



## A Heart Burdened for His People *p.12*

A PASTOR SEES THE STRUGGLES OF THE PEOPLE IN HIS VILLAGE AND HELPS MAKE THEIR LIVES BETTER.



### **More Than a Mother's Love**

Runaway and abandoned children find refuge at Gospel for Asia's children's homes. // p.9

### **Earthquakes Devastate Nepal**

Pastors, missionaries and believers worked tirelessly to bring aid to survivors of one of Nepal's most devastating earthquakes in its history. // p.12





# gfa world

**Editor-in-Chief** K.P. Yohannan  
**Managing Editor** Michelle Jiménez  
**Contributing Editors** John Beers, Gisela Yohannan  
**Writers** Savannah Conole, Susan Lawson, Megan McGarrah  
**Design** DOXA  
**Production** Gwendolyn Cross  
**Printing** The John Roberts Company

**GFA World Volume 2, Number 2**  
[formerly known as *SEND!*]

*GFA World* is published three times per year by Gospel for Asia, Inc., 1116 St. Thomas Way, Wills Point, Texas 75169. ©2014 Gospel for Asia, Inc. Each issue costs about 70 cents per copy to produce. Please contact us for permission to reproduce any part of this magazine.

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture is taken from the New King James Version. Copyright ©1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

For security reasons, many names of people and places in our stories have been changed.

**About Gospel for Asia:** We are committed as a family of believers to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with lost men, women and children throughout Asia who still have not heard His precious name. Our ministry is about changing lives—both for this life and for eternity.

One hundred percent of all contributions for use on the mission field are sent to the nations we serve.

Please visit us: [www.gfa.org](http://www.gfa.org)



Please turn to page 20 to read a small portion of GFA's School of Discipleship history.



9



12



16



7



14



19



20

## Features

### More Than a Mother's Love / 9

A young boy and girl find refuge at Gospel for Asia's children's homes.

### A Heart Burdened for His People / 12

A pastor sees the struggles of the people in his village and helps make their lives better.

### Bridge of Hope Staff and Their Simple, Extraordinary Love / 16

Meet three Gospel for Asia Bridge of Hope staff members, and learn about their love for the children they serve.

### Come Die So You and Others May Live / 20

Gospel for Asia's School of Discipleship celebrates 10 years of young men and women giving a year of their lives to pursue the Lord.

## Departments

Conversations / 4

News from the Mission Field / 6

Ministry Focus / 14

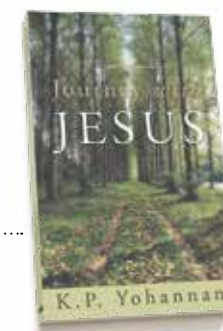
Profile / 15

Guest Writer / 18

Prayer Focus / 19

Resources / 22

Five Minutes with K.P. / 23



## CONTACT GFA IN YOUR COUNTRY:

**Australia**  
P.O. Box 3587 Village Fair  
Toowoomba, QLD 4350  
1300 889 339  
07 4632 4131  
[info@gospelforasia.org.au](mailto:info@gospelforasia.org.au)  
[www.gospelforasia.org.au](http://www.gospelforasia.org.au)

**Canada**  
245 King St. East  
Stoney Creek, ON L8G 1L9  
1-888-WIN-ASIA (946-2742)  
905-662-2101  
[infocanada@gfa.org](mailto:infocanada@gfa.org)  
[www.gfa.ca](http://www.gfa.ca)

**Finland**  
Gospel for Asia ry  
PL 63  
65101 Vaasa  
Finland  
+358500369699  
[infofi@gfa.org](mailto:infofi@gfa.org)  
[www.gfa.fi](http://www.gfa.fi)

**New Zealand**  
P.O. Box 302 580  
North Harbour 0751  
0508-918-918  
[infonz@gfa.org](mailto:infonz@gfa.org)  
[www.gfa.org.nz](http://www.gfa.org.nz)

**South Africa**  
P.O. Box 28880  
Sunridge Park 6008  
041-360-0198  
[infoza@gfa.org](mailto:infoza@gfa.org)  
[www.gospelforasia.org.za](http://www.gospelforasia.org.za)

**South Korea**  
Seok-Am Building, 5th Flr.  
6-9 Tereran-ro 25 gil,  
Yeoksam-dong  
Gangnam-gu  
Seoul, Korea (R.O.K.)  
135-080  
(080) 801-0191  
02-6279-7798 or 02-6279-7799  
[infokorea@gfa.or.kr](mailto:infokorea@gfa.or.kr)  
[www.gfa.or.kr](http://www.gfa.or.kr)

**United Kingdom**  
PO Box 316  
Manchester  
M22 2DJ  
0161 946 9484  
[infouk@gfa.org](mailto:infouk@gfa.org)  
[www.gfauk.org](http://www.gfauk.org)

**United States**  
1116 St. Thomas Way  
Wills Point, TX 75169  
1-800-WIN-ASIA (946-2742)  
972-300-7777

# You Will Make It



In this conversation, K.P. Yohannan gives practical advice on how to avoid distractions while on your journey with God.



**Q We want to follow the Lord, but it's so easy to get distracted. How do we stay focused?** // Well, I'd encourage you to think about the privilege the Lord has given you to follow Him. I began my journey serving God when I was barely 17. Now, being a little older, I look back and I can't imagine anything or anyone in the whole wide world I would exchange for the journey of following the Lord and serving Him.

What better thing could we do with our lives than to follow the Lord?

I'm not saying it's easy. By the time you finish reading 2 Corinthians, Paul's extremely personal letter, you think, "Oh my goodness, this is absolutely unbelievable! The beatings, the sufferings, the stoning, the hunger and nakedness and shipwreck and being misunderstood and forsaken . . ."

And then he says, "Oh, they are nothing." He makes that statement after he has paused, been silent and meditated on what is to come: when he will enter into eternity where there is no time.

So what made all the difference for Paul? It was that he focused on what is to come. And you know, heaven is not heaven because of the gold and diamonds. No, heaven is heaven because of Jesus. And that's what we are looking forward to.

But maybe you're wanting something practical you can do. Because we are humans and we easily become preoccupied, it is good to have a few minutes in the morning to stop and pray and read a couple of verses. Then at noon and in the evening, do the same thing. That will help keep our hearts from getting cold and hard.

And then, watch out for distractions.

**Q What kind of distractions?** // There are a million things that can distract us. John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* talks about many things that shift our focus and make us weak and feeble so that we want to give up.

One of the main distractions we face is fear of the unknown. "Who am I going to marry?" "How am I

going to get money?" "Many of my friends have fallen back into the ways of the world. How am I going to make it?"

Listen: We are called to hope and trust in God. He will go before us. We shouldn't put our focus on or dwell on the unknown. The enemy will use that. But if you fear God and know He is sovereign, nothing will destroy you.

