

**25 APRIL**

**THE  
TERRIBLE  
NEPAL  
EARTHQUAKE**

3



**12 MAY**

**THE  
LAND  
CRACKED  
OPEN AGAIN**

12



# Editorial

## Earthquakes don't kill; poorly constructed buildings do.

**T**he entire North Indian region over the millennia has been a high seismic activity zone. In the old days, when everyone was poor, our simple wooden houses did not collapse due to earthquakes. North-East India has a genre of architecture that goes by the name "Assam-type". An 'Assam-type' house is seldom damaged by quakes.

Income has grown. Everyone today wants a "pucca" house. People who fall near the poverty line can only afford a "semi-pucca" house. Technology exists for the construction of earthquake-proof buildings. But people who need houses do not have the money to pay for that. So, as usual at all natural disasters, the poor suffer the most.

Don Bosco is present in four places in Nepal. Providentially none of our institutions and the towns they are situated in suffered major damage or loss of life. This made it possible for the Salesians to give their full attention to the needs of the people around them. We have been extremely active in our efforts to reach immediate relief to the victims. You have a partial report of it in this issue of our bulletin, which is dedicated totally to this topic.

Three things made a deep impression on me after this earthquake.

First, the people of Nepal have inspired us. Their resilience, co-operation among themselves, willingness to share what they have with those who had less, their love and respect for each other and their gratitude to those who went to their assistance, their capacity to put up with suffering, pain and hunger, their courage, their quick adaptation to their difficult circumstances... We have a lot to learn from them.

Second, the overwhelming response received from around the world. Salesians of Don Bosco from every continent did not merely read about the tragedy in a far away land. They enquired and found out about their confreres in that far away country, came to know that all are well and saw how their brother Salesians in Nepal were full swing into relief work. They went out of their way to motivate their local communities to donate generously to these relief efforts.



Third, the confidence placed in BOSCONET in its work of coordination. The Salesians on the ground in Nepal, their religious superiors in Kolkata, the world level superiors of the Salesians in Rome and the heads of over 20 Salesian organizations and institutions around the world, spontaneously accepted the leadership of the very young organization that is BoscoNet, in the work of coordinating the works in Nepal and the financial support for them from around the world. BoscoNet has grown and matured. We have not failed the trust placed in us.

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the period of emergency relief will be over. We will be in the reconstruction mode – helping children get back to school, reconstructing schools that have collapsed, building houses for the needy. I invite you to be generous and to be partners in this process of rebuilding ruined lives.

