

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

Cyclone and flooding in South Asia

In our last newsletter we wrote about the destruction caused in Canton by tornados and storms at the end of April. Just one month later, at the end of May, several countries in South Asia experienced even greater devastation from flooding with the arrival of the monsoon rains and a cyclone. GFA-supported workers began ministering to people's needs almost immediately, as soon as the waters had receded enough for them to reach the affected areas. Even though many of the believers have

suffered loss of their own property, they are still giving themselves tirelessly to help others in need.

Three weeks after the initial floods, in the country of Sri Lanka alone, over 100,000 families had been affected by the flooding, and over 20,000 homes were damaged or destroyed. GFA-supported workers have continued to serve those around them, providing food and clothing to flood victims in addition to cleaning wells and providing

purified water.

We both got to help with the flood relief work, in a manner of speaking. Here in the USA office we wrote and sent out an emergency appeal letter and a couple of emails to our donor base, letting people know about the situation and giving them the opportunity to partner in the work through praying and giving. Rob did most of the work in setting up the "select" criteria for who should receive these communications, with some help from Rebecca since it was an urgent project.

And all of us on staff have continued to be in prayer for these tremendous needs. Praise



Submerged street

God, thousands of the survivors have been blessed by the ministry of GFA teams. One village representative shared, "The people in my area have never received such a comprehensive relief pack. This is a great blessing to all these families who lost everything in this devastating flood. I thank [the Church] on behalf of the community for bringing all this aid to our doorstep and distributing to the needy families." What a beautiful testimony of God's mercy!



Distributing relief packets to flood victims in Sri Lanka

Read the most current updates and view more pictures at:
<https://www.gfa.org/compassion-services/disaster-flood-relief/srilanka/>

IT Staff needs

We are grateful for each member of our IT team - God has gifted us with unique skills, talents, and experience that serve to accomplish important work for GFA. Between working issues that arise on a daily basis and longer term projects that take longer to complete, we stay very busy. And we have seen the Lord answer prayer in some very specific ways, such as how He provided extremely good prices on a couple of expensive pieces of hardware we had to upgrade recently.

At the same time, we are also in great need of some

additional staff for our department. A couple of months ago two of our team members moved on to the next season in life God has for them, so now our team is comprised of only 4 full-time staff, plus two part-time staff and one brother who can only work intermittently because of serious health issues. This is the smallest that the IT department has ever been in Rob's 11 years with GFA. Would you please join us in praying for the Lord to provide additional IT staff? We are especially in need of people with one or more

of the following skill sets: network administration, system administration, database administration, and desktop support.



Left to right: Rebecca, Rob, LaMott, Di, Jonathan, and Nathan
Not pictured: Dave, who struggles with serious health problems but can still sometimes work from home

Family visit

Rob's brother Dave came to visit with his family in the middle of June, and we had a blast hanging out with them. Between Zome construction, card tricks, logic puzzles, the Perplexus ball, crawdad hunting, 72-Pencils, piano playing, and much more, we didn't have a dull moment!

One afternoon during the Gaebler's stay, Rob and Rebecca drove out to the little cabin in Canton where they were staying so that we could have some "adult time" after getting the kiddos to bed. That was a blessing, since it had been years since Rob and Dave had been able to talk much, and it was the first time for Rebecca to meet Leslie.



72 Pencils with Uncle Rob



Let's build a Zome tower to the ceiling!



Dave and Leslie performed a duet for us in the Chapel



Family portrait on the GFA campus

We are grateful to each one of you for your love, prayers, and support. If it weren't for y'all, we couldn't be here doing what we are doing! If you would ever like to come visit, please do let us know - we love to have guests and would be excited for the opportunity to share more personally with you about what your life is involved in as you partner with us in this work. We are constantly amazed at the reports we receive from the field that share about what God is doing to build His kingdom, and it reminds us what a privilege we have to be involved in His work.

Words from our Leader

The GFA staff have had the privilege several times recently to hear from our leader, Brother K.P. He speaks with a sense of urgency – there is no time to waste, we must give our all to serve Christ and fulfill His mission – and even more so as he gets older. His urgency is balanced by his frequent emphasis on love, forgiveness, and humility. His messages have helped spur us on to know the Lord and direct the compass of our hearts to Him. In recent messages on prayer, he has reminded us that the ministry of GFA was born out of prayer meetings that he and his wife Gisela held in their home on Tuesday evenings, and that we will only be sustained

as we continue to pray and believe. We must repent of our self-sufficiency and turn to the Lord in dependence. We are faced with serious opposition and difficulties both here and on the field (which we can't always talk about in our newsletters), and we must have an even greater focus on prayer.

God works through simple, humble people who pray. For example, one brother on the field, who didn't seem to be a natural leader, was put in charge of a region, and two hundred churches were planted there within the next three years. His secret? When there was a need, he spent 20 days in fasting and prayer.

We'd love to hear from you!

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With love,

Rob & Rebecca

Rebecca has a new email address! Please update your records. :)

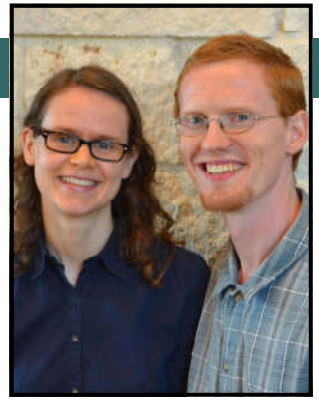
Rob and Rebecca Gaebler, Gospel for Asia (June 2017)

Praises

- **Praise** God that GFA-supported workers have been able to bless so many individuals and families affected by the recent flooding
- **Praise** the Lord for the gifted staff we have here in IT
- **Praise** God for answering so many specific prayers we have had for technical things
- **Praise** the Lord for a refreshing time with family

Prayers

- **Pray** for God to provide qualified, godly individuals with specific IT skills: network administration, database administration, system administration, desktop support
- **Pray** for the ongoing flood relief efforts in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Northeast India
- **Pray** that we would grow in prayer—in faith and diligence—and see God give mighty answers to our needs as a ministry
- **Pray** that we would continue to serve faithfully at home and in the office



Thank you for your prayers

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