

“You have not because you ask not!”

What incredible privilege, responsibility and authority has been given to us in God’s kingdom through prayer. Scripture says, “we have not because we ask not.” There is no doubt about it - God works when his people pray – and He so desires for us to join in partnership with Him that He waits for us to pray in order for His work to be accomplished. That is why our Lord teaches us to align our hearts in prayer according to His will and to pray, “thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.” Not only does He work His sovereign purposes when we pray, but He trains us through prayer and transforms our character into the image of Christ! What a mystery prayer is.... but when we begin to understand it we are driven to pray. No longer is it a duty to be performed - but a privilege to be enjoyed! And it can be enjoyed every moment of the day as we rest in His presence. How sad it is that we fail so often to avail ourselves of this blessed partnership with the King of the Universe! How much of His work is hindered because of our lack and complacency towards prayer!

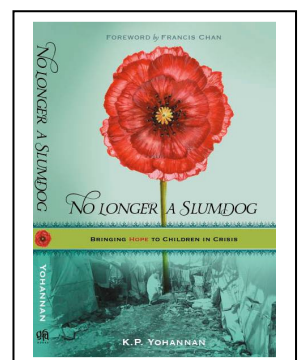
Praise the Lord, we are certainly seeing the impact of your prayers together with us here in the ministry....

As we pray for staff the Lord is bringing them. One of our newest staff couples Kelly and Melissa Petkau, have just finished raising their support and they are in the process of moving from Alberta, and Kelly will be our very first fulltime IT guy. They will be a wonderful addition to our staff family or should I say “multiplication” - they have 9 precious children (one is in the “oven”). It’s gonna be a lively place around here!! Reuben Devries, who was previously a School of Discipleship student with us in our Dallas office, is now on his way to join us fulltime also. He will be a great asset to our Fulfillment dept. Please **pray** with us as we have been in touch with a few others, who sense God may be calling them to join staff with us also and they need confirmation of His will. We sure need them – “the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are (*still*) few! (And check out www.schoolofdiscipleship.ca as we plan to start this program in January here in Canada, Lord willing. Know any young people ages 18-27 who want to give one year of their life to grow in discipleship and experience missions firsthand – send them our way!!)

We have also been praying for significant partnerships here in Canada, and God is answering prayer. Here are just some of them:

- we now have over 90 radio stations across Canada sharing K.P.’s, Road to Reality broadcast – check out www.roadtoreality.ca*
- we will begin promoting GFA soon through a Christian satellite television network*
- we are partnering with Promise Keepers Canada nationally to raise awareness of GFA and particularly our child sponsorship program called Bridge of Hope*
- we have linked up with the Canadian Christian Business Federation www.ccbf.org*
- we have begun a partnership with <http://www.gospelconnections.ca> to be at their events across Canada*
- Brother K.P. Yohannan has been invited to be the keynote speaker at Missionsfest in Halifax for 2012 as well as a couple other significant churches across Canada*

...All of this is for one purpose and that is to challenge the body of Christ here in Canada to get more actively involved in reaching the most unreached and enabling thousands of churches to be planted across Asia, through supporting our national brothers and sisters who labour so fervently there. When it comes to the huge opportunity we have before us to reach out to the 300 million Dalits (“untouchables”) across Asia we must act while we have this significant window of opportunity. Desperate to find freedom from the



oppression of the Hindu caste system so many are responding to the life changing message of the Gospel. We now have 60,000 children in our Bridge of Hope outreach and we desperately desire to add 50,000 more, as in every place they and their families are coming to Christ and the church is growing as much as 400% . Our founder Dr. K.P. Yohannan, is releasing a new book in the next few weeks titled, *No Longer a Slum Dog*, (www.nolongeraslumdog.org) on the desperate plight of these children and their families who have suffered under this diabolical system of slavery for the last 3,000 years. Please **pray** with us that the Lord will anoint this book and use it to stir hearts here in the West, that thousands of Dalit children and their people might be rescued from bondage and turned from darkness to light!

I was recently looking over my diary from my last trip to India and was touched again by the things I witnessed there:

"... our hearts are filled to overflowing and now we are about to burst...these Bridge of hope (BOH) centers here in the slums of Mumbai are like little candles flickering in the darkness. What a ministry of HOPE!

It's hard to comprehend the daily life of survival in a slum here in India, even having witnessed some of it firsthand! The city of Mumbai itself where we are now is around 30 million people- almost the population of all of Canada and the darkness and desperation is so great. We could put 100,000 national missionaries in this city alone!

The workers here are true soldiers of the cross and as Heb 11 says, "the world is not worthy of them". One brother we met yesterday has chosen to stay in this harsh environment against much opposition and in less than 1 year of ministry has 20 believers meeting together for worship as a result of the BOH centre. He got married 4 months ago to a beautiful young lady and believe it or not their first day of marriage was back serving the children at the centre. He was in tears as he shared the struggles of life in the slum and his great heart for the children... and some of our tears joined his! A few widows shared their testimonies and how the BOH centre has given them much hope for their children. A grandmother with three grandchildren was the only one to care for them but having come to know Jesus she shared with a sweet smile the great hope that she now has.

Today we sat crammed into a little dark room that was accessed by a small stairwell. It was like a sauna inside and I can't imagine what it would be like in the summer time. But approx 60 children with bright smiles sat quite contently singing songs to us with cultural dances and quoting Bible verses they were learning. In this school there are ten orphans and we heard the sad testimony of three of them- two brothers and their sister, 14 and younger. Their parents had both died of HIV. The older boy was bravely trying to work to provide for his siblings while the younger sister would cook what rice they had for her and her brothers.



Since child labour is against the law, the older brother, earning only 30 rupees a day (equivalent of 75 cents), was found by the police and put in prison and both he and the employer charged a hefty fine. By God's grace the three children were received into the BOH centre when the staff heard about their plight and what a transformation has taken place. The older brother now hopes to graduate early by writing his 10th grade government test and then will be able to work or go on to higher education. And most importantly they have all discovered the hope that is only found in Jesus. Praise the Lord!

The pastor who began the work here was brought up in the slum himself and went from selling spirits (liquor) to serving in the power of the Spirit. God is using him greatly- they now have 23 BOH centers in the slums and want to add 50 more soon! Oh how we need more sponsors in Canada to awaken to the plight of the lost!!!

Although the challenges are many we are constantly reminded of the great privilege we have to serve the Lord in this ministry that is transforming lives daily – both here in Canada as we seek to encourage the body of Christ – and across Asia where literally thousands are receiving the message of Hope in Jesus for the very first time. Please **pray** for much grace and wisdom for me as I oversee the Development team here and for Tammy who is busy working with our Ministry Partner department along with being Mum. Our children are well: Carly just finished



off gymnastics with a bunch of ribbons-she's such a little noodle; Cody enjoyed a class trip to old Quebec city and we find it hard to believe that Cassandra is about to graduate from Grade 10 already. She is so excited for her visit to see her best friend, Sarrie in our US office this summer. God is so good to us!

Thank you, thank you so much for your prayers for us as a family – we couldn't do it without you! Please be in touch; we would love to hear from you too! *“Be not weary in well doing for in due season you will reap if you faint not!”*

Martin and Tammy, Cassandra, Cody and Carly

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