

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

February 2011



Above: my new roommates Michael, Jon, and Alex

Below: Setting up my loft bed with Jon



Purpose Phrases

I have recently been pondering these gems, which I love to hold up to the light to see their radiant colors. They help me keep my purpose in view:

- "Know Christ and Make Him Known" (motto of GFA-affiliated churches)
- "I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me" (Acts 20:24)
- "May the Lamb that was slain receive the reward of His suffering!" (Moravian missions cry)
- "For the love of Christ compels us" (2 Cor. 5:14)

Do you have a favorite verse, motto, or phrase that summarizes your aim? If so, please share it with me! My email is robgaebler@gmail.com.

Dear Beloved,

I am very grateful for you and how you are making it possible for me to serve at Gospel for Asia. Thank you so much for giving and praying for me; I definitely need your gifts and prayers. And through our partnership, spiritual life is being birthed in many people in Asia by God's power!

These have been good times – and busy times. During the last three months, I have lived in five places. At the end of November, I moved out from the Johnsons, the wonderful family whom I had lived with for most of 2010. I stayed with various people until I moved into an apartment with Alex, Michael, and Jon, three other guys who are on staff at Gospel for Asia. Three of us are from Iowa! Three of us are also School of

Discipleship grads. Jon has since moved to another apartment.

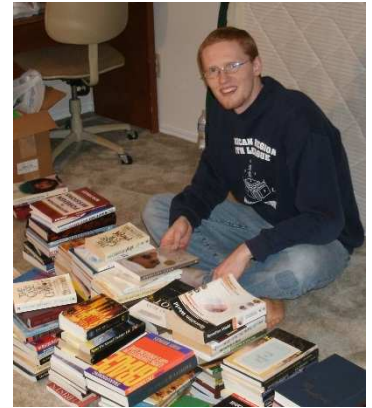
I took this move as an opportunity to go through all my possessions and get rid of things I no longer need or use. I found it surprisingly difficult to let go of my things! So I turned to God's Word to gain the right perspective. "Do not love the world or anything in the world" (1 Jn. 2:15). "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want" (Ps. 23:1). In the end, I reduced my boxes in storage from 15 down to 3.

At the end of January, I

had the privilege of staying with the new School of Discipleship guys, Michael, David, and Ralieg, for two weeks while their house mentor was in India. We quickly



Above: I got to stay for two weeks with Michael, David, and Ralieg, three guys who came for the School of Discipleship



Above: Going through all my things and purging what I don't need

became close to each other. I was blessed by their earnest desire to grow in the Lord and to be a community that honors Him.

There are now 18 young men and women in GFA's School of Discipleship, and for the first time there are more singles than married people serving full time in the GFA office. I love seeing so many young people coming here to serve the Lord.

My Development in Software Development

I have now been serving in the IT Department for almost five months. The first three months were pretty intense, because I was new to IT and, and also because many urgent tasks were being assigned to me. On top of that, Ralph, who was training me, moved to the Web Department in November. That's when I posted this verse on my monitor: "I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken" (Ps. 16:8).

I still have quite a list of tickets assigned to me, but they aren't as urgent and I understand how to do them better now.

I have found the work challenging, but by God's grace it is right up my alley. I tend to think things through carefully. Ray encouraged me that I have the "right wiring" for this kind of work, and that I will be able to learn quickly. Now that I

have more time, I will be studying the SQL programming language to "sharpen my saw" in order to become more effective in my work.

Recently, the five of us on the Software Development team tested a new release of our database software, DonorStudio. We have to make sure things work correctly before rolling it out for everyone at GFA to use.

We uncovered some problems that needed to be fixed first – such as not being able to run the procedure that selects the recipients for our mailings. Imagine what would happen if we deployed the new version of the database without testing it first – and sud-

denly GFA couldn't send out any of our mailings!

I am glad to be able to work on a team and not as a loner, especially because I'm new and still learning a lot. Each of us on the Software Development team relies heavily on each other, because we all have different areas of expertise.



