

LINK

YOUR CONNECTION WITH TRIBAL MISSIONS



HOW BEST TO SERVE

REACH 2019

'How best to serve' - this was the theme at the staff retreat held in May. Pastor David Moore and his wife, Hazel, from Milton Baptist Church, Stoke-on-Trent joined us for the weekend and David shared from the book of Job. As believers, we are all 'in service', not because we have to be but because of our desire to serve the One we love.

We pray that you will be encouraged as you see how the Lord is using people to reach others with God's message of salvation. We all have a part to play in the differing roles that God has given us and we need to wait upon Him. "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

The Lord has a special plan and purpose for each of our lives. At times we grow tired but we are encouraged to "...not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9. We are thankful for those that volunteer and serve with us giving a year of their lives and sometimes more. The weekend was a special time of hearing from God's Word and fellowshiping together without being task oriented. (See the picture of those attending on page 13)



A surprise cake baked by students.

// These days were so beautiful that I don't really know what to say!... I've never been here before but I am falling in love with this place! God has spoken to my heart and I am sure in the hearts of a lot of young people who were here... **//**

// A great overview of the world of missions and the needs to be met! **//**

// Gave a whole new insight into what it's like going to the mission field. **//**

// Very challenging! Was a great weekend, lots to think about. Thanks so much for all your hard work. **//**

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donate online at: www.ntm.org.uk/give
New Tribes Mission is a registered charity, No. 278627.
Tel: +44 (0)1472 387700
link@ntm.org.uk
www.ntm.org.uk
Contact our representatives:
Ireland (North & South) matthew_cuthbert@ntm.org.uk
Mainland UK
frank_brearley@ntm.org.uk
stephen_jerrard@ntm.org.uk
jack_douglas@ntm.org.uk
andrew_murray@ntm.org
thom_cunningham@ntm.org

When I was a child, I remember my grandmother pulling taffy (a type of chewy sweet). Sometimes I feel a little stretched, like that taffy, but with considerably less elasticity!

Like that time I was driving along on my dirt bike at a fair clip, making that seven-hour trip to our indigenous people group location... I feel a buzz in my pocket. It is the second message that I have received today from people that I have met along the way. This one is from Ebredy, a tribal leader from Kedulan; he is asking me to take a four-hour hike with him to teach his people the Good News. The other message is the same, asking me to teach in Beheg.



After a few days in Naplud meeting with believers, teaching and doing a translation check on twenty chapters or so, I return home. It sure feels good to get off the bike! Monika has been overseeing our children's home schooling, and when I get home there is something ready to eat and cold water! In a couple of weeks' it will be time for some indigenous people to come and help me through the next step of Bible translation. Again, Monika will make sure that they are well cared for while they are here.



Somewhere along the way, I need to meet with some leaders of churches in order to find out how we can equip them to better communicate the Gospel to the tribal people around them. I can tell you that with all the urgent needs around us, we sometimes feel that the limits of our flexibility have been reached.

As the taffy cools, it becomes brittle. A quick snip with the scissors, and the candy is done. Let's hope our relationship with Jesus never cools, or we too may reach the cracking point.



Timothy and Monika Sharp have served together in the Philippines since 2001 (Tim since 1994). Tim is from the USA and Monika from the Faroe Islands. They have three children, Ragnhild, Rebekka and Hanna.



A strong believer and the mother of two of the Bible teachers in Naplud.

"A bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice."

Isaiah 42:3

The quiet whirring of the solar fan overhead and the conversation between my host family's mum, Andrea, and her two-year-old son as they potter around outside, are the sounds filling my ears. Across the room, my two young students are working independently.

I came to Asia-Pacific to serve as a home school helper for an American missionary family. The Ullums have been serving in a tribe here for many years. Since the arrival of their two little boys, schooling their two older girls was becoming increasingly difficult. Living and working alongside them for the last eight months has been such a huge privilege.



Naomi Hastings who is from Middlesbrough, UK, has been serving as a home school helper in Asia-Pacific for eight months.



Now, there are just a few weeks until I return home. Reflecting on my time here one evening, Andrea said that she has been amazed at the way I have coped with so many new and challenging situations, but I had to correct her. The heat, humidity, and constant sweating, power cuts during our precious hours of night-time electricity, complete lack of internet, language barriers - all of these things have been manageable not because I am extraordinarily resilient, but rather because

GOD HAS GIVEN ME GRACE
SUFFICIENT.