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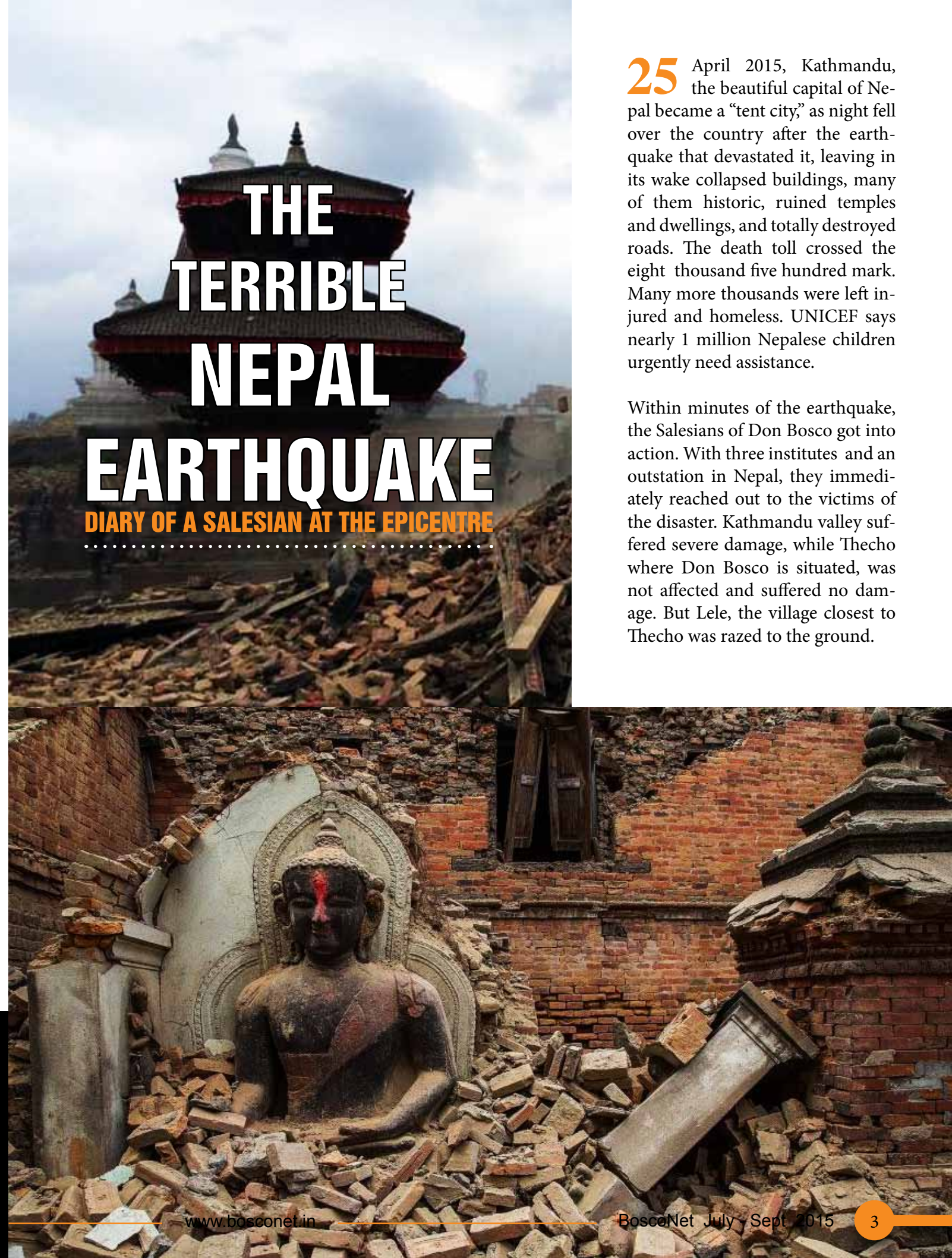
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# THE TERRIBLE NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

DIARY OF A SALESIAN AT THE EPICENTRE



**25** April 2015, Kathmandu, the beautiful capital of Nepal became a "tent city," as night fell over the country after the earthquake that devastated it, leaving in its wake collapsed buildings, many of them historic, ruined temples and dwellings, and totally destroyed roads. The death toll crossed the eight thousand five hundred mark. Many more thousands were left injured and homeless. UNICEF says nearly 1 million Nepalese children urgently need assistance.

Within minutes of the earthquake, the Salesians of Don Bosco got into action. With three institutes and an outstation in Nepal, they immediately reached out to the victims of the disaster. Kathmandu valley suffered severe damage, while Thecho where Don Bosco is situated, was not affected and suffered no damage. But Lele, the village closest to Thecho was razed to the ground.



**27** April - the Don Bosco rescue team, comprising Fr. Jijo John and Fr. Tony Cherian, three staff members and a few hostel boys, reached Lele which is almost 10 kilometers away from Don Bosco Thecho Institute. Located on the mountainside, Lele is extremely vulnerable to natural calamities. The quake razed all the houses to the ground, many livestock were killed and some villagers injured, but providentially there were no human casualties. As the Salesian

rescue team reached the spot, the whole village gathered to receive whatever available provisions, as there was no help from any other quarter.

**28** April - The efforts of the Salesians, led by Fr. Jijo (the man at ground Zero), with their past pupils and other friends of the Salesian work in Nepal, to provide relief for the victims of the earthquake continued unabated. The local authorities entrusted the task of coordinating the relief work

to the Salesian team. They did their utmost to give first aid to the victims and psychological support to the entire population sorely tested by the terrible quake. The Salesian Sisters were also unharmed and they worked closely with the Salesians in addressing the emergency. The team distributed food, medicines and materials (plastic or polythene sheets, tarpaulin, etc.) that could be used to make a temporary shelter.



