

NEW TRIBES MISSION

NTM@work

your connection with tribal missions



Courage to Lead
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NTM@work

[ISSN 1527-9057]

Vol. 70 • No. 4 • May 2012

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NTM@work is published quarterly by New Tribes Mission.

Periodical postage paid at MID-FL, FL 32799-9625

Postmaster: Please send address changes to **NTM@work**, New Tribes Mission, 1000 E. First Street, Sanford, FL 32771-1487

Subscriptions

NTM@work is provided free to readers in North America on a year-to-year basis. To receive the magazine or have it sent to a friend, sign up online at ntm.org/magazine, e-mail ntm@ntm.org, or call 407-323-3430.

If you no longer wish to receive **NTM@work**, please send a note and your name and address to **NTM@work**, 1000 E. First Street, Sanford FL 32771-1487.

The magazine may be read online at ntm.org/magazine.

Requests to reprint articles

should be directed to Executive Editor Macon Hare at macon_hare@ntm.org or call 407-323-3430.

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NTM worldwide

USA 407-323-3430

Canada 519-369-2622

Australia 011-61-2-6559-8646

Europe 011-44-1472-387700

This photo and cover photo by:
Dale Stroud

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CONNECT

They can't say Thank you!

The Guahibo people of Colombia have no words or means in their culture for expressing gratitude. In fact, gift-giving is a foreign concept. Instead there is a sense of obligation to give by the one who has more, and a sense of entitlement to receive by the one who has less.

Simply put, if you caught more fish than your neighbor, you'd be obliged to share with him what your family doesn't eat. And he would receive your generosity without any special acknowledgement, since you are merely acting as you should.

"It took the Guahibo a long time to grasp that they didn't deserve to be saved," wrote missionary Mark Cain, "seeing how God has salvation in abundance — therefore is obligated to give it, and they were so needy — therefore they deserved it."

This caused many obstacles for the Guahibo people in learning to praise and worship God, since in their culture, they felt they had nothing to thank or praise Him for.

Learn more about the Guahibos: ntm.org/magazine



photo by Alberto Gonzalez

Not my favorite dish

"Have you ever eaten 'wooden stick of banana'?" asked Rachel Ueland, who is studying Portuguese in preparation for ministry in Brazil. Her friend could tell she was referring to some kind of food but couldn't figure out what. In any case, it didn't sound very appetizing.

Rachel was trying to say "banana bread."

"The difference of nasalization or not, can mean a whole different word," she wrote.

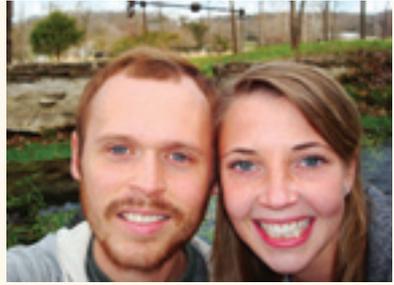
I don't pray to the ancestors anymore

In Mozambique, local “kings” (clan leaders) are always invited to important ceremonies to pray to the ancestors for their blessings. It is a king’s defining responsibility. And kings from the largest clans are always given a more prominent place and asked to both lead and wrap-up the ceremonies in prayer because supposedly their departed ancestors have more clout than the others do.

So when it came time for a local inauguration ceremony, two of the biggest clan leaders in the area, who had been faithfully attending Bible teaching by NTM missionary Phil Henderson, were invited.

As the one king finished praying at the end, with a prayer directed only to God, someone from the back of the crowd yelled, “Aren’t you going to mention the ancestors?” He responded, “I don’t believe in praying to the ancestors.” There was stunned silence as the king ended the ceremony and everyone left.

CONNECT WITH...



Ryan and Cathren Hundertmark

Field of Service: West Africa

Ministry: Church planting

Sending Church: Hagerstown Bible Church, Hagerstown Maryland

“We both grew up in Bible-believing churches that supported a lot of missionaries. It’s something we saw a lot but never imagined doing it ourselves.

“We dated through high school and the Lord began working on us separately and challenging us toward full-time ministry. After we both completed high school we realized that we wanted to understand God’s Word better and explore cross cultural ministries.

“Through NTM’s Bible school God made it clear that we were to head in the direction of growing in Him through tribal church planting. The Lord made it seem natural to want to reach out to those who have absolutely no resources to understand and know who God is.