Second, if we are not careful, we can become preoccupied with the cares of this life. As Jesus talked about in Matthew 13, in this race, all of a sudden, you can become concerned about comfort and ease and material things, especially when people are asking you, "What about your future? What about this college degree?" If that happens, talk to them about people who lived 100 years ago. They made the money and did all the things people talk about, and what happened to them? They are under the ground, and they didn't take one penny with them. We need to be careful. Jesus warned us that the cares of this life will destroy our hearts.

And the third thing I would say to be careful of is introspection. One of the devil's main strategies is to make people preoccupied with themselves. Even when you are doing well, you can look inside and see the hypocrisy, the lack of reality, and you blame yourself. That's how the devil works; he is the accuser of the brethren.

Introspection is like quicksand: The more you struggle with yourself, the faster you go down.

**Q What can we do to avoid getting trapped in introspection?** // You know, Peter failed miserably when he denied Jesus. He had every reason to look inside himself and despair. The only reason he made it through was that he met Jesus on the seashore. Jesus didn't ask, "Peter, why did you do all that?" No, Jesus never asked one question about it. What helps us overcome getting caught up in ourselves is knowing that Jesus loves us.


I mean, who among us doesn't have sin or discouragement? Who among us doesn't fail? There are a million things we don't want to let anybody

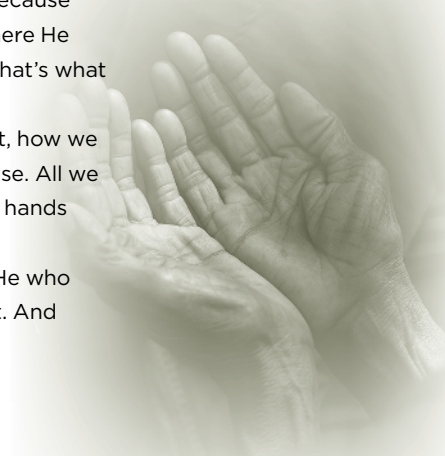
know about us, but He knows them all. And He is not discouraged about us—you need to know that.

He will fight for you till the very last second of your life so you will make it. When you are down, He will carry you. When you don't know what to do, He will shine the light brighter for you to see it. Sometimes it's through a song or an email or a book or something, so don't focus on yourself. Take one look at self and ten looks at Jesus.

**Q Is there anything we can do to ensure we'll follow the Lord all the days of our lives?** // We can and we should make a decision to say, "No matter what, I'll never give up because Jesus is real. No matter what He says or where He sends me, that's what I'm going to be and that's what I'm going to do."

But to try to figure this whole thing out, how we are going to survive in this battle, is nonsense. All we need to do is leave everything in the Lord's hands and trust Him.

He promised us in Philippians 1:6 that He who began a good work in us would complete it. And He will. 



**We are called to hope and trust in God. He will go before us. We shouldn't put our focus on or dwell on the unknown.**

# NEWS

from the  
MISSION  
FIELD



## Believers, Non-believers Celebrate the Resurrection

**NEPAL** – Christians from more than 30 churches in Nepal gathered on April 5, Easter Sunday, to celebrate Christ’s resurrection. Dressed in their Sunday best, the 800 believers, pastors and local leaders joyfully carried colorful posters as they walked together to a nearby college campus. The placards displayed the words of Jesus found in John 11:25: “*I am the resurrection and the life.*” These words provided the theme for their celebrations that day.

The festivities started with a time of prayer from the Gospel for Asia-supported regional leader. During the day, a local pastor was recognized for his decades of faithful service, and several local political authorities who had been invited to attend that day extended warm Easter greetings to the crowd, which also included several non-Christians from the neighboring areas.



The regional leader shared a message about Christ’s love, showing from the Bible how Jesus truly is “the resurrection and the life.” He encouraged the people to fully trust in Jesus, the Resurrected One.

Across the nations, churches led by Gospel for Asia-supported pastors held special times of prayer and worship on Easter. Like the group of believers in Nepal, some crowded together for festivities, while other churches put on more private events. Regardless of the size, Easter provided an opportunity for each group of believers to center their hearts on Jesus once again as they celebrated the resurrection of Christ.

## Giving from the Big Pile— Not the Cash Pile

For more information on giving from the “big pile,” visit [gfa.org/gw/noncash](http://gfa.org/gw/noncash) or call 1-800-WIN-ASIA.

90 percent of the wealth of the average American consists of non-cash assets—the other 10 percent is generally necessary for living expenses.

By giving from the 90 percent, the “big pile” of non-cash assets, you can greatly increase your impact on the mission field.

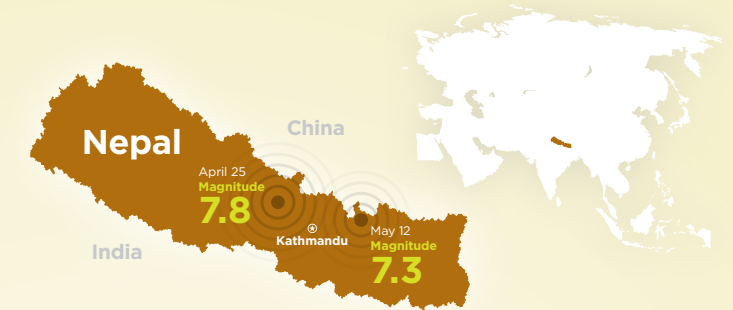
You’ll receive the full tax benefit for your non-cash gifts and possibly avoid capital gains tax too!

### Some common “big pile” gifts include:

- + vehicles
- + stock shares
- + real estate
- + retirement plans
- + life insurance policies
- + business interests
- + personal property valued at \$100 or more



## Earthquakes Devastate Nepal



**NEPAL** – On April 25, a massive 7.8-magnitude earthquake shook the Kathmandu Valley, killing more than 8,000 and injuring nearly 18,000. More than 100 aftershocks rocked the nation, including a 7.3-magnitude quake that increased the fear and tension of many survivors only 17 days after the initial quake.

Some districts saw up to 90 percent of all homes destroyed. An estimated 8 million people—almost one third of the Himalayan nation—were affected by this quake. Recovery is expected to take years.

More than half a million homes were damaged or destroyed, leaving millions without a safe place to stay. Even those whose homes remained standing spent nights in the streets and fields, terrified that more earthquakes would collapse their already unsteady structures.

Christians in Nepal worship on Saturdays, meaning many church services were interrupted by the initial tremors. Ten church buildings led by Gospel for Asia-supported pastors were damaged or destroyed by the quake and its aftershocks.

Gospel for Asia-supported pastors and missionaries in Nepal immediately worked to help those in need, while others scattered throughout South Asia joined in fasting and prayer for the people of Nepal. Many Women’s Fellowship groups formed prayer chains.

