

LINK

YOUR CONNECTION WITH TRIBAL MISSIONS



It is always an encouragement to read the various articles that come in for the Link magazine. Each one is a refreshing testimony of what God is doing all over the world through His people.

What stands out in this Link is how the Lord can use us all, whatever age we are. Many of our contributors share about 'first time' experiences. Serving the Lord, however that looks for us as individuals, is not always an easy road and often requires much patience. As you read further you will see again and again that the Lord is faithful.

Whether young and leaving home to spend a year studying the Word of God at Bible school, or a grandparent

stepping out into full time ministry, God desires to use us all for His glory.

*Teach me to do Your will
[so that I may please You],
For You are my God;
Let Your good Spirit
lead me on level ground.'*

Psalms 143:10 Amplified Bible



Every year we welcome people of all ages from our local community to our **Carols by Candlelight** service. We enjoy singing carols led by the City of Hull Brass Band, hearing Christmas songs sung by the local school choir and our own Noah's Ark nursery children and watching Puppet Power from Grimsby Baptist Church perform. There are scripture readings and a short talk that give us the opportunity to share the real 'reason for the season' – the coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We round off the evening with delicious Christmas goodies, warm drinks, fun children's activities, and good conversations. We are thankful to the Lord that each year this event is well attended, and trust that He will continue to help us build relationships with those around us here at North Cotes.

In November last year, as a community, we were given the opportunity to join the grounds team in **planting close to 400 trees** and we will be planting 100 more trees in early March. The nursery children joined in too.

Thank you to the Woodland Trust who provided through their 'Free trees for schools and communities' initiative. They state 'We want to make sure everybody in the UK has the chance to plant a tree.'

In a few years, it is hoped that some of these trees will grow into a shady glade for times of fellowship around a fire pit.



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Please notify us promptly of any change of address or if you do not wish to continue receiving a copy of Link.

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EXCITED TO READ GOD'S WORD

CÔTE D'IVOIRE



Teaching people to read and write in an ethnic language is not an easy task. However, NTM have developed a computer programme that has totally revolutionised how we prepare reading materials and teachers' books. The Palaka people of Ivory Coast have used a 'literacy programme' that we developed over twenty years ago but it was necessary to update those materials.

In October last year, I was able to join a team of other NTM missionaries and Palaka believers who spent three solid weeks working with the new programme. It was a privilege and also daunting as I had had a brain tumour removed in February last year and so am still recovering. Our daughter Faye who grew up in that Palaka village accompanied me as my carer and it was a great opportunity for her to visit her childhood home and reconnect with old friends.



Mandy and her husband **Allan** served in Ivory Coast from 1988 to 2002

I spent a lot of time in the village when I was growing up and have always viewed it as my home. I needed to leave at the age of 15 to move forward with life and finish my schooling. The opportunity to return had never arisen until now; when my Mom needed a companion for her trip. As things were settled in my home life, I was a willing volunteer!

After 18 years, it is amazing how quickly everything came back to me; it was as if I had been there just yesterday. The heat, the smells, the bugs and the dirt! When we finally made it to the village, it was so emotional reconnecting with everyone and meeting their children.

It was especially emotional visiting the church and seeing how much they have grown in God's love, and seeing my childhood best friend again. She was excited to read the books of the Bible to me. When I left as a teenager, she could not read. She took me to all the places we used to go as kids including the field and a neighbouring village.

What I found most difficult

going back as an adult was recognising the need of the villagers first hand, the poverty and sickness had never struck me when I was there growing up. It was sad to leave. I ask you to hold the Palaka up in prayer with me. I will never forget that time there and praise God that I was able to go with my Mom to enable her to help the literacy team in the work they were doing in the Palaka village.



COUNTLESS 'FIRST TIMES'

SOUTHEAST ASIA



*"The night is dark but I am not forsaken,
for by my side, the Saviour He will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing,
for in my need, His power is displayed"*

– CityAlight

After many years of preparation and planning God brought me finally to the mission field. Now I am here, the real task begins. I arrived three months ago and I've experienced so many 'first times'... first time of having a language session, first time in a national church where I don't understand a word, first time driving a motorbike in the city, first time at a Buddhist funeral, first time using public transportation and first time getting lost in the city. I could go on and on! So many "first times"!

Life is so different here and I really feel like a toddler most of the time. Not able to speak, not knowing how to do things. How do you greet? Do you take your shoes off? Should I nod

even though I didn't understand? Or should I just smile? It has become the new normal to not understand the people or be able to read the signs. I am now used to not understanding what is going on around me.

