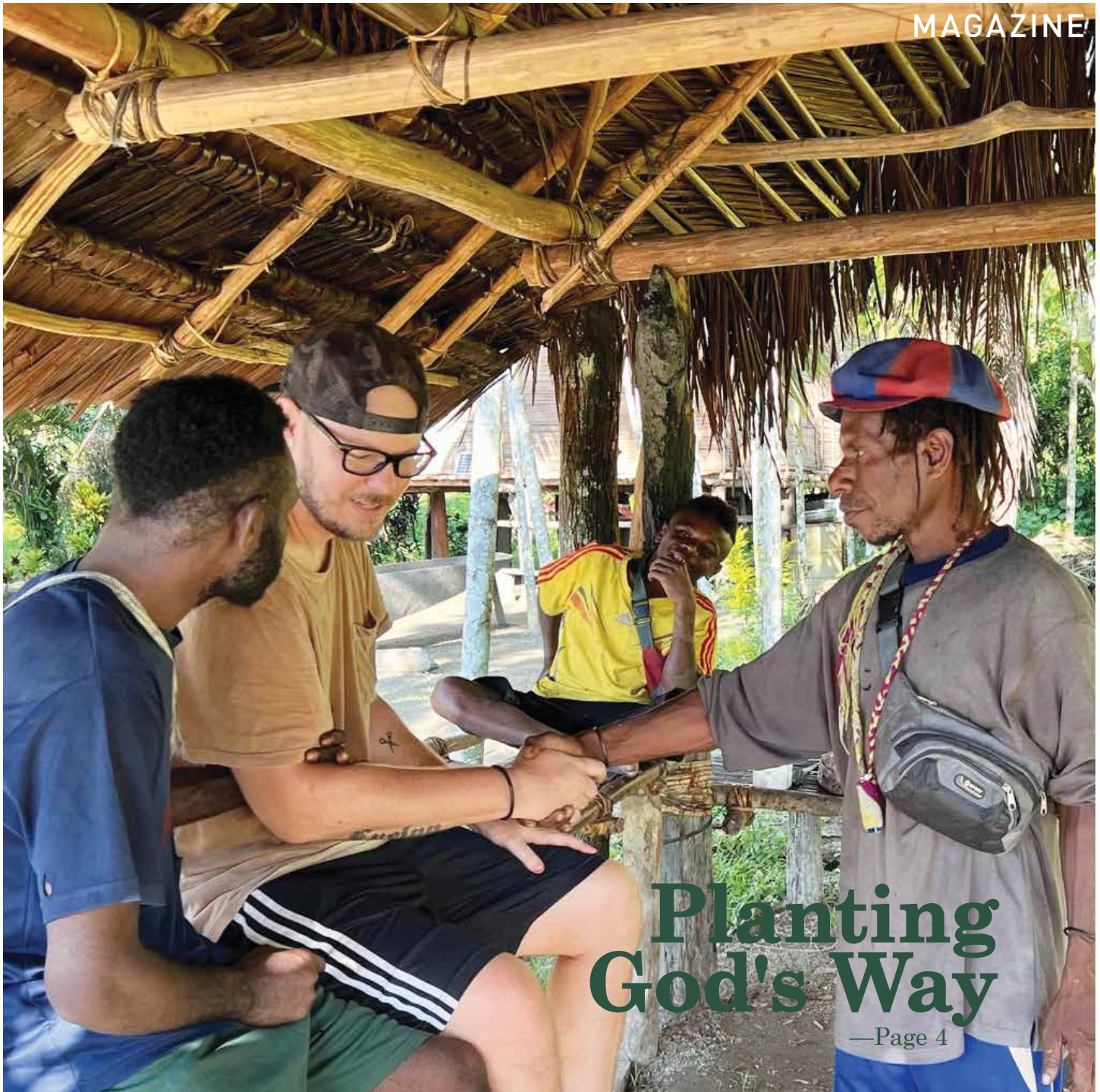


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ETHNOS 360

MAGAZINE



Planting
God's Way

—Page 4

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Cover photo by Joshua Beall
Chris Jones with Pei friends



FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friend,

The truck came and dropped off all the parts of the playground for my grandchildren who were all ready to start playing! Two huge boxes with many bags of parts, wood, metal brackets, chains and other things we couldn't identify! My daughter, her husband, my son who is an engineer and his wife who is a gifted organizer, myself and my other daughter all stood pondering over this massive pile of parts. Surely this must be two playgrounds! We looked at the manual which seemed to be the size of a phone book and realized the setup had over 500 steps in it!

We kept the picture of the finished product before us, and Lindsey and Christina carefully examined the manual, instructing us of the order and parts needed for each step. They kept assuring us not to worry, that the pieces would eventually make sense. It was going to take a team to keep us on track, to keep from making mistakes, (I still put some parts on backwards!) to get this put together for two very eager granddaughters.

Committing to a church plant is very similar to this but is much larger, more complex and has an eternal outcome. Our teams go in well trained, understand the big picture and are committed to what God has led them into. From day one the reality of the enormity of the task is in their face. Having consultants who have been in the same situation walking alongside the team as friends, giving encouragement and assurance especially when those times of confusion come, is imperative. These church planting consultants become dear friends and encouragers who understand the challenges, who recognize the need for direction, who gladly give affirmation that it's going okay and who encourage to keep pressing onward. Many of these church planting consultants are close friends of mine. They are dear brothers who have a shepherd's heart and are passionate about the care and development of the church. In this issue you will learn more about the impact of this important team and the concern and great care in which they engage with the precious Bride of Christ. It's an honor to serve with them.

Yours in Christ,

Larry M. Brown, Ethnos360 CEO

NEWS AROUND THE WORLD

In-Reach!

The Nagi Reach Out by Reaching In

The “In-Reach” was started as an outreach for visitor women—ladies of the families who have moved here from other villages so their kids can attend school. They regularly attend church and join in on Bible studies but haven’t heard the teaching from beginning to end.

Our co-workers Joanna and Kubili have been praying about how to reach these ladies, and the Lord gave them the idea to start an In-Reach! And ladies from our own village who have been slower to understand and haven’t believed yet could also attend! The first day started out with a handful of women.

A few days in, several of the husbands asked if they could come too!

There are currently 20 adults (and a bunch of little kids) faithfully attending three days a week. They started mid-January and continued through the middle of April with a shortened version of the Creation to Christ lessons.

Three of the believing Nagi ladies volunteered to teach along with Kubili and Joanna. We are so thankful for the teachers’ hearts God has given these women!



One of the biggest hurdles when the In-Reach started was trying to put out the fires of misunderstanding in what it was for. Our team is feeling a heaviness for several who are attending, because they seem overly consumed by the mentality that they need to remember every detail of the teaching and be able to retell it all flawlessly to be approved or saved.

Others still make comments to the effect that they need to be more moral, or at least more moral than others — a self-focus that belies they have not reached the point of seeing there is ‘no good thing’ in themselves.

