

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

A peek at life in the R&R residence

One of the most common questions we've gotten lately is, "How are Rob and Rebecca doing?" And we enjoy answering that question, because it always makes us smile. By God's grace we are doing very well, learning to fit into each other's lives - and more than that, learning what it means to be one.

A typical week for us includes a lot of interaction together. We're both serving full-time in the GFA office, and our commute each

morning and evening consists of a 7 minute walk across campus. Even in the office we get to be close together: our desks are only about 8 feet apart. At the house Rebecca does the majority of the cooking, and Rob washes most of the dishes, but we help each other out with the various responsibilities.

In the evenings we either host people at our house for supper, visit other people's homes, attend GFA's weekly Tuesday night

prayer meetings, or just stay later in the office to do a little more I.T. work and/or get caught up on personal emails. There is plenty of work to be done, both in the office and at home.

Our weekend activities vary widely. Every three Saturdays we go on our big grocery shopping trip, to stock up on our common household and pantry items. It's not unusual for us to return with around 5 dozen bananas... :) We also try to take at least one

Saturday of each month to go out and do evangelism. One of our common destinations is the First Monday Trade Days, a monthly flea market that sprawls across the town of Canton, Texas. Other weekends we might be involved in a GFA community event, or else we'll stay at home and continue organizing. When we can, we set aside time to do something fun, like Rebecca learning to ride a unicycle while Rob practices his juggling.



The Lord provided a piano for us! Rebecca's aunt and uncle generously offered for us to have theirs. It's really old - made in 1924 - and has a lot of character.



We had a delightful evening with the Deere family when they came over to have dinner with us.

Visit from George Verwer

At the end of January we had a visit from George Verwer, the founder of Operation Mobilization (OM). He and K.P. Yohannan (the founder of GFA) have been friends for many years - OM is where Brother K.P. first started in missionary work. The staff at GFA got to see the Texas premier showing of George's autobiographical film, "George for Real," and he also took time to encourage us with teachings on "messyology": how God does His work through messy people and situations. The couple of days he spent with us were refreshing and insightful. He has a tremendous passion to see the lost reached with the Gospel, and his enthusiasm is invigorating.



We are grateful to the Lord for each one of you, and for the faithful prayers and support you have given over the years. If you have any questions about GFA, please don't hesitate to call us - we would love to talk with you and give you personal updates from the field or answer anything you may have been wondering about the ministry and our calling here.

"GFA is one of the best things that has ever happened to India."

- George Verwer

Field Update: Women's Fellowships

We've been able to hear some amazing updates from the mission field recently, some of them specifically about the work that the Lord is doing through the Women's Fellowships. Women's Fellowships are groups of women in the local churches who gather together for prayer and ministry in their communities. This report is just one of many that show how effectively these sisters are ministering to the women of Asia.

When a Baby Couldn't Bring Lasting Joy

Two problems robbed Gunita of happiness: For 14 years, she hadn't been able to have a baby, and for many of those years, she also suffered from constant bleeding that weakened her body.

Gunita started worshiping idols zealously and trying out witch doctors' remedies. After several months, she gave birth to a daughter. She finally felt happy—for a time.

Gunita's other problem, her bleeding, didn't stop. In fact, taking care of a newborn only worsened it. Because the witch doctors no longer had solutions for Gunita, she sought the help of medical doctors. They couldn't determine the cause of her illness either. A shade of sadness and frustration settled on Gunita and her family.

One day, Gunita met Ruchi, who told Gunita about her church's Women's Fellowship group. Ruchi encouraged Gunita to come to the meetings and made a bold claim: Jesus could heal her.

Gunita laughed to herself. Neither powerful witch doctors nor experienced medical doctors had been able to figure out why she was sick. How could the prayers of a few simple women help her?

Despite her skepticism, Gunita listened to Ruchi as the woman assured her that her sickness was no difficulty to the God who raises the dead to life.

Willing to see if this God could actually heal her, Gunita went to the Women's Fellowship meeting one Sunday. Gunita observed the women carefully as she sat among them, watching all they did.

When the women learned about her sickness, they began praying fervently for her to be healed. Gunita, touched by their compassion, started to attend the Women's Fellowship meetings regularly.

As Gunita attended the meetings over the next few weeks, she noticed her health gradually improving, and within a month, her body was completely healed! Gunita had no doubt who had performed this miracle. She chose to walk with Jesus, and soon, her family joined her in worshiping the Lord.

<http://gospelforasia-reports.org/2015/10/when-a-baby-couldnt-bring-lasting-joy/>



News from the I.T. department

The I.T. department has a couple of big projects going on simultaneously, one of which is the upgrade to our major donor database software - StudioEnterprise. Rob is the project coordinator for this upgrade, like he was for the one last year. Rebecca will also play an important role by coordinating the testing that is done by various departments in the ministry.

Different departments use different aspects of the program, and all of those areas need to be tested before we install the new release into production.

We are right in the middle of this 3-month project, so please be praying! You can pray for everything to stay on track - that we get the help we need from DonorDirect (the

group who developed the software), for the testing to go smoothly and all bugs to be found before we go live, and for Rob to have wisdom in organizing and directing all the parts of the project.

We were excited to have a School of Discipleship student placed in I.T. this year! Rebecca has been training Leslie on how to triage Helpdesk tickets. This frees up more time for Rebecca to work on other projects, such as reports and database maintenance.



Rebecca, Gen (also in I.T.), and Leslie - we all happened to wear black and purple one day, by coincidence!

With love in Christ,

Rob and Rebecca

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