

Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! (John 4:35)



White for Harvest

Rob Gaebler's news from Gospel for Asia

March 2009

Dear friends,

I am very grateful for your love, prayers, and support this last year. Through your help, the Gospel is going forward and multitudes are being saved in Asia!

It has been a while since the last time I wrote to you, hasn't it? In fact, most of this newsletter was written a few weeks ago, but I had to wait until now to complete it because I had pressing work to attend to in the office. I am very glad to finally have the chance to share these reports with you!

I would like to tell you about a few of the things that happened in 2008, both good and bad. As we look back, let us remember that God's hand was at work in these events to save men and glorify Himself.

A Look Back at 2008

Mar 6, 2008 – Troy's retina detached in his left eye. I started praying for a complete healing. (Troy works in Church Relations with me.)

May 3 – Cyclone Nargis struck the nation of Myanmar (Burma), killing an estimated 130,000 people and wiping out many low-lying villages. In response, Gospel for Asia missionaries reached out with aid and Christ's love to many desperate people.

May 10-12 – I visited California for the wedding of two of my college friends, and to visit other friends and supporters.

May 24-29 – I enjoyed a family reunion on my mom's side, and saw relatives I hadn't seen in many years.

Jun 1 – During the first 5 months of the year, more people came to Christ through GFA's ministry in Asia than in all of 2007!

Jul 11-13 – Gospel for Asia held the Renewing Your Passion Conference here in Dallas. More than 1000 people gathered to hear several top leaders from the mission field, who came to share about God's activity in Asia and call us to live passionately for Jesus.

Jul 25 – Michael and Tye, the two interns I had discipled for a year, graduated from the Road to Reality Internship. Michael is going on to Bible college, and Tye is going to grad school for biology.

Aug 16 – A new group of six interns arrived. I began discipling Alex (who had come in January), Danny, and Shawn. They are very earnest in their walk with the Lord, and want to grow in Him.

Aug 23 – Persecution against Christians erupted in the Indian state of Orissa. Dozens of Christians were murdered, and over 4,500 homes and churches were destroyed. GFA founder and president K.P. Yohannan stated, "I have never seen persecution so bad in my life." Still, more people have put their faith in Christ in Orissa recently than any other state in India.



Above: Enjoying a vacation with family in May (yeah, I know my family's not in the picture, but I really like the mountains!)

September – Global economic crisis began. At GFA, we started praying more urgently for generous giving to continue.

October – GFA received the most donations ever for a non-December month.

Oct 22 – The name of Road to Reality Internship changed to GFA School of Discipleship, but the purpose remained the same: To train young people to be devout followers of Christ and live in light of the Great Commission.

Dec 18 – God healed Troy's retina.



Above: I enjoy times of worship, prayer, and fellowship with Danny and Shawn.



Above: Images from the May 2008 cyclone that killed over 100,000 people in Myanmar. "Buddha might be sleeping, for he is doing nothing for us, but Christians are everywhere, sharing from whatever they have." — a cyclone survivor



Top: Shawn, Alex, Danny, and me at Christmas

Above: School of Discipleship students Jessie, Renee, Alex, and Cassie at their graduation in December. All four are coming on staff now!

Below: Dave and Leslie married on Dec. 31. Yours truly was the Best Man.



I am deeply grateful to all of you for standing with me these three years I have been serving the Lord here in Texas, by giving generously and praying for me. Your support gives me peace of mind as I focus on my work at GFA. More importantly, God is honored by your loving support. Thank you very, very much!

*Yours in Christ,
Rob Gaebler*

Dec 19 – Alex finished his year in the GFA School of Discipleship. He sensed the Lord calling him to join staff at GFA, so he is now raising support. I am very happy for him and the decision he made.

Dec 23 – While helping take incoming phone calls, I prayed, “God, please let me take a \$10,000 gift.”

About an hour later I took a call from a man, and he gave exactly \$10,000! I have

answered thousands of calls but had never taken a donation that large before.

Dec 24 - Jan 4 – I went home to Iowa for the holidays. The Lord blessed my time there in numerous ways.

Dec 25 – Christmas was a national holiday for the first time in Nepal. Christmas radio programs were aired on many radio stations around the country, as the country continues to become more open to the Gospel.

Dec 31 – My brother Dave and Leslie Wilson married in a beautiful wedding full of love

and joy. It was a very special day for me – not to mention for them!

Dec 31 – GFA received more money in donations in December than any other month in history—in spite of a suffering economy!

And finally...

Jan 9, 2009 – I have been a full-time staff worker at GFA for two years now! Praise the Lord.

“This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes” (Psalm 118:23).

Other highlights from 2008:

- We praise God that *He* is not going through a recession. Despite the economy, 2008 was the best year ever in terms of donations – a 6% increase over last year – and December was the best month in the history of GFA.

- GFA staff representatives spoke at 131 church meetings during the year, and as a result, 4112 native missionaries and children were sponsored. On the web site, there were 4300 sponsorships!

- In answer to our continual prayers for more staff, twelve more families and individuals joined GFA staff in 2008.

- Radio broadcasts started in seven new languages in Asia, bringing the total to 110 languages hearing the Gospel through GFA Radio. Radio is perhaps the most cost-effective way to take the Gospel to unreached places.

Praise the Lord for these signs of His grace!

I am also very grateful for all of you who are supporting me. You gave an average of \$1932 per month in 2008, which was 96% of my support goal. I know that some of you went through challenging times and had to decrease your support this year, and I thank you for giving as generously as you were able.

In light of the power and faithfulness of God, this year we are again praying and trusting that God will give us an



Above: Persecution broke out against Christians in August in the Indian state of Orissa, and many were murdered or forced from their villages. The top picture is a Christian girl who was badly burned.

increase. In Church Relations, we are praying for an increase of 144% in sponsorships from church meetings for a total of 10,000. This is truly possible only with the help of God!

I am doing quite well myself. Several of you have asked how you can be praying for me.

Please pray that the Gospel would go forward greatly in Asia in 2009 and that many will give their lives to Christ. This is our hearts’ desire, for which we labor.

Pray for many good opportunities for GFA staff to speak in churches in 2009, and for 10,000 missionaries and children to be sponsored.

Pray for greater earnestness and discipline in my walk with the Lord.

Pray for better organization, speed, and priorities in my work in the office.

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I would love to hear from you!