“After getting married in 2009 we began preparing to complete the training with NTM to become tribal missionaries and live a life of surrender and faith wherever He desires to put us.”

ntm.org/ryan_hundertmark

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

Matthew 4:4

CONNECT

What do coffee trees smell like?

You might be a little disappointed to know that coffee trees don't smell like much of anything, at least not for most of the year. But once a year at the end of dry season, the trees will bud and then blossom and the blossoms smell wonderful! Surprisingly, they don't smell like fresh ground espresso or a steaming cup of mocha. They actually smell very similar to jasmine.



We're fortunate enough to have a few coffee trees growing across the street from our house as we study this country's language in preparation for joining a tribal ministry. So during the few short days when the trees were blossoming, our house was often filled with the aroma of the flowers. We really enjoyed sitting down at the table to eat breakfast while the cool morning breeze blew the scent through the dining room windows and into our house. It was a nice change from the other smells that often blow in from the street.

—*Jake and Erin Ketchum, Asia-Pacific Region*

“Not the religious hypocrites,
but you — God's family —
are the salt of the earth.
Jesus was saying
'When you're around,
people should taste different!'”

“10 Choices” by James MacDonald

* praise

“Please pray for this **Diola** village in west Africa,” wrote missionary Jen Rabe. “For the past few weeks, they've been having more animistic ceremonies than usual. In spite of this, there are a few who have shown interest in the Bible. Pray that God would grow their interest. Pray for wisdom for the team as well.”

Pray daily or weekly:
ntm.org/magazine



I Volunteer!

At 36, Dumont Freeman was losing everything. The three employment agencies he co-owned in Texas were going under. His marriage and family were hanging by a thread. Overwhelmed and hopeless, he fell to his knees one afternoon by the foot of his bed.

“Lord, I can’t handle it. I just need to give it to You.”

God took it from there.

His wife, also feeling the strain and not knowing where to turn, finally opened up to a friend about the situation. A few days later the friend’s concerned pastor was knocking at their door. There in his own living room, as a grown man, Dumont finally understood that going to church all through childhood, learning the books of the Bible and reciting memory verses in front of the congregation — all at the encouragement of his well-intentioned mother — didn’t equal a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Before the pastor left, Dumont, his wife and their two elementary daughters placed their faith in Christ.

And the healing began.

Now retired to Florida after 32 years in the insurance business, Dumont likes to stay busy. So when his friend from church, missionary Paul Wyton, mentioned being short-handed in his department at the NTM Home Office in Sanford, Florida, Dumont quickly volunteered. He didn’t know anything about New Tribes Mission, but he knew his friend and wanted to help.

Six years later, he’s still helping.

His official title is NTM projects manager. A missionary will submit a project that needs funding to further their ministry. It might be for a water

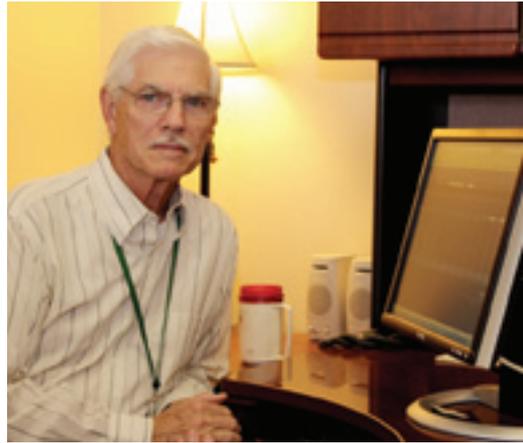


photo by John Pierce

well in Mexico, an airplane re-licensing in Bolivia, or computers needed for a translation project in Mozambique. Dumont will gather all the necessary information and present it to the project committee for approval. Once approved, it is posted on the NTM website and Dumont then keeps track of all the funding that comes in for that project.

Shortly after this interview, the Kuna literacy project was completely funded.

“Work has begun on the printing, laminating and binding of students’ books, flashcards, homework assignments, practice sheets, tests, attendance sheets, teachers’ daily lesson plans,” wrote Jerry and Joyce McDaniels, who minister to the Kuna people.

“Many thanks to all who gave toward this.”

From his office in Sanford, a 73-year-old weekly volunteer, is doing his part in the Great Commission — one important project at a time.

