

...FOR
THOSE
BEYOND
REACH

NEWSLETTER

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GOD'S PERFECT TIMING

Over the past 5 years we have been providing technical expertise and equipment each year to our partners at Voice of the Martyrs (VoM) for Bible transports into a restricted country in Asia. Bibles are transported via specialised balloons that, during flight, reach incredible heights.

During the preparations for this year's flight season, we discovered a problem that could risk the electronics malfunctioning at low temperatures. As some of the components need to function in the below freezing temperatures of the stratosphere, a solution had to be found! We prayed and worked hard to find an answer. Just two days before our team member's scheduled departure to Asia to set things up for VoM, we finally had a breakthrough and a solution was found in a component worth only 50 cents! The team member, together with a technician from our German branch, *Hoffnung innovativ*, was able to fly to Asia as scheduled, assemble the components, carry out training and do some maintenance on ground equipment as well.

The same afternoon that the first balloon components were assembled and ready for flight, the wind turned in our favour for the first time this year. We were able to join the VoM team and help them fly the first Bibles of the season on that same evening!

How exciting it was to see first-hand God's word being delivered into a restricted country. As we followed the GPS signal across the map, we knew that it was God who granted us favour in His perfect timing.

Right: A makeshift electronics workshop in a living room in Asia.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Amazon Jungle in South America is the largest rainforest on Earth. It spans several countries, covering an enormous 5 500 000 km² which is bigger than half the size of Europe! The Amazon Jungle is one of the most biodiverse places in the world. In fact, one-tenth of all known plant and animal species can be found in the Amazon. The Amazon is also home to hundreds of thousands of people. The exact number is not known as many tribes and family groups have not yet been 'discovered'. It is thought that there are thousands of uncontacted people. Many of these people live without access to medical care, education or the gospel.

Many will live and die never having heard of Jesus.



ADVENTURE IN THE AMAZON JUNGLE

Earlier this year, a start-up aviation ministry in South America invited me to come and take a look at one of their first helicopter outreaches deep into the Amazon Jungle. Since various efforts by different organisations to set up a dedicated mission helicopter had not yet materialised, these guys opted to try something different and hired a locally available helicopter to transport missionaries into the Amazon Jungle.

My objective was to observe the operations in order to give feedback and advice on how to make improvements. After 3 weeks of various flights over the dense jungle, I think the word 'overwhelming' describes the experience best.

The flying challenges in the Amazon are enormous. For example, the weather may change quickly, there are very few places to land a helicopter in the dense vegetation, the distances between safe sites are vast and there is the danger of colliding with large birds and 60-meter-tall trees when landing or taking-off. Even once you have landed safely, you can't be certain how the indigenous people will respond to the helicopter or the people on board.

Whilst the animal life in the Amazon is certainly spectacular, it can also be quite terrifying. Sometimes we had to land at a remote mission station to refuel the helicopter. Not long before one of these refuel landings, a jaguar nearby had taken five sheep from the clearing. I wondered what, or who, he would take when he got hungry again... Another time, whilst I was bathing in the river, an unknown creature suddenly blew up a fountain of water right in front of me. I could not see the unknown 'river monster' in the murky water and decided it would be best to go to bed without rinsing off the soap!

During a return flight from the jungle back to a mission station, the weather changed so fast that we were unable to land either at the take-off point or at the destination. The first alternative landing site was no longer viable in the bad weather and the second alternative site was another 25 minutes away - a long time to be flying in poor weather.



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We managed to land at the second site which was a great relief, but we had to stay trapped inside the helicopter all night because of the wildlife. The helicopter was hot and one of our team was ill and deteriorating. It was a long night! Fortunately, the next day we arrived back in civilisation and were able to get our sick team member to a hospital. Good thing we had left the day before with a full tank of fuel, otherwise we wouldn't have made it back.

Though these experiences were nerve-racking, it was a privilege to be used by God to suggest improvements to the operation. The task of making disciples in all nations is huge. In the Amazon alone that task is enormous, but God has said that it will be done and therefore we need not be discouraged as we look to Him to open the doors before us.

"Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:5-7 (NIV)

Hans
Executive Director



Left: Our 'accommodation' in the jungle. Thankfully, only one night was spent in the Robinson 66 helicopter.

FOCUS ON CORE VALUES

Volunteers, staff and members of HFA abide by a set of core values. One of these core values is that we are **"Men and Women of Prayer"**.

Fervent effective prayer is the bedrock of HFA's ministry. Prayer is critical to allowing the gospel to be received by unreached people living in isolation. God knows the unique circumstances of each people group and opens doors into new places where many thousands have never had access to the Word of God before. Our God is mighty and powerful, and it is only by His provision that people can be saved.

If you would like to join with us in prayer, you can sign up to receive our fortnightly prayer updates by sending us an email at info@hfa.org.au

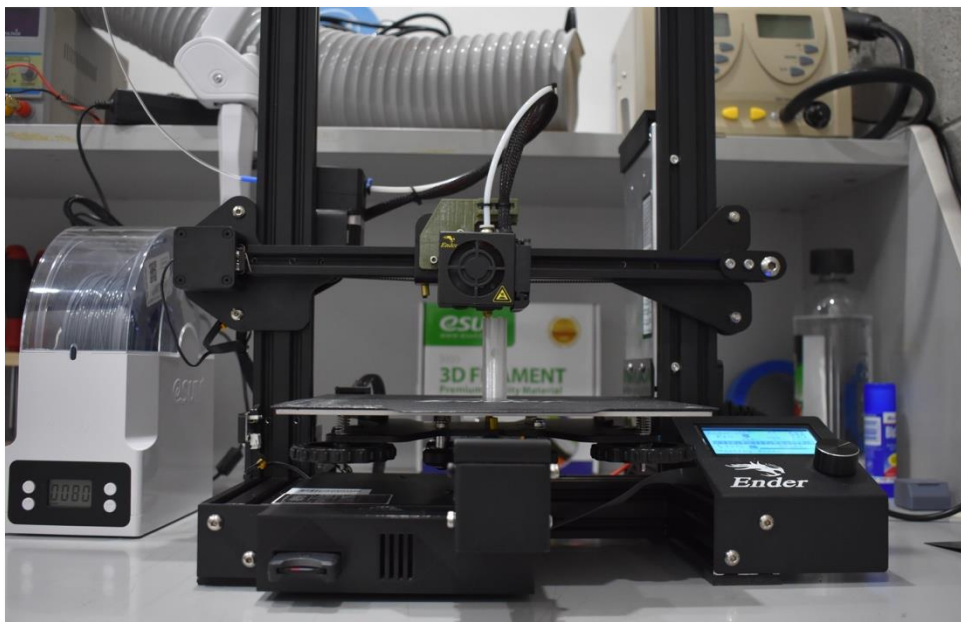


FROM THE WORKSHOP



Left: The waterdrone prototype takes shape. We plan to use vessels like this to bring the gospel to many people living along shorelines.

Below: New to our workshop this year is a 3D printer. So far, it has proved extremely useful for making specialised components.



Below: The drill press humming away. Staff and volunteers contribute valuable skills, allowing us to create some very unique products.



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