

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

January/February 2006

India Tour
Feb 25 - Mar 13
2006

The time has come at last! We are going to India! On **February 25 to March 13**, the eight interns and three other GFA staff will go on a whirlwind "vision tour" to India to see the work of Gospel for Asia. We will visit GFA's seminary, meet with many of the missionaries and leaders, visit churches and Bridge of Hope centers, and much more. I am looking forward most to worshipping together with the believers in India and visiting the Bridge of Hope centers.

Many people who have gone on a vision tour to India have told me their lives were radically changed by the experience. I think this may be the most spiritually intense and significant two weeks of my life. The schedule will be very demanding. *Please* soak this trip in your prayers!

Feb 26 - Mar 2
Mar 2 - 4
Mar 4 - 7
Mar 7 - 12

I urge you, brothers ... to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. (Romans 15:30)

Please Pray!

Personal Requests. Pray for:

- An attitude of loving and serving others
- Humility and submission to leaders in all things
- A joyful spirit
- Time alone with God, and ability to hear from Him
- Ability to see India through the eyes of Jesus; for my heart to break for the things that break His heart
- My heart to be broken before the Lord and fully teachable
- Ability to process everything, so the fruit from the trip may remain
- A deep and lasting impact on my life and on my walk with the Lord

Team Requests. Pray for:

- Health, strength, and good rest for us all
- Wisdom for Nathan as he leads the team (he's never been to India before)
- Following our leaders without complaining or questioning
- Love and patience to rule our team, especially during the second week when we're tired
- Meaningful fellowship with each other and the Indian brothers and sisters
- That we would be a blessing and encouragement to the missionaries, students, and believers
- Humility, grace, and cultural sensitivity



The GFA family gathers around the Kiriks to pray for them and send them off to the UK



Mindy and Brian Kirik

Call Center Changes

These are exciting times in the Call Center, as we undergo some major changes. Brian Kirik, the former supervisor

of the Call Center, leaves on February 14 with his wife Mindy and son Elijah to head up GFA's office in the United Kingdom. It is amazing how clearly the Lord has called Brian and his family to go serve there, and how He has provided for them to go. For instance, just last Wednesday, the Kiriks put their house on the market. Friday night was GFA's monthly all-night prayer meeting, during which we

prayed for the Kiriks' house to sell. The next day, they got an offer on their house. And this is at a time when most houses are on the market for months! I will miss Brian, but I am very happy for him as he follows the Lord's call.

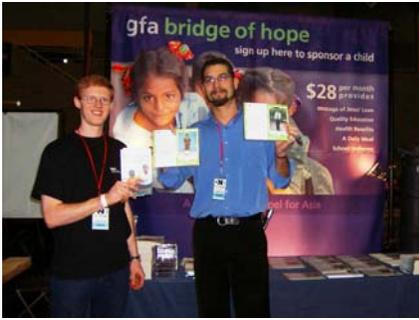
The Lord has raised up Strat Goodhue to be the new Call Center supervisor. Strat is one of the friendliest, most committed, godly men I have ever known. I respect him as a great role model, and look forward to working under him. (And I'm not saying that just because he's the one approving this newsletter!) The Call Center also grew recently with the addition of two more interns, Angela Lucich and Julian Castellanos. Welcome, Angela and Julian!

"The mystery of God's call is that it's more about what He does in you than what He calls you to do."

—Brian Kirik



New and Improved Call Center (left to right): Kevin, Angela, Sandy, Strat, Julian, Barry, Sheri, Rob



Top: Rob and Mike at OneFest
Middle: Read this book!
Bottom: Someone's signing up!

"Thank you so much for stopping me to tell me about Bridge of Hope!"

