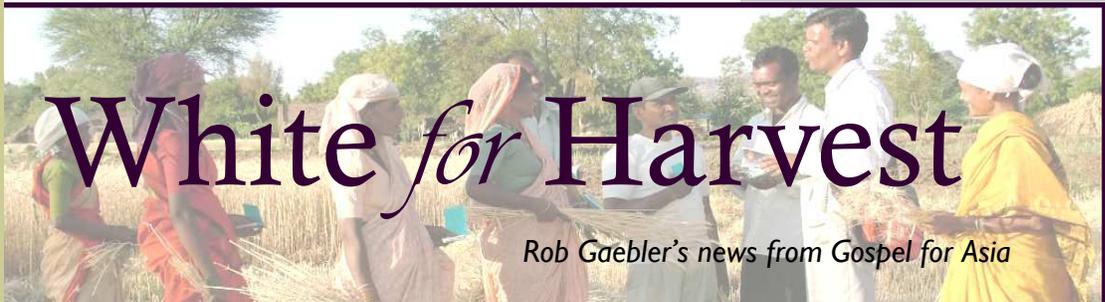


Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! (John 4:35)



White for Harvest

Rob Gaebler's news from Gospel for Asia

June 2008



nytimes.com

Above: Flooding in Cedar Rapids, IA, where my family lives

Below: Gospel for Asia volunteers carry bags of rice destined for cyclone survivors living in relief camps.



"Buddha might be sleeping, for he is doing nothing for us, but Christians are everywhere, sharing from whatever they have." — a cyclone survivor

Dear Friends,

It seems that the world is getting flooded! From Myanmar, to Sri Lanka, to Iowa, the water is where it shouldn't be. The flooding hit close to home recently. I was shocked to see Cedar Rapids, IA (where my family lives) on the front page news. The river crested at nearly 32 feet – twelve feet higher than the previous record. The whole downtown was under water, 1300 blocks were flooded, and 24,000 people (20% of the city) had to evacuate. Thank God, my family is safe.

The damage in Iowa pales in comparison to the utter devastation in Myanmar (Burma), where Cyclone Nargis struck the nation with fury on May 3, killing an estimated 130,000 people. A 12-foot high tidal surge wiped low-lying villages completely off the map—it was just like another tsunami. Millions of people's lives are in crisis right now.

To make matters worse, the government, which is known for being extremely brutal and repressive, has shown once again that they care more about controlling the people than keeping them alive. News reports show thousands of people being forced back to devastated villages, trying to stay alive on small portions of rice and rainwater, even as outside aid is being blocked.

It is easy for me to watch these things with interest but my heart to remain cold. As I

reflected, though, I thought of four ways Jesus would have us respond. First, we must *have faith in God*. God is still good, and we will see His love shine in this hour of darkness. Second, we should *pray earnestly* – God is listening. Third, we should *"mourn with those who mourn"* (Rom. 12:15). Let our hearts break for the things that break God's heart, and not merely be "interested." Fourth, let us *show compassion* and help in any way we can. "But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?" (1 John 3:17).

By God's grace, Gospel for Asia has been able to share the love of Christ with those in need. "Because of our previous service to the nation in times of such need, our national leader in Myanmar has a good reputation among government leaders, and the local churches are held in high regard," explained GFA President and Founder K.P. Yohannan. "As a result, the government has agreed to allow GFA/Believers Church to not only bring in supplies, but also to make sure they reach the people who are in such desperate need."

In what he described as a near-miracle, the Myanmar government has also given special permission to GFA to open medical clinics in its church compounds. "This is a very unusual situation," Yohannan said, "and it is good because we have 400 churches in Burma, and many are in the most affected areas." Our peo-

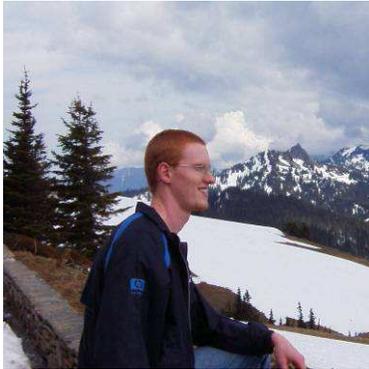


"Son, I'm too old not to eat any food regularly," this elderly woman pleaded with a Gospel for Asia worker. "Please don't forget us, or we all shall die if you don't feed us!"

