



# Echo of Himalaya

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*Verse to be remembers!*

**“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”**

**Galatians 5:13**

## **Finnish Mission History:**

**Reflecting on the past, moving into the future (Contd.)**

Once Winston Churchill rightly said and I quote: “Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” History is not just a past to remember but history is an opportunity to explore new things and learn from it.

During early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Finnish missionaries arrived in the Himalayan belt with a great vision and mission-heart. As they arrived in Indian soil they have had a vision to enter Tibet. They stayed and lived challenging lives as India is facing huge disparity of caste, creed and regional backwardness as few of them (missionaries) rightly described term “darkness”.

In 1906, Ms. Klaara Hertz arrived in Lachen (Sikkim) from Finland and began mission work there. Meanwhile in 1908, Massinen became ill and died while she was intending to return Finland. In 1909, Klaara and Elin Kronqvist returned to Lachen from Ghoom. Every morning and evening, locals (adult men and women), children and women who were learning knitting used to gather at Mission House to hear the gospel and singing. Shortly afterwards, three of them decided to accept Christ and be baptized. Six other girls who were learning sewing and knitting also got baptized. The mission work continued to increase steadily in Sikkim, Ghoom and Chunabhatti along with various social services.

Later in 1912, Bible training program was organized in Lachen. Forty-six participants from Sikkim and six from Europe participated in the training. At the same time Prince of Sikkim visited Lachen. After the prince visit, persecution has begun in Lachen region. After the year of 1919, missionaries were not allowed to live in Sikkim hence; they left Lachung and moved to the Ghoom. Meanwhile, after fourteen years of mission work in April 1920, Klaara Hertz died in Lachen. From 1920 to 1930, unabatedly evangelism and social work continued over the region. By that time more than thirty families had accepted Christ. For the first time, Thingley and Gompu Dozi, two local teachers of Ringhim (Sikkim), were ordained for the pastoral ministry. At Ghoom, on August 2, 1930, three people were baptized amidst of protest by the relatives. In the meantime, book of gospels and Hymn Books were also translated into Tibetan language. From the year of 1930 to 1950, there were no major obstacles to mission work in Buxadoars and Chunabhatti, but in Sikkim, the gates of the gospel were often closed as per the then king's proclamation. At the same time, World War II made it difficult for missionaries to travel from Finland. In the year 1950, as per the treaty of the Government of India and Sikkim King (Maharaj), it became difficult for foreigners to live and work in Sikkim. From this year only, the route from Sikkim to Tibet was closed. Later in 1960, as per the gazette notification of Government of India, all religious organizations and bodies were to be registered in the name of local authorities. As a result, Himalayan Free Church was registered under West Bengal Society Registration Act in 1962 in lieu of Free Church of Finland Mission. Thus from 1972 onwards, missionaries returned Finland after entrusting all the responsibilities and pending mission works to local believers and leaders of newly born Himalayan Free Church. Currently, HFCI has more than 110 major churches and fellowships within West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam and Nepal (neighbour Himalayan nation).

*~Noel Giri, Sukhia Pokhri*

## In This Issue

**01.** Finnish Mission History

**02.** Reports

**03.** Prayer Desk & Church and the Mission

**“Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God”**

— William Carey

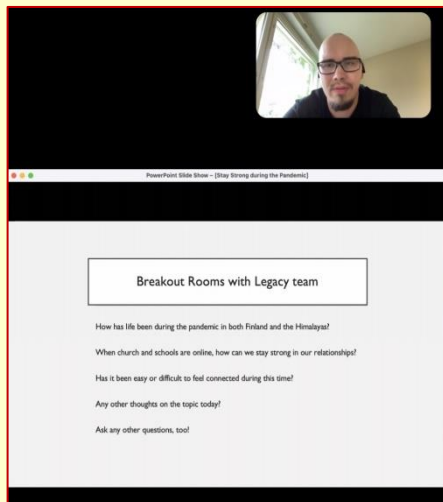
## News Report on Legacy Project Team, Finland & Himalaya Youth Interactive Session:



As Indians, we celebrate 75<sup>th</sup> Swatantrata Divas (their Independence Day), pray that no Indian heart would be satisfied with worldly freedom, that they would turn their eyes to the eternal freedom that can only come through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Pray that Indian Christians would be bold in sharing their knowledge of true freedom with their non-believing neighbors and friends.

As we celebrate freedom of our nation, pray that the Holy Spirit would change the people's concept of freedom. Pray that their eyes would be opened to see that freedom is more than simply the ability to do what one wants, but that their earthly freedom would leave them thirsting for the eternal freedom that can only be satisfied through Christ.

