

# PARTNERING IN NEPAL THIS CHRISTMAS



## Relief & Development

Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada

Following Jesus Together



## FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD...

Tej Rokka was born in the craggy foothills of Mount Everest.

At an early age, Tej's family (father, mother, and younger brother) migrated south to the Terai plains, where richer soils allow farmers to cultivate rice, wheat, sugarcane, and maize. They hoped for a better future. Instead, they found tragedy.

Soon after the move, Tej's mother fell sick. She suffered two years, then died – her ashes swept into the holy Bagmati River. The family was undone. Eventually Tej's father landed at an orphanage run by an Indian missionary. He worked at the school, and in return, his sons received food, shelter, and an education.

But Tej wasn't able to concentrate. "I was longing for the love of my mom," he remembers. "Every night I would see her in my dreams."

Tej's next memory of that dark period is of a Bible camp. A volunteer led them in songs and scripture memorization.

"I was the first kid to memorize John 3:16," says Tej. "I realised there is someone who loves me so much. If I believe in Him, I will live!"

Tej committed his life to Christ - a decision every bit as radical as his family's move from the mountains to the plains. As an orthodox Hindu, Tej was not supposed to pray to the Christian God. "There was no bible in our language," explains Tej. "No church in our area." When news reached Tej's father, he was furious.

"Here in Nepal it's very difficult," says Tej. Christian converts stand to lose their place in society – their inheritance, help with tuition fees – everything. Converts can become "untouchable" according to the deeply entrenched caste system.

**“ I WAS LONGING FOR  
THE LOVE OF MY MOM.”**



## SARA CHURCH

In 1997, after much prayer and seeking God for direction, Pastor Tej and his wife Bytia began SARA Church with four members in a small rented room in Kathmandu City. Now, by God's grace, the church has over 250 committed members and continues to grow weekly.

SARA Church provides educational support for children who have a parent or relative able to care for them. The Church also provides a home for children who have nowhere else to turn.





# THE EARTHQUAKE

In April 2015, Nepal was struck by a devastating earthquake. Over 9,000 people were killed, 22,000 people were injured, and nearly 200,000 people were displaced. Most severely affected were children, many of whom lost parents and family members. In addition to poverty, hunger, and homelessness, many thousands each year fall prey to the horrors of human trafficking.

Tej and his father would not speak for five years.

Meanwhile, Tej excelled at school, and eventually attended College. He was an evangelist, keen to share his hope with others. He began showing the “Jesus” film to fellow students. Many responded to the Gospel message, and eventually a viable and growing church began to meet in his home.

One day a pastor friend walked up to Tej holding the hands of two children he encountered on the streets of Kathmandu. “He thought I could help,” remembers Tej. But how? He wasn’t prepared to take on such a burden.

## TEJ WASN’T PREPARED TO TAKE ON SUCH A BURDEN

Tej was tempted to turn the children away. But, says, Tej, “God told me: ‘remember where you were.’”

Tej, a pastor himself, also remembered the Church. The Church in Nepal is among the fastest growing in the world. One man offered to buy food. A woman offered a vacant apartment.

That was 13 years ago. Today, Tej and his Church are caring for 50 children orphaned by a combination of civil war and natural disaster. Tej knows what it’s

like to lose a parent; he knows what it’s like to be hungry. He also remembers his spiritual emptiness – and desires to provide enduring hope for the children in his care - the Hope he has found in Christ.

And Tej’s Dad? After seeing the transformation wrought in his two sons, he too has begun a relationship with Jesus.

# THIS CHRISTMAS

EMCC Relief & Development is proud to partner with Tej, SARA church in Nepal, and Kids Alive Canada to ensure that the 50 children at SARA receive what they need this Christmas.

The biggest need is support for the children to go to school. In Nepal, the cost to send a child to school is only \$25 a month.

With a solid education, more leaders will have the capacity to rise up in the church in Nepal and become pillars in their community - just like Tej.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas,

Lou Geense  
Associate Director - World Partners

## PARTNERING WITH KIDS ALIVE CANADA IN NEPAL SEND A CHILD TO SCHOOL

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\*Tax receipts are issued and distributed by email in February.  
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1-866-839-5437 | admin@kidsalive.ca | kidsalive.ca



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