



July 2021

# LINK

YOUR CONNECTION WITH TRIBAL MISSIONS

## EDITORIAL

In this issue, you can read how God uses people from all backgrounds and of all ages, with their different God-given gifts, to reach the unreached with the Gospel.

A few of the articles have been written by adult missionary kids (MKs) whose lives have been greatly influenced and blessed by living overseas and being a part of their parents' ministry.

We gain an insight into what life is like for an MK when 'home' is in more than one place.

In addition, missionaries who have left their home for the first time to serve God in a different country, share about the many challenges that awaited them: learning a new language and culture, building relationships and making a new home far away from loved ones.

Yet God is faithful in meeting the needs of His people, wherever they are and whatever they face. We trust you are encouraged as you read how God leads and carries our missionaries through their daily lives as they seek to serve Him.

July 2021  
Volume XLVII  
Issue 2

Cover photo: NTM Resource  
Printed by: DMP, Keighley,  
West Yorkshire  
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All financial gifts should be sent to NTM-UK Finance Office at the following address:  
NEW TRIBES MISSION,  
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## FULL CIRCLE



Hi! I am Rebekka and I am from Germany. I started the Biblical Studies Course in September 2020. However, it is my third time living on campus.

Thinking about being back here is crazy. The first time I lived here was in 1999, when my parents attended Bible school. I was then only three years old and cannot remember a lot about that time. However, it still somehow had an influence on me as I grew up. After my parents' year of Bible school, they served for 15 months as associates in West Africa. After that, we moved back to Germany. For a long time, it was a dream of mine to volunteer for a year after my A-levels. So, in 2014 I came back to North Cotes to help in the kitchen as a volunteer, occasionally joining in on classes - my second time living here on campus. After my volunteer year, I was excited to maybe come back one day and to do the Biblical Studies Course myself. All my life I have had a hunger to get to know more about

the Bible. So, I went back to Germany with the dream of coming back to North Cotes... and I did! I finished my studies and was able to start Bible school in September last year. It is such a privilege to be able to open the Bible every day in class and to learn more and more. The assignments are sometimes a struggle, but so often I learn something new while doing them, making them definitely worthwhile. Growing up, missions was always somehow present in my life, from my parents' ministry or from the books I read as a teenager. Those great missionaries always amazed me; heroes, with such an amazing relationship with God. In reality, they are only normal people, just like you and I who walk day by day with the Lord and are ready to be used by Him.



## A JOURNEY TO THE UNKNOWN

What comes to mind when you think of the word 'unknown'?

Perhaps you picture new people; with unfamiliar faces, languages and customs you don't recognise. Or maybe you think of a physical place - a mysterious country of jungles, volcanoes and wild beasts. Or does the unknown bring about emotion? Fear and excitement, stress and adventure, worry and more worry. When facing an unknown we are struck with a barrage of questions, feelings and thoughts that can take over our lives.

The unknown has always been a big part of my life; from before I can remember I was introduced to a new country, new people and a variety of edible insects. I have spent most of my life in the country ironically dubbed, "The Land of the

Unexpected," Papua New Guinea. **This was (and still is) the place I consider my home.** This is where my friends live and where I went to school. This is where I grew and matured and began my walk with Christ. This is the one place that feels safe, comfortable and like I belong. Yet sadly, this is not to be my home much longer. Within a month (God willing), I will be flying back to the UK to begin a new phase of life. This is the unknown that scares me more than anything that has happened in PNG. Sure, I have lived through huge earthquakes and lightning storms. Yes, my family has been robbed at gunpoint on the highway. And of course swimming is much scarier when you add sea snakes to the mix. **Yet I dread this next step in my life to a much higher degree than anything else.**

I do not want to leave my home, my friends, my community and the people I care for. I don't want to go 'home'.

My life in PNG is unknown to most of you who read this and the life and details that are yet to come are unknown to us all. I do not know where I will be living, or going to church, or how I will spend my day to day life. I don't know how to drive, use a credit card or go about whatever 'normal life' looks like in the UK. Yet my life is not determined by what I do or do not know. My fears and the unknowns ahead are not my main focus, for as Colossians 3:2 says: "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." So as this new step in my life begins and as I feel the pain of leaving almost everything I know and love,

**Ben is the son of Daniel and Rachel Hulley who have worked among the North Wahgi people since 2007.**

**I can only look to the One who has planned my life from the beginning.**

I am not yet at the point where I can rejoice at leaving PNG, but as I get closer to departing, and more and more of my earthly anchors slip away, I still have the Lord to rely on. Yet despite this, the unknowns of the future still worry me. But I leave you with my only comfort and strength in this time of fear, Psalm 56:3 "When I am afraid, I put my trust in You."



