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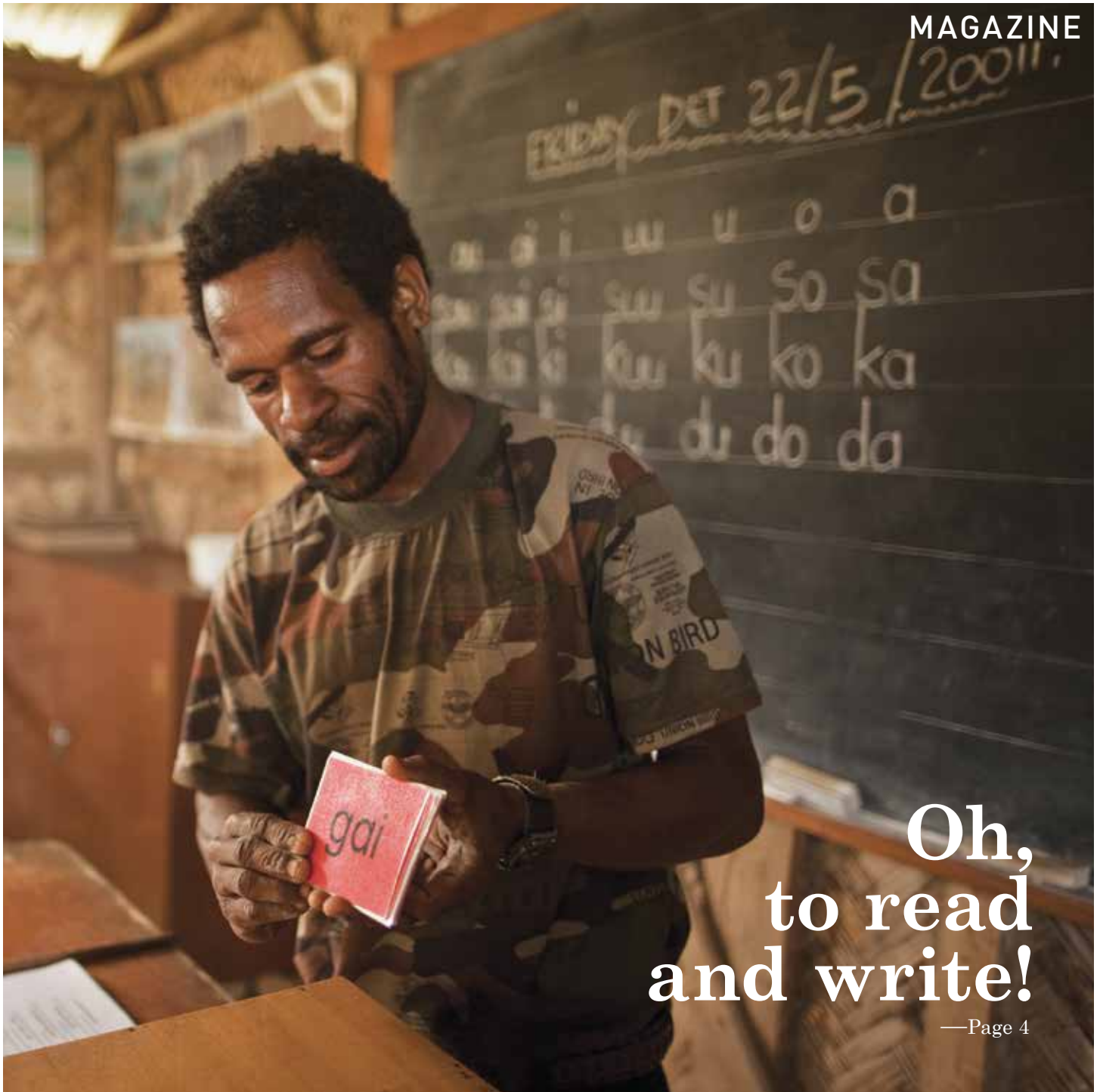
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A THRIVING CHURCH FOR EVERY PEOPLE

# ETHNOS 360

MAGAZINE



Oh,  
to read  
and write!

—Page 4

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Cover photo by Dale Stroud



## FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friend,

A quick glance at the research on the disadvantages of being illiterate reveals effects which include poor articulation, memory and analysis; an inability to understand the world; and difficulty in progressing economically, just to name a few. Ethnos360's tagline is, "A thriving church for every people group." Literacy plays a huge role in seeing that happen. Enormous amounts of energy and time are going into providing the Word of God into each people's vernacular, in many cases having to reduce the language to writing. If the people can't read, then we set a very low ceiling for the development of the people and the church.

In past years, there has been much discussion regarding working with the unreached through their tradition of orality and storytelling and not investing the time to put the Word of God in written form. How sad! I remember talking to a tribal village teacher in Asia who shared that if they were just to share the unwritten story, the villagers place that story in among the rest of their stories and folklore, ascribing no authority to it. However, when they see that the story has been recorded for many generations and preserved in written form, it gives deeper credence and authority to what is being taught. As this teacher was sharing this story with me, he expressed deep appreciation for the investment of the church planters in literacy because not only did he have the Bible in his own language, but he could read it as well. Because he is literate now, he also is able to develop his own teaching lessons.

In this issue, you will read more accounts of the importance of literacy in helping position the church to grow toward maturity and all that Christ has for them. Thanks so much for your part in the incredible ministry we are blessed to participate in together!

Yours in Christ,

Larry M. Brown, Ethnos360 CEO

# NEWS AROUND THE WORLD

## God, the Protagonist

*As Matt was assisting a small group of Bible teachers from two different people groups, the following took place.*

“God is the protagonist!” Vicente proclaimed as we were talking about the purpose of the Bible.

His brother, Felix, scrunched up his face and asked, “What do you mean? What does *protagonist* mean?”

This was an amazing moment in a morning of discussion regarding how we teach God’s story and what it means to understand the Bible. It was so much fun describing and growing together in the reality that God is the main character or the most prominent figure in His telling of His story, the Bible.

As the three brothers—Vicente, Felix and Isabel—discussed in their native tongue the meaning and implications of this insight, I too was pondering this reality to new levels. After a while talking together about how this new insight was impacting their hearts and minds, they turned to us and each in turn shared in Spanish some exciting insights. “We’ve been reading and teaching the Bible with *others* as the focal point, not *God!* The story of Adam and Eve is really about how God was interacting with them, and we learn about them when we see it from God’s point of view!” They went on to talk through other stories and

how this new insight was going to radically change their teaching.

As we also discussed the challenges of the beliefs their people hold, they were excited about how this new focus on God—how God is the One telling His story and how it is true and the only true story — was changing them even in that moment. They couldn’t wait to get back to their church and their discipleship opportunities and to begin to implement this change. Some of their confessions in the moment were profound. “I haven’t been acting like God in my interaction with others. As I see how God interacted in mercy and grace toward those who were failing, I see how I have been failing to show mercy, patience and grace to my co-workers,” confessed one brother.

We worked... for a week, covering other themes like grace, faith, teaching different audiences with different needs: unbelievers, new believers and maturing believers. We wrestled together with ideas of worldview, belief systems and “narratives” or stories that shape our beliefs. It was an amazing week.

