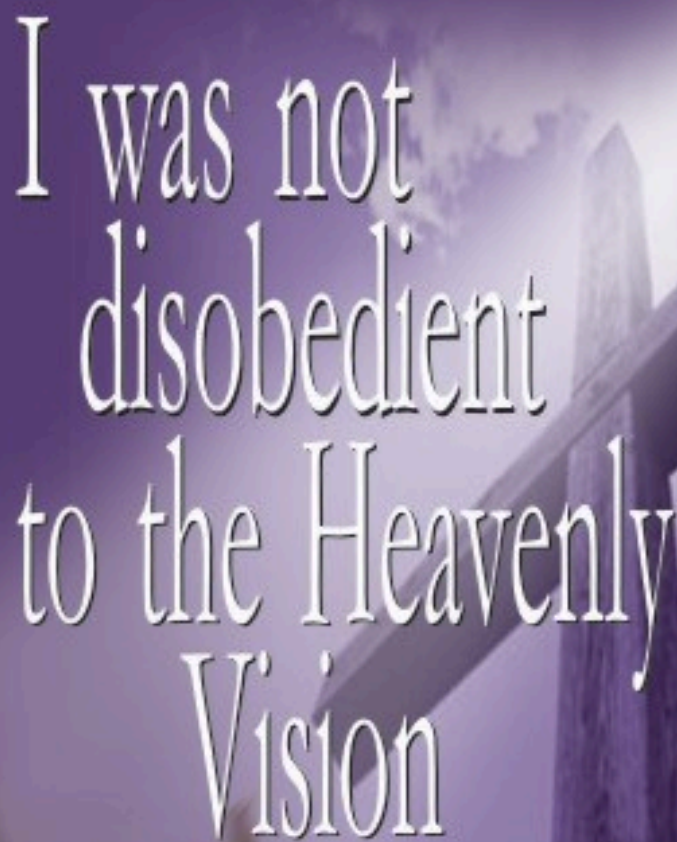




"I was not disobedient to the  
Heavenly Vision"



HEALTHCARE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
INTERNATIONAL (SOUTH ASIA) MONOGRAPHS



# I was not disobedient to the Heavenly Vision

Healthcare Christian Fellowship, South Asia

# **I was not disobedient to the Heavenly Vision**

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# Introduction

“Where there is no Vision, the people cast off restraint;” (Perish)  
(Proverbs 29:18)

Could we share from our hearts what we believe is a God given vision for Healthcare Christian Fellowship International (South Asia) . We want to speak to you “heart to heart”. The words of the Apostle Paul ring out to us.

“Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision” (Acts 26:19)

And as we begin we pray for each of us reading this booklet,  
**“O LORD, open our eyes”.**

The story in Mark’s Gospel Chapter 8 v.22 - 26 is very illustrative of this truth. After the first touch from Jesus, the blind man said, “I see men like trees, walking”. Then Jesus gave him a second touch and he was restored and saw everyone clearly.

May God give us a fresh touch and open the eyes of our heart and make us willing to obey this vision, from God’s heart. Once, Mr Francis Grim, the human founder of HCF International was asked “Where did HCF begin? Where are you heading?” He replied, “HCF was born in the Heart of God. We are going back to Him taking with us many patients and their families and Healthcare Staff and their families”.

## VISION

There are four scriptures which give us some further clarity of the importance of a vision from God.

## 1. GET VISION - UNDERSTAND THE VISION

“And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, “O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and **understand the vision**” (Daniel 9:22-23)

Daniel was given a clear understanding of the vision. The writer testifies that after 30 years of involvement with HCF the vision has become clearer, broader and even more relevant and thrilling as thirty years ago

## 2. WRITE DOWN THE VISION

Then the LORD answered me and said:

**“Write the vision**

And make it plain on tablets,

That he may run who reads it” (Habakkuk 2:2)

The prophet had cried and screamed out to God in Chapter one. He was worrying, sighing and was distressed. He cried out;

“LORD are you there?”

“LORD do you care?”

“LORD is it fair?”

Then he got to the ramparts of Jerusalem and waited and listened for God to speak. God gave him a solid, satisfying answer. The first part was this “Write down the vision, So a herald can run with it.” A vision needs to be carefully articulated.

### 3. WAIT FOR THE VISION EVEN WHEN THERE IS A DELAY

"For the vision is yet for an appointed time;  
But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie.

**Though it tarries, wait for it;**

Because it will surely come,

**It will not tarry"** (Habakkuk 2:3)

What God has spoken with HIS mouth, God will accomplish by HIS Hand! So even if a vision delays, we need to wait with faith and patience.

" And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who **through faith and patience** inherit the promises." (Hebrews 6:11-12)

### 4. OBEY THE VISION

"Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the Heavenly vision." (Acts 26:19)

It is vital to continue to steadfastly obey the God given vision.

Another three statements regarding vision could be helpful.

- A vision without a plan is a dream.
- A vision with a plan but without action to carry out the plan is frustration.
- A vision with a plan and with coordinated, concentrated, committed action to carry out the plan, is fulfillment. This is what we long to see happening in the coming years in the Healthfields of South Asia

I was not disobedient to the Heavenly Vision

CHAPTER ONE

**JESUS CHRIST IS LORD  
OF HEALTHCARE, HEALING  
AND WHOLENESS**

**CRIES OF THE HEART**

Let us consider first the cries that go up from the Healthfields. If we listen with God's heart we will hear a great cry going up to heaven from the Healthfields. Years ago I heard a most moving message by a young doctor from Bulgaria. He said, "There is a great "S.O.S." (save our souls) going up from the Healthfields. Many patients are crying out. "You white coated Healthcare workers, you are doing all for our bodies. Is there no one to save our souls?" This message left a deep impression on me.

