

## ***Real War Zones***

### **Seven Realities of HBF**

- 1. Real People***
- 2. Real Christians***
- 3. Real Relationships***
- 4. Real Ministers***
- 5. Real Battles***
- 6. Real Leaders***
- 7. Real War Zones***

This past year as we travelled through Nepal, I was amazed at the proliferation of Pepsi Cola! It didn't matter what mountain passage I was on or what remote village we were travelling to, everywhere we turned we saw a strategic message. The message was, BUY PEPSI. There may not have been paved roads, running water or electricity, but the Pepsi Corporation made sure that their product would be the first on the minds of the people of Nepal. In fact Pepsi went beyond advertising and invested resources in an area of Kathmandu called; you guessed it, Pepsi Cola. They don't just market their product they produce it right in the heart of the key city of Nepal.

You can probably see where I'm going with this. For the church to be faithful to our Lord and His mission, we must be ready to take the message to strategic locations. Not all of them have to be exotic or but they should all be strategic.

Just as Pepsi Cola is competing against Coca Cola for customers, so we are competing against principalities and powers of darkness for the souls of men. If Pepsi or Coke fails, they lose money; if we fail we lose souls that Jesus Christ has died to save. With this in mind, I want to present HBF's seventh and final reality.

### **HBF Reality Number 7: Real Churches Impact Real War Zones**

The scripture is clear that the mission of making disciples who can impact the planet is a high stakes reality. Just as Nations have training institutions designed for developing strategy to engage and win war, so the body of Christ is the institution God has called, ordained and equipped to prepare men and women to reproduce themselves in strategic people and places on the planet. Understanding who we are fighting and where we are fighting is a big part of being successful. If a church is going to leave a lasting impact on real spiritual war zones, they must **Discern God's Strategic Mission.**

May 2003 President George Bush declared victory in Iraq. At that time according to the United States Department of Defense the fatalities to US troops stood at 176. While the United States declared they won the war, the battles were not over. To date the Department of Defense reports over 4300 fatalities since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The figures are not intended to be political but illustrative. Jesus said, "It is finished." 2000 years ago, but Satan is still inflicting as much damage as he can before he is cast into the lake of fire. The collateral damage in this war is the souls of men and women.

It is very important that we never lose sight of the war in which we are engaged. Prayer that passes straight through the second heaven to our Father ensures we provide the supplies necessary to encourage the troops who are engaged in spiritual battle on earth.

It was no accident that God called strategic men like Paul to face off with strategic men like Nero. Paul was **Deployed as God's Strategic Messenger** to deliver the news of Jesus victory to everyone who needed to hear it, even heads of state.

In the Old Testament, God called Israel an army long before they looked like one (Exodus 6:26). Those Pharaoh saw as slaves, God saw as an army capable of driving out people who were greater and mightier than them (Deuteronomy 9:1). It takes time to prepare common believers to accomplish uncommon things. Even the apostle Paul was not ready the day he was saved. It took some time of serving and preparing before he was deployed to reproduce faithful men and ministries. Strong churches make sure men and women are prepared, because when God opens the door, you need to know what God wants you to do and believe God can do it! (Numbers 13)

### **Real Churches Impact Real War**

#### **Spiritual War Zones**

- 1. By Discerning God's Strategic Mission**
- 2. By Deploying God's Strategic Messengers**
- 3. By Depositing God's Strategic Message**

A few years ago I found that there are at least 53 cities in the 10/40 window with populations over 1,000,000 people. Many of these cities are cities you have never even heard of in places like China, India or the Middle East. They have official religions like Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism or in the case of China no religion. These are not imaginary places, but real places with real people who need to hear the real gospel from real Christians who can plug them into real churches that reproduce real disciples who can be used to **Deposit God's Strategic Message** in the hearts of people within their sphere of influence.

If Jesus were as popular as Pepsi is in Nepal, then we would certainly be in the millennial reign of Christ. We know the times and seasons (1 Thessalonians 5:1-4). We understand that the next great spiritual leader to captivate the entire world like Pepsi in Nepal is the man of sin himself. Real Christians in real churches should be encouraged as we see the day approaching. As the population of earth swells there is not a greater time to engage the souls of men with the liberating message of Christ!