— Porter and Lexie Hampton (Asia Pacific)



GIVE THEM THE BEST THING

Things continue to be quiet in relation to the unrest in Mibu-land and the surrounding area. Entire communities remain on edge, as the situation remains unresolved and many displaced people groups are too traumatized to risk returning to homes in efforts to rebuild.

In Mibu, the church is busy discipling new believers and still seeing to the physical needs of the newer members of their community who don’t really have the means of providing for themselves. The Mibu church has reached out to the other churches in the area, and there are mixed reports of some communities having slipped back into old ways of thinking, and the Mibu church elders and leaders are working to identify which churches they need to support and how.

As they settle into this “new normal” as it seems to be, they have done some other thinking

and brainstorming too. Recently in a video conversation Chris had with the Mibu church leaders after working on some Bible lesson development with them, they shared that they see many correlations in how the Lord delivered the children of Israel as they escaped Egypt and came up on the Red Sea, and how the Mibu community has escaped so much of the direct hardship that was caused by the gang activity. They went on to share how the Lord has placed it on their hearts to write a letter to the leaders of the gang.

In this letter, Sesi planned to acknowledge

the abuse and destruction the Mibu village endured at their hand, how even as they kidnapped girls, killed and ate livestock, took huge sums of money, not to mention wanton destruction and theft of so many of their material possessions, yet they still left without the BEST thing in Mibu! The letter was then recently delivered in which he invited these terrorists to come back so that they could give them the BEST THING: an introduction to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

— Chris and Angie Walker (Papua New Guinea)



FIRST WORD

How do you like the picture above? Does it just make you stand in awe of what God does? No, not yet? OK, let me share the back-story, and I think that you'll be excited about it, too.

A while ago, I shared about a trip I was going to take to Guinea to lead a missionary team and the people they're working with through their very first Alphabet Party. I was a bit

nervous about being the expert, as I had no idea how it would turn out. Of the five Doure guys there, two spoke French and had been to school, two could write in Arabic and understood a tiny bit of French, and one had taught himself a few ABCs. But God was good, and the Doure people now have an initial alphabet and spelling rules in their language!

This picture is the very first word that they wrote

with the very first alphabet in their language—*kəfe*. It means *cold*. It's perhaps not the most impressive first word, but by that time, we had taught them how to write all their vowels but only the first eight or nine consonants, so there were only a few options. By the next day, they each wrote a word of their own (with lots of spelling mistakes) and so, for the first time ever, communicated something to someone else in their language through the written word. And by the next week, they were writing simple sentences as well. By the end of the three weeks, at least three of them were able to write rather clearly and consistently so that we were able to understand what each other had written!

— *Susie (West Africa)*



THE TEAM EXPANDS

My team has grown since I last wrote. Josh and Karen Clark, Kayla McKee and Joseph Stovall have all joined the Short-Term Trips team here at the [Ethnos360] Home Office. We also had two interns during the fall of 2022.

With Josh and company's vision-casting and follow-through, we will go from having about 45 trip participants last year to more than 150 this year. We will have two five-week Interface programs in Papua New Guinea and Brazil, and four two-week Encounter trips to places all over the world.

Josh, Karen and Kayla head up the Encounter trips (among other things), and I take care of the Interface trips. Joseph organizes Home Office mobilization events, assists with the internship program and is a part-time representative connecting with the community.

— *Janie Miles*
(Home Office, Florida)



CULTURE CORNER

Mothers in Mexico

The figure of the mother is an important one in many aspects of Mexican life. In traditional Mexican homes, the family revolves around the mother. She is the one who educates and disciplines the children and protects them, in addition to being responsible for all the housework, like cooking and cleaning. Mothers are celebrated every year on May 10th, like Mother's Day in the United States. But there is a deeper, religious significance to the veneration of mothers. The Virgin of Guadalupe, the key religious figure in Mexico, is venerated as the "mother of Mexicans," who provides hope and protection to all Mexicans. Because of this, mothers in traditional families are seen in a similar, almost spiritual role. Likewise, insulting someone's mother is viewed as the most serious insult that can be given due to her elevated importance.

— *Patty Ramirez (Mexico)*

Planting God's Way

A Consultant Looks
at Church Planting



Art by Rawpixel

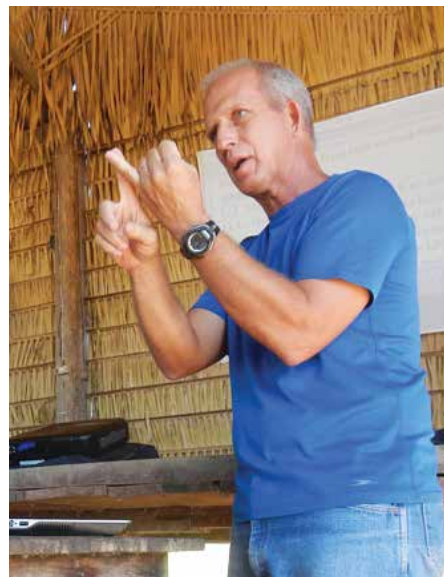
In our last issue of the magazine, we looked at the ins and outs of literacy, the training, the software, the blessings of technology and some of the stories about learning to read. Now let's take a look at what goes into what we term a *church plant*. What all is involved in helping a missionary team plant a church? Ethnos360 exists to see "A Thriving Church for Every People." Part of getting to a place of being a thriving church is the ministry of a church planting and development consultant like Barry Spor.

WHO IS BARRY?

There is one gentleman whom I met back when I was a teen. His name is Barry Spor. He is one of many church planting consultants. Here is his story, and it explains why he became a consultant.

"I went into New Tribes Mission Bible School in Waukesha, Wisconsin, right out of high school in 1978. I next attended missions training beginning in the winter of 1979 in Durant, Mississippi, where I met and later married my wife, Denise. We did language school next and then arrived in Colombia in December 1982, expecting our first child.

"After finishing Equipping 2 (e2), national language Spanish study, we and another family formed the Guanano team. Wycliffe Bible Translators sponsored us in, having already translated the New Testament along with many other materials. After an intense season of Equipping 3 (e3), Guanano culture and language study, I began another intense season of translating Old Testament portions to teach from and Bible lesson development. Then in 1994, we started teaching



Barry Spor


the evangelistic Bible lessons. After nine months, there were six who declared their faith in Jesus' death and resurrection for them! The Guanano church was born! Then came the years of discipling those believers.

"We had just begun discipleship when, because of personal danger to us, we had to abandon our homes and start over hundreds of miles to the southeast in Brazil. While building our new homes, we began another evangelistic teaching time, and amazingly, a second church was born in 2002 in that small town. Discipleship of the Guanano believers in both the Brazilian and Colombian churches has been bumpy with a jagged line of growth."

WHAT DOES A CONSULTANT DO?

I asked Barry when he had been asked to consider being a consultant. Recognizing that he had already been doing a church plant in 1994-95, he began training as a church planting and development consultant (hereafter CP&D consultant or simply CP consultant) as early as the late 1990s.