Andrea knew what I meant. She cringes whenever people tell her "Ooh, I admire you, I could never do what you do". Before I came here, I could have said the same thing. I was sure life in the jungle was going to be extremely difficult, and I was not sure how I was going to cope! Honestly, I began to dread my departure date.

The truth I have learned is that missionaries in and of themselves probably never could manage to cope with living on the field, with all the challenges that it brings, but they don't have to.

THOSE WHO ARE WILLING TO GO,
GOD EQUIPS.

You experience the amazing ways He can transform you when you put yourself in uncomfortable situations for the sake of the Gospel. Of course, there have been difficulties, but my time here has been one of the most encouraging, uplifting and blessed periods of my life so far.

And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 Corinthians 12:9



THE VERY VILLAGE



God has been working in my heart for many years regarding missions. Though not your typical MK (Missionary Kid), having lived the majority of my life in the UK, not your usual 'mission field'; my parents' involvement in missions is the greatest example to me of serving God and reaching the unreached.



Previously I was told that to visit a new country is to be a learner; and I've never heard anything truer. Our eyes were wide open as we stepped outside our comfort zones into the culture; learning the importance of greetings, hospitality, and subtler (but very important) elements of the culture, including mealtime etiquette.

As well as the village, we explored Dakar; the twists and turns of learning a new language, met with missionaries, ate delicious Senegalese food, and most of all saw that God is already at work in West Africa. The church is growing, and His name is being declared throughout the region!

It was a humbling experience to be involved in the local church during our visit and to see the missionaries in their aim to work alongside the them; developing strategies with one goal in mind, to bring the Good News to those who have never heard. Most of all, I have seen that God works in ways we could never expect or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). Years on, the Baynunk are being

reached, although not through missionaries living within the village, as this access was denied. But God, through His great power, has His Word being taught by recordings on memory cards, which are translated and distributed throughout the village. Praise God for His work amongst the Baynunk and please keep them in your prayers!

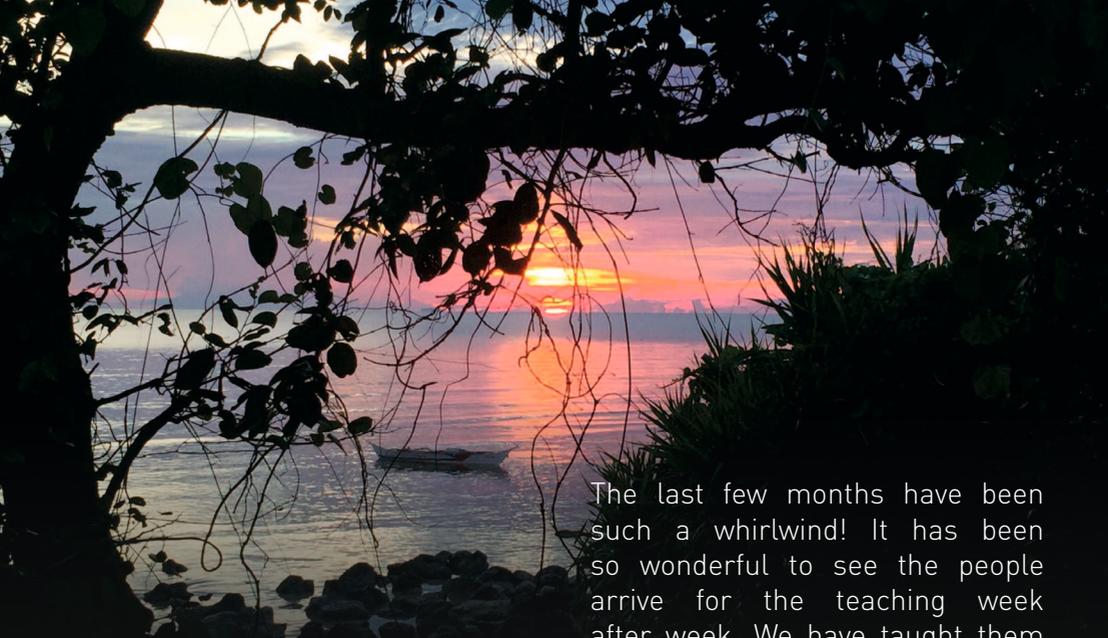


Julia Palmer, born in the USA, is a student enrolled on the Biblical Studies Course at North Cotes. She is pictured here with a Baynunk man, who remembers her dad and is holding a photograph of her parents.

