

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

May 2009



Above: These three children in our Bridge of Hope program are among many needing sponsors who are featured on www.gfa.org.

Did You Know?

Did you know you can help rescue a Dalit child for only \$28 a month? The sponsorship provides a solid education, a meal each day, a school uniform, and the chance to learn about Jesus. Find out more at www.gfa.org/boh about how you can make an eternal difference!

Dear friends,

Greetings! The thought of you brings a smile to my face. I am excited as I think about the Lord's work that we get to be a part of together – the salvation of multitudes of souls—and I hope you will be encouraged to pray. We really depend on it.

I want to tell you about **Bridge of Hope**. It is our children's outreach program among the Dalits ("untouchables"), and is designed to rescue thousands of children in Asia from a life of poverty and hopelessness by giving them an education and introducing them to the love of Jesus. What makes this child sponsorship program unique is that we put Christ at the center just like we do with every area of our ministry, and we reach out with the message of Christ's love to the children's families and community. Through this effort, entire communities are set on a course toward spiritual transformation as well as social development.

A Story of Hope

Prayer is an important part of every Bridge of Hope center, and the teachers pray for the children throughout the day. They also teach the children about the importance of developing their own prayer life.

The children at one Bridge of Hope Center had often seen

their teachers praying for their friends who were sick or had other problems. Eight of these little children decided they would form their own prayer group. And God started doing miracles! When the children prayed, their friends began to recover! And every time one of their prayers were answered, their faith was strengthened. Soon they began to look for more opportunities to pray for people.

The students heard about a man named Darpan, who had been diagnosed with a brain tumor and needed surgery to save his life. The students decided they would visit Darpan and pray for him.

The little children gathered around Darpan and began to fervently pray. Eight small sets of hands reached out to touch Darpan while they prayed, their little voices crying out for healing.

A few days later, Darpan went back to his doctors. The doctors were stunned. They could no longer find any trace of the brain tumor! God had answered the prayers of these children and healed Darpan!

Word of these faith-filled children quickly spread, and now when people in the village get sick, they call for the children to come and pray for them. Even people from different religions ask the children for prayer, and the little ones are always faithful to bring each need before the Lord.

And with every answered prayer, their faith grows. Just a few months earlier these children were lost in hopelessness,

with no knowledge of God's love. Today, their lives have been transformed and their village filled with hope!



Above: I visited this BOH center in India three years ago

Below: Bikita, a girl I am sponsoring, wrote to me about her mother who recently passed away: "I do not have mother. She loved me much."



SPEND



SEE THE RESULTS
IN HEAVEN.



Top: Five Minutes for Asia box contents

Above: ; A stack of FIMAs I'm preparing to send out to churches

Five Minutes for Asia

How is a great idea born? Well, here's one such story. Five Minutes for Asia (or "FIMA") started almost three years ago here in the Church Relations Department. We were looking for a way that churches could present GFA to their congregations even if we weren't able to send a staff speaker to their church. We came up with FIMA, which consists of a 5-minute DVD about Bridge of Hope (or native missionaries), profiles of a few children (or missionaries) that people can sponsor, and some instruction sheets. Since then, we have sent FIMA packets to 155 churches, resulting in 396 children and missionaries being sponsored!

During the last few months, the FIMA program has undergone rapid development in preparation for wide-spread publicity for the first time. In March and April, we put FIMA on the front page of www.gfa.org, and we sent information about FIMA to our mailing list of over 60,000 people. Already, over 160 responses have come in from people requesting more infor-

mation about how to present FIMA in their churches.

It has been exciting as I have watched FIMA grow from a little thing we did in Church Relations to now being one of GFA's major campaigns of the year, involving the whole body of GFA. I am praying for 1000 children to be sponsored in 2009 as a result. And this is still only the beginning—I believe that FIMA could become GFA's most useful tool for sharing the ministry and gaining supporters.

I am especially excited about the growth of Five Minutes for Asia because I have personally invested hundreds of hours in helping coordinate and develop FIMA since its inception. Most recently, I trained the Volunteer Department, and now they are handling most of the FIMAs.

Here is a partial list of people who have helped with FIMA. Truly, it is only by working together and relying on each other that we can accomplish the Lord's work.

Church Relations

Strat — Invented FIMA and oversaw its development

Troy & Tony — Called churches to arrange FIMA presentations

Sandy — Helped design FIMA docu-

ments

Pam — Helped assemble FIMA packets

Rob — Coordinated FIMAs being sent; helped develop FIMA

Fulfillment

Jeff — Coordinated fulfilling orders for FIMAs

Kevin & Shawn — Built the packets and sent them out

Sam & Travis — Duplicated DVDs and printed documents for the packets

Communications and Education

Linda — Coordinated creation of recent FIMA mailing and web site

Lenny & Michael — Designed new FIMA Info Packet

Sally & Terri— Wrote new FIMA materials

Web

Tom — Put FIMA on gfa.org

Missions

Bob, Sharon, & Emily — Prepared sponsorship profiles

Volunteer

Cody — Coordinated the Volunteer Managers

Mike, Steve, Brad — Managed volunteers who help present FIMA in churches

You!

You can make a huge difference by taking just five minutes in your church's service or small group to present Five Minutes for Asia. Will you consider doing it? For more information, call 1-800-946-2742 or visit www.gfa.org/5.

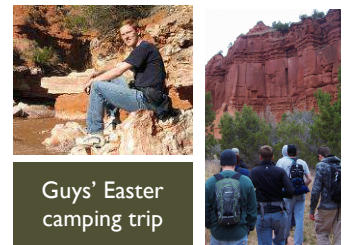
In the Home

Danny, Shawn, and I continue to draw closer to each other and to the Lord. Often I am amazed and humbled by their brokenness and earnest desire to grow. God is teaching us about submission to authority, living lives of intensity and grace, and trusting Him for the future, among other things.

Recently we set aside a day to fast and seek the Lord. This was a special time for me

to remember God's love and promises to me, and to pledge my devotion to Him.

Please pray for the three of us as we seek God's will. Danny and Shawn have just two months left in their year in the School of Discipleship at GFA. We all have decisions to make about the future. I am asking Jesus to reveal Himself to me. As I know Him more intimately, I am able to hear His voice and simply walk with Him where He leads me.



Do you realize that you are an essential part of God's master plan to save the people of Asia? It's true! Through your prayers and support, you are helping send over 16,500 native missionaries with the message of eternal life to the unreached villages of Asia. Thank you so much for your commitment and sacrifice!

Yours in Christ,

Rob Gaebler

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I would love to hear from you!