

Nepal's "Paul": Prem Pradhan

My question emailed to associates of Prem Pradhan who are ministering in Nepal today:

"In 1994, Prem Pradhan spoke to a small audience of 14 in my home. His testimony changed my understanding of Biblical meetings. I am re-reading my notes, and have just now found your website. I am anxious to learn if what I learned from him is still believed and followed today. Do you still discourage "worship services" dominated by "sermons"? Do you still encourage political involvement – shining Light in those forums where voters decide whether to pattern laws after the principles of Heaven or of Hell?



What American churches call a "worship service" is dominated by a "sermon" which no one may interrupt, neither to correct an error, add supporting information, or clarify

confusion. Prem called that a "dead church". He said we should "leave that behind" because if we read a chapter "6 or 8 times, then no need to tell what it says...."

His words:

"So many, many American church denomination, they are now entering into Nepal. What you have here, the dead church, many dead church you have in America, they're exporting their dead church in my country!...

"They're taking the things they have, the dead things, they are exporting that into our country! You need to pray!...

I come to America, and find the Catholic church and the Protestant church are identical! In both, one man stands against a wall and talks, and then "church" is over. In Nepal, only Catholic church that way. Although the Greek Orthodox church, everyone stand.

"Devil is always after the church. Americans will take offerings, and send to Nepal, and build a building, and line up the benches, and stand up a preacher, and say here is the pattern. the pattern that America got from Calvin.

"In Nepal there are no benches where people sit who don't know each other...."

"Honor headship of Jesus, no man the head. Someone may be good speaker, but leave that behind. Read Gospel of John 6 or 8 times, then no need to tell what it says...."

He also spoke against the Noninvolvement Theology in American churches that church members should not be allowed to organize political action in church premises:

"If you not work together as one body, you lose. Some day you will have to suffer in prison, more terrible than what we suffer. We are not fighting against the government, man, or constitution, but principalities of darkness. But we must fight him together, as one body. Not true that Christians not take part in government. The right thing to do. Or why God choose Saul, David, Moses, to fight against evil? If Christians not fight against evil, who is going to fight?"

The transcript below is of a presentation by Prem Pradhan, speaking at an Ottumwa, Iowa home church meeting, August 31, 1994, at the home of Terry Godwin, who was a subscriber of my publication, Prayer & Action News. When I learned that Prem would be taken to the Des Moines airport two days later, I asked if he might squeeze in one more

meeting at my home which is two miles from the airport, before he boards. So he did, and in that time I gathered a small audience of 14 in my home. My notes say he began at 1:59 pm, September 2, 1994. I had taken handwritten notes in Ottumwa; in my home I tape recorded the interview and later transcribed it. The following is a combination of my transcript and those notes.

In October, 2022, I am resurrecting my notes, and wondering about the organization he said he founded. I find that a book said to be by him but not published until 10 years after his passing is available on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Apostle-Nepal-Prem-Pradhan/dp/0979751543>. It is published by Publisher : SeedSowers (June 30, 2008). It has 138 pages. The summary at Amazon reads:

"Prem Pradhan was led to Christ by members of Bakht Singh's people, in a city near Nepal. He was Nepal's first modern convert. Later, he became Nepal's apostle. By the end of his life, Prem had spent half of his Christian life in prisons. His crime? Preaching Christ and baptizing others.

"His very first converts were all fellow prisoners. As you read his story, you will meet a simple man, yet one who matched Paul of Tarsus, stripe for stripe, imprisonment for imprisonment, beating for beating, and church for church. Modern history knows no greater tale than that of the life of Prem Pradhan. If you ever wanted to know the modern equivalent of a Jon Huss, John Wycliffe, the Anabaptists, or Paul, then read the story of this man."

Prem had told me he could be contacted through "Advancing Native Missions" Its address today is P O Box 5303, Charlottesville, VA 22905. Tel: 540-456-7111. E-mail: anm@adnamis.org. Website: <http://www.adnamis.org>. The website doesn't mention Prem.

I found another website that describes its cofounding with Prem: www.nlmnepal.org. New Life Mission, Nepal. Contact: Philemon & Elishiba Chhetri, GPO Box 12257, Kathmandu, Nepal. Tel: 977-1-4379410 E-mail: philchhetri@yahoo.com. It is to that address that I emailed my question at the beginning of this article.

The nlmnepal.org site says of Prem:

"Brother Prem Pradhan was born in June 1924 in Ilam, East Nepal. And he grew up as a devout Hindu. He studied in Ramakrishna Mission School in Calcutta and was graduated in 1942 after being taught by the Hindu Sadhus for 8 years. He heard the Gospel and accepted the Lord in the year of 1951 in a street Meeting in Darjeeling Town. God called him to preach the Gospel to his own country Nepal saying "Go to Nepal and preach the Gospel to your own people". He followed the call of God, resigned his military job, went to Nepal in 1955 with the Gospel and became a pioneer missionary in Nepal. He was arrested and put into prison for the Gospel's sake. He was shifted to 14 different prisons. People were converted wherever he was sent to. Thus he spent total 10 years in prison. After 44 years of his ministry, the Lord called him home on the 15th November 1998. After his departure, Philemon and Elishiba Chhetri are heading the ministry."

