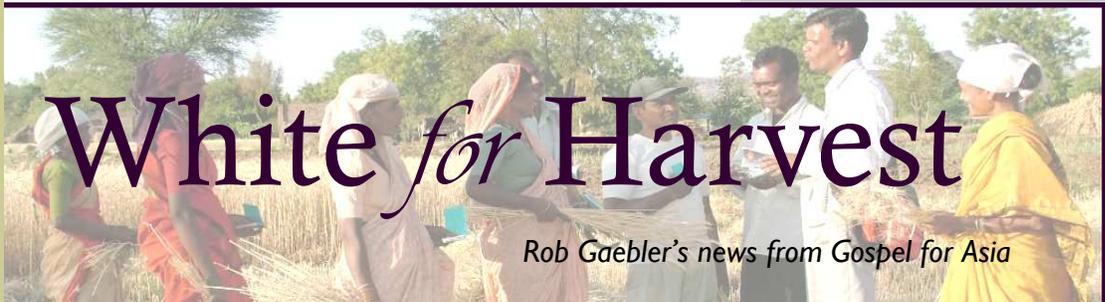


Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! (John 4:35)



# White for Harvest

Rob Gaebler's news from Gospel for Asia

July 2009



GFA STOCK PHOTO

**Above:** Manja Tamang, 1997

**Below:** Manja (L) is free at last after nine years in prison. He is escorted out of prison by GFA's Nepal leader, N. Sharma (R).



*Manja's suffering was not in vain. "I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds" (John 12:24).*

Dear loved ones,

Two months ago I was going through some real struggles in my life, but I encountered the Lord's grace through it all. During the worst part of my trial, I heard some wonderful news that helped me put things in perspective.

Actually, it's an answer to a decade of prayers from all over the world. You may have heard the story of Brother Manja Tamang, a GFA missionary in Nepal—perhaps you've even been praying for him. We recently heard from the mission field that, after being imprisoned for nine years for a crime he did not commit, Brother Manja has been set free!

In 1997, Manja Tamang began serving the Lord with GFA. One evening in 2000, while returning from ministry in a nearby village, he stumbled across a dead body. He reported it to the police, but a group of anti-Christians framed him for the murder. Several days later, he was arrested, charged with the crime, and nearly beaten to death.

This brought him to his next mission field: The prisons of Nepal. Sentenced to twenty years—in spite of the victim's widow's testimony of his innocence—Manja was persuaded that the Lord would use even this for His glory. While lawyers worked feverishly to clear his name, and the church across the world fasted and prayed for his release, Manja shared the love of Jesus with a

group of otherwise unreachable souls.

Throughout his imprisonment, Manja ministered to his fellow prisoners, often with more than 30 inmates joining him for Bible study and worship. Those that visited him saw an impenetrable smile, as he followed Paul's example and rejoiced in the Lord always. Eventually, his

cheerfulness caught the eye of prison officials, and as with Joseph in the Bible—a great inspiration to Manja—he found himself in a role of leadership, teaching social studies classes and helping in the prison's medical department.

Meanwhile, his wife Rati found strength in the Lord. "Manja always brings words of hope to me. He always says, 'There are not many years left.' Then he also reminds me from God's Word that through these trials, He is preparing our life for a much higher and better ministry, and this helps us know Him closer." Determined to continue ministry, she enrolled in a Bible college, and now teaches kindergarten at a Bridge of Hope center, even while being a "single" mother of two. "While my husband is in prison," she said, "I carry the ministry until he comes out, so that as a family we will continue together."

On May 29, Manja walked out of the Nepal prison, ac-



After Manja's release, there is so much talking and laughter that no one stops to make dinner—after all, they have nine years of tales to tell!

companied by a friend and fellow prisoner whom he had led to Christ. As his family celebrates their reunion, believers all over the world praise God for the miracle of this man's testimony.

As I thought about the painful trials that my brother Manja has gone through, I realized that my own struggles are actually quite small. I consider myself very blessed that I get to serve Manja and others like him in Asia who are truly laying down their lives for the Gospel. If I can pay a small price to help them take the Gospel forward, it's worth it!



Manja (R) with a brother he led to Christ in prison



**Above:** Prayer requests being shared at GFA's 30th anniversary all-night prayer meeting



**Above:** The six graduating students

**Below:** Praying for them before sending them off



*My friend, you don't even realize how much your prayers and support matter to me — and to the Lord! I am very grateful to you for your help in this journey. Through your help, I am able to serve the Lord full time at GFA, and a glorious harvest of souls is being reaped in Asia! I want to encourage you to keep on persevering in offering yourself daily to the Lord.*

*Yours in Christ,  
Rob Gaebler*

## Great is Thy Faithfulness

Praise God for His faithfulness over the last thirty years! July 3<sup>rd</sup> was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gospel for Asia. In fitting style, we celebrated this event by taking the first half of our monthly all-night prayer meeting to thank God and listen to the “old-timers” share stories of God’s work in our midst over the years. The

## Coming and Going

On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, we held a very special graduation ceremony for the six School of Discipleship students who just finished their year at GFA. I will definitely miss Danny and Shawn, whom I had the privilege of living with and discipling this year. During the last year, God brought the three of us together in love and unity, though it was not always easy. It has been a delight to see Danny and Shawn make difficult choices in submission to God and live with open hearts, ea-

ger to learn and grow in the Lord. I have learned as much from them as they have learned from me. One of the biggest things I have been learning is to serve them and put their needs above my own.

Shawn will raise support to come back on staff at GFA, and Danny will go on to college to prepare for ministry. I am very proud and excited for them. Praise the Lord!

Thank you for praying for the Lord to give me guidance.

Through much prayer, God has led me to continue serving on the Discipleship Team for a third year. On August 15<sup>th</sup>, seven new students will arrive, including Judah and Tim, whom I will be discipling this coming year. My desire and prayer is that Jesus Christ will be formed in their hearts during their time with us. *I need much wisdom to know how to lead and serve them well. Please pray for the Lord to give me a fresh vision of His will for next year.*



Danny, Shawn, and me

## Pressing Onward

Recently I went through a very difficult period. God was testing me to see if I would fully surrender myself to Him and trust Him. I also experienced spiritual attack in a way I never had before. I vividly remember one night that I was walking and praying and crying out to God. One minute my mind was overwhelmed with sorrow, and the next minute I was looking up to heaven and setting my faith and love on Christ (it took all my strength to do this). It was a battle.

I give glory to God, because He gave me abundant

grace and was near me in my distress. I can honestly say that I have no regrets, because I saw God’s hand at work in my situation. A very godly brother gave me this advice: “Don’t waste the pain.” I have been given a renewed vision for the future and a desire to serve God with all my heart. My greatest treasure is Jesus; He alone is the answer to all my deepest needs.

I am learning that life is a battleground, not a playground. The strongest of us is far weaker than Satan. I have seen how our prayers make a real, powerful difference in this battle. Only by God’s grace can we press on and prevail. Life is

also a race, not a stroll. The key to running the race well is setting our eyes on Jesus. “*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith*” (Heb 12:2). Thank you so much for praying for me!



*My prayer recently: “Lord, whatever price I can pay that will help advance Your kingdom, I want to pay that price.”*

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*I would love to hear from you!*