

LINK

YOUR CONNECTION WITH TRIBAL MISSIONS

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Contact our representatives:
Ireland (North & South)
matthew_cuthbert@ntm.org.uk
Mainland UK
frank_brearley@ntm.org.uk
stephen_jerrard@ntm.org.uk

EDITORIAL

In reading this edition of the Link, you will see the importance of working together in unity, praying for one another, standing firm together, and having one passion, purpose and priority in bringing glory to God.

As a team serving at North Cotes, and having recently attended a retreat with messages taken from the book of Philippians, the thoughts from Paul's letter to the Philippian church, are fresh in our minds. Our purpose as a mission is to be motivated by the love of Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to assist the ministry of the local church. This is done through mobilising, equipping and coordinating believers to preach the Gospel to unreached people groups, translate the Scriptures, and endeavour to establish indigenous churches that glorify God.

Through the encouragement of others, often by giving of their time or skills, and even when things are hard or not always going the way they had planned or dreamed, those at the forefront of missions are continuing to take the Word to those who have never heard. However, we can all be a part of the church planting team through prayer and encouragement.

"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God."

Philippians 1:9-11

CAMPUS NEWS



We have a wonderful, spacious campus at North Cotes, which is especially enjoyed by the children of our students and personnel. Parents had been praying for a while for God to provide the funds to purchase some play equipment. However, the Lord answered their prayers in a different way! A family from our local community has generously donated their play equipment, which they no longer needed. It is such a joy to see the children having lots of fun. Thank the Lord with us for His provision!



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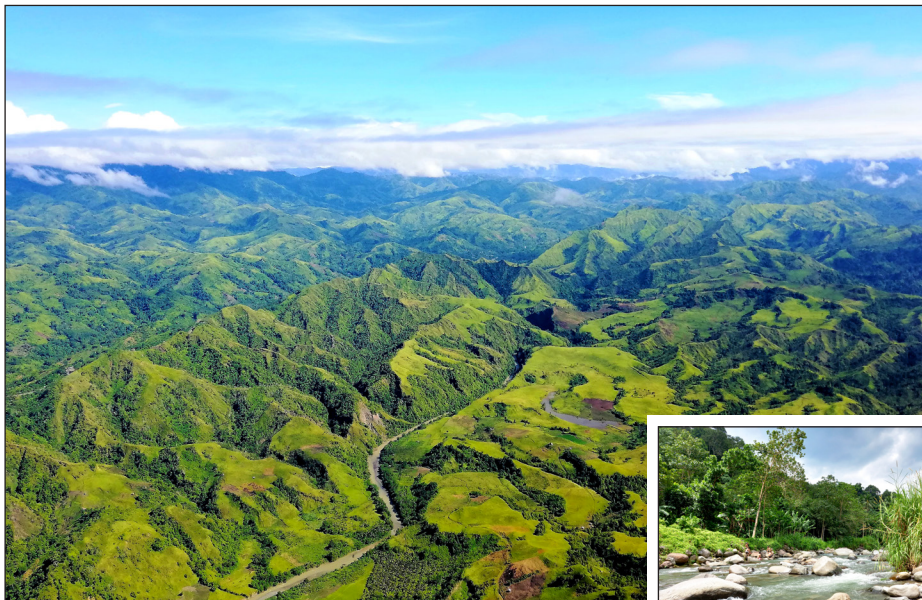
 **North Cotes**
COLLEGE
www.northcotescollege.co.uk



As we come to the end of another academic year, many of our volunteers will be returning to their home countries and churches. We are hugely grateful for their service and contribution to life on campus. Please pray for them as they resettle. Also, pray for volunteers to meet the needs from September.

volunteer@ntm.org.uk

MISSIONS ON MY HEART



Ever since volunteering in the nursery at North Cotes, missions has been on my heart. While studying to be a primary school teacher, I always had in mind the need for teachers who teach missionary children. A three-month trip to help at an international school in Mozambique confirmed God's leading to serve overseas as a teacher.

With my church on board, I applied to Ethnos360 Germany and established a support network. In August 2019, I left for the Philippines. For three



years I got to be the classroom teacher for Grade 3 at Faith International Academy in Davao City. This Christian school (K-12) was founded 40 years ago to primarily support missionaries by providing quality education, so that the missionaries can focus on what God has called them to do without having to worry about their kids' education.



I taught the core subjects (Bible, language, arts, math, science, and social studies), and I absolutely loved it! And by doing what I love, I got to support many different mission organisations and ministries (church planting, translation projects, a Christian maternity clinic, etc.).

