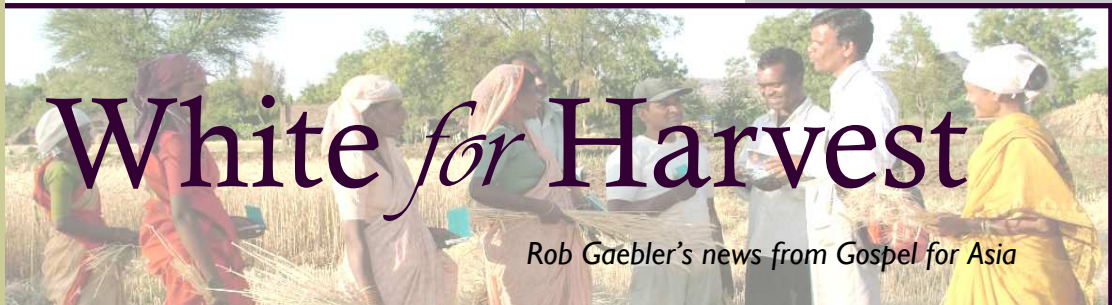


Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest?’ Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! (John 4:35)



# White *for* Harvest

Rob Gaebler's news from Gospel for Asia

August 2011



Above: We are praying for rain.

“We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us” (2 Cor. 4:7).



Above: Nine new School of Discipleship students arrived for the coming year!

Below: Several of the young people at GFA gathered for an evening of worship and thanksgiving



Hello dear friends,

I hope you are enjoying cooler weather than we have here in Texas. One day recently it was 99 degrees outside – at midnight. The temperature has been over 100 most days in the last two months. The ground is all cracked from the heat and no rain. When I first came to Texas, I thought it strange that nobody had basements and that everyone watered their houses’ foundations. Now I understand why — if they don’t water their foundations they will crack.

God has been teaching me recently about the sufficiency of Christ, my feebleness, and my complete dependence on Him. Often I strive in my own strength or think highly of myself. But God has reminded me that all good things I have and all the good I do are given to me by God. Without Him I am *helpless*.

Difficult times can be some of the best teachers. At the end of June I experienced some difficult circumstances that included health problems. I am very grateful that some of my friends from GFA were there and showed me great love and prayed with me during this hard time.

When I was struggling the most, I found myself utterly dependent on the grace of Jesus. I’m

sure many of you have faced times like that, and maybe you’re going through that right now. Scripture was a huge help, like an anchor for my soul. “But we have this treasure [the knowledge of the glory of God] in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair” (2 Cor. 4:7-8). Please pray that I will know more of Christ through my trials.

My difficulties have helped me be more sympathetic to other people, many of whom are going through much harder situations than I am. On August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, two of my friends, Rachel and Rebecca, passed away. Both were wives and mothers of young children, and both died from cancer. Could you please pray for their families? My mom still has seri-

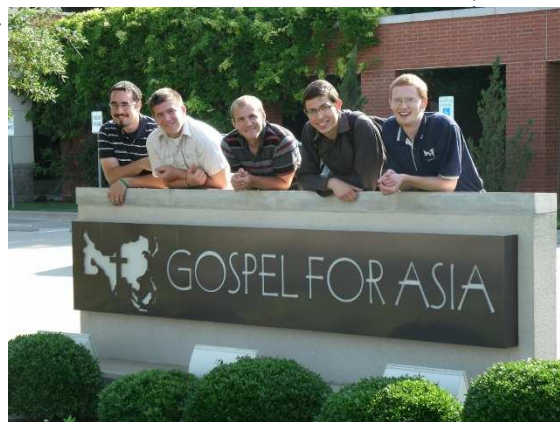
ous cancer, but I am very grateful that God has extended her life two years and granted her good strength and health, especially in light of the death of my two friends.

