



Christmas Greetings

**"True peace comes from the
Prince of Peace!"**

Dear Praying Friends,

2012 started out with a verse the Lord gave us... ***"The joy of the Lord is your strength."***

Little did we know how this promise was the prelude to a year of difficulties and challenges on so many levels. Even the Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Cor. 1:8 that he "*despaired even of life itself*" and we have learned that none of us are immune to these seasons as we walk with the Lord. No matter what situations we face: misunderstanding, loneliness or even betrayal, the Lord knows our pain. He has taken us personally through some things we could have never been prepared for, but we have come out on the other side saying, "Thank you Jesus". He has taught us so much about ourselves and revealed things that could never be learned without suffering and brokenness. He is refining and purifying so that we might be more useful to Him. "*When we can't see God's purpose, we focus on His presence*" and how sweet it is to know Him more deeply. Thank you so much for your faithful love and prayers for us. We certainly would not be where we are without you. A couple of quotes from Tammy's journal: "*Sometimes God allows what He hates, to accomplish what He loves*" and "*No pain is wasted for the child of God.*" We pray that the Lord's very real presence will be a strength to you also whatever challenges you may be facing – He is faithful!!!

Our kids are kids and are getting excited for Christmas. We look forward to getting our chickens and goats from the GFA Christmas catalogue that will make an eternal impact for a family or two in South Asia. (www.gfa.ca/gift) Cassandra is working hard to finish off her grade twelve year with excellence. We are very prayerful for the next chapter in her journey. Please pray with us for God's clear direction for her life as she looks at different universities. She actually had a very tough year, she lost four school friends/acquaintances one after another to suicide. This shook her to the core and it has been a big journey of healing. (Her "long overdue" newsletter about her summer missions trip to the Indian reserve is attached.) Cody has settled well into his first year of high school very well. His marks are great and we have really seen him grow into a solid young man and he still loves to play hockey every chance he gets. Carly is the last one to finish at our Mount Albion Public School – just a few doors up from our house. She is in a grade 7/8 split this year and being challenged to keep up with the grade 8 curriculum. It won't be long till she joins our other two as a teenager...so hard to believe. Carly still is our little noodle and gymnastics takes first place in her books.

Our little neighbourhood has had a lot of heartaches this year. Our neighbour next door recently passed away too young, from a rare cancer, leaving his wife and 4 children. Another neighbour lost her baby and another just had their husband and father leave them. We have had great opportunities to love them and share Jesus in the midst of all of this. Please pray for their salvation and that Jesus would shine through us.

They say time flies when you're having fun.....well January 9th we will be **celebrating 20 years of marriage!** The Lord has certainly blessed us and we are so thankful for each other. Still amazed that we can love each other more with every passing year! And the bonus is we get to serve the Lord together in the midst of it all, and it's now 14 years ago that our journey with GFA all began.



Merry Christmas from our growing GFA Staff family!

An Attack of Misinformation

Up until now we have not been free to share this with you, but through our prayers we praise the Lord that He has gone before the ministry of GFA in a miraculous way in India. The following is taken from a letter on our website written by our founder, Dr. K.P. Yohannan. You can read it in full by visiting this link:

<http://www.gfa.ca/a-new-type-of-persecution>

“During the last seven years, we have seen a 400 percent increase in persecution on the mission field... I was quite surprised to find our ministry facing an entirely new type of persecution. It was a media misinformation attack on Christian work, well-planned and well-funded. The purpose was to cause people to stop giving to Christian ministries and thus halt the work of God....For the past few years, hundreds of emails, blogs, videos and websites originated from India, designed to malign and hurt the ministry of Gospel for Asia, raise doubts in donors' minds and, as a result, limit resources to the mission field.”

A Verdict that Vindicated

“...what could we do? The Lord knew our hearts, and it would be up to Him to defend us. So we sought Him. We prayed. We fasted. And slowly, step by step the Lord went before us. At first, we had no idea that all the false information out there was originating from one source, or what we could do about it. Gradually, we were able to understand what was happening, and last year, we learned that we could appeal to the government of India and to the High Court in Delhi to look into these cyber attacks on us—which we did...”

