

March 2022



# LINK

YOUR CONNECTION WITH TRIBAL MISSIONS

# EDITORIAL

## Run with Endurance

### Dear Readers,

Have you ever been to a marathon? There seems to be an electric energy in the air just before the race begins, a possible mixture of novice nerves and veteran runners' desire to just get out there and pound the pavement. In order to run a marathon well, a huge amount of discipline is needed. Runners have an enormous responsibility to train consistently, eat well, rest, and, on the day, be both physically and mentally prepared.

In Hebrews 12:1-2, Paul reminds us that we too are in a long-term race. There are things that can encumber us and sins that can entangle our feet but he encourages us, giving ample examples, in the previous chapter of ordinary people who did extraordinary things through faith and strength in God.

This issue is full of further examples and we hope and pray that these stories will encourage and remind you that every step in a marathon is a success. Your race will probably look different to those in this magazine and, in fact, to other Christians' races in your local communities. Wherever you are along the way though, Paul reassures us that the strength to press on is found by fixing our eyes on Jesus, who endured His earthly course and is waiting for us at the finish line.

As ever, thank you for your partnership in expanding the reach of the Gospel.

**«... and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, ...»**

Hebrews 12:1-2

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## PART OF THE WIDER MISSION

Hello there,

we are Davis and Steph Sehorn from England. We started volunteering at NTM in September 2021 and only the Lord knows for how much longer!

I first thought about volunteering at NTM, North Cotes, in April 2021. I had recently been told that my contract would be ending in my previous job, so I knew I had to find something else to do come September. My sister-in-law (who was a student at North Cotes College in 2014) told me that the nursery needed volunteers who were qualified in childcare and UK residents, for the upcoming year. There was also a need for maintenance volunteers, which fitted with my husband's skills.

We sent an email inquiring about this need and quickly had a reply. It took us about a month from receiving the application forms to sending them back as we needed to think and pray about what would be the best decision for us. After talking to our families and our church, we sent in the application forms and after we had interviews, we found out we were accepted!

Volunteering at NTM is really wonderful. We have been able to meet people from all over the world and we are surrounded by like-minded people in a close and caring community. It is so rewarding



being a volunteer in the nursery. Many of the children are from Germany this year. They started the year knowing very little English but in just a few weeks they were able to memorise a verse from the Bible in perfect English!

Davis says, "Working with the CMT (Campus Management Team) allows me to use the skills God has given me to serve in a practical way in all seasons of the year. Every day is different (except for leaf raking season!). There are many opportunities to learn from the older members of the CMT."

When we applied in May 2021 we only intended to volunteer for a year, but now we are prayerfully considering if God would have us continue serving here or elsewhere in the year ahead. There is always a need for volunteers at NTM and it has been so encouraging to see how we can serve as part of the wider mission.



## RE-ENTRY



## The joy of building memories

that 'said' "oink" to her, and Reuben wondered, 'When was the sun EVER going to rise and WHERE had mum put his shorts?!!

Our children's life-story will be different to ours, but we have the

joy of re-visiting and introducing them to many people and places that we love and have missed, but also the joy of building new memories and a 'home' with them on the other side of the world.

From January 1st 2021, the countdown started: months, weeks and then days! The joy of GOING HOME was building!

Peter and I are blessed to call 'home' the same place; we grew up 10 miles apart, attended the same school, socialised together and our family still live in the area! Every road carries memories of growing up! We love it!

However as home assignment approached, we were thinking more about our kids. Their experience with 'home' is so different to ours. Reuben is seven and can recall living in four houses all on different islands. Hannah was two and Naomi was seven months when we moved to Asia-Pacific, and had little memory of Northern Ireland, our 'home'. On our last day in Asia-Pacific, I mentioned to

Hannah that we would not have a scooter at 'home', but a car again! I wish I had recorded her reaction - a mix of disappointment, horror, and excitement as I assured her mum had driven a car before!

I remember the anticipation as we boarded our final flight and I could hear 'our' accent from those all around us. We laughed as our kids addressed Dublin security using the cultural title for a man from our new 'home' in Asia-Pacific. We were blessed to return to our previous house and the familiarity felt good. A cup of tea, my long standing favourite 'pink bun' from our local bakery, and a roaring fire... bliss! However the transition was not just as smooth for our kids... Hannah was horrified that we had a fire INSIDE our house, Naomi - who was playing outside - was crying about the 'monster'

**Peter and Rachel Bittle** are from Northern Ireland and they have been serving together with their children, Reuben (7), Hannah (5), and Naomi (3) in Asia-Pacific since July 2019. They are currently in language study and, Lord willing, plan to be involved in a town support ministry. They are currently on home assignment and enjoying some cold weather and family time in Northern Ireland.