Within a week, believers from Uttar Pradesh, India, gathered supplies and put them on a truck to help the hurting men and women across their northern border. Within two weeks, more than 1,000 people living in more than 30 villages of Nepal received food and shelter from Gospel for Asia Compassion Services teams.

But more than just physical aid, these teams lived up to their name by showing compassion to the masses of suffering individuals through listening to the hurting and praying for those in need.

Months later, they continue to offer spiritual support and physical aid.

For more information, visit [gfa.org/gw/nepal](http://gfa.org/gw/nepal).





# Widows Receive Honor, Color During Widows' Day

**INDIA** – On June 23, International Widows' Day, hundreds of women across India and South Asia were blessed with simple and practical gifts, which demonstrate God's love. Gospel for Asia-supported workers organized various events around the subcontinent, where widows were specifically invited and gifted with food items like rice, lentils, salt, sugar and tea. They heard messages from civil authorities and Christian leaders and experienced a hint of God's great love.

As many widows have little to no regular income and may live alone, receiving gifts such as piglets and sewing machines can help improve their livelihoods. Hundreds of such gifts were given.

Colorful saris (traditional Indian dress) were particularly meaningful, as many of the widows were stripped of their "color" at the time of their husbands' deaths, required to wear only white.

One widow expressed her gratitude in tears, saying, "I am so much thankful on behalf of all the widows. We have no income source and can hardly buy clothes sometimes to cover our bodies. I could never imagine buying a piglet to rear. I am thankful to the God-fearing people, who showed their love for us by providing a piglet. We will never forget your blessings."



## WE REMEMBER & HONOR

*We are grateful to these generous friends who have given to Gospel for Asia in memory or in honor of loved ones.*

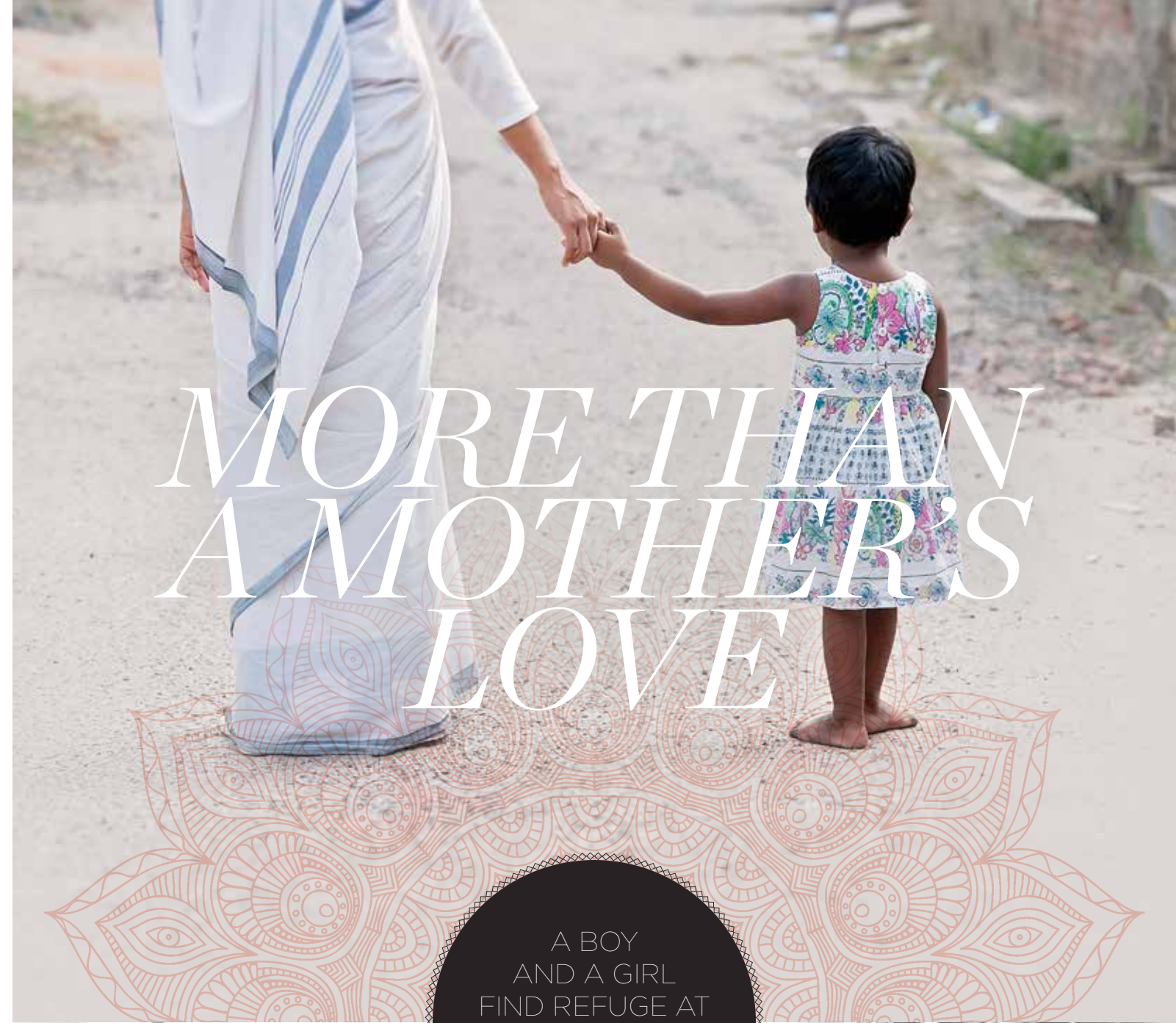
### IN MEMORY OF

- + **John Ivan Balchin** from David and Christine Balchin and family
- + **Nancy Pillay** from the Pillay family
- + **Mr. and Mrs. Puritz** from Mary Seller Hawkins
- + **Richard Tidberg** from Lavon Carlson
- + **William Larson** from Joy Scott, Barbara M. Craig, Roger Soderstrom, Roy and Doris Johnson, Walfred W. Spycher, Jerry and Becky Maier, Kurt and Victoria Skodje, Ann L. Palmquist

### IN HONOR OF

- + **Anya** from Max Stein
- + **Karl Selden** from David and Brenda Joslin
- + **Matt Fahl** from Kenneth Fahl
- + **Stephanie Dietz** from Janet Dietz
- + **Susan Smith** from Mr. Jonathan P. Childers
- + **Brenda Grippin** from Anna Hart
- + **Charles and Joi White** from Margaret E. Indgin
- + **Ella** from Mel and Ellen McDowell

This list is a partial representation of many generous friends who have given to Gospel for Asia in memory or in honor of loved ones. Visit [gfa.org/memoryhonor](http://gfa.org/memoryhonor) to view the complete list. If you wish to make a donation, please contact GFA in your country (see page 2).