— *Matt Arnold,*

*Serving itinerantly with the Tepehuan of Mexico*

## Selamat Hari Ulang Tahun! Happy Birthday!



For this year’s birthday, I got to experience firsthand what [people in Asia Pacific] will do to try to make your birthday a special day.

One of the things that most everyone will do is cook yellow rice for someone when it is their birthday. This is not something that is always cooked here, maybe because they want to keep it something special. It is also probably more expensive because of all the extra ingredients that go into it. White rice is definitely the norm here.

And then, when they serve you the rice, they might have some chicken to go along with it, or some other food, and a candle to blow out.

Then what will happen is the “salim.” If you are the same age, you can just shake hands. But if there is a fairly significant age difference between the two people, then the younger one will take the hand of the older person and touch it to their forehead. This is a sign of deep respect for the older person. If it is a young

kid, whenever there is a context where people are shaking hands, they will always need to “salim” to be polite.

There were also other cultural experiences that I got to experience, such as being taken to a nice coffee shop and given a cake, as well as a really nice shirt called a “batik.”

All in all, I felt very special on my birthday this year!

— *Jesse Walker, Asia Pacific*



## PARADISE GOLD

Coffee brings people together all around the world — from deep, rich espresso to the beautiful pour of latte art. What many overlook, or are simply unaware of, is the work and beauty behind their “cup of Joe” and the culture that goes beyond the hustle and bustle of a first-world coffee shop.

Papua New Guinea is one of the many beautiful countries blessed with the appropriate climate to grow coffee that is desired all around the world. Although the product is delicious, the production of coffee often poses challenges for missionaries. When harvest time arrives, the farmers are tasked with the responsibility of gathering the cherries, shelling them, drying the beans and transporting them to town to sell and reap the rewards of their labor. This often draws them away from attending the teaching of God’s Word and sometimes leads to drinking and gambling away their earnings.

This does not just affect Papua New Guinea but extends to many countries all around the world. Take this as a challenge to pray for missionaries next time you pick up a cup of coffee. Consider the lives behind your cup and the value that they have in the eyes of our Lord and pray for the missionaries who are striving to serve the Lord despite the many challenges and oppositions they face every day.

— *Havannah Foster,*  
*(EBI/MK from*  
*Papua New Guinea)*



## A GIFT THAT WILL KEEP ON GIVING

Some time ago we told you of a project to pay for 20,000 New Testaments (with Old Testament Bible portions) to be printed in the native language of our friends in South America. The Lord provided for these Bibles through many of you and others, for which we are so grateful! God also provided for their safe delivery to the villages where they were needed, which was such a miracle!

Since then, we learned that there are still more villages (speaking this same language) without the Scriptures, so a request was made for 15,000 more Bibles to be printed (at a cost of about \$60,000). Recently, the total of gifts designated for this project came to \$28,000, but then we heard from our co-worker that a surprise \$50,000 gift came in! How we thank the Lord for working all of this out, and we thank all who have prayed about or contributed to this project!

— *Larry Bockus,*  
*South America*



## BOLIVIA UNREST

The civil unrest in parts of the country has kicked into high gear again. There is much violence also. Please pray for peace in Bolivia. The unrest is not directed at any issues that directly involve us, and we are well out of harm’s way. But the unrest does restrict where we can safely travel. It causes frustration on our part as we try to plan ahead for events and ministry opportunities. And it causes some shortages of food and fuel.

— *Larry and Linda Depue,*  
*Bolivia, South America*



## EBI 2022-2023

For more than 65 years, God has faithfully brought students from all over the world to Ethnos360 Bible Institute (EBI) in Waukesha, Wisconsin. EBI is unique — married students, missionary kids and people from many different countries gather in personal classroom settings to study God’s Word and to build a unified community to expand the reach of the gospel. The student body this year is comprised of 28 married students, 42 missionary kids, 22 international students, as well as 108 single men and women from all over the United States. There is a total of 200 students, all of whom are like-minded in their pursuit of following God and growing in their knowledge of Him.

Last year, the school said goodbye to President Ron Lindsey and his wife, Carrie, as the Lord led them back overseas to serve in Romania. This year, Andrew Royer stepped into the role as president. The transition has gone smoothly as the leadership continues to look to the Lord for direction and guidance.

— *Havannah Foster*

# Oh, to read and



Photo by Joseph Osborn

# write!



What are your first memories of learning how to read and write? Can you picture yourself struggling to form the words in your mouth, trying to figure out what letter you were supposed to be saying? That pencil felt so strange in your fingers as you learned about circles and straight lines to form letters. Ah, the cramped fingers, the aching hand and arm.

But look a little bit later at the triumph in your heart as you mastered that entire primer, reading every word, knowing in your heart that you could actually read a book! And whoever claimed that writing was difficult? Bah! You could write full sentences.

One of the church planting distinctives that we hold to is to see anyone who desires it to become literate and maybe even work with numbers. Consider, though, that we are talking about people who have never had the chance to learn to read, never had the opportunity to put a pencil to paper to express their thoughts, never even had the desire to do either of them ... because it was beyond comprehension. There was nothing to read in their language. In fact, their language had never been written.

I had the privilege of sitting down with Jerry and Joyce McDaniels to talk Literacy. Why with them? They are the international literacy coordinators for Ethnos360's Global Partners, traveling around the world in order to help literacy consultants, missionary teams and training centers.

## Definition of Literacy

Before we go too far, we need to define *literacy*. It is the ability of a people to be able to read the language that they speak. This goes beyond simply reading—it must be reading with comprehension and fluency. It also includes being able to write that language. Literacy does not teach someone a new language; it is learning to read and write a language they already speak.

Jerry and Joyce were very adamant in their view of what literacy is NOT. Some have said that a people group is literate if they can write their own name or if they can sound out syllables or words,

even if there is no comprehension. Jerry and Joyce disagree.

An interesting addition is the fact that once one learns how to write, it makes reading that much easier. (Think about your own learning curve and how you advanced once you could write!)

We need to keep in mind the goal of literacy, at least for our purposes, is that any people group will have full access to the written Word of God in their heart language, be that Spanish or Bahasa or some language that up to now has been unwritten. This also affects the growth of the church. If you

“ The goal of literacy, at least for our purposes, is that any people group will have full access to the written Word of God in their heart language ...



only have readers and no writers, you will not have the producers with the capacity needed to keep the church growing and learning and functioning.

One thing that Jerry and Joyce mentioned as an integral part of literacy is the role of the linguist. It is his job to work with the team to come up with the orthography (alphabet) for any heretofore unwritten language. If you have no alphabet, then you have no written language. Having a great orthography can make it much easier for those learning to read. They were so thankful for being able to work alongside linguists to see a people become literate.

Another thing to remember is that literacy is NOT something that is new to Ethnos360. If you check in our history book, you'll find that a single missionary lady named Sophie Mueller was teaching the people with whom she ministered to read way back in the 1940s. Even when I was a child in the '60s, missionaries were spending long hours getting literacy courses ready to teach. And now ... well, let's get into what goes on now.

