



The HFA BULLETIN

December 2015

G'day to you,

Watching TV, lately, I'm reminded just how fortunate we are in Australia. Many years ago, I lived in Germany - fixing helicopters at a country airfield. That very airfield is now covered with tents, filled with foreign refugees; those that you and I have watched walking north on the TV News!

BBC News reports that during the 4.5 years of civil war, around **one quarter of a million** Syrian people have lost their lives - along with eleven million who have been forced from their homes. Last September a gut-wrenching picture went around the world, showing a 3-year old who had been washed up on the shores of Turkey, after drowning at sea. As expected, this sparked an outcry on social media. Since then people, churches, NGOs and not-for-profits - all the way to politicians, have increasingly voiced opinions on how the refugee crisis should be handled.

According to The Guardian, the 3-year old's name was Aylan Kurdi. He was born during the war and he died, tragically, together with his 5-year old brother, Galip, and mother Rehan. According to news reports, only his father, Abdullah, survived. Aylan's problems had actually started before he was even born and ended, sadly, with 249,999 others, whose pictures we may never get to see.

Unfortunately, Syria and the Middle East is only one hostile hotspot of many, where millions suffer. We cannot imagine the trauma people must be going through, yet Christ died to save each of these traumatised people and, surprisingly to many, even for each of their warring perpetrators too. It is Christ who brings peace, reconciliation and forgiveness to this world; something that bombs, missiles, military hardware or de-radicalisation can't achieve.

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Update from the Himalayas

Read about the new experiences of our staff couple.

Voice of the Martyrs

A report on our partnership.

Meet some of our volunteers!

...FOR
THOSE
BEYOND
REACH

Continued....

In Christ we have an all-powerful answer for the world's current, increasing problems. One question is this; do we share our all-powerful Christ with refugees at our doorstep, or simply voice an outcry on social media?

And what about taking our all-powerful Jesus Christ to the heart of the problem? To the millions of unreached people caught up in circumstances beyond their control and without even the possibility to escape as a refugee?

Let's be mindful that when Christ commissioned us "to bring the good news to the ends of the world", he meant the unreached people living in troubled and dangerous hotspots too, not only those coming to our doorstep as refugees.

This is why **Hope From Above** is dedicated to deliver the hope in Christ Jesus - to those beyond reach, inaccessible and neglected in troublesome places.

You are a valuable part of carrying out this vision. Your prayers, donations and encouragement are deeply appreciated, thank you!

Hans
Executive Director



An update from the Himalayas

As we shared in our last Bulletin, HFA has formed a partnership with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Our staff couple have now settled in their new home in the Himalayas, and here is an update on their experience so far!

Warmest regards from the Himalayas! Now that monsoon season is over, temperatures are very pleasant, nice and warm during the day and cool at night. We can occasionally see the world's highest mountains from elevated points now!

Our time here is never boring, and there is no lack of surprises. To give you a glimpse; our power was out for 30 hours due to a religious celebration (as power lines had to be cut in order to move a giant chariot representing a God). When we went to cook our pasta we found it full of weevils. And our household help was not able to come, because only a few buses are running due to the massive supply crisis (the borders to India are blocked meaning that there is hardly any petrol, gas, rice, medicines, etc. coming into the country). The traffic is reduced by approximately 80%, resulting in almost every battery-powered 3-wheel mini-bus being overcrowded.

Nevertheless, we have also regularities; four days a week we go to our language lessons, which we mostly have to prepare ourselves. Every Tuesday afternoon we have writing, reading and grammar lessons with an elderly gentleman in a tiny classroom, which urgently needs a good renovation. Inside it is moist and cool, with mosquitoes buzzing around, and the light is very poor. But the teacher is always neatly dressed, friendly, and always wearing the local traditional hat on his head. There we sit and try to hear the difference between a native 'o' and 'u' for instance, or we write a dictation in the Devanagari script. Uh, that's tough for our sixty-year-old heads! After two full hours of intensive private lessons we need a rest. Fortunately, the walk to our home takes ½ hour and it provides a much needed breather.

We are very fortunate and thankful where our main town is located. We find ourselves wedged between the political unrest, with dozens of deaths and curfews, that is affecting the south of the country, and the severe earthquake damages that have affected the north of us.

We appreciate your prayers as we continue to learn the local language, and start to develop relationships with local people!