## GOD GIVES AS WE HAVE NEED

Listening to missionary stories we often hear the sentence, "...and he/she learned the language and culture to be able to communicate the Good News of the Gospel." Then the story continues...

After finishing our training at North Cotes College, our little family arrived at one of the main islands of Asia-Pacific in November 2018 and we jumped straight into culture and language acquisition (CLA). After one year, we returned to Northern Ireland for the birth of our second child, Chloe. At the end of 2020, we were able to return to a different island, in the same country, to continue with CLA. Dialect and culture are slightly different in this area, but we have been blessed with helpful language helpers that work with us for many hours every week. As we encounter challenges such as cultural differences, language-learning struggles, heat, and mosquitoes, we know that God gives as we have need. We are certain that the Lord looks after our practical needs but He has

*Andrew is from Northern Ireland and Joanna is from Germany. They have two children, Manoah (three years old) and Chloe (one year old). They have been studying culture and language in Asia-Pacific since 2018.*

also given us spiritual gifts that are useful in our service for Him, whether this is in language study or while looking into possible future ministry opportunities.

We have enjoyed joining our co-workers as they minister to the Christian tribal young people (aged from fourteen into their twenties) that live in dorms in our city.



These young people come out to town to go to school or to study and so they are separated from their families. As they are studying the Word of God with our co-workers, we would love to see them deepen their relationship with the Lord. We hope this will result in them finding their own spiritual gifts and using them back in their own tribal setting or even in some cross-cultural ministry, as they get involved in reaching yet unreached people with God's Good News. Whatever the gifts, we need to rely on the Holy Spirit to help us, BUT ultimately, we pray that our hearts and the hearts of those we meet will not be obsessed with GIFTINGS but with the GIVER, JESUS!!!





## SO MUCH TO LEARN

With 270 million people, the country that we live in is a huge country of great cultural and linguistic diversity, breath-taking nature, a multitude of religions and beliefs, and incredibly friendly people. We feel very comfortable here, despite the fact that we had a bit of a turbulent start to our time in this beautiful country. One month after our arrival, we contracted COVID-19. Just when we started to feel fit again, we unfortunately had a miscarriage, with complications that ultimately led to an operation. However, our heavenly Father carried us through all these difficulties!

*Johannes and Lisa Schermann are from Vienna, Austria. They finished their missionary training in England in 2019 and, despite the pandemic, miraculously got their visas in December 2020 to be able to move to Asia-Pacific.*

We are currently studying the national language and the local culture, and we never cease to be surprised. Did you know that there are at least five different words for “rice” in the language we are learning, depending on whether the grains are still on the plant, are still unpeeled, dry or cooked, and what kind of rice it is? Or that hospitality is so important that the first room in every house is



a special room for spending time with guests? A firm handshake is a sign of aggressiveness and therefore very rude, and you should always point with your thumb, not your index finger! In addition, if you sit comfortably you have to make sure that your feet are not pointing at anyone, as that would be quite offensive. There is still so much for us to learn!

We have until the end of the year to decide which of the many islands to move to and then, which tribe to go to in that region. There are still so many ethnic groups waiting for the Gospel; in fact, there are over 700 tribes in this country, but only

four to six new NTM missionaries come to this country each year.

Meanwhile, other religions are diligently proselytising, so it is really urgent. Please pray that the Lord will send many more workers to the Asia-Pacific region to fulfil the task of reaching the unreached with the saving Gospel!

*How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, unless they are sent?*

Romans 10:14-15a

26 - 28 MARCH 2021

# REACH

ONLINE



The Stanleys



## A KOVOL STORY

Who's involved in reaching the Kovol people? The Hansen, Stanley and Stous families are the immediate team, but in reality the Kovol team consists of hundreds of people contributing their time, skills, and resources.

The goal: to plant a church among the Kovol people by sharing the Gospel in a way that can be clearly understood. The team have been learning culture and language since 2019.



## MISSIONS REPORT

Andrew and Kate Day

Andrew and Kate met two years ago when they were on home assignment in the USA taking part in missions training. Andrew served in Africa and Kate in South Asia. They have now been married for a year and a few months ago, started serving together with Pioneers in Chad, West Africa in a church planting ministry.

FRIDAY



## STUDENT INTERVIEWS

more information:  
[www.northcotescollge.co.uk](http://www.northcotescollge.co.uk)



WORSHIP

Naomi felt more nervous singing in front of a camera, than previously in front of a crowd of people!