**Find out how you can volunteer:
ntm.org/magazine**

CONNECT

The spirits are making you sick.

Whenever Lansana fell to the ground, shaking and writhing, everyone tried to get away from him as fast as they could. The Bainouk people of Senegal believe that sickness is caused by evil spirits. So Lansana and his strange illness were greatly feared and avoided. For a short time, he found relief through medication. It controlled his epilepsy and he began to lead a normal life. He even began attending literacy and Bible classes, hoping one day to teach others. But Lansana's family still believed that his sickness had a spiritual cause, so they urged him to return to the traditional treatments of witchdoctors, spells, and potions. He eventually gave in to the pressure, and when the seizures returned, Lansana soon died. After his



photo by Steve Helwig

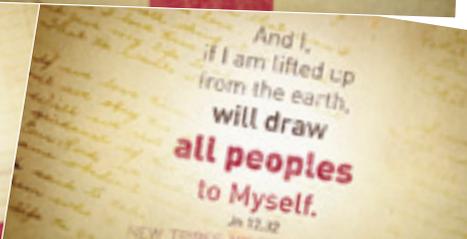
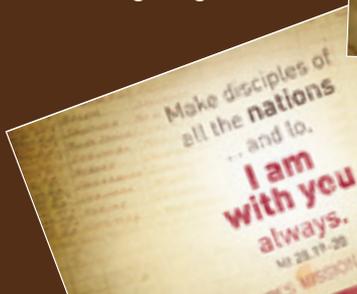
funeral, the Bainouks swept the “spirits” out of his room so they would not afflict other members of his family.

Only the powerful blood of Jesus Christ will eventually sweep the sad story of animism away.

Desktop images

Want a frequent reminder that God is work among the world's tribal people, and that you're helping? Get NTM images for your computer's desktop.

Find them at ntm.org/magazine



* pray

Pray for the **Dao** church elders, Daapoi, Kogipiyaa, Debatoma and Paatoma as they seek to lead and shepherd the Dao local church and for the missionaries as they seek to shepherd and guide the elders. Pray that they will all continue to grow in faith and be encouraged in the awesome truths of Scripture as they study together. Pray also for the different outreaches going on and those leading them.

Pray daily or weekly:
ntm.org/magazine



I felt like a one-year-old

“Beautiful hair. Caballo que linda.” I said, pointing to the curly brown hair of our tiny neighbor Camila. Her mother looked so confused that I touched my own hair and said, “Caballo?” “No, no,” said Camila’s mother. “Cabello.” That’s when I realized I’d said something like, “Beautiful horse.” That same day I told someone that our son Elisha was a “fire boy” when I meant to say he was a “strong boy.” It’s kind of humbling for a 25-year-old mother of four who moved to a foreign land to

CONNECT WITH...



Rachel Dapper

Field of service: West Africa
Sending church: Community Bible Chapel, Hayward, California

“I grew up in a Christian home and accepted the Lord when I was 5 years old. Since then I wanted to serve the Lord as a missionary, but it wasn’t until 11 years old that I really got serious about it.

“As a teen, I went on several missions trips. Those experiences allowed me to see God’s work in ways I never had before. After that the Lord led me to apply for NTM’s training program and the two years were a huge blessing.

“He’s been faithful through each step, and the journey has just begun.”

ntm.org/rachel_dapper

“reach people for Christ” to be on the comprehension level of a one-year-old. But I am getting used to the idea that the Lord can and will use even my helplessness and confusion for His glory.

— *Moirra Hall, Paraguay*

Now I know what discipleship looks like

Possibly my favorite part of the NTM missionary training was my teachers/mentors. One couple in particular really took me under their wing and spoke truth in love to me. They really had a grasp on how believers are supposed to pour their lives into each other. I grew both personally and spiritually because of their loving input.

Sometimes this took the form of popcorn and watching a movie together or just sharing a simple dinner. And in these relaxed times we grew closer together and discipleship took place.

But it was even more than that. This couple gave me a model to imitate. They showed me how to “put my arm around” the Sekadau people and lovingly do for them what they had done for me.

—Naomi Christenson, Sekadau tribe, Asia-Pacific Region



The flood took everything.

Belquis stared at her ruined crops along the riverbank. The flood came so fast and then was gone — taking her livelihood with it. And her mother was ready with “I told you so.”