## 1. CRIES FROM PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

- The cry of loneliness
- The cry of pain
- The cry of fear and the fear of death
- The cry of guilt
- The cry of grief
- The cry of helplessness and hopelessness

And much, much more!



Sometimes this is an audible cry. Sometimes it is a sigh. Or sometimes a “silent scream”. This phrase is coined from the ultrasound recordings of a 14 week abortion. The foetus , baby, opened his/her mouth in a “silent scream” just before being crushed to death. Many patients cries are inaudible but from the heart and very very real. Does God hear? Does God care ? Dear friends, He does hear and He does care. Later we will give you comprehensive evidence of this from the scriptures.

## 2. CRIES FROM HEALTHCARE STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES

- The cry of injustice
- The cry of overwork
- The cry of being underpaid
- The cry of having to work in bad conditions
- The cry of lack of meaning and purpose
- The cry of “ burnout”
- The cry of sexual harassment
- The cry of pain due to difficult relationships
- The cry of neglect and loneliness

And much, much more.

The question one is again forced to ask, in the light of these cries is, “Does God care”? “Does He see”? At a Prayer

Summit in the Philippines, we paused for 30 minutes to be silent and ask God to help us hear the cries from Healthcare Staff. I remember so vividly one HCF Staff worker say “I hear exploited, Healthcare Staff crying out about the injustice they have suffered”. The Cry for “Justice” is a very deep one and often goes unheard.

Once the writer visited a Consultant friend who was doing a ward round in a smaller district hospital. He came out of the Ward and the first words he spoke to me were,

“Does God see all the struggles we are having?”

He was a dedicated, sincere doctor; but was facing huge obstacles to carry out his work efficiently and effectively. I assured him that God sees and told him of how God heard the prayers and alms of Cornelius, the Roman Centurion. (Acts Chap.10) And God sent an Angel to tell Cornelius,

“Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial **before** God” (Acts 10:4).

As Brother Andrew once put it, “God sent an angel to say “Thank You”, to Cornelius”. **Yes, God sees, God cares, God notices and God remembers.**

## BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF GOD’S CONCERN

### Abel’s Blood

“And GOD said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground” (Genesis 4:10)

Abel’s blood cried out to God and God heard it. We shudder to think of the horrendous cry that reaches God from all the aborted babies and all the innocent blood spilled in South Asia.

## Ishmael's cry

"And God heard the voice of the lad. Then the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said to her, "What ails you, Hagar? **Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is.** Arise, lift up the lad and hold him with your hand, for I will make him a great nation." (Genesis 21:17-18)

God heard Ishmael's cry. He still hears Ishmael's cry. Oh! May we hear this cry, turn from our fears and reach out to those who so need Jesus in many such countries.

## Israel's cry

"Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; **and their cry came up to God because of their bondage**" Exodus 2:23

"And the LORD said: **"I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows."** Exodus 3:7

"Now therefore, behold, **the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me , and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.**" Exodus 3:9

For four hundred years Israel cried out. The delay seemed impossible to bear, yet God heard and brought His people out of bondage.

## Habakkuk's cries

"O LORD, how long shall I cry,  
And You will not hear?  
Even cry out to You, "Violence!"  
And You will not save" (Habakkuk 1:2)

A summary of Habakkuk's cries in Chapter one would be as follows:

- LORD are you there?
- LORD do you care?
- LORD is it fair?

God heard these cries of the prophet and gave him a powerful answer. So many in the Healthfields cry out like this. The writer was seated on the hospital bed of a young man who had lost both his arms in the war in Sri Lanka in 2009. He had lost both his sisters in that same incident, where an artillery shell had fallen on them. His father was depressed; His mother, heart broken. They were contemplating a joint suicide. I listened for about 40 minutes as they poured out their hearts. I was hesitant to say anything about God or the Bible and wanted to feel their pain. Then suddenly the mother said, "It is no use praying to, or worshipping God. He has let us down. I don't even know if He is there. It's useless." Then I told her about Habakkuk and his three cries. "LORD are you there, LORD do you care, LORD is it fair"

She was surprised and suddenly raised herself up and told me "these are the very three questions I am asking" This paved the way for us to minister more deeply to them.

### **Bartimaeus's cry**

"And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" (Luke 18:38)

"So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him saying, "What do you want Me to do for you? "He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." (Luke 18:40 & 41)

Jesus stopped enroute to His destiny in Jerusalem, just to respond to one poor man's cry.

### **The widow of Nain's cry**

"And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." (Luke 7:12 & 13)

Again Jesus stopped as he heard the silent cries of this dear widow. He met her need. He does the same, even today.

### **The Syrophenician woman's cry**

"And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." (Matthew 15:22)

Though Jesus initially appeared to be harsh, He brought out the best in this woman, her great faith, and finally healed her daughter.

"Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith!

Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour." (Matthew 15:28)

I trust these seven scriptures are sufficient to convince us that God hears the cries of people. There is much more evidence of this in the sacred scriptures, the Holy Bible.

So we know GOD hears the cries from the Healthfield.

### 3. THE CRIES OF GOD

What moves us as we read the Bible is that God also cries out in pain and distress and is calling to us to respond to HIM.

#### **Adam, Adam, Where are You?**

"But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9)

These words must have come from the anguished heart of God. It is difficult to fathom how much human sin has broken the heart of God. God's heart was broken to see how Adam & Eve were hiding after they had sinned and as He could see the terrible consequences of their sin.

#### **My GOD, my GOD, why hast thou forsaken me?**

"And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Matthew 27:46

What a cry of dereliction!

- At Gethsemane, his disciples forsook HIM!
- At Gabbatha, his countrymen forsook HIM.