### The McDaniels's History with Literacy

The McDaniels family had gone to Panama with the intention of being Bible teachers and church planters. They began to work among the Kuna in Panama with Joe and Sharon Goodman. With the help of the literacy consultant, the team wrote the first literacy materials. The Goodmans had begun to teach the literacy classes, but then they were

called out to the mission office, leaving both Jerry and Joyce with the task of literacy. They realized how important it was to have literate believers, but that concept really hit home to them as they left Panama and began to work in other Latin American countries where churches had already been planted. They could see clearly that churches with readers and writers were much stronger in that they were being rooted in the Word and maturing in that they were growing personally and together, handing off Truth to the next generations by passing the Word on to them. As they traveled more and more, they saw the same pattern repeating itself in Africa, in Asia Pacific and in Papua New Guinea. The churches that were strong had strong readers!

One thing needs to be stressed: being pro-literacy doesn't mean that you are against anything digital or oral. The problem arises when the church can't go back to the written Word to go against false teachings that will inevitably creep in. The church without the written Word will need to decide which teaching is more interesting or which one was told better or even which one offers more free T-shirts! Because God had His Word written down, we have that anchor, that place to go back to for security. And that kind of an anchor is what new churches need in whatever country they live and in whatever heart language they speak.

Joyce shared a story of a group that decided to stay with just recorded Scriptures and not do literacy. The problem arose when the man who did the voice of Paul on the recording chose to sin. The others (believers or not) said they couldn't listen to him because he was a hypocrite. Another of the



Joyce and Jerry McDaniels



“ Memories of people grabbing their Bible and kissing it will forever bring me to tears.



people who helped with the recording had died, and in that culture it was taboo to say his name or listen to his voice. What other Bible did they have? None. The team then opted for literacy courses for the people group.

### The Importance of Literacy

As a former English teacher, I know full well that literacy is important. But I think we should look much deeper than my own preferences! In the first place, God wrote down His Word (see the sidebar), and that written Word requires readers. Literacy is integral to Bible translation: if people can't read their own language, they can't read the translated Word of God in their language. Literacy is also key to discipleship, letting the disciples read for themselves the Word of God and the printed Bible lessons. It also helps with outreach ministries and even in more physical areas of ministry like the medical side. How will the local helper know what to give in terms of medicine if he or she can't read instructions, dosages and the like?

Being able to read the Word of God with understanding and application requires more than just the lowest level of reading. With the existing system of literacy primers, there will be four to six primers and then step into the post-literacy level that takes them into more complex reading



## God and Writing

When God gave His Message to Moses, He didn't just leave it a spoken message that Moses would pass on to the people. God called Moses up on Mount Sinai to write it down on the tablets. And when Moses came down and observed the people sinning with the golden calf, he threw the tables down, and they were broken. At that point, God didn't just tell Moses, "You heard My Message. You can just tell the people all that I said." No, He told Moses to come back up the mountain and write them again. It was very important to God that His words were written down.

All through the Old Testament, time and time again God gives directives to write down His commands, to read them, to teach them regularly. He doesn't expect His people to remember decade after decade.

And then in the New Testament, the importance of the written Word shows up. In the Gospels, nine times Jesus asks, "Haven't you read the Scriptures?" He assumed that people had been reading, recognizing that the written Word carried authority. In Romans, the Apostle Paul states, "For everything that was *written* in the past was *written* to teach us, so that through ... the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope."

Some might argue that literacy rates during the New Testament times were only about 6% and point to this as a reason that we shouldn't emphasize the written Word since most people couldn't read when the Bible was actually penned. But God in His wisdom, knowing the dangers of a completely oral message, consistently over a span of 1,600 years made sure His Word was written down for us.

situations. The goal is to give them the ability to read the Scriptures, not needing anyone else to read for them. Joyce shared a story of a woman who had lost a son in a flood. She told them that any words they had spoken to her just weren't enough; the only thing that brought her comfort was reading the Word in her own language!

Another important point that was stressed was that, from the very beginning of literacy as the students begin to read three-line stories made up of a few syllables, comprehension questions are added to help the new readers begin to think and analyze and put their thoughts together to show they comprehended. And it is vital for them to develop this skill before they begin to read the Word of God. Then they will be able to read with comprehension, noting the ways to personalize the Scriptures.

We've already talked about the fact that many people groups whom missionaries minister to have no written language. Then who makes up the alphabet for the literacy team and translation team to use? That task falls to the on-site team that hopefully includes a linguist. For accountability and to ensure a workable orthography, there must also be an off-site person who will approve the alphabet. Joyce said they have found that the literacy team will help clarify the alphabet: using the software (Literacy Starter), any inconsistencies in spelling, or use of a letter or letters will be obvious.

### Literacy Consultants

Getting down to brass tacks, what are literacy consultants? They are the people who have been trained to help a team among a people group get their own literacy course up and running. The

consultants have most likely taught at least one course and know the obstacles that may be in the way. But their main goal is to help teams get their specific courses ready to teach as well as give advice and helpful hints about how best to go about getting literate people in the people groups. Consultants are not going around teaching the courses—they don't know all the languages that are being taught!

And Jerry and Joyce are the ones who are training the consultants!

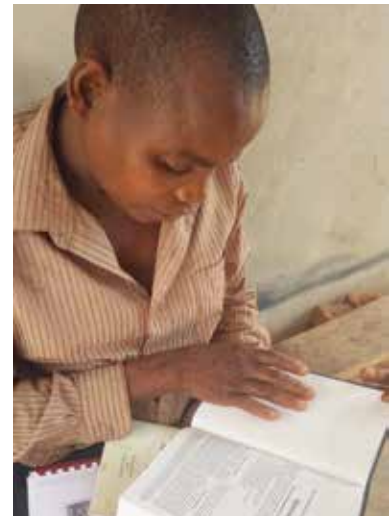
### Literacy Starter

Now we get to the gem for literacy consultants: Literacy Starter. This is a suite of programs that puts together the literacy materials that are needed for a successful literacy course. It was designed from the McDaniels's wish list by the International Ministries Office here in Sanford, Florida. Once you have the language in written form (thanks to the linguists and the rest of the team), with a few steps of directions for the software, teams use Literacy Starter with trained consultants to produce the primer series, the flash cards and reading practice booklets. What used to take between 1½ years and 2 years to finish can now be drafted in three weeks.

Another program associated with the suite is the Pre-Literacy program. The first level teaches people reading readiness skills. This program takes the same information about the language and produces pre-literacy books with pictures and the alphabet for the new learners to see. This used to take at least a month to get ready; with the software, it is finished in about 30 minutes.



Photo by Dale Stroud



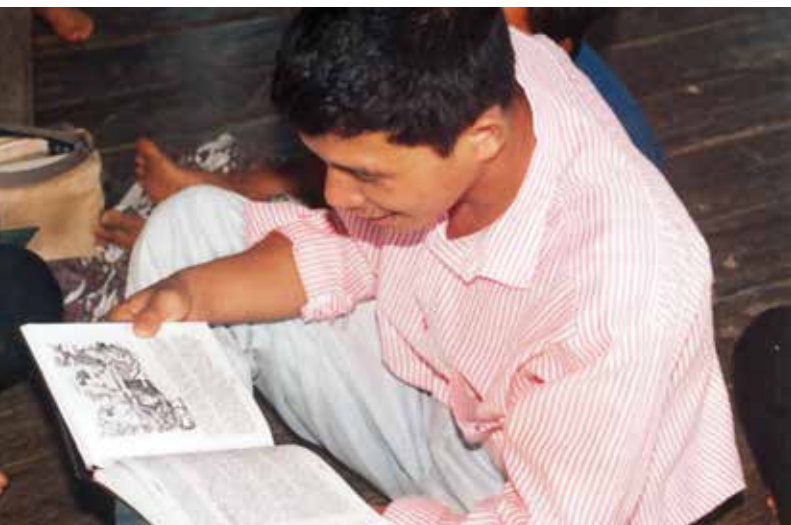
A third program in the suite produces the teachers' guides for the pre-literacy materials and all the primers (anywhere from four to six primers, depending on the difficulty of the language – how many vowels? Is it tonal?) This gives detailed lesson plans for local teachers.