Transcript of Prem's 1994 testimony:

Prem never baptized anyone until they were willing to accept the cost, which was a minimum of 1 year in prison. In prison himself for the crime of converting others, Prem converted prisoners and guards, and was sent to other prisons where he did the same, until he had been in 14 prisons. They put him in a mental institution, where he cured patients by

casting out demons, and they went home to preach the Gospel! Finally they decided he was less dangerous free!

During 43 years, mostly in prison, his wife built an orphanage that grew to 300. From a beginning of a handful of Christians which he had converted before his long imprisonment, there are now 50,000 Christians among Nepal's 18.5 million population, and 100 native missionaries are scouring the countryside to preach Christ where He has never been named.

Very recently, the Queen of Nepal visited his orphanage, and the King granted a pardon to all Christians, releasing them from prison. But only the enforcement of the law has been repealed; the law is still the law, and could be applied again at any time. Meanwhile, now that there is no cost, Western missionaries are streaming in to give big rallies where there are mass conversions, but no cost analysis, and no church planting, and then they leave. Prem would rather Western missionaries evangelize the dead churches of America, and he offers a few suggestions.

Introduction by Tim Dobson, Ottumwa pastor: "...50 years ago, there were no Christians living inside of Nepal. [Now there are 50,000.]

"My own nature: I'm kind of a quiet, bashful guy, and just from eating with you I'm coming to understand that I'm in the midst of Christian political activists who have suffered by going to jail and so on. You're going to enjoy, and you're going to feel, unity of spirit with our brother who lives in a much different culture, and yet suffered for his faith in a profound way.

"And you're going to enjoy the fact that his fellow Christians did not feel sorry for him, but they rejoiced with him, that he was counted worthy to suffer for the Lord Jesus..."

Prem Pradhan

Nepal is between China and India. It hosts Mt. Everest, the world's highest mountain.

Mongolia also Buddhist people. Now Mongolia also open to the Lord.

Buddha born in Nepal in 500 BC. I born in Nepal. Eastern side. Our king is a Hindu king. Nepal is the only Hindu kingdom (that is, ruled by a king) in the world. Nepal is free from domination of any other nation. He came from India. We are 12 different major tribes. And many minor tribes. A small nation of 18.5 million. Full of mountains. Northern side, all is snow. No one can live. 29,000' height.

Our people mostly work in the army. Not in our own army! They work, from ancient time, for the British army.

When the British came in India, they captured Bengal, and they attack Nepal. And 3 times they are defeated. Then Lord Clive make a pact with Nepali king. Take our soldiers to the British army, and pay our king.

Still they do that!

They are taking soldiers from our country. And pay them, and pay the king also.

That's the only income we had! What we grow is not sufficient for our people.

In my country there isn't always school in Nepal. Only one high school. And that for only royal people. In my time, no school, my family send me to Calcutta, to be educated in a Hindu mission school. A Ram-Krishna (sp?) mission school. And now I am in college, the WW2 started. So at that time British are in India. So they recruited me in their Royal Air Force. I was a fighter pilot.

When World War over, India get independence, back home. Then India get (?) and they call me back to work in their tank regiment. So I start to work in Indian tank regiment. I was a major.

Conversion

But I not know Jesus. My whole family Nepal, no Christian. Nepal had Hindu, Buddhist,

Animist, and there was some Muslim also defeated by the British, they also take a center in Nepal.

I had 54,000 gods as a Hindu. I not know all their names.

In school, I had asked my teachers if, after a man who is bad becomes an animal, can he then, as an animal, do good to become a man again? My teachers told me to sit down.

But while I was in the Air Force the second time, I met Christians, off the base, who showed me the Bible says it is appointed for a man once to die.

I asked the Christians how a man can escape the eternal punishment they preach.

They showed me many verses from the Scriptures. They said read the Gospel of John 7 times, then the New Testament 7 times, then the Old Testament, and you will learn. I was baptized. Not like here: there was a big procession to the river, led by a banner, and with much singing.

I knew there were many Christians in the army, so when I was returned I was glad to tell them I was too. Then my problems started. They asked me what kind of Christian I am: Catholic? Protestant? I didn't have an answer. I didn't find it in the NT. I hadn't read the OT; maybe I would find it there but it was too long to quickly find them the answer. So I wrote back to the one who baptized me, "What kind of Christian am I?"

He quoted a Scripture about when the Disciples were first called Christians, and said I was simply a Christian.

Buddhists came, and when they learned we were preaching Christ, they arrested us. No cooking utensils in jail; they said I had to cook my own food. I said will you let me go home to get it? No. There was no bed; I had to provide my own bed if I wanted one. Finally one of them consented to notify my grandfather, a prominent man.

After 4 days I was released and expelled from the country. I came to a small group and told them my experiences, and thought they would feel sorry for me. But instead they praised God for my experience! I didn't understand, so they opened the Bible and showed me the blessings upon those who are persecuted.