- At Golgotha, even HIS Father forsook HIM!

## Why was this cry necessary?

Because, “He became sin, who knew no sin, that we might become the righteousness of God”.

He drank a cup of wrath without mercy, that we might drink a cup of mercy without wrath.

He cried, “My God, my God why hast thou forsaken me?” that no man, woman or child need ever cry out these words. God not only heard the cries of people, He Himself came down and bore the sin of mankind and has made a way for us to come out of our distress and darkness into HIS light and Liberty.

"Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?"

"Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." Isa 6:8

GOD's voice cried out into the world calling for at least one whom he could send as His suffering spokesman. His heartbeat is that **“none should perish”** And HE cries even now calling us to respond to His summons to bring salvation, hope, compassion and deliverance to the people in the Health Fields. So dear friends, we in Healthcare are strategically placed. We need to listen to the cries from the Healthfields and the cries of God.

May our wholehearted response be, “Here am I LORD (Here are we LORD!) Send me! (Send us!)

## CHAPTER TWO

# JESUS CHRIST IS LORD OF HEALTHCARE

SEVEN SENTENCES WHICH HAVE DEEPLY AFFECTED  
AND CHANGED AND INFLUENCED OUR LIVES

### 1. JESUS CHRIST IS LORD OF HEALTHCARE, HEALING AND WHOLENESS

“in whom (God the Father and Jesus Christ) are hidden all the  
treasures of wisdom and knowledge” Colossians 2:3

What a Savior! What a LORD!

Jesus Christ is LORD of Healthcare, Healing and Wholeness!

Jesus Christ spent much time with the sick. Healing was a high priority to Him. If He visits any of our South Asian cities or towns or villages today, we think he would include in His itinerary, the local or district or provincial Hospital . So one aspect of our vision is, “Bringing our patients to Jesus.” This is well illustrated in the beautiful story of the healing of the paralyzed man in Mark 2:1- 12.

Four men came, carrying a paralyzed man to Jesus. They could not get in at the door as many were crowding the door. Jesus was present in the home at Capernaum and was preaching and healing the sick.

These four men took their patient to the roof, made a



hole in it and let their patient down into the room in front of Jesus. Jesus looked up and saw four faces anxiously, earnestly, beseechingly looking at Him with faith. And seeing their faith, He said to the paralytic - “Son, your sins are forgiven you”. The Religious leaders grumbled as usual and were offended that a mere man had the audacity to pronounce forgiveness. They realized correctly that only God can forgive sins. They did not realize that Jesus is God. Jesus perceiving this said,

“That you may know that the Son of Man (a messianic title) has power on earth to forgive sins”, He then said to the paralytic “Rise, take up your bed and walk” The man stood up, took his bed and walked out of the front door and not the roof! And all of them were amazed!

Oh! May God do this over and over again. And may these words be heard, spoken over patients by Jesus Himself,

- “Son/daughter your sins are forgiven”
- “Son/daughter rise take up your bed and walk”

I once heard Mr Francis Grim, our beloved pioneer of HCFl speak a message on this passage. It pierced my heart and I still remember the broad outlines. I give below the outline he gave 35 years ago.

## Bringing our patients to Jesus

1. It was **difficult** and it still is difficult. There are many obstacles.
2. They were **determined**, regardless of the hindrances.

3. They resorted to the **non-conventional**. Oh how often we excuse our fear, apathy and unwillingness behind a cloak of conformity and so called rules and traditions.
4. Jesus saw their faith. Probably they themselves had been touched by Jesus. Their actions and their eyes showed **their faith**.
5. Jesus cared for the **whole man**.
6. **The man was made whole** in body, mind and spirit.
7. **God was glorified**.

## **Jesus Christ is the treasure keeper in healthcare**

Can we repeat again the verse mentioned earlier?

“in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”  
Colossians2:3

In Christ Jesus are hidden all the treasures of wisdom of knowledge. This means He is also the treasure keeper of all the hidden truths in Healthcare. Without Him we cannot adequately practice medicine, nursing, psychiatry, paediatrics, and other areas of healthcare.

The LORD gave us a vision of this in a most vivid way during an Asia Pacific prayer summit in Sri Lanka. A beloved Australian Doctor, read to us a prophetic word, the story of David bringing the ark of God back into Jerusalem. The ark represented the “Presence of God” This came to us as a word from the LORD. The vision then is to bring back the ark into healthcare.

## **“Bringing back the Ark”**

This would involve bringing back the

The Person -

The Precepts -

The Principles -

The Power -

The Purity -

The Purpose -

The People -

of God back into Healthcare. It is a radical vision. It involves adopting a different world view from the prevailing one and being willing to change.

In the last seven years or so God has been stirring deeply in the hearts of many healthcare workers. This vision is slowly gripping hearts and minds. By the grace of God and the generosity and goodwill of Christian Medical College, Vellore, we have had three landmark Conferences on this theme. We had delegates from many Asia Pacific Countries. The themes of the three Conferences were:

- Bringing Back the Ark - 2002.
- On call with the Great Physician - 2005
- SHALOM - 2007

We trusted God for:

- a full release of truth
- A full release of prayer
- A full release of God's purpose.

I remember a Doctor telling me after one of these gatherings;

“Today for the first time after practicing 26 years as a Christian Doctor, I have shared Christ with a patient” Another young doctor told me “The Bringing back the ark” conference was a defining moment in my calling as a Christian doctor”

To God be the glory!

So let us press on with this vision. There is still very much that has to be done.

## 2. MORE PEOPLE PASS THROUGH THE HOSPITALS OF THE WORLD THAN THROUGH ITS CHURCHES.

What an open door!

