



## THE ROAD-CUTTING MAN

The Word is out

March 2023

## A GENTLE HAND

Open for His plan

## GIFTS OF SERVICE

Volunteering

# LINK

YOUR CONNECTION WITH TRIBAL MISSIONS

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## EDITORIAL

“What’s next?” This is a question that has probably been asked at least a hundred times just today: a teacher to a child building a tower of blocks, a university student following a recipe, or a retiree considering life after employment. Perhaps this is also a question you are familiar with as you live out your faith. Walking with Jesus is definitely not a stationary activity, but rather a journey. However, as Psalm 23 reminds us, we have a Good Shepherd who provides for our every need on the way and “guides [us] along right paths”.

May it warm your heart as you read about the way the Lord has directed those who have contributed articles and see His faithfulness and provision in the different stages of their journeys. There is never a time when we cannot be useful in His service. May we as individuals, and as part of His church, be His hands and feet whether at home or abroad, and however that may look.

As ever, we are thankful for your prayers and support in taking the Gospel to the least reached people groups around the world.

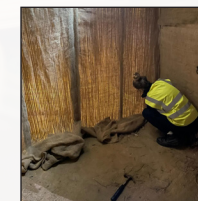
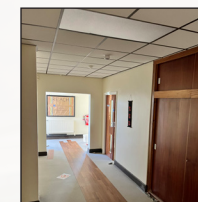
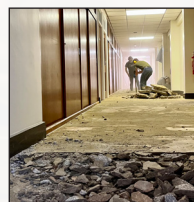
*“Looking for Jesus, ever serener,  
Working or suffering, be thy demeanor;  
In His dear presence, the rest of His calm,  
The light of His countenance be thy psalm,  
Strong in His faithfulness, praise and sing.  
Then, as He beckons thee, do the next thing.”*

*Author Unknown*

## CAMPUS NEWS

The Noah’s Ark nursery kitchen is being refurbished. It has been repainted, with new flooring, cupboards, a double sink and appliances fitted. Once all the work is complete, it will be registered with the local authority so that snacks can be prepared for the children, and will mean the nursery team can do some baking with them! The college kitchen has been providing the snacks for the last two years, which has been a huge blessing.

Preparations are well underway for our first in-person REACH conference in four years! We are excited to see our campus filled with over 200 young people, coming to hear more about missions. We pray that the Lord will raise up labourers for His harvest field.



A recent upgrade in the college building has been to put vinyl flooring in the corridor by the classrooms. This turned into a real team effort. Once the old carpet was removed, the subfloor was found to be inferior, and approximately seven tons of sharp sand were used to mix a screed, which replaced the 60mm that had to be removed over the area of 90m<sup>2</sup>. The result was well worth the effort.

In the dormitory accommodation allocated to families, door closures connected to the fire alarm system are in the process of being installed for safety and ease of access for the children.



## GIFTS OF SERVICE

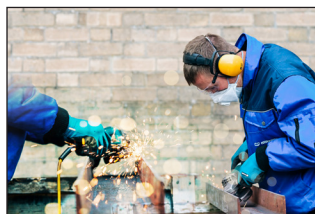
“THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF GIFTS, BUT THE SAME SPIRIT DISTRIBUTES THEM. THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF SERVICE, BUT THE SAME LORD. THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF WORKING, BUT IN ALL OF THEM AND IN EVERYONE, IT IS THE SAME GOD AT WORK.”

(1COR 12:4-6)

Missionaries who are part of the church planting team rely on their fellow support missionaries to aid them in focusing solely on reaching and ministering to lost people groups.

At North Cotes College, we rely on individuals volunteering for a year, sometimes longer, to fulfil roles that enable the students to focus on their studies.

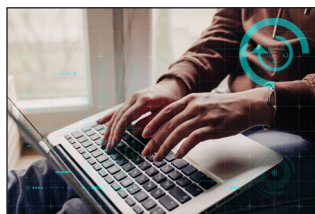
We are now able to have volunteers from anywhere in the world, however there is a visa process to go through if you are not a UK resident. For more information contact: [volunteer@ntm.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@ntm.org.uk)



The **Campus Management Team** (CMT) maintain the campus grounds, buildings and facilities.



The **kitchen** provides meals for the students. Meals are also provided for personnel, visiting guests and conference attendees, as required.



The **IT** team manage the computer systems and server for NTM-UK and North Cotes College and provide technical support.

