

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)



Rob Gaebler's news from Gospel for Asia

January 2008

Dear friends,

As you may have noticed, one of my favorite things to write about is the great things God has done, especially in answer to prayer. As I look back at 2007, I see many such things to thank God for. Let us praise Him, for He is a God who answers prayer! My assessment is that this was a great year in my own life and Gospel for Asia as a whole, and I'm looking forward to what God has in store for us in 2008.

Thank you so much for upholding me and the ministry in your prayers. I hope this letter will encourage you and show you how much your prayers really do make a difference and are used by God to accomplish His work.

Here is a look back at 2007...

Remembering 2007

Jan 1, 2007 – I received a pledge that raised my support level to 100%! That was an amazing answer to prayer.

Jan 9 – My first day as full-time staff at Gospel for Asia! I am so excited.

Jan-Feb – The Kumbh Mela festival drew over 60 million Hindu devotees to the Ganges River to wash away their sins. Gospel for Asia missionaries distributed large quantities of Gospel tracts and we saw much response.

Feb 28 – A mob of 500 villagers, incited by anti-Christian radicals, attacked a GFA Bible college in India, seriously injuring students and damaging buildings. In answer to our fervent prayers, the dangerous crisis was resolved peacefully within one week.

Jun 2 – I was in a collision that totaled the truck I was riding in. Thank God no one

was injured.

Jun 19 – I purchased my first car, from a friend at GFA

Jul 27-29 – I traveled to California to attend my college roommate Greg's wedding, and to visit friends

Jul 30-31 – My whole family visited GFA and participated in one of our prayer meetings

Aug 12 – I began attending Providence Chapel, along with three friends from GFA. The times of prayer, the worship, and the preaching lift Christ on high and often leave me breathless with the glory and awe of God. Your prayers that God would guide me to a good church have been answered!

Aug 18 – Ten interns arrived for the one-year Road to Reality Internship. Michael and Tye are in the house I am leading.

Sep 11 – My household (Tye, Michael, and I) began six weeks of prayer for Myanmar. Shortly after this we heard about serious political turmoil in Myanmar, which culminated in the largest protests in two decades and a brutal crackdown by the government.

Sep 24 – My close friends Brad and Maddie (former fellow interns with me) had their first child, a girl. That was such a joy for me!

Nov 8 – My birthday. My age? "The average of five squared and three cubed."

Nov 26 – Joel Fletcher started at GFA. This year twelve families or individuals started at GFA, and eleven more started raising their support to come on staff. Some of these were very specific answers to prayer!

Dec 3 – I graduated from the new staff mentorship program, which is designed to help people adjust to being at GFA. During the last several months

I read assigned books, met for classes with other new staff, and met weekly with my mentor, Cody Carnine.

Dec 5 – I was \$270 short of paying my largest-ever credit card bill (I've paid in full each month). In answer to my prayers, I received a \$280 reimbursement the day before the bill was due.

Dec 7 – During our all-night prayer meeting, we prayed for another ministry that was having trouble delivering a large container of Arabic Gospel literature to Iraq. An hour later, they sent us an email announcing the shipment was finally delivered safely!

Dec 19 – We celebrated a \$3.5 million check that was given by someone who "wouldn't be able to give this year."

Dec 23-30 – I went home to Iowa for Christmas. I had a great time with family and friends.

Jan 10, 2008 – Donations report for 2007 showed that on average I received \$1979 a month in donations, or 104% of what I needed. Thanks so much, y'all! God has been very kind to me through you.



Organized attacks on Christians in Orissa state in India began just before Christmas, resulting in deaths and much destruction



Me, Tye, and Michael at Gospel for Asia's Christmas party



Cody and Ingrid. Cody was my mentor during the new staff mentorship period



My family visited me at GFA in July. Here they're getting a building tour.

What I'm reading

My dad and I are reading and discussing *With Christ in the School of Prayer* by Andrew Murray. In Chapter 1, he says: "He will breathe His own life, which is all prayer, into us. As He makes us partakers of His righteousness and His life, He will make us partakers of His intercession, too."



My family singing hymns together on Christmas



My cute sister Marcie with her horse Reeses

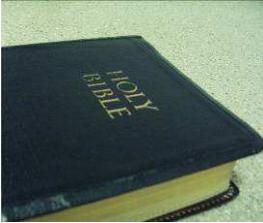


Reunion of the Senior High Youth Group back home (Dec 26) — I haven't seen them in years!