“I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name” Revelation 3:8

When we were called into ministry with HCF, this was one of the first promises that the Holy Spirit quickened to us. My wife Ranji and I would place our hands on this promise and claim it. We stand amazed at how He has opened doors to hearts, homes, hospitals, churches, cities and

countries.

Healthcare Staff have been given a precious opportunity , an open door to minister to those in dire need of physical and spiritual care. I would like to share two testimonies with regard to this promise of an open door. I am sure we all have many stories about this.

In Sri Lanka, many years ago, a young Dental Surgeon was working in a remote and difficult place. There was an anti Christian atmosphere and no local Church. With courage and boldness, she tactfully gave out an evangelistic booklet that HCF had published, that to some of her patients. We received 17 responses, to this booklet from that area. We then handed these over to a Pastor. The result was that a local church was planted in an unreached area. Oh! May God do this, over and over again.

For 14 years, we had prayed to visit a difficult access country in our region. Then “suddenly” God opened the door. I remember being overwhelmed with deep emotion and joy as I saw this Nation from afar as we were in the bus.

During this first visit I longed to share God’s word with the believers. But there were constraints and obstacles. The last night that I was there, from 10 p.m. – 5 a.m., I recorded 6 messages on 6 cassettes in the toilet (for security) and was able to get them to two precious leaders. God truly opens doors! Are we willing to go? When people asked Brother Andrew how they could get into certain

closed countries, he provocatively replied, “I can tell you how to get in but I can’t guarantee that I can tell you how to get out !” Are we willing to go?

### 3. PEOPLE ARE MORE RECEPTIVE TO SPIRITUAL REALITIES DURING A TIME OF SICKNESS

**What a GOD given opportunity to care and share GOD’s love and GOD’s gospel!**

“It is good for me that I have been afflicted,  
That I may learn Your statutes” Psalm 119:71

A time of sickness could be a ‘kairos time’, an opportune, God given moment in the life of that person. A moment for him/her to consider spiritual realities. A moment where God’s love could reach him/her.

A beloved Doctor friend of mine who loves Rugby football, describes it this way. “In Rugby, an opening to run through sometimes comes and lasts for just a second or two. One must grasp that moment and go through. Or else the opening will close”. In the same way, God gives us such openings to minister to our patients.

- To care
- To show compassion
- To communicate Christ.

Of course we need to do this ethically and only with the

patients permission. (HCF has training material which teaches us these principles) Can we share a few examples with you?

A patient from a restricted country was in CMC Vellore, India with leukemia. While in hospital, he experienced the reality of redemption in and through Jesus Christ. I met him a number of times back in his own country. He told me how Jesus met with him at CMC Vellore and how grateful he was for all who cared and shared with him. He felt his illness opened a door for him to come to know Jesus Christ and experience eternal salvation. Hundreds if not thousands of similar stories can be told from the Health Fields of South Asia

Two years ago I was in a country in South Asia, visiting a Mission Hospital in a remote area. A beloved Doctor friend, introduced me as a Sri Lankan Doctor to a badly wounded man. The man was from a dreaded militant movement and had been injured in a bomb blast. He was receiving love and care and compassion and efficient medical care. This man opened his hands to me and we hugged each other. It was a long, tight embrace. Suddenly I felt the love of God for this man and felt like weeping. It was a very sacred moment to me. The others were rather taken aback. Later I realized that it would have been impossible to share Christ's love with him outside. But here in the hospital, he was open to receive the love of God.

#### 4. FOR MANY, THE HEALTHCARE FACILITY IS THE LAST STOP BEFORE DEATH AND ETERNITY

What a sobering reality!

"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live" (John 11:25)

"O Death, where is your sting?  
O Grave, where is your victory?"

"The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:55-57)

We are called to "rescue the perishing and care for the dying" Healthcare Staff have opportunities to comfort, console and care for dying patients. And we have the glorious possibility of pointing them to JESUS, the One who has conquered death and sin and satan. It could be their special moment to receive Christ and receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance in Christ. The thief on the cross experienced this on his death bed, the cross. For many the Healthcare facility is the last stop before death and eternity "What a sobering reality" From the Healthcare Centre, to heaven or hell! This is awesome! We, doctors and Healthcare Staff have no answer to death. Death is the last enemy and yet we read in the gospels that Jesus encountered death three times.

- a. The death of Jairus' daughter - dead for a few minutes/hours



- b. The death of the widow of Nain's son - dead for a day
- c. The death of Lazarus - dead for 4 days.

In all 3 instances, he spoke a word and raised the dead. He is LORD, even over death! Then we read of His death, where He died as a substitute for the sins of the whole world. Again after 3 days, He arose! So we can shout with the Apostle Paul

"O Death where is Thy Sting?  
O Grave, where is your victory"?

Also the words of Jesus to Martha are a comfort to us

"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die he shall live" (John 11:25)

As healthworkers, who have faced the issue of our own deaths, we don't need to deny or runaway from death or dying patients. We can move closer to them and minister hope, healing and heaven to them, in Christ Jesus.

A few years ago, a political prisoner from one of the countries in South Asia was in a private hospital in Colombo. He was in a high security area, guarded, but also in great pain and badly wounded. One of his nurses, a Christian cared for him very tenderly and lovingly and he had asked her if she could find someone to pray for him. She asked me and I was able to go through a cordon of guards thanks to my being a doctor and thanks to the healthcare staff there. God opened the door. I knew time was short and asked him, " Why did you want prayer" He replied, "I

am terrified of death. I had a terrible dream four months ago and saw almost exactly what happened in the prison later. In the dream I was injured and later my spirit separated from my body and then .....". He could not describe what he then saw in the dream but he was terrified of death. I do not know what to make of his dream but it seemed authentic.

