



...FOR
THOSE
BEYOND
REACH

NEWSLETTER

INTERCONNECTED

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"... He is good, He is trustworthy and He never changes."

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"Words cannot express how exciting it is to experience "God at work"..."



GOD KEEPS US ON OUR TOES

Do you have a five-year plan? I don't. While long-term planning and preparation is crucial for the HFA-network, part of my job is to be flexible. *"O what a mess!"*, I often think when something doesn't go according to plan, but usually my next thought is: *"What is God up to with this?"* I rarely have to wait long to find out.

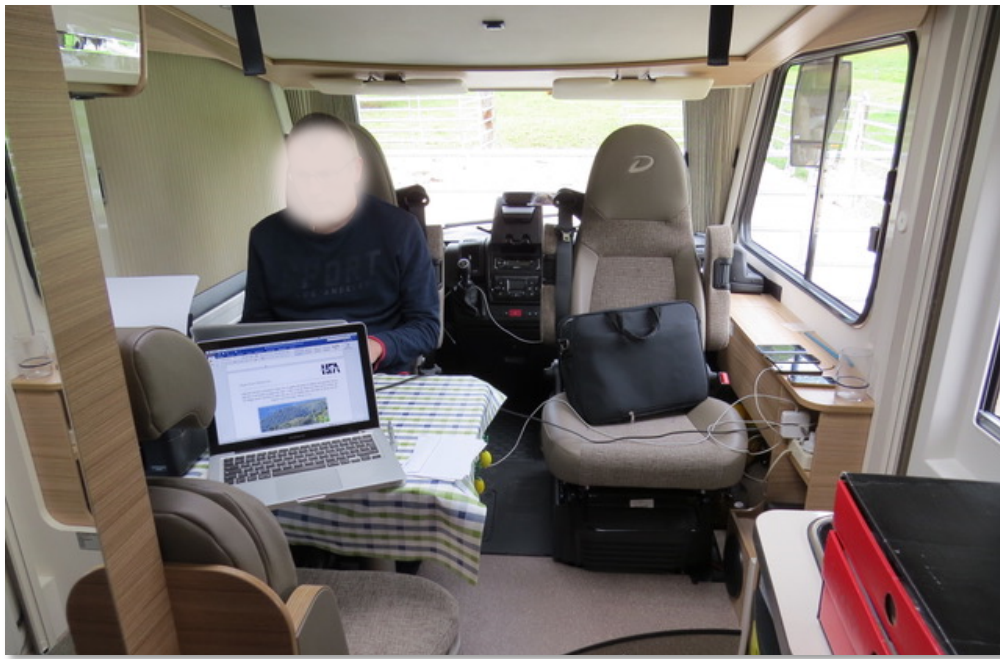
One of the biggest changes I didn't see coming was our move from Australia to Germany – the country I had left 21 years earlier to work in missions alongside my husband, Hans. The leadership of HFA has recently sent us to Europe to expand the HFA Network, to pursue the 'Ministry to God's People' and to go on international ministry trips again. None of this had been possible for 1 ½ years, because of the tight Australian corona-restrictions.

I'm writing this in the kitchen of friends in Switzerland who have become like family, whose house is always open for us, who support our ministry – and who we would have never met if things had "gone to plan". Years ago, while actually

working in Papua-Indonesia, we had an unintended time of rest in Europe. At first glance the situation had looked like defeat, wasted time – a disaster. In hindsight, it turned out to be a season of blessing and growth on so many levels – and of making new friends.

Fast forward three days: I continue to write this on the German autobahn while sitting next to Hans who's driving the mobile home we get to use for free for our ministry. After a tour of meetings and speaking-engagements, we're heading back to our new base close to my ageing parents.

As I think back to last-weeks' prayer-meeting with our Swiss network-partners, I marvel at what the Lord has done in the last few weeks: a co-worker had a break-through in a severe health-crisis; an indigenous South-American lady came walking through the jungle to hear more about Christ after being left with nothing but an audio-Bible because of corona-restrictions; Christian radio broadcasts finally being received in a Himalayan country after years of unsuccessful trials ... It's a privilege to play a tiny part as God builds His Kingdom and to watch in awe what He does!



Our office on two wheels: two persons, two computers, one printer, four phones (for connectivity in several countries), including bedroom, bathroom and kitchen.



Our 'main base' in the Bern area of Switzerland & our mobile home.



