

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

Christmas, a conference, and church meetings

We were able to visit Iowa for Christmas last year, which was Rebecca's second time with the Gaebler family. Our trip included some new experiences for Rebecca, including hikes in -7° weather and blowing bubbles that froze before they hit the ground. We also got to visit several dear friends. Whether it was over coffee, lunch, or dinner, it was a blessing to reconnect with some and connect for the first time with others. And of course we enjoyed time with family, going on hikes, playing Monopoly, and shoveling snow off the driveway.

Instead of heading south right after Christmas we travelled east to



All bundled up for a walk!



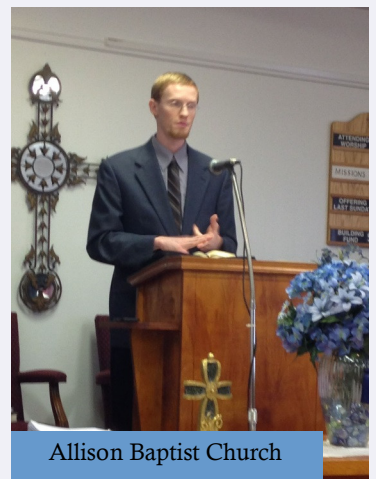
Late-night Monopoly

Indiana, where we met up with some other GFA staff to represent the ministry at a conference for college students. There were about 2,000 attendees, and we were there to share with them about the School of Discipleship program at GFA.



Talking to students

In January we had the opportunity to share at two different churches about the work of GFA. The first time was at the church we attend in Wills Point, and the second was in a church a couple of hours from here. Rob is friends with the pastor at this second church, who had invited us



Allison Baptist Church

out several months ago. Both of us really enjoy talking to people about the work that the Lord is doing and how we can be part of it. It is truly a privilege to speak on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Asia who are sharing the good news of Christ with people in desperate need!

A Year to Change Your Life

(Written by Rob) In January, I reached a milestone in my life – I have been on staff ten years at Gospel for Asia! It is hard for me to find words to express how grateful I am to the Lord, that He chose me to serve Him in this ministry and has kept me by His grace.

Much of who I am and how I view the Christian life was formed during my year in GFA's School of Discipleship (SD), before I came on staff. During that year, I learned to pursue the Lord Jesus with all my might, surrender fully to Him, and live a life of humility and grace, following the example of the GFA

staff all around me, whom I saw living this out in reality.

The School of Discipleship is one of the best ways I know of for young people to grow in genuine Christlikeness. This is a year of developing a lifestyle characterized by loving the Lord and serving people. On top of that, they get to make a lasting difference in thousands of people's lives in Asia by helping to share the truth and love of Christ with them.

One of our top priorities and prayer requests as a ministry right now is for recruitment for School of Discipleship – we are praying for 50 students to come in the August 2017 class!

I am telling you this because of your partnership with me in my ministry at GFA, and I have a special request for you. **Would you contact young people**



you know who want to grow in their relationship with Jesus, and tell them about School of Discipleship? This program is for singles between 18 and 27 years old, and is great for anyone just graduating from high school or college, or who is already working. Their life will never be the same. Please take a look at more information and testimonials here:

www.gfa.org/schoolofdiscipleship/info-pack/



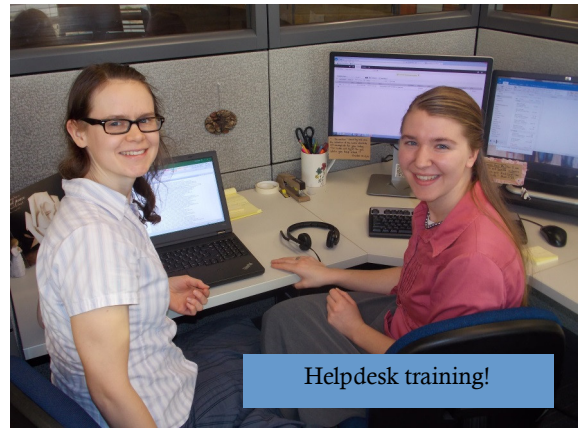
Office projects

At our monthly all-night prayer meeting in January, we spent several sessions in prayer for departmental goals we have for this upcoming year. The IT department certainly has some ambitious goals! And because we provide support for all the other departments, we are (in a sense) involved in many of their goals as well.