**S**indhupalchowk, a district near the capital Kathmandu, is the worst hit area, with the highest number of human casualties, massive destruction of buildings and huge loss of livestock.

**29** April - the Salesian relief team led by Fr. Jijo was

on their way to Sindhupalchowk with relief material in three vehicles. The team was stopped by a group of people, angry at not getting any food the past three days and demanding that the provisions be distributed among them. It took the team almost all day to persuade the protestors to let them pass.

When the team reached the district development office of Sindhupalchowk, they found no one there because the villagers were on strike in front of the office, demanding immediate relief. The team distributed the available stuff among the people of Tulosiruwari ward with the help of the village committee.



**30** April - the rescue team went to the village of Mamti, in the district of Kavre, three hours drive from Don Bosco Thecho. The villagers told us that Don Bosco was the first to reach

the area. There were two casualties and many were injured. Over 40 families lost their houses completely and many houses developed cracks on their walls. The team provided food and plastic sheets to

make temporary tents.

The team also went to Lache Bharanyani Ward No. 6, and distributed provisions such as rice, dal, oil, salt, sugar, beaten rice, biscuits, etc.



**2** May - the Don Bosco relief team went to Kavre, where it had made a study the previous day

about the condition of the people who were affected by the earthquake. The team distributed provi-

sions to 50 families and 17 tarpaulins to the families whose houses had collapsed.







**3** May - saw the relief team again at Lele, Lalitpur and at one of the worst affected villages, Chisopani in Maithalli, Ramechapp District. They distributed rice, dal, oil, beaten rice, biscuits, and tarpaulin in Lele and Ramechapp.

The residents of Sindhupalchowk, which recorded the highest number of victims, asked the Salesians for help. It was no easy task for the Salesians, even with help coming from others. After the earthquake and several aftershocks, it was the incessant rain that created most

problems and discomfort. People were getting sick due to bad weather and the continuous stay outdoors. To add to their woes the bodies of the victims and the carcasses of animals had begun to rot, increasing the fear of an outbreak of epidemic diseases.



**“W**e need food, blankets, medicines, tents, warm clothes... Many people have lost everything. The rain further complicates the search for survivors and relief efforts,” say the Salesians, who opened their houses, which providentially have been only slightly damaged, to help the affected population.

**T**he sixth day after the deadly earthquake saw the Don Bosco Relief Team working full swing in ten villages of four districts among the 29 affected districts of Nepal. The team distributed tarpaulins and food for five days to more than 2350 families within this last six days.

Food (rice, dal and other items) transported in a truck and a utility vehicle was distributed to the people of Tulosilvari, ward numbers 1 to 6 in Sindhupalchok, the most severely affected district, with a death toll of 2071, and most of the houses destroyed; the Don Bosco relief team provided tarpaulins to make tents.

Another district, Gorkha, is being looked after ably by a congregation of women religious, with financial assistance from Don Bosco.

In Kavre, a beautiful mountainous district, the quake claimed 286 lives and a large number of people are severely wounded.

The families in the village of Mamti, ward numbers 2 to 5, were severely hit; they were very grateful for the food and tarpaulins that the relief team gave them.

In Khokna, bordering Lele, over 200 houses collapsed. The relief team has supplied food and tarpaulins to the victims.

