

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 2007



Please Pray!

- Pray that God will lead me to the church He would have me join
- Pray for complete recovery for my knee, and working out insurance issues
- Pray for my long-term faithfulness and passion in the ministry, and a deep love for GFA
- Pray that I will be completely devoted to following Christ and the calling He has given me
- Pray that many thousands of people at the Ardh Kumbh festival will find salvation in Christ



Much of our work is done with our heads bowed

Back at GFA!

Praise the Lord, I'm back home at Gospel for Asia! My first day in the office here in Dallas was Jan. 9. I realize that God has brought me to serve here because of His great mercy for the millions who are perishing without Him in Asia, who I now am helping reach with the Gospel by serving the native missionaries who are doing the hard work of evangelism. What a great privilege I have to be called to this work!

God has placed me in such a loving family here at GFA. I needed a bike, and so three

people offered to give me their bikes. In addition, I received an anonymous cash gift of \$180 from someone at GFA, for me to buy a bike with!

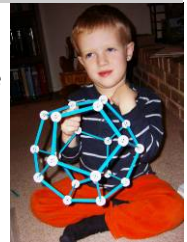
The Lord has been providing my other needs as well. Tracy and Lindsay Tyson are kindly hosting me for the time being. I became good friends with Tracy during the internship last year. He's a dear brother who strives for unity and authenticity in his Christian life. In a couple months I plan move into an apartment with three other young men who will be coming on GFA staff soon.

I am seeking a church to



Tracy and Lindsay Tyson are hosting me at their home

become a part of. Please pray for God to guide me to the right church. Also pray for a full recovery from my knee surgery.



Having fun with Elia Tyson

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field." (Matt. 13:44)

Thoughts on My Calling

I rejoice that I am surrounded by wonderful, godly brothers and sisters here at Gospel for Asia whose passion is to know the Lord Jesus intimately, become like Him, and make Him known in all the world. They constantly challenge me to walk closely with Jesus.

I have found that in order to be effective in this ministry, I must devote myself to prayer and God's Word, examine my heart frequently and confess sins quickly, and strive for unity and fellowship.

One difficult but essential lesson I am learning is to always put Christ first in my

heart. Jesus said, **"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."** (Matt. 13:44). He sold everything out of joy—imagine that! I want my life to be so filled with love for Christ and devotion to the calling He has given me that *everything else* fades away. I am still wrestling with what exactly that means.

I recently wrote the following in my journal: "Yesterday I realized that my calling to GFA is like marriage. In both relationships, I self-sacrificially commit to serve the other. The relationship is really built on love and commitment.

It's God who brings us together, it's not my own doing. I'm not in it for myself, and I don't use the relationship to try to gratify myself....I believe God has called me to GFA for life. Therefore I will arm myself with this attitude." (By the way, I'm not married or anywhere close.)

It is easy to begin a race, but much harder to complete it. By coming to GFA, I have placed my self at the forefront of a great spiritual battle being fought to claim millions of souls, and I need your prayers to be faithful and victorious. Pray for me: **"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."** (Romans 12:11).



In the Call Center, I get to speak with hundreds of GFA's faithful supporters

In the Call Center

I am back in the Call Center again, even at the very same desk. My title is "Call Center Administrative Assistant." In addition to my admin tasks, I take some of the incoming phone calls to GFA, which can be pretty interesting. One elderly woman who called in had recently committed to sponsoring three more native

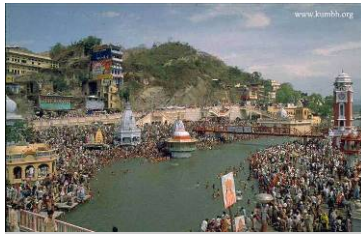
missionaries when her Social Security income increased. Right after she made that commitment, her insurance premium doubled, but she told me, "God will take care of that. I already made my commitment!" It's always encouraging to see such examples faith in action in our supporters!

I often get the privilege of sharing encouraging praise reports with people who call

GFA. For example, if someone donates for GFA radio, I tell them a recent report about a Hindu man who became paralyzed and began crying out to all the gods he knew, but to no avail. Then he heard about Jesus for the first time on one of GFA's radio broadcasts, cried out to Him, and was miraculously healed! In response, the man and his family gave their lives to the Lord.



This man, sincerely seeking truth at the Ardh Kumbh festival, is now hearing of God's love through Christ



This year, 60 million people came to the Ardh Kumbh festival



Hindus come from all over to wash away their sins in the Ganges river

out will be taken back to these villages and read by many."

All of the native missionaries who participated in this event believe that God will use the tracts to lead many people, and even whole villages, to Christ.

There has been a price, though. Some of GFA's missionaries have been driven away, beaten and even arrested by police at the site of the Ardh Kumbh.

A young brother named Ishaya received the worst beating and suffered several serious injuries. "It started to hurt a lot, and I could see myself bleeding in different areas," Ishaya said of the beating. "Eventually I fell down, and that's when they left me." He continued, his voice broken by tears, "I am so glad that at least in this small way I could partake in Christ's suffering. I feel so privileged!" *Please pray for the Ardh Kumbh outreach to lead to many souls being saved.*

Seeking Forgiveness of Their Sins

If you didn't know Jesus, what would your life be like? What would you do for forgiveness of sins? Right now, the "largest gathering of humanity on the planet" is drawing to a close. About 60 million people have come to the Ardh Kumbh, a Hindu festival in northern India which began January 3 and ends February 16. Devotees offer prayers and bathe at the confluence of three of Hinduism's holiest rivers. They believe that bathing in these waters during the festival will

wash away their sins and end the cycle of reincarnation.

Gospel for Asia workers are reaching out to Ardh Kumbh participants with God's love, handing out large quantities of literature to tell them about the true way of salvation. "The people who have come for the Ardh Kumbh are from hundreds and even thousands of villages all across India," GFA's leader in the state said. "These are villages we may not be able to personally reach in our lifetime. But the tracts we have given



As you recall, we were praying that all my financial support would be raised by December 31st. Listen to how God answered that prayer: I was traveling on December 31st, and I returned home January 1st. Within an hour, a friend called and pledged support which put me over 100%! Isn't that amazing! Now I am at 101% of my needed monthly support in pledges.

I am deeply grateful to all of you for giving generously and praying for me. I have seen many clear answers to your prayers, and your financial support gives me peace of mind as I focus on my work at GFA. More importantly, God is honored by your loving support. Thank you so very much!

In Christ,

Rob Gaebler

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