



...FOR
THOSE
BEYOND
REACH

BULLETIN

IN THIS ISSUE:

WHY DRONES?

"What can we use instead, in places where we can't simply go talk to people?"

DID YOU KNOW...

A little bit about our approach.

JUST FOR A LAUGH?

PRAYER IS WORK

"...in prayer you can go to any place, to any situation and through Christ you can bring help there."

WHY DRONES?

I was talking to a missionary when he asked, *"Why do you need drones? We just talk to people!"*

It was one of those days when I was trying to explain the vision of HFA without much hope of succeeding. *"If only I worked for an orphanage"*, I thought to myself. One simple word, 'orphanage', and everyone would understand what I do. But drones? Why would you need drones?

"Where do you work?" I replied. *"In Paris, the capital of France"*, he responded. It seemed logical enough that missionaries in Paris would 'just talk to people'.

Much like the missionary in France, we also seek out the simplest and most effective ways to reach people for Christ, however, the difference being that in some parts of the world it isn't possible to just 'go and talk to people'. For most people, this may be a foreign concept, and perhaps one that is difficult to grasp in a world where so much is accessible to most of the population.

Did you know that out of approximately 2 Billion unreached people who have never heard of Jesus, there are about 200 Million who are considered isolated?

'Isolated' means that they live in a place that is difficult to access because of geographical barriers, dominated by brutal regimes, terrorist cells, or they are in the middle of war, where no missionary can simply 'go and talk to people'. Some missionaries have tried it and have been killed in the process.

Since we do not work in Paris, perhaps we should ask a different question such as, *"What can we use instead, in places where we can't simply approach people and talk to them?"*

When we believe that Jesus wants us to go and make disciples of all nations, we have no choice but to ask that question, *"What can we use?"* which is exactly what we do at HFA - to find the simplest and most effective way to overcome the isolation.

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Just as the word 'orphanage' is easily understood and identified with, so too, is the word 'live-stream', thanks to social distancing. Live-streaming – the piece of innovation that allows the life of your church to stream right into your heart, each Sunday. The technology that overcomes your own isolation caused by social distancing.

Much like you use technology to live-stream sermons, we use unmanned technology to stream the love of Christ to unreached people groups.

So, why do we use drones? Because they enable us to deliver paperback, digital and audio Bibles to unreached people groups in places where nobody can simply go and talk to them. Our Aviation and Technology solutions are not meant for Paris where you can just talk to people, but instead, for places where your life depends on social distancing for survival. Literally. By more than two meters! Drones become a simple enough and effective way of live-streaming the hope of Christ. Hope From Above...for those beyond reach indeed!

Hans
Executive Director

Take a look at some other innovative solutions for reaching the unreached and isolated and see HFA 'at work'. >



Above: Cutting a large piece of styrofoam requires teamwork.

Below: The water-drone undergoing more tests – just one of HFA's innovative solutions.



DID YOU KNOW...

We focus on three specific areas:

1. Strategic Research

We spend a lot of time researching people groups who remain inaccessible due to language barriers, geography or politics.

2. Aviation & Technology Solutions

We do not use 'one size fits all' solutions. Instead, we invest our time researching innovative solutions according to specific contextual needs. This can sometimes mean creating new technologies.

3. Raising Awareness

So many people are not aware that there remain places on earth where the gospel has not reached. We are ambassadors for those who have never heard the good news and seek to raise awareness in the church.

JUST FOR A LAUGH?

A well-established Irish Mission Society was advertising for a treasurer.

