



A THRIVING CHURCH FOR EVERY PEOPLE



"An Untraditional Vehicle"
on page 4

ETHNOS 360

MAGAZINE



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FROM OUR CEO



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Dear Friends,

I recall from my Bible college days the emphasis my teachers put on context. Context is critical for proper Bible interpretation. Who is the author? Who is the author writing to? What is the author addressing? How would the hearer of that generation and time understand what the author is saying? What came before in the text? What comes after? These are all important questions to answer if proper understanding is the goal.

I find this same principle in play in the missions world today, related to unreached people groups and how we can reach them. In fact, we use the same word *context* to describe the situation. From the early 1940s and for following decades, NTM/Ethnos360 missionaries found unreached people groups living in very similar situations to one another. They were almost always isolated from the outside world to some degree — sometimes very isolated with no roads, no access to medicine, stores or government services. This was the context they were found in.

In recent decades, that picture has changed dramatically. There are still many physically isolated unreached people groups in the world today. But even the most isolated today are less isolated than past generations. We have airplanes and helicopters. Roads have been built. Cell towers have often been installed. And what is more relevant to us as messengers of the gospel, often people groups have physically moved toward the outside world, or the outside world has moved in on them. Though still unreached with the gospel, some now find themselves in a context that is similar to ours. They are living in towns and working jobs. They have busy schedules and, at times, speak multiple languages. But the broader context is that, sadly, many live in countries that do not allow in messengers of the gospel.

So how do we develop strategies to reach an unreached people group in this kind of context? How do we gain access, build a platform from which to operate legally and honestly, while maintaining our core principles of culture understanding, language proficiency, foundational Bible teaching and long-term discipleship toward a mature, functioning local church?

In this addition of the *Ethnos360* magazine, you will read one example among many of what God is doing to reach into these changing contexts.

Yours in Christ,

Steve Sanford, Ethnos360 CEO

NEWS AROUND THE WORLD



Hodi! Hodi!

If you spend any time learning a foreign language, you will quickly realize that each language has words that simply have no direct translation in your native tongue. *Hodi* is such a word in Swahili. It means something like “I’m approaching your house and am asking if anyone is home and if I can come in.” Try that,

Google Translate! Our days in the village are marked by “Hodis,” and although it can be overwhelming, we are humbled and thankful at how much African culture has taught us about hospitality and availability. ... Please pray for wisdom and guidance from the Lord as we are taking steps on this journey of church planting! — *John and Asmara Anyan, Southeast Africa*

THE FAMILY BENEFITS OF MISSIONS WORK

I’ve officially [completed formal] language learning. This is a massive milestone, not just for me personally, but for our family and the ministry we are here for. I couldn’t have done it without my husband. His support and sacrifice are what made it possible for me to get out and learn. He carried our family and held us together through so many transitions. He encouraged me to keep pressing on even when it was hard. I also got to do this alongside my two daughters. If I’m being

honest, initially I saw this as a challenge, to juggle being a mom and a full-time language learner, but as time passed, I saw the privilege it was: the time we spent together as a family, the new experiences we had and the benefit of having our kids with us. When we had them, people were drawn to us because of them, and that helped us to form many friendships with the people of Papua New Guinea. Language was a crucial step—one we couldn’t skip—if we are going to live, thrive and serve well here, especially in the context of a future church plant. There is still a long road ahead. We

still need a team. We’ll need to build our home among an unreached people group. And yes—we will need to learn yet another language, but for today, I pause to celebrate this moment—to celebrate what God has done. He carried me through. He equipped me. And He gets every bit of the glory. — *Jacob and Marissa Kelley, Papua New Guinea*

See how God can use you and your family: ethnos360.org/find-your-fit



CULTURE CORNER: COFFEE COUNTRY

I had the privilege of going on this year’s two-week Encounter trip to Brazil. Our team had the opportunity to visit two coffee farms. There, we learned about the processes of growing, harvesting and drying the beans then to be purchased by roasting companies as “green coffee.” Brazil is the world’s leading producer of coffee — **a third of all the coffee sold in the world is grown in Brazil.** Half of Brazil’s coffee is grown in the state we visited, Minas Gerais — a sixth of the world’s coffee in one Brazilian state! The rich soil, high elevation and ideal climate make Brazil a coffee powerhouse.

— *Megan Bartlett, Staff Writer*



OVERSEAS UPDATE AND EVANGELISM IN THE USA

I wanted to share with you what is going on with the Palawano in the Philippines. Many of our indigenous friends are now believers, [but] ... the church building for the Palawano congregation in the area is still needing funding to complete the construction. [Back in the USA], we had multiple opportunities to share the gospel with attendees at Burning Man [an occultic festival] last year. ... Our theme is Acts chapter 17, where Paul ... expounded to the Greeks about the “Unknown God.” We thank you all so much for your prayers, support and encouragement! We couldn’t do this without you.