I then began to very hesitantly and gently tell him a few Bible stories. He kept telling me "I know this story" So I asked him, "How do you know". He was from another faith. He replied, "I've read the Book!". This gave me courage and opening the briefcase, took my Bible out and pointed to him and read with him, Heb. 2:14 & 15

"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Hebrews 2:14-15)

He was amazed! He could not imagine such a clear answer to his terrible fear of death. And to summarize what then transpired, he accepted Christ that very evening and prayed with us. What a glorious moment! Subsequently we met and prayed with him on a number of occasions. Jesus has conquered death. Jesus frees us from the fear of death. May God help us to minister to dying patients as Christ would want us to.

## 5. HEALTHCARE FACILITIES ARE ALWAYS OPEN IN PEACE TIME, WAR TIME, OR IN TIMES OF DISASTER.

### **What a strategic moment!**

“But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him” Luke 10:33-34

The Good Samaritan, saw the wounded person, had compassion and took so much care of him. Disasters and wars and natural calamities are on the increase. The need for “Good Samaritans” is very very great. As we survey the last few years, we see an increase of natural disasters, of wars, of pestilences and of oppressive regimes.

Yet even in such times, Health care facilities are open. And Christians in Healthcare have God given opportunities for compassionate, Christlike care. Our pastor calls it the 3 S service.

Silent, Secret Strategic Service unto the LORD and to people

Examples of this abound all over South Asia.

## 6. THE CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST IS THE CUSTODIAN OF CARE AND THE DISPENSER OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS TO THE COMMUNITY.

### What a ministry!

We follow the footsteps of Jesus.

“how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him” Acts 10:38

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

This concept of “Congregations in Healthcare” is such a vital one. The healing ministry was so much a part of the ministry of the early church. Pastor Paul and Dr. Luke were a wonderful team together.( i.e. The Church, and the Healing Ministry.) We must bring them together again ( Figuratively speaking) This winning combination of Pastor Paul and Dr. Luke must become strong again. And we could say **‘What GOD hath put together (church and Healing ministry) let no man put asunder’**. **So HCF seeks to work closely with local churches.**

The practical expression of this healthcare can vary from place to place and from church to church. Examples are

- a. Forming a hospital visitation team
- b. Praying for the Healthcare Staff and Healthcare
- c. Running clinics for the poor.

- d. Preventive, community healthcare
- e. Running a hospice
- f. Disaster relief
- g. Counseling
- h. Advocacy
- i. Care for the poor

Opportunities abound. May the LORD bless this aspect of the ministry.

Two specific things we hope will happen.

- Pastors will begin to see Healthcare workers in their congregation as missionaries to the Healthfield. They will be encouraged by the Local Church in this ministry.
- More and more churches will get actively engaged in compassionate, healing ministries. Bringing “Shalom” to our communities.

## 7. DEATH IS THE GATEWAY TO LIFE

### **What a principle!**

“I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds” (John 12:24)

“Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father glorify thy Name!” (John 12:27)

These powerful words were spoken by Jesus when the Greeks were trying to offer him a chair of philosophy in

Athens in place of a cross at Jerusalem. Jesus refused the offer and chose to die for the sins of the whole world. For this vision to be implemented, God must raise people willing to “die” to self, personal ambition, fame, leisure, possessions, position and pride.

Jesus said in Luke 9:23 & 24 ;

“Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it”

No man/woman can save himself/herself and fulfill the vision of God. Dietrich Boenhoeffer the great German pastor who was martyred by Hitler, said “When God calls a man, he bids him come and die”. Oh! That God would raise an army of such nameless, fearless, selfless, health-workers to bring His love to the Healthfields of South Asia.

We have a noble procession of such heroes for God in the Health fields. Can we name a few of them as a challenge to us all?

## **The Hebrew Midwives**

“But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive.” Exodus 1:17-18

They resisted Government regulations (Pharoah) They risked their lives. They feared God. They defied the King. They delivered the live babies. And one of them whom they saved, was Moses! If not for these 2 heroines, Shiprah and Puah, there would have been no Moses. He

would have been dead at birth!

What a contrast they are to us today! We compromise, coexist and make concessions to the world system out of fear of man. We will again speak of them in the next chapter.

### **Dr.Luke**

He is referred to as the beloved Physician

- Physician
- Evangelist
- Writer
- Historian
- Missionary
- Friend of the Apostle Paul

He gave his life for the LORD Jesus and the cause of the Kingdom

### **Dr.Dennis Burkitt**

He is one of our special heroes. A missionary doctor, who also did brilliant research. He made 2 decisive discoveries.

- Viruses cause malignancies
- Fiber in the diet reduces the incidence of carcinoma of the colon

He was awarded the most prestigious award of being made a “Fellow of the Royal Society of Science”. When a friend had congratulated him on this, he replied, “The fellowship of the saints means much more to me than the fellowship of the Royal society” What a servant of Christ!

Time fails us to tell of a great procession of unsung heroes of the faith in the Health fields.

Can I add just one more?

Recently, a beloved German Missionary doctor died while in service in Pakistan. When I last met her in Tank in 2008 she was Chairman of the local HCF there. After we had ministered for 3 days there she made a request. “Before you leave tomorrow morning, please have breakfast with me”. While our small team of four sat with her for breakfast, she poured her heart out to us. She told us, “I am very very tired” She was overworked and there was no respite for her. Suddenly a thought came to me and I said to her, “Ulla, even your tiredness is an offering to God”. This touched her. Later she wrote to me how this had blessed and encouraged her. She is in heaven now and I have not the slightest doubt that she, like Stephen, received a standing ovation as she returned home to her Master, her Saviour and her Bridegroom.