# MORE THAN A MOTHER'S LOVE

A BOY AND A GIRL FIND REFUGE AT GFA-SUPPORTED CHILDREN'S HOMES



**I**wish I had my mother or father with me, Nandi thought, weeping in the corner of the room. They would have never allowed anybody to beat me like that. ✘ Nandi had never known his real parents. His adoptive parents treated him like a servant, forcing him to do all the household chores and beating him if he failed to meet their expectations. If he called them mother and father, they got angry. ✘ "You are not our child," they'd say.

Some images on these pages are GFA stock photos.

## MOTHER'S DEATH DEVASTATES DAUGHTERS

When Manjulika woke up one morning, her mother was gone. Later, Manjulika and her sisters got word she had died in the hospital, and their world changed.

From then on, Manjulika would have to mother her younger sisters. Their father worked long hours as a rickshaw driver, and he would come home drunk. Sometimes he beat his children.

As Manjulika took care of her younger sisters, her heart ached remembering all her mother had done for them. Her father, who had no love to give his children, let the government take them to a Gospel for Asia home for at-risk girls.

## BOY RESCUED FROM EXPLOITATION

Nandi decided to run away from his abusive home and boarded a train to a big city. But in a matter of months, he ended up in forced begging. Nandi begged along the roadside all day, and at nighttime a man took all of his earnings and gave him a little food.

Fed up with this routine, Nandi told the man he wouldn't beg anymore. Furious, the man beat Nandi. The

next morning, when Nandi again refused to beg, the man beat another boy in front of him. His will broken by fear, Nandi obeyed.

It wasn't until a few months later that an accident led to Nandi's rescue. As he was crossing the street one night, a car ran over his foot. A police officer rushed to the injured boy and had him taken to a hospital.

Nandi stayed in the hospital for more than six months recuperating. A woman visited him and asked if he wanted to go to a children's home.

"No, I don't want to go anywhere," Nandi said, scared of new people and places.

But seeing her kindness, Nandi reconsidered, and the woman brought him to Gospel for Asia's home for abandoned and runaway boys.

## GIRLS FIND JOY

When Manjulika walked into Gospel for Asia's home for abandoned girls, she entered a place where she would receive love and care—she wouldn't have to be the sole caregiver for her younger siblings. The staff gave them all they needed: food, school supplies and clothes. And as the staff tenderly cared for the girls, Manjulika and her sisters began to experience a kind of love they had long missed.

Whenever Manjulika got sick, the staff sat with her and helped her eat food.

When her birthday rolled around, the women at the home planned a special celebration for her. This was the first time Manjulika had ever had a birthday party.

The staff even enrolled her in a good school, and whenever she had questions about her schoolwork, they helped her.

"These sisters care for us, and they meet all our needs," Manjulika says. "If my mother were alive, she too would have done the same things the sisters are doing to me."

## BOY EXPERIENCES PARENTAL LOVE

For Nandi, entering a children's home was more difficult. During the first few days there, the new faces and the structured lifestyle overwhelmed him, and he broke down in tears. But the staff members comforted him.

"Don't worry, because we are here like your mother and father," they told him.

At the time, Nandi couldn't move much because he was still recovering from his operation, so the women at the home brought him food and medicine.

"If I went through any physical problem, any sickness or any inconvenience, these sisters would come and ask me how they could help me," Nandi remembers. "Even at night when I was not able to sleep, these sisters used to stay with me."

The staff's genuine concern touched Nandi's heart. *Maybe a mother or father would do the same things these sisters are doing,* he thought.


## SHARING THE FATHER'S LOVE


Today, Nandi's and Manjulika's lives look dramatically different than what they did a few years ago. No longer chained to a life of begging on the streets, Nandi is receiving a good education at a local school and experiencing Jesus' love from the staff at the children's home. In the future, he wants to serve Jesus by singing.

"I can see a light in the days to come," he says.

Manjulika also has a dream for the future: She wants to teach children what she's learned. The most important thing Manjulika can share isn't from a schoolbook, though.

"The thing that makes me happy the most is that I know Jesus loves us," she says. "I want people to know Jesus loves each one of them, no matter who they are or what background they are from."

At Gospel for Asia's children's homes, God is restoring many children's lives through the love of staff members who treat them as a mother treats her children. Best of all, these boys and girls are coming to know the love of their Father in heaven. 

 To see more photos of Nandi, Manjulika and the other children at GFA's children homes, visit: [gfa.org/gw/galleries](http://gfa.org/gw/galleries)



"THESE SISTERS  
CARE FOR US,  
AND THEY MEET  
ALL OUR NEEDS."



# A Heart Burdened for His People



**K**anak stood on the platform with a microphone to his lips, talking to a crowd of villagers sitting in red plastic chairs underneath the shade of a makeshift tent. They had been waiting for this day. These were men, women and their children who desperately needed help. Kanak closed his eyes and prayed into the mic for them. Today would mark the first day of their changed lives.

## LIVES FULL OF STRUGGLES

The people were poor. They fell far below the poverty line. And the Gospel for Asia pastor ached for them.

Every day Kanak saw men walk into the nearby forest to cut and collect firewood to sell. He saw mothers, with infants strapped to their sides and bundles of firewood balanced on their heads, begin the miles-long trek to the market. He saw other women selling bottles of “country liquor” (rice beer) so they could earn a little money to support their families. He also saw men wasting their precious income to drink bottle after bottle of that country liquor.

The people didn’t have clean water. They used the nearby river and pond to bathe in, to wash their livestock and dirty dishes in, and to drink from. They didn’t know this water they consumed was the source of many of their sicknesses. But they couldn’t afford medical treatment, so they resorted to superstitious “remedies”—practices that left them worse off than before.

The people lived in a village with no electricity. Electric poles stood by the roadsides without wires and useless, leaving the village in darkness after dusk. Children studied by the flame of a kerosene lamp—that is, if they studied at all.



The people lacked education. Most parents saw no value in their children learning how to read or write because they themselves never went to school.

“When I see the condition of [these] people, their poverty, . . . it hurts me,” Kanak said. “It pains me to see them suffering . . . I wish I could bring changes in their lives.” Slowly, Kanak has.

## GIFTS THAT CHANGE LIVES

During the 14 years Pastor Kanak has been ministering in this village, he’s been able to provide gifts—Christmas gifts—to meet many people’s needs. He spends time with the villagers and becomes acquainted with their struggles, assessing what gifts would help them the most and show them Jesus’ love.

He’s given men and women cows, water buffalo, goats and piglets to help them earn more income. He’s provided bicycles to help people transport firewood to the market, saving them long, strenuous hours on foot. He’s supplied hardworking farmers with water pumps to irrigate and cultivate their land, helping yield a more abundant harvest.



These simple gifts bring changes. One did for Madhul.

