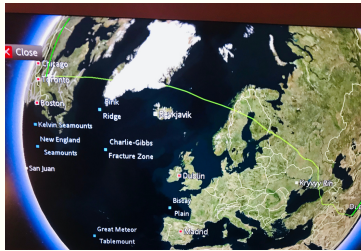


COFFEE WITH A SHOT OF KAIROS

The Story of the Book



The jet lag of our **12 time-zone travel from home** to Nepal settled over me like dense fog. Added to that, the new sights and sounds of the culture surrounding me had my emotions grinding in self-doubt. Literally on the other side of the planet, what 'really' were we doing here? I prayed that the coffee of **Kairos Café** in Kathmandu that September 2016 morning, would revive me to a level of functionality needed for the meeting next up.

To combat my thoughts, I reminded myself. . . we had been asked to create and deliver a **culturally relevant leader development seminar for use in Nepal**. Over the course of nine months, we had worked hard to fulfill this mandate. We felt prepared. Back in our room, Verna was showing signs of life but was about an hour behind my pace.



In contrast to my muddled state, Xiwan (gee-wan), a young Nepali businessman, bounced up to my table with a warm smile and strong handshake. Having previously corresponded via email, I was glad to meet him in person. An expert translator, Xiwan (managing director of Five14) had converted our **"Servant-leadership" seminar** files into the Nepali language. We met to resolve some **tricky nuances of translation**.

After the pleasantries of introduction, Xiwan surprised me with, *"Bruce, the message in your workshop material is **exactly what leaders in Nepal need!** I'm very excited about it - **you must write a book!**"* Relieved at this enthusiastic endorsement, I **laughed out loud** at his suggestion.

Over the following three weeks we presented our Servant-leadership seminar to 250 people at events in the Kathmandu area. Our primary Nepali host, Bikash Adhikari, **CEO of Sundar Dhoka Saathi Sewa (SDSS)** a Nepali NGO, served us as our presentation interpreter. We became immediate friends.

After the first session, Bikash called me aside and said, "your message has personally challenged me in many ways. . . **you have to write a book!** I want this in a book format for long-term use with our team." Again I laughed at the thought, it just didn't seem plausible! But being a "Type A" personality, it didn't take long to realize Bikash was both serious and persistent!

During the seminar events that followed, we kept hearing, **"where can we get the book?"** What book?? That "Kairos coffee" seed seemed to want to take root!

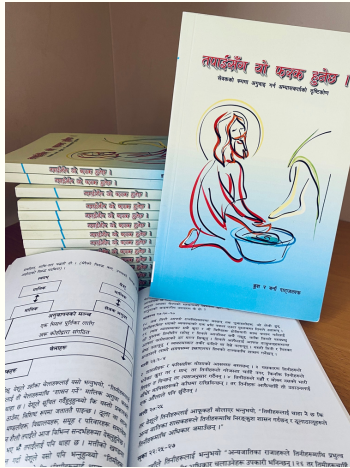
We began to wonder. . .

We returned home grateful and rich in experience. Then, emails flowed in. . . we "really do" want a book. Please write a book for translation into Nepali for our use.

How could we refuse. . . and, where to begin?



"... WHERE CAN WE GET THE BOOK?"



Converting a series of presentations into a book was hard work. Usually **seminars are created from books not the other way around**. At times it really felt like we were working in reverse. We also needed to formalize the **scope of research** and compiled over 300 hundred pages of notes. After months of preparation, the writing - and editing, began.

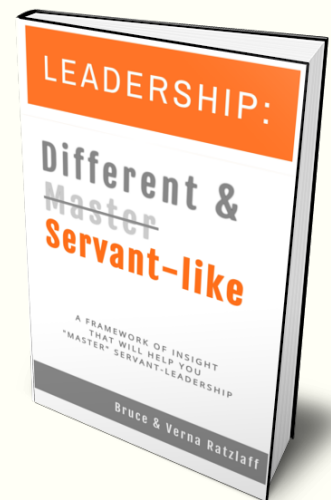
Developing a text for a Nepali audience was also challenging. We aimed for both clarity and cultural relevance. **Avoiding "westernism's" was an essential** that drove us to Bible-centric source material. The Bible is a cross-cultural text so it became our research standard. Our writing was guided by conceptual and structural feedback from copy editors and alpha-readers.

We travelled to Kathmandu in 2018 for more seminar events and to finalize the publishing of: **"With You It Will Be Different"**. The owner of a boutique publishing company joined us to oversee the technical aspects of converting a manuscript into a print-ready file. We were done - relieved to be finished!

Then, as we travelled home, our publisher friend asked when we would have the book **ready for a North American audience**. Really? She reminded us that the alpha-reader reviews were strongly affirming and rooted in a North American paradigm of leading. So with those voices of encouragement. . . **we started writing again**. Already having a manuscript in a Nepali-translatable format, we thought it an easy task to rewrite it for a domestic audience - it wasn't. With latitude to include research citations and other contextual elements familiar to readers here, the rewrite took over a year. Beta-readers provided invaluable guidance and encouragement. And finally, this:

"Leadership: Different & Servant-like".

This probably isn't how a book is "supposed" to be conceived and written, but **this is how it went**. . . we learned much. We think you will find something **new, insightful, practical, and actionable**.



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Helpers 4 Learners
... making school possible



In early 2020 returned to Nepal for the 3rd time. Our work with SDSS has expanded over the years and is ongoing. Believing that **'education should be every child's privilege'**, together, we launched **Helpers 4 Learners**. Today, 48 children of the poorest are attending school and following their individual path out of the poverty that is a barrier to their families.

Why the logo of a paper airplane? First, it's synonymous with children. But symbolically, though a paper airplane may be perfectly designed for flight, it can't, until someone helps by launching it.

It's what **Helpers 4 Learners** does.

100% of the book sales proceeds goes to this Nepali kids program.