



LINK

YOUR CONNECTION WITH TRIBAL MISSIONS



"LOCKED DOWN BUT NOT LOCKED OUT."

FRANK BREARLEY, NTM-UK CHAIRMAN

When Paul wrote to the church in Philippi, he was **locked in** - imprisoned. He might well have found himself questioning how this could possibly serve the advance of the Gospel having lost his freedom to travel and to freely move about. But in speaking of his confinement he explains, "I want you to know brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the Gospel." Phil.1:12. God used his circumstances to reach an audience he would normally have been **locked out** from - the Roman military. 1:13.

His **lockdown** also emboldened other believers to **unlock** their mouths and speak out. "And most of the brothers

... are much more bold to speak the word without fear," 1:14. Some of their motives were suspect but Paul rejoiced that, "Christ is proclaimed." 1:18.

This Covid-19 **lockdown** has curtailed many of the conventional ways we employ to advance the Gospel. It has, however, led to many creative digital media opportunities for those normally **locked out**, to listen in and consider the promise of life found in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ is building His church and no pandemic will frustrate His purposes.

Let's be praying for the unreached peoples of our world who remain locked out from God's glorious truth.

GOSPEL DAY IN AMDU

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Benjamin and Missy Hatton, with co-workers Bart and Emily Allen, serve in one of the most remote locations you can imagine (Benjamin is the son of former PNG missionaries James and Lisa from Northern

Ireland). They live among the Amdu people, tucked away from virtually anything that the modern world has to offer, with no roads, no infrastructure. The Amdu speak a language and live a lifestyle known only to them in their isolated valley, hidden between the mountains. In

fact, until the missionary team arrived over seven years ago, the language of the Amdu people was only spoken, never reduced to writing. After many years of hard work, the missionaries learned the language, established an alphabet and created a written form of the Amdu language. Written words are a foundation for learning - specifically for learning about God's love for them, as revealed in Scripture.

By God's grace, after years of preparation and great anticipation, the time has finally come to tell God's story, from Genesis to Jesus. Gospel Day is coming to Amdu! They are

grateful to God and praise Him that they can now see that the years of learning the Amdu people's culture and language are bearing fruit in the teaching. Knowing where they are likely to stumble in each lesson

and veer off-course helps to keep things on track as they teach. They know what the Amdu grandparents taught as true, and how they see the world. They know how to use examples from the Amdu worldview to clarify biblical principles. And there is so much more. As a missionary team they give testimony to the goodness of God in bringing them through the long years to this point where people are understanding what God is saying in His Word!



Pray that they would not grow weary. The days are long and they stretch out into the future. They have passed the halfway point in their teaching up to the cross and the Lord's resurrection.

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...AND EVEN IF NOT, GOD IS STILL GOOD.

PHILIPPINES

I am writing during these times of unsettlement and unrest from our home in the Philippines. Like most of your plans, ours have also been interrupted and changed. Not only our plans, but our ministry. When God transitioned us from church planting to a support role in 2017, we were unsure what that would look like, but we saw our gifts, experience and passion used. God placed us in a town and we love being available for new missionaries; helping them, showing them around, introducing them to the local people, helping find a house for them and starting them in culture and language study. We hope to pass on our love for this country, place and people.

Seeing a need for more long-term missionaries, we decided to take on teams. Teams come from all over the world to see what God is doing, to experience another country, and to hear stories of God's faithfulness among missionaries, nationals, pastors and tribal people.

It is a blessing to have young

people come and be challenged and changed.

However, with worldwide travel bans we had to cancel one team after the other. Even our new missionaries are 'on hold'. So as we looked at all of this, we wondered what God's plan was for us as a family for the next few months. One thing He showed us repeatedly was that HE is in control.