**Family helpers** assist with the care and home education of international families' school-aged children whilst their parents are in class. Daily tasks for this role may be assigned according to the parents' preference.



The **nursery** provides onsite childcare for the preschool children of our students and personnel during morning class time.

REACH  
further 

Have you been wanting to see what the Lord is doing through NTM missionaries for yourself? Have you been asking whether you could be a missionary and want to see what it involves first-hand? Then this trip is for you.

We will be visiting missionaries at the forefront of missions, including those who are in tribal areas and those who are in support ministries, whether that is through serving in admin, finances, supply buying (shopping) roles, and more. This is your opportunity to meet and see what God is doing in and through missionaries, to ask your questions and to prayerfully consider if this is something the Lord is leading you into in the future.

Cost: £1000 per person (includes internal travel, accommodation, and meals; international flights and insurance will need to be booked personally)

Application deadline: 1st May

Contact: [reach\\_further@ntm.org.uk](mailto:reach_further@ntm.org.uk)

**...HE IS ABLE TO  
DO EXCEEDINGLY  
ABUNDANTLY  
ABOVE ALL THAT  
WE ASK OR  
THINK... (EPH 3:20)**

Initially, I was not at all keen on the idea of serving overseas. I am not naturally the adventurous type and the specific need that was highlighted to me was in Papua New Guinea! This was a very long way away for someone who really did not like travelling and was struggling with some health issues. I was not convinced that this was the role for me, but it was!

The Lord gently guided and by July 2018, I was in PNG, teaching music at Numonohi Christian Academy as an associate member of NTM. The purpose of the school (of approximately 150 students from ten different nationalities), is to glorify God and to assist with the establishment of indigenous tribal churches throughout PNG, by supporting missionary parents in providing a Christ-centred education for their children. I initially intended to help for a year or two with the music programme and then return to the UK to get back to "normal" life, but I continued for four years.



Becky Noble

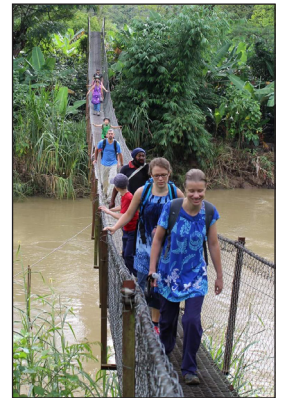
In 2017 I attended REACH, my first New Tribes Mission conference. I had been seeking the Lord's guidance in my life and was surprised by the number of people on the mission field serving in vital support roles. I did not realise that I could be a part of the team of people reaching the unreached with the Gospel by doing what I had already been trained to do (i.e. teaching music).



I really enjoyed all the different musical opportunities, from classroom teaching to starting a choir with PNG men and women to celebrate their Independence Day. I also taught the students Tok Pisin, the most widely spoken language in PNG. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the locals and being able to study the Bible with some of them.

Visiting a couple of church plants in tribal locations impacted me deeply and I was able to meet, and hopefully also encourage, several church planting missionaries as they passed through our support centre. It was such a privilege to work as a valued part of the wider mission team. I am now studying at North Cotes College, becoming better equipped to serve the Lord in the coming years.

Perhaps you are considering stepping out of your comfort zone? It might not always be plain sailing but remember, God is faithful and "He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20).





## THE ROAD-CUTTING MAN

Since 2017, Ethnos360 Aviation has been serving the team reaching the Maliyali people group in Papua New Guinea. Pilot Josh Verdonck remembers helping them move in and flying them to the closest airstrip in the Kodiak airplane. From there, the helicopter shuttled them into the village. Now, five years later, Josh himself is flying the R66 helicopter to deliver supplies to the team. Every one of those flights has helped to bring the Maliyali to this decisive moment ....



In August 2022, the Maliyali missionary team taught a series of lessons, starting from the very beginning of the Bible, introducing the series with a geography lesson to show the Maliyali the immensity of the planet. Then from Psalm 8:1-4, they introduced God, bigger than all creation, who cares for them, even though they are just a small group in the vast world.

Day after day, the Maliyali people heard the unfolding of God's Word: who God is, what He created and how some of the angels turned from God and became evil spirits, how Adam and Eve fell into sin and that "those born under the line of Adam would be born with sin and into the clan of Satan..."

Oh, the joy, though, to hear from Genesis 3:15 that God promised to send the "Road-cutting Man" to make a way for people to get back to God, taking away sin. Who would it be? They faithfully continued attending the lessons, waiting to hear the answer.