A fourth part is Image Finder, a combination of all pictures available from long ago with Ethnos360's literacy consultants and all of Summer Institute of Linguistics' accumulated pictures. At the beginning of literacy, pictures help with comprehension, since there are so few words that the students can read. They also make reading the books more fun! (Remember the pictures in your first reading books?) This program provides the pictures for the flash cards, all illustrations for the primers, worksheets and book covers.

There are two future parts to the suite: the transitional program and the post-literacy program. Please pray with us for the completion of these. The transitional program will help teams write literacy materials so those who are literate in their own language become literate in the country's trade language. Transitional literacy materials can also be written to help those who already are literate in the trade language (often because of local schools) quickly see the few differences

“Even those that aren't believers that are learning to read and write their own language, they're being drawn to the Word of God. They're becoming interested.

— *Eme, Budik believer*



between the two languages and begin to read their vernacular language.

The future post-literacy program will provide books which are written in Spanish, English, Portuguese, Indonesian and French. Then the literate readers in the people group will be able to take those stories (fixing the lawn mower, cooking or other life skills) and translate them into their language. These books will give more reading practice in the language as well as build local libraries. There is nothing that increases the motivation to read like a new book.

### Training to Use Literacy Starter

Knowing that not everyone is necessarily comfortable working with computers, I asked Jerry and Joyce how long it usually takes them to train another consultant to use Literacy Starter. It is definitely not a quick “look and learn” process. A consultant will work with the trainer (Jerry or Joyce, for example) several times. Part of the consultant training is learning how the software works. They practice correctly inputting the source text of about 15,000 words given by the team and working through different things that come up with languages. They practice making rules to ensure the words are divided properly into syllables. They practice writing the different literacy materials and the printing of the materials. Finally, consultants put everything they are learning into practice by working with teams that are actually writing their literacy materials. Consultant training could take up to two years, depending on how many training opportunities are available to the consultant.

Jerry and Joyce have been to 35 countries to train consultants, to write literacy curriculum with teams and to train missionary candidates in the training centers.

With this kind of a powerful tool, I asked Jerry and Joyce if this was a tool that was exclusive to Ethnos360. They very happily announced that **anyone** can use Literacy Starter, but there is a prerequisite: you must have the training. The two normally train ON LOCATION, and if there are people from other mission organizations who want the training, they will get permission from the field leadership to include them in the training being given. The training includes one full week of continued training for the literacy consultants on the field and then three more weeks with the team or teams from that field that want to develop a literacy program for the people group among whom they minister.

## The Benefits of Literacy Starter

When I inquired about the best things about Literacy Starter, Jerry mentioned that there are four things that stand out with this program. First of all, there is increased accuracy of all the materials being developed. Then there is the time saved for each team—from up to two years down to three weeks. The third benefit is the ease in formatting the materials—because Literacy Starter does ALL the formatting, leaving nothing to the whims of mere humans. Lastly, there is an incredible saving of finances. When you consider the savings in time, that is multiplied when you consider costs saved.

Basking in the warmth of all those benefits, I asked Jerry and Joyce what they considered to be the needs with the highest priority. As with most ministries, there is always the need for finances. Wherever they go, someone has to pay for the travel, the supplies, room and board, and projects such as reprinting already written materials from master copies. The need is not just for the Jerry and Joyce; that need is for every consultant around the world. Another need is for some people to be trained to take over for the McDaniels duo. This is a need for any ministry anywhere.

## Closing Comments

Consider the fact that you have just finished reading—or skimming—this entire article in what may be your heart language. You are literate. You and I are so blessed to have the skills of reading and writing. We can go to our bookshelves and take down the Bible or any book without so much as an iota of worry.

As Jerry and Joyce so ardently believe, we need to give everyone a chance to read the Word of God in their heart language. Pray with us that literacy programs the world over will have many reading and comprehending God's Word.



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.



You know, it helps to see what it takes to get a literacy program started and then to watch the fruit that comes, sometimes gradually and sometimes quickly. I want to introduce you to five different people groups as they struggled to learn to read and then to see what they did with their newfound knowledge and skill.

## MOI PEOPLE GROUP (ASIA PACIFIC)

Literacy among the Moi has been quite a journey. The Moi started out with NO exposure to the outside world, so it was difficult initially to get them interested in learning to read. We tried many motivators that work in other places, but they seemed to fail. We still pushed through and taught a small class before we did our first Bible teaching to the Moi. It helped that a few could read when we started teaching so that they could truly see in their own language that the Creator God had a message for them. It wasn't a message just for other people; it was also for the Moi.

