



...FOR
THOSE
BEYOND
REACH

NEWSLETTER

THE HEART OF HFA

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ASK OF ME AND I WILL GIVE YOU THE NATIONS

"There is no greater love story than the Word of God."



THE IMPACT OF THE GOSPEL

We were sitting at a missionary's table asking questions about a particular country.

Very quickly we learned that the situation was unique, dangerous and difficult at best. The few people who followed Christ were in danger for their lives, with many being hunted down and killed!

On our mind was the question, whether it would be ethical to supply Bibles into such a situation and if so which particular Scripture portions. How would the general population react? How would the few Christians in the country judge the situation themselves?

The missionary turned to us and said: 'What you are going to do is not that important, it is all about what God is going to do.'

He went on to tell us a story about a teenage boy, who found a single page, ripped out of a Bible, on the latrine floor. Imagine, it was the first and only chance for that boy to hear the plan of salvation. Imagine, only one page!

What would be culturally relevant content on that page? What arguments and explanations would have to be added, so the boy would understand what Jesus did and its implications in that foreign land?

This single page had been ripped out by an angry mob and was now laying on that latrine floor; one could only hope that John 3:16, one of the biggest love declarations in the Bible, would be on that page:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

But the boy was not reading John 3:16, instead Matthew 1, the genealogy of Jesus:

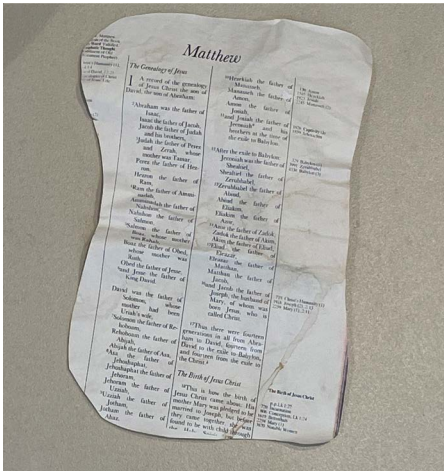
"...Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. ³Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron..." ...You get the picture!

Yet because of that Bible reading, the boy turned to Jesus!

The most important thing in this boy's culture is oneself, then his family, then his clan. Thus, the highest honour is to know and respect your own ancestry. A man from the same culture once apologised, that he was only able to recall a meagre twenty-six generations of his forefathers.

When the Holy Spirit opened the heart of the boy, to read and appreciate the many generations between Abraham and Jesus Christ, it was because God knew His way to the boy's heart.

We research and aim to make informed decisions about ministry. But ultimately what we are going to do is not that important, it is all about what God is going to do.



Since the life of this boy was impacted and transformed by this one page, one can only imagine the impact of the whole gospel in the lives of those who still to this day remain unreached.

This is why the purpose of *Hope From Above Inc.* is to help bring the gospel to unreached and inaccessible people groups, overcoming their isolation through aviation and technology, where no other alternatives are available, and without which, these people would remain unreached.

Please pray for us to make good decisions. Pray with us also that God will speak to people's hearts, through His Holy Spirit and His word.

An underground believer from that same culture told us: ***'Because the Word of God is the only hope for our country'***, during another interview.

Hans
Program Coordinator

“The purpose of Hope From Above Inc. is to help bring the gospel to unreached and inaccessible people groups, overcoming their isolation through aviation and technology, where no other alternatives are available, and without which, these people would remain unreached.”



Piloting the support craft for final trials at the Lake.

MY JOURNEY TO HOPE FROM ABOVE

I was born in the UK, but grew up in Southern Africa and became a Christian during my high school years. I trained as an aircraft maintenance engineer in Zimbabwe and left in 1986 to spend a few years in New Zealand before returning to the UK.

Unable to find any work in my field, I got a contract in the Sultanate of Oman working on military helicopters. I had never been paid so much to do so little. The strange thing was although I was now financially secure, I had no job satisfaction. To cut a long story short, God showed me I needed to use my aircraft skills in His service in a different location. I didn't need a degree in Theology before I could be used to bring the Gospel message to people living in remote areas.

I got to hear about a Christian aviation organisation called MAF: *Mission Aviation Fellowship*. It turned out that MAF uses small aircraft in the same way as the "Good Samaritan" used his donkey, to transport Christian workers in countries that have poor infrastructure.

This job matched my skill set. After doing some more technical training in the USA and a year at Bible college I was posted to a MAF base in Tanzania in July 1996. I was also posted to some short stints in Kenya, Chad and Uganda. Some weekends in Tanzania, I got involved in showing the Jesus film by providing transport and support, for a local evangelist and his team. While there I met Carol and we were married in 2002; we continued our missionary roles, until 2009 when God showed us it was time to move on. I managed to get a transfer with MAF to a technical college in Australia based in Coldstream Victoria, and we arrived there in January 2010. The name of the college was *The Australian Centre for Mission Aviation (ACMA)*, it trained pilots and engineers for a career in Mission Aviation.

