

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)



The guys I live with: Brad, Rob, Gabe, and Nathan (at the GFA Christmas party)

### Please Pray!

- Guidance as I seek the Lord's will for my future. I am considering joining GFA staff after this year.
- That I would truly love God with all my heart, more than I love anything else.
- That I would be a blessing to the callers, and that I could "take them to the field."
- For the Christians in Himachal Pradesh to withstand the persecution.
- For the revival in Tripura to spread.

*I would love to pray for you as well! Please email and tell me ways I can be praying for you in the weeks ahead.*

### Verse of the month:

Whom have I in heaven but you?  
And earth has nothing I desire besides you. (Psalm 73:25)

# White for Harvest

Rob Gaebler's news from Gospel for Asia

November/December 2005

## Let Us Give Thanks!

I have many, many things to be thankful for. I hope that as you read this newsletter, you will be reminded of how faithful and good God is to us.

It's Christmas, my favorite time of year! I love being with my dear family and friends I haven't seen in a while. I enjoy the gift-giving on Christmas morning. I love the atmosphere of joy and celebration. I like the fact that there might be snow on the ground. But my favorite thing about Christmas is praising God and

singing the good old Christmas carols with people I love. Let us rejoice at the amazing gift of God's Son!



Gaebler, Hiseys, and Wilsons together for Thanksgiving



We visited a Civil War battlefield

For the first time in six years, I celebrated Thanksgiving with my family! We all visited some relatives in Kentucky, the Wilsons. Two of my uncles and their families were there too. The Wilsons have seven kids, just like our family, so there was a low adult-to-child ratio, which added to

the fun and energy of the event. We had some great fellowship together, enjoyed the Kentucky countryside, and visited a Civil War battlefield. I also had the opportunity to share for a few minutes about my experiences so far at GFA.

On November 8, I turned 4! (By the way, 4! is 24.) More people said "Happy birthday" to me than any other year—everyone at GFA seemed to enjoy the fact that it was my birthday! 24 people (of course I counted) helped me celebrate by eating ice cream at Brahm's.



## Call Center Stories

Each week in the Call Center, I answer about 100 phone calls. Sometimes they can be pretty interesting:

- One guy wanted to order tens of thousands of brochures to use for his ministry.
- Another man called to sponsor two missionaries. To encourage him, I told him a quick story about one of our missionaries who had planted six churches, and out of those six churches 45 more mission-

aries were raised up. The caller was so touched by the story that he decided right then to sponsor a third missionary!

- One woman gave two gifts over the phone in November, both more than \$7000.
- Another caller had stopped sponsoring his three missionaries a couple months ago because he had lost his job. When he called this time, he started sponsoring six missionaries because he got a good new job!
- Sometimes people call us

with urgent prayer requests. One Monday a man called to ask for prayer for a medical test he would have the next morning. Preliminary tests had indicated he might have cancer. I prayed with him on the phone, then prayed with the other guys in the Call Center. A couple days later the man called back to thank us for praying, and to say that he was completely well! *Please pray that I would be a blessing to the callers, and that I would be able to "take them to the field"*



Radicals defaced the former church meeting place with Hindu slogans and symbols.



The radicals set up a statue of one of their gods next to the pastor's home after forcing him and his church to leave

## Persecution in Himachal Pradesh

Please pray for Himachal Pradesh, which is considered to be the spiritually darkest and least evangelized state of India. Every mountain in this state—traditionally known as the "land of the gods"—is named after a deity. Witchcraft, spirit worship, rituals and pilgrimages make up the belief system of nearly every inhabitant. The government recently passed an anti-conversion law, and Christians face much opposition and harassment.

In early November, a radical Hindu group severely beat and threatened to kill the father of Pastor Ramesh Masih Bhatti, a GFA missionary in Himachal Pradesh. They also threatened to conduct a ritual

on November 20 to reconvert the 60 members of his church to Hinduism. If they refused, they would be burned to death.

Through the prayer and fasting of believers worldwide, God spared the church members' lives, and they were able to continue meeting. However, on December 3, a violent mob of more than 20 Hindu extremists surrounded Pastor Bhatti's house, which also served as the church. They took over the building, declared it a Hindu temple, wrote phrases praising their gods on the church wall, and set up an idol in the courtyard. The local authorities appeared to be cooperating with the Hindus by forcing Pastor Bhatti and his

family from their home.

In addition to all this, Swami Govind Das, the leader of Hindus in Himachal Pradesh, has declared that "religious conversion will by no means be tolerated," adding that Hindus would go from village to village and force Christians to convert back to Hinduism.

*Pray for Pastor Bhatti and all the believers to be strong in their faith. Pray that this incident would result in even more fruit for God's kingdom in the days to come.*



Pastor Ramesh Masih Bhatti and family

## "The Lord came down. It was Acts 2 again."

—K.P. Yohannan, President of GFA

*Dear brothers and sisters, I am very grateful for your support and prayers, which enable me to serve here at GFA on behalf of the missionaries in Asia. You are a blessing to me. Truly your prayers are strengthening me and keeping me in the battle. As Paul said, "I thank my God every time I remember you." (Philippians 1:3) Thank you, and merry Christmas!*

*Serving in Jesus' name,*

*Rob Gaebler*

## Stories from K.P.

K.P. Yohannan, President of Gospel for Asia, spends much of the year traveling and meeting with the believers in GFA's churches in Asia. Recently he was in Tripura (a state in northeast India) for a convention of 4000 first-generation believers. The Lord led K.P. to toss aside his notes and simply speak about the power of the Holy Spirit. As K.P. spoke, God moved powerfully in their midst. Brother K.P. simply explains, "The Lord came down. It was Acts 2 again."

One of the believers who was there went back to his village and told his Hindu neighbor about Jesus and asked him to repent and turn to the Lord. The man fell under conviction and on the spot gave his life to Christ with tears. That

man went to his home and told his entire family about what happened to him.

The entire family gave their lives to the Lord and were baptized. The news of this one family's transformation spread like wildfire, and in one week's time the entire village decided to follow Christ and be baptized! *Please pray that revival would continue to spread in Tripura and all of India by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

At another meeting of 10,000 believers, Brother K.P. met an old village grandpa with a humongous, colorful turban on his head. The man's story was truly remarkable. A GFA missionary had gone to this man's remote village to preach the Gospel. He had met this old man and told him that Jesus was the true and living God, that He was able to save, and that He was powerful to an-

swer prayers.

The old man did not give his life to Christ that day. The following week he was herding his sheep near the forest when two tigers came toward him. The man sensed his life was over! At that moment he remembered what that missionary had told him about Jesus. The old man spoke out these words, "Jesus is God. You must go back to the forest. Stop and turn around. Go back." Right there the tigers turned around and went back, and disappeared into the forest! That made him realize the power of Jesus, and he gave his life to the Lord. His entire family turned to Christ and were baptized. The same day those tigers killed two other villagers in a nearby area. You can imagine how quickly this kind of news spread among those simple village folks!

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*I would love to hear from you!*