However, it was also a tough time: severe earthquakes, frequent typhoons, regular floodings, a volcano eruption, the world's longest lockdown and incredibly strict restrictions due to Covid, two years of exclusively online teaching, and two sudden deaths of colleagues. These are just a few of the challenges I had to face. Nevertheless, God was and is faithful!

Every second of being in the Philippines, I knew that I was exactly in the place God wanted me to be, and I got to experience His care and goodness over and over again. God is at work even (or especially) in tough times.



Right now, Hannah is studying at North Cotes College to be equipped to hopefully work with New Tribes Mission on a long-term basis.

IMPACT CHILDREN FOR CHRIST:

God is radically changing lives among unreached people groups through the ministry of NTM/Ethnos360, and educators play a key role by providing quality education for children of missionaries.



Do you know any teachers who want to make a difference? Encourage them to look into serving at Numonohi Christian Academy (NCA), PNG for a year or two. They are in need of primary school teachers, a school counsellor, and senior school teachers for foreign language, math and science.

<http://go.ethnos360.org/png-ed-jobs>

NOT MY PLANS BUT YOURS

We worked toward it. We planned for it. We dreamt of it. But “it” never happened. We have experienced in life that plans don’t always go as we hope. In our case, none of our plans went as we thought they would!

In 2008, we packed our worldly goods, hopes, and dreams into four large, red duffel bags and set off to learn Portuguese in Portugal intending to plant a church in an unreached people group in Mozambique.

Year after year, our goal seemed to get further and further away. You could say we were given every “pass” to give up and go home over the next several years: endless cases of malaria, attempted break-ins, struggles in marriage, issues with leadership, a dissolved team, and transferring to another country where we had to learn another language and culture.

FOR WE
ARE GOD’S
MASTERPIECE.
HE HAS
CREATED
US ANEW IN
CHRIST JESUS,
SO WE CAN
DO THE GOOD
THINGS HE
PLANNED FOR
US LONG AGO.

EPH 2:10



Through it all, we learned that it was all part of God’s greater plan to change us and teach us more about Himself, His compassion, mercy, and pursuit of us, at whatever cost. He used the dashed dreams to draw us to Himself, put our trust in Him and His plan, and to teach us to rely on Him for our worth - not our achievements or others’ approval.

After 15 years overseas, we have come to realise and accept that God’s plan for us isn’t in the forefront of NTM’s main goal of church planting. We have embraced our role of equipping our missionary team through support, and Tanzanians through training materials.

Jon’s main ministry, as part of the leadership in Southeast Africa, is casting vision and giving guidance. He also develops materials in Swahili to train Swahili speakers to work in cross-cultural missions. Angie home schools and, as she

gets more time, looks forward to becoming more involved in discipleship and women’s Bible studies. Our local church has a national, Swahili congregation, where we serve in various capacities, including teaching and home visits.

These weren’t the roles we dreamed of or picked, but we are confident and content in the way God has worked, the experiences He gave us, and His leading to bring us to this place to serve Him through the gifts He has given us.



Through the twists and turns and ups and downs, we can look back and, miraculously, see a straight, level path. Sometimes it hurts, but the masterpiece He creates is worth the suffering.

Jon and Angie Button are serving in Southeast Africa with their four boys.



BEING AN ENCOURAGEMENT

What a wonderful joy and privilege to visit the Kovol tribe in Papua New Guinea. It was encouraging to see the enthusiasm of the Kovol people to have the missionaries learn their language so they can hear God's story.



Although we have been involved in tribal missions for thirty-seven years, we never had an extended time in a situation where missionaries are learning the language. We observed the daily routine of computer work, listened to discussions about pronunciation, how to elicit certain types of speech, or form an alphabet. We saw the attention the team gives to understanding the culture and watched when they chatted with the Kovol people, or intentionally met them to use previously gained knowledge or photographs to expand their understanding and depth of the language and culture.



Intermingled with this, is medical work, village meetings, visits to gardens and to other villages, which meant hiking the convoluted terrain.

This all takes place amid family life and the need to give time to the children and to their

education. We observed the practical issues of planning: months ahead for school materials and birthday presents so they could arrive when needed, weeks ahead for flights for fuel, supplies and breaks, weekly and daily planning for home schooling.

What a thrill when Gerdine progressed two levels in her language evaluation. She had extra time for language learning because we were there helping with household



chores: doing laundry, making meals, cleaning and looking after their wonderful children at home or when out in the village.