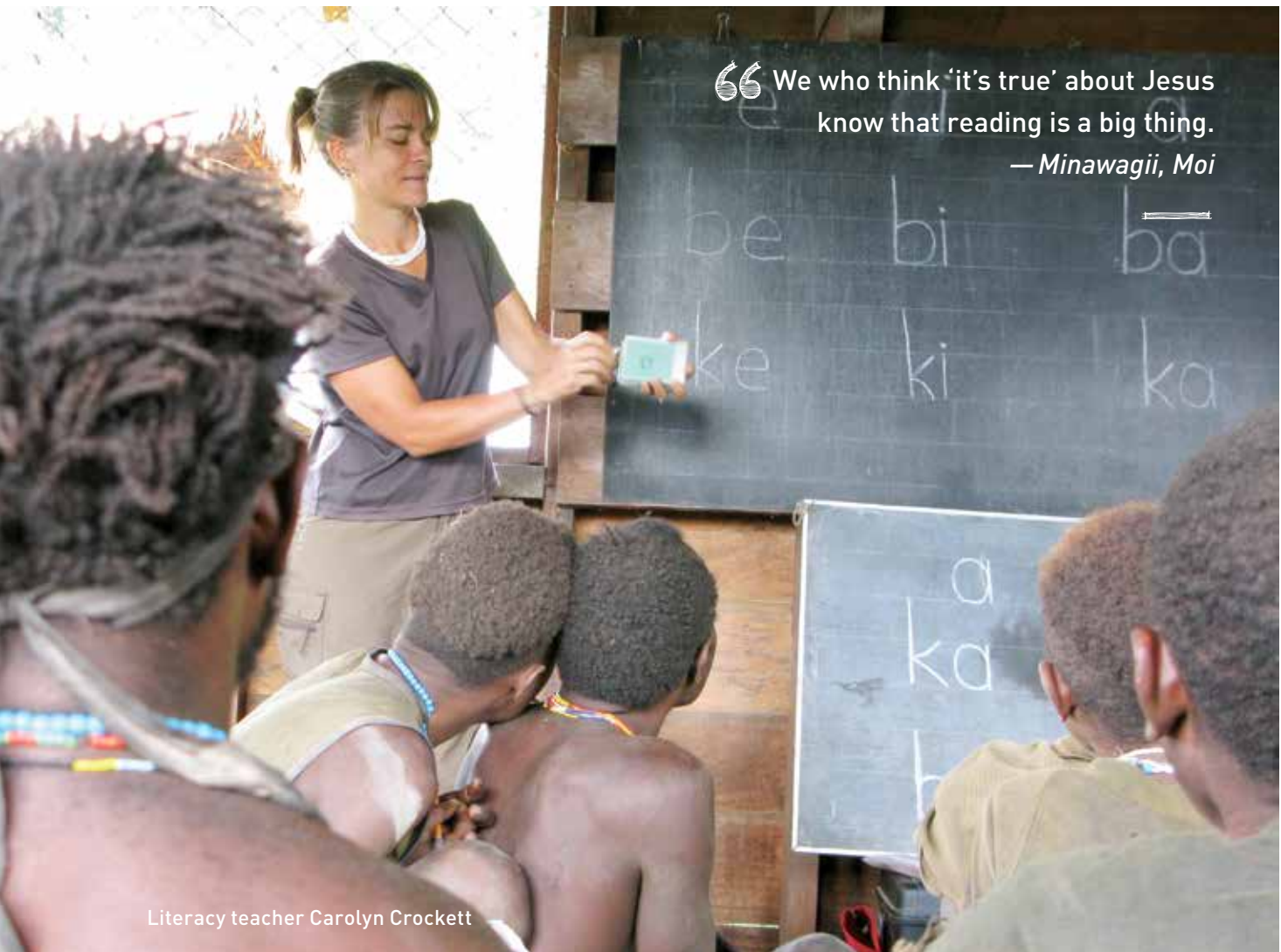
After working as a team to put together primers, readers, flashcards and a teacher's manual, my co-worker and I were "lucky" to get to teach the first Moi to ever read. It was entertaining and fun to hear their comments. One person told me he lost his homework because a dog ate it. I thought, "Hmmm, I think that's a common excuse in other places, too."

We have really noticed that the people who are readers and diligently study God's Word are the ones who are growing in the Lord. Literacy certainly goes hand in hand with Bible translation. We need both to see a thriving, mature church.

*Editor's Note: One day, Carolyn was planning to work on a literacy cupboard, a place to store the primers and any books. A believer named Wewa really wanted to talk about the Lord's leading, her ministries and more.*

Wewa said, "You know, I was trying to encourage Mbaigoa to keep working hard at learning to read. It's like when an experienced mother who's birthed babies tells a new mom in labor that she just needs to relax, breathe and bear with the pains, but the baby will be born. I told Mbaigoa that as she learns to read, she'll experience tears, tiredness, fatigue, back pains and frustration, but she will eventually catch on to reading."





Literacy teacher Carolyn Crockett

“ We who think ‘it’s true’ about Jesus know that reading is a big thing. — Minawagii, Moi

Wewa continued, “I experienced that when I was learning to read. I was tired, so I prayed. When I couldn’t get it, I cried, and the Creator God answered. When my back hurt, I prayed, and the Creator God healed me that day. When we pray, we can ask anything in His name, and He’ll answer us. He’s able to do it all. If you pray, He’ll help you with all those five things that you experience when you’re learning to read.

“You know, I’m officially an old lady now. [I thought that was kind of funny because she’s likely only around 40 or 45 (at most) and looks very strong and young in my opinion.] And even though I’m old, the Creator God let me learn how to read. When I was learning to read, it was so hard. I had tears and more tears.... But I prayed to the Creator God, and He enabled me to read. I could have been taken to a different land as a young bride, but the Creator God brought me here and

set me apart so I could live here when I learned to read God’s Word. Now I want to tell you about what I read about Melchizedek...” And on and on... because she can read!

— Carolyn Crockett

### **MANOBO PEOPLE GROUP (PHILIPPINES)**

Ekoy, a 30-year-old, had married, had a couple of kids but had never really grown up. He was tall and gangly and acted as the village clown. But for some reason he decided to join his friends and take a literacy course the missionary was teaching. He had only been to first grade and then quit, so he had never learned to read. As he participated in the course, however, he realized he had a real knack for this and was soon one of the best readers in the class. The teacher kept challenging him to

reach higher and not just read but read more naturally and with more expression.

After he graduated, he continued practicing reading drafts of the Bible being translated into his language. Then the missionary asked him and some of the other better readers if they would read the Bible in church during the teaching time. Even though he used to love being the center of attention as a clown, Ekoy was terrified of reading the Bible into a microphone in front of so many people. But he did it and with a care that showed his respect for God's Word. Now he's even in training to teach the Bible himself, and although he still enjoys goofing around, through literacy God has brought a new dimension of depth to Ekoy and a value for eternal things as he learns and discusses truth about the Lord with his friends.

—*Grant Bayfield*

### **L PEOPLE GROUP (WEST AFRICA)**

We moved into a village where only a couple of people could read and not very well. It was only after the church had been established and there were quite a few believers that they realized the importance of being able to read God's Word.

There were many that learned to read and write.

Sambi was a young lad of 12 when he turned up at my door, wanting me to teach him how to read. He was a son of one of the most powerful witch doctors in the village. He had never been to school but was desperate to learn how to read. I taught him along with his brother through the course.

Then war broke out in Ivory Coast, and we had to leave for four years. The next time I saw Sambi, he had grown up. He had become a Christian and hadn't forgotten how to read and actually was helping out with literacy classes. As his reading improved, he became a literacy teacher himself, and he was patient and faithful. Soon everyone wanted Sambi to teach them literacy. It's such an encouragement to teach people how to read and then see how God can use them.

—*Marina*

### **KUNA PEOPLE GROUP (PANAMA)**

Edelfonso is a dear friend and a long-time pastor of the Kuna church. When visiting Panama for the recent literacy training, five of Edelfonso's children were able to meet with us at a Kuna church. His grown son, Simeon, told us, "I've grown up all my life hearing about you, so I feel like I already know you. But this is the first time that I am meeting you. I want to say thank you for teaching my mother and father God's truth. Thank you for teaching them to read God's Book so they could pass it on to us. Look at us now! Our whole family has trusted in Christ as their Savior and are living for Him. Thank you for coming and remaining faithful through the hard times. We all have been forever changed!"

Another believing lady, Loida, told us, "I am so thankful for the materials and classes that taught me to read. Otherwise, that Book (pointing to the Kuna Bible) would just be a pretty book sitting in my house. But because I can read, it is God's Words speaking to me." That pretty much sums up what we are investing our lives in!

—*Jerry and Joyce McDaniels*

### **K PEOPLE GROUP (ASIA PACIFIC)**

As these [new portions of the Bible] were passed out, everyone was so excited! They were talking about them in hushed whispers as their eyes twinkled. One man reminded everyone not just to look at the cover and be amazed at how the outside looks but to dig in deep and read the truth inside!