Our town in Germany.

We sure miss our wonderful team in Australia, but we're so thankful to be close(r) to our families, to rub shoulders with our Swiss and German network-partners, to once again raise awareness in churches for the plight of the unreached and isolated people-groups and to connect with our wonderful 'unseen team': the faithful prayer-warriors and supporters. I might not have come up with this change myself, but I praise God for it!

What change in your life is troubling you? Be assured: While God's ways are often mysterious to us, He is good, He is trustworthy and He never changes.

Elke

*HFA Ambassador & Supporter
Liaison*

MARVELLOUS THINGS THAT YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT

There is a particular Bible verse that has accompanied me over the past few years. In my notes, I find the following entry from May 2018: *"The Lord, who made the earth, who formed it and set it in place, spoke to me. He whose name is the Lord said, "Call to me, and I will answer you; I will tell you wonderful and marvellous things that you know nothing about." Jer. 33:2-3 (GNT)*

Because of my tumour disease, I often asked the Lord – even cried out to Him: *"How and in what way do I have to call upon you so that you can, and will, please answer me?"* Looking back now, I realise

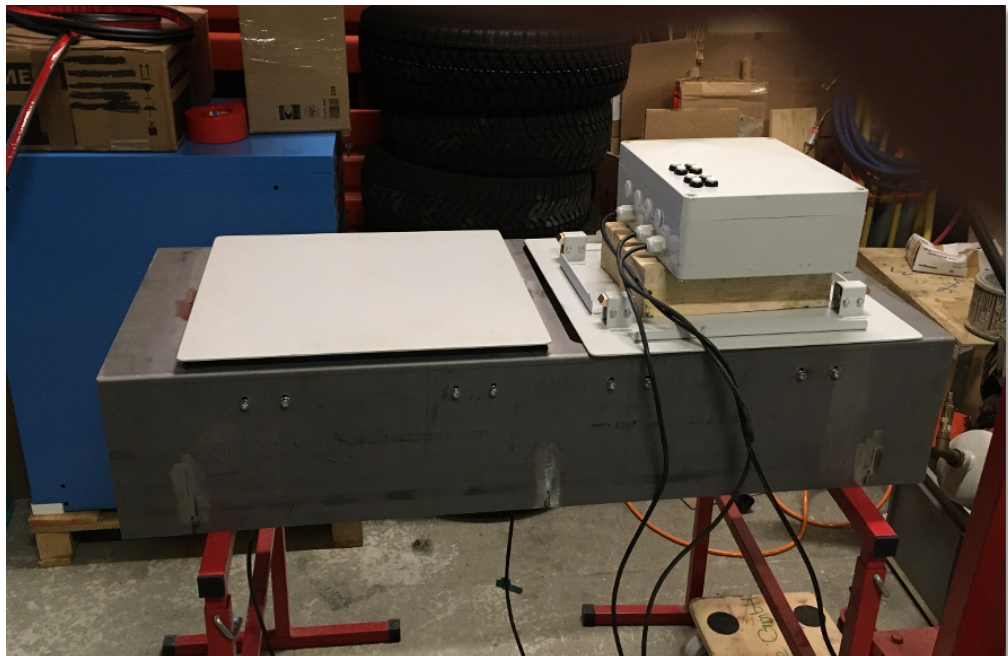
that God has used various ways to show me His great and powerful works – one of them being that God has revealed himself to me as the infinitely great engineer.

Two years after writing this entry I worked through a biology course (Devotional Biology). Everything this course covered, began with the Creator and his infinite attributes (the living God, the glory of God, God is distinct, God is love...), and then delved into the very depths of the smallest created thing – a rare view of the teachings of nature these days. This angle of considering creation opens our eyes to the Creators' unlimited greatness.

As a mechanical design engineer, I often seek solutions. As a change manager, I know that modifications to a product require detailed planning and careful implementation. Nothing can be left to chance. Waiting and hoping that a problem will solve itself or that the product will improve on its own is not an option.

God wants to make himself known. Why else would He have created nature in such extraordinary beauty? By looking at the biggest as well as the smallest things, we see a great Designer and the unlimited genius of the Creator. It is God's expressed will, that we study his creation – even try to replicate his ingenious solutions with our technical means. By doing this we honour the great Designer.

In the *HFA Network* we are commissioned to provide technology to enable unreached and isolated people groups to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the explicit will of God to make Himself known to all people.