But God is so good. He is helping me so much in all this. He even makes it possible that I'm enjoying myself and that I love the life here!

For God it is not the 'first time'. He already helped Abram settling in a new country and since then helped countless sons and daughters on a journey where only He knows the destination. God knows what He is doing! In His loving kindness and His faithfulness, He is taking care of us. In all my weakness, I'm so thankful that He is by my side.



Sara is from Germany. She arrived on the field of Southeast Asia in October 2019. She is currently busy with her language and culture studies, but looking forward to joining a church planting team in the future.



MOVING FORWARD

THAILAND

Done! We successfully passed our last Thai language and culture evaluation! Despite a lot of setbacks, sickness, and obstacles in the past year, God never forsook us. With small steps, we moved forward. It was a hard journey but we never once felt that we were in the wrong place. Challenged, and often feeling "over-challenged", in God's strength, it was never too much!

Amazingly, we are able to go through the Bible step by step with one person locally. It takes a lot of time and after 20 lessons, we were only just learning about Isaac and his life. Many opportunities have materialised to share the Truth with other people too. The excitement is growing every time they learn more from God's Word. What a privilege to have His Word and to be able to study it! There is no regular Bible teaching yet. Please pray for ongoing opportunities to share God's Word and teach the Bible.

Everything takes time; pray that this is the start of a spiritual harvest. Pray that the people will not only be interested in hearing but will be ready to spend many hours studying the Word of God so that His Truth might change their hearts and worldview.

Despite encouraging experiences, we realise that we are exhausted and ready for a break, so we are spending three months in Switzerland. We

will use the time to go on holiday, visit people, speak at churches and maybe have some time for education courses.

Thank the Lord for His strength, which is best displayed when we are weak and for the successful language evaluation and for the opportunity to go on home assignment.



Stephan and Sandra Hunziker are from Switzerland. They have lived in Thailand for three years. They are part of a team who work amongst the Eastern Pwo-Karen and will start learning their language this year. They have three young children.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

OF A BIBLE COLLEGE STUDENT



6:30 is the time I try to wake, but 7:00 is a more realistic time I wake up.

I get ready and have my breakfast by 7:40 as well as find time to pray. You would be surprised at how hard it can be to get personal time with the Lord at Bible college, but it is important to spend time first thing focusing my heart on Him.

On Mondays, I get to the classroom by 7:45 to work on my memory verses ready for memory class, which falls between 8:00-8:20 three days a week. Tanya leads this class and she is a lot of fun!

First lecture starts at 8:30. This particular Monday it's 1 Corinthians. At 9:25 our second lecture starts; this time the book of Romans. This is such an in-depth book and I've been really challenged as we have gone through it.

A welcome coffee break comes at 10:15 with amazing snacks from Odessa.

At 10:35 the second half of the morning begins. Today is a double lecture on

major cults and religions. It is really interesting and so important to see and understand how we can reach those who hold different beliefs. Wow, it's 12:20 so off to Chapel for worship.

Everyone's favourite part of the day comes next, lunch at 13:15. We always have delicious food, thanks to the great kitchen volunteers.

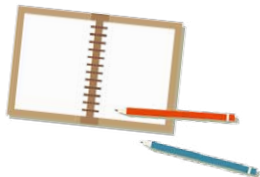
Practical programme takes up the rest of the afternoon from 14:15-17:15. I usually clean the college buildings; a great way to serve the Lord and our fellow students. Cleaning toilets may not be the most pleasant of jobs, but it can be a welcome break from studying!

17:45-18:30 we have even more amazing food!

19:15-21:15 on Monday nights we have fellowship groups. It is nice to join a staff family with a smaller group of students and be able to spend an evening together.

And that's my Monday. It can be so easy to get carried away in a schedule always knowing what a day holds. Let's remember to keep God at the centre and serve Him joyfully in everything we do.

Chloe Waters



REACH further



7-21 August 2020 to the Philippines

**Gain an insight into life on
the mission field.
See what God is doing in
the Philippines!**

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register interest:

reach_further@ntm.org.uk

* included: internal flights,
accommodation, food, insurance etc.
Deposit: £200

www.ntm.org.uk/event/reach-further



In the summer of 2019, I accepted an invitation to NTM-UK's 'Make a Difference' conference. I have known about the organisation for many years as I have friends who are and have been missionaries with NTM but I had never had the chance to visit North Cotes. During the conference, I saw amazing examples of 'faith in action' through the updates on the work.