After church, I looked around for a friend of mine, but she was nowhere to be seen. I figured she must have returned home because of the terribly cold, rainy weather we were having. So, I went

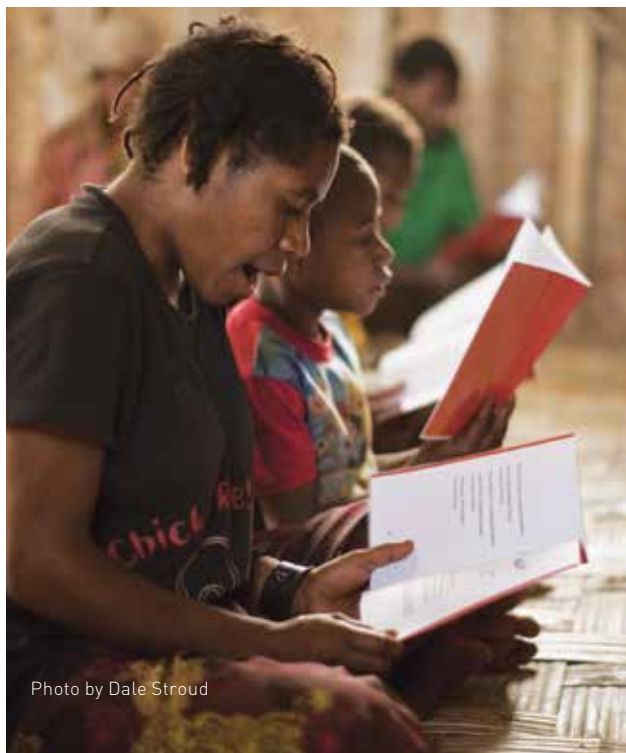


Photo by Dale Stroud

“ Thank you for teaching me to read. Otherwise that Book (pointing to the Bible) would just be a book sitting on my table. But because I can read, it’s God’s Word speaking to me. — *Loida, Kuna* ”



home myself. However, around 3:00 in the afternoon, I heard a knock on my door. I went outside, and there she was. I told her, “I looked for you after church and couldn’t see you, so I thought you went home because of the bad weather.”

“Oh no, I didn’t go home because of the bad weather. As soon as we left the church, I raced home and I shut the doors and I hugged God’s Word to my chest and I prayed, ‘God, PLEASE help me be able to read Your words! Help me know the words and letters so I can read what You’ve said.’ I stayed in my house for a while praying that. Then I wondered what you were doing, so I came back up the mountain to see you!”

This lady is the mother of one of our main Bible teachers who is hoping to enter our missionary training school off-island. She said she studies the Bible with him every night. She has taken



our literacy class, I have worked with her extra after class, and we have bought her glasses, but for some reason, she can still not read. Apart from God working, she will not be able to read God’s Word on her own. But as I sat there, with the rain dripping on our roof and the mist swirling around us, I saw the joy in her eyes, and I felt her honest hopes of someday experiencing God’s work! I felt the gratitude filling my heart that we have been given such an amazing gift of bringing God’s Word to these people! His Truth is now ringing out in yet another heart language! We all have been given the gift of being a part of that! Isn’t that breathtaking?!!

— *Craig*



# Tools for Missionaries Studying Culture and Language

As you know, one of the distinctives of Ethnos360 and Global Partners is to make sure that the cross-cultural missionary is fluent in the people group's culture and language before presenting the gospel to that group. It can take years of hard work to arrive at that level of proficiency. Jonathan Willcock, the consultant coordinator for the Latin America region, commented, "Why study culture? Isn't just teaching the Bible enough? How good do I have to be at the language before I can start teaching?" Some of our missionaries were asking these questions, ... and they needed an answer.

Recognizing the needs of missionaries around the world working in a variety of contexts, the Culture and Language Acquisition (CLA) Development Team developed two separate yet related helps.

Jonathan continued, "The first is the Engage program. This is like a roadmap showing the learner the steps to take in order to reach proficiency and fluency in both language and culture.

"The second is the Stages mobile app and desktop program. This is being developed as a tool especially for those following the Engage program. Different features become useful for the learner as progress is made. The use of photos and audio and video recordings combine to facilitate language learning both in and out of real-life situations. Powerful search and tagging components allow analysis of worldview assumptions. Some necessary tasks that took people hours to complete are now done in the background, allowing the missionary more time to spend with people, building relationships and learning how to communicate in their context."

Yes, there have been setbacks and barriers. The first beta testing showed some issues that needed to be cleaned up. But God is faithful. Here is the latest report from Bill Davis, International Language and Linguistics Consultant and CLA Development Coordinator for Global Partners:

"The CLA Development Team is excited about the progress on the Stages CLA app.

"Recently the programmers released a new version for testing which included most of the features of the Planner, which will make it easier for learners to plan their CLA activities and to know exactly what to do each day. The Planner will also make it easy to adjust plans on the spur of the moment when unexpected changes are necessary.

"One of the most significant recent accomplishments is that the programmers were able to meet all of Apple's strict requirements, so we now have a workable iOS version of Stages that we are testing on iPhones.

"In November, at the international forum for Ethnos360 and all our Global Partners, our team was able to present a two-day overview of Stages to over 80 CLA consultants and field learners. This was the first step in starting to

plan the launch of Stages and the Engage CLA materials throughout all our global partners. After brainstorming at the forum, many of those delegates went back to their fields and began to think in detail about how and when to roll Stages and Engage out on their fields.

"Currently, the programmers are fixing a few bugs and adding a few additional features to the Planner as our team finalizes the content.

"Meanwhile, our CLA Development team is working hard to get ready for the first official 'Roll-Out' event in late May. We will do a week of training for our North American training program instructors and some field consultants. Another similar event is being planned for October in Asia.

"We're thankful, not only for the progress in development, but for the gifts of so many generous donors who have made this possible! Through you, the Lord has met our original goal, plus more besides. And it turns out we will need that extra, so the Lord truly 'answered before we called' on Him for that!"

As Bill mentioned, that project has been funded, and we praise the Lord for His supplying. Now, watch for the results as missionaries begin to use this wonderful tool.

**"Why study culture?**

**Isn't just teaching the Bible enough?**

**How good do I have to be at the language**

**before I can start teaching?"**



## Pray. TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Like many other indigenous people, Palawanos face crippling poverty. But their poverty is much more than simply financial and material.

Like the rest of mankind, it is primarily a poverty of relationships – with God, with others and with the society and environment in which they live. From without, the Palawanos face ... corruption ... and the destruction of their ancestral domain. From within, they face spiritual oppression and injustices.

My prayer is that, as the team and the church are transformed together, the spiritual, relational and material poverty will be transformed by the gospel into

flourishing in every sphere of all of our lives.

Please pray that our interventions are never demeaning or dependence-forming, but that the community members themselves will develop their own development priorities. Please pray as we help the Palawano church to discover their identity in Christ, their spiritual gifts, prayer, and the God-given potential of their community and environment. Please pray that they will integrate these with practical and educational initiatives so that their whole community will be impacted by the gospel and experience abundant life in every sphere.

— *Elise Long, Philippines*



## Praise. WORTH THE WAIT

We are pleased to report that the annual conference for our expat co-workers in the Central Area [of Papua New Guinea] was excellent. Thank you for the prayers for everything to come together to see this happen. God used the speaker in wonderful ways as he spoke from John chapters 15-17. Hearing reports from the various cross-cultural works

is always a highlight for what the Lord is doing in the remote areas, all at various stages of church planting. Getting one-on-one visits with co-workers we don't get to see very often was a blessing.