Graham finished many of the tasks on Steve's "to do" list; a step stool to help the kids

reach the outside sink to wash their feet, a bookcase, and bedside tables. He finished boarding in Oscar's bedroom in the attic, painting walls and making furniture for it. He built a "bush" office under the house so Steve can meet with Kovol men and discuss language with them, but not intrude on family activities.

What a precious moment when Kavaluka, a landowner, came and thanked Graham for helping the team so they could have more time for language learning.

We don't feel we did anything special, we did things that many people do every day. We just took time to go where it made a difference to the Gospel going forward. **How could you make a difference so missionaries can carry on the vital work of sharing the Gospel?**



Graham and Carol Townley served in PNG, then at NTM-UK, and recently went back to support the Kovol team for two months.

A SMALL TASTER - Impressions from a vision trip to Senegal

With massive fromager trees, famous shared bowl meals, and a core value of hospitality, Senegal is truly a beautiful place. As beautiful as it is though, there is also a great need for the Gospel there.

There is a diversity of religions (Islam, Roman Catholicism, Voodoo, and Animism) and with so few people knowing the Gospel, there are huge needs for evangelism, discipleship, and church planting.

Neil

from South Africa is finishing the Cross Cultural Communication training and hopes to be involved with church planting in Africa.

I haven't really begun to talk about this aspect, but the trip really gave me a lot of insight into missions in West Africa. Moreover, it strengthened my resolve to go into missions, and makes me all the more eager to finish



my current training. I am also thankful for all the missionaries who currently work there, and we should pray that they can continue to be a blessing to those they serve.

My purpose for travelling to Senegal was to get an idea of what the West African mission field looks like, and also to aid in the decision process of where to go as a missionary. My travel goal was certainly achieved!

Senegal

Nathanäel is from the Netherlands and currently a Biblical Studies student. He created this great video.

watch the video here



The trip to Senegal gave me an insight into life in the capital, Dakar, and the more rural region down south. We had different meetings with people from the organisation and were given an overview of current church planting projects, as well as possible future ministry opportunities. This also includes training African believers.

Dani

from Germany is a student in the Advanced Linguistics course.

It was interesting to see the French and Wolof language sessions and helpful to get information about the first two years of language and culture study on the West African mission field.

A highlight of the trip was the time down south where we visited two families and got an impression of their life.



It was also nice to engage with the local people. Even though their villages are accessible by car, they still have yet to hear the Gospel and do not have the Word of God available in their heart language. It became evident that the church in Senegal needs help to fulfil this task.

IMPACT 4 ETERNITY



In March and April, a translation consultant and three Dinangat men helped **Ralf and Elli Schlegel** to complete and finally check 2 Corinthians and Revelation. It is a big step forward in finishing the Dinangat New Testament, and they are so thankful to God for giving them the strength and wisdom to get it done! Pray for the neighbouring language group they surveyed. Two villages have already said, "Yes, please come!" Keep praying for a fully open door to go there!

En route

Tim and Miriam Tremeer
are en route to Asia-Pacific.

Dennis and Valerie Easton

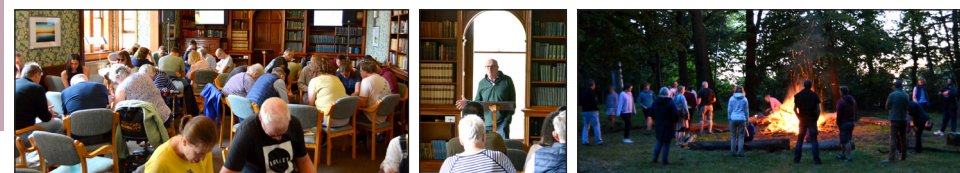
serve among the Ga'dang in the Philippines; they are beginning an outreach in the next village, which is a 45-minute hike away. On Saturdays, they also plan to start a children's programme. Pray for renewed vision and encouragement, as sometimes the pressures of village life are overwhelming. The outreach to the children in their own village is going very well. Pray for them to see that God loves them and sent them a Saviour.



Stephan and Sandra, serve in Southeast Asia mainland among the Pwo Karen, have seen the Lord answering prayer; mainly with regard to relationships with people who are interested in the Bible teaching. Pray for wisdom in their relationships and in parenting. The children have said goodbye to the volunteers who were helping to home school them and were a huge blessing.

A Bible translation consultant was delayed in visiting **Lív** in West Africa to check Genesis and some chapters of Daniel. The check has now been postponed to the beginning of November. This delay has given Lív time to go through the draft of 1 Samuel and some of 2 Samuel. She has also been able to prepare the Gospel of Luke and the book of Ruth for printing. Pray that the Lord will reveal Himself to the local people through His Word.