Thirty years ago my dad lived among the Baynunk people in Senegal, West Africa. In April of this year, along with fellow students from North Cotes College, I visited the very village he worked in, met his friends and even explored the house where my dad and his co-worker had lived (which is surprisingly still standing!).



UNDER THE STARS AT NIGHT



The last few months have been such a whirlwind! It has been so wonderful to see the people arrive for the teaching week after week. We have taught them chronologically through the first few books of the Bible, showing them God's character, man's sinfulness and need for a Saviour. We are halfway through our phase one teaching and already there have been very difficult lessons that challenge them on traditions they have followed most of their lives. But they continue to come and each time we are delighted to have another opportunity to teach them from God's Word.

What a journey this has been! Five years ago we moved onto this tiny island, built a home and planned how we would reach the lost. Then God brought a massive typhoon that destroyed homes and livelihoods, but catapulted us forward in building relationships as we helped them recover. Language learning and lesson preparation followed, and then finally the day we had prepared for years for arrived: Teaching!



We teach in seven different locations every week. Quite surprisingly we have consistently had more than 200 people every week. Philip teaches the adults in Agutaynen and I teach the kids in Tagalog. Each lesson is about two hours long and no one is ever in a hurry to go home afterwards. Sometimes we teach under the stars at night, other times in the scorching sun. Every location is set up differently, and each one has its unique challenges.



We have learned so much! Above all, we have experienced God's promise in Matthew 28:20 as truth "...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.' What a privilege to be His hands and feet in this remote corner of the world! We cannot wait for the day when we can welcome our Agutaynen friends as brothers and sisters in Christ!



PHILIP AND VINA LE ROUX ARE FROM SOUTH AFRICA. THEY HAVE THREE CHILDREN. THEY HAVE BEEN SERVING IN THE PHILIPPINES FOR TEN YEARS AND ON AGUTAYA ISLAND FOR FIVE YEARS.

My wife and I recently had the privilege of hearing a presentation of the history of NTM. What stood out the most to us, was that despite such difficult hardship through the early days of the Mission (whether it be plane crashes, training camps burning down, or missionaries making the ultimate sacrifice) the call of God resounded in the ears of our forefathers, they never doubted that NTM was exactly what the Lord wanted. Today, hundreds, if not thousands, are testament to that initial call from God as they serve Him faithfully across the globe.

In our short time since arriving here to serve at North Cotes, the Lord has allowed our lives to be shaken, nowhere near to the extent of what those who went before endured, but enough to realise that the enemy hates the Lord's work. Through it all, we have held on to our Saviour who is indeed our Rock. What better place to be!

I am reminded of the heart of those three Hebrew boys in the book of Daniel. When told they would be thrown into the fiery furnace if they didn't bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's golden image, their response was "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out

of thine hand, O King. But even if he doesn't, we will not serve any foreign God". (Daniel 3:17)

It is that heart that we strive to have, particularly in the days we live in, faced with so much opposition in this world. Those three boys had no doubt that God was able to save them, and they trusted Him 100% whatever the outcome. We see this same attitude here on campus through students, volunteers and staff, and praise God for leading us through an open door to serve Him here at North Cotes.

"WHATEVER TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS YOU ARE FACING OR INDEED, EVEN IF YOU ARE ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP, KEEP YOUR EYES ON YOUR SAVIOUR; HE WILL NEVER LET US GO."



Matt and Laura Petley are from England. They have two children Bethan (14) and Daniel (10).

Moving to England is something we had never thought about before. We were serving in a church planting project in Germany, Eduard had a good job and things seemed to run smoothly. But at the end of 2016 things started to change - we finally quit the church planting project in March 2017 and over the summer Eduard had so much trouble at work that we knew we needed time out in order to find out what was next.