Looking back at our lives, we have seen God provide in incredible ways; He has gone before us many times. But looking to the future... "is He really going to provide?", creeps into our heads; "is He really in control?" But we decide to trust His Word, when we cannot see His hand moving. We decide to rely on HIM and HIS promises, because He has never failed anyone and He will never fail me or you. Even if we cannot see the outcome, we know "God is good all the time." (Ps. 107:1)

As we decided to trust Him, we were asked to consider going on home assignment early, so we can be available next year when Covid-19 is hopefully under control and missionaries and

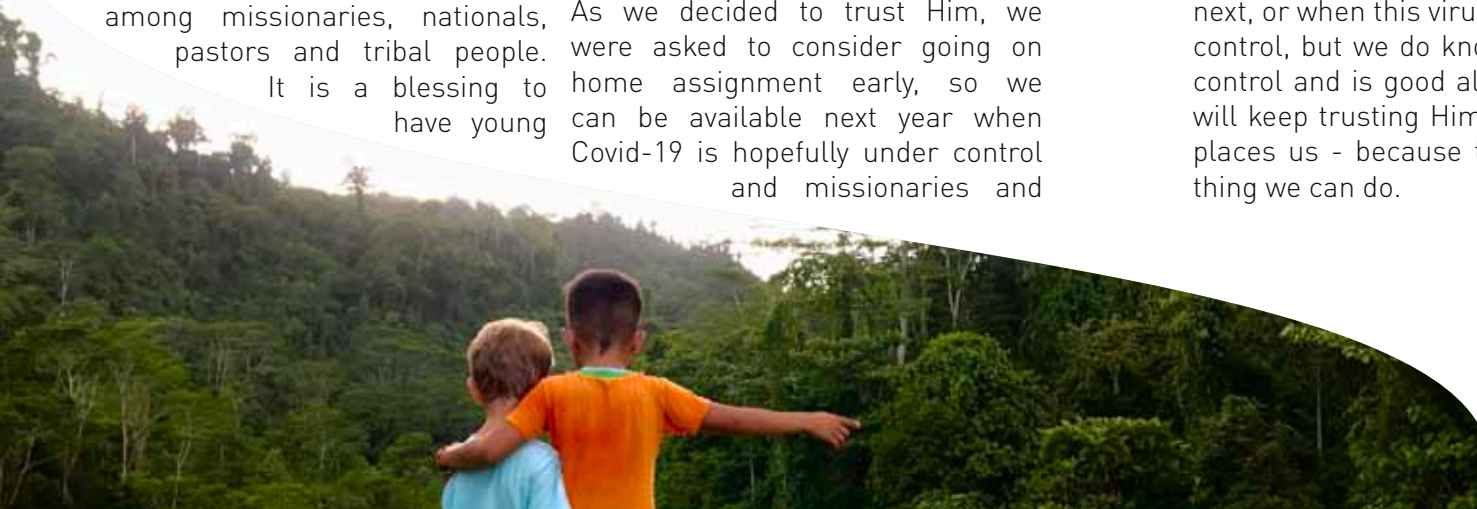


teams can come again. It sounded impossible! We need to prepare for home assignment, we can't just decide to go in ten weeks' time... can we? Again, we were confronted with the thought: "Do you really trust Me?"

We 'knocked on several doors'. God opened one after the other for us; He provided an apartment to live in and 'straightened the way' ahead of us, so there was no reason to say "no". So here we are, going to Germany one year earlier than expected, but in God's timing. We don't know what is next, or when this virus will be under control, but we do know... GOD is in control and is good all the time. We will keep trusting Him, wherever He places us - because that's the best thing we can do.



Boris and Valentina Bergen, are from Germany. They have three children and have been serving the Lord in the Philippines for eight years.



"HERE WE ARE LORD...

SCOTLAND

...SEND THESE STUDENTS"



We had the privilege of serving in evangelism, discipleship and church planting for 23 years in Austria, England and Scotland before joining NTM in 1995. Endeavouring to disciple and challenge Scottish university students into missions, we sincerely prayed, "Here we are Lord, send these students." Through organising mission weekends in our local church base - Carrubbers Christian Centre - in Edinburgh, we ourselves became personally challenged for reaching remote peoples who have never heard the Gospel.

