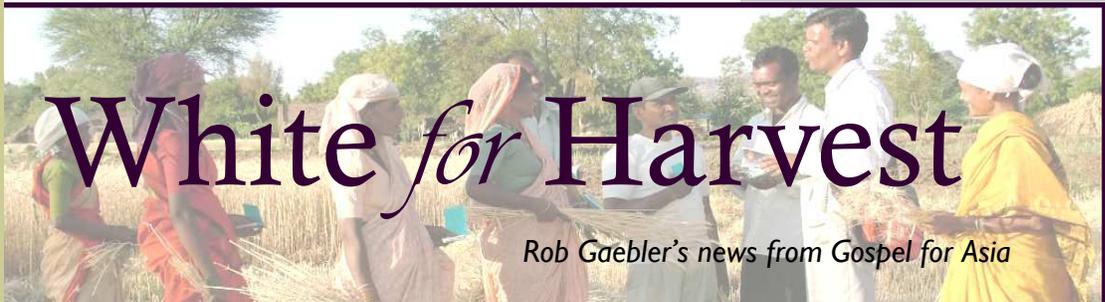


Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest?’ Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! (John 4:35)



# White for Harvest

Rob Gaebler's news from Gospel for Asia

August 2010

Dear friends,

I am very grateful for you and your essential part in my ministry here at Gospel for Asia. I am reminded of the awesome privilege – and responsibility – we have to take part in the work that is so close to the Lord’s heart – rescuing multitudes of souls from sin’s degradation in this life and from hell. Thank you so much for laying aside your own self-interests each time you send me financial support and pray for the lost world.

from using the donor database we have been using for 18 years, Dasco, to an entirely new database, DonorStudio, along with a relationship management program called CRM. Sounds simple, right – you just throw a switch? Nope. The four guys on the software team at GFA have put in major overtime for months programming the new product. All the departments at GFA were carefully trained on how to use it. In my department, Church Relations, I was designated the “go-to” man responsible for

praise God – but the software guys have since been overwhelmed putting out “fires” with things not working right yet. It’ll be months before we are moving forward full speed using the new system. Still, I am very enthusiastic, and believe the new capabilities will greatly benefit Church Relations in the long run.

## Family News

Thank you for praying for my mom. It has been almost a year since we found out she

*My daily prayer: “May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands” (Psalm 90:17).*

had cancer. In May the cancer

Things are hopping here at GFA! The writers have set aside other writing assignments to focus solely on writing new Regional Profiles for our ministry regions in Asia. So much is happening on the internet these days that the Web Department has grown to include eleven people (when I first came to GFA it only had two people).

answering questions and communicating with the IT department about our needs, so I put in a lot of extra time learning the new system. I hear “Hey, Rob!” several times a day from people in Church Relations who have questions, and I am happy to help them.

went into remission — praise God — but it is back, and Mom has started undergoing chemotherapy again. *Please pray for the Lord to mercifully heal her, and to uphold her and the family during this difficult time.* I will be visiting my family in Iowa Sept. 18-26.

Finally, Monday, July 26 was the “Go-Live Date.” When we came into the office that morning, we all had the new DonorStudio program. The conversion was smooth as far as database conversions go –

But by far the greatest activity has been a result of GFA’s database conversion. For over a year, the ministry has been preparing to switch

**Top right:** Judah and Tim, two students the I mentored, are returning on staff. Praise the Lord!

**Right:** Seven students graduated from GFA’s School of Discipleship on July 20th.



**Top:** We all prayed before officially ushering in the new database for GFA.

**Above:** Brother K.P. pushes “the button” to start the conversion to our new database.

## News flash:

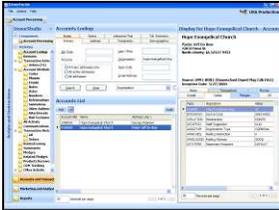
I am training to run my first marathon (26.2 mi.) on Dec. 5th. Have any of you run a marathon? I would love to hear about it!





**Above:** Our last Church Relations group photo. Kimberly, the new student whom I am training, is on the left.

**Below:** DonorStudio, which will be my playground—I mean, my tool at work—from now on.



## “How do you like working with DonorStudio?”

A couple weeks ago, John, one of the leaders at GFA, pulled me into his office and asked, “How do you like working with DonorStudio?” I said that I really enjoy it – in fact, it is probably my favorite thing I have worked on here at GFA. Then John said, “There’s a reason I asked that question,” and explained that Ralph, the guy on the software team who has been our database specialist for many years, will be moving to the Web Department. How would I like to take his place in IT?

Whoa, I wasn’t expecting that at all. I love working with the people in Church Relations and have never desired to be anywhere else, but I am glad to

serve wherever the leadership asks me to go. So of course I said yes to John. I definitely have a mathematical bent, so I think this new position will be right up my alley. I don’t know anything about databases or using SQL, so I have a ton to learn.

Here’s the plan: I have about 2-3 weeks left in Church Relations, during which time I will train Kimberly, a new student who just arrived for the School of Discipleship. I will also document like crazy and train the rest of Church Relations since I am the “expert” on the new database. Then I will start getting trained in IT at the end of September.

In the world, this move

would be seen as a promotion, with a pay increase to go with it. But for us at GFA, there is no concept of “promotion,” just flexibly serving where most needed. I would gladly serve by taking out the trash if that’s where I was assigned.

I have been working overtime to finish as much as possible before I move. *Please pray for me, that I can accomplish all that is needed in the short time I have left. Pray that Church Relations will be able to carry on fine without me.*

By the way, IT stands for Information Technology (i.e. “computers”). I didn’t know that until I came to GFA. IT is basically the central nervous system of GFA.



A GFA-supported missionary (in the blue jacket) is helping this family move their household goods to higher ground

## Rejoice that You Suffer

One of my goals in August was to read 1 Peter every day. In this short book, Peter talks a lot about suffering as a Christian. One of my favorite passages is 4:12-13, which says, “Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. *But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ*, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.” It is beautiful and powerful when I hear about believers in Asia who have this attitude about suffering.

One recent report from the field grabbed my attention. Amodini, a Christian woman in Karnataka, India, was brutally attacked in July. She is a member of a GFA-affiliated church. Fifteen men came to her home one day and began accusing her

of forcing people to convert to Christianity.

Then the men grabbed Amodini and started beating her. Witnesses described a horrific scene. The men removed her clothes in public and attacked her with knives. After some villagers rescued Amodini, she was hospitalized.

The latest update reported that Amodini had been discharged from the hospital but was still on bed rest, in much pain. The men who attacked her have been arrested and a trial is underway.

The amazing part of this story to me is Amodini’s response. She says she will continue helping the local GFA missionary to reach the village with the love of Jesus. She said, **“I am happy that I am persecuted for Christ’s sake.”** Think about that. Is that what

you would say?

*Please take a moment, sitting wherever you are, and pray for the Lord to heal Amodini’s body, and that she would be a powerful instrument of God’s love in that village. Pray that her attackers would repent and turn to Christ, who is rich in mercy.*

On an unrelated note, I would be remiss if I did not mention the devastating floods in Pakistan. One-fifth of this Islamic nation lies under water, and 20 million people have been displaced. It is one of the worst natural disasters in Pakistan’s history. *Please pray for God to show His mercy for these people, and for GFA’s workers who are reaching out to give relief, tell people about God’s love, and pray with them.*

*Dear friends,  
I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your partnership in the work of the Gospel. I pray that through you, Christ’s love will be shown to many people in Asia. I am grateful for your faithful support and prayers.*

*Yours in Christ,*

*Rob Gaebler*

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*I would love to hear from you!*