They saw the horrible effects of sin, as when Cain slew Abel, and the devastation of sin and the destruction of the world by the Flood. They saw the Ark as God's sovereign protection of the line that the Redeemer would come through. They wondered, "What kind of road will God make for us to be rescued from our sin and from going to the created place of fire?" When they heard that Abraham believed God, they wondered, "Will the Road-cutting Man bring us talk to believe?"

With story after story, they could see God's goodness, His provision, His unchangeable character. When they heard the law, they realised they could not keep it any more than the Israelites who strayed from God. However, they had hope in the Road-cutting Man.

Finally, a baby was born in an unusual way. They pondered: "His name is Jesus. He is the only one through whom God will cut the road in getting people back to Him. Is there any other road? No way."

**WHEN I  
CONSIDER  
YOUR HEAVENS,  
THE WORK OF  
YOUR FINGERS,  
THE MOON  
AND THE  
STARS, WHICH  
YOU HAVE  
ORDAINED...**

(PSALM 8:3)

Through the story of Nicodemus, they were blown away by a new concept: "God loves me. I have never heard this; this is the first time. Through His love for all peoples, He has made one road, Jesus. There are no other roads, it's just Jesus." When they heard what Jesus did for them — how He "cut the road" through His death, burial and resurrection — many Maliyali looked to the Road-cutting Man and put their trust in Him. May God be praised in Heaven and on earth!

*Edited from an article by Ethnos360 Aviation.*



*Josh with the Maliyali team  
back in 2017.*

## FROM EVERY TRIBE AND LANGUAGE AND PEOPLE AND NATION



In 1969 George and I, along with Wendy, our three month old daughter, set out on a journey to Southeast Asia. Revelation 5:9 urged us on, “because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God men from every tribe and language and people and nation.”

On arriving in Southeast Asia, we wondered which people group we would live among. At that time a work among the Pwo Karen had opened up, so after a year of national language study in Bangkok, we enthusiastically journeyed to Kanchanaburi province, famed for its “Bridge Over The River Kwai”.

We lived in a Pwo Karen village in an area called Nasuan for about thirty years. During that time, a small group of villagers came to faith in Christ. One of those was a man named Chi, a Pwo Karen refugee who had fled from his home country. Down through the years the Lord has worked in Chi’s heart in many wonderful ways. Now he is the main helper in the translation of the Pwo Karen Bible.



Wendy and Richard



As the years went by, George and I came to realise that this people group is quite large, and are located across several countries. This led us to visit other Pwo Karen villages. Our vision was to seek those who desired to listen to the message we had to share with them.

These journeys eventually led us to move to the village of Sarawat. In the year 2000, a group of around 100 Pwo Karen gathered from several villages to Sarawat to hear the message that George had to bring. George taught this group three times a day. A group of around ten would come to the house in the evening to hear more. The teaching continued for a couple of weeks until many needed to return to their own villages for the rice harvest. George continued to teach God’s Word in Sarawat and a number a people decided to follow God.

Around this time George’s health started declining. Having suffered many bouts of malaria, he developed a liver disease and died in 2004. My daughter Wendy and her husband, Richard, continue to work among the Pwo Karen people, along with their co-workers, Stephan and Sandra.



Gwen is now retired from NTM and living with her sister-in-law, Betty, in the Republic of Ireland





## REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY WITHOUT CEASING ~

### Graham & Carol Townley

have been in Kovol, Papua New Guinea, for almost two months supporting Steve and Gerdine Stanley and their family. Their goal is to help them get more language-learning time in, and for Gerdine that has been game changing. Initially, Graham had a tropical bug, but has since made a huge bookshelf and a room for Oscar in the roof space. Carol has helped with the safe delivery of a baby and has been helping with chores such as cooking and washing. The children are really loving the extra attention and play times. Steve and Gerdine are enjoying the company and are grateful for their help. Pray for continued good health and strength.

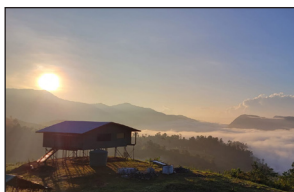
**Gabi** recently arrived in West Africa, and since language, culture, and life in an African context are so new, she depends a lot on other people. It is like being a little child that needs to learn the simplest tasks. All this is exciting, but at times it can be shocking, uncomfortable, overwhelming, and tiring. Nevertheless, this is a very valuable time as she learns many things and God is at work in her for which she is thankful. Gabi has started French study for about five to six hours daily, and she really enjoys it. Pray that Gabi would become more confident as she learns to get around the city, for energy, joy, and the ability to focus well in French study.

