pray for Pastor Jon's preparations for the message he gives and for his answers to the questions he receives.

Regional Church

- Pray for the other churches of our presbytery: Westminster Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Jonathan Holst (Hamden, CT); Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Bohemia, Meindert Ploegman (Bohemia, NY); Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Franklin Square, William Shishko (Franklin Square, NY), Trinity Church, Ben Miller (Syosset, NY), Westchester Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Dan Osborne (Mt. Vernon, NY).

Nepal | Basic Country Facts:

Operation World Denomination Statistics



Christians	Deno ms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	23	0.44	132,000	5.1%
Independent	63	2.41	721,000	5.3%
Catholic	1	0.02	7,000	2.0%
Marginal	6	0.02	5,000	6.1%
Doubly Affiliated		-0.04	-13,000	0.0%

Ethnic Breakdown: Chhettri 16.6%, Brahman-Hill 12.2%, Magar 7.1%, Tharu 6.6%, Tamang 5.8%, Newar 5%, Kami 4.8%, Muslim 4.4%, Yadav 4%, Rai 2.3%, Gurung 2%, Damai/Dholii 1.8%, Thakuri 1.6%, Limbu 1.5%, Sarki 1.4%, Teli 1.4%, Chamar/Harijan/Ram 1.3%, Koiri/Kushwaha 1.2%, other 19% note: 125 caste/ethnic groups were reported in the 2011 national census (2011 est.)

Major Languages: Nepali (official) 44.6%, Maithali 11.7%, Bhojpuri 6%, Tharu 5.8%, Tamang 5.1%, Newar 3.2%, Magar 3%, Bajjika 3%, Urdu 2.6%, Avadhi 1.9%, Limbu 1.3%, Gurung 1.2%, other 10.4%, unspecified 0.2% note: 123 languages reported as mother tongue in 2011 national census; many in government and business also speak English (2011 est.)

Religion: Hindu 81.3%, Buddhist 9%, Muslim 4.4%, Kirant 3.1%, Christian 1.4%, other 0.5%, unspecified 0.2% (2011 est.)

Population: 31,551,305 (July 2015 est.)

Life Expectancy: male: 66.18 years female: 68.92 years (2015 est.)

Government: federal democratic republic

Economic Conditions: Nepal is among the poorest and least developed countries in the world, with about one-quarter of its population living below the poverty line. Nepal is heavily dependent on remittances, which amount to as much as 22%-25% of GDP. Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy, providing a livelihood for more than 70% of the population and accounting for a little over one-third of GDP. Industrial activity mainly involves the processing of agricultural products, including pulses, jute, sugarcane, tobacco, and grain. Nepal has considerable scope for exploiting its potential in hydropower, with an estimated 42,000 MW of commercially feasible capacity, but political uncertainty and a difficult business climate have hampered foreign investment. Additional challenges to Nepal's growth include its landlocked geographic location, persistent power shortages, underdeveloped transportation infrastructure, civil strife and labor unrest, and its susceptibility to natural disaster.

GDP Per Capita: \$2,400 (2014 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin: agriculture: 30.7% industry: 13.6% services: 55.7% (2014 est.)

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Education: The overall literacy rate (for population aged 5 years and above) increased from 54.1% in 2001 to 65.9% in 2011. The male literacy rate was 75.1% compared to the female literacy rate of 57.4%. The highest literacy rate was reported in Kathmandu district (86.3%) and lowest in Rautahat (41.7%). While the net primary enrollment rate was 74% in 2005; in 2009, that enrollment rate was at 90%. However increasing access to secondary education (grades 9-12) remains a major challenge, as evidenced by the low net enrollment rate of 24% at this level. More than half of primary students do not enter secondary schools, and only one-half of them complete secondary schooling. In addition, fewer girls than boys join secondary schools and, among those who do join, fewer complete the 10th grade. (wiki)

State of the Church: The overwhelming majority of the Nepalese population follows Hinduism. Shiva is regarded as the guardian deity of the country. Nepal is home to the famous Lord Shiva temple, the Pashupatinath Temple, where Hindus from all over the world come for pilgrimage. According to Hindu mythology, the goddess Sita of the epic Ramayana, was born in the Mithila Kingdom of King Janaka Raja.