## COW ALLEVIATES FINANCIAL STRAIN

Madhul’s husband worked, but he wasted his income on alcohol. With children to feed and educate, Madhul had difficulties providing. In 2006, Pastor Kanak held a Christmas gift program that helped Madhul buy a cow to stabilize her financial situation.

The cow produced milk, and it even gave birth to five calves. Through the milk and the money she earned selling

the calves, Madhul was able to take care of her children. She used her earnings to help construct a new house for her family.

“The cow has been a great blessing to me and my family,” she says. “Today my financial condition is far better, and I am less stressed because of the profit I am making selling the milk and the cows.”



## RECEIVING NEW FUTURES


As Pastor Kanak calls out names, he knows these people’s suffering and poverty will soon come to an end as they experience the sweetness of Jesus Christ, like many others in his village have.

“Rajbir,” he says into the microphone.

A middle-aged man wearing a long-sleeved plaid shirt and red flip flops walks toward the platform. His gap-toothed smile brings joy to those waiting to present him with his gift: a bicycle.

The lean-framed farmer will no longer have to carry vegetables on his back.

“The Lord has been so gracious to me and provided me this [gift] free of cost,” Rajbir says. “I am so happy. Now I can carry all my vegetables from my garden to the market on this bicycle. I will be able to carry more. . . . I also will be able to take my children to school on this bicycle.”

Kanak sees a new future with every person who receives a gift—and his ache for these villagers eases just a little bit more. 

 To see a video of Pastor Kanak sharing his burden for the people, visit: [gfa.org/gw/cg/](http://gfa.org/gw/cg/)



# Into the Heart of the Red-Light District

Pastor Dhinanath walked down the streets of the red-light district looking for Ida. If he was going to carry out his task, he needed permission from the prostitutes' leader.

With a heart of compassion, Pastor Dhinanath explained to Ida why he was there. God had given him and his wife, Lydia, a vision and a burden to serve the prostitutes and their children living in the red-light district. Dhinanath gave Ida a Bible and asked her to read it. The words inside that precious gift were all he had to offer the women, but he knew it could change their lives.

When Ida agreed, Dhinanath set off to share little booklets with messages of hope to the women trapped behind bars of despondency.

The prostitutes received the booklets but were unsure why a man would come to give them gifts.

"What are your intentions for coming here?" they asked him.

Dhinanath shared about Jesus Christ and how the Lord had changed his own life many years ago. Forty women listened to his testimony, wondering if they could obtain the new life Pastor Dhinanath had received.

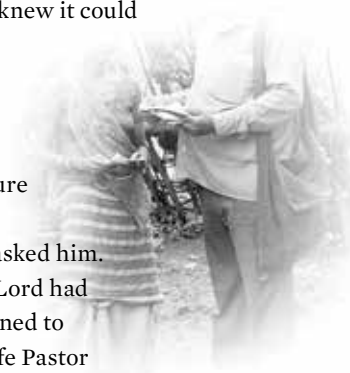
"Please come visit our slums often to share about Jesus Christ," they told him. So he did.

## Living Out the Vision

For six years, Pastor Dhinanath has been ministering to the women in the red-light district, sharing the hope of Jesus. When he is able, he organizes gift distribution events that offer the women another source of income, film showings that show the heart of Christ, and literacy classes that have helped 18 prostitutes read and write.

His wife, Lydia, cannot enter the areas where the women work because of safety concerns, so she ministers to the prostitutes' children instead, helping with Sunday School and VBS.

Pastor Dhinanath carries the vision God gave him and Lydia six years ago close to his heart as he walks the streets of the red-light district, inviting 260 women to experience freedom and a new life. ❶



## An Ex-prostitute's Story

Kaarina had been a prostitute for seven years when she met Dhinanath.

She was working outside her village when a group of young men began harassing and torturing her. Kaarina fell unconscious, and when she awoke, she found herself in the red-light district. From then on, agony and pain filled her life. She wondered if she would ever find a way out.

Pastor Dhinanath was not the first Christian the 47-year-old had met, but he was the first one she listened to. He shared about Christ's love, forgiveness and restoration.

When God healed her of serious back pain, Kaarina knew this God that Dhinanath talked about was real. She decided then to make Him the central part of her life—and she vowed to leave behind the red-light district.

It wasn't easy; people hated her because they knew of her past, but with God's help, Kaarina found new work as a maid.



# Once Healed, Now Healing

Suvali rubbed the sleep from her eyes as she got out of bed. It was midnight, but someone had called needing her help. She woke her teenage son, and they both went out into the darkness.

When they arrived at the home, Suvali asked her son to open the Bible they had brought and read Scripture. Being illiterate, she couldn't read it herself. As God's Word penetrated the air, the person lying before them began to thrash around.

Suvali started praying out loud, seeking the healing power of Jesus to bring deliverance and restoration. Soon, the power of God entered the room, and the person was made well.

## A Similar Past

Suvali was once in desperate need of prayer herself. Only years before, Suvali was in the same condition as those she now prays for. Every day, spirits harassed her. Her family tried

to get rid of the torment by taking Suvali to witch doctors and temples, but it was only through the prayers of one of God's servants that she became well. On the day of her deliverance, Suvali and her family devoted their hearts to Jesus. Ever since then, they have lived as testimonies of the Living God's love—and especially His power to heal and deliver.

Many times, the Lord has used Suvali to bring physical and spiritual healing to the people in her village. She's even been asked to pray for ailing livestock, and the Lord answers her prayers.

## Facing the Opposition

As word spread of Suvali's special gift of healing, some people rose up against her and her family. During one religious festival, a group of men forcibly took Suvali's husband to the nearest temple and commanded him to worship their gods. But Suvali's husband did not bend.

"Even if you kill me here," he said, "it doesn't matter to me. I will not bow down . . . I once did this, but now I have found the living Lord Jesus, whom I worship and serve. . . . I am in Christ, and so is my family."

Surprised by his strong stand, the men let him go.

"Surely a day will come," Suvali said, "when people will know the truth."

## Always Ready, Day or Night

Even though there is a group of people who oppose Suvali's ministry, she continues to pray for those in need, ready at any hour of the day—or night—to share the Word of God and to be used as His instrument of healing. So far, 25 people have come to know the Lord through Suvali's prayers and testimony.

"I just pray in Jesus' name," she said, "and miracles happen." ❶

## Think About It

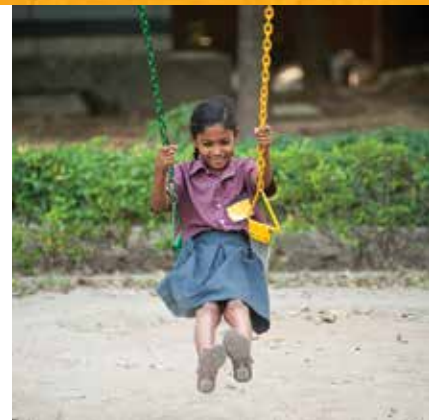
Suvali was an uneducated, illiterate woman, but her heart cried out with gratefulness to her Deliverer. The Lord saw her simple faith and her willing heart, and He knew He could use her to bring freedom to many others.