## School of Discipleship

I am actually doing quite well and have many things to be thankful for. Many exciting things are happening here at Gospel for Asia. Nine new School of Discipleship students arrived August 20<sup>th</sup> for a year of discipleship training, serving in the office, and “dying to themselves.” Though I am no longer on the Discipleship Team, my heart is still with the program. I am glad I still get to be a part in small ways, such as helping students raise support before they get here, and making recruitment calls.

## Band of Brothers

Here I am with four young men who went through GFA’s School of Discipleship and came back on full-time staff afterwards. Three of them arrived on staff in 2011. These guys are special to me because I was their mentor in School of Discipleship. It has been a blessing to be a part of their lives. Their names are Tim, Judah, Alex, and Shawn. Alex is now one of the house mentors for the new students who just arrived.



**I Have Been Reading...**

“Until you are surrendered you are a ‘self-ian’; when you are surrendered you are a ‘Christian.’”

“We never live until we have gone to our own funeral. Then we come back singing.”

“Surrender then is not a grudging compulsion but a happy yielding of ourselves to the love and goodness of God, to God himself.”

—Victory Through Surrender, by E. Stanley Jones

*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. May the Lord bless you and provide all your needs.*

*Yours in Christ,  
Rob Gaebler*

**No Longer a Slumdog**

Have you ever wondered what the top prayer needs are at GFA? I'll tell you a little secret: Among our staff, some of our most insistent prayers are for the **Bridge of Hope**, our outreach to the children of the Dalits of India, who are poor, despised, exploited, and desperate. We have seen that the Dalit children are a key to reaching Asia for Christ. We are earnestly praying to bring 50,000 more children into BOH in 2011, which would truly be a miracle from God.

Brother KP Yohannan has written a new book, **No Longer a Slumdog**, about these suffering children with no voice, and tells their stories. As you listen to them, you share their anguish and rejoice in their triumphs. The whole world seems to stop as you look on.

The following story from the book shocked me when I read it.

On January 7, 2011, more than 50 women from a tribal village in Malda, West Bengal, got together to sell their children at the market. *The Telegraph* newspaper in Calcutta reported:

Among the women was Malati Hembram who had lined up with her five-year-old daughter. “I will sell her off at whatever price I get. The money is not important; I just want my daughter to be taken in by a family which will give her food, shelter and education. We are not being able to sustain ourselves as well as our children and the elders in the family,” Malati said.

The article said it is not an uncommon sight to see women going from door to door trying to find a buyer for their son or daughter.

By God's grace, within a week after hearing this, Gospel for Asia was able to establish a Bridge of Hope center with 150 of these desperately hungry children. They distributed blankets and met some basic needs of the poor people in the village. And a door was opened for our workers to share the love of Christ and bring the assurance that God will take care of them. Thank God that we were able to learn about their situation before it was too late.

The book describes children abandoned at train stations ... sold into servitude ... exploited in unspeakable ways ... because no one cared.

But a new day is dawning for children in some of the darkest corners of the world—no longer rejected, alone, despised ... No Longer a Slumdog. Hope is growing in the hearts of those who never knew such a thing existed.

This book is filled with stories of lives transformed, of whole communities flourishing with new life. To order your copy for a suggested donation of just \$5, go to [www.gfa.org](http://www.gfa.org).

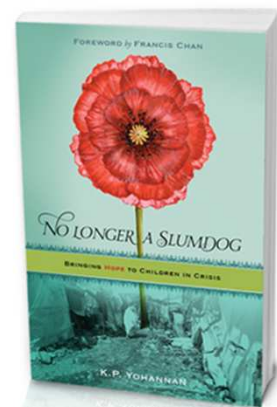
**My Role**

Many of us in the GFA home office have played some part in producing or promoting



the new book. I took part in setting things up in our database for the production of the book, including the mailings and emails related to the book. I have also had the opportunity to give the book out to several people, and I know that my daily prayer for Bridge of Hope are going to be answered.

I hope you get a copy — and tell me what you think!



The new *No Longer a Slumdog* book is great! I devoured it as soon as I got my hands on it. You can get your own copy at [www.gfa.org](http://www.gfa.org).