

March 2024

LINK

YOUR CONNECTION WITH TRIBAL MISSIONS



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MEMORIAL STONES

***Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, "Till now the Lord has helped us."* 1 Samuel 7:12**

Outside my office is a war memorial plaque. It is a reminder that our North Cotes College campus was for 76 years a military camp. The North Coates Strike Wing's motto was: "On, on, regardless." Pilots flew from this base, and many gave their lives. Flying Officer Kenneth Campbell VC, for instance, was awarded the Victoria Cross for his courageous action which led to his death. The last RAF attack of the second world war in Europe on 4th May 1945, was carried out by the 236 and 254 squadrons of the North Coates Strike Wing.

2024 marks the **25th year** of New Tribes Mission's occupation of what was formerly a military base. Today, men and women are being trained here for missionary service. Many of those who have gone out from here have served God with no lesser a commitment to go "on, on, regardless" of their safety and comfort, to take the Gospel message to peoples who have never heard of the Lord Jesus Christ. They have hazarded their lives in remote parts of the world to take God's message of forgiveness and deliverance from the power of sin and death through Jesus.

We rejoice as we hear of those who have gone out and then returned years later telling of God's faithfulness to them. They have learned to communicate in previously unwritten languages, taught God's Word, and witnessed men and women, boys and girls, come to faith in Jesus. We are heartened that churches are planted, Bibles translated, and people taught to read and write. Communities have been and are being transformed.

Today our training centre, which was purchased in 1998 by a gift of £500,000 from an anonymous donor, and refurbished at a cost of £750,000 supplied through unsolicited gifts from God's family, has been open since September 1999. Praise God with us that "till now the Lord has helped us." And we believe our faithful God will continue to help us. **Praise His name.**

Frank Brearley (NTM-UK Chairman)

CAMPUS NEWS

North Cotes College has an onsite nursery that offers childcare for the families of students, volunteers, and personnel. **Noah's Ark Nursery** is open for children aged 0-5 and operates during weekday mornings, enabling parents to attend lectures or their ministries. It is Ofsted registered with a 'good' grade.

Read the report here:



REACH ONE GOAL - EVERY SOUL!



Our popular REACH conference for 16-30 year olds is fully booked! Plenty of preparation is going on, and we'll soon be ready for 225 extra people to be crammed onto our campus for an exciting weekend of fellowship, worship, mission reports...and a challenge to all: **"One Goal - Every Soul!"**

After the initial refurbishment of the site 25 years ago, many improvements have been accomplished. Much of the work is done in house. However, we are very grateful for contractors when their services are needed, and some have become friends over the years.

Currently, the bungalow accommodation is being redecorated throughout and has a new central heating system. A bathroom in one of the apartments has also been refurbished. Access around the site has been improved with more ramps. The re-plumbing of the hot and cold water supply in the Paul Fleming building is ongoing, and an area of the laundry building is being developed.



Please pray for the Campus Management Team (CMT) as they continue to care for the site. There is still an **urgent need** for people to join the team.

Contact: volunteer@ntm.org.uk

PHILIPPINES VISION TRIP

What could be a better addition to the awesome training at North Cotes College (NCC) than a visit to the mission field to gain first-hand insight? While this is not a course requirement, we don't have much experience living in another country. We certainly had concerns about it - what it looked like, smelled like, and tasted like - but our hope was to get a basic idea of life in the Philippines.

A missionary family serving there happily invited us for a visit and offered to show us as much as they possibly could within two weeks. The plan was to visit a tribal church, an unreached tribe where missionaries recently started to learn culture and language, and all kinds of necessary support roles.

We had many different worries beforehand.

We had never travelled that far with the kids before. How would they survive 20 hours of layovers and flight time? What would they eat? One of our sons was extremely picky about food - would we find something for him?



A time difference of seven hours, sickness, climatic conditions, and language barriers - what would await us on the other side of the globe? Last but not least, a trip like that is not cheap and would cost between £4,000 - £5,000 for a family of four. However, we brought all our worries before God - and a lot of people were praying for us too.

What happened to our worries?

Our trip went amazingly well. God answered all our prayers and blessed us in ways beyond what any of us could have expected. Our son, who was so picky about food, absolutely loved rice (which was amazing because Filipinos eat it three times a day!) and we all enjoyed our time there. We gained much insight and learned a lot. Sure, we sometimes failed in terms of correct cultural behaviour, but it was humorous, not harmful. Everyone stayed healthy and well while we were there and, to top things off, our church decided to pay for the whole trip afterwards.