I taught aviation maintenance for one year and then the maintenance training course stopped. I then moved to maintain the flight training aircraft for pilot training.

MAF decided to move its operations to Mareeba, near Cairns. We had just encouraged Carol's elderly Mum to relocate to be near us so transferring to Cairns where we would only be able to visit her twice a year would not work. We now needed to find a new form of employment. Perhaps it was time to re-enter the world of secular employment.

Carol and I took some time off to seek God's face and ask for guidance for the future. We use daily Bible reading notes during our quiet times. The theme for that week was using your gifts where you are for God's service.

We got this overwhelming impression that we needed to stay in mission. We had no idea what new opportunity God had waiting for us.

In hindsight we now see the Lord had used ACMA to position people that He needed for a new technical mission to be formed. A Canadian aircraft engineer, who had served in Africa, Ken, came to teach fixed wing aircraft maintenance. Hans and Elke, founders of HFA, had served with a Christian mission organisation in West Papua called *Helimission*. They had been supporting Bible translators and other groups. While there Hans observed that most missionary endeavour was concentrated on supporting already evangelised groups. He thought 'would it not be good if there was a mission that concentrated on reaching the unreached and isolated for Christ.' Hans had come to ACMA to teach helicopter maintenance.

When the mission aviation maintenance course stopped, Hans no longer had a role at ACMA. God then reminded him about starting an organisation that concentrated on reaching the unreached and isolated peoples in the world. After much prayer *Hope From Above (HFA)* was formed.

ACMA offered some office space and use of the hanger at Coldstream so that HFA could start operating. While still working for ACMA, Carol and I had carried out some research on where the biggest concentrations of unreached and isolated people groups were located. Many others were asked to research areas they knew well. This research identified the Amazon, Himalaya and South East Asia regions.



Tim working on a project in the workshop.

By now we were sharing a house with Hans and Elke. When we returned from our time of discernment for the future, Hans asked us how it went. We said we felt we needed to stay in mission but did not know what that would look like. Hans then offered both of us a job with HFA. It has been a great privilege in the last 8 years to use our skills so that the gospel of the Kingdom will reach all nations, speeding Christ's return.

Tim
PR Representative/ Technician

ASK OF ME AND I WILL GIVE YOU THE NATIONS...

As I sat in the HFA office for that interview, everything made sense: the journey, the challenges, the promises that had been given to me by our amazing God, the calling and purpose of my life. Suddenly I could feel a new excitement rising up in my heart, the assurance that I was in the right place and that the whole plan had been orchestrated by God. That would be my introduction to work in *Hope from Above Inc.*

A few years back while I was leaving a birthday party from a friend, someone came to me with a gift. It was a water bottle which you could think was not that significant, but this particular bottle had the drawing of a map on the outside and it was given to me with a word: 'Ask of me and I will give you the nations.' I stood there for a moment, meditating on what this meant. Shortly after during my first year of Bible college, God spoke to me about evangelism and going to the nations. This seemed too big for me at the time, I felt unqualified to fulfill that mission, but because God said it, I could trust it would happen. After all, I was already in a different country than my own, serving evangelistic purposes. But God's plans were bigger...

Fast-forward a bit, to last year when I had the opportunity to go on my first overseas mission trip to pray for people, minister and share with them the love that God had for them and having recently come back from my second mission trip where I witnessed the joy, freedom, healing and peace that only God can give in those who did not yet know him. These trips were different, but I certainly came back a transformed woman from both. Watching the impact that a word of love has on a kid's face or watching someone that lived in pain being restored to complete healing, these things just change you.

"You are the only Bible some people are ever going to read", I was told once. If you call yourself a Christian; your life, your heart and how you care for others needs to be a portrait of the character of Jesus: kind, patient, loving, self-less. And in my humble opinion there is no greater gesture of love than introducing someone

to their Saviour, telling them that there is a Father in heaven that loves them, so much so that He died for them. There is no greater love story than the Word of God.

Currently, over 40%¹ of the world remain unreached, either because they have no access to a Bible or because to access one would imply risking their lives. How shocking to know this truth, how painful and sad would it be to live a life where you do not know the story of a Saviour that died for you, giving us access to His wonderful presence and opening the door to an eternal life. "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:14-15, NIV). This is what moved me to be a part of HFA and its mission, taking a small but important role in a big project, to reach those who remain isolated from the truth of God's word and thus, His love.

**Ana
Editor/Office Admin.**



¹ This information was retrieved from Joshua's Project. Visit <https://joshuaproject.net/unreached/10>

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