“I told you not to follow this new God. That’s why this has happened to you. Now how will you feed your three children? You are a Kuna. You have to participate in the dances to the spirits as our Kuna people have always done — or bad things will keep happening.”

But Belquis had listened to the Bible teaching and now believes in the One true God. She knew the flood had happened because we live in an imperfect, sinful world — a world Christ died for.

And while the single mom from Panama wasn’t sure how she would provide food for her children, she knew she could trust in her all-powerful God and Savior.

Belquis was not disappointed.

When Kuna believers learned from the book of Acts that they were responsible to care for their widows and orphans, they refused outside help and instead, pooled their own limited resources and met the needs of seven widows from their own village and five from another — whether the widows were believers or not.

More information about the Kuna people: ntm.org/magazine





Jason and Coralee Garro

Children: Jenna, (2), Luke, (6 months)

Field of Service: Tanzania

Ministry: Church planting

Sending church: Two Rivers Church, Knoxville, Tennessee

"Jason was raised in Southern California and became a believer in high school. Coralee was a missionary kid raised in Papua New Guinea and became a believer at age 5.

"Before we met we both had a passion to reach the lost for Christ. After we were married in December 2005, we began praying about when and where the Lord would have us go. After visiting New Tribes missionaries in Mozambique, our hearts became burdened to reach an unreached people group on the East Coast of Africa but we were unsure when and how to proceed.

So we bought a house and had a baby. In 2008 we realized that we needed to start taking steps to go into missions full time.

"We began missionary training with New Tribes Mission in Missouri in August 2010. After training we will continue partnership development for six months and, if God wills, be in Tanzania by the fall of 2012.

We believe that God wants us to plant a self-sustaining New Testament church among an unreached people group in Tanzania. Lord willing we will learn the unwritten tribal language, make an alphabet, teach the people to read and write, teach them the Bible from creation to Christ, and leave a completed New Testament translation in their language. We are excited to move forward in obedience to what the Lord has laid on our hearts."

ntm.org/jason_garro

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

2 Peter 3:9



Kuna village

Careful what you ask to borrow!

Paul Rasmussen, who had already mastered Spanish, was now learning the tribal language of the Piapoco people of Colombia. The chief, who knew the most Spanish, was helping him.

Paul had already learned a lot of separate Piapoco words, but now felt ready to tackle an actual dialogue. So he asked the Chief to teach him how to properly approach someone and ask to borrow their canoe for a fishing trip.

They play-acted the scenario together until Paul could finally come to the point and say, “May I borrow your canoe so I can go sleep on a sandbar tonight and then go fishing in the morning?”

Paul was excited when the chief called the village together to hear their little dialogue. He knew the people would be pleased at his progress.

So there in front of the whole village, Paul graciously asked the chief, “May I borrow your *daughter* so I can go sleep on a sandbar ...?”

Canoe is “ida” and daughter is “idu.” The people tried hard to stifle their laughter. Thankfully, the chief chuckled too and said, “Oh, we know Paul’s not like that.”



photos by Dale Stroud



*“I have given my body to God
and I have begun to learn things
from Him in a serious way.”
-Herman, Guanano tribe, Brazil*

Recipe for **Tiebou Djemm** (pronounced *cheb jem*) by Dena McMaster

Tiebou Djemm is a delicious dish that's well-known throughout West Africa. It's served in tribal villages and four-star restaurants alike. I've often wondered how the village ladies manage all the difficult steps while cooking over an open fire. But if you want a traditional African recipe to serve to guests, try this one and you'll impress them all. Tiebou Djemm is my daughter Krystal's favorite African dish. It's a bit complicated, but well worth the time and effort.

Ingredients:

- 6 fish filets — any white fish will do
- Parsley stuffing — instructions to follow
- 2 ½ onions — chopped
- ½ c. tomato paste
- 6 c. water
- ½ small cabbage — chunked
- 3 carrots — chunked
- 2 c. turnip, squash or manioc — large chunks
- 2 garlic cloves — crushed
- 1 maggi cube or bouillon cube (chicken or whichever flavor you like)
- Salt and pepper
- 3 cups of rice

Slit each filet and stuff with the following parsley mixture. Set aside any left-over parsley mixture for later.