— George and Ginny Olson, Philippines

How can you be used of God both at home and overseas?

ethnos360.org/go/find-opportunities



WIRED FOR THE GOSPEL

The Holy Spirit has led us to [get the] precious Words of Jesus out to isolated people located in northern Bolivia via audio and visual microchips and flash drives—isolated people like the Chimane, Yuracare, Trinitario and Ayoré that still live in some remote areas. The past 20 years or so we have been recording Bibles, Bible lessons and music in the languages of these groups.

... We now have 2,000 microchips to distribute plus another 80 solar radios. ... [This picture] shows several sitting by a cell phone with a magnifying glass on it to magnify the video. Even the chicken is in attendance.

— Bruce and Jan Johnson, Bolivia

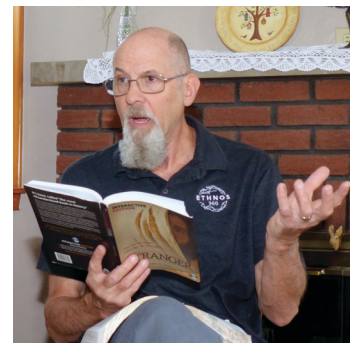


PHILIPPINES BOUND

The preparations for [our travels to] the Philippines are going well. ... In mid-July, the first box with our things traveled by sea to the Philippines, with more to follow over the next few months. The journey will take around two and a half to three months, and you are welcome to pray that they arrive safe and sound at their destination. Otherwise, we are still busy sorting things out.

We are very grateful to the Lord that the mission team from our church has been in place ... and will accompany us in our ministry practically, spiritually and emotionally. We have already had two very good and blessed meetings where we were able to discuss and plan many things. We are very much looking forward to working together and to the support in our ministry.

— Markus and Katja Neufeld, Ethnos360 Germany, Philippines



A CALL TO GO, NOT TO RETIRE

We need help! Years ago, in a Vacation Bible School or Sunday School class, we used to sing a song about “pray and give and go!” So many people still have not yet heard the Good News or have not yet placed their faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. ... In our study groups, Bill is teaching Scripture, showing how nothing we can do is “good enough.” News reports are not bringing much good news these days—whom can you share the Good News with? Please pray for us as we share in churches and wherever we have opportunity.

— Bill and Debby Bosley (relocated—not retired) Ethnos360 missionaries, USA



NEW MINISTRY IDEAS IN MEXICO

Kevin and Wendy Case have been settling into their new house and working on translation with a believer named Pablo. They also attended a “wonderful baptism” of believers. “Continue to pray for ways to reach out to people at the nearby landfill. It is hard to build friendships when they

work so many hours. We have a few ideas we are tossing around but really want to hear from the Lord about it. ... And as always, without your being behind us in prayer and support, we would not be able to do what we do here in Mexico.”

— Kevin and Wendy Case, Mexico

AN UNTRADITIONAL VEHICLE



Photo by Dale Stroud

This year our overall magazine theme has been to highlight the newer things that Ethnos360 is doing in order to reach the unreached and to see a thriving church among every people group. This mission organization has been around for over 80 years, resulting in the use of new technologies, new vocabulary and improved methodologies, but we have never lost the objective of reaching the last unreached people group.

With that in mind, let me recall for you one of the ways that we have expanded our reach into the world: starting businesses. There are many types of businesses that can provide access to places that would not accept someone going as a “missionary.”

I want to introduce you to a couple who is transitioning from traditional missionary methods in order to see a thriving church for every people. Due to the sensitive nature of their ministry, we will not use their real names but will instead call them Francisco and Maria. Both were raised in Christian homes. Both were missionary kids.

Maria said, “Our parents saw the value of teaching us the Word and taking us to church, and both of us came to know Christ as our Savior at a young age. As we grew up in our different settings, we were exposed to a lot of different ministries overseas. It was in our high school years that we got more serious about our personal understandings of who God is and how that plays out in our lives.

“When I had a chance to go on a trip to another country with other youth, God really used that in my life to recognize that my Creator created me for a purpose. And I thought instead of me deciding what I was going to be doing, what about getting to know more of who He is and what He created me for? It was on that trip that I decided to start pursuing where He wanted me to go and what He wanted me to do.”

They both attended a Bible institute, learning, as Maria said, “more about this relationship with my

If you haven't read it, the March issue of the Ethnos360 magazine researched how the Global Partners advance into some of the restricted areas of the world. Here is your link to the magazine if you missed it:

**[go.ethnos360.org/
yet-to-hear](http://go.ethnos360.org/yet-to-hear)**



Excitement began to build within Francisco and Maria as they realized that God had already created a foundation in their lives for this new endeavor.

