

# 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*

*... forget not all His benefits...*

Someone at GFA recently shared from Psalm 103, and his message was such a blessing to us that we wanted to share it with all of you. :)

In general, most people would agree that having a healthy body is a good thing. Sometimes we may not want to do what it takes to have a healthy body... exercising, making wise food choices, getting enough rest... But assumedly there aren't many people who would go out of their way to have an unhealthy body.

What about spiritually? Are we willing to make

the right choices in our lives that will increase our spiritual health? One important "exercise" we can all do to increase our spiritual health is to make a practice of remembering the goodness of the Lord. Psalm 103 starts out with the Psalmist exhorting himself to "bless the LORD;" in other words, to speak His praises.

There are so many reasons to praise the Lord! We praise Him for who He is: holy, righteous, just, merciful, gracious. We praise Him for what He has done for us: forgiven our iniquities, healed our diseases,

protected our lives, sustained and renewed our strength.

One of the major themes of this Psalm is how God is merciful and gracious. Someone explained *mercy* as "not getting what you deserve," and *grace* as "getting what you don't deserve." God has done both of those for us, to such an extent that our finite human minds can't fathom what it truly means. We could never get to heaven by our own power (verse 11), and no matter how fast we tried to run around the earth, we would never find the place where east meets

west (verse 12). And He does all of this for us, despite the fact that our lives are such a vapor!

After going through such a list of God's greatness, the Psalmist can't stop at blessing the Lord just by himself. He calls on all of creation to bless the Lord as well, and then wraps up his thoughts by tending to his own soul again at the end of the last verse.

May the Lord give each of us grace to exercise these muscles of gratitude and praise!

\*\*\*\*\* The Merry Adventures of R&R \*\*\*\*\*

September and October were really busy for us! We spent 5 days at the beach with Rebecca's family, attended a wedding in Arkansas, and performed in the GFA Talent Show. Our "talent" was to race the clock in building a structure out of 72 pencils and 8 rubber bands. You can even watch our performance if you want to! Visit the following link:

<https://my.pcloud.com/publink/show?code=XZax1TZJarR8NXapkHmHoOCntAm15YelqVJX>



72 Pencils

Fall has arrived in Wills Point! Even though this area doesn't get vibrant fall colors on the trees, we do enjoy crisp mornings and pleasant afternoon temperatures. One morning when the two of us went running together we even had to wear long sleeves because there was such a bite in the air. Cold weather isn't a problem for us, because we have insulated homes and plenty of protective clothing. But for many people in Asia, cold weather presents a huge challenge. We get to take this challenge and turn it into an opportunity to bless people! The following report tells about one way that GFA is able to help individuals and families with this need.



When we think of tools for telling people about God's gift of His Son, sweaters, jackets and scarves are not normally the first items that come to mind. But those who serve in frigid mountain regions or chilly plains know firsthand how valuable and necessary winter clothing is for their ministry.

When one area of Asia experienced an unusually cold winter one year, it made it difficult for families and missionaries to go about their daily activities.

"The winter is severe in my

Report taken from <http://gospelforasia-reports.org/2016/10/praying-for-warm-sweater/>

## Praying for a Warm Sweater

ministry place since it is surrounded by mountains," shared Kirpal, a GFA-supported missionary. "The cold wave affects our health. Visiting believers and doing [ministry is] difficult during winter without the proper warm clothes."

Kirpal was not alone in his struggle. Many other dedicated pastors and missionaries in his area also found it difficult to carry out their ministry in the wintery temperatures their region was experiencing. Traveling to lead prayer meetings or to meet families in other villages while wearing inadequate winter clothing was miserable, and it jeopardized their health.

But this cold missionary and 144 other GFA-supported workers in his area received an answer to their prayers. The Body of Christ provided articles of warm winter clothing for these faithful ministers of His

grace, an act which warmed hearts and bodies alike.

"My wife and I are blessed greatly," one national missionary shared. "We actually didn't have good warm clothes. At the time of our worry, God provided the best one through [the church]."

When Daria, another recipient of winter clothing, received her gifts, a wide smile spread across her face. The sweater and shawl were simple in weave and style, but they meant she wouldn't have to battle the cold weather that was impacting the area where she served as a Sister of Compassion, and she could minister more effectively to the people living in the slum.

Another woman missionary expressed her gratitude for her new sweater, saying "I was praying for a pleasant sweater. Now God provided one for me. Thank you."

## Update from the Office (written by Rob this time)

In our last newsletter, we asked you to pray for a major project we were working on, migrating our core database to "the cloud." Thank you so much for praying! As with much of the stuff we do here in IT, you can't necessarily understand all the techy details of we're working on, but the Lord still hears and answers our prayers.

This project was rather complex and challenging, because our database is connected to a lot of other systems (GFA's Web site, for example), so moving the database means all those connections had to be identified, rebuilt, and tested.

One of our biggest challenges was that we had to keep waiting on DonorDirect, the company that was doing the migration for us. We really wanted to "go live" by the first half of November, or else we would have to wait until February. So we all prayed and prayed. It got down to Oct. 18, and we were shaking our heads and saying, "it doesn't look like we'll make it." But during the last two weeks of the month, we were finally able to get three major problems resolved, so we were able to go live on Oct. 31, ahead of schedule! I am still shaking my head, but this time in amazement at how God answered prayer and how everything came together at the last minute. The actual day of the migration was epic. I think I set a personal record—17 hours worked in a single day, not counting meals. But I was only one member of the team. More than ever, I appreciate the valuable contributions of the whole IT team to this project, as each person had their own unique and valuable skills to contribute.



In the office or at home, Rob is great at finding the most efficient way of completing a task. In this case, it is getting the mower to the garage of our mechanic friend on campus.

## We'd love to hear from you!

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Recently I helped transition GFA into using a new software, called Planning Center, for streamlining the coordination of all our prayer meetings. This program has several advantages over what we were using, and is a benefit to the entire staff. This project was a fun intersection of my role in IT and my role as a prayer moderator. I enjoyed learning the ins and outs of the program, figuring out the best ways to use it for our ministry, and writing up documentation and training people on how to use it.

Rejoicing in Him,

*Rob and Rebecca*

## Rob and Rebecca Gaebler, Gospel for Asia (Nov 2016)

### Praises

- **Praise the Lord** for enabling us to complete the “cloud” project ahead of schedule!
- **Praise God** for how many missionaries and believers have been blessed with warm winter clothing!
- **Praise the Lord** for joyful times of interaction with friends and family, and safety in our many travels!
- **Praise God** for our support team, and for His help in increasing our support level almost to 100% of our goal in just three months!

### Prayers

- **Pray** for abundant donations towards winter clothing packets, so we can bless many people in Asia with a gift that will keep them warm
- **Pray** for our work in IT to be fruitful and productive, whether our tasks are large or small
- **Pray** for protection over various travels that we and others are taking at this time of year
- **Pray** for us to continue growing in trusting the Lord and cultivating a grateful heart for His mercies



*Thank you for your prayers*

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