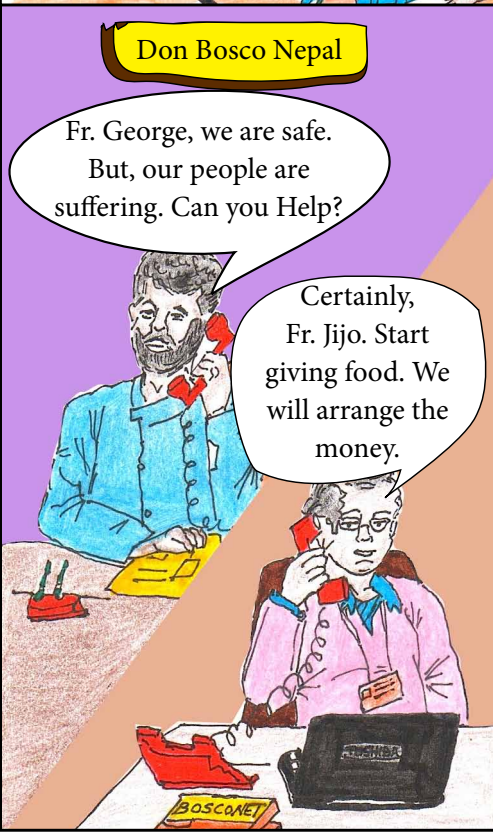
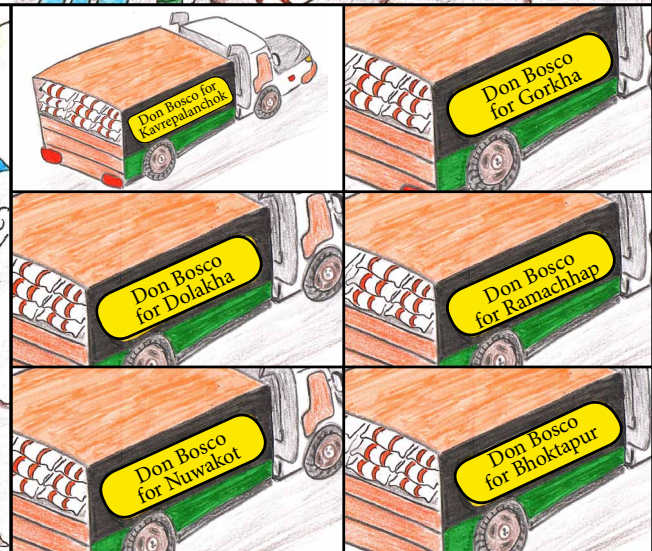
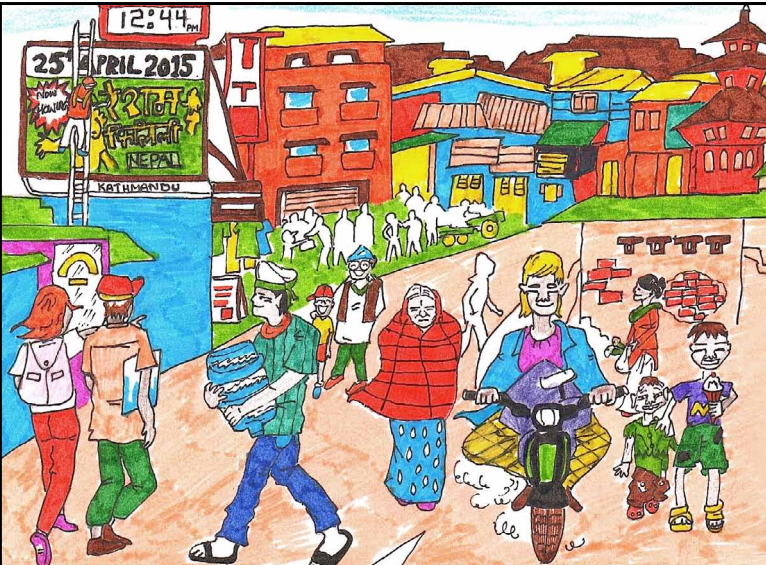
Over 92 families in the villages of Bista Gaun, Gampe Dhada, Dhami Gaun and Dhada Gaun lost their houses. Lache Bharamyani, ward number 6 is another severely affected place in Lalitpur district, where the team has provided food and shelter for 20 families.

The people of Bhugmati village lost over 150 houses. All the victims were given food for five days and tarpaulins to make temporary shelters. Lubhu is closer to Siddhipur village, where the Don Bosco Academic School is situated. Two casualties were reported from there and many houses were completely destroyed. The relief team distributed relief materials in ward numbers 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of this village.