As to the actual training, Barry continued, "Wayne Gibson was our team's church planting and development consultant, and he took me under his wing and included me in consulting some other works there in Colombia. Then I worked off that and what God had taught me in the Guanano church development in which we were still working to begin consulting other works in West Brazil. With the goal of seeing maturing churches in different stages of growth, I visit many teams across this area of the country. I have also been a part of

 The main thing that a consultant is looking for is the spiritual growth not only of individual believers but also of the church as a whole.

consulting in five other Latin American countries as well as Senegal and Mozambique."

Never having been in a location that needed a consultant, I wondered what a consultant would look for when consulting with a church planting team. One of the main things that a consultant is looking for is the spiritual growth not only of individual believers but also of the church as a whole.

The missionaries that are working in that church plant are presented with questions by their consultants that will help indicate the believers' growth. Are they babies or children or young adults in Jesus? The church planting team will be asked about the Bible teaching. Are they teaching Bible lessons aimed at new believers or at maturing believers? The consultant will also try to guide the church planting team to be on the lookout for men and women taking spiritual interest in others, in the teaching and witnessing.

Another guidepost that the consultant is concerned about is Bible translation progress. There are preset goals to work towards so that there will



be Scriptures to teach from. That in turn aids in the spiritual growth of the believers. He will also trust God to guide the team to look at Bible lesson adaptation progress. He will also ask questions to find out about the believers' literacy levels. The end goal is that believers will be able to read for their personal devotions and maybe become future Bible teachers with the ability to read the Word fluently.


The CP consultant also makes sure that, before he leaves the church planting team, they have agreed to do certain jobs for that year that will build towards a maturing church in the future.

A third facet that a consultant will be aware of is the spiritual health of the missionaries as well as their family needs on multiple levels. Sometimes the consultant becomes a biblical counselor for the missionaries when needs are evident. He looks for and tries to stimulate their faith in God for all the “impossibilities” that church development brings.

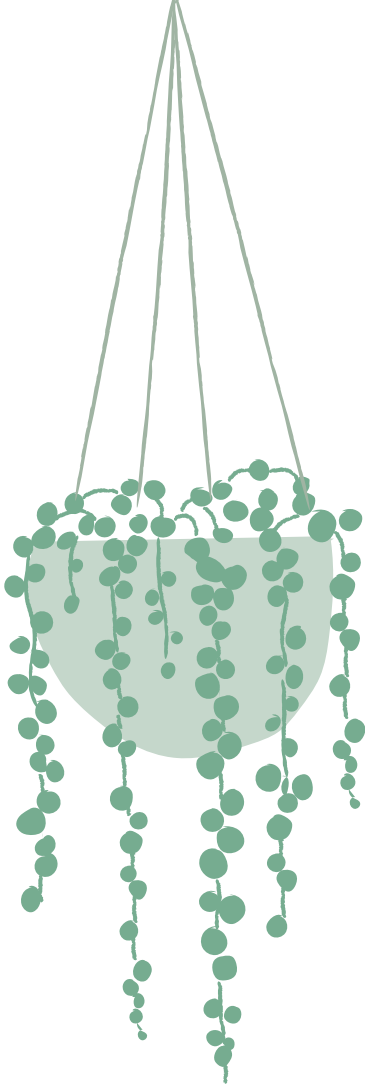
All the CP consultants have a number of principles that they are to follow in their consultations. Recognizing that every church plant will present different challenges, the consultants use what they have experienced as well as sharing with other CP consultants, learning from each other, but keeping those guiding principles in mind. Attending workshops that are intentionally designed for the issues they face, are a big help in sharpening their skills so they can help guide the missionary and see the new church begin to thrive.

On some fields, the CP consultant also checks and gives guidance as teams adapt their people group's Bible lesson set. On other fields though, the



 The consultant will look for men and women taking spiritual interest in others and in teaching and witnessing.





Ethnos360

exists to see

**A Thriving Church
for Every People.**

translation consultants do that area of consulting. (The September magazine will talk about translation consultants—be on the lookout for that!)

I asked Barry what his consultant schedule looks like normally. He travels to eight to 10 different church plants each year. In fellowship with each team, he sets the schedule, letting the different teams know when he is planning to go for a consultation with them.

Thinking of the church planting teams, I asked him if the wives of consultants normally go with them. He said, “Early on I went by myself. But the women in the jungle asked for Denise to come. Once I began to bring her to the different works on the consult trips, the teams liked it a lot. It adds another dimension to consulting that is huge! So yes, it is highly recommended.”

Will every church plant turn out the same? Obviously not. Each people group is going to be distinct from other groups. But the gospel changes people, brings new life, gives us new brothers and sisters in Christ.

The following is a story of one such people group. This takes place in Papua New Guinea and is told by a friend of the missionaries who had planted the church with the help and guidance of their CP consultants.

I recently traveled with a team to Papua New Guinea (PNG) on a work trip to assist the NTM-PNG team working among the Pei tribe: the Joneses, Reeses and Candace Swift. We spent time primarily with the Joneses, both at the NTM-PNG Sepik Valley base in Wewak as well as on-site in “Peiland,” with the people group. The following is an impression based on the stories of some of the new believers in the budding Pei church.

We were sitting in the courtyard of the Boutique, which is host to a nice restaurant in Wewak, eating lunch with Chris Jones, who, with his wife, Evie, and family, works among the Pei people group on a river in the Sepik Valley region of Papua New Guinea. The Boutique is a hotel with an outdoor saltwater pool you can swim in while you wait for your overcooked crocodile skewer to arrive, enveloped by a bed of rice. Evie was at home making dinner preparations, but Jensen (the Joneses’ 6-year-old girl) was with us, and having swum in the pool, she was talking to those of us who had gathered for lunch about how she swims in the river back in Peiland, but “not without a life jacket on.” Never one to require a follow-up question, she proceeded to tell the story of a little girl from the Pei tribe who had gotten caught in something—no one fully knows what happened—and drowned in that river. One of the team members tried to revive her using CPR but was unable to do so. The girl, whose name is Teslyn, was about 10 years old when she disappeared below the waters.

This occurred a year or two before the team was able to present the gospel in the spring of 2020 to the Pei people.

Jensen knew the girl, but Jensen was so young when it happened and their age difference so great that the impact was lessened by the relative nature of time. Even so, after finishing her lunch and jumping back in the pool, she turned back to look at us and said to Chris, “Dad, do people go to hell if they don’t know Jesus?”

Hearing this, I didn’t initially make the connection between what Jensen had shared with us earlier and her question in the pool, since we’d had

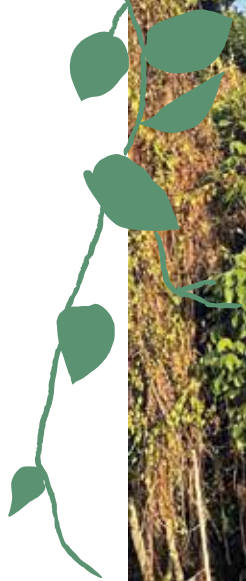


Photo by Joshua Beall

moved on to other topics after Jensen had finished her story. But Chris knew what was going on in his daughter's mind and wisely responded by saying it was a good question and one they could talk about together at another time.