"Too 'old' to reach 'new' tribes"

After a year of retraining with NTM in Pennsylvania, we served for a year teaching and discipling student staff at the on-site, 'hands-on' SUMMIT Interface programme in Papua New Guinea. At age 50, and considered

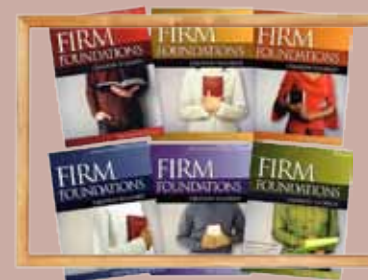


"too 'old' to reach 'new' tribes," we were asked to return to the UK to serve as NTM representatives throughout Scotland, as well as to teach part-time at North Cotes College.

A small part of the huge task

It is such a privilege to introduce the first-year Biblical Studies students to 'Firm Foundations - Creation to Christ' - the background, principles and practical teaching of the chronological, narrative approach to evangelism/discipleship, used by NTM church planters worldwide. My 'Each One REACH One - Each One TEACH One' (EORO-EOTO) module is designed to challenge and equip for personal evangelism and one-to-one discipleship.

For many years we have been partnering with local churches through teaching EORO-EOTO, and 'Opening the Scriptures' seminars (an introduction to the chronological



teaching and tools). For many years we have also taught our 'Foundations - The Basics of Discipleship' course at our local church in Scotland, in other local churches, and annually in Germany to support Ethnos360 Germany. This course has been graciously used of the Lord in challenging folks into the training and ministry of NTM, and in equipping churches for reaching their local communities for Christ.

From "Jerusalem," even to the uttermost!

We are relocating to the USA, but our burden and passion remains to be making disciples, and assisting churches in challenging, equipping and mobilising believers to make disciples from their own local "Jerusalem, even unto the ends of the earth!" Acts 1:8

Thom & Carolyn Cunningham

are from the USA, but left in 1972 to serve the Lord in Europe. Four of their five children were born in Austria, and have richly blessed them with twenty grandchildren.



MATURE AND THRIVE

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Simon and I met and married in 2005 during our Bible school/missionary training. We moved to Papua New Guinea in 2007 to begin our missionary career. In 2010, we joined an existing work amongst the

Mengen people. At that time, the team comprised of three families and two single ladies. Simon spent a year and a half learning the tribal language and began discipleship and Bible teacher training before we left on home assignment.

During this time in the UK (2013), we discovered we were expecting a baby girl, but she had some serious complications that would require open-heart surgery and there was a chance she might not survive. This, of course, changed all our plans and we were not able to return to the field for six years as we stayed in the UK to meet the medical needs



Simon and Annika Flanagan started serving in Papua New Guinea as missionaries in 2007. They began working with the Mengen people group in 2009. After a time at home for medical needs they reengaged with the Mengen church in 2019. They have five children, Nya (12), Noah (10), Karis (6), Judah (5) and Ethan (2).

of our daughter Karis. During the latter half of this time, we worked at North Cotes College in England where Simon was a Biblical studies teacher. Finally, after two open-heart surgeries and multiple hospital visits, our Karis was given the green light for us to return to PNG. We returned at the end of 2018, this time as the only team members in the tribe.

Our desire, prayer and ministry is to see the Mengen church mature and thrive (Col 1:28-29). Church planting is a messy business; we have not come back to a perfect scenario or a perfect church, quite the opposite. We face many discouraging days, but there is hope because God is at work and is as powerful and masterful as He ever has been. Our little church is unknown to the world, comparatively uneducated and with few physical resources. It faces many challenges, and troubles seem to come thick and fast these days. Jesus's words in John 9:1-5 have recently struck me, and I am convinced that we mistakenly search for the cause of our trouble

rather than trusting God's purpose in it. Speaking of the blind man, Jesus said, "This happened so the power of God could be seen in him". So, if you think of us and our little obscure church in the mountain jungles of New Britain please pray that God's power will be seen in us all!

