

GIVING and GOSPEL FOR ASIA:

Last fall, it came to the attention of the Missions Team that problems involving financial accountability of Gospel for Asia were apparent. The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), the major U.S. Christian accountability organization which Gospel for Asia had used for 30 years to confirm their financial standards, severed their ties to GFA. In Canada, most Christian organizations use the Canadian Council of Christian Charities (CCCC), which GFA is not an associated member.

At that time, we took a precautionary approach and began in December to withhold Gospel Chapel's monthly support. It was our intention to hold back those payments in reserve, and if the problems were corrected, to resume support, including monies held back.

In January, we received information which revealed that 2 of the Canadian Board of Directors were suddenly, (and unjustly, we believe) terminated from their positions by GFA's leadership after asking to see specific financial information. One of these directors was *Rob Thiessen* who is the B.C. Conference Minister for the Mennonite Brethren Conference. In communication with Pastor *Thiessen* we received advice that it would be prudent to sever financial ties with GFA at this time, which we have done. Gospel for Asia has had, and probably in many ways still does have, a huge impact for Christ in Asia, and it is important for us to continue to pray for their ministry there. At the same time we need to pray for the GFA leadership, and especially *K.P. Yohannan*, that they would come to understand their errors and repent, and come under correct authority in these matters.

This brings us to a 'close-to-home' challenge. *Tiffany Klassen* is currently learning and serving with Gospel for Asia in their School of Discipleship at the Canadian head office in Ontario. We have had questions about financially supporting *Tiffany*, which many of us do.

Those of us who know *Tiffany* well, know that her heart is toward the Lord. Presently, she is in the second year of her school with GFA. When she came home in December, she was wrestling with whether or not she was to return for the second year of this school. She felt strongly that this was God's will for her. Although some of the issues surrounding GFA came to our attention after *Tiffany* went back to Ontario in January (that being the termination of the two Canadian directors), we are trusting that *Tiffany's* calling is sure, and that she is there 'for such a time as this'. Those of us on the Missions Team who support *Tiffany* will continue to do so.

For further information contact:

Peter Brown, Secretary of Gospel Chapel's Missions Team.

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