Jensen had been making connections that were related to the timing of the little girl's death and the more recent presentation of the gospel by the NTM-PNG team.

So many things have to take place before gospel presentation teachings happen, and it all starts in some ways you might not expect.

You may be wondering how a team comes to know and enter into a relationship with the people group they become a part of. After all, you can't just barge in and present the gospel and rationally expect to have any kind of positive impact, much less set up a house in the middle of a people group without some kind of relational connection. What happened in regard to the Pei people group is typical of NTM-PNG work in Papua New Guinea, so I'll share it in brief detail.

Tokas is the wife of a man named Erik who initially wrote to the mission asking them to send

someone to give them God's Talk—which basically entails all the work of a team coming and learning the language, creating an alphabet, developing a literacy program, teaching them to read and write, translating the Bible and so forth that is typical for this region. You must resist the temptation to read too many romantic notions into a request like this, however. Recall that the people who send these letters don't usually have any true exposure to the gospel or the impact it makes on a people, except for perhaps the superficial, often material, benefits that follow. So, they usually have a whole host of reasons and motivations that compel them to send a letter like this to NTM-PNG, often repeatedly.

As in almost any nation where the gospel has spread, a form of the health, wealth and prosperity gospel that is predominant in the cities of PNG finds expression in material-centered, cargo cult-like beliefs among the various remote people groups. A people group has likely encountered this in some form already and may be motivated by the blessings such a "gospel" entails. At the level of their relations with other people groups, they may also be motivated by the status of having a team



Photo by By Joshua Beall

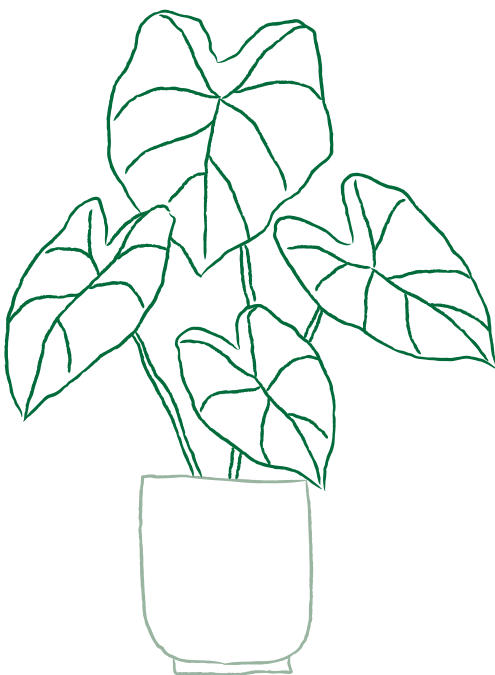
of missions workers among them or being able to speak and read the national trade language, Tok Pisin, rather than simply what they see as their backwater tribal language. Only God knows to what degree they are asking, “What must I do to be saved?” in sending their letters.

Tokas’ husband, Erik, never met the Joneses and their team. Many years after that first letter he sent to the mission, Erik’s efforts finally paid off.



See God's faithfulness
in this 5 minute video
about Erik and Tokas's family.

go.ethnos360.org/storyofrose



But he died two years before the team could present the gospel, being afflicted with the same genetic malady that he has passed on to his children.

But Tokas, his wife, is a believer among the Pei people group. She is spunky, and, as you’ll soon discover, she has joy—but not of the cost-free variety that belongs to this world.

Erik and Tokas had several children together, among them: Nancy, Chris, Enson and Rose. At least three of them have a genetic disorder and... are crippled. One of them is a guy named Enson. Another believer is Enson’s brother, also named Chris. Chris walks around the village [unsteadily], but this is just a symptom of the degradation of his nerves.

For all that, their father Erik also passed something else onto the children: of all the families in Pei, perhaps no other was more active in helping the team get acclimated to the culture and language of the Pei people than that of Erik and Tokas.

Rose is another child of theirs who clearly suffered from the condition. Several months ago, the team sent supporters back home a video which featured a few seconds of Candace (one of the NTM-PNG team members) carrying Rose on her back to a house. While I was working on Candace’s house, I noticed a wheeled cart that is also likely used for this purpose, but it can’t be used to take someone up and down the narrow log stairs leading into the elevated Pei homes, so they must be carried. Before the degenerative disorder took over her body, Rose was instrumental in teaching the women on the team how to speak Pei. She was about 10 years old when the team arrived. They tell stories of swimming with Rose in the river where she would frequently point to the grass or a butterfly or some other object and patiently repeat the name in Pei until they could say it well for themselves.

Both Rose and Enson became believers when the gospel was presented through the Creation to Christ teaching that the team put together in the native tongue.... Justin Rees (one of their co-workers) confirmed Rose’s profession of faith, and she was among the first believers to be baptized in the river in 2021. Chris later told me how ashamed she was to have to be carried into those muddy waters of baptism, but not long afterward she was resurrected in glory, raised to new life.