Our Software Development "scrum" where we briefly give progress reports and pray together. Left-right: LaMott, Dave, Rob, Ray, John.

Family and Marathon Updates



"The Most Muddierful Family: The Gaeblers." Each of us is holding up the actual or potential year of our graduation from Harvey Mudd College.

My marathon theme verse:

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize... They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever" (1 Cor. 9:24-25).

Family

While I was home for Christmas, we took a fun family picture with all of us wearing Harvey Mudd College T-shirts. The oldest five of us Gaebler children have all gone to Harvey Mudd for college. Our picture won HMC's T-shirt photo contest under the category "Best group/family/community portrait!" The prize was an iPod nano.

Thank you for praying for my mom as she battles cancer. Really it is a battle for the whole family – it hangs like a dark cloud, always in the background. We recently received good news, though: A cancer scan showed that the main tumor has shrunk, and no longer detected any outlying spots of cancer! Praise the Lord. Mom will continue on with the same chemotherapy treatments, which means continuing days



Here I am doing my prayer marathon on Dec. 5th since I wasn't able to run. I set up twelve one-hour prayer segments throughout the day.

of feeling sick and other unpleasant side effects. But we are still very grateful to the Lord. Please continue to pray.

Marathon for Asia

In my last newsletter, I told you about my training to run a marathon on December 5th. Thank you so much to all of you who contributed to my *Marathon for Asia* fundraiser. By God's grace, \$1064.10 was raised! That will go a long way to help meet my support needs.

Unfortunately, I ended up not being able to run in the marathon due to problems with my knee and hip. So instead I did a prayer marathon in my room. I broke up the day

into one-hour prayer segments from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. with an hour break in the middle. One hour I prayed for the Dalits in India, one hour I prayed for the IT Department, etc. From 3:00 to 4:00 I prayed for all of YOU! I even wore the official marathon shirt and race bib with my number all day, to get in the marathon mood. It was a great day, and I trust that the Lord heard my prayers and one day He will show me how He answered. The biggest problem was that I kept running out of time because there were too many things I wanted to pray for during each prayer segment.



The children in Lekha's Bridge of Hope center joined in prayer for her healing—and God answered!

Dear friends, Your gifts and prayers, given in love, are a fragrant offering to our Lord. You are expressing His love for the children of Asia. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your partnership in the work of the Gospel.

*For His glory,
Rob Gaebler*

Jesus Listens to Kids

Isn't Jesus' love for children remarkable? I far too easily overlook the children around me, but Jesus doesn't. Jesus said "Let the little children come to me" (Mark 10:14), and He taught His disciples that they had to become like children before they could even enter heaven! (Matt. 18:3)

I love it when I see God stoop to answer the prayers of children. One such story took place to a child named Lekha, who was in one of GFA's Bridge of Hope schools. Lekha comes from a Hindu family and her parents are farmers. She had been suffering from epilepsy for five years, and she frequently fell unconscious. When her parents took her to the hospital, the doctors suggested that she undergo an operation, though they could not give any assurance for her survival even after surgery. This discouraged Lekha's parents, and they were not able to decide what to do.

During this time, our BOH children joined their hands together and prayed for Lekha's healing. A staff member also visited Lekha's family and encouraged them with the Word of God. As a result, Lekha experienced complete healing. When her parents took her to the hospital, the doctors were amazed to see that Lekha was completely healed. This miracle made Lekha's family realize that Jesus is the real God. They have received Him as their personal Savior and are attending the local fellowship. Praise God!

This story was extra special to me because it took place in the Telangana Region of Andhra Pradesh in India, where one of the missionaries I support is serving the Lord.

Please pray for the GFA's Bridge of Hope out-



reach, which the Lord is using to transform the lives of tens of thousands of families in Asia. All of us on staff are praying fervently for thousands more children to be sponsored this year.



Lekha and her family gave their lives to Christ after the Lord healed her

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I would love to hear from you!