God helped us gain more confidence in HIS power and ability.

We learned so many things about missionary life. We heard about the joys and sorrows, successes and challenges; we saw that the task of church planting in a tribal area is impossible for human abilities but God is at work. He uses weak and failing people to share the Gospel with those who have never heard. He is transforming people and turning total darkness into glorious light. Any and all expectations regarding our trip were wholly exceeded.

We literally experienced what **Ephesians 3:20** says:

"Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think."



Scan this QR code now to watch a short video on YouTube.



Pray for this unreached tribe and that many others will one day hear, understand, and accept the Gospel. Pray for the missionaries serving there, that they might rest in the knowledge that it is God who accomplishes His work.



Flo & Debby, along with their one year old son, as well as Arthur & Mareike, with their two young sons, are from Germany and are currently Cross Cultural Communications students at NCC. They hope to be involved in a church planting work amongst an unreached people group in the future.

A GRACIOUS INVITATION



Six years ago, the Lord challenged us to go to the mission field: “Why not YOU?” He asked. Back then, we had two kids and began the journey, step by step. But to be honest, we didn’t really believe we’d get there.

Well, despite challenges and surprises during the years of training and preparation, here we are – living in a city in Asia-Pacific, now with four kids, and trying to learn the language and culture. Yes, trying to. Even though we’re not long on the field, we sometimes wonder

what we’re even doing here. What can we achieve? It can be tiring at times, wearing our different hats of teacher (as we home school our boys), parent, husband/wife, friend, and learner, along with still sticking out and feeling like outsiders.

But this brings us to our main point and what the Lord keeps teaching us – we want to stop focusing on ourselves and what we can accomplish. It’s not about us and what we can do; it’s about the Lord and what He is doing. It’s about Him graciously inviting us to see His work. It is so very precious to catch a glimpse of what God is doing here in Asia-Pacific, although it’s not easy at times.

However, the Lord keeps encouraging us with **Jeremiah 33:3** which says, **“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”** We have often experienced the importance of calling to Him first, whether we needed solutions for problems, wisdom for decisions, or ‘just’ a change in perspective away from ourselves and towards Him. He promises to answer, often already has answered, and will continue to do so.

When we do not call to Him, we end up thinking it’s not worth being here because of who we are – just a random family trying to live



OUR ATTEMPT AT A CHRISTMAS FAMILY PHOTO AFTER WE WERE SURPRISED BY THE RAIN WHILST ON THE SCOOTER – WE WERE COMPLETELY SOAKED WHEN WE ARRIVED HOME!

overseas. But when we do call to Him, He begins to show us things around us, both big and small, that He has clearly done. To experience this, one doesn’t necessarily have to leave the country – just call to Him. Now as we look back, we don’t think the Lord asked, “Why not YOU?” but rather invited us to **“Come and see!”**

Michi & Manu, along with their four children (aged 8, 6, 4, and 2) have lived in Asia-Pacific for six months. They are currently in the E2 phase, which is culture and language acquisition.



Barnabas (UK) & Tabea (Germany) completed three years of training at North Cotes and are currently based in Lincoln.

During our visit to Chihuahua, we were able to spend an amazing time with the missionaries there. As we were looking at the field of Mexico, we were asking ourselves and God if it was somewhere we could serve Him in the future. As part of that prayer, we asked the Lord that if it was the right place, we would be sad to say goodbye when the time came for us to leave.

Our time in Mexico was a great eye opener as to what life looks like on the field, especially for those who have recently arrived and are studying national language and culture acquisition. We felt so welcomed and were able to spend time with the leadership talking about what the current tribal works look like. We also chatted about where they are thinking of starting up new works in the future.

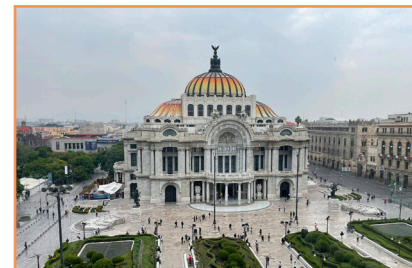
On top of that, we were also able to meet with some of the veteran missionaries who have spent over forty years in the country, seen a church planted among the people they worked with, and completed a translation of the New Testament in that language. Being able to talk with them and hear about the challenges and successes that they had was really encouraging and helped us get a fuller understanding of what ministry could look like in Mexico.

At the end of our time in Chihuahua, God answered our prayer and it was difficult to say goodbye to the people that we had met and begun to build relationships with.



