

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 2012



Above: At the interment. Family members and friends came to the funeral from all over to remember my mom and honor her life.

Only Out of Perfect Love

A few weeks ago my mom emailed recordings of most of her songs, which she had written quite a few years ago, to various family members and friends. She wrote one of these songs, entitled "Only out of Perfect Love," in 1992, during a time of intense grief after my brother died. I think it is very fitting for this time, and shows my mom's heart. If you would like the lyrics or the recording, let me know and I can email them to you. Here is the first verse:

*Only out of perfect love
Do You send me loss,
For You seek to refine me
And burn away the dross.
What I go through
has come from You
And works to make
me pure and true;
And as You try me,
You supply
All my needs
still faithfully;
Nor do You leave me
here to grieve,
But stay to comfort
and relieve.
Because I trust Your
love, O Lord,
I will rejoice in loss.*

Hello beloved friends,

My dear mother, Sally Gaebler, passed away on June 4th at 5:35 p.m., surrounded by her family and beloved friends, as we sang hymns together. We are sorrowful for our loss but are rejoicing in her gain -- that she is now in the presence of our Lord Jesus. She finished the race well.

Since September, 2009, Mom had battled stage 4 colon cancer. Through many chemotherapy treatments, God was gracious and spared her from the most painful side-effects. During the week before she died, her body started shutting down, she became very weak, and she started receiving hospice care. I flew in Saturday night. Sunday morning she was moved to a hospice house, a lovely facility where family and friends were able to visit her during her last hours. On Monday evening she breathed her last.

My mom was dear to many people whose lives she touched. I loved her much and will miss her greatly. She will be remembered for her genuine care and love for people, her humility, her trust in the grace and the sovereignty of God, and for being a truly incredible home-schooling mom who raised seven children well.

Mom often pointed out the hand of God sovereignly at work in all situations, and His faithful undeserved grace. In her obituary, which she wrote herself, she began by saying, "She often said that her life was a testimony of her cluelessness and the Lord's unfailing providence."

Indeed, I can see many things to be grateful for, sweet signs of God's mercy: Mom passed away quickly (though not unexpectedly), without going through great suffering. All of her immediate family was able to be there, including one of my brothers who arrived from California less than an hour before she passed away (an answer to prayer!). Another of my brothers, who has struggled greatly with Mom having cancer and questions about how God could let her suffer like this, had

a spiritual breakthrough by reading Job a couple weeks earlier and was able to release her into God's hands (an answer to prayer!). And there are so many other ways God has taken care of our needs during this time through people's loving support.

During our last hours together, one of us said to her, "We'll miss you," to which she replied "I won't miss you; I'll be dancing!"

The last verse of the hymn we sang during Mom's final few breaths goes like this:



Sally Gaebler, August 25, 1953 - June 4, 2012

Above: Mom holding a quilt that a dear friend made for her, with signatures from people who have loved her through the years. Thank you so much to you who contributed. It was a wonderful surprise for her!

And so my mom passed into the presence of the Lord she loved and looked full in His wonderful face.

Thank you all so much for your care and prayers. I have been very touched by the outpouring of love and sympathy to me and my family. You have added a degree of joy to our experience that is helping carry us through. Please continue to pray for the Gaebler family as we continue on without Mom. Things will be different now. The first week was busy and full of joyful thoughts and memories, but now the grief is beginning to weigh more heavily. Pray especially for my dad and one of my brothers who is taking this quite hard. Pray that we will experience comfort and help from our heavenly Father and that He will protect our hearts.

I am now back in Texas serving at GFA's office. I want to pour my life into rescuing precious souls in Asia who are dying *without* Christ, so that they too can experience the eternal life that Mom possesses -- every second another person in Asia dies and plunges into hell. Please pray for me, that my life will be fruitful for God's glory.



*Through death into life everlasting
He passed, and we follow Him
there;
O'er us sin no more hath dominion
For more than conquerors we are.*

Refrain:

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful
face,
And the things of earth will
grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and
grace.**



Above: Andy Kennedy and I were team "Keebler."
Below: Some other teams. Sara and Katie won "most creative" costume by dressing up as K.P. Yohannan and his wife Gisela.



Hog Slog 2012

In March, the GFA staff held our first "Hog Slog." Fifty two-man teams of all ages competed in this 3-mile relay-type race with obstacles scattered throughout the course. One person ran while the other biked, then they swapped at each obstacle. There was also a "piglet" version for the kids. It was great fun! My teammate Andy and I won first place in our age bracket (sum of ages in 46-69). Prizes were also awarded for the best costumes.



Above: Fresh and energetic at the starting line. **Right:** Some of the obstacles. **Below:** Andy and I finishing the race with the "Hog Slog" mud pit.



Above: John, me, and LaMott at DonorDirect's "Do More" conference. LaMott spoke at one of the breakout sessions and highlighted some of the nifty enhancements we have been able to build onto the system.

At our "Battle Stations"

At Gospel for Asia, we start our work days with a prayer meeting, then head off to our "battle stations" (i.e. our desks). I enjoy working in the IT Department, where I use my problem-solving skills and do programming in SQL. Even though I am serving behind the scenes, I know I am ultimately reaching souls in Asia with the Gospel. One project I worked on in April was to automate the process

for Bridge of Hope sponsors who choose to increase their monthly giving from \$28 to \$35 due to a rise in costs on the mission field. In May, several of us went to DonorDirect's "Do More" conference, where we learned more about the features of our database software, and networked with other ministries that use the software.



Above: The IT Department. Several people have left or joined the department in the last few months.



Kanti's life was desperate until she came to Bridge of Hope.

Child Tries to Kill Herself

I was shocked when I read the story of Kanti. Her father died when she was young, and her family fell deep into poverty. Then her mother fell sick with tuberculosis and was no longer able to work. Kanti was forced to wash dishes for a living. Then one day her employer found out she was from a low caste, an "untouchable," and threw her out, insulting her and saying she wasn't worthy of washing his dishes. In a moment, thousands of years of discrimination destroyed what sense of value the little girl had for herself.

Kanti longed to go to school but they didn't have the money. In an act of sacrificial

love, her mother stopped taking her tuberculosis medication and used the money to enroll Kanti in school and buy school supplies for her.

However, Kanti's mother grew more and more sick without the medication. As young as Kanti was, she started going to the local temple in desperation for help from her deities, but to no avail.

Satan had piled layers upon layers of distress on Kanti's life. That's when Kanti, not yet 9 years old, decided to do something few children even think of—to commit suicide.

Fortunately her plans were interrupted when neigh-

bors happened to come over and showed care to her family. Soon after that, staff from a nearby Gospel for Asia Bridge of Hope center learned of the family's hardships. Kanti was able to enroll and have her needs met. At BOH, she was valued and cared for by the loving staff.

Two years later, Kanti chose to trust in Jesus. Now the Lord has not only saved her but met her family's needs. Her mother's health is also much better, in answer to the prayers of the BOH staff. How exciting it is to hear about God working such an amazing deliverance for this girl and her family!

*Dear friends,
I have recently been encouraged afresh and amazed at how greatly you have helped me through your faithful gifts and prayers. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your partnership in the work of the Gospel.*

*For His glory,
Rob Gaebler*

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I would love to hear from you!