I left wondering if God could use me somehow through His work. God's plan is not always obvious to us. That small thought continued to grow



Pat is from Scotland and became a Christian at Carrubbers Christian Centre [Edinburgh] 21 years ago. This is her first step into the Lord's work full time. Her husband went home to the Lord in 2003 after being saved by God's grace late in life. She has two sons; one a Pastor in Lincoln and the other lives in Lurgan, Northern Ireland and is involved in the music ministry of his local church. She has five grandchildren who keep her very busy.

during the summer months until God spoke to me through a sermon preached on Psalm 150. The preacher asked, "What talent could you praise God with, do you have a talent that you are not using for God's work?"

I sometimes make God too small by having so many questions and doubts of how, why, when? The answer is by God's grace – **'All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory'** – 2 Corinthians 4:15. Along with the support of many of God's people, the door opened in November 2019 and I was warmly welcomed here to serve at New Tribes Mission, North Cotes.

I already feel part of the team, not just here in the UK but also with the global NTM family. If you are considering mission life at home, either as support, or on the mission field – please do not think you have nothing to give, God can use all of us, the question is – are you willing to go? Mark 16:15 says, **"And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."**

As a timely reminder, during my first week at NTM-UK, this anonymous encouraging note appeared in my mailbox. **"You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word."** Psalm 119:114



We have been connected with New Tribes Mission since 2003. For seven years we went on Summit trips and then decided it was not long enough so we applied to become associates.

Initially we went to Papua New Guinea for twelve months, ending up staying for nine years.

We served in Lae for just over a year running the mission guesthouse and preparing the property for sale. After six months, we went back to Lapilo to run the guesthouse there for a year.

Raymond helped with maintenance on base as well as helping with building projects and repairs in tribal locations, and doing airport runs for the guesthouse.

I, Odessa took the bookings and cooked at the guesthouse. I trained my 'work meris' (local ladies employed by the mission) in housekeeping and cooking skills. Helping to cater for conferences and even on occasion for the US Consulate and Ambassador at Lapilo. I also prepared snacks and dinner for the schools graduates every year. At Christmas time I would cook dinners for different departments at the mission centre.

One of the single girls from a bush location was a great help to me when we helped cater for central conference one year.

At times it felt like our role at the

guest house was a member care one, providing a listening ear. We also had a very large video library that missionaries would come and borrow.

Each Christmas, we loved to have some singles, married couples and a couple of families for Christmas dinner. It was one of the highlights of our year.

We are now serving at North Cotes, which also enables us to visit our family in Northern Ireland more often. Raymond helps with site maintenance and Odessa provides baked goodies and sets up the morning coffee break for the students.



Raymond and Odessa Dunwoody are from Northern Ireland. They have three children and five grandchildren.



INTERFACE

BEN HUDSON



So, last summer I attended the Interface programme run by New Tribes Mission. It is a trip I had heard of for many years, which is promoted at the REACH conference. Although it looked and sounded great, it was never something I thought I could realistically spend my summer doing as summer is always a busy time of the year with many other Gospel opportunities. Another big hindrance for me was the price, which if you are a young person reading this now, may be the same roadblock. However, at the REACH conference last year, I was gently encouraged by a missionary friend to look into going. After the weekend, I got in contact with the mission and started asking questions. After some time thinking and praying about it, I decided to go through with it.

How thankful I am to be encouraged by that missionary friend to go! What a blessing the trip has been to me.

Not only did I (along with those also attending Interface) have a great time making new friends, we also received solid Bible teaching. We had the privilege of being taught by missionaries who had themselves been on the field. They shared about the struggles they faced, and what it is like to be a missionary in the deepest parts of the jungle today. One of my highlights of Interface (though there were many) was at the end when we went on a side trip for several days. There we met the believers at an established church where one of the Interface staff had spent many years as a missionary. Going to Interface has shown me first-hand the desperate need of getting the Gospel to those who have never heard.

If you are young and wondering what to do in the summer, I highly recommend going to Interface. Without doubt, you will have a summer that will impact you in a big way.

Interface is a six-week, university-level missions course in Papua New Guinea. It is for university students, married couples, singles, pastors, or anyone eager to know more about missions. The minimum age is 18.



Larry and Jo-Ann Scheleen served in church planting and disciple making in England and the Republic of Ireland from 1984-2018. They are now located in Inverness, Scotland.

"What will ministry look like now?"

Would ministry look different as we changed from "full time ministry" to "retirement"? Some like change for change itself. Others like change if it is better for them. Some do not like any change. The fact is that change is a part of life.

We moved from Ireland to Scotland, which brings change – adjustments to a different culture, meeting new neighbours, attending a new church and ministry that may look different.