Commissioned

One night a voice told me to go to Nepal and preach the Gospel to my own people. I went to Brother Victor and asked why he called me to such a thing, where I would go to jail. He said he hadn't said anything. Go back and sleep. The voice came a second time, and I went to Brother Victor again. No, go back to sleep. The third time, Victor woke up all the 8 brothers, told him God's message, and they all praised God.

I didn't want to go back, because I knew Christians there have no means of support, and I can't live that way. But every time after I would read the Bible, the Lord told me again, go. So finally I stopped reading the Bible. I stopped prayers. I just went to sleep. But I couldn't sleep. Finally, in obedience, I resigned from the army and they relieved me in 3 months. But when I went back to my small group, they said I couldn't go, because Nepal's not open now. The King is a Hindu, he make a law, no one can *change* his religion. Everyone is free to worship as they're born. If anyone change, 1 year imprisonment, if anyone try to convert others, 3 year imprisonment. If anyone converted others, the 6 years imprisonment. That the law.

But finally I had to go. I asked the small group to pray for me. I go back to my own people to preach the Gospel.

At work

In Nepal, I told people Jesus was a king's son, just like Buddha. But I can talk to Jesus,

unlike Buddha, because Jesus rose again and is still alive.

I prayed for people when they asked, and they believed.

I told them what they would have to suffer: 1 year in prison, and bring with them their own food and bed and clothes. Plus the rejection of friends and family. I had money of my own, but my family rejected me. No inheritance, no fellowship. **Only if they were willing to do this would I baptize them.**

I moved to different places because that was my calling.

Slowly, the church, people believe, and I baptize them, and the church started.

And I tell them from the beginning, how Jesus teaches, and Paul teaches, all the apostles teaches, and they suffer. So I tell them they have to suffer. And from the family first! Then the village people, then the government.

So when they are willing to suffer, then, only, I baptize. And that's the way, after 1960, 54 Christian in 7 different places.

In prison

In one place I have 9. The government arrest them, and tell them just to say you are not a Christian, and *you can go back home and worship in home!* But no one wants to do that!

I was far away from them, a 2 day's walk. But God spoke to me the things going on. So I [go] back the small group of Christians, and I meet the police officers. I bring my own cooking utensils, and my Bible. He tell me, "they are still in the police station. Not put in prison. Tell them to do this, and they can go back home. And at home they can worship."

But no one wants to do that. Because they learn from the beginning: "If a man deny Jesus, before the man, He also deny him before the Father which is in Heaven. If we accept Jesus in front of man, He also accept us before the Father which is in Heaven."

And "what profit it will be, if a man gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

So no one denied. All taken from police station to court, and judge give us all but mine, get 1 year imprisonment. 4 women, and 5 men.

One of the women at that time have a 2½ years-old boy and a 5 years old boy. One with 21 days-old baby. One was pregnant. Time is very near.

But no way. All we go down.

Now our prison is different. That much room [he seemed to indicate a portion of the living room, about the size of a small bedroom] will be for 10 people. Government not give us any cooked food. They give us rice and 3 pieces of firewood to cook. Everyone have to brought cooking utensil from home. Just a dirt floor. Beds, and whatever you like. Mattress, anything. Brought from home, and cook your own food. And stay. No work.

After we leave there, child born in prison. No doctor, no nurse. But God protect the mother, protect the child.

The 21 day old girl, she grow up.

5 more years

After a year, all released. I got a 6 years, so I continue to stay in prison.

I feel the loneliness a little bit. I asked God what to do? He tell me, "there are so many prisoners with you! You can start a church here!"

So I work on that. Many people have (?), vomiting blood, they cannot cook food. I cook for them, I help them. Clean them.

Because if a man only *tell* about that God love you, and he not love others, is not work. That's telling the people is not work. What we tell, we have to do it. That's thing I learned from the Word of God and from Jesus. Whatever we say, whatever we learn, we have to do it, practically. If you not do practically, people not going to believe what we say.

So that's why I do that, stay with them, help them, pray for them.

Many people healed! Accept Jesus! We start to sing song. Have a good time again!

But the government learn that many people become Christian. They take them out, hang them, and beat them, many of them were beaten. But no one denied.

They are not baptized at that time. Just accept the Lord.

The corpse room

After a day, they take me out, and tell me, "You make people Christian outside. We put you in prison. Now, you make people Christian here again, inside the prison. So we not keep you with the prisoners. We keep you separate."

They take me out, my hand and feet in chain. In the prison wall, outside, is a small room they made. When the many people died in prison, they keep their body there, and give the news to the family. When the family came, they take the body.

We had no road that town. Now we have two roads started. So that time, no road. So to go to their family, 10-15 days, 5 days, 8 days, and coming back, and take the body.

Some time no one came. Body rot in there, and sometimes government people throw it out, some time leave in there.

The [jailer] take me there, say "you stay here, in this room."

Very much, many things there, bones, other. I took little bit clean, have a straw mattress, I spread it. I had a blanket. I stay there.

[Ed: Someone said he observed Prem's facial and hand motions at that point, subtly suggesting inner recoil at the memory. As if to make the scene real to me, the Lord finally let my cat catch a rabbit; but the rabbit wound up, not fully eaten, in our greenhouse. Before 24 hours were up, I thought that must be the most horrible smell on earth! And that was only half a rabbit, not one day old!]