"This happened
so the power of
God could be
seen in him."

John 9:3b



IT TAKES TIME

PARAGUAY



Our decision to become full time missionaries goes back almost ten years and there has been a lot of preparation since then.

2010

We were married and spent our honeymoon at North Cotes helping out as volunteers for six weeks. This was the time God really made it clear to us that he wanted us involved.

2015

Returned to Germany for half a year to get everything ready to move overseas.

2020

Joined the work amongst the Nivacle. More language and culture study.

2012

Came back to North Cotes as students and stayed for three years.

2016

Arrived in Paraguay. A lot of language and culture study.

Looking back over those ten years there has been a lot of studying and we are not even finished. Sometimes one might wonder, when will the day come that God can 'actually' use me in a tribal work communicating His Truth in a way they can understand? When will I be a 'real' missionary?

Many Christians think a 'real' missionary has to preach and teach God's Word all the time. But the reality is, that it takes a lot of preparation before you

can actually preach and teach God's Word in a totally foreign culture using their language.

To be honest, we are not looking forward to the whole process of learning yet another language. It is a lot of hard work with many setbacks and interruptions. A good example of this is the coronavirus. We had started language learning in March when all of a sudden three weeks later, we had to stop. For almost two months now we have become home school parents, something we did not

plan on, and due to all the many local restrictions we are stuck at home in a new area that we had just moved to.

Again, it takes time. But God is not in a hurry, even if we are. We want to get the job done. However, each step of the way God is using all the preparation and the many interruptions to shape us, get our attention and transform us more into the image of His Son. He is preparing us, because it is not about us, it is about HIM and HIS glory.

"who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."

Philippians 3:21



Erwin and Rita Penner are from Germany and have been in Paraguay since 2016. They are part of the Nivacle team and started learning their language and culture in March this year. They have three children.

NORTH COTES UPDATE



To improve a fire exit at the gym, in preparation for conferences and other gatherings, double doors were installed. This posed a problem because the doors then opened onto a ditch with no crossing. The solution was to build a 2 x 7.8m long bridge/ramp in steel, lay a concrete path, drop the curb to the roadside and build a porch to protect the doors from North Cotes' winds.

Thankfully, the Lord provided staff, students and volunteers with the right skill set to construct all that was necessary. The bridge/ramp still needs to be galvanised but as yet cannot be dismantled due to social distancing restrictions.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, North Cotes College campus closed on the 19th March. The students quickly made travel plans, found places to live, packed and said their goodbyes. The teaching staff worked hard to develop ways to teach remotely. Praise the Lord that classes resumed online in April, with students logging in from different parts of the UK and Europe.

Lord willing, we look forward to reopening North Cotes College and welcoming students back onto the campus in September. A lot of preparation is being done to meet the current social distancing requirements. While things might look different from previous years, it will be a privilege to see students learn from God's Word and prepare to serve Him wherever He takes them.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

TIM PALMER

How many of us love some fresh fruit? Fruit is a product of a loving God who provided for His creation! Fruit is something, which is instantly beneficial to active people. When I was younger and played sport, my coaches always reminded us to have a good supply of fresh fruit as it gives instant energy.

The Bible speaks a lot about fruit. The Lord Jesus taught His disciples, in that last week in the great upper room ministry the principle that He was the Vine and His Father was the Vinedresser. What is at stake is fruit, much fruit and more fruit (John 15:2, 5, 8) as without Him we can do nothing (of eternal value). 1 Corinthians 3:12-13 also addresses believers' eternal rewards as being tested by fire; only what is of eternal value will remain (gold, silver and precious stone). What is a product of our flesh is wood, hay and straw. Due to sinful responses in the Corinthians' lives, they were judged babies in Christ, carnal, acting on

their own childish whims; not eating the correct diet of strong meat, but still actually attached to mum's milk. However, He desires they be spiritual (Pneumatikos - of the spirit) (1 Corinthians 2:12-13).



