

THREE PEARLS of the CREATOR

by Miriam Adeney

Standing in the rain at a bus stop in Vancouver, Solon Karthak shifted from foot to foot. “How long will I have to wait?” he wondered, as drops trickled down his neck.

Fog and mist were nothing new. He had trudged through plenty back home in Nepal, when he climbed mountains to distribute Bibles. That was his job. Solon’s agency has put a Bible, or an oral explanation of the Gospel, into every home in Nepal.

But Solon’s vocation is writing. He pens books and songs to encourage others.

At the bus stop, Solon thought about waiting. What is the most important thing that we can wait for? “The kingdom of God,” he decided. “History waits for Jesus to return.”

A song began to bubble up. Solon reached under his rain poncho and pulled out a tiny notebook. Hunching under the plastic, he scribbled the lyrics to his new song.

All part of a day’s work as a writer.

Solon is known as a travel writer because whenever he travels, he picks up local brochures, and when he goes home he publishes—in Nepali—a guide to that region.

During his time in Canada, however, Solon wrote three short biographies on early Nepali believers from different parts of the country. These he combined in a book entitled *Three Pearls of the Creator* (parts of this book have been translated into English and published in *Dharma Deepika: Journal of South Asian Missiological Research*).

Many Nepalis have turned to Jesus in the past decade. Solon wanted them to learn about their heritage. In addition, Nepali journalists, professors, and civic leaders want to learn about the growing Christian population. This book achieves both goals

To research these stories, Solon interviewed the subjects who were still alive, as well as their families, students, converts, church members, and fellow townspeople. He read all

he could, including missionaries’ and churches’ papers. He investigated the social, political and economic data for the relevant time periods.

But he did more. Because he wanted readers to grow in their knowledge of God when they read the stories, in writing his book Solon looked for answers to questions like these:

- What were this person’s regular spiritual disciplines (daily, monthly, annually)? Where did he find spiritual refreshment and renewal? Consider both regular sources of spiritual encouragement, and unique crisis turning points in his life.
- Did he teach? Or preach? What were his key themes or texts? Did anyone take notes? Does anyone have a good oral memory of a lesson? Can a group discussing together recreate one of the talks?
- What were his burdens in prayer? Did he have any distinct prayer style?
- What were his favorite songs? Did he compose? Write out the lyrics.
- What biblical character was a model or encouragement to him? What character was he like?

Solon is aware that there are more stories to gather from his own tribe, the Lepcha, and from Nepalis in Burma and Tibet. Why let the Nepali chapters of church history go unrecorded?❖

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