So may God raise an army of worshipping warriors for Christ in the Healthfields. Men and Women who will:

## 1. Refuse by faith like Moses

“By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the



son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt ; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king ; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible." (Hebrews 11:24-27)

## 2. Be true Servants of our Servant LORD, like Jesus

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

## 3. Embrace suffering for Christ as a privilege like Paul

"For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake," Philippians 1:29

As Amy Carmichael wrote, "He has not followed far, who has no wound or scar"

These seven statements have burned in our hearts. The writer testifies that after 31 years in this ministry, the vision is clearer and more precious than before. Yes, there have been failures, unbelief, disappointments, despair, and , futility . Most of it has been our own sin. Yet God is gracious. And we are more excited now than ever before about this vision from God.

At the HCF South Asia, Core Group Conference we hope to launch the following.

1. A seven year plan to "possess the land"
2. Seven years of prayer for spiritual awakening.
3. 10 proclamations of truth which we hope will pene-

trate into the Healthfield.

4. HCF South Asia Training Strategy.
5. HCF South Asia Publications.
6. HCF South Asia - Missions.
7. Networking with others.
8. Friends of HCF South Asia.
9. HCF South Asia Core Group Concept.
10. HCF South Asia Associate Staff.

So we can say with Moses, "Let my people go that they may worship me"

Pompei the Roman Emperor was not happy because he could not control the Jewish people. He wanted to bring the Jewish God under his pantheon of gods. Thus he could control the Jews. So he stormed into the Holy of Holies in the Temple of Jerusalem. He was expecting to see a donkey's head". This was a rumor among some people at that time. The rumor was that inside the Holy of Holies, the Jewish God was the head of a donkey. He found nothing, except the wonderful ark of the covenant and the mercy seat. No visible God. It is said he came out angrily and said, "These are the impossible people with an impossible God".

Oh! May God raise such "impossible people with an impossible God" in the Health Fields of South Asia.

# CHAPTER THREE

## JESUS CHRIST IS LORD OF HEALTHCARE, HEALING AND WHOLENESS

### GOD'S METHOD IS A MAN/WOMAN

As we honestly survey and scan the healthfields of South Asia we see a desperate need for God to raise true disciples of Jesus in the Healthfields. Yes, we rejoice with the fact of many wonderful servants of God in Healthcare. Their lives are a great inspiration to us. But they are few in number. Oh! For a breakthrough and building up of many more disciples in Healthcare. There is also a dearth of leaders, shepherds, mentors and models in Healthcare.

Jesus' message to the Church of Sardis seems to be appropriate and relevant to many of our HCF groups.

"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write,

'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that **you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die for I have not found your works perfect before God.** Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and **repent.** Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the

Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Revelation 3:1-6

May God give us the mindset of a Pastor who was once sent to a very difficult congregation. Many pastors had come there and finally left disillusioned and disappointed. His friends wondered why he accepted this pastorate. The first Sunday he was in his new church, the congregation noted that he had placed a notice on the parsonage door. It read **"There will either be a revival in this church or a death in the parsonage"**?

God gave them a revival! Can we ask God for this desperate mindset that we see in some Bible characters?

"Give me children or I die! - **Rachel**

"Except thou bless me, I will not let thee go" - **Jacob**

"Yes LORD, even the dogs eat the crumbs under thy table" - **Syrophoenician** woman

"O LORD, show us your glory"- **Moses**

**Revival or Judgement!** These are the alternatives we need to consider carefully.

## **GOD'S METHOD IS A MAN**

Some biblical examples of this truth

### **The two Hebrew midwives - Exodus 1:15 - 21**

The first example in the Bible of God-centred healthworkers is of the two Hebrew Midwives, Shiphrah and Puah.

What a legacy of faith, courage and godly influence they have left us.

They were ordered by the despotic King of Egypt to kill all the male children at birth. To refuse to do this was to risk their lives. They were slaves under the wicked regime. They could have said, “These are the government regulations! We need to comply.” But the Bible tells us three things they did.

“The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.” Exodus 1:17

They **feared God**

They **did not do** as the King **commanded** them.

They **saved the male children alive**. When confronted by Pharaoh, the King, God gave them wisdom as to how to answer him. It seems that somehow Pharaoh accepted their explanation.

Exodus 1: 20 & 21 are beautiful verses.

“Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them.”

Here we see how God dealt well with them and God provided households for them. I wonder if He provided good husbands for them and later children.

The result of this was that the people multiplied and grew mightily. The Bible does not mention this but we can surmise another vital fact. Not only did the people multiply, their deliverer Moses, was also born through their hands and kept alive! What if the two Hebrew midwives had

followed Government regulations and orders? Moses would have not lived !

May God raise God fearing Healthworkers in South Asia like these two pioneers ! The fruit will be far more than we can imagine.

## MOSES – Refusing by Faith

“By faith Moses, when he became of age, **refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction** with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, **esteeming the reproach of Christ** greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he **looked to the reward**. By faith **he forsook Egypt**, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he **endured as seeing Him who is invisible**. By faith **he kept the Passover** and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them. **By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land**, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned” Hebrews 11:23-29

Moses was God's man, to bring deliverance to the Jews. He had a long training course of 80 years before he could take up his God given vocation.

1<sup>st</sup> 40 years - He thought he was everything.

2<sup>nd</sup> 40 years - He learnt he was nothing.

3<sup>rd</sup> 40 years - He learnt that God was everything.

One key to his life was that he **refused by faith**.

In the passage quoted there are seven verbs to describe his faith. His faith resulted in action.

1. By faith, **he refused to be called** the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

2. By faith, **he chose to suffer** affliction with the people of God.
3. By faith, **he esteemed** the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasurer of Egypt.
4. By faith, **he forsook Egypt**, not fearing the wrath of the king.
5. By faith, **he endured as seeing** HIM who is invisible.
6. By faith, **he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood**, lest HE who destroyed the first born should touch them.
7. By faith, **they passed through the red sea on dry land**, whereas the Egyptians attempting to do so were drowned.