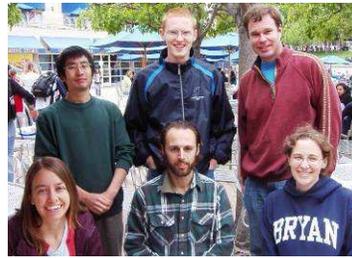
ple are working around the clock to provide food and medical help for the people in need. Starvation is the major problem right now. We are also starting an orphanage to care for 90 orphans in critical need.

All the love and help being offered in Jesus' name has not gone unnoticed. One of the storm's survivors said, "Buddha might be sleeping, for he is doing nothing for us, but Christians are everywhere, sharing from whatever they have." GFA's correspondent added that "people in Myanmar understand that the Christians are the people full of love."

"Rebuilding Myanmar could take years. And since our missionaries, churches and Bible college students are indigenous, they are there for the long haul," Yohannan said. Let us pray for Myanmar, and believe God for great things!

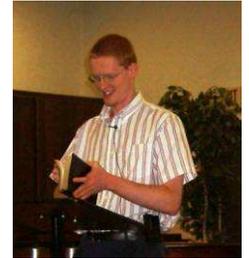


Left (top to bottom):
A few hours in the mountains—my favorite place • Family reunion on the Olympic peninsula • Siblings and cousins exploring tide pools • Hurricane Ridge in WA



Left: Re-connecting with friends in San Diego

Below: Speaking at Sovereign Grace Baptist Church in Ontario, CA



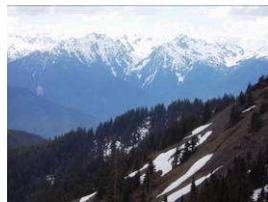
How Is Rob Doing?



I am doing very well, and I have much to be grateful for. Thank you for praying for me. I have recently enjoyed some sweet times in prayer, opening my heart to God and hearing from Him. I have noticed that



when I am inconsistent in prayer and Bible reading I'm dry, but when I'm consistent my path is filled with light and joy. Jesus is teaching me to love and trust Him more—especially through my personal struggles. There are some things I've been "wrestling in prayer" about. Sometimes when I make sacrifices to follow the Lord I feel like I'm alone. But then I am encouraged to remember Jesus said the path to eternal life is narrow and lonely. As long as I'm with Jesus, I am content.



Two years ago on May 22 God clearly called me to join GFA staff. God gave me a special blessing this year on that date, too. On May 22 and May 23 God gave me the answers to two major personal requests I had been praying for months. Praise the Lord! Receiving these answers to personal prayers has encouraged me to intercede more earnestly for other people and for Asia. One of these an-

swers was that I will be leading an intern house for another year! Michael and Tye have been a blessing in my life in many ways, and I know I will miss them once they finish the internship in July. I have helped guide and encourage them through their year at GFA, but I've probably learned more from them than they have from me! I will move into a new house on August 2, and pre-



Jon and Rose Hakim married on May 10

pare for the next internship that starts Aug 16. Please pray God will grant me wisdom and grace as I guide the incoming interns, Danny and Shawn, through their preparation and support raising. I really need to hear from the Lord.

In May, I made two wonderful trips to the West Coast. On May 10, Jon and Rose, two

of my best friends from college, were married in Covina,

CA. I took advantage of the opportunity to meet with several other friends and supporters from the area. I also spoke on May 11 during the adult Sunday School hour at Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, which I attended while in college, and gave an update about GFA and myself. As I got up to speak, God gave me the grace I needed. It is always a thrill and a challenge when I get to speak; I love sharing about what God is doing and encouraging people to live their lives fully for Him.

On May 24 to 29, I went to my favorite state – Washington – for a family reunion of my mom's side of the family. We rented a few cabins by the beach and had a wonderful week together.

Please pray for us at GFA. We are experiencing increased spiritual attack—yet we are staying focused on saving over 2 billion souls who have never heard the name "Jesus."

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*



Left: A Saturday morning prayer walk with some GFA guys

Right: Interns helping Jill at her home (Jill volunteers at GFA)



Rob Gaebler • PO Box 116203 • Carrollton, TX 75011 • (214) 300-5741 • robgaebler@gmail.com
Gospel for Asia • 1800 Golden Trail Court • Carrollton, TX 75010 • (972) 300-7777
I would love to hear from you!