FOREWORD

An encourager should provoke to action. Through his testimony Rob leads us on a voyage of discovery; the discovery of God's purpose working through everyday people and situations, the discovery that every heart cry is heard and valued by our Creator, the discovery that nothing can stop a person who is determined to follow God. Once we know these things we are trapped. We must take action ourselves. So in that way this book is an encouragement !

I laughed and cried reading it. Rob has the capacity to stand outside of himself and see something of the gentle interweaving of past, present and future. His recounting is earthy, smattered with humour and compassion. By telling his own story he has conveyed his wonder at the purpose that pervades his life. In doing so he opens a window for us to wonder at the purpose in our own.

One of my earliest memories of Rob is his arrival at Glanmor, then the *"Horizons"* HQ, with his brother before they went on an expedition to North Africa. He carried his luggage in a black bin liner. That thin black plastic bag seemed to sum up all he cared for worldly goods. He was off on an adventure with God, and there was no holding him back !

He and the team visited the village in North Africa that was later to become my home. They prayed in the house and left my friend and I precious provisions from Britain to stave off our initial homesickness. I wonder if it was Rob who left the custard powder in the same cupboard as the paraffin !

It was in that same house some time later that I interviewed a young lady who had come on an expedition to North Africa. She felt the Lord was calling her to join *"Horizons"*. I accepted Sylviane into our work, and so feel in some part responsible for bringing together two powerful people who make a formidable team, Mr and Mrs Reeve !

In a way I grew up with Rob, we were discipled by the same spiritual father, Rowland Evans, founder of *"World Horizons"* and *"Nations"*. Rob is a brother to me, and knowing him "warts and all" has in no way diminished my respect for him. He is a gifted preacher and teacher, and as you will see from this book, a storyteller par excellence. His power comes from his devotion to reality and his devotion to His Lord.

This book is an honest account of one man's journey to the nations. As must be with any account, so much is left unsaid. Though he might deny it, I think Rob is above all an intercessor. His life comes out in response to the passion Jesus has put in his heart for people. The nights of prayer, the fastings and tears are not seen through the words of this book, yet for the reader with a kindred spirit more is conveyed than is written.

At Christmas, I read this book aloud to my parents. My father was particularly stirred. He had been drifting in his own spiritual walk, and chapter by chapter he was

provoked and fired up. He changed from "humouring" his daughter's request to read him something, to demanding when the next instalment would be.

Shortly after Christmas, Rob's own father died. You will see as you read the book how key Rob's father's prayer was to all that follows. I feel this book is part of his legacy. There is something here of what was prophesied in Malachi :

"He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of their children to their fathers."

My prayer above all is that this book will turn the hearts of those of us who read it to our Heavenly Father and His amazing purpose for our lives.

Gail Dixon
"Nations"