

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

March/April 2007



At the top of Texas!



Top: A dedicated GFA women's team

Bottom: Panchu, a former Buddhist Lama, found Christ through their witness



My favorite mode of transportation

Dear friends and family,

Last week I was driving a couple miles from home, and my attention was drawn to a field of cows. What made this particular field so interesting was that it was right between a church of 20,000 people and a church of 5,000 people. Then I thought of India, on the other

side of the world, where cows are regarded as holy, but 500,000 villages are without the Gospel. When a missionary asks someone if they know Jesus, the response is often, literally, "No, I've never heard of Jesus. Maybe you'll find him in the next village."

I count it such a privilege that I get to serve over 16,000

native missionaries—with your help—so that they can take the words of life to those who are perishing "without hope and without God" (Eph. 2:12). May we remember them. And may we be broken so we can truly see each one with Christ's eyes of compassion.

From Buddhist Lama to Christ's Disciple

No heart is too hard for God to soften. Even as a strong believer, I constantly need Him to soften me so I can be used by Him. This is the story of a man who used to be hard.

Panchu was once a staunch Buddhist. He served in the local monastery for more than 16 years, even achieving the status of lama, or religious teacher. Still, he was unable to find the inner peace for which he longed. But things started to change when a Gospel for Asia women's team began to visit him.

Panchu and his family live in the hills of Sikkim, India. They belong to the Lepcha tribe, a people largely isolated from the outside world. Colorful prayer flags are commonly seen throughout this region,

pointing to the Lepcha's strong adherence to Buddhism—and hostility to the Gospel.

The way to Panchu's house is a five-hour walk up steep hills from where the GFA women's team is stationed. It is an exhausting trek for anyone not accustomed to climbing in high altitudes. The team faithfully hiked those hills at least once or twice a month, building a friendship with Panchu and sharing the Gospel.

The women's care for his family fostered trust in Panchu's heart, and he enrolled his son and daughter, Chudan and Sarika, in the Bridge of Hope center the team had established. One of the factors that led to Panchu's own salvation was Sarika's amazing healing from a strange illness. The two

children put their faith in Christ while attending the Bridge of Hope center. They love to sing the songs they learned at the center, and they've memorized many Bible verses.

Today, Panchu has found healing and liberty in the Lord Jesus. His faith is simple, yet profound. He longs to see all his relatives and neighbors come to Christ. He has also donated land for a church building, and construction is already underway.

The team members are encouraged to see fruit from their hard labors in Panchu and his family. And today, in a place once resistant to the message of the Gospel, as many as 40 new Christians gather for worship every Sunday.



The Lepchas live in a very remote region of India



Prayer flags show their dedication to Buddha



Panchu's whole family has now been saved!

Fun and Math

I work hard—but I find time for fun too! For instance, today I rode my unicycle the 2.2 miles to work. Last weekend I hiked to the highest point in Texas with a group of guys from GFA. We had some great fellowship and enjoyed God's creation together. Last night I entertained a few GFA kids with my unicycling, juggling, and

card tricks.

Sometimes I amuse myself with math puzzles. Example: You need to travel 200 miles in a car that has a range of 100 miles. You start at a gas station, and can drop off fuel at any point. You can refuel at the gas station or pick up fuel you dropped off earlier. How can you make the trip using minimum fuel? (I solved this on the hike.)

Now here's some serious

math. Answers are on the back.

Quiz:

1. How many people die and go to hell daily in Asia without ever hearing the Gospel?
2. How much of the Church's resources are spent to reach the most unreached?
3. How much does it cost to support a native missionary?



The Call Center, for now



April 1st in the Call Center

At Work

The Call Center is a great place to work. And to play pranks! I came in early on Monday, April 2, and crammed all our chairs into Strat's office. I stacked three chairs behind his door so it couldn't open, and climbed out his window. I also swapped everything on Kevin's and Sandy's desks, and did several other things before it was all over. When everyone came in they were surprised—and enjoyed it!

What does the "F" in "GFA stand for? As everyone

here at Gospel for Asia knows, it stands for "Flexibility"! The Call Center is no exception. In less than four months, four people have joined the Call Center and two people have left, and in the next week one more will join and three will leave! God knows where each person can best serve Him, and we have to be willing to follow His plan and not hold onto our own.

During this time, God has given me a growing burden to serve everyone in the depart-

ment, especially by better helping Strat with his many responsibilities. Strat speaks at churches around the country, and is also the main person who contacts pastors to set up such meetings. I handle much of the admin work for these meetings in addition to many other things. *Please pray that I will catch Strat's vision for the Call Center, die to myself, and help him very effectively.* I'm not just here to "go to work"; I'm here to save souls from hell for God's glory.

The "F" in "GFA" stands for "Flexibility."



The hospitable Tysons

At Home

Until now I have been staying with the Tyson family, who are also part of GFA. Next week I'll be moving into a new apartment, about a 10-minute walk from GFA. I will be living with Preston Timmons, who arrived on staff last week. He, too, is a former GFA intern who majored in math.

Preston, my next roommate



Twelve people at GFA have offered to give us free furniture and other stuff, but we still need to buy a lot (my largest possession right now is my unicycle, and I have no kitchen stuff). I also need to buy a car soon; this will be my first time. *Please pray for Preston and me as we go through these transitions.*

Thank you so much for your loving support and prayers. Surely your prayers are precious to the Lord. You are making it possible for me to follow the Lord's call, to serve the native missionaries as they lay down their lives to preach the Gospel in unreached lands.

Thank you for standing with me!

Serving with joy,

Rob Gaebler

Answers to quiz:
1. 80,000
2. Only 1 cent out of every \$10.
3. Up to \$180 a month—just 3% of the cost of sending a Western missionary.

"If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." (Mark 9:23)

Triple Answer to Prayer

Isn't it beautiful when God answers your prayers and shows you how much He loves you? That happened to me recently—three times! I had lingering expenses of over \$2000 from my knee surgery in October, and I prayed that I wouldn't have to pay it. First, my dad graciously offered to pay it for

me. Then I discovered that the donations that were given for my support before I arrived on staff at GFA could be used to cover this kind of expense. Finally, since I hadn't received a bill, I called the surgery center, and they told me they wrote off the entire amount! Praise the Lord!

From my journal (March 23):

"I know that I must always rest but never relax. The faithful Christian life is a vigorous, focused race to the end. It is also resting in Jesus and giving all my burdens to Him."

Prayers and Praises — Rob Gaebler, Gospel for Asia

Prayers

- **Pray** for thousands more missionaries to be sent out through GFA this year.
- **Pray** for Panchu's people, the Lepchas, to turn from Buddhism to Christ.
- **Pray** that I will encourage, build up, serve, and effectively help everyone in the Call Center, especially my supervisor Strat. **Pray** that I may be "Servant of All" like Jesus.
- **Pray** that God will guide the Call Center through our current transitions.
- **Pray** for Preston and me to have strong unity and love for each other. **Pray** for our needs as we transition into a new apartment together.
- **Pray** for the right car at the right price.

Praises

- **Praise** God for the great spiritual abundance we enjoy here in America.
- **Praise** God that many who received tracts at the *Ardh Kumbh* festival are writing back, asking how they can receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior.
- **Praise** God for providing a good apartment near GFA, and for the generous help from people at GFA.
- **Praise** God for a good knee recovery and covering all the expenses.
- **Praise** God for giving me a love and seriousness about my calling at GFA.