BEHIND THE SCENES



It takes a whole team of people to reach the unreached throughout the world, whether it be those in church planting, or in support roles in the training centres and head offices, like ours. We have a good number of full-time personnel and short-term volunteers at North Cotes. People serve in various ministries, such as teaching, caring for children, preparing meals for students and guests, maintaining the campus, working in the finance office, providing support to overseas missionaries, and much more! We count it a privilege to serve in these support roles.

At the end of May, our NTM-UK and North Cotes College personnel and volunteers went away together for a weekend. It was a wonderful time of sweet fellowship, relaxation, and fun in a beautiful location! Paul Hinton (a pastor from Leeds) taught from Philippians about our 'Partnership in the Gospel', reminding us of the fellowship we can enjoy as we serve God together. The children also had lots of fun with leaders who volunteered their weekend to help. We headed back to North Cotes feeling refreshed and thankful for the many memories we created.

"THEN MAKE MY JOY COMPLETE BY BEING LIKE-MINDED, HAVING THE SAME LOVE, BEING ONE IN SPIRIT AND OF ONE MIND"

PHIL 2:2

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



My wife and I recently transitioned from a long standing ministry at Ethnos360 Bible Institute in the USA to Romania. As we departed, friends gifted me with a beautiful Swiss-made Tissot watch. Its precision, as a timekeeper, is flawless. Hours, minutes, seconds, tenths, and hundredths of seconds - not a problem and no adjustments needed. The

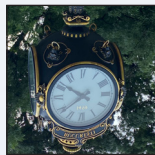
Tissot literally measures time to perfection. It is world-renowned and used for sporting events such as the Tour de France and Giro d'Italia.

As we have travelled over the years, we have enjoyed seeing historical clocks such as the "1459 Bucharesti Clock" which commemorates the early establishment of Bucharest. And, the "Prague Astronomical Clock", or "Prague Orloj" which was constructed in 1410. Its architecture includes statues of various Catholic saints, and features an hourly animation called the "Walk of the Apostles". Its architecture and timekeeping abilities are amazing.

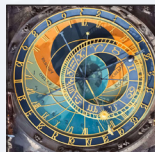
As impressed as I am with these timepieces, I am most in awe of our Heavenly Father's sovereign oversight of time. God is not just keeping a beat like a reliable Tissot watch, but He is literally entering in and orchestrating our lives on many levels. He guides us, protects us, and provides for us - all according to His perfect time and good pleasure.

My prayer is that we, like David, will follow the lead of the LORD because His timing and ways are perfect.

Ron and Carrie Lindsey have moved to Romania as part of the first Ethnos360 team in the country. They have served with Ethnos360 for 40 years.



They served in Papua New Guinea for 18 years as church planters and school personnel, then for 20 years at the Bible Institute in the USA.



Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I keep my eyes always on the Lord...

You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Psalm 16:5-8,11

REACH

"TO THE TEAM AT NCC...
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK! IT
IS SHOWING GREAT RESULTS"



In March this year I had the pleasure of bringing the largest Norwegian group to **REACH** that we've ever had. It was especially encouraging after COVID put a stop to the last time we tried to bring a group.

I was a student at North Cotes College (NCC) when the first **REACH** conference was held, and I have visited a few times since then too. It has been very encouraging to see how the conference has been getting better and better every year. Because of this, we always thought it would be a great place to bring youth interested in missions. We gathered our group from three different towns in Norway. Most of

the attendees were invited via our own Ethnos360 conference in Norway, the youth Bible studies of one of our missionaries, and through word-of-mouth of those who had been there before. It is safe to say they liked it! All 27 of them had only positive feedback to give. They have told their friends about it and we already have new people who have shown interest in going to the next one in 2024. It is also a good recruitment tool and all the Norwegians who have applied for Bible school this autumn have been to **REACH**.

Erlend Røsvik is a member of the leadership team in Ethnos360 Norway.



REACH 2023 was my first time visiting North Cotes. I loved seeing the campus, that I've heard so much about for most of my life, and exploring the area. It was also really nice to sit in on one of the Bible school classes. The music at **REACH** was great, and the sessions were challenging and very memorable. I got to meet people from different countries and reunite with old friends. I would highly recommend attending **REACH** and can't wait to go back next year!

Emma Røsvik is a 17 year old missionary kid (MK) from Norway.



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