

Bishnu Adhikari: The Life of a Humanitarian



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<https://www.deseretnews.com/article/865636619/doTERRA-convention-puts-focus-on-Nepal-relief.html>

BYU Ira. A Fulton College of Engineering and Technology is bringing humanitarian Bishnu Adhikari to speak at the College Lecture on Thursday, March 15th, 2018.

In 2010, Bishnu Adhikari, of Nepal, was honored by the CHOICE Humanitarian Organization as its 2010 Humanitarian of the Year. “Bishnu has literally touched the lives of thousands of people” says CHOICE Humanitarian board member Sharon Spaulding (Bishnu Adhikari: CHOICE’s Humanitarian of the Year,” 2010). Founded in Salt Lake City in 1982, Choice Humanitarian is a nonprofit organization that has worked in 15 countries and helped hundreds of thousands of villagers help themselves out of poverty with self-sustaining programs and projects. Currently Choice maintains full-time in-country directors in Nepal, Guatemala, Mexico, Kenya and Bolivia (“Bishnu Adhikari: The humble humanitarian from Nepal,” 2010).

Adhikari earned a civil engineering degree from a Russian university. In 1989, Bishnu Adhikari returned home to Nepal from Russia where he watched his then-60-year-old mother carry water from a well about a mile away from the house. She refused to let him carry the water for her, and that day Bishnu promised her and himself that he would dedicate his life to improve the quality of life for his family and other families like his in Nepal. Bishnu has been true to his words—not only did he build a pipe from that well to his village, but he has been instrumental in the completion of 21 water projects, the building of 33 schools and 900 bio-gas digesters that have improved the lives of many families in Nepal (Bishnu Adhikari: CHOICE’s Humanitarian of the Year,” 2010).

In 2007, Bishnu added a master’s degree in International Environmental Policy from the Monterey Institute to his already impressive resume. He is passionate about eradicating poverty and improving lives while always thinking about the impact of our actions on nature and the environment. Through his leadership at CHOICE Humanitarian he has helped bring their model of sustainable development to 11 districts and 133 villages in Nepal (Bishnu Adhikari: CHOICE’s Humanitarian of the Year,” 2010).

Adhikari was featured in the 2014 film *Meet the Mormons*, which examines the very diverse lives of six devout members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons). In an interview with the Mormon Channel, reporters asked Adhikari what advice he would give to others looking for ways to serve in their own communities and beyond, to which he responded:

I have started the effort from my home. I have seven brothers and two sisters. Once I got my education, I started helping them. Then [I helped] my small village, then my hamlet, and then the entire district. I also travel to countries like Kenya, Mexico, and Guatemala. Countries are all different, but the problems are similar. There is no boundary in this work. I try not to get overwhelmed with what I see. I take it easy and start working—and keep on working. Many support me, many criticize me, challenges come, but my focus is always on what is possible and practical (“Q&A with ‘The Humanitarian’, Bhisnu Adhikari,” 2015).



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