Indigenous church leaders from the Central Area had the opportunity to spend a week with church leaders from the Eastern Area. This trip had been planned

three other times since early 2020 but didn't work out for various reasons, but we could clearly see God's timing was perfect this time around. The men from the two areas do not naturally have the opportunity to get together on their own but very much enjoyed the fellowship as they got to know each other. Even though this group of leaders had never met each other before, they all were encouraged by the unity of the Spirit that was evident as they discussed their ministries and plans for the future. Please pray for these men as they continue to carry the load of ministry in their local churches and also for opportunities to pass along what they have learned to other church leaders.

— *Bill Michaud,  
Papua New Guinea*



2022 Central Area Conference of Papua New Guinea

## Praise. SOMETHING REALLY GREAT HAPPENED TODAY

Like many days here at the flight center, the weather cleared, the helicopter was rolled out of the hangar, cargo was loaded and the passengers debriefed, but unlike any day we have had for years and years and years, today was the first day for a new pilot.

Please take a moment and think about what a big deal this is. Think about the years and cost of training to become a qualified mechanic and pilot. Added to that is missionary training and language study. It is no wonder that we don't get new pilots very often. But praise the Lord He brought Ryan and his family here to serve alongside Brian and his family. We who work in remote villages are truly blessed.

As Ryan left on his first flight, there was no band playing, but I just want to say, "Something really great happened today."

— *Jonathan Bamford*  
*The Philippines*

Ryan DeRoos and Brian Schaadt >



## Charitable Gift Annuities

**Did you know you can create ongoing financial support for Ethnos360 through a charitable gift annuity?** Through a charitable gift annuity, you can make a one-time donation of cash, stocks or mutual funds that will, in turn, create automatic ongoing contribution income. That

income will make fixed quarterly payments regardless of investment performance and can be designated to the project or missionary of your choice. Payments can begin immediately or for a specified future date. Part of your gift may be eligible for a tax deduction.

To inquire about setting up a charitable gift annuity, please contact our partners, Thrivent, by calling **407-890-1399** or emailing **sara.meyer@thrivent.com**. For any direct questions for Ethnos360 Finance, call **866-547-2460** or email **financeusa@ntm.org**.





# THE ONE ROAD TO GOD

“God made the only road to save us!  
There is no other road that we can  
follow in which God would be pleased ...”



The Maliyali people have always followed many different “roads” to get to eternal paradise: ancestors, snake dancing, false prophets. Satan has used all of these different roads to greatly confuse them.

But that all began to change since Ethnos360 missionaries taught them about these things from God’s Word. That is the only way anyone can discern what is Truth and what is not. God’s Word says there is only one way to get to Him, and that is through Jesus. It has not been easy for the Maliyali to turn from the beliefs they have held their whole lives.

The Maliyali people have just learned that Jesus did not just “cut a road” to get us back to His Father but that He seeks to dismantle all other roads that man, through the schemes of Satan, have tried to build. They walked away saying, “God made the only road to save us! There is no other road that we can follow in which God would be pleased; no, there is no other road. Although we have so many roads on this ground to choose from, they all end in our destruction. Thank you, God, for sending the road-cutting man. We happily turn our backs to these roads because we get Him, our only true road.”

After years of living among the Maliyali and learning their language and their culture to fluency, the Ethnos360 missionaries prepared 56 lessons spanning the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, in order to teach them the greatest news ever.

At long last, they completed each lesson and many in Maliyali have come to Christ!

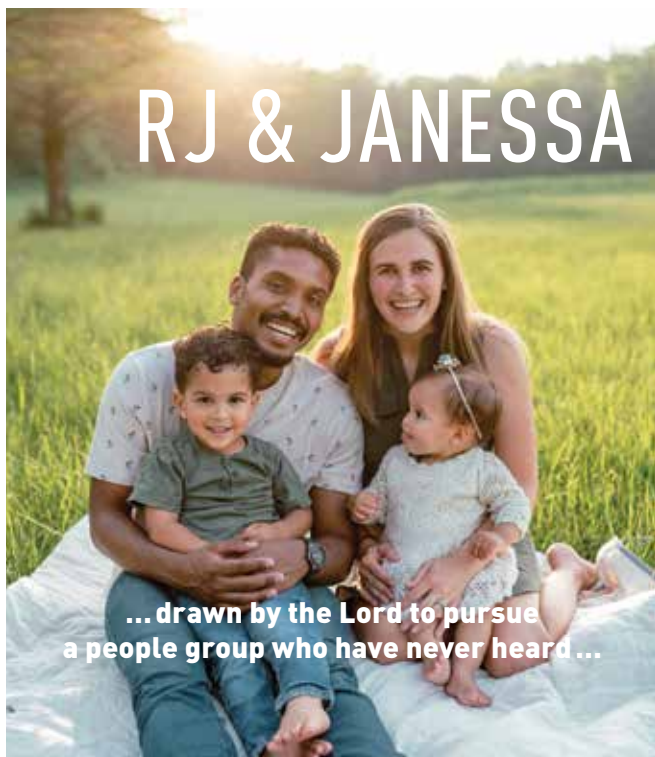
The urgency that we have felt for the past 10 years is gone — the Maliyali people have clearly heard and understand the gospel message in their own heart language! That is such a good feeling! Thank you, Jesus!

However, the Maliyali believers know nothing past the gospel message. They haven’t heard anything from Acts or the Epistles yet, so the believers don’t know yet that they are the Body of Christ — His Church. That will all come in time! They don’t know how to live now in light of being saved. However, we won’t just tell them any of that stuff — we will show them clearly from God’s Word in their own language. Which means it all has to be translated and lessons have to be prepared. It’s a mountain of work!

We have so many believers now. We hope to share some of their testimonies with you soon, but for now we start the long, slow process of teaching and discipling them. We are so grateful to all of you for praying for us especially these past few months! We ask that you please continue to pray!

— Rachel Mueller, Papua New Guinea

# CONNECT WITH *new missionaries*



...drawn by the Lord to pursue  
a people group who have never heard ...

## BORJA

AND CHILDREN  
ROJEILO, JEILANI, ROKAIO

Church planting in Brazil

Sent by Faith Bible Church in Chestertown, NY

Connect with RJ and Janessa at  
[ethnos360.org/missionaries/rj-and-janessa-borja](https://ethnos360.org/missionaries/rj-and-janessa-borja)

Janessa was born into a missionary family who moved to Brazil when she was just two years old. Growing up, her parents read God's Word together as a family and discussed it. So, at a very young age she realized that she was a sinner in need of a Savior. Janessa believed that God provided salvation through His Son Jesus Who laid down His life on the cross and died, was buried and rose again on the third day.

At the age of 20, during his last deployment with the Marines, RJ found himself crying out for help. The only place he could go was to God and His Word. As he read, he realized the Bible wasn't a means to fix himself. Instead, it told him of God, Who is willing to save sinners and use them for His purpose and glory. RJ confessed his sins and committed his life to the

Lord. And thus, his journey with God began.

RJ and Janessa went to Word of Life Bible Institute in New York separately but were brought together when they served as discipleship coordinators in 2015. There, their relationship grew as well as a passion for others to know and apply God's Word to their lives.

