

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

Update from the office

We find ourselves in a very busy season right now. For the past several weeks Rob has been a bit swamped with two major projects, one of which was due at the beginning of this month and the other of which is due in the middle of this month.

The first project was a database migration for the GFA office in New Zealand. The staff there were working with outdated software that didn't have any tech support, so after considering various options we decided to set up their database in StudioEnterprise (SE). There are several

positive reasons for this: because we already know the software, we can be a better help to them on an IT level. Also, we have abundant documentation on how SE processes work, which is going to be a huge help for the staff who will be learning to use it. Rob got designated as project coordinator, which turned out to involve many hours of thinking through processes, having multiple meetings with the various people involved in the migration, setting up underlying configuration, and generally keeping the

project moving along so we could meet the August 1st deadline. The Lord provided and the conversion happened... and while there is still some work to be done on it, the major part has been completed.

The other project has also taken hours of meetings, configuration, analysis, and general coordination, though the scope isn't as broad as the database migration. It is related to the restructuring of GFA's one-year School of Discipleship program, and how donations are handled within SE.

And what has kept



Jonathan, LaMott, and Rob working out an IT issue

Rebecca busy during this time? Well, she's doing her best to stay on top of other tickets that Rob hasn't had time to complete, as well as keeping up with her own set of responsibilities (Helpdesk, reports, adhoc queries, etc.). She has also been able to help some on Rob's major projects, which he greatly appreciated.

Servers and a Support Trip

Our fourth of July weekend started out with a "bang," as we arrived in the office on Friday morning to find that all the servers were down. That meant we had no internet connectivity... which makes working in IT a little bit challenging. Thankfully the Systems guys were able to get it all back up and running shortly after

lunch time, so we were able to get a good afternoon of work done.

That evening we headed down to the Austin area, where Rebecca's family lives. We took advantage of the long weekend to set up several meetings with people to share with them about the work that GFA is doing and invite them to join our support team. We also visited with some of Rebecca's long-time friends - in all, it was a great weekend of reconnecting with people and sharing updates from our lives. Our schedule included a lot of driving and talking, but we also got to hang out with



Lincoln Logs with some friends

Rebecca's family a couple of evenings.



Fourth of July dinner



Meeting our newest niece

VBS - at home and on the mission field

In mid-July we had the privilege of helping out with the Vacation Bible School program at our church, New Release Fellowship Baptist church. Each evening, over the period of one week, there was an average of 28-29 kiddos who came to the church for a couple of hours. The schedule included eating dinner, singing songs, playing games, making a craft, and having a time of teaching. Rob served as sort-of a teaching assistant for the group of kids from 4th-6th grade, and Rebecca was the “official” photographer.

The theme passage for the week was Psalm 139:23-24, which starts out with the line, “Search me, O God, and know my heart!” Praise God, there were at least two children who gave their lives to Christ that week! We are praying that they grow in faith, and that many others will respond in obedience to the Gospel as well.

Search me, O God, and
know my heart!
Try me and know my
thoughts!
And see if there be any
grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way
everlasting!
Psalm 139:23-24

VBS doesn't just happen in America: all across South Asia there have already been VBS programs taking place for several months. We recently received the

picture below in an email sent out by our Field Communications department, and both of us really enjoyed analyzing the faces of these precious children. Some of them look like they are having the time of their life, while others don't seem so certain about it all... :)

Last year, in one region, 26 churches led by Gospel for Asia-supported pastors held VBS programs in June and July. The churches were hoping and praying 780 children in this region would participate in VBS. The Lord answered above their expectations, leading 820 children to attend! More than 200 of these children came from non-Christian backgrounds.

Each participating church held a three-day VBS program centered on the theme “Super Hero: Love in Action.” Students learned about Jesus Christ, and they were encouraged to develop good values such as being a good friend and forgiving others. Children also enjoyed learning action songs, including the theme song, “Jesus Is My Hero,” which was written by Gospel for Asia-supported missionaries.

Even after the VBS program ended, children could be heard on the streets singing the songs they had learned at VBS.

“I like the action songs and especially the games,” shared Anbu, one of the children. “I want to attend VBS next time also. I had a good time learning about the living God, Jesus Christ.”

By God's grace, this year's VBS programs will touch more lives as children learn about the 2016 VBS theme, which is based on Jeremiah 29:11: *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”*

(Report excerpts from <http://gospelforasia-reports.org/2016/03/more-than-800-kids-learn-about-the-true-hero-at-vbs/>)



Reciting the pledge of allegiance



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Because He lives,

Rob and Rebecca

Rob and Rebecca Gaebler, Gospel for Asia (Aug 2016)

Praises

- **Praise** God for children's lives being transformed through attending VBS!
- **Praise** the Lord for opportunities we've had to connect with people at church, as we get plugged in and start helping out!
- **Praise** God for giving Rob grace in leading a huge database migration project, and that the go-live went smoothly!
- **Praise** the Lord for His help in our support raising and for how He is building our support team!

Prayers

- **Pray** for VBS programs that are still taking place both in America and in Asia, for many children to attend and give their lives to Christ.
- **Pray** for the various IT projects to be completed accurately and on time.
- **Pray** for the country of Nepal which is going through a period of political upheaval, that the doors for God's work will remain open.
- **Pray** for us to keep our eyes on Christ in the midst of this very busy season.



Thank you for your prayers

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