Lumbini is a Buddhist pilgrimage site and UNESCO World Heritage Site site in the Kapilavastu district. Traditionally it is held to be the birthplace in about 563 B.C. of Siddhartha Gautama, a Kshatriya caste prince of the Sakya clan, who as the Buddha Gautama, founded Buddhism.. (wiki)

Prayer Points:

- A new Nepal began in 2008 with the absolute power of the Hindu monarchy yielding to pro-democracy protests. Sweeping political change, begun in the 1950s, has climaxed in the last couple of years. This is an answer to the specific prayers of almost all Christians in Nepal who have interceded for their nation, and it paves the way for new freedoms and opportunities for Christian ministry. (OW Ans 1)
- Sustained church growth over decades and through many trials gives Nepali Christianity a strong foundation. The first church was formed in 1952 with 29 Christians. At the height of persecution in 1990, there were 200,000 believers. In 2010 there are as many as 850,000 Christ-followers in nearly 10,000 groups. This was achieved by willingness to suffer for the gospel, profound prayerfulness and a Nepali-driven long-term commitment to evangelism and church planting. Now, new social and transformational ministries are growing on the back of this foundation. (OW Ans 2)
- Nepal enjoys a window of opportunity with the new government and new constitution, but positive strides must be made quickly before disillusionment or entrenchment occurs. With deep divisions still affecting society – various religious groups, deeply opposed political parties – real progress must be made if the new government is to have a true chance of success. The Maoist former rebels, still listed in some other nations as a terrorist organization, hold the keys to the finely balanced government. Pray for wisdom, courage and grace on the part of Nepal's leaders, and that they might put personal or party differences aside and work together to fight the immense economic problems still gripping the country. (OW 1)
 - There have been a number of violent conflicts concerning the draft constitution for Nepal. (<http://thediomat.com/2015/09/tikapur-and-ethnic-violence-in-nepal/>) Thirty people have been killed since the draft constitution was unveiled. (<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/asia-pacific/four-protesters-against-new-constitution-killed-in-nepal-1.2345750>). Pray that the differences can be resolved without any more bloodshed.
- Socio-economic needs remain a huge challenge in this beautiful but troubled land:
 - a) Poverty and unemployment keep Nepal from progressing. Fully 47% are underemployed (working less than 40% of their available working hours). Pray for creative and sustainable means of gainful employment.
 - b) Young people comprise two-thirds of Nepal's population, which is one of the world's youngest and fastest growing. Most live in rural areas, deprived of education and opportunity. Illiteracy is widespread. Young people are vulnerable to economic exploitation, sex trafficking, drug abuse, HIV/AIDS and radicalization (political or religious). Pray for changes here that offer young people hope and a future.
 - c) Despite becoming a secular democracy, Nepal's social structures remain dominated by Hinduism. This perpetuates the caste system, which oppresses many, most notably Dalits who make up as much as 14% of the population. Caste discrimination is technically illegal but ubiquitous nonetheless. Converts from Hinduism to Christ usually become outcasts as well. Pray for the shattering of this unjust system. (OW 3)
- Nepal is still recovering from the earthquakes from earlier this year. News reports indicate that the government has still not made plans to receive and distribute the \$4 billion in aid pledged to the nation. (<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/02/us-nepal-rebuilding-idUSKCN0R20GU20150902>) "Four months later, many partially damaged buildings in Kathmandu are still standing and rubble is strewn across public parks. Tens of thousands of people are living in plastic tents, preyed upon by flies and mosquitoes, with muddy paths and no drains." Pray that the government and those in authority would work to give help to those in need.