Parsley Stuffing:

Smash together:

- 1 bunch parsley
- ½ tomato — chopped
- ¼ c. onion — chopped
- 1 maggi cube or bouillon cube
- A pinch of pepper and a clove of garlic

In hot oil (enough to cover the fish), fry the stuffed fish in a deep skillet until it is almost done. Be careful as it will try to fall apart. When fish is almost finished, take out and lay aside on a paper towel.

Put 2 chopped onions and tomato paste in the hot oil. Cook about 15 minutes and then add 6 cups of water carefully to the mixture. When the water boils, add the chunks of veggies and cook 15 or 20 minutes until they are almost done. Add the fish back in and cook another 5-10 minutes.

When done, take out the fish and veggies and lay aside. Then put the leftover parsley mixture, ½ onion chopped, 2 cloves of garlic, a maggi cube, and salt and pepper into the boiling sauce. You need enough water to cook the rice so you may need to add some. Put the rice in the pan and cook it in the liquid, covered. When the rice is done (once the water is absorbed), serve it with the fish and veggies on top.



Comments:

▶ “A couple of the [May 2011 issue] articles I read to my 10-year-old son as devotions. The previous booklet [February 2011 issue] was so good I actually saved it — and I’m not a saver. Then when I heard of three young people interested in missions, I sent them those articles and an NTM training brochure. One girl was thrilled with the information and got back to me that she is praying that God opens and closes doors as to what His will is for her.” SS

▶ “*The Odd Couple, We Don’t Do Sweet Talk* [August 2011 issue] and other stories of tribal people being reached by New Tribes Mission, really speak of the power of God’s Word in the tribal people to save lives spiritually and to change behaviors and attitudes especially in marriages. I used these articles as an example of how God’s Word changes people last week in a teenage girls’ Sunday School class.” ML

▶ “We just received your NTM magazine [February 2012 issue] and I’ve read it almost cover to cover. Both the stories that are recounted and the way they are written should be read by any

and all believers who want to know more about missions — its foibles and fun — if they want to be encouraged to do the same. I want to thank you for the publication. It is the best-written missions “advertisement” ... ever presented to the American churches. May your “tribe” be blessed!” DK

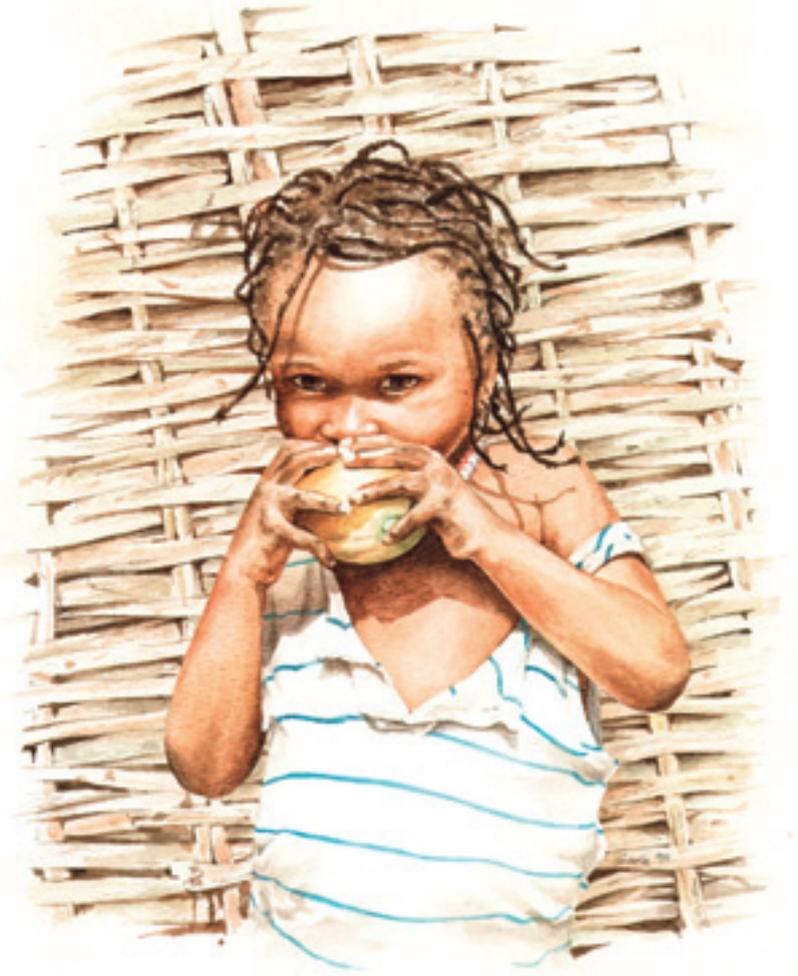
Send your comments to Macon Hare:
macon_hare@ntm.org
1000 E. First St., Sanford, FL 32771