Hatch release mock-up with a purpose-built control unit

Knowing these two wills of God, it is a privilege for me, to be involved in the water drone project in the following tasks:

- Basic concept discussions and reviews.
- Working out the basics relating to drive capacity and driving speed.
- Calculations in relation to weight and buoyancy (thankfully, by now the vessel is steady in the water).
- Development of the Bible pod hatch release and preparation of the required engineering drawings.

With the availability of a suitable workshop and the help of capable volunteers, we at *Hoffnung im Limit* were able to manufacture, assemble and test the parts mentioned above.

With a small international task force (from Australia, the USA and Switzerland) I am now looking into the possibility of harnessing the substantial energy contained in ocean waves to propel the future water drones to their destination. Finding a solution can be difficult. Finding a simple solution, is often even more time-consuming. But the bigger our human efforts and struggles are, the

more evident it becomes, how much infinitely greater our God is, on whose behalf we get to work.

In short, being able to work in the *HFA Network* is worship!

Daniel
HiL Secretary / Engineer

A LIFE OF SURRENDER

A long time ago, my grandpa told me about one of our ancestors. When he was already old and got asked how he would describe his long and colourful life, he answered, *“Just like walking up and down the main street once.”* This rather unexpected but wise answer triggered something in the young man I was back then – looking forward to my life ahead and all the things I wanted to achieve and to become. If life really is that short, how would I – how would God – judge everything I would accomplish in the end? That's when I decided to meet each of my decisions in life not according to what advantage it might lead to concerning one or the other issue, but according to whether I would have to regret it, or could have

peace over it at the last day of my life on this earth – even more since I cannot know when this will be. Even if it might not be tomorrow, that day will surely come. In other words, I started to judge my actual life and lifestyle in hindsight, just as Moses reminds us in Psalm 90:12 (ESV), “*So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.*” At that point I think, I did surrender my life into God’s hands, even though I had accepted Jesus in my heart long before already. Now, the interlaced path God has led me so far is much different from my initial dreams and wishes as a young man, but by no means less thrilling nor less satisfying or fulfilling – and it has led to my involvement in *Hin*, the German Network branch of HFA.

Some time after having had the privilege to work in Indonesia together with Hans (later co-founder and former CEO and now program coordinator of HFA), he told me about his efforts to establish *Hope From Above Inc.* in Australia. I gladly joined the international team for ‘initial selection of nations’ ten years ago, and had the privilege to witness the birth of HFA – and five years later to take part in founding *Hoffnung innovativ* in Germany, alongside my former base manager in mission aviation and his wife, short term staff from the same mission field, and members of my home church – and with great support from HFA Australia. Since then, God has expanded our team of solely extra-professional staff just a bit, however, I am thankful to be able to serve the team as Chairman. Each of them is doing a wonderful honorary job – not for our own, but for the honour of God.

I appreciate the great amount of joint work throughout the HFA Network, which has allowed us to become part of something much bigger than ourselves from the beginning. It is facilitating a special kind of

community among believers with the same shared goal, involving meetings and seminars such as one held recently by the program coordinator of HFA, which was an extraordinary opportunity for *Hin* to learn from the experienced and to extend our abilities to fulfil our tasks. We are still mostly involved in research for projects planned or running already, and in the ‘*ministry to God’s people*’, such as supporting volunteers and people interested in our mission or in mission work in general, or performing presentations and organizing speaking tours.

Yes, I do miss the mission aviation environment, and I do sometimes miss flying and maintaining helicopters. Yet if it came to “either/or”, I would not want to switch, since there is no place better to be and no job better to do, than the one God has assigned me. After all, this job allows me to take part in reaching the unreached, and in fulfilling Gods great commission. Words cannot express how exciting it is to experience “God at work”, and to be part of it myself, even if only through seemingly trivial jobs. A drive chain consists of many links, and each of them is needed to get the drive running, as well as they literally need to work together hand in hand. I like to see Jesus as our motor, and we like to be the drive chain by which this motor can thrust the machinery of spreading His Gospel.

Despite all the challenges and trials, which come with any other job and lifestyle too, could there be any nobler purpose for a life other than that is described in 1 Peter 1:24-25 (NIV) as grass? “*...and all their glory is like the flowers of the field: the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever. And this word is the word that was preached to you.*”

Andreas
Hin Chairman

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Please send to:
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