



The HFA BULLETIN

September 2016

Are we all called to missions?

This week a young mechanic walked into my office, and asked a simple question: "Do you think that all Christians are called to missions?"

One reason being that he is a mechanic and missionaries are often not. Another reason was that some people talk about "the calling to missions" as if it were something limited to a small "believers' elite".

Do you think that all Christians are called to missions?

You see, in church we all come together and often sing. If you like modern songs, the lyrics may go like this:

*And I would give the world to tell Your story
Cause I know that You've called me*

A little later in the song we sing:

*Jesus, I believe in You
And I would go to the ends of the earth*

And if you are more like me, perhaps still appreciating an old hymn, it may sound like this:

*All to Jesus I surrender
All to Him I freely give*

And a little later:

*All to Jesus I surrender
Humbly at His feet I bow
Worldly pleasures all forsaken
Take me, Jesus, take me now*

I will not pretend to know the answers to our simple question, but I notice that we make rather big promises, when we sing.

However, in my work I often have conversations with Christians on the topic of overseas missions that gives a different perspective.

Let me share some views Christians have expressed to me:

- Many believe the Lord will not condemn a person who never had a chance to hear the gospel.
- Some say that reaching unreached people will only cause judgment if these people then refuse to accept Christ.
- Others say that they are not sure whether the gospel is going to make such a difference.
- Some of those who believe in predestination, say that missions doesn't matter.

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Being in the right place

A personal reflection of living in the Himalayas.

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Explaining the complexities of this question.

How can I get involved?

Find out how you can partner with HFA.

...FOR
THOSE
BEYOND
REACH



Are we all called to missions? cont.:

- Some say that it is too dangerous to share Christ in places of persecution. It would be unethical and morally wrong.
- Others raised concern over what version of Bible translation is used. (Thankfully I could put most at ease, since amongst the unreached very rarely a translation even exists.)
- Many hold the view that Australia needs the Gospel more than anyone else and therefore overseas missions should no longer be a priority.

Quite often these conversations with believers actually suggests that missions amongst unreached and isolated groups would make little sense. In fact, this is perhaps reflected in research from the 2016 Australian Charity Giving Study (Dunham & Co), which states that Christian churchgoers who earn more than \$158,000 a year donate less than 0.6%. With those churchgoers earning less giving about 0.7%.

Please bear with me, this is not an appeal for money, I rather like to share my experience with you.

Our question is: "Do you think all Christians are called to missions?" The previous statements indicate that this is not what we practice. How about we take a step back and look what Jesus said in Matthew 28:18 (NIV):

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

One would have to ask why? Could God not use the angels, perhaps the Holy Spirit, or some other means? Why me?

Last week another guy stepped into my office, a part-time volunteer who works on electronics. He was beaming as he shared how enthused he was to be able to use his God

given skills and abilities to help bring the Gospel to new places. He said that he had three different projects going and the one for HFA was the most exciting!

Could it be that God is doing us a favour by including us in what we named "the great commission"? Could we even come out of the deal as winners?

What kind of God do we actually believe in? Can we trust Him and ask freely, **Lord what do you want me to do - I will do it no matter what?**

Knowing God like that, as our loving heavenly Father, will give us every desire to sing next Sunday "All to Jesus I surrender."

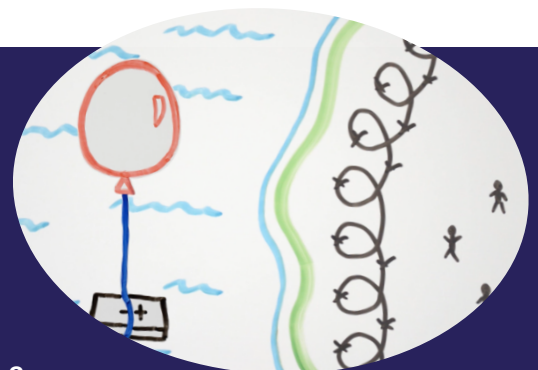
In the meantime, please continue to pray for our "Aviation & Technology" focused mission. After all we are just a group of people with various skill sets such as mechanics, electronic technicians, or administrators and certainly no "believers' elite". Thanks for your kind support!

Hans
Executive Director

Exciting Update!

From the start of the year, in partnership with Voice of the Martyrs, over 30,000 bibles have been delivered into a closed country! Praise God!

Will you pray with us that these bibles will be read, and that the Word of the Lord will speak into the hearts of the people there?



Being in the right place

When it comes to doing God's will, whatever the cost, we can be pushed out of our comfort zone. In those times we need to rely on Jesus' promise to be our strength, and direct our path. Before we know it, we find joy in the places that started off as very difficult environments. Here is a personal description of this truth at work from our staff workers in the Himalayas.

We are boarding the airplane for our journey back to the Himalayas. The plane is very full. Soon we get talking and have the opportunity to refresh our language skills. We find out that one of the toilets is out of order due to "constipation", with a long queue forming in front of the other. Flying through turbulences, my wife is helping a sick passenger, while she is not doing much better herself.

