Adventure with Him...
Vol 12, No. 3, March 2026

Dear Ministry Partners,
Prayer Supporters, and Friends,
Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We are grateful for your faithful prayers, encouragement, and partnership in the ministry. Your support continues to strengthen and encourage us as we serve among communities in the Terai–Madhes region of Nepal, where many people groups remain unreached with the Gospel.

Through this update, as my longstanding prayerful stand with the persecuted brethren in Christ, and a passionately working to voluntary services, I would like to appeal for your attention and prayer mobilization to the following topic:

Brief Report and Prayer Request on Regarding Rautahat Arrests of the Evangelists

Summary of the Incident

On March 27, 2026, at around 10:00 AM, three Christian gospel preachers—Dipak Shrestha, Dharmendra Thakur, and Murari Chaudhary—visited a believing family in Banjara Tole, Ward No. 1 of Ishnath Municipality, Rautahat District, for fellowship. During their visit, they also shared their testimony with other villagers. But someone stood intolerant and called a group of a Hindu extremist group called Bajrangi Dal. The group violently encountered them, physically assaulted, and filed a complaint to the police station nearby. Based on this complaint, the local administration arrested all three individuals and took into custody.

After being held in police custody, despite continuous efforts by pastors, church leaders, human rights activists, and political leaders concerned about the case— who contacted the District Police Office and District Administration Office to secure their release on normal bail— the police presented them in court on third day of detention. The police then requested an additional 7-day remand for further investigation.

Although no clear criminal offense has been established, according to both the complainants and the police itself, the accused have been kept in custody under the pretext of investigation, with repeated extensions of their detention period.

The Burning Issues

There is serious concern that the police administration has acted in a biased, prejudiced, and harsh manner in this case. In particular, this situation appears to have arisen from an intention to criminalize gospel preaching by misusing laws related to religious conversion. Based on discriminatory provisions in the clauses number 156–159 of the National Penal Code (2017), there is growing concern that the state is engaging in subtle surveillance of the normal religious activities of non-Sanatani (non-Hindu) communities. Extremist “religious nationalism,” which imposes intolerance particularly on Christians, Muslims, and other minority religious



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groups, appears to be receiving silent support and encouragement from the administration. As a result, incidents like this are increasing, raising alarm among minority rights advocates.

The propagation of religion is not an abnormal activity, nor is it inherently criminal. In fact, no religious belief or tradition can survive in society without ongoing teaching, sharing, and promotion. Therefore, spreading one's faith is a responsibility of the adherents, whether individually or collectively.

Religious propagation should be recognized as a fundamental human right. Sharing one's beliefs voluntarily cannot be deemed illegal or unconstitutional. However, as in some other religiously sensitive countries, laws have been intentionally framed to restrict this freedom by categorizing it as a religious offense.

According to international human rights standards, criminalizing "religious conversion" cannot be justified. The freedom to adopt a religion of one's choice, practice its rituals, and promote and defend it are fundamental rights. However, by imposing restrictions on these rights, the State of Nepal—despite being a respected member of the United Nations—has enacted constitutional and legal provisions that contradict the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and other international human rights standards, thereby undermining the spirit of secularism.

Since the promulgation of the new constitution, discriminatory laws have resulted in not only the marginalization of Christians, Muslims, and other minority communities but also more than fifty cases of arrests and prosecutions. In most cases, authorities fail to produce concrete evidence, and many individuals are harassed merely under allegations of "religious conversion activities." The most ridiculous is that in those cases the police have created false witnesses or forcefully made witness to accusation those who were not related to, and have tried to toughen the case against the detainees. In regard to this incident in Rautahat also appears to be a continuation of that pattern because:

- The accused were subjected to verbal abuse, mob intimidation, and physical assault by non-state actors (extremist groups) before being arrested.
- Such organized violence and coercion by non-state actors have been effectively been validated by state mechanisms.
- There is apparent bias and lack of due process in law enforcement.
- The police have treated the accused like serious criminals with extreme prejudice and discrimination.
- Under the pretext of investigation, repeated extensions of detention have been used to inflict unnecessary suffering, and the accused have been publicly humiliated.
- Increasing legal restrictions on the religious freedom of minority communities have caused widespread dissatisfaction, frustration, mental distress, and injustice.
- The growing trend of criminalizing minority religious activities through retaliatory misuse of law poses serious threats to human rights, democracy, civil liberties, and minority rights, and risks damaging Nepal's international reputation.

Update from the Harvest

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Conclusion

This incident once again highlights the ongoing challenges related to the protection of religious freedom and fundamental rights. In such a situation, continuous prayer, unity, and active advocacy are enormously necessary.

Prayer Requests and Appeal for Support

We humbly request your serious attention and continuous prayer regarding the situation where individuals are humiliated or attacked simply for sharing their faith:

a. May the hearts of police officials and complainants be softened, and may the charges against the evangelists be dropped.
b. May the unnecessary suffering inflicted under the pretext of "investigation" be stopped.
c. May lawyers and judges deliver decisions based on truth, justice, and the fear of God.
d. May the families of those in custody not lose hope in their absence, and may they receive the necessary financial support.
e. May church leaders, pastors, and believers who hear about this incident remain encouraged and steadfast in Christ, and may the message of salvation continue to spread everywhere.
f. May all those working for religious freedom unite and be strengthened in cooperation, advocacy, and representation.
g. May the necessary financial resources for legal proceedings—despite potentially high costs—be provided through God's provision. There is a need for a substantial endowment fund, and we invite generous donors to come forward.

Thank you!

With you in favor to the Persecuted Brethren,



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