



Snippets from the Shires

Snippets #32

17th January 2024

While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Acts 13:2

A belated and blessed 2024 everyone,

I am reading through the Acts of the Apostles, a great read and all about mission. The other day I read about the work of the young but vibrant church in Antioch preparing to commission Paul and Barnabas, two of their leadership team, for God's mission. It struck a chord with where we are at, just now. Of course, we are not great apostles, but we seek to be faithful and obedient servants. And we are not going to new places, though that depends on where the Lord sees fit to send us in the UK! However, HFA is sending us out thoughtfully and prayerfully, "to the UK for up to two years as advocates with the purpose of forming a UK based network /association." (To quote the proposal approved by the HFA Board in October). So, with tickets booked for Thursday 3rd April, we now are in preparation mode. More later...

An unexpected trip to the UK in November

A message from Jacquie (Tim's sister in Barnstaple) found us quickly booking a flight to the UK for Tim. His Dad was very unwell, Jacquie was exhausted and the medics were not expecting Dad to live much longer. In fact, the night of his arrival, Tim thought he was going to lose Dad who was in terrible pain and they waited 8 hours for an on-call doctor to arrive. An injection was administered and Dad pulled through. The next 3 weeks were peppered with several emergencies, along with many doctor's and nurses' visits, a hospice assessment and planning for the future. Tim and his Dad also had lots of time to chat, played many games of Scrabble and daily completed the short crossword in the Telegraph. At the end of that time, Dad was in better shape, home hospice care was in place, so Tim returned to Aus. as planned. We praise God that they had some opportunities to talk about faith issues, but Dad remains an agnostic. Tim continues to chat to him three times a week and he seems to be somewhat more mobile and independent right now, though he still has a lot of pain.



Thanksgiving and Celebration Dinner

Tim arrived home early Friday morning and to keep awake came shopping for the HFA dinner the next day and washed lots of dishes during all the food preparation that evening. We spent most of Saturday afternoon and evening at St John's Church hall, getting ready to welcome 36 guests to the



Celebration cake made by a Board Member.

event. It was an evening of much rejoicing as we reflected on all that God had done in the 10 years since HFA began, and were reminded by Rob, our CEO on 5 fingers of 5 areas of work that are currently happening :-

- HIN (the German network), HiL (the network in Switzerland) and the overseas projects they are responsible for;
- Plans and preparation to send a team to the UK to network and consolidate existing contacts;
- The work of partners in the Amazon seeking to reach isolated tribes, and the new technologies being utilised;
- The work of our partners in SE Asia and the lives that have been changed with the help of better technology;
- The water drone that was safely launched in late October, after 6 years of research and development, and future drones soon to be built (in the next year).

Prayers Needed: While rejoicing the drone is now launched and on its way; much prayer is still needed. We presently have no contact with the drone, but hope is not lost. We know that the cargo of over 3000 scriptures is not ours but is in the hands of Almighty God. Please pray that the Lord will keep guiding and directing it to His chosen destination. We would love to be able to resume satellite contact, if and when the Lord allows. Let's keep praying for those who are waiting at the other end for the arrival of God's life-giving Word.

Handover Completed

We were both able to complete handovers of roles before Christmas, all the while rejoicing in the capable new staff that the Lord had provided at just the right time. It was strange but satisfying to hand over responsibility. It was also good timing as this was an extremely busy time at church and it left us free to take some leave and help out at our last Christmas at St Johns.



Carols at local supermarket & the interactive Children's Service. Tim?

Selling-up, Packing and Painting!

After a wonderful Christmas, the preparation began in earnest. [How thankful we are that after over 7 years at HFA we have lots of Long Service Leave to use up, giving us time to be at home and get on with the jobs.] The house will go on the market at the beginning of February, and we are advised it should sell reasonably quickly. Now we are working to get the place ready. Walls are being washed down or painted, repairs completed, holes filled. It is looking clean and fresh, though there's plenty still to do. The plan



of the house is done. The description will be prepared this week. Photos will be taken soon. We will ask for settlement just before we leave. There's plenty of packing and sorting still to do, a small container to buy and locate on a friend's farm, ready to store some furniture and belongings. Friends to visit, places to go...

Arrival Plan

As Dad may well still be with us, we would like to make a base in the vicinity of Barnstaple so we can spend some time with him. So, if anyone has a granny flat, spare wing or shed in the garden that's habitable in that area we would love to hear from you! A caravan would work too. We would need a place to leave our stuff when we start travelling. Thanks to all who have offered us places to stay around the country as we travel. We also need to purchase a vehicle, so if anyone knows of a reliable car for sale (similar size to Ford Fiesta/Vauxhall Corsa – make doesn't matter), please let us know. We will need that soon after arrival. Apart from that, watch this space. We have no idea what the next two years are going to look like but God does and we seek to walk in step with Him.

Praise God

- Praise God for the HFA team in Australia and around the world.
- Give thanks that we have reached 10 years at HFA, and have heard of fruit from our labours.
- We rejoice that many have received God's word for the first time through the work of our partners.

Please Pray

- Ask God's help for those studying video footage and still pictures to locate isolated jungle tribes.
- Pray for those unreached and as yet unreachable who still need to hear of God's love for them
- Pray we will get everything done here in a timely manner.

And Finally...A staff member experienced a sad thing on Port Philip Bay. As he stood on a beach, a police helicopter began circling above, followed by several others. Speedboats arrived and divers on jet skis followed. Why? They were all looking for one man, lost in the water, whose body was later retrieved. However, it generated a prayer. We have prayed for a long time for 10 helicopters to search for jungle tribes. One has since become available, still 9 to go! If so many helicopters could be available to find a deceased man, please Lord could we have some more helicopters to search for the living! Please pray with us for 9 helicopters.

We look forward to being back in the UK soon, and hope to get the opportunity to see many of you later this year. Blessings and warm regards, Tim and Carol