Since returning to the UK, we have begun to raise support and think about how we can best use the two years that we plan on spending in the UK before heading out to the field. Having had this trip, we prayed and felt that Mexico was clearly the way that the Lord was leading us. We have applied and been accepted to serve God there.

Please pray for us during this time of preparation and also for the field of Mexico, where there is such a great need for the truth of the Gospel!





Phoebe is one of our volunteers serving at North Cotes College. Below, she shares how she became a Christian and how God has worked in her life.

I was born and grew up in a little town in north-west Shropshire, and was home schooled until I went to study childcare at college. Since finishing full-time education, I have been working with different aged kids in various settings.

From a very young age, I was taught the stories of the Bible but I never understood what it meant to be a sinner until I was six years old. For three days, I felt so guilty for ways I behaved that I knew were wrong. On the third night, I prayed and asked for God to forgive my sins and trusted in Christ to save me. I understood then, how God had provided His perfect Son to die in my place. I deserve to die for all the sins I have done, but Jesus' sacrifice paid the price for every sin. Life has not always been easy. Some years ago, I needed an emergency operation and my family feared for my life. **Isaiah 40:31** was a great comfort:

'But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.'

For just under three years now, I have been volunteering in the nursery at North Cotes College. I have enjoyed every moment and treasure each memory – my colleagues, the children, and their families. It is encouraging helping prepare mini missionaries to go with their families wherever God leads them, and knowing that you are enabling the Word to be spread.

I would totally recommend giving your time and skills for the Lord here as a volunteer. God has directed my life in so many ways and I look forward to fulfilling the plan and purpose He has for me.



GOD FINISHES WHAT HE STARTS



Three years ago, in the Link magazine, we wrote that *"God finishes what He starts."* We still believe that but now see it won't be us who God uses to finish that work.

In the last three years, despite initial travel restrictions and issues with insurance, we have travelled several times to Papua New Guinea to bring translations of 1 Corinthians and 1 and 2 Thessalonians to completion, gain approval for printing, and to teach. Revelation was also finalised and printed. Alongside the small group of believers, lessons were formulated, printed, and taught with much joy.

One of the recent highlights of our missionary "career" was seeing and hearing the delight of our dear brothers and sisters as **they** read and heard the Book of Revelation for the first time in their language. It was a humbling privilege to make clear to them what some consider a hard-to-understand book, to watch them rejoice about the imminent return of our Lord Jesus, and to learn what is to come, not just for them but sadly, concerning those who reject Him.

Prayers for unsaved family members and friends were more fervent and often they cried, "Yezus, ondi ano ro toniyaghe," meaning "Jesus, come soon."

We are no longer physically or mentally able to handle the travel and adjustments or the work of further translation. Although we have current visas and could return for a visit, we decided before the Lord to take "retired" status with NTM-UK.

The work in PNG is not complete and we miss our dear friends but, praise the Lord, they have a big chunk of the Bible and the Spirit will continue to guide them in truth and in growth.



Paul & Susan Boothby are from Derbyshire and have 3 daughters and 5 grandchildren. They have had various roles within NTM, working with a people group in PNG since 1993. They continue to be busy and, as opportunities arise, now teach the Word of God in English.



LIBERIA

On a Saturday evening in February this year, over two hundred Glarro people in Liberia attended the first meeting of the chronological Bible teaching. Pray that missionaries, Aaron and Amy Speitelsbach, and Guy and Keyla Burkhead, will be able to have good interactions with people after each lesson and throughout the week, discussing with them the things they have heard, and encouraging them to hear more of God's Word. The work on Bible lessons needs to continue over the next few months to be able to teach continuously and reach the end of the first round of the teaching by the end of the year. They are thankful for all the Scripture their co-worker, Lesley, has translated; the New Testament is almost complete.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Clark and Mary began their ministry among the Bru people of Southeast Asia mainland in 1989. Although there was a high level of literacy in the national language among the Bru people, due to the nature of the national translation, combined with the culture of the Bru, it was clear that a translation of the Scriptures in Bru was necessary. In December last year, 1000 Bru Bibles were printed and, despite Clark having a brain tumour, he and Mary had the joy and privilege to attend the Bible dedication.

ASIA-PACIFIC

The Lord has taught Tony and Lina Keller many things during their time among the Buket people of Asia-Pacific who desperately need Jesus! They have learnt to love the rice harvest even though they collected the wrong kind of rice (in their eyes it all looks the same)! Fear, triggered by faith in the spirits, leaves the Buket people in great despair, especially during hard times. The "harvest" could be so much different for their friends, if only they could fix their eyes upon Jesus. Recently, Tony and two of his co-workers attended a workshop on the topic of worldview analysis. Pray for the team as they prepare to soon teach the Bible lessons in a good and cohesive manner.

