

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

Mission Support Team Launch

In our last newsletter we wrote about the Mission Support Team (MST) project that Rob has been coordinating. Thank you for all your prayers as we worked through this major project! It took thousands of hours from staff in many different departments, and more from Rob than any other individual person. But praise God, we were able to meet all the Phase 1 deadlines and the MST web page went public on June 22nd. All the staff gathered together in the Fellowship Hall to watch Rob push the “enter” button, which triggered the Web department’s coding that built the page on our website. You should check it out at www.gfa.org/mst!



All of us on staff at GFA are still responsible to raise support to help cover the expense of our serving here, but the MST initiative came about because our



leaders determined there is a need for public sponsorship as well. Raising support constitutes a large draw on our time and energy that affects the critical ministry tasks we do here in the office. It is difficult to raise support to the needed levels; most of the staff are significantly below 100% supported, for various reasons. We ourselves are currently only at 87% of our support level, which we will need to increase over the next few months.

The MST initiative will help cover staff support needs and will also give people another opportunity to be engaged in Kingdom work through giving and praying. We’re excited

to see how God is working through the body of Christ to bring His good news to the people of Asia!

Indigo = Better Project Coordination

Do you remember a few months ago when we shared about Rob’s efforts to implement a project methodology and management tool for GFA? When we first rolled out Indigo (the tool) we knew that it would take a while for people to adopt it, but now his research and extensive documentation have started to pay off. The MST project was the first time we used Indigo to run a major multi-department project from start to finish. Several individuals have recognized that the project wouldn’t have been completed on time if we hadn’t used Indigo, and now other projects are being started with the intention of modeling their methodology after the MST project. Both Jonathan and Rob invested a lot of time and energy into building this project methodology. Jonathan mainly provided the driving force and inspiration to get it into place, while Rob did most of the groundwork. They are both very gratified to see how their labors are leading the ministry in more competent project management.

1000 Verse Celebration

A couple of months ago our memorization group passed a notable milestone: we reached the 1000th verse memorized! We hosted a 1000 Verse Party at our home, and invited anyone who had at one point or another been part of the group. Megan shared the story of how the group started, and we all got to talk about some of the verses or passages that have been meaningful in our lives. Cumulatively, we’ve memorized 46 chapters in 8 books of the Bible, which provides quite a treasure of His truth!



The 1000th Verse - Isaiah 53:9

And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

From Opposition to Openness

Even though Sidak displayed kindness, Manali would not budge. She did not approve of his choices in life or his new God. Manali did everything she could to oppose Sidak and his friends, until one day when she was hospitalized.

Having been raised in a home that devoutly worshiped different deities, Manali strongly opposed Christianity. She had no desire to learn about any other faith, and she showed hostility toward the Christians in her community. Even though her son Sidak was aware of his mother's opinions, he responded to the love shown to him by believers in his area and believed in Jesus. When Manali learned about her son's newfound faith, she scolded him and became determined to disrupt any services he was part of and make life complicated for his church family.

When a GFA-supported worker kindly spoke of Jesus to Manali, she was cruel to him and wouldn't listen. Instead she issued threats and angry words. Manali sought ways to eliminate the church. She went to the police and asked them to arrest the Christians. She went to their gatherings to disrupt them and did her best to be a nuisance.

Although Manali strongly opposed the believers, Sidak and his church family remained consistent in praying every day for Manali. They were kind to her whenever they had the opportunity. Sidak knelt before the Lord often and prayed for his mother's heart to be changed. He longed for peace in his relationship with her. The answer to his daily prayers came in an unexpected form.

One day, Manali began to have trouble breathing. After a short while, the problem worsened. Manali was admitted to the hospital when she started gasping for air. She suffered from severe asthma and had to be on oxygen. Her son and the believers visited her at the hospital, caring for her and praying for her healing. In most hospitals in that part of the world, patients' families are expected to bring meals and take care of their loved ones. The very people she vehemently opposed were now taking care of her.



Manali was in a vulnerable position, and her heart began to soften towards those she previously opposed. The kind people continued to love her in spite of her cruelty, and this left a lasting impression on her.

After seeing the consistent acts of compassion, Manali's heart began to soften toward the Christians. Thanks to Sidak's faithfulness, Manali herself eventually asked for prayer. Sidak rejoiced to see a change in her heart. Eventually, her condition improved, and she was able to leave the hospital. As a result of the loving kindness of her son and his church family, she believed in Jesus and plans to be kind toward her fellow believers.

Rebecca was excited to get two tomatoes from plants a friend donated to her



Playing Hex at a block party our neighbors hosted

Terminology change:

For those who support us financially, we wanted to let you know that statements and receipts will no longer use the term "GFA Home Staff." This is being replaced with "Behind-the-Scenes Missionaries," which better describes those of us who serve in the home office here in Wills Point.



First sponsorship with the new MST program



Participating in GFA's second annual 5K Supply Run

Partners with you,

Rob and Rebecca

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Praises

- **Praise** God for a successful launch of the Mission Support Team (MST) initiative that Rob and many others worked so hard on!
- **Praise** the Lord that Rob & Jonathan have been able to lead GFA in adopting better project management methods
- **Praise** God for the faithful testimony of Sidak and other believers in Asia, and that through prayer his mother accepted Christ as well!
- **Praise** the Lord for exciting reports from Asia that we heard from some visiting field leaders!

Prayers

- **Pray** that the Lord will touch many people's hearts to sponsor staff members, and that we could all be at 100% of our support goals
- **Pray** that Rob will be able to close out the MST Launch project by the end of July, and for wisdom concerning Phase 2
- **Pray** for Bible College recruitment that is taking place in Asia, for many students to come who have a passion to minister to their people
- **Pray** we would grow in faith and passion for the Kingdom of God, and in wisdom to know His will in our lives



Thank you for your prayers

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