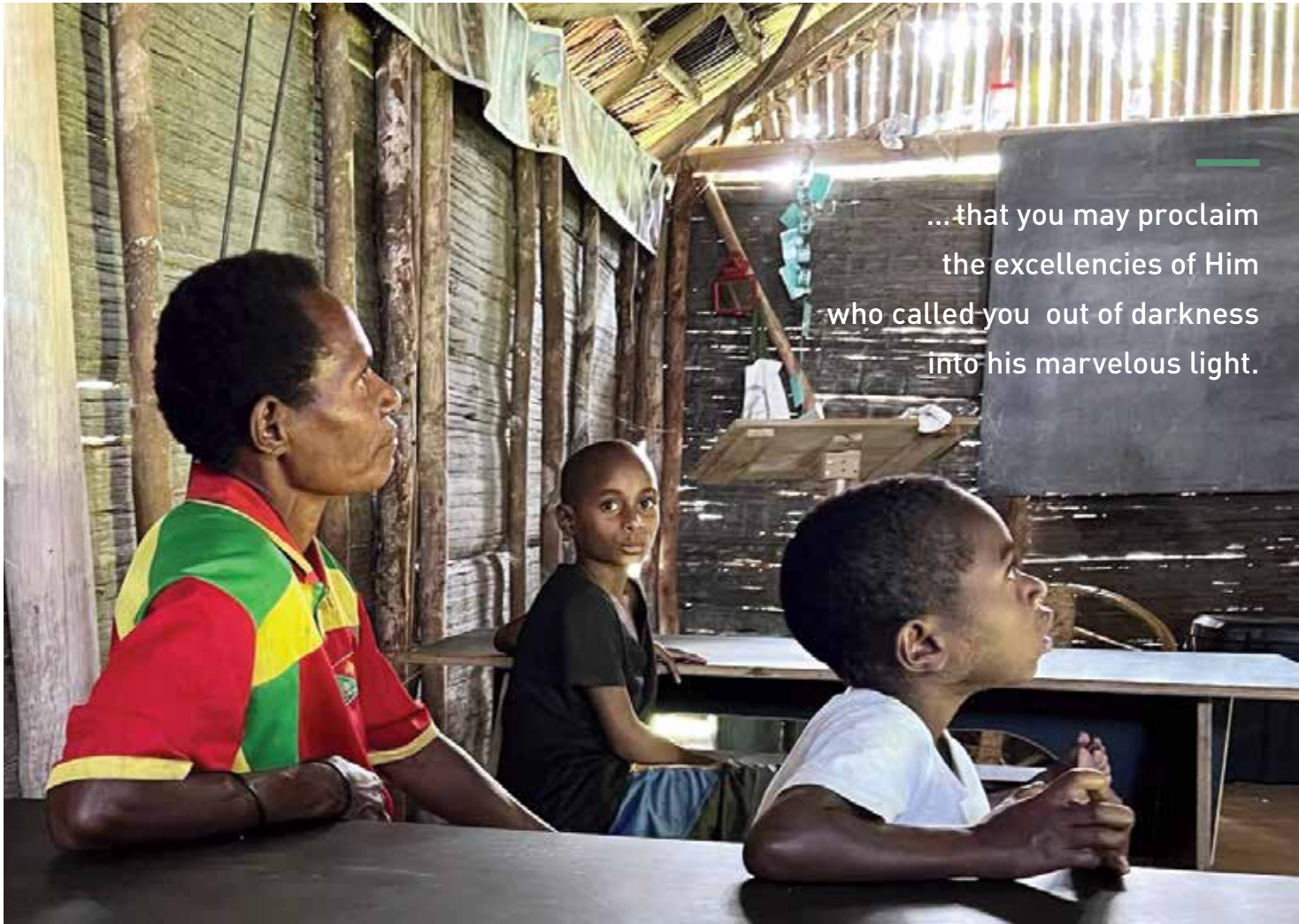
Rose was the first confirmed believer among the Pei people to die in the Lord.

Rose passed away back in April of 2022, and the team was really saddened over her death. The believers in Pei are really solid in regard to the resurrection, and the team was busy with helping them figure out how they would express that hope. Nevertheless, it surprised the team, because in the midst of all that goes into caring for several new believers at once, they hadn't given much thought in regard to the "new customs" that they as a "new clan" should practice when someone in their clan passes through death to life.

They held a celebration for Rose with her mother, Tokas, and the rest of "Yawe's clan," and it was

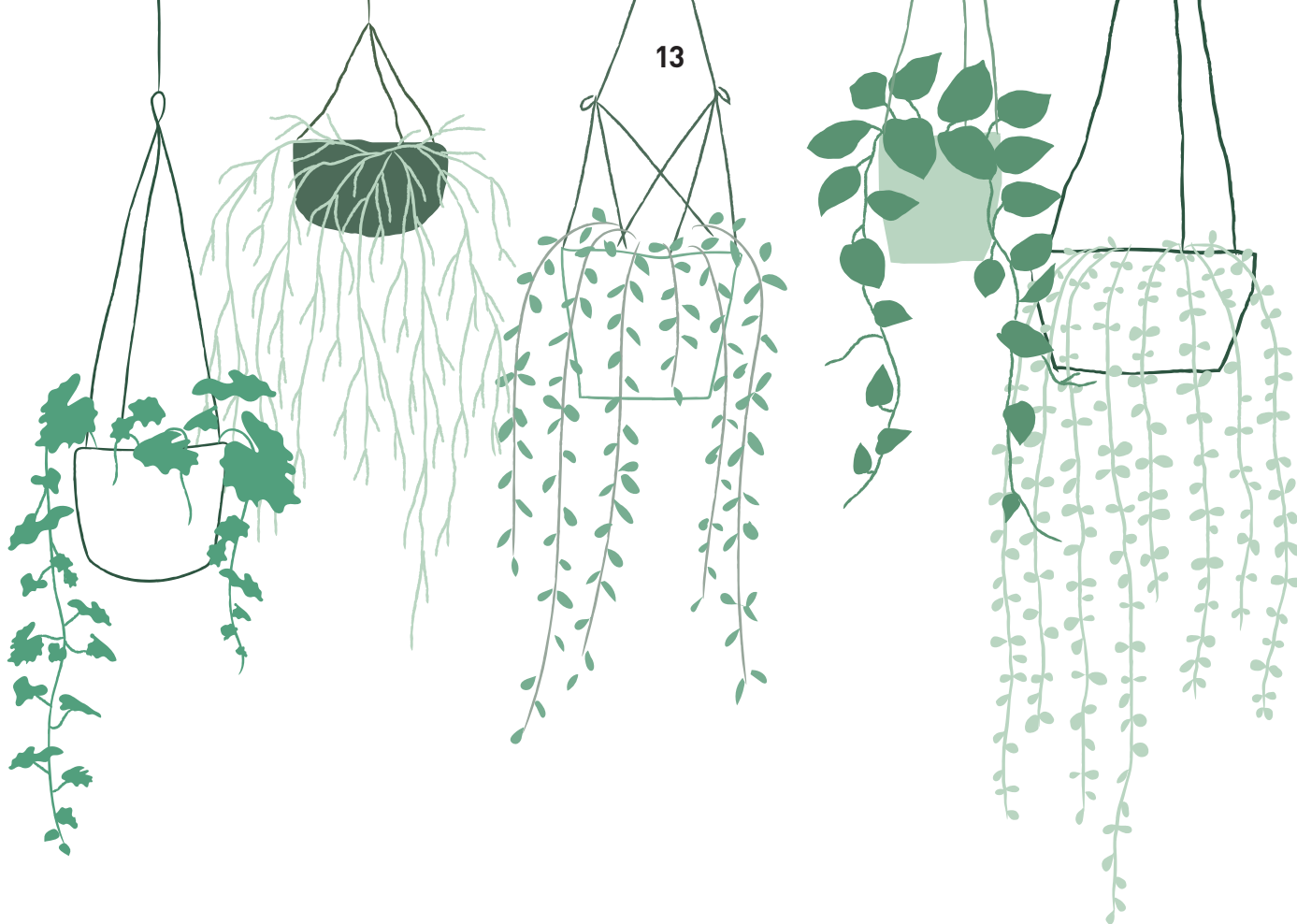
really encouraging for all the new believers to see that they will not walk that valley of death alone. Rose's brother, Enson, who has the same condition, likely only has a few years left. It was tough for him (and for the team to watch him) go through all this, because he knows that this will soon be his end, his treacherous, thorny path through the bush to a new beginning.

