



2008 Year in Review



Light of the Nations
Christmas Celebration

A short history in the life of Light of the Nations 2008:

Regular prayer meetings start in March.

Start of Summer Festival in June. Over 140 attend.

Start of School Festival in August

Global Festival in September. Over 400 attend.

Light of the Nations begins meeting regularly for pre-launch strategy and growth.

Fall Festival for the children.

Light of the Nations receives official church status from Foursquare.

Thanksgiving Celebration. Over 130 attend representing 17 different nations.

Christmas Celebration. Over 120 attend.



Merry Christmas from Light of the Nations!

What joy, celebration and delight we have shared together in this pre-launch year of Light of the Nations...

...and thanks for being a part of it!



God's Royalty

In a Bible Study designed especially for young girls, we had a lovely group of five girls who met weekly for eight weeks. Except for two sisters, the girls didn't know each other at the beginning, but they soon got acquainted and began to share their lives with one another. "We had fun times and serious times; the activities varied from crafts to cooking projects. One evening we just played games."

"The study was written for private devotional time. We then went through the lessons together to share the highlights, to bring in more explanation, more scripture and to give opportunity to share what the Spirit of the Lord had impressed upon us. The theme woven through the study was to explain how to come into the Lord's presence, how to be His child, and to know that God has a

very personal plan for each one of us, that He looks on us as beautiful and very precious." With this foundation the girls were challenged to be consistent in daily time with the Lord.

One mother shared with me that her daughter truly felt like a princess in God's Kingdom and that she is very special to Him.

To God be the glory!



Doing Church as a Team

A Sick Child, A Three Hour window, Setting Up for a Christmas Celebration, Delivering Clothes to a Refugee Family and a Puppet Show



As prayer was rising from a family room in Littleton where the Light of the Nations church planting team was gathered, smoke was rising from 1400 destroyed homes of Bhutanese refugees in the Terai region of Nepal. While our prayer group called out to the Lord Almighty for salvation for the peoples of the world who have come to Denver, some of the Bhutanese were slowly making their way to the United States seeking a new home. Seven months later they met, on the corner of Birch and Iowa in South Denver! Two worlds brought together by God's wise plan for His good news to bring light into darkness. Today the journey continues through introductory Bible Study, regular visits and deepening friendship. It is a journey that will lead all of us refugees on this planet to our true home

What do these have to do with each other? We had a window of three hours from which the church, which shares its facility with us, would finish its service and the time I had to be home. Krishna, a refugee from Bhutan who arrived in the U.S. five months ago, told me on the phone that he and his brother Tara could meet me at the church to help setup for our Christmas celebration that evening. He also asked if I could give him a ride to deliver some clothes to another family, to which I agreed.

When I met them at church I was excited to hear that the clothes were for his uncle's family who had just arrived, also as refugees from Bhutan. We finished setting up and went to pick up their mother. However, before we could leave we had to, of course, have some lunch which their mother had prepared for us (I think I

looked at my watch only seven or eight times during the meal). On the ride to their Uncle's apartment I was thrilled to hear that three more families of their relatives are expected to arrive in the next several months! Krishna's uncle was not ready to leave, so he and his family would take a bus later and his cousin Shanti rode with us instead.

The trip back included driving on a busy street full of traffic on the last Saturday before Christmas with Krishna showing me a video on his mobile phone set to the music of Bhutan's national anthem as well as taking a small detour due to an accident. Oh yes, I needed to return home in time to take over watching our sick child so my wife could get to church for the puppet show which she helped the children prepare for the Christmas Celebration.

This somewhat frantic life of an international church plant worker is full of reward, surprises and challenge. But I wouldn't have it any other way.

By John Zwier

Doing Church as a Team

The story above is one small example of how we are learning to do church as a team. We could go on and on about:

A worship leader and his family getting stuck in traffic for an hour and a half yet pressing on to arrive just in time to lead worship at our Sunday service.

Meals being coordinated and prepared to feed the entire church as part of our Sunday services

Rides, rides, and more rides for refugees to and from our meetings

Volunteers, some of whom are internationals who are not yet believers, faithfully teaching English to internationals on Saturday mornings.

Everyone pitching in to do setup and cleanup for our meetings.

A lady from our church, who herself may have been experiencing morning sickness, helping a refugee lady from Iraq get needed medicines for her

pregnancy and to cope with *her* morning sickness!

Electrical work being done to repair a light pole in order to provide much-needed lighting for the parking area for our evening meetings.

Those whose hearts may occasionally beat too fast or too slow yet are full of joy in serving the Lord.

And many more...



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Reflections, Words from the Lord

As we close the year and begin a new one, we would like to share some words of prophecy from another era that have especially rung true for us recently: "Who dares despise the day of small things..?" (*Zech. 4:10*) Indeed, these are days of small beginnings, but we will be faithful to what God has called us to do. We will not despise what God is teaching us in this season. For it is "Not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord Almighty" (*Zech. 4:6*). We are to stay strong and finish the work and proclaim our stance in relying on His grace. (*Zech. 4:7*). Just as the Lord told Zerubbabel that his own hands would complete it, so the Lord will enable us to complete the work he has given us.

We will rejoice for God is good! He has been faithful to provide for us! He is opening wide some doors into ethnic communities! God is preparing us and strengthening us for bigger things. We see this by faith! Though we are "acorns" now, ahead we see oaks to display His glory - *Is. 61:3*. As we show mercy and compassion to those in need (c.f. *Hosea 6:6*, *Micah 6:8*, and *Zech. 7:9, 10*) and offer them the Good News of Jesus, we will bear fruit for His glory.

...We are also learning so much about the kind of ministry we are in - growing in the cost and the joy of it! Praise His Name!

A word from a wise young Bhutanese

After our Christmas Eve service a young Bhutanese man came to me and said in his best English: "Today we are thankful for the Bhutanese government."

"How can that be?" I asked. "They were so horrible to your people, killing and wounding so many, as well as kicking you out of the country."

Without hesitation he responded, "Because today we get to know you and to be with you."

By that he was also saying that they were getting to know the ways of those who follow the Lord Jesus whom we were celebrating on Christmas Eve.

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison. 2Co 4:17

A word on a Guatemala Christmas from Jessica Bilodeau

(our first missionary!) "Christmas was great! They actually kinda celebrate Christmas on the 24th here. It is crazy!! at 10 pm you eat the big dinner, then at 12pm the whole city is doing fireworks. It sounded like bombs going off, it was so loud! Then, we opened our presents and watched a movie - It's a Wonderful Life...in Spanish. We went to bed at about 3 am. Feliz Navidad! Wonderful...but a bit weird not being there.

Settling in: The first week I arrived, a team from South Carolina came to help do construction on the soccer stadium that our organization is building. The whole week we moved cement blocks and tons and tons of dirt full of sewage, trash and debris. I really enjoyed working with this team and getting to know them. It was also a blessing to have the English language around!

This week was the week of Christmas, so that kept me busy too. I also found an apartment, signed the contract and am getting settled.

Looking ahead: This coming week we jump right into planning out this year of camps and training. There is another team that is coming in to do some construction in the city of Panahachel and they need a translator. Right now it looks like I am the best possibility, but it is not for sure. If I do go, this means I would live with the team and travel with them and be their translator since none of them speak Spanish.

The Mission:

**To establish
a multi-
national,
multi-ethnic,
multi-
generational,
multiplying,
mission
minded
church in
Denver!**