

# 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*

## *Fellowship Conference*

Each year, over the weekend of Resurrection Sunday, the church we attended when we were living north of Dallas partners with some other churches to organize what is called the Fellowship Conference. Rob has attended for the past 6 years, and Rebecca for the past 3 years. It's a full weekend of hearing godly men share messages from God's Word; times of fellowship with both long-time

friends and new acquaintances; and the joy of spending some time outdoors next to the lake where the conference is hosted. This was our first year to attend as a married couple - last year when we came, we had just started courting.

Because we aren't able to attend Providence Chapel on a regular basis anymore, it was an incredible blessing to touch base with our dear friends. We were grateful to be hosted by one of the families, and during the afternoons we had many good conversations with others from the church as well.

All of the messages were very enriching, but one that stood out to both of us was from a brother who serves the persecuted church. He reminded us from Revelation 12 and Ephesians 6 about the fierceness of the battle we are fighting. But he also gave tremendous encouragement with reports about how the Lord is working, despite how bleak the media wants us to believe the situation in the world has become!



Our host family, Eboni and David

Hanging out with Sophia



"Triplet day" - Rebecca, Gretchen, and Megan with matching hats and clothes

## *Visits from family members*

We've had the privilege of hosting a couple of Rebecca's sisters and one of her cousins over the past month. Debra and Sophia (our 4-month old niece) came out to visit for a weekend at the end of February. Gretchen visited in mid-March for her week of Spring

Break, then Felicia came for an overnight stay the next week. In case you were wondering, you are welcome to come out and visit us, too. :) We enjoy being able to introduce people to the GFA community and what it means to live here as we serve Him.

One of the remarks Gretchen made about her time here was, "I feel like I've been to a conference." She meant that in a good way - if you have ever attended a spiritually-based conference where you learn so much about the Lord and grow in your love for Him

through the sessions, discussions, and times of worship, then you will understand her sentiment. We get to live that on a daily basis here with our brothers and sisters in Christ, as we all strive to know Him more and make Him known.

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Many of you have been praying for us to be able to find a church home after we moved out to Wills Point over a year and a half ago. Thank you for all those prayers - the Lord has heard and answered! The way He worked wasn't quite what we were expecting or anticipating, but we are grateful that He has made it clear where He would like us to get "plugged in."

We will be joining New Release Fellowship Baptist Church, which is located about 10 minutes from us in Wills Point. Pastor Wade and his wife Laurie served for about 5 years as missionaries to India. Then the Lord called them to Wills Point to serve Him here, but because of their background in missions they are very excited to have GFA so close. The congregation consists of about 150 people, with a mixture of older couples and younger families.

*New Release recently finished constructing a permanent building, after meeting for a few years in a rented facility. Below you can read a report from Asia about a congregation that waited even longer for a church building.*

### *After 20 years of waiting...*

In 1994, when a Christian family in South Asia began living in a village of more than 100 families, a church soon started to flourish—even though there was no pastor or church building.

This Christian family's love for Jesus and Christ-like example made an impact on many of their new neighbors. Two other families in the village, who had previously been Christians only in name, decided to truly walk with Jesus. The three families started joining together in their homes for worship.

About a year later, a Gospel for Asia-supported pastor came to help shepherd them. The fellowship of believers continued to grow in the next 10 years. To accommodate the growth, they purchased a piece of land in 2005 and constructed a thatch-roofed, wooden church building.

As the years passed, the congregation continued to thrive, but their building did not. The roof began to deteriorate, and whenever it rained, water leaked through it. As a result, believers often had to worship the Lord underneath dripping water during the rainy season.

But in 2013, the Lord allowed the believers to start constructing a new, lasting church building that could withstand the rainy season. The congregation themselves joined together voluntarily to help with the construction of the building, performing tasks like hauling in wood from the forest and digging the foundation.

Finally, on March 25, 2015, they gathered together joyfully for the inauguration of the finished church building.

The 32 believers in this community praise God for



providing them with a permanent church building where they can worship Him without worrying about rain dripping through the roof.

"It is really a great blessing, because we can have good fellowship with the Lord in this new church building," said Khin Min, one of the believers.

The pastor, Gospel for Asia-supported pastor Ye Chit, remarked, "I surely believe that more people will come and be happy to join the worship service after having a new church building."

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Field update taken from the GFA blog: <http://gospelforasia-reports.org/2016/03/congregation-receives-permanent-church-building-after-20-years/>

*With love,*

*Rob and Rebecca*