Two Don Bosco institutions are in Lalitpur district where a number of houses collapsed and property destroyed or buried under the debris. The relief team, with the help of teachers and villagers, worked with the local people who are highly traumatized. In Lele, one of the villages in this district, ten kilometres from the Thecho Don Bosco Institute, all the houses (150 of them) were razed to the ground. The victims are left without food and shelter, and our team is constantly in touch with them.



# BEFRIEND THOSE IN NEED





**5** May - Don Bosco Thecho received 4 truckloads of materials from BoscoNet, New Delhi. Under the care of Fr. P. V Jose, the Don Bosco team reached the border of Nepal, Kakrabitta and distributed the materials there.

**6** May - feast of St. Dominic Savio, we reached out to 238 families in 5 villages (Muldol, Khasimara, Saliang, Pyangaon, and Bulu), and distributed there 55 bags of rice, 9 bags of dal, 13 bags of beaten rice, 12 boxes of biscuits for children and 89 boxes of Wai Wai noodles.

**7** May - we made a second visit to Tulolsilvari village in Sindhupalchok (which had visited on 29 April), and distributed rice, dal, oil, and tarpaulins.

**8** May - we went to Gorkha. On our arrival at St. Joseph's there, Fr. Jijo, Fr. Silas (the vicar general of the Nepal Vicariate) and Fr. Dennis, the principal of St. Joseph's, went to the VDC to get the required permissions. The permissions were finally given after many arguments and much bargaining. Meantime we also organized the loading of 7 tractor-trailers with relief materials for Muchok. However, when the tractors arrived at Muchok, there were only four of them. We thought the remaining three were struggling along the bad road. It was only during our return journey we discovered that our three missing tractor-trailers were high-jacked en route to Muchok! Never mind the high-jacked supplies... Hopefully they will serve some needy people.



**9** May - seven tractor-trailers were loaded with 500 bags of rice, 28 bags of dal, 600 litres of cooking oil, 500 kgs of salt, and 33 bundles of tarpaulins, meant for Sorpani village in Gorkha district.

cate) and 2 FMA Sisters went to Sarsyunkharka village in Nuwakot district. The team distributed rice, dal, cooking oil, salt, and tarpaulins to the disaster victims.

**10** May - we formed two teams: the first consisting of Fr. Tony Cherian, Fr. Jijo Kalavanal, along with Mr. Purno, went to Lele for an evaluation visit, to assess the impact of the relief works, and provide psychosocial assistance. The second team with Fr. Roman, Fr. T.L. Joseph, Mr. Rajan (Advo-

**The needs are many and there are many people in dire need.**



# 12 MAY

## THE LAND CRACKED OPEN AGAIN



“I was out in the field the day the second earthquake took place. People ran out of the buildings. I saw the buildings tremble and swing. People were crying and shouting, standing in the middle of the road. When I got out of the vehicle I could feel the earth tremble beneath my feet. We stood there for a while. No major calamity occurred where we were, though buildings were collapsing elsewhere”.

Fr. Jijo Kalavanal



Two weeks after the devastating quake, another quake of 7.3 magnitude hit Nepal again on 12 May, killing dozens of people, triggering landslides and bringing more miseries to a people already reeling under, and ravaged by, the ferocity of the first quake.

**12** May - the DEO (District Education Officer) of Lalitpur district met with the Don Bosco team. He asked us to take on two schools and help them with educational materials and repair works.

The new quake hit us during the meeting. Everyone in the two-storied building, including the DEO, ran out. Four of us Salesians

stayed on in the office, holding on to the pillars. We came out after the quake stopped. The people nearby are affected again, but with no casualties. What was shaken up earlier came to complete ruins this time!

Our relief team was at Kavre, with relief materials for a village of ward 9, with a population of 1639 families.





**14** May - the NDBS (Nepal Don Bosco Society) relief team went to two villages, Chaughare and Dedchaur of Lalitpur district, and distributed relief materials.