On July 29, an interactive virtual session was organized between young generation of HFCI and Legacy Project from Finland on the topic entitled "How to stay strong during the pandemic? Lessons from the Chronicles of Narnia" followed by a breakout zoom interactive Zoom session. The team member of Legacy Project highlighted on character building, risk of isolation or loneliness and importance of social bonding and connection during pandemic situation. Almost 72 (seventy-two) youth members from different congregations of HFCI participated in this virtual session.



them on short-term missions around the world. The mission God has given us to unite all Christians at all times. That's why Legacy brings together people from all denominations, mission organizations, and communities. It spreads at the grassroots level, and it doesn't exist without you and me.

About Legacy Project, Finland: At the heart of the new generation transmission phenomenon is the idea that everyone has a mission and every environment is a transmission field. The goal of The Legacy Project is to mobilize a new generation to respond to God's call and Jesus' mission to send

### Fasting Prayer Day of HFCI:

On second Saturday of August (14<sup>th</sup> August) – across the HFCI, all Pastors and leaders took part in day long prayer; intentionally seek God through prayer and fasting. Simultaneously, a virtual prayer service has been organized where almost 60 (sixty) Pastors and Church Leaders were participated and prayed on various prayer points of HFCI along with special pray for India.



Pastor Tirash Rai, especially facilitated the entire prayer service and Pastor Anand Rai delivered the sermon during the prayer service.

### Pray for IFFEC Worldwide Virtual Meeting 2021:



Please upholds in prayer for Worldwide Zoom meeting of presidents, general secretaries, youth leaders, mission leaders, theology leaders in all IFFEC Federations. The meeting scheduled on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 via virtual platform Zoom. The theme of this meeting shall be "Standing Firm in Faith Together in All Circumstances." Kindly pray for all participations from IFFEC federations and productive meeting.

## ~Prayer Desk~

Please upholds in prayer for ongoing Church Construction Projects of HFCI as follows:

### Church and the Mission

*The mission of advancing the gospel is the great work of the church, and prayer is the engine that moves it.*

*Prayer opens the doors in the world for the gospel to advance.*

In Colossians 4:3-4, Paul asks the church, "Pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ." Prayer opens opportunities for the gospel to be shared that previously seemed closed.

In prayer, the impossible becomes practical. Like when Peter was imprisoned in Acts 12, the church was praying and God released Peter, opening the iron gate leading into the city (Acts 12:10). In that experience, Peter realized that nothing would hold back the kingdom of God from advancing as the church prayed.

It is prayer that helps us connect with people who are open to the gospel. It is prayer that leads us to the right place at the right time to take the steps that only God could orchestrate. Prayer connects the church to the activity of God who is empowering his people to advance the message of his kingdom.

~by Jerry Conner

1. Chungthang HFCI, Sikkim church building project.
2. Margret's Hope HFCI Church Building Project.
3. Gelongtaar, Lebong Valley HFCI Church Building Project.
4. Lebong HFCI Church building Project.
5. SimKharka, Sikkim HFCI Church Building Project.
6. Yangyang, Sikkim HFCI Church Building Project.
7. Suntalabari, Buxaduars HFCI Church Building Project.
8. Ranka, Sikkim HFCI Church Building Project.
9. Jholung, HFCI Church Building Project.
10. Tingling, HFCI Church Building Project.
11. Timi, Sikkim Church Building Project.
12. LepchaKheti, Darjeeling Church Building Project.

### Few More Prayer Points:

1. Pray for HFCI's ongoing mission works over the Himalaya.
2. Pray for all upcoming scheduled events of HFCI viz. Mission and Evangelism, Fellowships/Seminars, Shepherd Bible Seminary etc.
3. Please do uphold in Prayer for ongoing HFCI ministry in rest part of India viz. Assam, Nepal, Malda (West Bengal).
4. Pray for church building extension projects of following Churches-
  - a. Jalpaiguri HFCI.
  - b. Shelpu, Kurseong, HFCI.
  - c. Badamtam, Lebong Valley HFCI.
  - d. 6<sup>th</sup> Mile, HFCI.

### Your Quality Contribution Matters:



*Dear Readers!*

*Kindly send your article/write-up/Biblical Teachings/Testimony/Mission Reports/Church Reports etc in brief (within 300 – 700 words) which may found more relevant to publish in our upcoming circulations.*

*You may send soft copy (Only Word File) of write-up on given email or WhatsApp.*

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