## The harvest is ripe

This article contains sensitive subjects.

Greenland is a beautiful country with vast areas of snow-covered mountains, fresh air, and crystal clear water – truly a breathtaking sight. The people are friendly, hospitable, often laughing, and great to hang out with. Nuuk, the capital city of Greenland, is a modern, multinational society. Most people have regular jobs and live in apartments, as in any other city. Time spent in nature is limited to vacations and weekends during the summer.

Greenlanders love to spend time in their unspoiled nature though: hunting, fishing, sleeping in tents – a flashback to the nomadic lifestyle that their forefathers lived until the second half of the last century. We also love to go hunting, fishing, and berry picking with our friends, to fill our freezers for the winter. This is a great way to build relationships and gives opportunities to invite people for Bible teaching throughout the long winters.

As soon as you get to know people, you will often find deep scars and pain under the joyful and

friendly cover. There are so many people who have experienced sexual abuse and neglect in their childhood, from homes marred by alcohol addictions and violent behavior. These problems are so widespread in the society and as a result, Greenland has one of the highest suicide rates in the world.

The answer to the deep darkness and bondage of sin, that holds Greenland in almost unbreakable chains, is the light of the Gospel, “the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes” (Rom 1:16). Even though Greenland is officially a Christian country, we find that there is very little Bible knowledge and understanding of the Gospel.

Our ministry in Nuuk is Gospel-centered. We teach individuals and groups through the Bible to give a clear picture of God’s plan for salvation. This is helpful for believers as well as for non-believers. We are thankful to God for the many people who are interested and for what He is doing in their lives. Even though the progress is slow, we trust that God’s Word will accomplish His purpose (Isa. 55:11).

*Filip and Ane Sivertsen went through training in North Cotes College from 2015 to 2017 and now serve in Nuuk, Greenland.*



## PEAR CAKE (serves 8)

- 240g plain flour
- 150g cold, cubed butter cut into the flour
- 125g sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- 1 egg
- 4-5 pears (depending on size)

### INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 200 degrees Celsius.

Mix everything together to form a dough. Let the dough rest in the refrigerator for an hour and then divide the dough in half.

Roll out half of the dough and cover a pie dish.

Next, peel, deseed, and cut the pears in half. Lay them cut side down in the dish.

Roll out the other half of the dough and cover the pears.

Brush the top with milk and, if desired, sprinkle with pearl/nib sugar.

Bake for 40 minutes.

Serve with cream or sour cream.

## FRIKADELLER (serves 4)

- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| • 200g minced beef | • 150ml water or milk |
| • 200g minced pork | • 1 egg               |
| • 1 onion diced    | • 1 tsp salt          |
| • 60g flour        | • pepper to taste     |

### INSTRUCTIONS

Heat a little oil in a frying pan on medium-high heat.

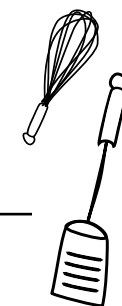
Mix everything together until smooth and well combined.

Roll the meat mixture into balls and fry them until golden, crispy, and cooked through.

Serve with thinly sliced and boiled red cabbage, boiled potatoes, and brown sauce.



*Ane has shared two of her favourite recipes for you to try.*



*yummy*



# Leaning on Him



People are really excited about progress. Children grow up, they learn how to walk and speak and become more and more independent. When I finished

school, I studied and learned a trade. I knew what was expected of me and could work and live independently – until the day that I got onto an airplane taking me halfway across the world.

From one day to the other, I wasn't even able to read anymore as my new home uses a different script. I became a child again – dependent on others and, most importantly, on God. Before I left to go to the mission field people kept telling me, "I could never do what you are doing!". And almost everyday in

my "new life" here I feel exactly the same – I feel inadequate and humbled, and humbled by my inadequacy. Things that used to be easy all of a sudden became big mountains – how do you get from A to B? How do you order food from a menu that just looks like scribbles to you? How can you build relationships and not offend people, when you don't know the dos and don'ts of the culture – never mind the language...

These were and are humbling and hard experiences. And time and time again I wished to hop on that plane again taking me back to my own home country where I knew how things worked and where I was able to communicate. But I want to trust God that this is the place He has for me at this time. And as I am plugged into language and



culture learning, I am thankful for some progress and the feeling of slowly growing up again in my new home country and know that this is all due to His grace.

Becoming a child again at over 30 years of age has been tough - but it has also been a great

opportunity to lean more on our Heavenly Father who cares for His children and gives us the strength that we need to do what He wants us to do no matter where we are.