* praise

Pray for God’s continued blessing on Chris and Rachel Thomas’ mountain ministry to the **Northern Tepehuan** people. Pray that He will raise up Tepehuan men to partner as language helpers for Chris. Pray for Chris and Rachel as they open their home in loving hospitality to embrace the Tepehuan people. Pray for God’s work in the lives of the youth who meet in their home for Bible study and that God will continue to prepare the hearts of the Tepehuan people to receive the message of His love.

Pray daily or weekly:
ntm.org/magazine





painting by Sara Matson-Bissielo

“True humility is more concerned with sacrificing so that someone else can get ahead than with pushing to get ahead ourselves.”

“Love as a Way of Life” by Gary Chapman



“We of Siawi Bible Church are still standing strongly in our faith. We, as elders, are still

strengthening the church family, and teaching the women and children God’s Word. How will we of Siawi Bible Church stand strongly in our faith?

We have God’s Word, the Bible. Burdens and difficulties exist, and there are other things to pull us from our faith. **But we have God, His strength helping us.”** — *Nokee, Siawi Church, Papua New Guinea*

An NTM missionary's goal is clear — plant a church, allow the necessary time and teaching for maturity to take place, make sure the people have a Bible in their language and can read it, and appoint and disciple qualified tribal leadership to take over.

But these elders, teachers and leaders must be a special breed indeed — uncrushable in the face of enormous cultural pressure and unshakable from their foundation on the Word of God. You will meet some of these courageous leaders in this issue.



The Pressure Was On

Kuna church elders and their wives gathered together to share at the annual leadership conference. Anelio and Silverixia Garcia were sent to start a church in another Kuna village.

I want to share with you how God has led us. After I came to know Jesus as my Savior I became very sick. As I learned His Book, I saw that God's heart is for the whole world. I told God, if I get well, I will



do whatever You ask; go wherever You choose. Even before I was better, I knew that God had chosen me to go to [another village]. I cannot explain the burden in my heart for those ... who did not know the Savior. God put

mercy in my heart for them. They are so lost, so confused, so far from the Truth.

At that time [my] village came to me and said, "Anelio, you are part of the church. We don't want that for



Anelio and Silverxia Garcia [right] with new disciples

you. You must leave the church and work for the village.” Many people put pressure on me to leave the church. They said I should get a job teaching so that I could make a lot of money. My wife and I talked together. We decided the things of the world don’t matter, that we will serve the Lord.

The pressure went on and on and on. Then one day I was called before the village chiefs. They asked me who I was going to work for, either the church for no pay or for the village with good pay. I told them that God had put this burning desire in our hearts and that we must obey. So the village told us we were foolish.

So that is how we found ourselves in [another village] one year and two months ago. When we left our home I had no idea of what trials we were to face. We arrived there with nothing. Even though we had the village’s permission to be there, no one helped us. People didn’t want to hear God’s Word. The children first wanted to

hear. So we taught them. We prayed and prayed because the people’s hearts were so hard, so full of the love of sin.

Then came the day when one man asked me to teach him God’s Book. That was the start and every day more and more people came. Now there are about 80 adults hearing God’s Word. More than 100 children always come.

It still is hard, but I can look back at God’s faithfulness. How He saved me. How He healed me so that I could go there. How He has given strength and wisdom as we serve Him. It is still hard, but now there are those that have put their faith in Christ and know God’s Word is the Truth. I am so thankful for how God is teaching their hearts. The believers are taking stands to obey Christ. We have an obligation to participate in the village drinking ceremonies or else we have to pay fines to the village. Nevertheless, there are many believers now who have refused to give in to the pressure. They would rather obey God

than gain the approval of the village and their families. But it is not easy. It is not a light thing. It means leaving all to follow Him. Some of the new believers are facing problems because their partner does not know God yet. So they may want to obey God, but their partner doesn't understand.