“I am grateful to the Lord that what was meant for evil, God used for good. After studying us, these departments determined that we were one of the most upright groups in the country, truly improving the nation. The High Court thus issued a verdict, directing networking sites to remove and stop uploading any false information about Gospel for Asia and our various ministries. In addition, the High Court also had those who posted this misinformation arrested and the material they uploaded removed.” -Thank you for your prayers as all of this works out “for the furtherance of the Gospel.”

Our Christmas season at the ministry began with a bang. Our Christmas catalogues arrived early as planned “hot off the presses” in early October and we have now sent out close to 60,000 across Canada. The response once again has been overwhelming and we are sure to impact over 100,000 families this year across Asia with Christ’s love. The stories of how families in Canada are making an impact are so precious. Micah Quantz is a ten year old boy from Alberta, his mother writes:

“My second son Micah has a very generous heart, he puts us to shame some times as one of God's ways to remind us to keep our eyes on eternity and what matters. Last year just after Christmas, he got the idea that he want to buy some things from your GFA gift catalogue, so he decided he would massage people's feet or shoulders for \$.20 a minute. So it was mostly mom and dad's feet and friends and relatives as well. He would also offer his services if people came to visit our home. It sounds like an odd way to raise money for missions, but he is good at it and it was something he could do. He has worked hard for the whole year and along with extra money, doing some chores he has raised \$215. All on his own!”

Little children like Micah show us that it takes very little - just a willing heart - to make a BIG difference!



Why not ask for a Rickshaw for Christmas?

gfa.ca/gift

We have recently been encouraged by Psalm 138:8a, “The Lord will perfect that which concerns us.” What a strength to know that He is always going before us and He has simply called us to follow Him in obedience and He will do the rest. We pray that you have a blessed Christmas rejoicing in our Saviour and all those who are now celebrating with us for the first time, because of our labours together!

Love, Martin Tammy, Cassandra, Cody and Carly

Dec 2012

Dear Friends and Family,

I would like to say thank you for all the encouragement, prayers and generous financial support that I received when I took part on the mission's trip to Thessalon Native Reserve for two weeks in August. It was such an amazing opportunity and I am so thankful that I was able to go. While I was in Thessalon I did get really sick and had to go to the hospital to find out I had bronchitis. Since I was sick, I was unable to participate in some of the group activities, especially involving the children on the reserve because we did not want them to get sick. At first I was discouraged, but God showed himself to me and used this as an opportunity to allow me to grow closer to Him.

Being on the reserve was such an amazing opportunity as I was able to see how the Native people live and experience their culture. As a team we were given the chance to attend their powwow which was such an honour. I really enjoyed learning more about the Native people but also getting the chance to ask questions about their faith and share about my own walk with Jesus Christ. While we were on the reserve we got to run a children's camp and spend our days ministering to the children there. That was such a joy for me as my heart's desire is to work with children. I got to love the children, play with them, laugh with them and best of all, share Jesus with them. This being my first year going to Thessalon I was not familiar with any of the children that were there, but it was such a blessing for me to have a little girl named, Pricilla, cling to me and be my little buddy. Pricilla did not leave my side for the whole two weeks which was such a joy and I cannot wait till I get to see her beautiful little face again! Another huge blessing for me was being able to minister to the children who have been affected by their parent's addictions. I was touched by a twelve year old girl named, Melanie, who has Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS). Melanie and I became really close over the course of two weeks and she was able to share a bit of her story with me and I in turn shared my own testimony. Melanie at the end of the two weeks accepted Jesus Christ as her Saviour and I was overjoyed seeing her sing and praise Jesus despite her own struggles.

There are so many stories that I could share that showcase God's everlasting faithfulness and goodness and I came home so encouraged knowing that we serve an amazing God. I am looking forward to the next time I get to go to Thessalon and see all the work that God is doing.

Thank you again for all your support!

Love, Cassandra Lamb



Cassandra and her little buddy Pricilla



Cassandra and Melanie