Some images on these pages are GFA stock photos.





# Bridge of Hope Staff and Their Simple, Extraordinary Love



Barid watched as the little girl stood up.

“I do not have a father,” she said to the crowd. “With my mother’s petty work, . . . life is full of struggles and difficulties. But when I came to this Bridge of Hope center, . . . they provided me everything that I needed for my school. Apart from education, they have contributed so much to my life.”

Tears rolled down her cheeks. Her words moved Barid—she was talking, in part, about him.

## Barid

Barid is a social worker at the little girl’s Gospel for Asia-supported Bridge of Hope center. He, along with the coordinator, two teachers and two cooks, spends hours a day pouring his life and love into the students so they can live better lives than they—and generations before them—could ever have hoped for.

“My purpose here is to help the children learn and change their lives,” he shares. “If I see a child who is not doing

well in studies or someone who is always depressed or lonely, . . . I go and talk to those children.

“Apart from helping and encouraging children at the center,” he continues, “I also take these children in my heart. When I pray before I go to bed, I remember these children.”

The children Barid spends his days with at the center remind him of his childhood. He can relate to many of their hardships because those same hardships were once his own.

“I also come from quite a humble family,” he says. “My mother always struggled to bring us up and give us an education. I can feel and experience that pain when I see these children going through similar situations.”

Seeing the children’s lives change and knowing the Lord has used him to make even one child’s life better fills Barid’s heart with joy.

“Because of . . . God’s special grace, today I am so confident and so satisfied with what I am doing,” he says.

## Gandhali

Gandhali teaches at the center. She has been a teacher for 15 years. She serves in a local school in the mornings and at this Bridge of Hope center in the afternoons.

“Coming to the Bridge of Hope center and serving the children has changed my life and attitude toward serving others,” she says.

Gandhali grew up in a non-Christian home, seeing her family ask their gods only for their own needs.

“But when I came to know Jesus, I was changed,” Gandhali shares. “Here at the Bridge of Hope center, the staff asks God for others. They are so different, and it impacted me very much.”

A few years ago, a boy named Daarun joined the center. He was unruly and would pick fights with other children for no reason. Gandhali kept a close watch on the boy and prayed for him for four years. Today he is totally different.

“Seeing these changes,” she shares, “I am so happy.”

## Nadia

Nadia, a wife, mother and the coordinator of this center, has served these children since its opening in 2006. As part of her role, she goes with Barid to visit students’ homes each day.

“We counsel the parents,” she explains. “We assure them, ‘We will pray for you. We will help you.’ . . . If we speak two words of encouragement, . . . it can encourage them so much.”

When the workload wears on Nadia, she gets discouraged—at times, she has even wanted to leave Bridge of Hope. But then she thinks about her life and the ministry God has given her and the ways students’ parents respond to her.

“Madam,” some women have told her, “this is just because of you, because of Bridge of Hope, . . . that we are able to give education to our children.”

When Nadia hears things like this, she remembers why the Lord brought her here.

“Tears will roll down from my eyes,” she says, “and I give thanks to God . . . for the opportunity He gives to me.”

## . . . And the Fruit of Their Lives

Nearly every day, hundreds of Bridge of Hope staff members in South Asia watch children step across the threshold of their Bridge of Hope center. The work is difficult, but the children are changing—and it makes all their labor worth it.

“This is what Jesus did. He was with the poor, sick and downtrodden,” Nadia shares. “He helped them, and He was with them, and that’s the same passion I have. I feel that, yes, God is calling me for this, and I have to do it. I don’t have any [special] qualities, but I know this is my work.”

To see more photos of Gandhali, Nadia and other Bridge of Hope children, visit: [gfa.org/gw/galleries](http://gfa.org/gw/galleries)



# Experiencing Real-life Missionary Stories

Renee shares about the time her family traveled to South Asia and visited the ministry of Gospel for Asia on the field.



Every spring, for the past 10 years, I read aloud a missionary biography to my kids. It's a great way to end the school year: reading stories of immense personal sacrifice and deep faith in God that challenge and inspire us to live more fully for Jesus.

What I never expected in all our years of homeschooling was the opportunity to travel to South Asia to see and experience, firsthand, missionary stories in the making.

Trying to distill a travel experience so rich and varied is difficult at best, but as I reflect on our time meeting real-life Christian heroes, I'm reminded of the words of James in the Bible.

## 'Count It All Joy'

We met a young woman who was exiled from her home and beaten by a gang of boys in her village when she became a Christian. She still bears the wounds of that attack, living with recurring headaches and psychological scars, yet her joy in Christ was infectious. She was a living testimony of James 1:22: She does not merely listen to the Word; she does what it says. She and countless brave believers live joyfully each and every day.

## 'Let Him Show By Good Conduct'

No one exemplified James 3:13 more clearly than the Sisters of Compassion we met. These young women commit three years of their lives to "deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom" (NIV). From cleaning lepers' wounds to cutting toenails, from trimming hair to washing laundry and cooking dinner for the poor, these sisters sacrifice their comfort for the sake of those who have yet to hear that Jesus loves them.

## 'He Will Draw Near to You'


The Asian brothers and sisters we met die to themselves daily. They submit their wills to our God, whose promises prove true. The startling truth is that there is no secret formula to achieve this intimacy with God and victory over sin. To learn prayer, they pray. They need to know Scripture, so they memorize.

The book of James says submission to God is crucial. So they submit. Submit their desire for food to fast. Submit their desire for sleep to study. Submit their desire for pleasure to work as unto the Lord. What I saw lived out assures me it's possible to live so near to God when we take God at His word and live with simple faith and action.

## 'Let Him Pray'

I have never seen people so saturated with prayer. Never. Those on the field pray. For everything. So do the administrative staff. They empower their work with prayer. Twice daily, all work stops as each department reads a Psalm and prays together for specific tasks they're assigned. They all pray.

Gospel for Asia and Believers Church defy James' words: "You do not have, because you do not ask God" (James 4:2 NIV). These brothers and sisters have so much because they do ask God.

What an honor and a gift to be drawn into this culture of constant prayer, joy, humility and submission. These brothers and sisters across the Pacific may never have dreamed that their faithful lives would bless a family of four in middle Tennessee, but they did. 

# From the Pit of Alcoholism to Hope



All alone. Jivin's wife, parents and brother wanted nothing to do with him. It was his own fault. His behavior had left him lonely and destitute. As he walked along the road, a friendly stranger approached him. He might as well talk to the man.

The stranger began talking about a God who had given His life to redeem people from their sins. Confronted with a message of hope—and someone who would listen—Jivin told the man, Gospel for Asia-supported pastor Shami, his story.