For example, one large project that has involved hours of Rob's time has been the project of researching and selecting a "project management" program. Most of the departments have some way of keeping up with tasks and responsibilities that they need to handle within the department, but when it comes to cross-department projects we don't currently have an organized way of coordinating the tasks that need to be done for completing the over-all project. With Jonathan's help, Rob has been able to evaluate various programs and is getting closer to selecting one that the ministry will use. They have both been happy to discover that there are several good options available, with all kinds of useful functionality and features.

Happy Anniversary!

On January 9, Rob celebrated 10 years of being on staff at GFA. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness and how He has sustained and grown Rob through these years at GFA!



Helpdesk training!

One of Rebecca's projects since January has been training a new SD student in the role of Helpdesk. Leslie, the previous student we had in IT, graduated last December. Anna joined the department at the beginning of the year. She has picked up the flow of work very quickly, and is great at taking initiative on troubleshooting people's computer issues.

Both Rob and Rebecca have spent several hours working on a project that will help our Ministry Partnerships department prioritize the work that they do of building relationships with many of our donors and sponsors. This project has taken some interesting turns and twists along the way, but it's going to be a huge help in the long run and we're glad to be able to help them better accomplish their goals.



Pastor Tanan tried his best, but he couldn't do it alone. There were so many needy families in his church, and he didn't have the resources to provide for everyone. Then he remembered he wasn't alone—he was part of the Body of Christ.

Gathering together his congregation, GFA supported-pastor Tanan shared the pressing need of Kamsa, a sister in Christ. Together, as a family, they could do what was impossible for one pastor, and they all agreed to help Kamsa out.

Building Each Other Up

Kamsa's husband left her the year prior. Now she was living in the very small house of her relative with her 10-year-old daughter. As a daily wage laborer, Kamsa earned just enough to get by. But she needed a house of her own.

During a Christmas gift distribution, Pastor Tanan arranged for Kamsa to receive two bundles of tin sheets. After receiving such a substantial start on her new home, the future looked hopeful. But as time carried on, Kamsa realized she still couldn't afford the other resources to build a house of her own.

This matter laid heavy on Pastor Tanan's heart. He tried his utmost to do what he could, but he also couldn't afford to build her a house. Then a beautiful idea came to mind: He asked his congregation to help build Kamsa a house of her own.

With gladness, the believers

labored together to build Kamsa a small home in a short amount of time. Pastor Tanan dedicated the community-built home, and now Kamsa and her daughter live comfortably in a place they can call their own. Kamsa was so happy to receive this incredible gift.

"I am very thankful to Pastor Tanan and all my local church believers. It is all because of their help and support that I could build my small house," Kamsa said. "Though it is a very small house, for me this is like a [two-story] building because this is my own house."

Because the Body of Christ gathered around Kamsa in her time of need and worked together to build her a small home, finishing it off with the tin sheets she received from the Christmas gift distribution, she now has a place of shelter and hope.

Report taken from: <http://gospelforasia-reports.org/2016/12/building-each-other-up/>

In Christ,

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Rob and Rebecca Gaebler, Gospel for Asia (March 2017)

Praises

- **Praise** God for safe travels and enjoyable times visiting family and friends over Christmas
- **Praise** the Lord for opportunities to share GFA at different churches
- **Praise** God for ten years that Rob has been on staff at GFA!
- **Praise** the Lord for the Christmas gift distributions that provide help for needy families in Asia!

Prayers

- **Pray** for God's blessing upon the Christmas gift distributions that take place on the field throughout the year
- **Pray** for wisdom in selecting a project management tool and that it would help GFA be more efficient in our work
- **Pray** for greater efficiency for Rob. He sometimes gets frustrated by how his meticulous nature causes him to take too long getting things done
- **Pray** with us for the Lord to bring 50 School of Discipleship students for the August 2017 class



Thank you for your prayers

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