

Believer's Burial Wishes Enrage Villagers

✖ When Krishna Maya Pariyar died last week, her fellow believers tried to carry out her wish to be buried on her own land. But this caused major problems for the people in Krishna's village.

They adhere to their traditional religion, which mandates cremation as the only proper ritual. The people in this village were upset that Krishna had turned her back on their traditional gods to worship Jesus, in both her life and in her death.

The people believed that if they could cremate, rather than bury Krishna, she would once again receive favor from her gods. So they confronted the Christians who were planning Krishna's burial.

"They told us that if we tried to bury her, they would destroy the church," said Gospel for Asia-supported missionary Prem Rai Rangon. He was also Krishna's pastor.

So Prem and his congregation left Krishna's body in her home for three days while he and other GFA-supported pastors tried to work out a peaceable agreement to the conflict.

Finally, the police intervened and told Prem that Krishna

could be
buried, but not on her land. Instead they told the Christians
to bury
their departed sister near a river, which was a two-hour walk
from their
village.

Finally, five days after she died, Krishna's body was laid to
rest in
this alternate spot. But the trouble is not over for Prem and
his
congregation.

The villagers are still angry at the Christians. They blame
the
believers for causing a disruption in the harmony of their
community.

Some of the more vocal anti-Christians in the village again
confronted

Prem and told him he had one week to get his congregation out
of their

village. The extremists threatened to tear down the church
building if

the Christians continue meeting.

The church meets in a rented house, and the landlord is
worried his

property will be demolished. He told Prem and the other
believers they

could no longer use the house for worship.

Prem is asking for prayer that God will give them wisdom and
strength

to encourage the affected believers and to continue being a
bold

witness in the area.