

Rob and Rebecca Gaebler - serving at Gospel for Asia

SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM



But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. ~ Matthew 6:33

Grace and peace to you from God our Father! Welcome to a new year, and a new decade. It is exciting to look at this new year and think about what the Lord is going to do in 2020, and we praise Him for giving us the opportunity to be part of His work. Thank you also for standing with us as we serve Him here full-time at GFA!

“Thank you for calling Gospel for Asia...”

Since last summer, Rebecca has been helping take incoming phone calls for GFA. After her initial training and a few weeks of taking phone calls on her own, she’s now past the “heart jumps into throat” feeling when the phone rings and has sincerely enjoyed the opportunity to interact with the people who call in. Most of the calls have to do with a regular set of requests, such as making donations, updating automatic payment information, changing addresses, adjusting sponsorships, or requesting account information. And then there are the unique and sometimes challenging calls... One day a lady called who adamantly wanted to sponsor the little girl pictured on the front of the GFA World 40th edition magazine (she didn’t realize the picture was taken in the early 1980s and that the girl probably wasn’t even in Bridge of Hope). Another time a gentleman called with a question about the ministry, and ended up talking for 30 minutes about the incompetency of his local post office and other frustrations he had in life. Whatever the individual’s need, Rebecca’s desire is that at the end of the call the person will feel well served. She’s also prayed with several people over the phone, which is a tangible way to let them know that they are valuable to us.

Road trips and refrigerators

We’re grateful for the blessing of spending time with family and friends over Thanksgiving and Christmas. During our Christmas trip we visited all 5 homes where Rob lived when he was growing up, located in Missouri, Kansas, Wisconsin, and Iowa. He hadn’t seen some of those locations in over 30 years!



The week after Thanksgiving, our 21-year-old refrigerator (given us when we got married) stopped cooling. We scrambled to get our food into coolers, a neighbor’s fridge, and were also given permission to use the GFA walk-in fridge temporarily. Rob started looking for a replacement, but that very afternoon he received a call from Home Depot notifying him of the delivery date for a new refrigerator (!). Of the handful of people who knew about our fridge woes, someone generously and anonymously bought us a replacement. We are so blessed!



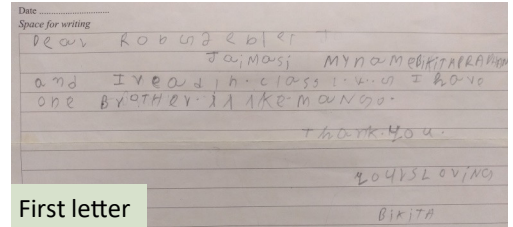
Meet Bikita Pradhan



2007

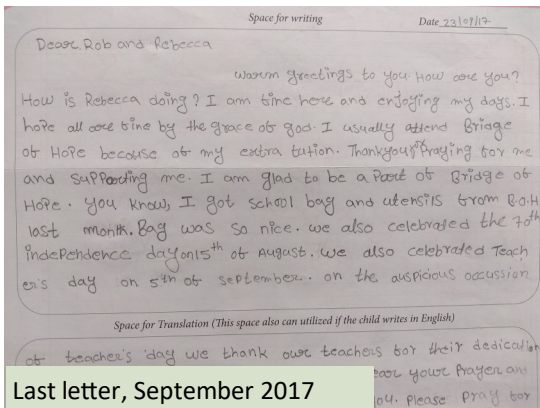
Bikita Pradhan was almost 5 years old when she was enrolled in Gospel for Asia's Bridge of Hope (BOH) program, in September 2006; a few months later Rob became her sponsor. That was the beginning of a 12-year relationship, which included praying for one another and writing letters back and forth, until 2019 when Bikita graduated from school and left the program. Here are some excerpts from a few of her letters.

Mid-2007 (first letter): "Dear Rob Gaebler, Jaimasi [God's grace] My name Bikita Pradhan and I read in class L.k.g [lower kindergarten] I have one brother. I like mango. Thank you. Yours loving Bikita"



First letter

September 2016: "Dear Rob and Rebecca. Warm greeting. How are you? Yes I am good and fine. First of all congratulation to newly married couple and God bless you both.. I like to hear about Jesus and his work..."



Last letter, September 2017

May 2017: "...My board exam of grade 10 has got over. I have done my best for all subjects. Now, I am waiting for my result... I want to continue my studies. I want to become teacher and want to teach in school..."

Although we didn't meet her in person, Bridge of Hope gave us the opportunity to be part of Bikita's life during her formative years. Through her letters and the photo updates sent to us from the BOH center, we got to watch her grow up and become a

mature young lady. And BOH provides more than just education for the children who are enrolled in the program. Bikita received a nutritious meal each day, regular medical checkups, all the school supplies she needed, and practical gifts for her and her family. She participated in various activities and events sponsored by BOH, and wrote to us about some of them - events such as Independence Day (which happens in August for India), Teacher's Day, picnics, sports days, and Christmas programs.



2011

The most exciting part for us is that Bikita heard about and experienced God's love through the BOH staff. We prayed for her regularly, and trust that the Lord will use her as she moves forward in this new season of her life.

There are many children in BOH who are still waiting for a sponsor; check out their pictures here!

www.gfa.org/sponsorachild/filter

In Christ,

Rob and Rebecca



2019

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Praises

- **Praise** God for bringing us to another new year!
- **Praise** the Lord for granting safe travels to visit friends and family!
- **Praise** God for the opportunity Rebecca has to take incoming phone calls!
- **Praise** the Lord for 12 years of sponsoring Bikita through Bridge of Hope!
- **Praise** God for the gift of a new refrigerator!

Prayers

- **Pray** for God's direction for us to set and keep good goals in our personal walks with Him, as well as for our roles in the ministry and at our church
- **Pray** that God would provide for the needs of the ministry, here and in Asia
- **Pray** for the Lord to raise up many more sponsors for BOH students like Bikita
- **Pray** that the BOH program would be able to positively impact many new communities this year



Thank you for your prayers

“...be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints” (Eph. 6:18)