



...FOR
THOSE
BEYOND
REACH

BULLETIN

HOPE IN THE HIMALAYAS

IN THIS ISSUE

DELIVERING PRECIOUS CARGO IN THE HIMALAYAS

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A number of weeks ago, I was travelling into Melbourne's CBD on the train for a meeting. At one point, an elderly man boarded the train with an aid dog and the young man sitting behind me on the disabled seat stood up to let the other sit down. Their brief exchange turned into a lengthy discussion and whilst I don't normally make a habit of listening to conversations on the train, I was particularly drawn to this one. Talk about life, hardships and death ensued but what struck me was their lack of hope. One man explained how he'd tried to take his life on numerous occasions and the other man identified with his stories. Their exchange was morbid and dark, devoid of any optimism and hope.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) says *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"*. As I sat silently on the train, I began reflecting upon my own life, and I was so grateful for the hope that I have, and have had, in Jesus Christ. Every time I have faced trials in my own life; every time I have felt like giving up, I had Jesus, and He has carried me through. What then, must it be like for people who have never had the chance to encounter Jesus; those who have never heard His name?

I once envisioned myself in a landscape that was completely devoid of any light. I was surrounded by inaudible cries of help and fear as the darkness weighed us down. Unfortunately, this is the reality that so many unreached and isolated people face. They face hardships and trials that we can only begin to imagine, and yet they are without light; without hope. Whilst the two men on the train may have lacked hope, they are fortunate enough to be surrounded by light. They have access to the gospel if they choose to seek it, through English bibles, churches, believers, the internet, and various other sources. Unlike them, unreached and isolated people do not have the luxury of seeking out the gospel; they do not even know about its existence. There is a song by Kari Jobe that goes, "Wake up sleeper, lift your head; we were meant for more than this; fight the shadows, conquer death; make the most of the time we have left. We are the light of the world; we are the city on the hill...we gotta let the light shine."

Hope From Above (HFA) exists solely to help bring the light to some of the darkest places on Earth. We partner with other organisations and provide aviation and technology to enable them to reach the unreached and isolated people. There is hope for these people! We are the vessels of

Jesus Christ. A recent example of our work was carried out in the Himalayas, and we are delighted to be able to share it with you today.

DELIVERING PRECIOUS CARGO IN THE HIMALAYAS

Since 2015 our staff have been living and working in a Himalayan country, where they have endured cold winters with insufficient heating, difficulties obtaining supplies, uncertainties about the visa situation and lots of other hardships that life in an underdeveloped country entails. Language study, surveys and research have dominated their time in the country; to understand the needs and seek individual transport solutions for ministries in a sensitive environment. It all came to fruition a few weeks ago when a main goal of our work was achieved: New Testaments with Psalms, translated by a mixed team and supported by Wycliffe Bible translators were taken to a remote mountain village. The people there were eagerly awaiting God's Word in their heart language for the first time in their history. After years of hard work and sacrifice by the translation team, the New Testaments had finally been printed.

Transport remains a challenge in this region, so the research and advice given by our staff (Pilot) paid off. HFA not only partnered with the Bible translators to advise on a strategy to overcome the logistical and geographical hurdles by air, road and mountain track, but also contributed to the costs of chartered aircraft from a local company.

To diversify risks, people and cargo were sent on their way on separate days. After circling down between the mountain walls, the chartered aircraft landed safely on a short airstrip – not without straining the passengers' stomachs and nerves.



Loading the bibles into a locally chartered airplane.



Hope from above sponsored airplane on approach for landing.



The chartered aircraft carrying the bibles.



The bibles will now be carried further.



Trekking by foot through the mountains to reach a remote village.



Bibles are stacked on a table waiting to be given to their new owners.

From there the journey continued by off-road car on a muddy and bumpy mountain track for several hours to the village, before trekking the remaining distance by foot.

The precious cargo arrived safely, and on the next day a dedication of God's word was held. The rejoicing of the villagers is best described by the words taken from our staff member's diary: "In the end, the joy grew into unsurpassable jubilation and a dance from which even the oldest of bones couldn't abstain. It endured long after the official program had finished and deep into the night. Just like David before the Arc of the Covenant. Now it has arrived here."

Despite the expense, it paid off to include charter aircraft into the travel plans – Although the flight had to be postponed for a day, due to bad weather, the plane was the reason that our team made it back at all. The only road in the valley was totally closed off to traffic due to political unrest – even for pedestrians – and it was unclear whether this blockade would last for days, weeks or even months.

John 20:30-31 (NIV) reads: "*Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe. Or may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.*" Whilst we are privileged to have access to these words, many more do not have access, let alone even know about Jesus. Romans 1:6 states that, "*Among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ.*" Jesus commands us to "*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature*" (Mark 16:15), so that they too might have the opportunity to believe and have life in His name.



People excitedly line up to receive their first translation of the bible.



Locals wait patiently as the bibles are distributed.



Bibles are received with joyful hearts.

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

Online:

www.hfa.org.au/getinvolved/giving

Cheques, payable to:

“Hope From Above Inc.”

Direct Deposit to:

**Hope From Above Inc.,
BSB: 033 107,
Account: 440226**

For direct deposit, email donations@hfa.org.au prior to making the donation so we can provide a donation number for the reference field.

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