Seven times, by faith! The key to them all is the first. “By faith he refused” Today we hear a lot about “receiving by faith”. **We hear very little about “refusing by faith”**

Moses refused by faith.

Abraham refused by faith.

“But Abram said to the king of Sodom, 'I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth, that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich' (Genesis 14:22-23)

What a clear cut, resounding NO! Oh! May the Pharaoh's and Kings of Sodom of this world hear this clear cut NO! from God's people in the Healthfield. There will be a cor-

responding “Hallelujah” in heaven to this resounding NO! on earth.

## Joseph refused by faith

“But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you **are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?**" (Genesis 39:8-9)

What an example in this age of loose morality. Sexual sin is very strong in the Healthfields.

## Nehemiah refused by faith

“But the former governors who were before me laid burdens on the people, and took from them bread and wine, besides forty shekels of silver. Yes, even their servants bore rule over the people, but I did not do so, because of the fear of God.” (Nehemiah 5:15)

**SO DID NOT I !** Oh! May these words be heard over and over again. Most of us say “**So DID I**, because everybody is doing it” We need to hear Nehemiah’s words again spoken by Healthworkers, “**SO DID NOT I**, because I feared God”

## Jesus refused by faith

"Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? NO! But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name." John 12:27-28

Jesus refused the seductive offer of the Greeks to side-step the cross.



May God raise more healthworkers in South Asia who would do the same and glorify God in the Healthfields.

There are many more examples of this truth, “God’s methods is a man”, in the Bible. In fact the Bible is full of it. Every one of us can research this truth in the Bible.

## **THE KING HAS ONE MORE MOVE!**

As we honestly look at the Healthfields of South Asia and the progress of HCF in these countries, we are bowed low. In many countries there are very few Christians in Healthcare. Also there is much that is heart breaking in the whole scenario. Add to this is the reality that HCF is not dynamic, active and growing in the regions. We long for a breakthrough by the Holy Spirit of God.

Yet we do not lose heart, we are prisoners of hope believing God will yet work.

Recently, we heard a powerful story by a Pastor during a message which deeply encouraged us. Here it is:

### **“THE KING HAS ONE MORE MOVE”**

There was a special art exhibition in a well known place. One of the exhibits was a painting of a chess board, with the pieces arranged as in a real game. One of the players had a smug, evil, victorious look on his face as he had won the game. The other looked crestfallen. The caption written below the painting read, **“CHECK MATE! “**

One day, a man was found gazing long and hard at this painting. Finally he broke into the room of the Manager of the exhibition and

said to him, "Sir, there is one painting in your exhibition, that you either need to remove or at least change the caption" The Manager was annoyed and asked him what right he had to make such a demand. The man replied " I am -----, the world chess champion. I've looked at the picture and realized the game is not over.

**THE KING HAS ONE MORE MOVE!"**

This story burned into our hearts. Very often we think Satan has triumphed. We think our situation is irreversible. We are discouraged and cannot imagine true renewal and a mighty work of God in the Health fields. Our dreams have died. Like the unbelieving Israelites we ask, "Can God spread a table in the wilderness? Yet, let us realize,

"The King has one more move ! " Nothing is impossible with God!

The Bible abounds in such examples.

When **Adam and Eve** sinned and death entered the human race, Satan and his emissaries. would have howled and celebrated with glee. Yet, right there in Genesis 3 v 15, God proclaimed His counter plan. It was not check mate.

"And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed;he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." Genesis 3:15

**The KING, OUR GOD, has always one MORE MOVE!**

In Genesis Chapter Eleven, after the **Tower of Babel incident** and the scattering of mankind over the face of the

earth, the whole redemptive plan of God seemed very remote. Yet into that spiritual desert, God's voice rang out to one man, through whom He could carry out His redemptive plan. God called Abram out of Ur of the Chaldeans and amazingly and wonderfully brought forth His Plan.

"Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Genesis 12:1-3)

Just one man, and through him came descendants as many as the sand on the seashore and stars in the sky. And through him came the Messiah, JESUS.

The King has one more move!

Haman the Agagite had cunningly and strategically obtained a legal document from the King of Persia to destroy every single Jew on the face of the earth on one day. It was an irreversible law of the Medes and Persians. It brought much weeping and mourning among all the Jews.

Yet God had preempted this diabolic plan and strategically placed His two precious people in situ. Esther was Queen of Persia and Mordecai the Jew was at the gate of the city. God's redemptive plan was at stake, but God had His plan.

We all know the story of how God turned the tables and brought a great deliverance to the Jewish people. Of

course, Esther had to risk her life in the process.

“Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day, the time came **for** the king’s command and his decree to be executed. On the day that the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, the opposite occurred, in that the Jews themselves overpowered those who hated them” Est 9:1

**Yes, our King has one more move!**

The New Testament church was being shaken subdued and silenced by a militant Jew, Saul. He was set on exterminating the church. In the midst of this terrible persecution God carried out one of His master moves.

On the way to Damascus, Saul had an encounter with the Risen, Exalted Jesus. What a momentous moment in history when the proud Jew fell at the feet of Jesus! The powers of darkness would have shuddered. Their champion was changing sides. And Saul, the militant persecutor and enemy of the church became the mighty, fearless champion of God, the Apostle Paul.

Will not God do the same with some key people in the Health Fields?