**15** May - Ikdoul village of Lalitpur district received relief supplies from the Don Bosco relief team.



The relief work of the Don Bosco Relief Team is much appreciated, valued and esteemed by the villagers, as many of them have so far received no aid from any quarters other than from Don Bosco. During our daily evaluation and planning for each day, many of our team members have commented on the serenity of the victims in spite of the tragedy, and their willingness to share what little they have with others.

The big questions ahead are, what about the farmers who miss the

planting season? Who will feed them? They will have nothing to eat until late 2016. What about children who lost both their parents? What about parents who lost their children? Many families lost all their livestock, crops, food stock, and valuable agriculture inputs. Most of the people of this area of Nepal are left with no fields to cultivate and no place to work. What turned their one-time tragedy into long-term disaster is that all their means of earning an income have totally disappeared. Their lives turned upside down in

one single night.

Generous people worldwide will always help them in every possible way but there are things that are beyond mere material human help. Let us do whatever is in our power to help them. Please continue to pray for the earthquake victims and the Don Bosco Team as well, whose members are bringing much needed support, and helping the victims of this terrible disaster to cope with the enormous crisis they now face in their lives.

**IF YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT MAKING A DONATION TO HELP THE VICTIMS OF THE DEVASTATING NEPAL EARTHQUAKE, NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT.**

**NEPAL RELIEF FUND**

Donor	Amount	Donor	Amount
Individual Donation - TRF	10,000	Liechtenstein (Foreign Transfer)	17,79,342
Individual Donation - TRF	2,000	Hyderabad DB Society	5,00,000
Foreign Transfer - \$ 482	30,329	Renee Menezes Memorial	30,000
Foreign Transfer - Trudy & Con Koulouris	47,460	Foreign TRF - CHF 300	20,371
Salesian of Don Bosco, Dimapur	4,00,000	Navneet Nandi	10,000
The South India Salesian Society, Chennai	3,00,000	Mahimiraj Pitcha	2,680
Jessykutty Jacob	5,000	Foreign TRF - CHF 300	20,188
Alphonsa Ngoruh	1,000	Salesian cooperator Bandel	1,700
Vungkhannuam ChurachandpuW	5,000	Salesian Cooperator Liluah	500
Salesian of Don Bosco, N.E. India, Guwahaty	2,00,000	Holy Child Auxilium School, New Delhi	2,50,000
Dr. Eliza Joseph	28,500	Don Bosco School	62,001
Shishir B Nevatia	25,000	Individual Donation - TRF	1,000
P.G.S Mony	5,000	Mathew M K & Marykutty	5,000
Domnic Kostka & Charmaine Kostka	7,000	Eugene Danam	2,000
Sufia	1,000	K J Joseph	3,000
Ujala Sharma	1,000	Pawan Kumar Goel	1,100
Agnes Zimik	1,000	Carmelite Sisters of St Theresa, Karnataka	20,000
Zenobia Miranda	5,000	Mathew A J	2,000
Joseph P V	3,000	Liechtenstein (Foreign Transfer)	34,562
Salasian of Shillong Province	1,00,000	Salesian College Siliguri	7,547
Foreign Transfer	18,703	Ghururi Madhyamik High School, Kolkata	300
Holy Trinity Parish, Manipur	1,10,000	Thomas C S	1,000
St. Thomas School, Assam	17,070	John B Thomas Thekkel	5,000
Gopan Moses	10,000	Vishnubaratheeyaswami	2,000
Auxilium Girls School, Agartala	52,000	Individual Donation, Kerala	500
Lizy George	5,000	Sudikshit Roy Barma	3,000
Alukkas Jewellery, Kerala	25,000	M P Varghese	2,000
Joseph V M	5,000	Joby Davis Emmatty	25,000
Fatima	5,000	Individual Donation	2,000

A few have donated into BoscoNet accounts other than the special account for Nepal. These are being verified and will be transferred to the Nepal account.