Yet, both he and Tokas are radiant believers. You can see it when you look at their faces. On our boat ride into Pei, we met up with several Pei people who had been harvesting sago pulp and catching fish at the mouth of another river, just where it enters the Sepik (about two hours from the village by motorboat). Tokas and another woman waded



...that you may proclaim
the excellencies of Him
who called you out of darkness
into his marvelous light.

Photo by By Joshua Beall



into the river with the others and were the first to greet Chris, giving him the biggest, wettest hugs he'd received in not a few days.

Teslyn, the little girl whose story Jensen told at the Boutique, was the baby daughter of Tokas.

You may wonder as I do at the strange and bitter providence of God in ordering things like this as he does. When I first heard of it, I had to step away for a moment just to take it all in. ... Perplexities abound.

Personally, I wonder at them, and though I press against them, I know that I'm no match for mysteries of this magnitude. Sin is absolutely hideous, relentless and unfeelingly cruel; I hate it—to the depths of my soul. The curse of God is real and is denied at our everlasting peril; and God is so good, and He does good for those who love Him. Through her many struggles, Tokas has grasped this much, and she is rich with joy. Her Savior loves her, and she knows it; she has held His hand in the discovery that neither the death of a husband nor the loss of two daughters nor the infirmities of all in the family can ever separate her from His love. What more do you really need to know if you've gained that much through our heavenly tutors, that is, the trials of this life?

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who

called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” 1 Peter 2:9-10

—By Joshua Beall

(Joshua Beall recorded his impressions while he and a couple of friends were sent to assist the NTM-PNG Pei team during the summer.)



Bruce Enemark was raised in Panama, the youngest of three missionary kids (MKs). He and Julie, his wife, ministered with Ethnos360 in Panama and Paraguay for 24 years before he joined Ethnos360's Advancement Team as a writer, proofreader and now managing editor. Faith Baptist Church of Chetek, Wisconsin, is their sending church and has been behind the Enemarks since they started their ministry with Ethnos360.



Meanwhile, in Mexico City...



Jesus' compassion for the multitudes in Matthew 9:36-38 leads Him to make a simple command to His disciples: "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." In 2008, New Tribes Mission Mexico opened a Bible school in Mexico City, praying that the Lord would use it to send laborers into His harvest. He has used it for just that, as over the past 15 years, a high number of graduates from the Mexico City Bible Institute have continued in their training. Some of these joined or began works to reach the least-reached both within and outside of Mexico's borders.

The potential of the Mexico City Bible Institute to train laborers for the harvest is great. Mexico City is the fifth-largest city in the world, with a population of around 25 million people and a unique location in central Mexico. With 33,000 evangelical churches in Mexico City alone, the Bible Institute trains numerous local students, in addition to receiving students from hundreds of miles away.

Yet the Bible Institute desperately needs more space. It is currently run out of one teacher's home—limited to eight students living onsite and with only one classroom. The school's capacity falls far short of its potential, the potential to send laborers to the no-less-than 38 least-reached people groups in Mexico, the 336 unreached groups in Latin America and the great number of unreached people groups in the world, where Mexican missionaries are uniquely situated to enter restricted regions of the world.

We believe that the Mexico City Bible Institute could train many more future missionaries. Mobilization efforts have already generated interest from all over southern Mexico and into Central America. However, despite beginning a fund-raising project 10 years ago to provide adequate training facilities, to date only a third of the needed \$646,000 has been raised. With needed funds, the Bible Institute could receive 30 students on campus and many times that number in commuting students. But without those funds, we have been limited to very few students onsite and only around 20 local students.

Our prayer is that the Lord would raise the remaining funds in the next year. The harvest is great—but the potential to send workers to the harvest from Mexico City is also great. We genuinely believe that increasing the size of the Mexico City Bible Institute will directly lead to more workers continuing through training and out to work among the unreached of the world. The need in Mexico and in the world remains great, and therefore the need to send more workers is urgent. Please join us in praying that the Lord would provide in a great way, that the Mexico City Bible Institute would be able to make the most of the unique position the Lord has put it in to equip the church to reach the least-reached of the world.



ethnos360.org/projects/mexico-bible-school

PRAY "I Can't Do That"

It was the Isnag who came up with the idea of how they wanted to meet together and what kind of teaching they would do next. While Vanessa and I join them each week, they lead the meetings themselves.



For years we've wanted to work more in the background as the maturing believers take on leadership roles. We thank God that His Spirit creates desires within the believers to blaze new trails together.

The believers read through Galatians and immediately identified with what Paul wrote about people coming and trying to make them slaves to the law. In December, a sect came through and shared for three nights. They didn't acknowledge Jesus as Savior and told people they should only read and follow what is in the Old Testament.

Flor heard them share that, stood up and replied, "You are telling us that we need to just do our best to follow God's laws. I can't do that because I don't have that power in me. I could never live in a way that is pleasing to Him without depending on God's Spirit living in me." Apparently, the sect wasn't prepared with how to respond to that comment.

Continue to pray that the Isnag believers will stand firm in the truths they have learned.

— *David and Vanessa Maynard*
(*Philippines*)

PRAY Jonesin' in PNG

We have been JONESIN' (defined here as a strong longing or desire).

God has placed a special sort of "jonesin'" in the hearts of Ambox and Nailen in particular, as they continue to be burdened not only for the small church in their home village, but also for people in the surrounding villages. There is still widespread cargo cult activity, much of it centered around secretive worship of a snake deity. The atmosphere surrounding this belief system and among their own members is one of distrust, hostility and fear. Ambox and Nailen, fully aware of all this, recently visited one village on the border between the Tobo area and a neighboring people group. This village has speakers of both Tobo and the other language, and when Ambox

and Nailen came to show them the devices with lessons on them, they were told, "No, thank you, we do not want to hear anything you have to say to us about these things," and sent on their way.

Contrast this with the response they've had in some other villages, where some of the most intense cargo cult activity is found; yet there, people who had begun listening to the evangelistic Bible lessons were asking for more devices and telling Ambox and Nailen, "We were wrong about why those outsider missionaries came. What we are hearing is not just for white people (outsiders). It is God's talk for us, too!"

Please keep praying for the Tobo people.

— *Chad and Janeene Mankins*
(*Papua New Guinea*)



PRAISE WORTH SMILING ABOUT

Each year our team hosts a dental clinic. This year the dates fell just a few days after Rachel and I returned from some meetings up north. As soon as we got back, we jumped into preparations. Because the village clinic was without water and electricity, we moved onto plan B—setting up our team's generator. When that

proved to be out of commission, we moved onto plan C—hosting in one of the team's houses.

No plan—whether A, B, or C—could have worked without the generous gift of time, work and talents from our dental team. Three dentists traveled from the USA to give their expertise, and we are so grateful to them. The church in Las Moras also cleaned, set up, cooked and sanitized instruments, and it is safe to say we could not have pulled it off without their involvement.

A young lady from the church here in Las Moras volunteered this year to be trained as a dental assistant. She has had some interest in medical topics and showed her bravery not only in being tough during "interesting" procedures but in being willing

to stand out from the crowd in service to her community. In this culture, standing out is the last thing someone would wish for, but this young woman donned her scrubs and mask and went to work, at times offering comfort to the small kids or words of encouragement to the parents.