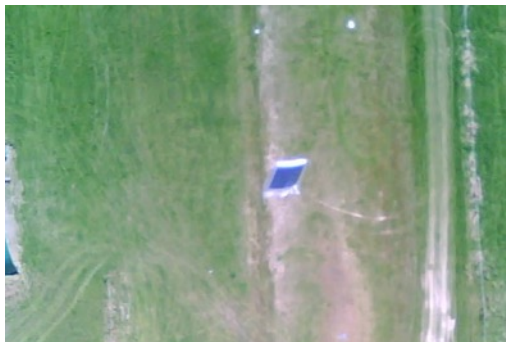
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Voice of the Martyrs

We'd like to share with you the feedback we received from Voice of the Martyrs in regard to work we have done with them throughout the year. It highlights exactly what our vision is at HFA; to provide technical support to current organisations in order that they can reach people with the gospel.

"We've worked with Hope From Above over the past year to develop and deploy technology needed to help distribute over 30,000 Bibles to one of the most difficult places on the planet. In order to distribute these Bibles, we first needed research on a full range of data - atmospheric conditions, GPS technology, precise weight measurements and the examination of the results from extensive field testing. Through their efforts, we have been able to distribute more Bibles in 2015 than we have ever done in previous years. It is not an overstatement to say that their work has changed everything for us. **They have introduced us to technology that we wouldn't have been able to find or develop on our own.** We've not only found their work to be excellent, but we've also been impressed with their integrity. This has been extremely important to us as much of the work we do is very sensitive and requires a great deal of security and confidentiality."



Imagine New Testament bibles falling from the sky...

Meet some of our people in Australia

Many different people are involved with HFA. Let us introduce you to two of the guys that have provided valuable expertise and a great deal of passion to our work!



Theodor

What is your role with HFA?

As my background is aviation, I conduct research that assists our partnership with Voice of the Martyrs, that leads to bibles performing precision landings in the right places.

Why did you decide to volunteer for HFA?

The organisation facilitates in bringing eternal life through Jesus Christ to isolated places / people in our world.

What do you enjoy about being a part of HFA?

Great friendship, meeting new people, brushing up on systems which lost their shine in my memory banks over the years. Being able to use my company as a platform for research. A purpose to see people being liberated through the Gospel of our Redeemer.

Ross

What is your role with HFA?

Board Member, Prayer partner and willing helper.

Why did you decide to volunteer for HFA?

HFA's call and vision to reach the unreached in isolation obeys Jesus' command to us to *go and make disciples of all nations* and also the apostle Paul's exhortation to *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil*. I see serving God by serving HFA as one way to *'make the best use of this time'*.

What do you enjoy about being a part of HFA?

I really enjoy seeing the ways God uses to present Himself and the good news of Jesus to the hardest to reach nations of the world.



Contact Details

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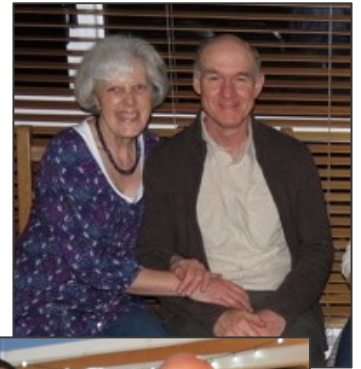
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If you would like to contribute financially to HFA, there are the following options to make a donation:

1. Online via www.hfa.org.au/get-involved/giving.
2. Cheques, payable to "Hope from Above Inc."
3. Direct deposit to: Hope from Above Inc., BSB: 033 107, Account: 440226

For direct deposit please contact the office prior to making the donation so we can provide a donation number for the reference field.

Please note that gifts for Hope from Above Inc. are not tax deductible.



Thank you to our staff and volunteers!

Photos from:
HFA Thanksgiving Dinner 2015

Prayer

The greatest value you can add to HFA is in prayer. **Thank you for partnering with us in this way!**

- Give thanks for the bibles that could be delivered to unreached people through our partnership with Voice of the Martyrs. Pray that these people will come to know their Lord and Saviour.
- Give thanks for the work done by our staff in the Himalayas. Pray for guidance in their language studies, and opportunities to build fruitful relationships.
- Give thanks for our staff and volunteers that have invested in HFA with their time, expertise and passion. Pray for the operations of HFA in Australia, and for God to provide the daily bread.
- As we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, pray for isolated people to receive the hope of the gospel.

We send out prayer updates every couple of weeks with more specific prayer and praise points. If you would like to receive these let us know at info@hfa.org.au, or you can find them on www.hfa.org.au/ourblog.