

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

May/June 2006

Please Pray!

- Pray that I would abide in Christ and bear much fruit for God's glory
- Pray for all my support to be raised quickly
- Pray for 2000 people to come and have their lives transformed at the conference
- Pray for the faith of the persecuted believers to be strong
- Pray for India to know Jesus
- Pray for the establishment of religious freedom in Nepal, and for bold outreach during this time

"Be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints" (Ephesians 5:18)



Top: Speaking at church about my trip to India
Middle: praying at home
Bottom: working at GFA

"The best conference we have ever attended"

—Attendee last year

Called to GFA!

Dear friends and family,

God has done a wonderful thing! He has called me to join full time staff at Gospel for Asia! Here's my story...

When I started the internship last August, I intended to just take one year off from grad school to grow stronger in my relationship with the Lord while working to extend the Kingdom of God in Asia. I would then finish my Ph.D. in math and do some kind of math career. But after coming to GFA I discovered that I had the opportunity to stay here long term, and I discovered that I was thrilled by that prospect.

I did not take my decision to join staff at GFA lightly, since I knew this may be the most important decision of my life. For months I prayed and dug into the scriptures and prayed and sought advice and prayed, earnestly seeking God's will for my life. There were several things the Lord continually impressed on my heart during this time: the urgency of reaching the lost with the Gospel (**"Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest,"** John 4:35); pouring myself out to save the lost (**"Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds,"** John



The interns and discipleship team out in the country, the day before I decided to join GFA staff

12:24); setting all my love and affections on the Lord (**"Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you,"** Psalm 73:25); seeking more than anything else to please and glorify God (**"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done,"** Matthew 6:9-10).

On Monday morning, May 22, as I stepped out of the shower with these thoughts swirling in my head, I had a strong sense of my nothingness before the Almighty God. I fell to my knees in prayer, crying out in my heart, "O Lord, I love You, and all I want is to glorify You!" I offered myself to God and prayed that He would use my life to bring many people to eternal life. Finally I knew that God was calling me to serve on staff with Gospel for Asia. What joy and peace I felt! Praise the Lord!

I am certain that only God

can make me fruitful (John 15:5, see below). My ability to bear fruit does not come from my talents, nor does it come from serving at an effective ministry like GFA. Fruit only comes through faith, by abiding in Christ. *Pray that I would always abide in Christ and that I would be very fruitful, to the glory of God.*

So, what next? After the internship ends, I plan to return to UCSD for one more quarter to finish my Master's degree. Then I will come on staff at Gospel for Asia in January. I will likely continue working in the Call Center. Gospel for Asia staff are considered home front missionaries, and we raise our own support to enable 100% of missionary donations to go to the mission field. I will contact you soon about how you can join my support team. *Please pray that God would quickly raise up all the support I need to come on staff with GFA.*

I am the vine; you are the branches. If anyone remains in me, and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

Meet the Missionaries

How would you like to visit the mission field to witness the amazing miracles and wonders the Lord is doing? Well, on June 30 to July 2, the mission field is coming *here!* All of us at Gospel for Asia have been preparing and praying for months for the Renewing Your Passion Conference. We are praying for 2000 people to come, and for the Lord to

touch every person's life. Many of GFA's top leaders are coming over from Asia to speak from their own experiences about the things the Lord is doing.

After our first such conference last year, men and women told us that the experience changed their lives and revitalized their churches. And



I believe the same thing will happen this year as well. I would love to see you at the conference! Go to www.gfa.org to find out more and to register.



Brother Lalachan and me

Lalachan Quotes

“There is nothing more beautiful than humility. Humility is the beauty of holiness.”

“One of the great privileges we have as Christians is to rejoice in the Lord always.”

“During times of trouble, we taste the Lord and His love more intimately.”

“Nothing is more beautiful than living a holy life, because our purpose in life is to reflect the Lord’s glory.”

“This morning my body said ‘sleep more’ but the Spirit said, ‘Get up and pray, many are perishing.’”



Protests in Nepal last month

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

*Serving with joy,
Rob Gaebler*

Profile of a GFA Leader

Lalachan. I can still feel his warm handshake, see his smile, and hear his joyful “Praise the Lord!” ringing in my ears. When I was in India in early March, I got to spend a few blessed hours with Brother Lalachan, our regional leader in central India. Of all the things I did in India, this time was perhaps the most memorable. His joy, warmth, and love for the Lord were contagious, and showed me that he really knows Jesus.

Hardship and persecution are common in Brother Lalachan’s life. Persecution against the believers has been very severe in the part of India he oversees. Lalachan lives with his wife and two sons in Nagpur, in the very center of India. This city is the headquarters of a major fanatic anti-Christian group that frequently carries out violent attacks against Christians. But Lalachan remains steadfast because of his close relationship with the Lord.

One day, I wrote in my journal, “Today was sweet. I love Brother Lalachan and the ministry in Nagpur. Lalachan is full of the love of the Lord. He is ruled by His peace in the midst of trials, and remains full of joy, always saying ‘Praise the

Lord!’ with a laugh in his voice and a big grin.” The power and grace of the Lord are so evident in his life. Maddie, one of the other interns, perfectly expressed my thoughts when she said “He’s is like a walking fruit of the Spirit.” When the trials come pressing in, the joy and peace of the Lord give him tremendous strength.

“He’s like a walking fruit of the Spirit”

– Maddie

Brother Lalachan’s life verse is Psalm 32: 7-8, which says, “You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. *Selah.* I will instruct you and

teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.”

Lalachan has many stories of the Lord’s faithful protection and deliverance. One time an anti-Christian fanatic beat up one of our missionaries. The man couldn’t sleep that night, and ended up going to our missionary, asking for forgiveness, hearing the Gospel, and receiving Christ. Other times, government authorities who opposed our work have been removed by God (e.g. transferred to another place).

Brother Lalachan asked that we *pray for those who are persecuted to be rooted in faith, and pray for India to know Jesus.*



Brother Lalachan’s family

Profile of Lalachan

Number of siblings: nine

Purpose in life: Manifest the Lord’s character and His glory

Prayer each morning: “Lord, make me like You. Your will be done.”

Favorite verse: Psalm 32: 7-8



A Changing Nepal

During these past few weeks we have seen an amazing answer to prayer for Nepal. Late in April, GFA’s office in Nepal had to close because of the violence during the uprising against King Gyanendra. GFA’s work was frozen due to all-day curfews and the long general strike, while crowds of 200,000 rallied for democracy. Hundreds were injured and some died during this unstable time. In addition to these recent rallies by the people of Nepal, the last 10 years have seen much violence as Maoist rebels rose against the king’s absolute rule, resulting in an estimated 14,000 people dying.

But God heard the prayers of His people, and the king finally reinstated the par-

liament. On May 18 the parliament declared itself supreme, stripping the king of many powers and privileges. Also, for many years Nepal has prided itself on being the “World’s Only Hindu Kingdom,” but now, for the first time, it has been declared a secular democracy.

Brother Sharma, GFA’s national leader for Nepal, said, “To experience this historic change for this nation is truly an answer to prayers. For the last 10 years there has been no prayer meeting or worship service in our churches without specific prayer for the nation.”

However, prayer is still very necessary as this new government is solidified.



Brother Sharma and family (GFA’s leader in Nepal)

Sharma states, “Secularism does not guarantee full freedom of religion...It is sure that there will be restrictions and limitations.” Sharma sees this time as a window of peace, an opportunity to share the Gospel with greater boldness. Two major avenues of outreach are GFA Radio, which is broadcasting the Gospel on stations across the country, and GFA’s Bridge of Hope primary schools.

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I would love to hear from you!