—A passerby at ATF

Acquiring the Fire

Even while I was at home for Christmas break, I had the opportunity to work with Gospel for Asia. I helped man GFA's table at OneFest, a 24-hour Christian music festival on December 28-29. Of all the places in America it could have taken place, it was in Cedar Falls, Iowa, only an hour from my home! I joined Mike Johnson, a GFA volunteer, and we handed out GFA's free book *Revolution in World Missions* and told people about GFA's child sponsorship program, Bridge of Hope. I told people, "This book is awesome! You need to read it! This book has had a greater impact on my life than any other book I have ever read!" (Get YOUR free book at www.gfa.org/) The music was sometimes so loud I had to shout at people a foot away from me, but the event was still a huge success for us. We distributed over 500 books, and had more than 30 kids sponsored! Mike and I were both amazed at the favor God granted us.

On January 27-28, four other GFA staff and I drove down to Houston for the youth rally Acquire the Fire.

We stood in front of our table, intercepting people with "Have you heard about Bridge of Hope?" Ours was a life-and-death mission. We described to people the horrible plight of the "untouchables" in India: No rights, treated like slaves. Average income of less than \$40 per year. Up to 95% illiteracy in places. Possibly 100 million child laborers. We explained what Bridge of Hope offers: an education, school uniforms, a good meal each day, medical care, and most importantly the love and hope of Jesus Christ. Most of the kids give their lives to Jesus, and often GFA is able to plant a church within months. It was awesome to see people's response to this message. I was hoping for 20 children to be sponsored, but we had a whopping 55 sponsored! As one person said, "Thank you so much for stopping me to tell me about Bridge of Hope!"

At both OneFest and Acquire the Fire, God clearly gave us favor with people. At OneFest, we had forgotten to request electricity, so the coordinator moved us to a better location and gave us electricity for free. At ATF, we also had a bad table location but we were able to move to a great spot.



Sponsor a Bridge of Hope child!
Top: Cody, Brettin, Rob
Bottom: Heather, Brad, Rob

Both times, we were amazed at people's response—clearly God was moving them. At both events, we prayed together many times as a group. What a blessing it was to see God answer our prayers!

I think I have discovered my passion. I was talking with Heather at ATF during one of the breaks, and I explained to her what a mathematical game is and showed her how to win the game of Nim. Then I showed her some other math stuff I was fascinated by. Suddenly I realized that although I love math, I love sharing about Gospel for Asia far more. I love being a part of bringing hope and eternal life to the perishing. That is what I am passionate about.

Verse of the month:

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

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 such a blessing to me, and you mean a lot to me. Thank you for standing with me!

Serving in Jesus' name,

Rob Gaebler

Persecution and Deliverance

In the last months there has been a dramatic increase in persecution against believers. These are just examples:

Jan. 6 (Bangladesh): Gospel for Asia missionary Laxman Das was brutally murdered as he was returning home by bus.

Jan. 25 (Bihar, India): Three Gospel for Asia Bible



Laxman Das

college students were tied to a tree, beaten to near death, and their literature burned while witnessing.

Jan. 27 (Chhattisgarh, India): A group called the Naxalites kidnapped GFA native missionary Subhash. Through the prayers of believers worldwide, God delivered Pastor Subhash by enabling him to escape!

Feb. 11-13 (Gujarat, India): 500,000 Hindus are gathering for a festival with the motto "Arise O Hindus, throw out the Christians." It is feared the Christians may have their property destroyed, and be forced to convert to Hinduism or else be beaten.

Please pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters.



Pastor Subhash

Loved by the Lord

Jesus is amazing! He continues to touch my life every day, and draw me into closer fellowship with Himself. As I press on toward Jesus, I can see how He is transforming my desires, my thoughts, and even my prayers, to make this a greater reality: That my greatest desire in life really is to know Jesus and to become like

Him, and my goal in all things is to bring Him glory.

It has not been easy to deny myself and follow the Lord. There have been days when I came home burdened and discouraged. At times like this, I like going for a long walk, worshipping God, and pouring out my heart to Him—all my sins and burdens and questions. Where are You calling me after this year? Why did You gift me in math? Why do I always fail

to love people? As I talk with God, He refreshes me and shows me His amazing unconditional love. It is as if God is speaking directly to my heart, and I deeply sense His assurance and guidance. I praise God for all He is doing in my life!

My prayer is that the Lord would use my life to bring life to the perishing multitudes in Asia. Please think of them whenever you pray for me.

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I would love to hear from you!