

## Nepal Gramin Ghumti Guru Project June 2007

(Mobile Village Teacher)



**Conclusion:** The results from T4 Global's Nepal project validate the effectiveness of our strategy for training oral learners. Our holistic approach used a dramatized community outreach (health information) followed by Bible stories. The project was implemented by a trusted and respected indigenous network.

**Background:** 465 MT4 devices with two content chips (basic health dramas and Bible stories) were distributed in five remote Himalayan districts in late Jan/early Feb 2007 by 18 workers. By Feb 15, all devices had been distributed. Initial reports were filed in mid-April: within these 2 months, 15,387 people had listened to at least one of the two chips, and many had listened to both chips several times. Based on those reports and the time that had passed up to June 4, an estimated 23,000 people listened to the MT4 devices, averaging our goal of 50 listeners per device. The average listening group size was 10-12.

**Implementing Partners:** Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church (Alpharetta, GA); Himalayan United Christian Fellowship (HUCF), an indigenous network of 115 churches in Nepal, averaging 50 members each.

### Results:

- 80 conversions to Christ in the first three months of the project. That number is expected to double once reports come in from the more remote villages.
- Believers were added to at least four unreached/least reached people groups in the area: Kulung Rai, Nachering Rai, Sherpa, and Gurung.
- In the case of the two Rai people groups, HUCF leaders thought that the new believers were the first ever for those groups. A sketchy online Kulung Rai group profile suggests 27 known believers out of approximately 40,000. If that is true, then there are now 33 known believers among the Kulung Rai.
- One village saw 18 come to faith in Christ.
- Community leaders who opposed Christian villagers apologized for past persecution and acknowledged "you do good works". Christians are now welcome in these communities.
- Several Tamang men who used to beat Christians are now followers of Jesus.
- The leadership of a military camp of 1,100 soldiers allowed the playing of the health chip. After hearing how good it was, they also allowed the playing of the Bible chip.
- 100% of the local pastors involved in the project agreed that the community outreach chip (health) was critical to opening doors for the Gospel. If they only had the Bible chip, they would not have had the same results they did.

- The health chip alone impacted many lives. A baby who was dying from pneumonia was rushed to a hospital by a listener of the chip who recognized the symptoms. A 65-year old Sherpa woman who was dying from dehydration (due to diarrhea) got IV fluids because other women had listened to the chip and knew the correct treatment. Women reported immunizing their children for the first time after listening to the health content. Several local shamans (witch doctors) are complaining that no one comes to them anymore for healing.
- One female leader in a large village said that no one has died in her village since they listened to the health chip. Several villagers usually die each winter/spring. She credits the better health practices that were learned from the health chip training.
- The drama and story approach to the content was validated through the fact that many listened to the content again and again. The content circulated quickly in communities because of its popularity.
- MT4 units were listened to in homes, churches, outside in fields, and in village centers. Groups consisted of women, women and children, men, families, and various mixes. Many pastors played the Bible stories during their church service and then drew applications in their sermons.
- HUCF proved to be a very effective indigenous network which has gained respect and trust in the communities of the project.
- The portability of the mobile schools enabled training to reach communities that are 6-10 day's walk over mountain ranges from the nearest road.
- HUCF distributors reported a very high demand for more MT4 players and training modules on a variety of topics: teachings of Jesus, testimonies, pastor training, children/youth programs, human rights, agriculture, political/constitutional process, as well as health.
- The four leaders of HUCF (pictured below) said that with 10,000 more MT4 units, they could reach every village in the five district area, planting a church in each village and bringing community transformation.



Four HUCF leaders, Dinesh, Gian, Lok and Shakti, with Pete McLain (T4 Global)



Another listening group in the countryside