I start to pray. "I have no people here. How, what work I can do here?" I just prayed and stay.

One day when I study the Bible, the 9 chapter of Acts, when Saul take a letter from the High Priest, and on his way to Damascus, when he near to Damascus, a great light shine round about him. He fall unto the ground. And heard a voice, and voice says, "Saul, Saul, why thou persecuted *me*?"

I just stopped there, and start to think. Saul not persecuted *Jesus*. He not saw Jesus crucified, or known. He's a good man. Studied under Gamaliel. But he not know anything.

When say "Saul, Saul, why thou persecuted me", he said, "Who art thou, Lord?"

And him said, "I'm Jesus, whom thou persecuted."

Now, Jesus not say, "Saul, why you persecuted *Christian*?"

And you look to the Bible, you find "Why you persecuted *me*?"

That give me a new light. Jesus not only save my soul, one day I'll be with Him in Heaven; not only that, when we Christian suffer, ***He still suffer with us!***

When the Christian suffer, Christ suffer with them. *That's* why Jesus said, "Why you persecuted *me*?"

And then I fill so joy in my heart! Knowing that, in this small room, filled with so bad things, Jesus loved me so much that He is willing to suffer with me and stay with me! I was rejoice! I cried out, giving Thanks to God! So, loudly I praised Him!

While I praising Him, the guard, who guard me on that time on duty, he asked me, with whom I'm talking inside?

I say, "I talk with *Jesus*!"

"How Jesus get in, I'm on duty?"

I said "Yes, He's with me!"

Not believing, open the door, with a flashlight, battery light, he tried to find out Jesus,

Jesus to find. Not finding, "See, Jesus is not here", I tell him how Jesus is living in me. And how I find Jesus first day.

So I tell him, he can find Jesus too! By torch-flashlight, he cannot find. But I tell him how he can find Jesus, as I find him.

So he keep his rifle, lay down, and pray, and he become Christian!

That's the *first* one.

I stay there 6 months, all the 4 guard who guarded me, ALL of them become Christian! When all of them become Christians, then jailer learn the guards become Christians, they lost their job, put in prison for a year. But sent me from that prison to another prison!

The 6 months, I not have shaved, nor changed clothes, because when hand and feet in chain, you cannot open the dress. Not possible.

The 6 months in the same way. Same clothes. All are torn. Nothing remain. Is a damp room. You can feel water.

But when guard become Christian, they help me. Keep open some time when they're duty. Keep open some of the doors. Take my mattress, dry it in the sun. Help me.

No longer welcome in Prison

But when jailer came, after learning that all became Christian, four of them, he's very angry. Take me out, and looked at me, "We thought you'll die! But you are still looking good." I say, "God keep me good."

"We do not want you here. We send you to another prison."

They remove my chain. Guard shave me, clean me. Give me clothes. Those who became Christians are not put in prison another time. They shifted me to another prison.

In Nepal is a long country. About 54,000 square miles. About 500 miles long. 12 different tribes live in 12 section of the country.

They shifted me from one prison to another, I got another kind of tribes and that give me opportunity to preach that tribes. So that way, every prison became Christian, accepted me. 12 different prison accepted me. Everywhere Lord help me to convert people!

When I put in prison, 54 Christian.

That's the way, took me to the capital. Where, at that time, a political uprising in my country, most of the political leaders, King take whole power in his hand, and political party keep in prison as much as they can.

They put me there. [In the Capital prison, full of political prisoners. They thought:] The uneducated person, he make Christians. The political prisoners, they are politically strong, and they are educated, they're not going to be a Christian. So put me there.

But Lord help me. Many of *them* become Christian. Even Communist become Christian!

And the political prisoner, some have one year, some have 3 years, some 6 years, some have no sentence — the big leaders, just keep! Called "security prisoners". They are not sentenced for anything.

Some of the ministers. All are in prison. Lord help me. Many of them become Christian.

Then they decide, "it's no good to keep this man here."

So, Nepal have mentally sick people. In the part of the prison, one section of that, one section of a wall inside [cut] away one room, is mentally sick, from all over the country. When they came to the police station, they sent them to the capitol, where they keep the mentally sick people.

No treatment. Just keep them there. Because sometime they fire [burn] their own house. We have mostly thatch house. So, fire their own house. Do harm to others. So keep them in prison.

So latchkey [jailer] said, "You stay here, with the mentally sick people."

I went there, prisoners have to be awake.

I asked, "Lord, now what can I do? They are mentally sick people, I cannot talk to them."

He say, "Many mentally sick people are possessed with the devil. You can pray for them. Heal them. And then you can talk!"

So I start to pray for them. I take one, I choose one, and start to pray, until he was cured. Then I talk to him, say "Jesus heal you. So you must love Jesus." And tell about Jesus, and how He healed, how I pray.

I tell them, "Now you can go back home. You ask the jailer and the guard, take you to the jail office, that's in capitol, have a doctor at the hospital, send you to the hospital, and when doctor find you are all right, then you will be released, because you have no crime."

That way, mentally sick people start to go home.