Every one of the new believers are facing problems. We have been able to share that we really do understand. We have faced the same difficulties in our marriage and family. My dad was so angry with me for working for the church without a paycheck. Money is better to him than anything else, you see. I told him, one day you will

understand. I did not doubt that God would draw my father to Him one day.

Now my father does understand the ministry we have.

So I can encourage the new believers to keep trusting God. He will be faithful to them, too. I know that He, and only He, is enough. Others don't understand. May they one day come to understand God's wonderful provision of salvation and how it is worthy of us giving our all.

— *Anelio Garcia, Kuna Church*

Keep reading for more about the Kuna church from Anelio's wife, Silverixia.



Right:
Arriving for Bible Conference
Below: Kuna Island



Photos by: Jerry McDaniels



Anelio and Silverixia Garcia

Fighting Against the Flood

God has been so faithful in my life. I heard about God's trail from my mother. ... I put my faith in Jesus and His work on the Cross.

I saw God's faithful leading in giving me Anelio to be my husband. God knew my heart's desire to serve Him. There are many men who don't share that burden. But God gave me Anelio, one who is willing to serve and even suffer for God's work. In the beginning our marriage was a disaster. Then we faced sickness. But God raised us up from all these things to serve Him. God chose us to work for Him.

My dad was so mad. "What in the world will you do in [another village]? You have no relatives there. Here you have a coffee garden. Who will help you there? No one! You will suffer. Your children will suffer because of your foolishness."



Photos by: Jerry McDaniels

Silverixia teaching ladies



Since he doesn't know God, he cannot understand. So we went ... depending on God's faithfulness. And although it has been very hard like Anelio explained, God has never let us down.

There is now a small group of true believers in the village. And there are many more that are hearing God's Word for the first time. We are trusting Him for a good harvest.

But it is hard. It reminds me of one afternoon when we went out of the village with our children. We just needed to get away and alone for a little while. We had crossed a river and then all at once a flash flood came. With two little ones, how could we cross the raging river? Big trees had been snapped off and were

floating down. It was dangerous. We tied together some banana plants and made a raft of sorts. Holding onto this we were able to slowly and painfully get across the river and back to the village.

As we were struggling to cross the flooded river, I thought, "This is just like our ministry here. We are struggling to go against the flood. Our energy is gone. Things are desperate. We fear for our children."

But just as God got us safely to the other side of the river, He will faithfully get us through these first difficult years of ministry. We have nothing but Him to depend on. And He is enough.

— *Silverixia Garcia, Kuna Church*

Who will take my place?

Simun is one of four elders in his Punan church. The believers struggle with being pulled away by worldly desires and the cultural ceremonies which involve heavy drinking.

I was born into a family that did not fear God, actually did not even know God. They truly worshipped evil spirits and rocks and trees. And I was brought up in my family to party and drink and do all that goes along with it.

[But in 1994] I first understood the meaning of God's purpose in the lives of mankind and I understood that I needed a Savior. I decided to believe God was able to save me through my believing in the blood of Jesus.

Dave Searcy helped to prepare us [the four elders] to serve the Lord. We were truly very enthusiastic about everything that he taught. We went with him everywhere. He taught us about how to teach others. We studied with him and then we went to teach others as well. So we did not just study but we practiced it.

Whatever he had taught us is what we taught to others. From that point there was growth in the church because of the teaching. People were more and more eager to study. There were many people who truly believed in God at that time and we baptized them.



Photo by: David Searcy



Photo by: David Searcy

Top: Simun preaching;
Bottom: Simun with other church leaders;
Right: Baptism

From the time we were ordained, we have continued to consider the responsibilities that God has given us, the responsibilities that the believers have entrusted to us to lead this church — how to shepherd the believers. We helped disciple leaders for several years. Some of them had studied God’s Word longer than we had but at that time they were still hesitant in their desire to serve the Lord. They did not yet have the courage to truly serve the Lord.

As I consider the future, what I am really concerned about is how to disciple people who can take my place. I am already 40 years old and some of my fellow elders are almost 70 years old. If God were to take us home, leaving this world, then who would be able to replace us? I am thinking about and searching for those who would be able

to replace us ... so that the people will always obey God and will be faithful to build the church. I am afraid it will be like when Joshua lived long ago. At the time Joshua died and others replaced him, it was a very difficult time for the Israelite people. Many of them returned to worship idols and followed after their own desires. That is what I think about regarding our church. How will we find people who truly want to take their part in serving the Lord, who feel a responsibility for this church?