## Addiction Isolates Man from Family

Jivin, 55, had lived with his parents, wife and four children and worked as a laborer to provide for them—at least that's what he was supposed to do with his income. Instead, Jivin spent all his earnings to fuel a relentless addiction to alcohol, leaving his family in poverty. When Jivin would come home from work and a day of drinking, he'd argue with his wife and unleash a fury of blows on her and their children.

Then, one day, Jivin stopped going to work. The family's already precarious financial condition grew even worse: They had to survive on one meal a day.

Eventually, Jivin's wife and kids couldn't endure his behavior any longer—they left. His parents lost patience with him too, and they kicked him out of the house. But Jivin kept drinking. With nowhere else to go, he went to his brother's house, and he ended up in a fight with his brother—and with stitches in his head.


## Finding Freedom and Reconciliation

The day Jivin met Pastor Shami, he walked along the road in despair, alone and broke.

When Pastor Shami invited Jivin to his church, Jivin went. He learned about Jesus Christ and experienced a sense of peace he'd never known before. So he returned the next Sunday.

As Pastor Shami and the believers prayed for Jivin, he felt a burden lift from his heart. He eventually decided to place his life in God's hands, and his newfound trust in Jesus gave him the power to overcome his alcohol addiction.

Jivin went back to his wife and parents and asked their forgiveness. When he told them how Jesus had transformed his life, they all believed in Christ.

Because God's love reached down to Jivin and freed him from the chains of alcoholism, Jivin and his family now join the other believers in worshipping their great Redeemer. 



## Think About It

Millions of families in Asia live under the crushing weight of alcoholism. It's destroying families and bringing shame to those trapped in its clutches. But God is powerful enough to deliver those addicted to alcohol, just as He did for Jivin. Pray for deliverance and for God to bring believers to share hope with them at just the right time. Please also intercede for the healing and restoration of families affected by alcoholism.



# COME DIE SO YOU AND OTHERS MAY LIVE

10 Years with  
Gospel for Asia's  
School of Discipleship



**GFA SD**  
10 Years Since  
the First Class  
Graduated

**July 2005**  
First SD graduation—2 students  
graduated

**January 2012**  
First international class started in Canada

**January 2014**  
Second-year SD class started with  
14 graduates

**July 2015**  
5 classes, 4 in the U.S. and 1 in Canada,  
with more than three dozen students  
currently enrolled.

**160**  
Number of young men and women who  
have graduated the first-year program.  
Many have gone on to serve the Lord in  
vocational ministry.

Young men and women took their turns at the podium. This was their last day of class. Their year in Gospel for Asia's School of Discipleship (SD) was almost over.

Each shared what the Lord had done in their lives, how they had grown, how they had changed. Tears filled many eyes as they said their goodbyes to classmates, teachers and department coordinators. Eleven months in Texas and two weeks in South Asia had left an indelible mark on their lives.

They came to pour themselves out for the Lord as an alabaster flask, broken and given utterly to Christ.\* And in so doing, they discovered, as so many have discovered through the ages, that *"unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain."*\*\*

### Laying Foundations

For 10 years, young men and women from different backgrounds, denominations, parts of the country and sometimes parts of the world have come to SD seeking intimate walks with Jesus. Some have been following the Lord for a few months while others don't remember the exact date of their salvation. Men and women ages 18-27 share life with each other and GFA staff. For a year, sometimes two, students learn life by watching life.

Rachael was one of the first students to be part of SD and now serves on staff with GFA.

"When I look back at that year," she says, "I see it as a foundation that the Lord used to prepare me for, at least so far, all the years of ministry I've done since, and also all the years of walking with Him. I think the investments the Lord made in me that year . . . have carried over into so many other areas of my life."

### Finding the Heartbeat

As the discipleship team prayed about the direction for the program in 2005, the Lord led them to Philippians 3:7-11. Just as Paul counted *"all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ,"* so students would have the same opportunity to let go of their own expectations, ambitions, talents and weaknesses, and by this, come to know Christ more fully and intimately. SD would provide a framework for students to radically encounter Jesus.

Jen has witnessed this played out since the first days of SD. She helped coordinate many of the administrative aspects of the program in its formative years.

"The structure of a lot of things we were doing was just wanting people to live fully for the Lord, now and always," she shares.

Over the years, SD has evolved and expanded. Student's schedules are richer now than in the earlier days when Rachael was a student, incorporating regular times of prayer, solitude, evangelism and Bible study.

"It's really more about nuts and bolts," Jen says. "The central focus of it has stayed the same."

### Life Through Death


For many years, the call of School of Discipleship was, "Can you die to yourself for one year?" Students learned what it meant to die to their own wants and desires. They learned how to embrace the cross, humility and brokenness. Through hundreds of hours of prayer, through months of laboring alongside faithful men and women, they learned something of Christ's heart for those living without Him, and what it means to be transformed into His image.

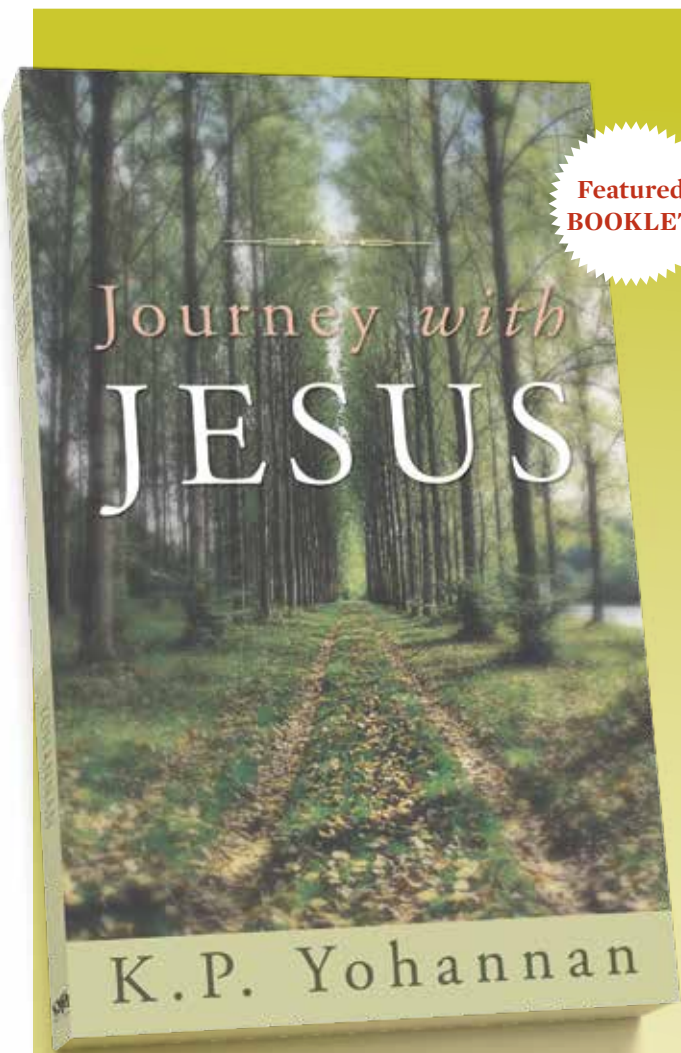
More than 100 young men and women can tell you how embracing a season of surrender and brokenness brought eternal fruit—not only in their own lives, but also among the unreached in Asia.

