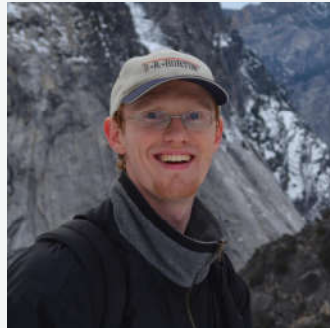


# SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. ~Matthew 6:33*

Dear family and friends,

As we were thinking about writing this prayer letter, we realized that some of you know Rob better, some of you know Rebecca better, and maybe some of you don't know either of us very well... so we decided we would "interview" ourselves. Hopefully by the end you'll know both of us a little more!



## *Why are you here at GFA?*

**Rob:** Ten years ago, through a period of serious prayer and thinking, I discerned that God was calling me to serve on staff at Gospel for Asia. My heart strongly resonates with GFA's mission statement to "be devout followers of Christ and fulfill the Great Commission among the unreached in Asia." I know of no better way to fulfill this call than here alongside this community of brothers and sisters who have a passion for the Lord and for the lost.

**Rebecca:** The short answer is: I'm here because the Lord called me here. To flesh that out, I am here because I see serving at GFA as the most effective way for me to fulfill the Great Commission. Jesus told us: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..." (Matt 28:19a). The national missionaries and pastors in Asia are committed to establishing local congregations where believers are instructed in God's Word – producing disciples, not just converts. The work I do here enables them to have the financial and prayer support they need to devote themselves full-time to building the church among the unreached people of Asia.

## *What is your role in the ministry?*

**Rob:** By serving behind the scenes at our U.S. headquarters, I am helping raise support and awareness for the national missionaries in Asia, who are laying down their lives for the Gospel. I work as a "Database Specialist" in the Information Technology (IT) department, doing a bunch of techy stuff to enable the rest of the GFA staff be able to do their work more effectively, especially with our main donor database. I coordinate large projects such as upgrading our donor database; I set up selection criteria for recipients of the mailings and emails we send out; I troubleshoot a wide variety of problems that come up; and much more. I also serve as a "prayer moderator," coordinating the team of prayer leaders who plan GFA's four or five staff prayer meetings each week.

**Rebecca:** Like most of the staff at GFA, I serve in more than one capacity. My "official" role is described as the Decision Support Analyst in the IT department. This includes creating reports using information about our donors and sponsors; being the administrator for our CRM software (customer relationship management) and HR software; and monitoring the HelpDesk inbox and phone calls part-time. I really enjoy being HelpDesk – I don't know how to resolve every issue that comes in, but I enjoy being able to help many people with their computer problems and following up with people who need help from someone else. Another one of my major roles is being a prayer leader. As such, I am regularly scheduled to coordinate prayer topics and presenters for our weekly staff prayer meetings.

## *Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?*

**Rob:** I believe God has called Rebecca and me to continue serving at GFA long-term, though my specific roles at the ministry could quite possibly change.

**Rebecca:** A year ago I didn't see myself married... so it's hard to say exactly where I see myself in 10 years! But one thing I do know is that I still see me and Rob together at GFA. Unless the Lord gives very clear direction elsewhere, I believe that He has called us here to serve Him as long as we have strength and ability to do so.

## *What is your favorite thing about serving at GFA?*

**Rob:** Serving alongside Rebecca, of course! Besides that, I'm delighted that I get to be a part of helping plant 90 churches per week on the mission field. I'm very grateful that I can serve in a ministry where I know my life is making a real difference for the kingdom. Also, I love the focus on prayer at GFA.

**Rebecca:** The GFA family! It's a blessing to be part of a community of believers who are all striving to know Jesus more and to make His name known among the most unreached people in the world. Whether through times of intense prayer or evenings of silly Talent Shows... hosting guests or being hosted at others' homes... serving in the office or at work parties outdoors... living closely with these brothers and sisters helps me grow in my own walk with the Lord.

## *What is your favorite ministry on the field?*

**Rob:** I love the "invisible evangelist," the GFA radio broadcasts that are going out in more than 100 languages across Asia. I love hearing about remote mountain villages hearing about Jesus for the very first time over the radio. GFA receives about 2 million responses each year from the radio programs.

**Rebecca:** Oh wow... that's a hard question. By God's grace, we have many means of outreach on the field serving to advance His Gospel and to bring hope to the hopeless. But I would say that church building construction is one of my favorites. Having a permanent building helps believers in multiple ways – not only does it provide protection from the elements, but it also gives them legitimacy in their community. In addition, these buildings provide a central location for discipleship programs like Sunday school, VBS, and literacy classes.

## Memorable times with family

Three days after we got back from our honeymoon, we drove down to Pflugerville, Texas (near Austin) to spend Thanksgiving with Rebecca's side of the family (the Schuttgers). We brought along a friend from GFA, named Anna,



Thanksgiving evening

who enjoyed the weekend with us.

Then in mid-December, we packed up the car again for a longer road trip to Marion, Iowa (near Cedar Rapids) to spend Christmas with Rob's family (the Gaebler). We

spent about 8 days with them, during which time Rob got to introduce Rebecca to several of his Iowan friends and memories.



At the Schuttgers



↑ Gaebler family pictures

← Boggle at a friend's house



And now we are back home in Wills Point, after 8 weeks full of a flurry of activities. It's good to be settling in and starting to work out a rhythm. We still have boxes of stuff to sort through and decisions to make about various aspects of combining our lives, but we are grateful to the Lord for giving us each other and are excited to get to serve Him together!

## How a Movie introduced the Healer

Two poles held up a clean white sheet displaying a film on the life of Christ. Many eyes were locked on the screen. One woman in the crowd looked a little more intently at the forms projected on the sheet as she saw Christ raise Lazarus from the dead. Maybe there was still hope for her son's healing?

Mansi's 12-year-old son, Eijaz, had difficulty walking properly because his legs and feet were bent. The doctors certified him to be 75 percent lame. After watching the film, one question filled Mansi's mind: Could this Jesus heal her son?

Mansi directed her question to a Gospel for Asia-supported pastor named Gopalpreet who was present at the film showing. After hearing Mansi's story, the film team and pastor went to her home. They prayed for Eijaz; explained to the family about prayer and faith; and encouraged them to trust in God, who has the power to heal. Their words uplifted Mansi and her family and caused them to hope.

Pastor Gopalpreet and the film team continued to pray for the boy once a week. Mansi and her family even joined them in a week-long fast, trusting that God could bring Eijaz's healing. Soon, they started seeing Eijaz walking differently. The Lord had heard their prayers and straightened Eijaz's feet!

Mansi and her family were amazed. This was nothing short of a miracle. Seeing their faith in God lived out, they all began attending church together. They asked the film team to screen more films about Jesus in their village, so Pastor Gopalpreet and the team did. After watching the film, many villagers received the hope found in Christ.

<http://gospelforasia-reports.org/2015/08/how-a-movie-introduced-the-healer/>



Watching movies is a common activity in the States, but in the rural areas of Asia it is a rare occurrence. GFA film teams travel from village to village, showing an Asian-produced film about the life of Christ. Here is one report we received from the field about how the Lord is using these film teams to impact families and communities with His love.

Now Mansi and her family have opened up their home to host worship gatherings for those in their village. Eijaz's life is now a testimony, made possible after the power of Christ was revealed to Mansi through a simple film.

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