Get involved with reaching the world with the Gospel. Enrol now for our Biblical Studies Course.



BIBLICAL STUDIES

A FOUNDATION FOR LIVING AND A HEART FOR WORLD EVANGELISM

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Judith in Oman 2010

I grew up in... Manila in the Philippines.

I studied and trained... for a bachelor's degree in business administration, and also to teach accountancy at a foundation level.

I came to the UK... after meeting my husband, who comes from Shropshire. We were both working in Doha, Qatar, and my first visit to England was in 1994 for the Christmas holidays. In 1998, we moved to live in the UK.

I trusted in Jesus... in 2002 whilst in hospital, when on holiday in the Philippines. I was saved out of the darkness of another religion and am the product of a prayerful sibling, who prayed for and hounded me for 25 years. Before I was saved, I hated the Bible verses my brother would send me. He is a pastor in the Philippines.



JUDITH BRITTEN is currently serving as a volunteer at NTM-UK's head office but has been involved with NTM in various ways over the last several years. She initially served as a language helper for the Advanced Linguistics Course at North Cotes College and has also studied in the Biblical Studies Course.

I first heard of NTM... in 2020 when some families that serve with the mission took the service at Calvary Baptist Church in Spalding, Lincolnshire, where I attend. After COVID, I volunteered with NTM, and was asked to be a language helper as I spoke Tagalog - a language which I once loathed and chose not to speak.

I am learning... or rather, often unlearning. It is a process of sanctification. I appreciate everything that God gives, even the problems, as they help to mould my character to be more like His.

I am currently reading... the books of Daniel and Hebrews.

I am thankful for... my salvation.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT - Challenges and how we face them



The Lord challenged my wife, Odessa, and I to go to the mission field later in life; we went to Papua New Guinea. Our family was worried about us heading off to a foreign land, but a retired missionary from the Congo encouraged us to faithfully go, as we knew that it was what the Lord had for us. We were only going for one year to serve in a support role, but ended up staying there for nine years. There were all sorts of challenges before us and yet we saw the need to stay and to serve. The Lord was faithful to us throughout our time there.

I am reminded of the fact that Nehemiah faced many challenges in his obedience to the Lord. There were various obstacles along the way but, after he got the people on his side, he saw things falling into place exactly as the Lord wanted and was then able to achieve his task for Him.

We have been at NTM's headquarters in North Cotes for four and a half years now. We love our roles here and it's a joy to be involved with the students: chatting with them, getting to know them, and working alongside them. We serve them and they serve us! It's interesting to hear about their backgrounds, what they have left behind, and how they are now studying or training and preparing to go to the mission field.

The prophet, Hosea, challenged the people not to be sowing in the wind, as they would reap what they sowed. Deuteronomy 32:2 says, **"Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants."** We see that God covers us all - missionaries, support personnel, and students - and blesses each of us.

Finally, a verse that has carried us throughout our missionary life is Micah 6:8, which says, **"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."**

Raymond & Odessa Dunwoody are from Northern Ireland and are currently serving with NTM in North Cotes.

MY WORLD: MICKI

ABOUT ME

My Name: Michael North
Nickname: Micki
Age: Almost 10
Hometown: I live in Asia-Pacific but actually have a lot of homes.
My favourite things: My friends and family, Esteban (my pet chameleon), sharing how much Jesus loves everyone, and my rucksack with all my things.

Mum's Name: Beth North
About: Mum is kind, funny, and resourceful. She can make anything a party.

MY PARENTS

Dad's Name: Ben North
About: My dad is a massive rugby fan. He's generous, reliable, and a really big softie on the inside.



MY SIBLINGS

Sister's Name: Denelope "Penny" North
About: Penny is 7 and fearless. She loves rag dolls and all kinds of minibeasts.

Brother's Name: Matthew "Matty" North
About: Matty is 5 and Penny's shadow! He's really funny, loves building forts, and sings all the time!



MY FRIENDS

Colin: My oldest friend. We went to nursery together and have the same birthday! He still lives in England but we keep in touch.

Wahyu: My first village friend. He's loyal, fun, and teaches me loads of cool tricks.



Essie: Adventurous, clever, and a really fast runner. She's been away with her family on home assignment in the States, but will come back to our village in a few months.



NTM-UK
25 years
at North Cotes