Eventually the captain summons everybody to their seats for the landing. The pilot briefly leaves the approach path, changes the direction and the power settings. Does he have everything under control? We break through the cloud layer and find ourselves just about to touch down. The Pilot pulls the flare a little too late and too strong, causing the plane to bounce after touch down. No clapping hands, only whistling and screams are heard.

At the immigration desk another stamp is added to the collection, before we receive our suitcases. Thankfully we enter a taxi, despite today's announced strikes. The young man is speeding, and after a near miss we turn in to our street. I tell the driver to stop, but then I get confused. I see two garage doors on

the ground floor and say: "Sorry, this is not our home!" The upper floors however still look like our building, at least what it looked like before we left two months ago for home assignment. Still confused I walk to the entrance, to be sure if we should take the luggage out of the taxi. It turns out to be our building, which has had some vigorous renovations done.

Carrying our luggage up the stairs to our flat causes me to sweat. I quickly go to wash my dusty damp hands, but from the tap only a few drops trickle out - welcome home! The fact that the electricity is only on for five minutes that evening does not disturb us. We are more concerned about the water and keep checking the tap, obviously we had quickly gotten used to running water back at home.

The singing street vendors are heading home while we stow away our belongings. We enjoy pasta for dinner, seasoned with spices from home, and a glass of fine local water, with its pale taste. Lightning illuminates the wet neighbourhood after a light rain. Moments later we are warmly welcomed with much joy and laughter by our neighbours from the flats above and below us.

Tired from the events of the day we lay on our mattresses as we listen to the noise from the streets. We feel as if we have lived here all our lives. **So awesome to be in the right place!**

T&C continue their work in the Himalayas, using creative ways to utilise aviation and technology for literature transports in the restricted region.



What does HFA actually do?

As much as I appreciate your question, it can be complicated to give you the answer.

Have you ever read the book "God's call" from Brother Andrew, the founder of Open Doors? Or heard of Richard Wurmbrand, the founder of Voice of the Martyrs?

Both men have done great things "in secret" and as a result they have changed nations, possibly stopped the cold war and transformed societies. What was their "secret recipe" that would bring such change? It was the Word of God! Because when God speaks, things happen:

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55.11, ESV)

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What does HFA actually do? continued:

For many years *Brother Andrew* would find creative ways to bring Bibles to the Soviet Union and to China, which often could have cost him his life. In 1981 he orchestrated *Operation Pearl*, a way to bring one million Bibles in a single night to China. This stunt makes for a great read in the book "God's call". Later when the Soviet Union started to crack open and officially allowed Brother Andrew to deliver 1000 Bibles, the diplomats gave him the hint "not to use the method" from China.

So what does HFA do? Rest assured it is very exciting! Just think, we use today's aviation and technology to reach people, just like Brother Andrew or Richard Wurmbrand did. We bring Bibles to unreached and isolated people groups today, who have no access to God's word. We prepare drones, balloons, boats, electronics, software and whatever may seem helpful for the task.

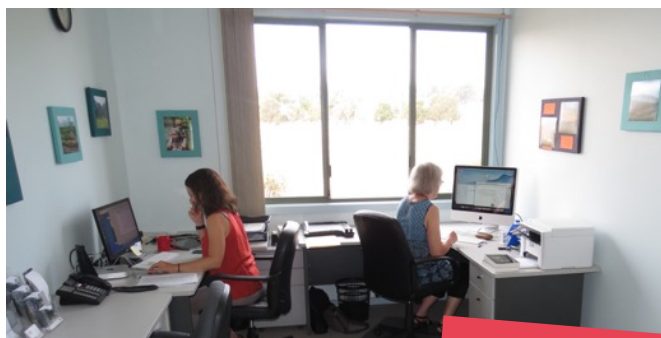
Our work has been focusing on Asia, the Himalaya region and recently also new

specific places in Africa. Our aviation and technology solutions have allowed for creative ways to bring thousands of Bibles to otherwise inaccessible people groups. We even received feedback recently that Bibles are being used far above our dreams and expectations.

So what does HFA *actually* do? This is where it is complicated. While we would love to share the details with you, not everybody finds our work as exciting as we do. In order not to give away our methods, we hold back from showing pictures, faces and full names, hoping for your understanding.

The exciting news however is, that there is no place on earth today, which cannot be reached with the Gospel. It's simply a matter of being creative and packaging the right technologies for the right ministries, and that is exactly what we do.

To bring Hope from Above to those beyond reach.



How can I get involved?

In prayer

"Prayer does not fit us for greater work; prayer is the greater work." - Oswald Chambers. You can find our recent prayer updates at: www.hfa.org.au/our-blog.

Invite us to your church

We aim to raise the profile of the unreached people groups who have yet to hear the gospel, and share how modern technology is able to make the completion of the great commission a reality, and not just wishful thinking. We are happy to speak at coffee mornings, youth groups and during Sunday services.

Join our team!

Our team is always growing, with many volunteers and staff offering their expertise and time. If this interests you, please contact us for more details!

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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.