Free!

The government find that these people are going home, and preaching the Gospel, say "no way; this man is too bad! He's no good to keep him in prison! He make people Christian more in prison than in outside! So we kick him out!"

After 5 years 3 months, I stay, instead of 6 years. And then kick me out.

When I put in prison, only 54 Christians in 7 different places. After my release I start to visit the churches, I find a wonderful thing: Jesus said "I will build my church! And gates of hell shall not prevail against it!" Jesus is the builder! So I find, instead of 54 Christians, there are *500 Christians!*

The church grow!

One thing hard: parents Christian, children still worshipping idols. They tell me, "You can take them in your home, and have a school for them."

When I put in prison, I had one son and one daughter, 1-1/2 and 3. When I got out, my wife had taken in 12 children. Now there are 300. Not counting those who are grown and gone.

Law says it is not a crime to be a Christian if you are *born* a Christian. So children left at our door, we don't know from where they came, we raise them as Christians. When I was in prison, my wife sold everything to feed the children; car. Tractor. Then, slowly, other Christians bring food.

Those released from prison, they also preach the Gospel, those who are not put in prison, they preach the Gospel. The church grow.

But no one baptize.

So I build them, teach them. Baptize them. Pick up people from each tribes. Keep with me, and send them back after month, send them back, and another group, another group, that's the way church group.

Not once, but 3 times, they put me in prison. All the time, Lord help me to win soul.

Every time in prison, Lord helped me raise more churches. 100 brothers are in the field where no one knows the Lord. Now there are 50,000.

Last, they sentence me 64 years. Last sentence.

I was not go to the court. I'll go outside Nepal. The border of India, the same mountain. People are all Nepali, Indian citizens.

I stayed with them. Started school there. And that's the way I work.

Honor

Then queen came in our area. Does every year. That first king die, then his son became king. After he became king, he visit all the places in winter. Came with a helicopter in

some places. He came to visit my school and orphanage. He find a one day's baby, 5 days, month-old, 5 months' old, 2 years, 1 year. 300 children in my home and that school.

So, seeing these things, queen is very, very happy. "This man is doing good! We have no government orphanage. No government free school for the poor people. Here is the man who is doing all these things, so is no good to punish him. No good to punish Christian!"

So new young king, he was educated in America, in England, and in Japan, he saw all those things here, he ordered to release all the Christians!

On that time, 200 Christian in prison.

All those years, many many many Christians got 1 year, 3 year, 6 years in prison, some under trial, all the time. But when the king ordered, that day we are 200 Christians in prison. All released in one order!

That was a little more than 2 years ago.

They pardoned me also. 64 years, no more sentence.

I back to my school. I have 400 children. I back to my orphanage where I have a farm. And now, from there, many people are going out to preach the Gospel after free high school, accepted Jesus.

I had a Bible school, and not a Bible school like here. A training place. After that I send them home to the villages. Not yet people know Jesus.

I'm happy that God help us.

Not only that, king call all the dignities, all the embassy people, and honored me with a Social Service medal! King pin medal in my coat.

Once, his father's time, I got imprisonment; not I only, many Christians suffer imprisonment. But the son's time, I was honored!

Because I always obey God. If you obey God, He honored us! But we have to obey what he said.

So all thing is going good.

Exporting America's Dead Church

I come to America, I saw how the Christians are not a living Body of Christ, but just a social institution. Not even religious, many churches. Not have life.

I am sorry, you are American, but I feel I should tell. Because you can help me only when you know the real situation.

Now the law not changed. But some leniency is given to preach the Gospel. So many, many American church denomination, they are now entering into Nepal.

What you have here, the dead church, many dead church you have in America, they're exporting their dead church in my country!

Taking people, those who are Christian, are 300 churches, now we are 50,000. Now in '51, I'm alone. Now we are 50,000 Christians!

[Western missionaries are] taking Christians from the churches, pay them lots of money. I cannot pay that much! I give them only \$40, \$50 a month. Sometimes \$60 or \$100. But they pay them \$200, \$300, \$500 a month!

They're taking the things they have, the dead things, they are exporting that into our country!

You need to pray!

We do not like. But many young man fall into the trap of Christians from other countries.

I never teach them that we are different kind of Chrriitian. No Catholic, no Protestant, just a simple Christian. I not learn [from the Bible] there two kind of Christian, I not tell.

God will judge. I'm not going to judge them.

Here, your American church are so poor, if the persecution came, I not know how many remain Christian.

In Phil 1:29, you can read, in the King James version, "It is given to you, on behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake."

If Christians take "believing in Jesus", then we must take part, also, the suffering.

And many people ask you, "Brother Prem, you have a law in your country, and that's law put you in prison." Yes, that is true.

But here I find, in America, last 26 years, time to time, after 3, 4 years, I come. Churches invited me.

I find, every time, pass a law in such a way that push the Christian in corner. Day after day, there are Christians pushing in one corner.

No, you are losing freedom. In the school, no one can pray. Then a theory, not a God created heaven and earth and all things, but believe in Darwin theories.

Now they try to pass a law to kill people, small babies!