The possibility of a one-year Bible school in an English speaking country arose and we contacted NTM, but it was too late to apply for 2017. However, volunteers were needed to work in IT and in the finance office - which are exactly the areas we worked in. This, together with other reasons, made it very clear to us that God wanted us in North Cotes and within a few weeks we had packed up our household and moved to England. Eduard started working on IT issues the very same day we arrived, and has been busy ever since. Anna helps in the finance office as much as possible for a few mornings every week.

After the first few hard weeks, the kids adjusted very well to all the changes and it was amazing to see how quickly they learnt to speak English.

When we came here, we only planned on staying for eight months, but seeing the need for staff made it impossible to leave - it was too obvious that God wanted us to be here for another year. At the moment we have decided to stay until the summer of 2020, taking one step at a time and trusting God that He will show us the way in His time. His ways are amazing!



Eduard and Anna Tissen are from Germany. They have three children and another one on the way. They became volunteers at North Cotes in November 2017.



I (Stephen) became a believer at a young age when a Sunday school teacher very simply shared about heaven, hell, Jesus Christ's death for us and our need to believe. Growing up in the UK, I saw my parents' ministry and did not want to go into full time Christian work because I saw many challenges first-hand. However, after university I came to North Cotes to study the Bible deeper. I (Sandra) grew up in a loving home in Germany, but did not hear the Gospel until a co-worker (who read his Bible, not just stored it on a shelf) shared the Gospel and my need to repent. I went on a Missions Focus trip to Senegal and became excited about the work of NTM.

We met at North Cotes College and married after completing the training, then as a couple we spent time with our sending churches. We lived in Portugal for over a year to learn Portuguese before moving to Mozambique. Because our heart was to plant churches, Stephen became involved in surveying people groups to prioritise needs and gather information relating to a church planting strategy. However, as it says in Proverbs 16:9 "A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps" and this survey work (People Group Assessment) became our full time role! After this



survey work revealed some people groups living across the country border, NTM started to minister in Tanzania. So our family moved, began learning a new language (Swahili), and was involved in translating questionnaires and other materials, as well as working alongside local churches in this survey work.

We enjoyed living in Africa and our kids loved it. Moving to England was a big change for all of us. One day, we were trying to show the kids a furry animal in a tree when one of them shouted excitedly "monkey" at the squirrel! Now that we are at North Cotes College we are involved with the Biblical Studies team through teaching, fellowship groups and coming alongside students. It is a joy to see individuals growing in their walk with the Lord. At the end of the Bible year, some return to their home countries and are involved there, while others continue to prepare for church planting among unreached people groups.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

André and Aurélie Tousch are getting ready to have the translation of four Bible books checked by translation consultants: Jonah, Mark, Romans and Ephesians. This is being done in two stages: Andrew (their co-worker in the village) has gone to town with a group of believers from the village for Romans and Ephesians, and then a consultant will come to the village this July to check Jonah and Mark.

Until now, the team had not translated whole books of the Bible. The book that was checked with consultants and printed in 2017, contained about two thousand verses of the Old and New Testaments, but there were no complete books. At the end of these consultant visits, they should get the green light from the mission to print and distribute these first four Bible books in the people's language.

THAILAND

Thank the Lord with Dave and Fran Jordan that three Prai believers have recently testified of their faith in baptism, and that the funds for the publication of the Prai

Old Testament portions and New Testament have been generously provided. They are so eager for the Prai to have this that they find it hard to be patient through the remainder of the revision, checking, and typesetting.

MOZAMBIQUE

Francois and Nadia Hattingh are very encouraged by the fact that since they are now ministering from South Africa the team of Mwinika Bible teachers not only continue to teach, but also engage with the written Word. Bible material is increasing and developing. New Bible teachers are being disciplined! In all six of the groups of believers, young teachers are being trained to continue the growing work. There is now a second generation of believers which is a reason to rejoice.

NORTH COTES

Paul and Naomi Born are thankful to those who prayed for them regarding their recent visit to Thailand and their future plans. In answer to prayer, the Lord has directed them to stay on here at North Cotes as permanent staff.

NTM AT NORTH COTES IS CELEBRATING
1999-2019
YEARS

We give thanks to the Lord for His faithfulness and provision over the last 20 years here at North Cotes.