During the process of moving I was asked, "What will ministry look like now?" Good question! Too often, we think of ministry in terms of activities and events. Retirement means a change of activities but it does not mean a rocking chair.

Matthew 28:19 is still applicable today: "go and make disciples". This is not dependent on age, location, job, physical circumstances, position in a church or retirement. It is for everyone. Ministry is more than a

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

LARRY SCHELEEN

church building and its activities; it is disciples who make up the church.

The Lord has brought people into our lives – neighbours, people at church outreach events, an evening class, a public speaking group and a community exercise class.

Most of these are people who would not attend church and may not have input into their lives from other believers but for whom we can be salt and light. We might be the first step in their coming to a personal relationship with God; it may be a long process but we are to be faithful to share the Good News. We have a part, whether preparing the soil, planting or watering but God gives the increase. (1 Corinthians 3:6)

Change brings different opportunities however, it is the same ministry – discipleship.

What does ministry look like? It looks like people!



BEHIND THE SCENES

NORTH COTES

The village leaders were meeting. Three strangers had arrived, asking if they could live with them and offering five promises:

1. To learn their language and culture
2. To teach them to read and write their own language
3. To translate God's talk (the Bible) into their language
4. To teach them 'God's talk'
5. To train them and put everything in their hands.

What followed for our family and our co-workers was ten years of living among the Inapang People in Papua New Guinea. To be used by God to bring His Word to a people group who had NEVER heard the Gospel; to see the believers then planting more churches and even helping to reach



Daniel and Elizabeth Moore are from the UK. They have four boys and two girls: two born in Liverpool, one in Grimsby, two in PNG and one in Scotland! They have been serving the Lord in Papua New Guinea for almost ten years and in North Cotes College since 2015.



other people groups who were their enemies before; to see God continue to transform lives through His Word and build His church amidst challenges and setbacks – what joy!!!

We are now in North Cotes College, with the equal joy of working as a team of teachers to train and equip future missionaries to serve the Lord cross-culturally anywhere. Some will plant churches among unreached people groups; others will serve in the equally vital support roles, e.g. teaching missionary children, IT, maintenance, guesthouse, etc.

Some modules cover technical aspects, for example, how to learn unwritten languages or translate the Bible; others focus on spiritual areas like maintaining spiritual growth, teamwork and church-planting principles.

One unique aspect of the training here is 'Mission Simulation'. Students spend five weeks in basic living conditions, working in teams and practising learning language and culture. Using solar power, hauling water and coping with no internet are all part of the experience!

What joy to see former students bringing the light of God's Word to people who have never been reached and have never heard the Gospel before. Praise God!

IMPACT FOR ETERNITY

Christopher and Lilli Meyer's co-workers are teaching the Kaje people of **PAPUA NEW GUINEA** chronologically through the Bible. The first phase of the teaching ended on December 19th. Many people attended to hear God's Word. Almost everyone attended the presentation of the Gospel lessons and many people really understood. Some families do not attend anymore. Pray that God continues to work on their hearts so they can also receive the gift of salvation.

Christopher and Lilli are making good progress in culture and language acquisition. Pray for the physical health of the missionary team and that God will give them joy, stamina and wisdom for their daily life.

Steve and Gerdine Stanley's house is ready in the Kovol village of **PAPUA NEW GUINEA** so they can start full time language learning. Pray for them and the team as they transition into full time CLA (culture and language acquisition).

The chronological Bible lessons are continuing among the Ga'dang people in the **PHILIPPINES**, three times a week! Pray for open eyes and hearts. They have a handful of regular attendees paying close attention. Pray for Dennis Easton as he teaches and his co-workers as they run a memory verse programme for the children.

Pray for those that are interacting with what they hear. Pray for the Lord to work in their hearts and for their salvation and for those who have attended once or twice or not at all – that they would be impacted by those who hear and talk about it and by the children who are bringing the news about each lesson back to their homes.

Pray for the work in **PARAGUAY** and for the Pai people as they hear and are taught God's Word. Pray for the Christian Pai youth, as they face many temptations, and many get married at a young age.

Pai Bible teachers are continuing to teach two Bible classes. Pray for them as they teach, and for those studying with them. One of the Bible teachers continues to struggle with well digging injuries.



BIBLICAL STUDIES

A FOUNDATION FOR LIVING AND A HEART FOR WORLD EVANGELISM

This one year course is designed to develop a working knowledge of the foundational truths of God's Word, to deepen a student's walk with the Lord and to broaden their awareness of a world in desperate need of Christ.



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on our website:

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