MAY MY TEACHING TRICKLE LIKE THE DEW,  
MY WORDS LIKE RAIN SHOWERS  
ON TENDER GRASS, AND LIKE SPRING  
SHOWERS ON NEW GROWTH.

(DEUT. 32:2)



This is the experience of a student who graduated from North Cotes College and is now serving in Southeast Asia.

## ENDURANCE, PATIENCE, AND DILIGENCE

# Do you really hear me?



When a thought or message is communicated, the communicator should know their audience to shape their message so that the hearer understands it. This requires not only a strong command of the language but also a very good understanding of what the audience is hearing and thinking when the message is received.

Our job as a language school, as language helpers or nurturers, is to help people who are called by God to come to our country, equipping them with the tools they need to clearly communicate the Gospel of our dear Lord Jesus Christ.

We help to nurture them by faithfully raising their cultural awareness and their language understanding consistently together. Firstly, as young observers in a community and later, as welcome contributors who have been well seasoned and raised up naturally in our Tanzanian context.

Often we see some of the struggles of those who have left their home countries to serve the Lord in a foreign land. I believe many struggle because they have not taken the time to learn our

language and understand our culture. Instead they have rushed through language learning to quickly present the Gospel. As a result many times the message itself is unclear. Missionaries can become disheartened by a lack of response to their unclear message. Some might struggle for a few more years only to then return to their home country.

Seeing the importance of faithful and diligent immersion into local communities along with clear guidance and a review of cultural events by a trusted nurturer is vital. Many times this process takes longer than a missionary would like to spend.

We believe that longevity in the field, as well as being able to thrive in ministry (trusting the Lord), hinges on these first and foundational steps of learning language and culture. Becoming part of their community, engaging in their lives and developing deep friendships is the joy and excitement of serving our God abroad.

*Lucy Msinga is one of our valued language helpers and became a dear friend to many learners. She lives in Tanzania and is married to Hosea.*



Micki and his missionary parents are learning a new language.

CAN YOU HELP MICKI SOLVE THIS CODE?

**TRY IT  
LET'S GO**

— — — — —  
— — — — —  
— — — — —  
— — — — —  
— — — — — ;





# Carols by Candlelight



We were glad to be able to host our annual Carols by Candlelight event for the local community in early December (after cancelling it the previous year due to Covid). We held it outside, with Christmas lights and candles bringing lots of sparkle

## IGNITE

JESUS SAID "LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME..." MATTHEW 19:14

"Are you going to Ignite tonight?" has been reported to us as the question buzzing around the local school on Fridays!

What a fantastic time has been had sharing Bible truths with over twenty children. Covid has affected the number of times we have been able to meet, however these times have been so special. The students at North Cotes College are encouraged to be

involved in some kind of outreach and it is great to see them giving their all in this ministry. Each year we hear many testimonies from students who became Christians while still young.

Please pray for these children, that all will come to know Jesus as their Saviour!



at home creates an opportunity to put what is being learned into practise via ministry in their home church.

Please pray as we work through these changes and that students will continue to gain a foundation for living by rightly understanding the Word of God and be prepared for missions through the specialised training for cross-cultural evangelism.



To comply with the new immigration rules after Brexit, we have made some changes to our courses and obtained college accreditation to enable us to continue to accept international students. Our students who are not UK residents are limited to six months in the country so our courses will be split between six months at North Cotes College and four months online. Their time online

# Depending on Him

Having met in Bible School at North Cotes College in 2013, we married and did other things for a few years. The Lord challenged both of us about support work and in 2019 we responded to an advert to come and work in the kitchen. We ran the kitchen together for seven months, before the Covid-19 pandemic forced the college to temporarily close and that ministry to end.

However, we felt that the Lord wanted us to stay and be a support in any way we could. Nathan quickly transitioned to the maintenance team, driving one of the two lawnmowers used to keep the green areas of campus looking neat and tidy. He also helped install some camera equipment so that the training could continue online.

In March 2021, our annual Reach conference for young people also had to be held online. Nathan helped with the filming and editing, using his previous experience as an audio-visual engineer. Since June 2021, he has taken on the role of IT-Administrator, another vital role on campus.

While Maria has spent much of this time doing the important job of raising our two boys, she has made it her goal to be an encouragement and help to other staff and student families by cooking meals, providing childcare and organising fun activities. In November she organised "Laterne Singen," a German tradition in which children make lanterns and then walk together in a group in the dark, singing songs. It brought great cheer to the families who took part as well as those who watched the procession around the campus. Maria has also worked one day a week in the kitchen and organised a campus wide Christmas meal in December.