In just four days, about 150 people from the surrounding communities were able to get dental care that is usually out of their reach. And the believers in this village were able to show their care for those around them by volunteering their time and efforts. Please pray that God will allow them opportunities to speak of the difference He has made in their lives.

— *Katie Moore (Mexico)*



PRAISE TEACHING IN CHOSEN WATER

These have sure been some exciting days to live in! I wanted to give you an update from [an earlier] request for prayer for the new Wana outreach in the village of Chosen Water. Since that time, two men returned to the village to obtain permission from the "village head" to begin teaching. He was very supportive of our beginning this new outreach in his village, so the very first teaching team was sent to Chosen Water to begin the teaching!

Pak Sidi writes, "Please be praying for our teaching in Chosen Water. They are very happy to hear God's Word which we have started to teach them. We started teaching them in Genesis

1 and are now up to the story of Noah. We have been four days and four nights teaching, only stopping for meals because that is what they are asking us to do!"

There are two Wana churches working together on this outreach. They have chosen multiple teams who will be taking turns each week traveling and teaching the people there.

We are very grateful for your continued prayers for this new outreach, as Satan is not ignorant of what is going on. Pray for the teaching teams and also for these folks who are hearing the gospel for the very first time.

— *Ed and Jeanne Casteel (Asia Pacific)*



PRAY THE END (OF THE TUNNEL) IS NEAR

We are now in the process of printing what we have been working on over the last few years, and I am waiting for the sample copies before making an order to have them shipped down. This is our second printing of Old Testament books, and it includes Ruth, 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Isaiah,

Jeremiah, Lamentations, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah and Malachi. I continue working on Numbers and Ezekiel, and my co-worker is working on Psalms. [Note: the completed books have been printed and shipped to South America.]

After these books, all we will have left are Leviticus,

Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai and Zechariah. There is still a fair bit to go, but the end of the tunnel is starting to come into focus.

— *B (due to security concerns), South America*



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CONNECT WITH *new missionaries*



DAN AND HANNAH KNOX

AND CHILDREN BELLE, LEVI AND SILAS

Center Manager, Philippines

Sent by New Hope Church, Haslett, Michigan,
and Village Hope Church, Jackson, Michigan

Connect with Dan and Hannah at
ethnos360.org/dan-and-hannah-knox

Dan grew up in Haslett, Michigan, and Hannah is from Vidalia, Georgia. They met at Ethnos360 Bible Institute and were married in 2013.

God drew them into serving Him. “From our training and own personal study of His Word, we are convinced that God’s heart is that all people from all nations might know Him and the life found only in His Son, Jesus Christ. That, more than anything, is who we are—we are God’s to be used as He sees fit.”

Originally, they were heading to the Philippines as church planters. In fact, Dan and Hannah had tickets for the Philippines in 2020. But through COVID God brought them to The Homes of Ethnos360 where they served the next two years.

“We loved our time there and the people we served with. And God used our experiences there to grow and prepare us for what was next.” They learned the importance of all the roles it takes for the gospel to go to the ends of the earth and that God wants His people to faithfully serve Him wherever He has them.

As they later prepared to head to the Philippines as church planters, they were asked to take on a critical role as Center Manager in one of the cities there, and they agreed.

“What that means is that we will be in a unique position to

“... we will be in a unique position to care for the missionaries in tribal locations.”

care for the missionaries in tribal locations.” That includes meeting their needs physically by maintaining the base and providing lodging for them when they travel out of the villages. And it also includes spiritual and emotional care for them—to be there for them when they are hurting and struggling in the midst of difficult times of ministry.

“We have been on this journey now for about eight years, and it’s amazing how faithful God has been to shepherd us along.”

Dan and Hannah arrived in the Philippines in March of 2023. They are currently enjoying the exciting and challenging time of studying the culture and language. After this time of study, they will move into the center management role.



**The Living God is
a Missionary God.**

KIRSTEN NELSON

Social Media Manager in Sanford, Florida

Sent by Redeemer Evangelical Free Church, Milwaukee,
Wisconsin

Connect with Kirsten at
ethnos360.org/missionaries/kirsten-nelson

Kirsten was raised in a Christian home in Milwaukee where her parents taught her to love and serve the Lord. But her church was heavily influenced by the prosperity gospel. As a high school senior, friends invited her to youth group at the church that is now her sending church. There, she says, “My world was opened to the true gospel, discipleship and sanctification.” Youth leaders disciplined and shepherded her through difficult circumstances.

Kirsten attended a Perspectives class hosted by Ethnos360 Bible Institute. During Perspectives she learned about unreached people groups around the world. Unbeknownst to her, that class was to be a catalyst that God would use to alter the course of her life.

“I was completely blown away by everything I had learned in the first lesson, ‘The Living God is a Missionary God.’ After growing up in the church my whole life, I couldn’t believe I had never heard that there were thousands of people groups still living and dying

without ever hearing the gospel, ultimately bound for a Christ-less eternity.”

At that point her world was “flipped upside down,” and she knew she needed to relearn everything she thought she knew about the God of the Bible. Continuing on to Ethnos360 Bible Institute, she became deeply burdened for the lost as she learned more and more from the Scriptures. She continued on to gain hands-on skills at Ethnos360’s training center in order to plant a church among an unreached people group.

“At that point, my sights were set on serving in the Philippines long-term.” Toward the end of her training, God used a visit to Ethnos360’s Home Office to redirect her path. She learned how each of the teams there assisted in the church planting efforts, and she discovered that many of those teams were severely lacking in workers.

She came to a fork in the road. “How could we, in good conscience, ignore the needs of our ‘home team’ and move overseas because

that’s how we had always pictured ‘missions’ in our lives?”

Counting the cost to follow Jesus, which she learned about back in youth group in Wisconsin, didn’t just mean giving up her plans for herself and following Him. It also means following God on His terms.

“Sometimes the Lord turns everything upside down ... again. It’s been a long road, full of twists and turns, but I’m confident and overjoyed that my current stateside ministry is right where He wants me. I hope to make it overseas someday, but for now, I’m trusting His will and timing in this ministry.”

As Ethnos360’s social media manager, she enjoys having a unique mobilization opportunity to create meaningful, convicting and thought-provoking content to spur others on to fulfill their role in the Great Commission. “It is an honor to use the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given me and serve in mobilizing the next generation of laborers for the harvest.”

THE CHURCH PLANTING CONSULTANT MINISTRY

What would we think of parents who very soon after bringing a beautifully formed baby into the world conclude that their job as parents is finished?

What if after noting that their little infant seems to be doing all right, those parents decide it is time to move on and leave their precious child to fend for itself? We would not think well of those parents! Such a thought is inconceivable!