Then, man and man can be a family! They are fighting for that! Womans are fighting for other things.

All those things are against God's principles. Against the Bible. Against the Law of God. Christians are put in corner.

You have to wake up!

If not, then God's judgment will come upon you!

Many people say, no need the Christian, no need to take part in the politics. I am, when I was released, people choose me as a mayor. 10 years, my country knew to be a mayor in my area!

This election, I said, "no, I cannot do. I have no time to do. I've become old. My leg is no good. [He uses a cane on stairs.] **I cannot work so much as a mayor**, and then again so many responsibilities in the church. I cannot do that. Please excuse me."

So I begged them not to choose me. But I send other Christians in the administration. All [over] the country, I try my best, if the Christians is there, they they can try to stop, if not ever to stop the majority, try to stop as much as law against the mans law, against the country's law.

Here, if you not work together as one body, you lose. Some day will come, when you have to suffer imprisonment. More terrible punishment than we suffer.

I not know you. Just the first time I came. I feel I must tell because God choose a man, He choose not for just one country, but He choose for His church. The Body of Christ, Universal.

So I will do my duty. I will learn [teach] the Christian that they must be united.

But we must know that we are not fighting against the government. We are not fighting against man. We are not fighting against the Constitution. We are fighting against the principalities and powers of darkness. The devil is the one who is doing all those things. We have to fight against him. But only we can fight, when we are united together.

When Christians we revive. When Christians we wake up, and learn that they are deceived by the devil. They have to wake up and do work for God.

It is not true. I not believe [that it is right] that Christian will not take part in any activities of the government in the politics. I feel it is right thing to do.

Then how **God choose Saul, David**, all these martyrs, all those years, they do, they fight against evil.

Today, **if the Christian not fight against evil, who is going to fight?** No one [else] can stand for God. Those who want to fight for God, they have to be united. They have to work together as one body. And that have to be taught to the people. If it not taught to the

people, people will not understand it. You have to taught. You have to taught to the people.

This little group, Gideon have a little group. God not take all Israel's army. You wait. Only 300 of Gideon's soldiers. They fought. They win! Because God on our side!

When we fought for Him, He'll be on our side. We fought not against man, we fought against devil. We know who is our enemies.

That's what, brothers and sisters, I not know you, but what has come into my heart God has give me to have. Help me to say, we suffer because of our law. That's true. But now, by God's grace, it's over! Mostly over. **But now another kind of suffering come.**

You see, Christians suffer from the hands of so-called Christians. Now I'm suffering from that; from the hands of government is not so hard. But if you are working for the Lord, surely you have to suffer. No other alternative. But be sure, we are on the winning side.

Ezekiel 4:6, "Not by might, not by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord. You will succeed because of my spirit...though you are few and weak."

Steve Stroh asked Prem to say "God, give me souls!" in his native Nepalese. Prem said, "Bar-meh-shalay, mah-lie, Ack-ma dun!"

Fellowship!

In a room this size, (this portion of the transcript is from his talk in an Ottumwa, Iowa house church, in a living room about 10' x 25'), 100 would meet in Nepal. (2.5 square feet, which is close for standing, and everyone against each other for sitting.) We meet daily, but Saturday is special. (32 are here in the Ottumwa home church. 7 on the floor, 3 standing.) Everyone is reading Bible 7 times, and they share what God is doing. Sometimes they tell about a storm take out a roof, and decide how to fix it. Who will go with you and fix it up? We decide, and do it. We meet 3 hours.

Sometimes, in church, a brother "preaches" about a Scripture. But for example we read John 15, 2 or 3 times. No need to explain! Not everyone can read in Nepal. But those who can't read, remember what they hear, and keep it in their hearts. But our school teaches children to read.

Maybe all go together to plow land. Christians ready to plant before others! Now that [economic advantage] is attracting Hindus and Buddhists. Also we help the sick. Few hospitals. They go to the Buddhists, who offer to drive out devils, but the Christians do that too, and *people are healed*, and they don't charge a penny!

I come to America, and find the Catholic church and the Protestant church are identical! In both, one man stands against a wall and talks, and then "church" is over. In Nepal, only Catholic church that way. Although the Greek Orthodox church, everyone stand.

Devil is always after the church. Americans will take offerings, and send to Nepal, and build a building, and line up the benches, and stand up a preacher, and say here is the pattern. the pattern that America got from Calvin.

In Nepal there are no benches where people sit who don't know each other.

I read the King James version. But now I am reading the Living Bible my second time. I **stopped counting at 64 times through the Bible.**

Key: First, Hear the voice of the Lord, and whatever He says, obey completely.

Second, the people have to *know* each other.

Pastor Tim Dobson, (515/682-4995), with whom Prem was staying, explained that Americans are trained to be independent, to keep our thoughts to ourselves, to pull ourselves

up by our own bootstraps. Prem said, *the church cannot flourish under those conditions*.

A pastor testified that when he was planting a church, and they were 40 people, they had fellowship, and they tripled. Then someone said they needed a building and needed to organize, and then they levelled off. They should have kept growing, and subdivided. He confessed that while the fellowship was still intense, he came to the point of thinking, "I need some time for myself!"