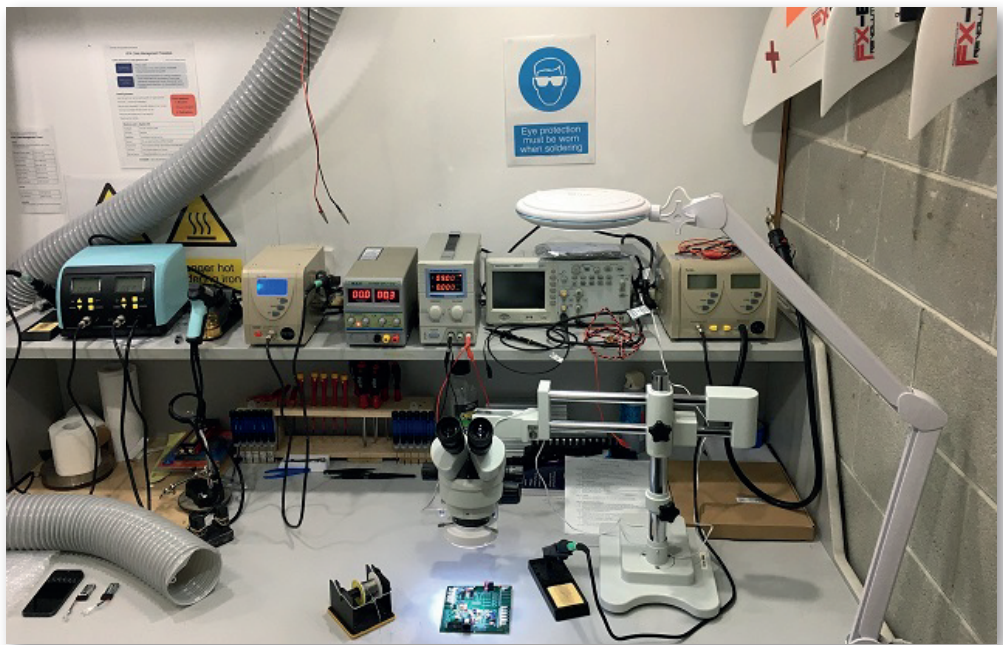
A member was somewhat curious and asked, "I thought you had recently appointed a treasurer...?"

The president remarked, "That's the fella we're lookin' for 'n all."



Above: We do not just order all of our parts online. Many of our projects require us to create our own parts. This is where all our equipment comes into use.

Below: A glimpse into our electrical workshop.



Below: Using the milling machine (Right) and metal lathe (Left) to make intricate parts for various projects.



PRAYER IS WORK

One of the things I appreciate about working at HFA is that prayer is part of the normal working day. We do not always pray together, but all staff are encouraged to take time out each day and pray about our work. It's not unusual to hear someone say, "I'm going out for a while" (for a prayer walk), or "I'll just be upstairs" (in the prayer room).

It's during those times of walking and praying that I often get help for a tricky issue that I can't deal with, or I get a reminder of something I should've done but hadn't got on to. I'm a lover of prayer walking, and often add to my prayers, "Lord please help me to remember these things when I get back to the office." As I pray for our staff, partners, projects and the unreached people we are longing to get the Gospel to, those prayer walks also bring clarity, ideas, and a fresh look at things.

There are also days when everything goes pear-shaped in the office or workshop - when nothing is going right, and we don't have a solution. Someone may quietly speak into the confusion asking, "Has anyone been upstairs to pray today?" More often than not, we've all been too occupied to pray.

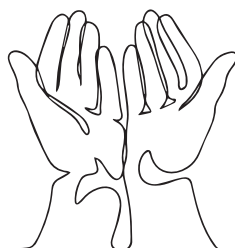
In this time of crisis worldwide many Christians can't physically meet, churches are closed, missionaries are being pulled out of the field, and self-isolation is the norm. But God is still working, and we can be involved with Him wherever we are, through our prayers. Years ago, while doing mission work in Africa, I was finding it hard being far away from those in needy situations. A friend wrote this: "Remember this, in prayer you can go to any place, to any situation and through Christ you can bring help there." Prayer is participation with the Almighty God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - bringing the help we need to do our work.

The challenges that we face in our work are huge right now. There is so much that could jeopardise the work of HFA and its partners. Travel bans have prevented staff from going to the field to assemble parts already sent overseas, and a lot of extra work has had to be done. In the face of the challenges, we marvel how God has opened the door again and again, for the work to continue. Where there seemed to be no solution, with a little more creative thinking and much prayer, a new way opened up.

Despite increased effort, the work must continue because so many are dying without ever hearing about the Lord Jesus - a 'fate worse than death itself'. So, even in these times of isolation, especially now, we need to keep praying and keep crying out to our God.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 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 4:4-7 (NIV)

Carol
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