— *Simun, Punan Church*

“How are we going to choose pastors? They are not like bananas that we can peel and see their insides. But You, Great Creator Being, You see their insides. So Great Creator Being, you pick our pastors for us. You will pick pastors that teach us well, walk well, and look after us well.”

— *Mariama believer,
Papua New Guinea*





Masalu on right

For the Landuma people, turning your back on the national religion comes at a heavy price. You can be disowned, wives can be taken away from their husbands and businesses can be ruined. As a result, some will secretly believe but then pretend to still be part of their former religion. Those willing to be counted as believers are few. Those willing or even able to be counted as leaders are fewer still.

Masalu was the first Jesus believer among his Landuma people. He has faced much persecution because of it. He has been a language helper, Bible translator, and coworker with the missionary team since 1992. Believers look up to him as a wise spiritual leader.

Force of a Few

The missionaries preached the Word of God to me and I believed in August 1999. I am very happy because some of my children have heard the Gospel, and I am very confident that two of them are true believers in Jesus.





We ask our fellow believers to pray to God for us that the Word of God would spread like wildfire in Landuma land.



We Jesus believers [in two villages] like to meet together to worship, so that we will be encouraged, since we are few. But we're not able to do that anymore very much because our villages are not close together.

We ask our fellow believers to pray to God for us that the Word of God would spread like wildfire in Landuma land. We're working hard at preaching and translating the Word of God. We have audio players that we are giving to people to listen to the Bible lessons. We have seen that some are listening and understanding

and even believing. But many others, through whom Satan is working, won't allow those who are listening to really believe. Those listening and wanting to believe are afraid.

But in all that, since God is great, we want our fellow believers in other countries to pray for us that the Word of God would spread in Landuma land, that God would give the people a desire to accept and believe the message.

— *Masalu, Landuma Church*



Clockwise from top left: Masalu having a meal with his family and friends; Masalu teaching; A believer's meeting; Missionaries Kirk Rogers and Jim Sheffield baptize Masalu; Landuma woman cooking

“Having a ministry for the Lord is different from being God’s servant. Having a ministry puts a time frame on it. You can usually stop working, close your door, and go home. But God’s servant is always ready, there is no time frame, he never stops to close his door.”

—Anton, Da’an Church,
Asia-Pacific region



The Bible Tells Me So

Because of strong Lawa leaders like Manop, the church has grown greatly.

Now there are believers in about 20 villages rejoicing in the Lord and telling the message to others in Northern Thailand. He has faithfully taught students from different tribes at the training center for many years.

As I came to experience Jesus more, I came to desire to dedicate myself to serve Him because He died for me. When I was still a sinner (Romans 5:8) He declared that I was righteous and saved me from slavery to sin. He took the penalty of my sin — that is death — in my place. I am now free from the penalty of sin (Romans 3:24,25 8:1). I have truly received peace through Jesus. That peace that Jesus gives me is not like what the world gives (John 14:27). I thank God that He has received me as His son (John 1:12). Once I was dead, but now Jesus has given His life to me (Ephesians 2:1-5). Before, I was



Photos by: Don Schlatter



Manop visiting a teacher in another village who has seen the church prosper there.

deserving of His wrath, but He has forgiven me. Before, I was ashamed because I was poor, but now I am rich through faith (James 2:5). I have no real estate, no lands or fields, but I have a kingdom that cannot be shaken as my inheritance from my Father in heaven (Hebrews 12:28). I have no life insurance policy in this world, but I trust in Jesus Christ that He has promised to care for my life in all things. He will not let His children be forsaken, but He will protect, care for, and nourish us as He has always done (Psalm 37:35). I am not saying that if we trust Jesus and follow Him that we won't have any problems, for the Bible says that if we follow Jesus



Manop preaching

we will suffer persecution (2 Timothy 3:12). And Jesus has told us that in this world there will be trouble (John 16:33). But I thank God because no matter what may happen I am absolutely sure that in the end I will meet the Lord Jesus Christ and will be with Him forever (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Amen!

— *Manop, Lawa Church*



I have no real estate, no lands or fields, but I have a kingdom that cannot be shaken as my inheritance from my Father in heaven.



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