Above: One of my most powerful adversaries

Below: My weapon



Fighting my Pillow by the Power of the Holy Spirit

My pillow is one of my greatest adversaries. I have to fight it each morning when I first wake up, right when I am weakest. I know I need to get up and pray, but my pillow draws me back down into its comforting embrace. I have lost many, many battles against my pillow.

In my last newsletter I said that I get up at a certain time each morning to start the day with prayer. Well, actually... I went 3 weeks recently in which I never actually stayed up after that, and often my "prayer"

time was little more than sitting in a stupor on my bed.

Last Saturday, I wasted the entire day, and I realized at the end of the day that I am totally feeble and powerless to do the good I want to. I recognized that *only by the power of the Holy Spirit* can I overcome the flesh and do God's work. I cried out to God for revival in my life and the power to do His will.

The next day was glorious! God met with me throughout the day, from uplifting fellowship, to Christ-exalting preach-

ing, to good articles I read about dying to self. I surrendered my plans and desires to God and began to experience His power.

As the alarm clock went off this morning, there was a brief battle. But then I quoted Psalm 5:3, "*In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.*" I defeated my pillow with God's Word. And I got up, and prayed, and stayed up, for the first time in weeks!

"In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice..." (Psalm 5:3)



Above: Sharing prayer requests Tuesday night

Below: Blowing our "Texas Shofars" to celebrate booking a meeting



A Time for Prayer: Tuesday Night

One man has called Gospel for Asia "The House that Prayer Built." From the 16,500 native missionaries in Asia, some of whom spend more time praying than sleeping, to the 90 US staff, we are all dependent upon God for everything that we do. One of our regular prayer times is Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00. We begin with worship, then a message from one of the leaders, followed by several ten-minute prayer sessions. We pray for the needs of various departments, upcoming events, and needs on the mission field.

This week we prayed for

the Indian state of Orissa, which has recently suffered organized attacks against Christian villages. More than 1,000 homes have been burned and more than 12 people have been killed since Christmas. Several church buildings have been damaged or destroyed as well. Many Christians, including GFA missionaries, have sought shelter in the forests. Please pray for God to restore peace to the region.

I led a prayer session for my department, Church and Donor Relations. We prayed for the training of Pam, who will take over much of my meetings-

related admin work so I can focus more on special projects. We also prayed that March and April would be filled up with good church meetings for GFA representatives to speak at. I encouraged everyone to "sow generously" with their prayers. "*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously*" (1 Cor. 9:6). The next day two pastors called GFA, resulting in us scheduling new meetings at their churches. We hardly ever book meetings that easily!



Cody and Ingrid led the interns' trip to India

Thank you so much for your loving support and prayers, which are precious to the Lord. You make it possible for me to serve the native missionaries who are laying down their lives to advance the Gospel in unreached lands. Thank you for standing with me!

For His glory,

Rob Gaebler

Internship News

I never want to live alone. I love and need to live in Christian community. The last five months have been a great blessing to me personally, as I have been the house leader for Michael and Tye, who are here for the one-year internship at Gospel for Asia.

Last month, during one of our house meetings, I raised the question, "how much intimacy can a leader have with the people he leads?" My answer was that Jesus said to His disciples, "I have called you friends" (John 15:15). I was feeling too disconnected from their lives and wanted to experience closer fellowship. It turns out all of us felt the same way, and God used this time to bring about greater

unity in our house. God has been bringing us closer together, both during our "scheduled" times of prayer and Bible study and also during our unplanned interactions each day.

All nine interns just completed a two-week "vision tour" to India to see the mission field. This is one of the most significant parts of the internship. When I went two years ago, the Lord showed me how my life is part of His work in Asia. Michael and Tye came back full of stories of missionaries they talked to and places they went.

Please pray for Michael and Tye and me during this "half-way" point as we pray and make plans for the remaining six months of the internship.



Household chores include raking leaves (in December!) and taking out the trash.



Rob Gaebler • PO Box 116203 • Carrollton, TX 75011 • (214) 677-4925 • robgaebler@gmail.com
Gospel for Asia • 1800 Golden Trail Court • Carrollton, TX 75010 • (972) 300-7777
I would love to hear from you!