The more difficult truth of John 15, and actually God's way of helping us is that He is the Vinedresser. The chief Gardener will act in our lives to help produce fruit by lifting up (John 15:2) the branches and pruning away anything that hinders

fruit production. Those things will burn away at the Judgement seat (1 Corinthians 3:12-13; 2 Corinthians 5:10, Romans 14:10). All that's left is beautiful fruit. Galatians reminds us that the 'Fruit of the Spirit' is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

This pruning principle is not always fun. But our Father as a faithful Gardener wants to see believers active in a fallen world, reaching out to all the lost. He has provided all we need to live victorious lives.

2 Peter 1:3 "As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue."



BEHIND THE SCENES

POUL & CAROL JOENSEN

As a young couple, we completed the missionary training before going to Papua New Guinea with our one year old to live among the Sorimi people. It has been a privilege to see God's Word transform lives from darkness. We praise God that three indigenous churches are now functioning.

It is also a joy to be back at the missionary training centre with students preparing to take the light to people who have never heard the Truth! Carol works with the nursery staff, caring for children of teachers and students, and chatting with parents about being a mother and wife on the mission field. She enjoys co-teaching cookery class, with extra tips about meal planning for limited ingredients, and unique ways to celebrate special events without modern conveniences.

Poul teaches some classes to the Bible students, and testifies of God's faithfulness to us over the years. He also uses things he learned, like the Sorimi language and translation, for the missionary trainees to practise methods. Their year ends with five weeks of living in basic conditions while putting their training into practice. Poul acts as a Sorimi villager for students to study his language and culture. Carol assists him with mini cultural dramas to be observed and assessed. She is also on the committee for our conferences.

Poul helps her coordinate a village simulation for visitors to see and interact on topics about missionary life in language and culture learning, towards teaching and translating the Bible.

We are thankful to be a part of equipping the students to serve the Lord as cross-cultural missionaries, while also continuing church discipleship and translating the New Testament. Poul returns to live in Sorimi for six weeks, approximately every six months, to do Bible teaching, disciple leaders and check translation that he has done in the UK. Occasionally Carol has also gone with Poul. We praise God, both for the growth of the Sorimi churches and many new missionaries preparing for ministry.



Poul and Carol Joensen

Poul is from the Faroe Islands and Carol is from England. They have three sons. They went to Papua New Guinea in 1996 and served the Lord there for 17 years. They have been in the UK for seven years, with regular trips back to PNG.

IMPACT 4 ETERNITY



Bible teaching is currently happening for the first time in three new areas in Papua New Guinea.

Here is how to pray for these teams:

- For clear communication as they teach God's Word
- For the ability to notice if things are being misunderstood
- For continued safety and protection from the coronavirus, malaria etc.
- For hungry, open hearts of those who attend the Bible teaching and good comprehension
- That those who are staying away would change their mind and join in listening to God's Word
- For stamina; to sustain a very busy schedule of teaching, as well as spend time with people talking about what they are hearing
- Continued translation, lesson preparation and home schooling
- For team unity, marriage, and family relationships during an excessively busy and stressful time



Thailand

The long awaited day arrived mid-June when a truck pulled up to Dave and Fran Jordan's porch with boxes of the Prai Bibles. They are now being distributed and enjoyed. A huge thank you to the Lord and His people who have provided for this!



Please pray for those who have been preparing to go to the field and in some cases even had flights booked and everything packed ready to go, but due to recent travel restrictions are still waiting. Pray that they rest in the One who knows the future and for wisdom in making plans as opportunities start to open up.



The steadfast love
of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

Lam. 3:22-23