RJ's discipler invited him to assist in leading a trip to Wayumi, Ethnos360's program of missions exploration in Pennsylvania. He said that while there, "God showed me that He can use anyone."

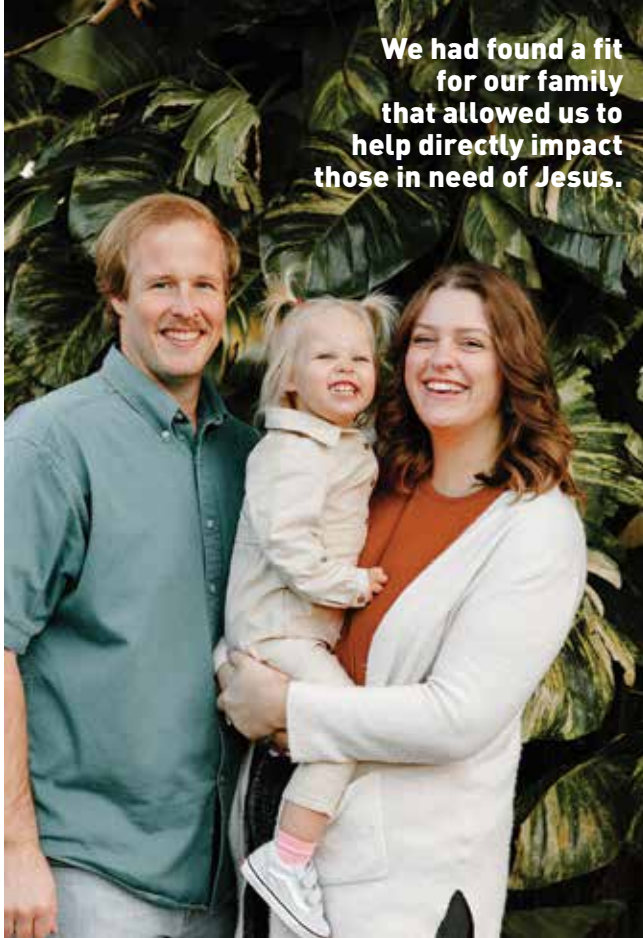
Ethnos360 Training Center had already started their school year. So, RJ continued in God's revealed will and went to Brazil with Word of Life as a cross-cultural intern.

As he served in Brazil, he "pursued the mission and Janessa" and together they finished their training with Ethnos360 in the spring of 2022. They are currently in Mississippi developing a support team. They plan on being in Brazil this December.

There are approximately 100 people groups in Brazil without contact with Jesus. RJ and Janessa said that they "both are drawn by the Lord to pursue a people group who have never heard — because how else could they hear?"

Want to learn how you can be involved in missions?  
Check out Wayumi at [wayumi.org](https://wayumi.org).





We had found a fit  
for our family  
that allowed us to  
help directly impact  
those in need of Jesus.

## HANK & HANNAH GORDON

AND DAUGHTER SAGELY

Accounts Payable/Payroll and Graphic Designer  
at Ethnos360 Home Office, Sanford, Florida

Sent by Central Christian Church, Fort Smith, Arkansas

Connect with Hank and Hannah at  
[ethnos360.org/missionaries/hank-and-hannah-gordon](https://ethnos360.org/missionaries/hank-and-hannah-gordon)

Hannah was challenged into missions at a young age. Unsure of what route to take, she took a short-term trip to Papua New Guinea. While there, the team discovered no shortage of religion. Churches were literally fighting over denominational differences. But most people they encountered had little to no understanding of God's Word and no Bible in their own language, let alone a clear gospel message. They begged Hannah and the team to stay and teach them how to know God. As it was a short-term trip, no one could. At that moment, Hannah knew she wanted to serve in some way to see God's Word spread and communicated clearly to all peoples. It was brutal to look in the face of someone begging for truth and have to tell them, "Not right now."

Hank came to an understanding of the gospel at 19 and jumped into Ethnos360 Bible Institute in Waukesha, Wisconsin. There, through studying God's Word, he began to see God's heart for the world. He was blown away by the love and grace God showed and couldn't wrap his mind around the fact that there were still so many people out there that didn't have the ability to hear the gospel. During this time, Hank knew he wanted to serve in some way to reach the unreached.

As they began to move forward together in their missionary career, health issues played a major role in their first steps. After taking a break part way through the training, God made it clear for them to continue.

"We had no idea what it was going to look like as Hannah's

health wasn't in a place for us to go overseas. All we knew was that God was very clear that we were supposed to move forward."

While visiting Ethnos360's home office, they saw important needs and roles that they could fill to keep the mission functioning and keep missionaries overseas.

"We had found a fit for our family that allowed us to help directly impact those in need of Jesus. We are excited to now be serving in graphic design and finance and rejoice alongside those who get to tell the ones begging for truth, 'Yes, now.'"

Find out how you can use your  
career skills in the USA at  
[go.ethnos360.org/USACareers](https://go.ethnos360.org/USACareers)





# The Wisdom of God



Consider that of all the different methods God could have selected to communicate and preserve His Word, He chose to write it down for mankind. And how incredibly wise that was! By writing His message to be translated into the languages of the world, God has given us all a strong connection and identity together. We all come to know Him in the same way — through His written Word.

God's Word has been preserved for thousands of years. History shows there have been all-out efforts to destroy it. Yet the Bible has survived and even spread throughout the world.

By writing down His message, God gave us a solid measure of truth. When we hear different ideas and philosophies, we can return to the written Word and know what it is that God said.

A written word is enduring. It does not change with the passing of time. Nor does it change as it is shared from person to person. Just think of the little game called "telephone." Every time that we have played it, the whispered message never gets all around the room without being completely changed! Keeping His message true was so important to God that He wrote it down.

A written message gives us direct and constant access to God. We can hear His words anytime. In the middle of the night when faced with temptation, God's written Word can speak. When we are discouraged and weighed down by the cares of life, God meets us through "what is written." We do not need to wait for someone else to tell us what God has said.

So, teaching people to read is vital because the written Word of God exists. As we consider these



# *in Writing His Word*

things, our hearts overflow with thankfulness to our wise and loving God!

We have taken time in this edition to consider literacy and some resources available to produce materials to teach people to read. But literacy and reading the Word of God are not just for others out there. It is a message for each of us.

God's Word is readily available in our language. Most of us own several copies of the Bible. We can access it on our phones. This is a privilege that most people down through the ages never knew. For me, if I do not read the Word of God today, it is not because I do not have it in my language. It is not because I do not know how to read. It is because I have not chosen to make His Word a priority.

As we all know, life is moving along quickly. Soon those of us who have trusted Christ will be in Glory, face-to-face with our Living Word. One of the most precious things about life here on earth is the opportunity to get to know our God through His written Word. Let's make the most of these days and be people who are much in the Word, growing in our love and appreciation of the God with whom we will spend eternity.

—*Jerry & Joyce McDaniels*



**\* TRUE \* ENDURING \* SOLID MEASURE OF TRUTH  
\* DIRECT AND CONSTANT ACCESS TO GOD \* A STRONG  
CONNECTION AND IDENTITY TOGETHER**

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## INTERFACE

**6 WEEKS, PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

See firsthand what it takes to plant a church among people who have no concept of the God of the Bible.



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