## ~ GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES...

(1 THESS 5:16-18)

### Chris & Ingrid Hughes

are house building in a Mamusi village in Papua New Guinea, and are very happy that the roof is on. Please continue to pray for safety for the men as they carry on with construction, as they are able. Pray for good weather, health and strength, and for their wives and children whilst they are away.



### Jonathan & Naomi,

who serve in West Africa, praise the Lord that they have been able to find a property available to rent in a town near to the people group they desire to reach. A friend has negotiated for them, which is an answer to prayer. Pray for them as a family and for their home school helper, Lydia, as they start to make new relationships in the south. Pray for hearts that would be resting on the Lord as they all go through another season of big change.

# BEHIND THE SCENES

Gill Baxter is from England; she taught missionaries' children in Brazil for 22 years, was the co-ordinator of the NTM Associate Programme at North Cotes for ten years, then retired to her hometown of Grantham.



After completing the NTM training in the USA, I headed to central Brazil in 1977 where I taught at the mission school in Vianopolis for 22 years. What wonderful years they were! When I left in 1999, a big part of my heart remained in Vianopolis.

In January 2000, I went to North Cotes for six months to see if I could be of any help. Somehow, those six months stretched to nearly ten years.

At every stage of my journey, God has been faithful to provide. Returning to my hometown of Grantham, I moved into housing provided by an almshouse charity. I pay a very small monthly fee for a lovely home with a beautiful shared garden. In fact, I am now living just round the corner from the street where I was born! Almost all my family still live in Grantham. After so many years away, it is a joy to be back.

I thought my time serving with NTM was over, but in May 2021 I had a totally unexpected phone call from Frank Brearley (Chairman of NTM-UK) that opened up a new area of service. He invited me to join the board of trustees. I needed time to think and pray - I had no idea what it meant to be a trustee! I found the official definition is "the persons having the general control and management of the administration of a charity." It sounded like a huge responsibility but also a huge privilege.

Therefore, in October 2021, I was back at North Cotes for my first trustees meeting. It is great to feel I have an active part in NTM again, to be part of the trustees' team, and to spend time at North Cotes College. How exciting to hear of what God is doing amongst the unreached people groups around the world and to be a part of the support team.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT



In politics, the 'Overton Window' describes the range of policies and ideas that a population may find acceptable. Beliefs and opinions that lie outside of the window are commonly regarded as unthinkable radical or extreme. As culture moves this window of acceptability, the challenge for the shrewd is to predict what policies will be acceptable to the majority.

So, do we need to change? Yes and no. Our message cannot be altered so that it fits the popular mood. We can't leave out parts or add other ideas as we are not servants to popularity, but to the King of Kings. His nature and offer of salvation are unchanging. At home and abroad, we are to remain faithful and true communicators, 'never ashamed of the Gospel of Christ', for the Gospel alone is the 'power of God to salvation for everyone who believes' (Rom. 1:16). God's message does not depend on people to be acceptable; rather, people depend on the Gospel to be accepted by God.

However, our approach to people often needs to change. How we introduce ourselves in any context at home or abroad matters. Paul observed the 'Overton Window' of his day and tried to be 'all things to all people that by all means I might save some' (1 Cor. 9:22). We trust God to guide us to find new ways to live among and engage our communities wherever we are.

Likewise, we learn new ways to overcome changing restrictions that govern access to the most unreached peoples in the world. As Jesus sends His disciples out 'as sheep among wolves', He tells them to be as shrewd as a serpent (Matt. 10:16). Rarely is a serpent held up as a paragon of virtue, but cunning is required for believers everywhere in changing cultures when facing potential persecution or restriction in our mission and evangelism (cf. Matt. 10).

Everywhere, each of us wants to dispel suspicion and build relationships so that we can share the unchanged Gospel. May we be harmless as doves and depend on the Spirit's power (2 Cor. 4:5-7) to be shrewd in using all windows of opportunity to relate the best news of God's acceptance and reconciliation.

*Phil and his family have spent most of the last 20 years working in sensitive areas overseas. They are presently in the UK as their children transition to their independent lives.*

## KID'S CORNER



Some images by Freepik





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