Fellowship. No problem. First, we are not know anything, only Bible. **Honor headship of Jesus, no man the head. Someone may be good speaker, but leave that behind. Read Gospel of John 6 or 8 times, then no need to tell what it says.**

He read about the vine, and said read that 2 or 3 times, the explanation is there. Devil will be afraid of you. When your pray, he sick, because Jesus live in you.

13 John, 35, strong love for each other, to prove to the world that you are my disciples.

There is no membership registration on earth. Only in heaven. People must know the cost before baptism. Some were poisoned to death by their families. The capitol was 8 or 9 hours from the river, so I made a concrete tank there. In school we baptized in the fish pond.

God's politics

Your country have two kind of political party. Democrats or Republican. If a Christian is there, all Christians might help them, whether Republican or Democrats...put up in government.

I myself, in my country, twice I fight, and ten years I'm a district head. 11 members elected, one will be the head. So I'm the head for 10 years. I do work that way.

And now also, I've governed, that system change, given political freedom, and may **Christian put up at this time of election. And also, they win! Because here's help!**

We have communist party, not like here.

[Audience: "Here, we call the Communist Party the 'Democrats'".]

All kinds of political parties. **So I put up people, tell them to go. They win, many of them. They're in the government.**

So there's help. If anything against the Country, they want to pass, in the Cabinet, or in the Lower House, or Upper House, then they're opposed. They give argument. That's the way we help the country.

Here also; only to stay and say to Christians, "no need to take part in the politics", then all the ungodly people come in, and they will change many laws which is not for the Christians.

Now the Christians, so many years I am coming, and I find one upper hand a law is passed. **Now the school cannot pray. Then the next time I came they passed the Darwin Theory of the Creation is all right, but the Bible Creation is not.**

Two things. **Now, again I came, now abortion. They're killing people — infant.**

So day by day, they are making law which pull the Christian in a corner. **The Christian, if not do anything, or say "let us pray, God will do it" (laughs) Oh, that's not help. I not believe. We have to do. We have to be united together. And then have to learn that Christian should put up the Christian people in the [government] ministry,**

in the town also.

Does your small town have a municipality? I not know. What kind of government you have?

[Audience: We have a city government.]

Even in a city government, to the topmost, all have to be by — not in one day, we cannot do this. We cannot win. But slowly, the Christians start to learn, and then they will win.

Another thing, **in your country, many Muslims coming in. Hindus, Muslims, other Jains, all kind of other Eastern religions is coming. And they are become citizen here. Some day, more problem will arise.**

So if the Christians are not in the politics, I not think anything good can be done.

So is need. Is need. In my own country I do it. Bring back Christian leader, the first founder of churches, army man not take part in politics, when they are in service. But after service, they do. So I do it.

1:59pm, September 2, 1994

Our king is a hindu king from India. No one can live in the Northern part, full of snow.

Britain tried to invade Nepal 3 times and failed. Then the British made a pact with the King; they took Nepal soldiers and paid them, and paid the king. That is still the case.

When I was in college, WWII started. So Britain recruited me into the Royal Air Force.

After the war and Indian independence, they called me back to work in a tank regiment.

By 1960, 54 Christians in 7 different places. Government says you can worship in your own home, but they not want to do that.

When several were arrested, they told me to tell them, while they were in the police station, that they had but to renounce Christ and they could go home. I did, but no one wanted to leave. 4 women and 5 men. One women had a 21 day old baby. One had 2-1/2 and 5 year old children. One was pregnant and about to give birth.

We were in a small room, no toilets, several people. No chimney, we had to cook our own food. They gave us rice, we had to use our own cooking utensils. God protected the women and the babies.

After they left, and I had 5 more years, I was lonely. But God told me to start a new church with those still there.

In the corpse room. Acts 9, Saul took a letter from the High Priest.

The guard asked me with whom I'm talking inside. He opened the door with the battery flashlight, not finding Jesus. I tell him how Jesus living in me. I tell him how he can find Jesus too, with thought flashlight. So we pray, and he become Christian.

All the guards became Christians, lost their jobs, and were prison for 1 year.

For 6 months, I was not able to change clothes. But people help me. Take out my mattress and dry it.

The general was angry to learn of the 4 guards. He took me out, and said he thought I would die there but he is still looking good. I said God helped me.

By going to so many prisons, I could reach all 12 tribes of Nepal. The Lord helped me.

With the mentally sick: Lord, what can I do? I can't talk to them. Lord said many of these are possessed by the devil. Pray for them, and then you can talk to them.

5 years, 3 months I stayed. They kicked me out. When I went in, 54 people in 7 different places. When I come out, 500 Christians. But no one baptized. So I met with them, baptized them, from all tribes.

3 times, they put me in prison. The last sentence was 64 years. I went to the border. Then the first king died, and his son became king. He came to my home, with 300 children. King was happy. "This man is doing good." We have no government orphanage. He was educated in America and England and Japan. "No good to punish this man". He released all Christians. 200 Christians were released in one order. Two years ago, a little more. They pardoned me also, no more 64 years.

I went back to my orphanage and farm.