## MISSIONS REPORT

Danny and Philippa Brooks

Danny spoke from the Word, reminding us that God calls His children to walk in obedience and promises to be with us always. Philippa gave testimony of how the Lord brought peace and joy to her life, as He walked her through some of her greatest fears. They plan to return to the Philippines later this year.

SATURDAY



PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WERE ABLE TO VIEW THE CONFERENCE FROM THE COMFORT OF THEIR OWN HOMES!

@ntm.reach NIGHT 2



## THE PAWAIAN STORY

Jack Douglas

It has been Jack's privilege to follow God's will in making disciples of all nations with one group of people. He says, "All we need now is a few more volunteers, no that's wrong, a lot more volunteers."



## CONGRATULATIONS

Steve and Gerdine Stanley

Not long after sharing at REACH, Stephen, Gerdine and Oscar welcomed twins, Alice and Millie, into their family! They are now enjoying adjusting to life as a family of five.

SUNDAY



"BUT WE WILL DEVOTE OURSELVES TO PRAYER AND TO THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD." Acts 6:4

## THANK YOU

It was different having to pre-record the reports, messages and worship but thanks to a great technical team, it was edited together well.

Kirsty is from England; she grew up at North Cotes and has served in Noah's Ark nursery for eight years.



## BEHIND THE SCENES

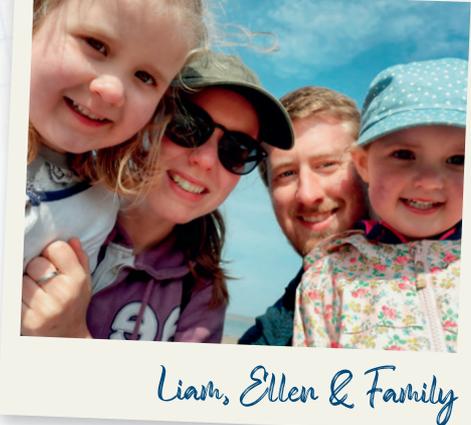
After spending a couple of weeks doing work experience in Noah's Ark nursery as a teenager, I decided to train for a qualification in childcare with the aim to one day serve full time at NTM North Cotes in the nursery. After gaining qualifications in childcare, I completed New Tribes Mission's training and joined the North Cotes' team in 2013.

The nursery is available for the children of students, volunteers and personnel serving on campus. We have the privilege of teaching these little ones God's Word, and throughout the year we go through the Bible chronologically, teaching them key Bible stories. The children also memorise scripture and enjoy visiting Tanya Errington, (the Bible memory class teacher at the college) each term to recite what they have memorised. The nursery depends on volunteer help to be able to run and so each year we have a changeover of nursery helpers.

It is always encouraging to watch God provide each year, but it is also incredibly difficult to say goodbye to coworkers each July!

This past December I received a phone call from Ofsted asking us to register the nursery with them so that we can continue providing childcare here on campus. This came as a surprise to us and felt very overwhelming at first; however, God has been good at leading and guiding us through this process.

We currently have 25 children on our list for the next school year and we are still searching for more volunteers to help us out. If you have a qualification in childcare, love the Lord and are interested in serving at North Cotes for a year, then please get in contact for more information. Please direct your questions to [volunteer@ntm.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@ntm.org.uk)



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I wonder what you might say if someone asked you the question, '**what is precious to you?**' Maybe you would quickly think of family or close friends, or possibly something of great sentimental value like a wedding ring. Perhaps this last year has made us realise that some things are more precious to us than we had thought, like our health or even going out for a nice meal.

The dictionary describes 'precious' as something of great value, because it is either expensive, rare or of significant worth. It is interesting to note then that Peter uses the word 'precious' six times across his two letters, using it to describe our faith (1 Peter 1:7), Christ the living stone (1 Peter 2:4), Christ the cornerstone (1 Peter 2:6), a gentle spirit (1 Peter 3:4) and the promises of God (2 Peter 1:4).

He also uses the word to describe the blood of Jesus, writing: 'knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with

**the precious blood of Christ**, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.' (1 Peter 1:18 -19).

This is such an incredible truth! Our ransom was not paid by things such as silver or gold, which the world says are precious, but with the blood of Jesus Christ, which is truly precious. The blood of Jesus is rare, as Jesus is the only One qualified to be our substitute, for as Peter says, He is as a 'lamb without blemish or spot', sinless and perfect. The blood of Jesus is also costly, as it cost Him His own life to give it, and it cost the Father His own dear Son. **The blood of Jesus is also of unspeakable worth**, as it is the only offering acceptable to God to cleanse us and redeem us. How encouraging to know that this is what we are redeemed by. As the hymn says:

*Oh precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow  
No other fount I know  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus*

*Robert Lowry (1826-1899)*



## UPDATE

In April, North Cotes College had an online inspection by the British Accreditation Council (BAC).