**DONATE NOW. SAVE LIVES.**

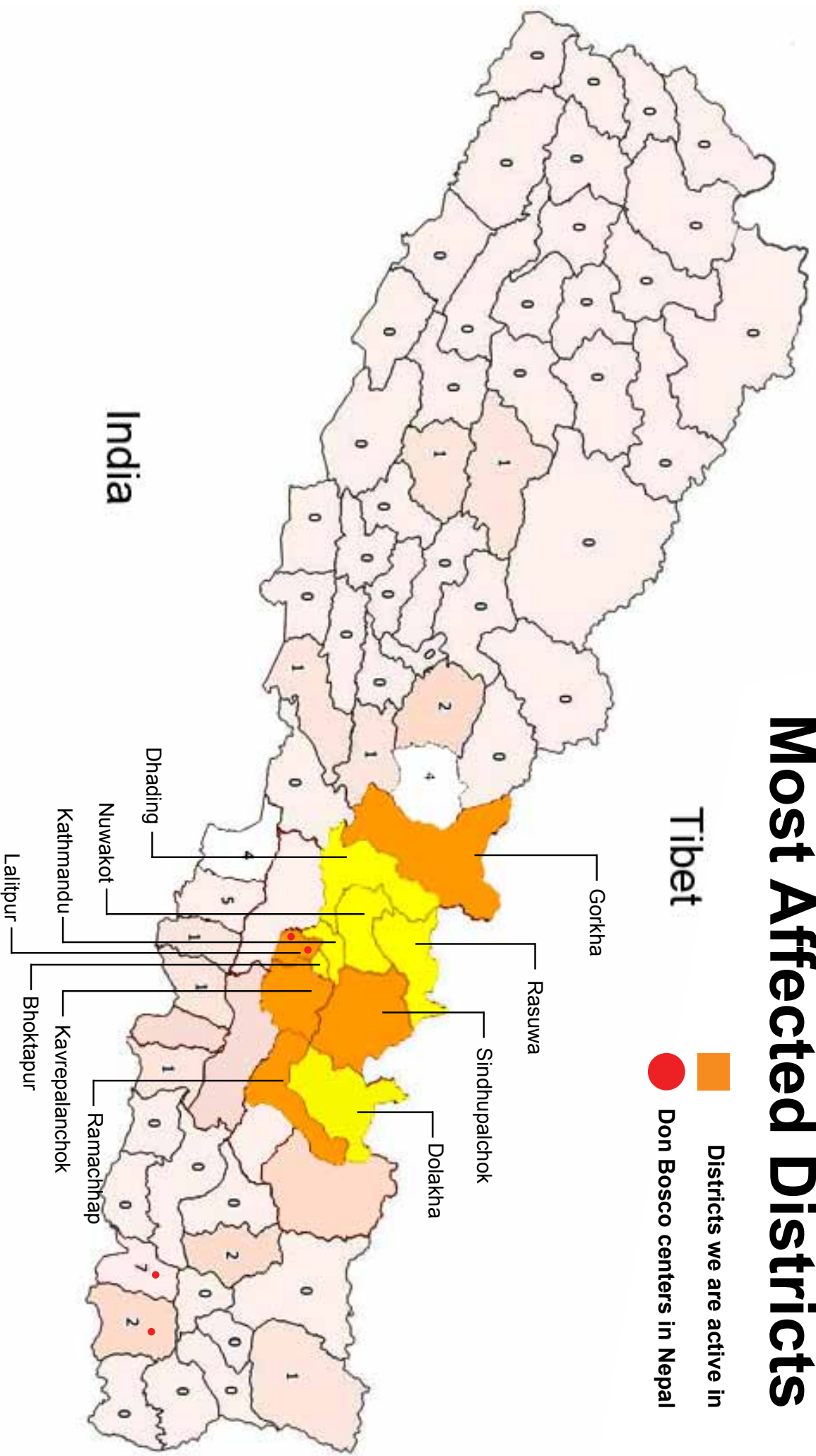
**HDFC Nepal Bank account**

Name of the Account	: BOSCONET
Name and Address of the Bank	: HDFC Bank, Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi
Current Account Number	: 50200003052948
IFSC code	: HDFC0000132

If you have already donated for this, a **"BIG THANK YOU"**, and please take this only as further information.



# Most Affected Districts



**Contact our CSR Team to guide you**

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