King called all the embassies and dignitaries, and **honored me with a social services medal.**

If we obey God, He honors us.

You are Americans. I don't want to tell. But you can only help if you know the truth. Now there is leniency. So Western missionaries are exporting the dead church into my country. I can pay only \$40-100 a month, they can pay \$200-500 a month.

I not learn two kinds, or many kinds of Christians. I learn only one kind of Christian.

God will judge. I'm not going to judge. In America, churches are so poor, if persecution came, I don't know how many would remain Christian. Bible says it is given to you not only to believe in him, but to suffer for His sake.

People saw it was the law that put you in prison. Yes, that is true. In church here, I find every time I come, that government pass a law to push Christians in a corner. Cannot pray. Kill small babies. Man and man can be a family. Women can fight for equality. All those things are against the Bible.

10 years, I was a mayor. Then I said I cannot do, bad leg, responsibilities, but I sent other Christians to take my place.

If you not work together as one body, you lose. Some day you will have to suffer in prison, more terrible than what we suffer.

I not know you, but feel I must tell. When God choose a man, not choose him for one country.

We are not fighting against the government, man, or constitution, but principalities of darkness. But we must fight him together, as one body.

Not true that Christians not take part in government. The right thing to do. Or why God choose Saul, David, Moses, to fight against evil? If Christians not fight against evil, who is going to fight?

If you stand for the Lord, surely you have to suffer. Be sure we are on winning side.

Ezekiel 4:6, This is God's message: not by might, not by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord. You will succeed because of my spirit, though you are few and weak.

The audience in my home September 2, 1994: Frank & Nelda Brown, Helen Hart, Joyce , Bob Cox, Steve Stroh, Muriel Watrous, Don burgmaier, Dorothea Luddington, Herb Richards, Cyndi Thurmond & daughter, Dave & Dorothy Leach.

2022 note: I don't remember why the following notes seem to summarize the foregoing, with only slight differences, but here they are:

My father died in motor accident after [I] become Christian. Still in the army. But my father is not a Christian. That's why I not get any property.

First I came [to United States] in '67. Then '68. Again I came and started a Christian Aid. ...Now their headquarters is in Colorado. Then it was in 19 East Street, Washington DC.

After that I time to time came, arrived, see how the church is going down. How the

government pull the Christian [in the] corner. I really sad. And I tell everywhere, this is not a good thing is going on. Have to be do something.

But I not know any organization doing that. But I happy that somebody is doing. A good thing.

Judge #1 is the head. He will decide all. Professional judge. Paid by the government. (Bob Cox was trying to determine if he was describing a jury.) Not in that way. All are judge. Appointed by the government.

2022 note: Here is how I summarized Prem's points in other writing at the time:

Prem Pradhan, of Nepal, describes how his congregation helped each other. When it was time for a crop to be planted, the non-farmers would help the farmers put it in ahead of all their pagan neighbors! When someone needed a roof, all pitched in, providing poor members with necessities they otherwise would have gone without! Instead of lounging at home, watching TV, or waiting for work, or stewing about how to pay the bills, they were using their free time to put more goods and services in the common pool.

Pradhan described community admiration of these advantages of Christians, similar to Acts' note that the First Church found "favour with all the people". Acts 2:47.

When Prem Pradhan came to the United States from Nepal, he was astonished to find the Catholic and Protestant churches were the same. He explained: "In Nepal, it is only the Catholic church where one man stands against a wall and talks."

I have inquired how Fellowship is conducted among persecuted Christians, on the theory their services may be closer to the Holy Spirit than ours, since only those attend who love Jesus enough to be tortured for Him. I have interviewed Prem Pradhan of Nepal, where the sentence was one year for being a Christian and three years for converting a pagan; Christians from Sudan, where the UN and the oil-rich Arab nations support the Moslem capital's brutal efforts to exterminate the Southern Sudanese because they are mostly Christians; and Tom White, USA director of Voice of the Martyrs. Turns out their experience of Fellowship is closer to the 1 Corinthians 14 model than to the American Preacher model

I have inquired how Fellowship was conducted in early America. Turns out "church" was politics, Bible study, and community business rolled into one. No one in those days accused the church of being irrelevant to society, any more than anyone today accuses government of being irrelevant to society!

But even after reading Chapter One, and even after you are forced -- by reflection, further Berean searching, and possibly re-reading of Chapter One -- to admit that "church" as we know it would have seemed bizarre to Paul, not to mention persecuted Christians today, or America's Founding Fathers, that still won't be enough to inspire you to form a Fellowship after God's pattern, or to insist that your own "church" get back to the Bible, will it? You will still keep going to "church", and when someone asks you to join their Bible discussion, you will tell them you don't have time, won't you?

Because "church" as you know it is a tradition you have known all your life. Your whole life's experience has taught you to DEFINE "church" as a place where you go and sit beside people you never meet and listen to one man, safe from public contradiction, teach you what the Bible means. Anything else simply isn't "church".

Tradition.

Prem's Nepal address while he lived: Prem Pradhan. PO Box 268, Kathmandu, Nepal.
In the USA: Advancing Native Missions. (2002 url: <https://advancingnativemissions.com>)