

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)



Rob Gaebler's news from Gospel for Asia

December 2014



**Top:** Dad and Mary Ann at their wedding

**Above:** Mary Ann with her sister and daughter

**Below:** Mary Ann is great on the piano. She used to be a piano teacher, so she fits right in with our family.



Dear friends,

Merry Christmas! I hope that you and your loved ones will experience the reality of the Prince of Peace reigning in your hearts this season.

I have been gathering with a few other people to observe Advent. This is my first time observing Advent, and I like

*And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)*

it. It is good to reflect on the long ages of longing for the Messiah, and how His coming was such great news. Even now, more than 2000 years later, we can experience the same great joy that they had on that day!

### Iowa Trip

I went to Iowa for the wedding of my dad and Mary Ann on November 15. The service was a special, intimate gathering of just a few friends and family, and took place in the living room of my parents' new home. They love each other and I believe they are good for each other. I enjoyed getting to know Mary Ann better and meet some of her close friends and relatives.

While I was in Iowa, I gave a message during the adult Sunday school at my home church, Hope Evangelical Church. I shared about the plight of women in Asia and about what GFA's Women's Fellowship is doing to help build up the women in the churches by grounding them in God's Word and providing much-needed literacy and vocational training. Tens of thousands of women have learned to

read God's Word for themselves and have become more grounded spiritually!

### Christmas Campaign

Here at Gospel for Asia, the Christmas campaign is in full swing. Through the Christmas gift catalog, radio campaigns, and the Web site, families in America are given the opportunity to celebrate Christmas by giving life-changing gifts and sharing the Good News with people in Asia. In my work in IT, I helped set up the select criteria for who we sent the catalog and other Christmas-related mailings and emails to.

We are praying that, together, we can help 200,000 needy families in Asia this year. One destitute family was given a pair of chickens for just \$11, which provided them enough income from

selling the eggs that they were able to afford a life-saving operation for their daughter! For another amazing story about a Christmas gift, read the back of this newsletter.

### Online Christmas Gift Catalog

To find out more about helping families in Asia with practical gifts this Christmas, visit [www.gfa.org/gift](http://www.gfa.org/gift).

I continue to do evangelism often with School of Discipleship students.

Here some of us are helping at an evangelism booth at the State Fair of Texas.





**Above:** Pastor Matthew helped the struggling Idhant by helping get him a rickshaw to earn a living  
**Below:** Every day, Idhant shared the Good News with customers he met on his way.



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**Please Pray:**

- Praise the Lord for the coming of the Messiah Jesus and for the hope we have in Him!
- Pray that many in Asia will hear the Christmas story for the first time
- Pray for 200,000 families in Asia to receive Christmas gifts
- Pray for a good and meaningful time with my family at Christmas
- Praise the Lord for the wedding of my dad and Mary Ann! Pray they will grow in love and their marriage will be centered on Christ.
- Pray that I will grow in God's Word

## Rickshaw gift changes many lives

This is an amazing story of how the gift of a simple rickshaw changed a man's life — and resulted in thousands hearing about the love of Christ!

Idhant was a wood cutter, working hard for less than a dollar a day. He managed to scrape by into his mid-40s with little to look forward to—until he met GFA pastor Matthew.

When Pastor Matthew came to Idhant's village and heard the man's story, he was so deeply moved that he invited Idhant to live with his family. Pastor Matthew's wife and children took him in as one of their own, and as they demonstrated God's love each day, Idhant began to want what they had.

Once Idhant decided to embrace Christ, he couldn't keep the Good News to himself. He began traveling with Pastor Matthew to share with others how Jesus could work in their lives. But Idhant continued to struggle financially.

Knowing Idhant's need, Pastor Matthew arranged for him to be given a rickshaw — provided by generous donors in the West — during a Christmas gift distribution program. The next Sunday, an

elated Idhant committed his new rickshaw to the Lord's service.

### Using a Rickshaw to Share Jesus

Idhant's daily income *tripled* with the rickshaw, but he didn't forget his Provider. Every morning, he set out with stacks of Gospel literature to share with his passengers and people around town.

One day, Idhant encountered Tanseem and her husband, Quasim. They were on the way to the hospital when they hired Idhant's rickshaw. Idhant told them about Jesus' power to heal and gave them literature to take home. He also invited the couple to his church so they could hear more. Quasim and Tanseem came to the service, putting their faith in Jesus for healing. Within a few more days, Tanseem was relieved of her illness, and she and her husband decided to follow Christ!

As Idhant continued to share the Gospel each day, word spread about the kind man who distributed literature from his rickshaw. Sometimes people have even tracked him down to hear his message! Now, six years later, thousands have heard the Good News through him.

## Thank You!

*I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your faithful prayers and support this last year. I have such joy serving the Lord here at Gospel for Asia, knowing that I am doing the Lord's will, and that through my service behind the scenes, I am helping enable thousands of national missionaries to preach the Good News and visibly demonstrate Christ's love to some of the most lost and needy people*

*in the world. I want that joy to be yours, too. You are just as important a part of this work as I am; you make it possible for me to serve here. Thank you!*



**New! Rob Gaebler • 1020 Christ Way • Wills Point, TX 75169 •**  
 (214) 300-5741 • robgaebler@gmail.com  
**New! Gospel for Asia • 1116 St. Thomas Way • Wills Point, TX 75169 •**  
 (972) 300-7777  
*I would love to hear from you!*