

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

Hello from Wills Point! It's a joy for us to have this opportunity to touch base with you and fill you in on some of the things that are happening here at GFA. The Lord is at work, building His Kingdom, and we appreciate your partnership with us.

A weekend of solitude and prayer

(Written by Rob)

Once or twice a year, I make the time to get away for a day or two to pray, reflect, evaluate my life, and set goals. I need this. I easily lose focus in life, and get stuck in ruts. Times of solitude and prayer have been one of the most helpful spiritual disciplines to get me back on track.

In January, I took three days for this. It was a beautiful time with Jesus. He gave me fresh direction in various areas, and I was able to set some important goals. The most surprising and delightful part of the experience was how God's word came alive. Seven times a day, I read a chapter of John and a psalm, then spent a few minutes meditating on them.

Though I have read John many times, it came to life with richness and power as never before! I identified 8 major themes in John, and was delighted to discover that 5 of them are in John 3:16 and 4 are in John 5:24!

This time was such a gift from the Lord.

Sing a new song!

Rebecca is part of GFA's Adoration Team, which is the team of people who lead times of worship during our various prayer meetings. Recently the group had an on-campus

"song writing retreat" for the purpose of collaborating together to write some new songs for our services.



That inspired Rebecca to compose a song on her own, using the words of a written prayer: *O Heavenly King, O Comforter, the Spirit of truth; who art in all places and fillest all things; the Treasury of good things and Giver of life; come and abide in us, cleanse us from every stain; and save our souls, O gracious Lord.*

Here is a link to the recording she made (caveat... it's not a super high quality recording): <https://tinyurl.com/rg-new-song>

Welcome Ed: newest IT member

Praise God, He recently brought another IT person to join our team! Ed has a background in system administration, which has been one of our top prayer needs for months. Jonathan (our coordinator)



is very excited that now he can pass off some of the major system projects that have fallen to him by default, especially since Ed has more experience in this area.

Learning to read... as an adult

Have you ever looked at a document written in a foreign language, and thought about how you would feel if that were actually the language you spoke on a daily basis - but you just couldn't read it? Illiteracy is a major problem across the world, especially among women. In Asia alone, over 250 million women cannot read or write. Vendors, creditors and employers easily take advantage of them; they and their children face safety risks because of their inability to read warning labels; and worst of all they are unable to read God's Word for themselves.



But thankfully, GFA is part of changing that! In 2018 alone, over 60,000 women learned to read and write through GFA's literacy program. Women learn by reading the Bible, which is the foundational text for the classes, so they gain a knowledge of Scripture even before they've completed the course. Kaavya, one of the women whose life was transformed by the literacy classes, shares her testimony: *"When I joined the literacy class, I learned lots of things. I learned not only reading and writing; I learned good habits, roles of women, wife and mother in the family. Now I am very happy ... I will not lose heart because I can read and write."*



Last year we published a special report documenting the effect of illiteracy on a society. Check it out at this link: www.gfa.org/special-report/literacy-miracle-cure-illiteracy/

On the same page

K.P. Yohannan (founder and president of GFA) has written dozens of books and booklets on various topics of living the Christian life. As a staff body we recently read his booklet "Principles in Maintaining a Godly Organization," which reflects on the core principles we want to keep in mind as we are doing ministry. It is important for each of us, especially those in full-time ministry, to avoid falling in a rut of "doing things for God" instead of serving Him with an attitude of worship and commitment.



Prayer continues to be a major focus of the work at GFA

"It is my prayer that the Lord will help us continue on course, that we will stay focused and not lose the original vision He gave us, and that we will maintain our vibrancy and joy over the great possibilities He is laying before us."

~ Excerpt

Serving together with you,

Rob & Rebecca

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Praises

- **Praise** God for giving Rob a weekend for prayer and solitude, and for the direction and fellowship He provided!
- **Praise** the Lord for giving Rebecca song-writing inspiration!
- **Praise** God for bringing Ed to join the IT department!
- **Praise** the Lord for over 60,000 women in 2018 who learned to read and write through GFA's literacy program!

Prayers

- **Pray** for both of us to keep His vision and focus in our lives as we serve Him
- **Pray** that Ed would quickly adjust to working at GFA and that he would be able to relieve the system admin burden off of Jonathan
- **Pray** for wisdom and God's empowerment for the leaders and teachers of our literacy programs, and that thousands of women would be able to participate this year
- **Pray** for His continued direction and guidance for our family



Thank you for your prayers

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