Although we will not get a final decision on our application until July, the inspection went well and we are expecting a positive outcome. In the meantime, applications continue to be processed for the coming school year. Thank you for praying.

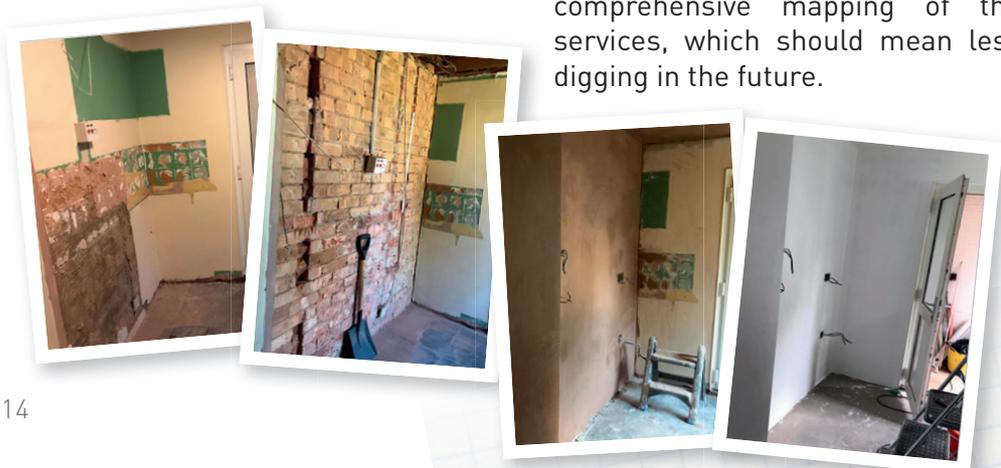
Praise the Lord, after a four-hour meeting, in early June, Noah's Ark nursery is now registered and "approved" by Ofsted and can remain open! Sometime in the next 30 months, there will be a more detailed Ofsted inspection.



## PROJECTS AND THE UNFORESEEN

One of the offsite properties used for housing personnel is currently getting a makeover, including external and garden work, plastering, a new kitchen and some new ceilings, readying the property for decoration and furnishing.

Recently there was an issue when the water supply to the Head Office/workshop suddenly stopped. The maintenance team, with help from students and other volunteers, dug many holes, and new valves were fitted as necessary to alleviate the problem. Now there is a more comprehensive mapping of the services, which should mean less digging in the future.



## IMPACT 4 ETERNITY

Thank you to everyone who prayed for the **Tousch family** and in particular for André's health. (While in PNG André needed urgent medical treatment in hospital having collapsed on the return hike from a remote Iski village location). On arrival back in France in mid-May, André was able to go through the required medical examinations quickly. The results are good; they have the green light from the doctors to go back to Papua New Guinea.

We are thankful for **Eduard and Anna Tissen**, who with their family have served as volunteers since November 2017. Eduard in IT and Anna in the Head Office. They will be moving back to Germany this summer. Pray for them as they make this transition.

**Richard, Wendy and family** who serve in Southeast Asia, recently welcomed their co-workers, **Stephan and Sandra**, as they returned from home assignment. They will have a few weeks together before Richard, Wendy and family travel to the USA for three months this summer. They plan to visit friends, relatives and churches as they take their daughter to Bible school and stay until after school starts. Pray that their dependence would be on God each step of the way. Also pray for their co-workers adjustment back into life in Southeast Asia; many things have changed in the sixteen months that they were away. Pray for wisdom and direction as they look forward to the next phase of the work.

Pray for **Becky Noble**, an associate teacher at the mission school in PNG, that she would be able to have a good time of rest and refreshment during the summer break. She plans to continue weekly Bible studies in Tok Pisin with her PNG friends. Becky will also continue piano teaching and some translation work - literacy comprehension checks into Tok Pisin, which missionaries in the Mibu tribe would like to use in the coming months. There is always plenty of planning and work to be done in the music room too, even during the break. Pray that she would use her time wisely.

## future volunteers

Each year there is a need for volunteers to help in the kitchen and the nursery. **Future volunteers** will need to be UK residents (or those with settled status). Praise the Lord for those that have already volunteered for the new academic year starting in September and pray on that the Lord will supply for the positions that still need to be filled.



Micki and his MK\* friends have been camping.

Help Micki to find the things he needs to pack in his rucksack.



knife



Bible



binoculars



compass



hiking boot



insect spray



bottle



torch

\* missionary kid