### Eternity on Their Hearts

On the day of the students' graduation, a guest speaker stands behind the podium, exhorting them to continue walking with the Lord. Their time in SD is over. One by one the students walk across the stage. Each is given a certificate of completion, a coin engraved with the School of Discipleship logo and a framed photo wrapped in shiny golden paper.

The students unwrap their photos. They laugh; some almost cry. They see women drawing water from Jesus Wells—wells they helped drill by serving in the office. They see Bridge of Hope children laughing—children they helped sponsor by praying and fasting. They see national missionaries sharing the love of Jesus. They see widows experiencing peace for the first time. They see whole congregations, communities transformed. Each photo represents what the Lord did through the sacrifice of these faithful School of Discipleship students.

Life will never be the same. 



**Featured BOOKLET**

*Journey with*  
**JESUS**

K.P. Yohannan

It's a simple premise: Spend time with Jesus, and you will become more like Him.

In this short, 53-page booklet, K.P. Yohannan seeks to leave behind lofty theology and bring you close to Christ and the words He spoke to His disciples more than 2,000 years ago.

You'll step into a few of the day-to-day occurrences in Jesus' life, whether He was eating dinner with disciples whose feet were dirty or He was hearing of a close friend's fatal illness. Yohannan will help you think about Jesus' responses to the situations He encountered and how we are meant to live just as He did.

"If Jesus showed His disciples how to walk in love, in humility, in submission and in the power of the Holy Spirit through the events of life, He desires to show each of us the same lessons through the events of our lives," Yohannan says. "If you will embrace the hand of Jesus and walk with Him through this life, He will show Himself to you, and you, in turn, will be changed by what you see in Him."

This booklet can help you learn to walk into the pages of Scripture and journey with Jesus, just as the disciples did. ⓘ

To get your copy of "Journey with Jesus," you can:

- 1 Call us at **1-800-WIN-ASIA** (1-800-946-2742)
- 2 Visit [gfa.org/gw/jwj](http://gfa.org/gw/jwj) to order online
- 3 Use the **order form** in the center of this magazine to mail your request

**Suggested donation: \$3.50 each**



## Five Minutes with K.P.

K.P. Yohannan  
President and  
International Director  
Gospel for Asia



# Don't Get Caught in Distractions

The story was all over the news: A businessman, after withdrawing \$100,000 at the bank, stopped at a store and placed his briefcase full of money beside him on the checkout counter. A man standing next to him engaged him for a few seconds in a conversation while another man walked up, grabbed the briefcase and disappeared. When the businessman turned around, his money was gone. He panicked. The crime was caught on the store's surveillance camera and serves as a warning that a few seconds of distraction is enough for you to lose your most valuable possessions.

**One of our enemy's tactics is distractions.** He tries to attract and divert our attention, confuse our mind, sidetrack our steps and draw us away from our God-given focus. So often we don't recognize what's happening until much later when we find ourselves way off course.

**Recognizing distractions is vital in serving God and fulfilling our calling as His witnesses.**

Nehemiah had left his prestigious job as the king's cupbearer, along with the comfort and luxury of life in the palace, to travel to Jerusalem to rebuild its destroyed walls. He rallied and inspired the returned exiles for the task, but soon he ran into opposition from the enemies of the Jews and their undercover collaborators. They requested an urgent meeting with him. They spread lies about his faithfulness to the king. They circulated rumors of threats on his life, and they even hired a prophet to deliver a false message to get him to stop the work and go into hiding.

Thankfully, Nehemiah recognized what all these things really were: distractions from completing the work God had asked him to do. He responded: *"I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you? ... Should such a man as I flee? And who is there such as I who would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in!"* (Nehemiah 6:3, 11)

Jesus, too, immediately recognized that the enemy was trying to use his loving disciple to try to side track Him from going to Jerusalem so He may die at the cross for our sins. Peter

had said to Him, *"Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"* (Matthew 16:22)

Jesus replied, *"Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men"* (Matthew 16:23).

**What about us? Do we recognize distractions as being distractions,** especially when they are very good things? For example, once I wanted to look up an event from early Christianity, so my son brought me an 800-page Church history book from the library. I could have gone to the index and straight to the page that answered my question, but I didn't. The book and the pictures were too intriguing to put down, and instead of spending 10 minutes, I found myself spending all afternoon reading about interesting things that had nothing to do with what I needed to know.

We are surrounded by hundreds of good causes, wholesome activities, wonderful opportunities, as well as a host of electronics and the world of internet, that all compete for our attention and the precious time we have to reach this world for Christ. If we don't recognize distractions, we become victims of good things.

Yes, as human beings we need times of rest, to unwind from our stressful work and have special family times and activities. However, we must be careful that the good things don't take over our focus and the time we once used to spend in prayer and in God's Word.

Life moves very fast. We have only a short time before it's over. Let us not get caught in the web of seeking the things on earth.


**What then must we do to keep our focus?**

We must be aware that distractions, especially the ones that make us happy, entertain us and fill our days with excitement, are easy for us to accept, but saying no to temptations and yes to inconveniences and to the way of the cross is what we have to deliberately choose.

Therefore, we need to be alert and discerning and honestly judge our hearts to see where we are with our focus regarding the purpose of God for our life here on earth.

We also need to realize that we are not strong enough to finish this race on our own. We daily need to ask God for wisdom, discernment and grace to stay on course. Then at the end of our life, we will be able to say, along with the apostle Paul, *"But none of these things move me,"* (Acts 20:24) and *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"* (2 Timothy 4:7). ⓘ

**Gospel for Asia**  
1116 St. Thomas Way  
Wills Point, TX 75169  
[www.gfa.org](http://www.gfa.org)



They left their families,  
their villages, their jobs . . .

. . . so others may hear of  
the hope that changes lives.

**For \$30 a month**, you can partner with a national missionary to bring hope to a community in South Asia that's still waiting to know of Christ's love.  
**Sponsor a missionary today!** | [gfa.org/gw/sponsor](http://gfa.org/gw/sponsor)

**100%**

100 percent of your support goes to the mission field; nothing is taken out for administrative expenses. For each national missionary you help support, you will receive a sponsorship packet that includes your missionary's photo and testimony to help you pray more effectively.