So it is when a group of baby believers are born into the body of Christ and the messengers of the gospel consider their job finished. These new believers are no more prepared for mature Christian living than that infant is prepared for adult human life. **These new believers need nourishment, instruction and guidance in the same way the infant does.**

Ethnos360 church planters know that their task is more than evangelism. The goal is that one day that group of baby believers will have been formed by Christ into a mature local body of believers.

The road from babes in Christ to a mature local church is a long one. There are no magic formulas, no speedy solutions, no short cuts. It will take years of translating God's Word, teaching it and discipling toward that maturity. This is where the role of the Church Planting Consultant is so important.

In the early stages of a cross-cultural church plant where no form or pattern for local church function has ever existed, it would be easy for the church planter to

import church culture and tradition from their home country without realizing it. This can cause confusion as the new believers are unable to decipher where the biblical model ends and where the missionaries imported church culture begins. The Church Planting Consultant helps guide the missionary team to avoid these early pitfalls.

As the church grows toward maturity, the consultant helps the team evaluate where the strengths and weaknesses are in the life of the church. How is God's Word impacting their daily lives? What level of authority does the church ascribe to God's Word? Do the believers handle and interpret the Word appropriately? Does the church understand what the local church is intended to be? Do they understand what unites them as believers and how the members should relate to one another? Do they know why they exist? Are they functioning well in the specific functions of a local church laid out in the New Testament? Are they loving one another and caring for each other's needs? What is their relationship to Christ, their Head, in the life of the church? Do they make personal and practical application of truth to their daily lives? Do believers understand the gifts Christ has given to the church and are they encouraged to function in their unique gifting? Is the church equipping its members for leadership, service and outreach?

So many questions! The church planters sent out by Ethnos360 have been well



equipped to think through all of these challenging questions and apply them to the church plant God has placed them in. But oh, what a blessing to have co-workers with decades of experience showing up on a regular basis to consider these things together. A fresh set of experienced eyes to observe, evaluate and advise.

I recall my own experience as part of a church planting team. Every six months Greg, Merrill or Maurice would take time out of their own church planting works to come and spend a week with our team. They didn't come with an agenda. They came to help us work through whatever challenges we were facing at that specific time. They came to encourage and to be a sounding board.

They were mentors and advisors to help ensure that the local assembly of believers in our little corner of the jungle would continue down the path toward maturity. Their input made a profound difference.

Because of the high value Ethnos360 places on the end goal of seeing thriving churches established in every people group, the role of the Church Planting Consultant will remain an important one.

But what about here at home? Are we asking these same questions in our local assemblies? Are we evaluating where we are on that path toward maturity? What are the strengths and weaknesses in our own local body?

I see great wisdom in the New Testament model of a plurality of leadership in each local church as it relates to this. How could one person be expected to evaluate, discern maturity levels, and disciple a group of believers on their own? In a cross-cultural church plant, it is the missionary team and church planting consultants who work together in this effort until the time when there are maturing elders who can lead the flock together. In our established local assemblies here at home it is so important that our leaders not grow weary in this same effort of discipleship.

—*Steve Sanford*
Ethnos360 Mobilizer
Executive Leadership Team



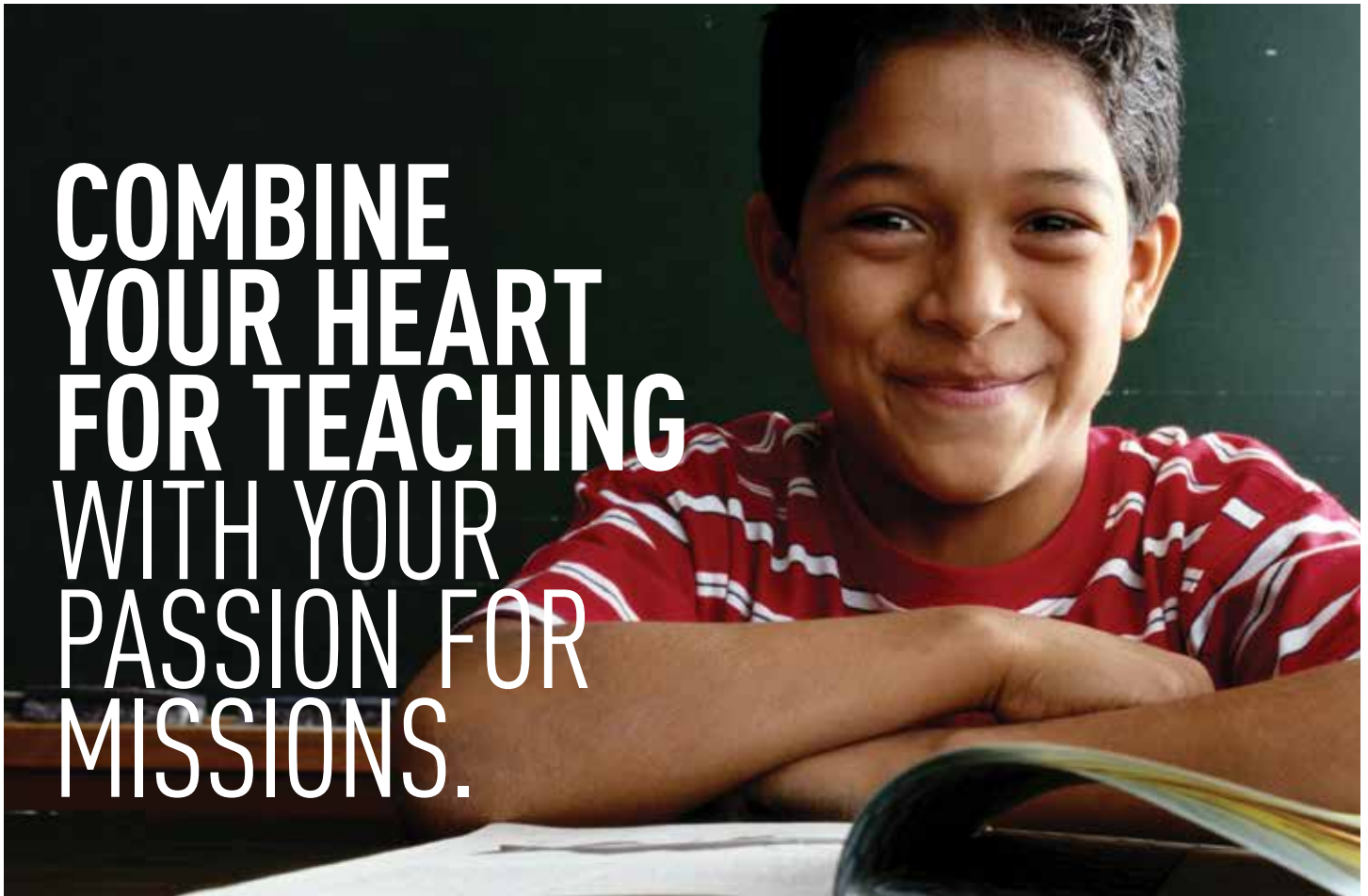
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