It has been amazing to see how God can use us in so many ways when we simply offer our availability. Sometimes God gives us ministries where our past experience and training are a natural fit, and other times He asks us to do something completely new. Either way we must ultimately depend on Him and we count it a privilege to serve Him here.



**Nathan is from England and Maria is from Germany. They have two children, Jasper (4) and Hosea (1). They have been serving at North Cotes since 2019.**



In 2020 I booked a flight to Oklahoma. My name was on the ticket. A seat was allocated. My itinerary was planned. My notes were prepared. But, because of you-know-what (Covid), I never got on that flight. My reservation was not as secure as I had thought.

In 1 Peter 1 the apostle writes to believers who had already faced the intense storms of instability and hardship, and he knows that there are darker clouds looming over them.

After the introduction (1:1-2), in the original text, Peter writes a one sentence, Gospel saturated, masterpiece (1:3-12). In it he puts their suffering into perspective, telling them that there is a purpose in their suffering and a future beyond their suffering. He tells them that, despite the insecurity of their world around them, in Christ, they are a secure people with a secure future.

Peter wanted to remind them that, no matter what they were currently facing, and no matter what else was coming, God had gladly and graciously taken the responsibility of guarding their future for them and guarding them for their future.

God, according to His mercy, had given them an inheritance, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

meaning their future was secure (1:3-4). God, according to His power, was keeping them for the day when Jesus would come again, meaning they were secure (1:5). We too, in Christ, are reserved until our reserved inheritance is given to us. You can't get more security and stability than that. You are sealed to your inheritance and your inheritance is sealed to you.

I don't know what you are currently facing or what you may yet face. I don't know what insecurities or instabilities you are grieved by. But I do know what is coming for those who are in Christ.

Look beyond the hardship. There, behind the storms and looming dark clouds, is the glimmer of glorious blue sky. We love Him and rejoice in Him now, but the richer reality of that joy is coming when we see Him in all His beauty (1:6-9). The bright day is coming and your place there is guaranteed in Christ.

Alan Campbell is from Northern Ireland. He pastors at Union Chapel, Bath. He is passionate about equipping believers to engage the Post-Christian world and helping them to root their identity more and more into the person and work of Jesus. He is married to Victoria, from Sunderland.

## Papua New Guinea

Pray for the Iski missionary team as they gear up for translation checks over the next few months. This month, **André and Aurélie Tousch** will be checking the Gospels of John, Luke, as well as portions of Matthew, Colossians, and Philemon (approximately 1,800 verses total). In May, Jason Williamson plans to check Revelation, 1 & 2 Peter, 2 Timothy and Galatians (740 verses total).

**Benjamin and Missy Hatton** are excited for this opportunity to teach from Creation to Christ again in Amdu. Benjamin plans to teach on every Sunday between now and April 17th so that the Easter message could really be understood. Pray for many to believe.

The Mamusi story is unlike anything **Chris and Ingrid Hughes** have ever heard. When they met some of the people last October and heard their stories, it touched their hearts. Right now, the Mamusi church has no Bible and the church leaders have never been discipled in their role. Chris and Ingrid believe that ministering to this people group may be something that God wants them to pursue further.

## Mexico

**Beth Kirk** is serving as an associate at the mission's school in Mexico. Pray for Beth as she adjusts to the language, culture, being away from family and friends, and her new role.

## Asia-Pacific

**Andrew and Joanna's** recent language evaluation with a language consultant put them both at level 6. To be able to leave full-time language study they will have to get to level 9. Pray for them as they continue to study and start to consider future/long-term ministry opportunities.

The helping hand given by home school helpers enables **Tony and Lina Keller** greater opportunity to pursue their language studies among the Buket people. Pray for progress in their language studies and wisdom in their interactions with the people.



# LOOKING FOR YOU



Looking for you

**CMT VOLUNTEER**  
(Campus Management Team)  
for Sept 2022 - July 2023  
must be UK resident

volunteer@ntm.org.uk

**SHORT TERM**



Looking for you

**IT VOLUNTEER**  
for Sept 2022 - July 2023  
must be UK resident  
apply by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022

volunteer@ntm.org.uk

**SHORT TERM**

## THIS IS YOUR CHANCE ...



Looking for you

**KITCHEN VOLUNTEER**

for Sept 2022 - July 2023  
must be UK resident  
apply by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022

volunteer@ntm.org.uk

**SHORT TERM**

## VOLUNTEER

BE A PART OF REACHING OUT

volunteer@ntm.org.uk