Remember dear friends,

**“The King has one more move!”**

When **Jesus was crucified and buried in Joseph of Arimathea’s tomb**, it seemed as if all hope was gone. Once again the demonic hordes would have howled in triumph. But their triumph was short lived. On the third day, all the mighty life giving power of God was concentrated on that tomb and on the Body of JESUS

“Up from the Grave He arose  
With a mighty triumph O’er His foes  
He arose a Victor from the dark domain  
And He lives forever with His saints to reign,  
He Arose!  
He Arose!  
Hallelujah! Christ Arose!”

The Resurrection of Jesus is the greatest reversal in History.

So let us take heart. He will yet release His life giving Resurrection power over the Health fields of South Asia. **The King has one more move!**

There are many more examples like this in the Bible. We leave it to you dear reader to explore and be encouraged.

## **VIOLENCE OF THE KINGDOM**

“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.” Matthew 11:12

We pray that we in HCF South Asia would develop this good kind of “violent spirit”. From the time of John the Baptist, the Kingdom has expanded forcibly and violent men take it by force. Jesus Himself said these words. A passive, lukewarm attitude will not help to advance the Kingdom. May God grant us that zeal and fervor as we help to extend God’s Kingdom in the Healthfield.

Elisha had this passion too. He struck the Jordan and cried, “Where is the God of Elijah?” God responded by parting the Jordan.

So we can cry out over the Health Fields of South Asia.

**“Where is the God of Elijah?”** Where are those with that violent spirit?

And also,

**“Where are the Elijah’s of GOD?”** Those with that violent spirit.

Let us turn from apathy, complacency and lukewarmness to zeal, fervor and faith.

### **THE PROMISES OF GOD**

As we conclude this small booklet on vision, we would like to encourage us all with the promises of God that we can claim on behalf of the Health Fields and on behalf of HCF of South Asia.

Let us remember that, “We live not by explanations but by the promises of God”

Here are just seven promises for us to get hold of. Of course there are hundreds more in God’s word that we can lay hold of.

“And Joshua said to the people, **“Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you”** (Joshua 3:5)

“I know your works. **See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it;** for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name” (Revelation 3:8)

“Now to Him who is **able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen” Ephesians 3:20 & 21)

“Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. **Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth;** Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert”. (Isaiah.43:18 & 19)

“But to you who fear My name ,**the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings;** and you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves. You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet ,On the day that I do this," says the LORD of hosts.” (Malachi 4:2-3)

### Joshua 1:3

“Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses”

### Joel 2:25-27

"So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten,  
The crawling locust,  
The consuming locust,  
And the chewing locust,  
My great army which I sent among you.  
26 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,  
And praise the name of the LORD your God,  
Who has dealt wondrously with you;  
And My people shall never be put to shame.  
27 Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel:  
I am the LORD your God  
And there is no other.  
My people shall never be put to shame.

In 1975, the LORD moved deeply at an HCF International Conference in Austria. Brother Andrew gave anointed messages on “Building in a Broken world” His messages

were from the Book of Nehemiah. Towards the end of that Conference there was a solemn moment when 50 responded to the call of God to be full time with HCF Ministry.

God had promised Bro. Andrew and Uncle Francis Grim that He will grant 50 workers. The following powerful poem was written by Mr. Grim after this incident. The writer was one of that fifty and this poem overwhelms him with deep feelings.

**THE FIFTY**

There were fifty men and woman, who at Kossen heard the call  
To give up their ambitions, on the altar lay them all,  
And in their place receive from Christ the mighty ordination:  
“Go ye into all the world – to every land and nation  
Bring the message of My love, of a free and full salvation.”

To their feet they rose and waited, as if listening to the Voice  
That came sounding down the ages for all men to make the choice  
—  
Chose the bloodstained road of Calv’ry where their Lord had gone  
before,  
They would follow in His footsteps and like Him their lives would  
pour  
In a flood of loving service, bearing fruit for evermore.

But these fifty need us others to stand by them every day,  
With our interest and our love, and our promises to pray  
In the forefront of the battle they will feel the blast of Hell,  
For Satan will oppose them as they seek to “go and tell”  
That the Saviour can deliver from an enemy so fell.

And these fifty will gain fifty, and those fifty, fifty others  
So will grow the blessed family of sisters and of brothers,  
In the palaces of healing will be songs of jubilation,



As the sick ones and the poor ones of every tribe and every nation  
Join in praises of the Lord for His wonderful salvation.

The crowning day is coming and the best is yet to be  
When we gather with our Master there beside the crystal sea,  
For the fifty will be thousand, and the thousand, thousands more;  
Some are martyrs, all are ransomed, who will gather on the shore  
To receive His fadeless crown and to reign for evermore.

Francis Grim

## Macedonian Call

So beloved reader, can we invite you like the way the  
Macedonian man appeared to the Apostle Paul in a vision  
in Acts 16: 9 & 10

“And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia  
stood and pleaded with him, saying, **"Come over to Macedonia  
and help us."** Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we  
sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us  
to preach the gospel to them” Acts 16:9-10

Please come over and help us!

Or can we invite you like Nehemiah who said to the people  
in Jerusalem, “Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem”.  
And they replied, “Let us arise and build”.

Please do write to us if you desire and long to be involved  
in building God’s Kingdom in the Healthfields of South  
Asia.

I was not disobedient to the Heavenly Vision

I was not disobedient to the Heavenly Vision





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**HCFI**  
South Asia

“This booklet briefly describes the vision of Healthcare Christian Fellowship International, South Asia. We believe it is a God-given vision. We have done this through seven sentences of truth which have burned in our hearts. We call Christians in healthcare and concerned churches and church members to join us and help us in anyway, to implement this vision. It is a Macedonian call, “Please come over and help us!”

In whom (Christ) are hidden all the treasures  
of wisdom & knowledge -Colossians 2:3 (NKJV)

Then the Lord replied:

Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay. -Habakkuk 2:2,3 (NIV)