Creator and my Savior. It was in that time that I, through His Word, saw so much of His heart for the nations and how He desires for them to know Him. We were delighting in the fact of having a hope for the future and a reason for being on this earth, and we wanted others to have that hope as well. That's what took me—took both of us actually—overseas to be a part of other nations being able to have that opportunity.”

Finishing their training, Francisco and Maria began a life together as cross-cultural workers. Their role was a leadership one, helping new cross-cultural workers prepare to go into church planting works. They continued in this area for a number of years, assisting in a number of countries. Their methodology was consistent with that of the organization that had trained them: culture and language acquisition, literacy, translation and Bible instruction leading to planting New Testament churches among unreached people groups.

A NEW IDEA IS PLANTED

Then the Lord began to change their course. Their destination, their goal—seeing God establish thriving churches among unreached people groups—remained the same, but God gave Francisco and Maria a new untraditional “vehicle” by which they would follow His leading. Francisco worded it like this: “God started challenging our hearts to keep going, you know, and not just stay [where we were]. He started to challenge our hearts to go to work where there’s still little understanding of Him, but we were wondering, ‘How? How will we do this in more restricted places?’”

But isn’t God amazing in how He delights in involving us in His purposes? How often do we ascribe His working in our lives to “coincidence”? Francisco continued, “I was on an airplane, and I saw this documentary. Actually, I think Maria told me to watch it. And it was about coffee and [featured] one of the top coffee shops in France. This guy would get on his airplane, fly down to Ethiopia and pick out the beans that he wanted. Then he would take them back to France and roast the beans to serve in his shop. But I was intrigued by the fact that he was at the *actual plantation and picking out his beans*, at a time when *we lived in a coffee-producing country*. It struck me that, where we want to go and work, they drink a lot of coffee, but they don’t produce it there, and I saw a connection of how we could be involved [in a new ministry].”

Excitement began to build within Francisco and Maria as they realized that God had already created a foundation in their lives for this new endeavor. They realized



that they could purchase coffee locally and look for ways to get the coffee to those places where people are serious coffee drinkers but don't have it readily available. They also realized that just as they had been the ones to open up new ministry locations with the mission organization, God was going to continue using them to pioneer new ministry opportunities, but this time through a different vehicle.

Remember that their goal was not coffee centered. Francisco said, "Our goal and heart is to see the unreached people groups of the world reached with the gospel of Christ, especially in countries where extending the gospel using our current methodology would face major challenges."

This new idea started with that documentary about coffee, and then God took it from there. He started bringing opportunities and people to them; someone offered to supply green coffee beans, another offered to show them all the ins and outs of running a coffee company, and another shared their business plan.

Once again, God was going before them, preparing the way. They opted out of getting a four-year university diploma in business. Instead, they decided to start taking coffee courses and learning how to roast coffee, purchasing a small roaster. This led to some excellent training

with a top micro-roaster and other coffee experts, learning about green coffee beans and sensory skills (or taste testing). Along the way, they realized that they needed more than just the product; they needed to learn how to run a business. Again, God answered: They were able to take free night courses in small business management and entrepreneurship at a local community college.

Francisco and Maria continued with their saga: "We were trying to find a location to set up our small roaster where we were, and we got to know a businessman who was following our journey. One day he told us, 'Hey, I talked to somebody that you really need to meet. He owns a coffee shop.' So, we went to meet him and his wonderful team and found out that they have a vision that was in many ways similar to ours. Then they offered us an internship with them for three months.

"We learned so much from them during that time. Not just doing barista-type work but understanding how their business operated and how they engaged with their employees and community."

A STRUGGLE

One of my questions for Francisco and Maria centered on any cultural issues that they found most troublesome. I was at first amazed and then very understanding at

"We learned so much from them during that time. Not just doing barista-type work but understanding how their business operated and how they engaged with their employees and community."



Photo by Unsplash

**“Am I allowed to do this?
Is this spiritual?
Am I allowed to want to do business?
Am I allowed to be a businessperson?”**

their response. They had both been raised by missionary parents and had ministered in the “traditional” way for over 20 years. [Editor’s Note: “Traditional” usually means living openly as a missionary, translating the Bible, working in literacy, group teaching of the Scriptures and worshiping openly.] Now, they were stepping away from the “traditional” to be able to move into a new area. As Francisco put it, “In my own mind, I’m like, ‘Am I **allowed** to do this? Is this spiritual? Am I allowed to want to do business? Am I allowed to be a businessperson?’ And it was nobody necessarily telling me this, but it came from, perhaps, the way I grew up. I’m thinking, ‘Is this even OK?’”

“And God in His grace continues to show that for us—maybe not for everybody—‘Yes, this is what I want you to do.’ That was probably our biggest hurdle, and even now it’s still a struggle regarding our identity in a way because we had been functioning for so long in this [traditional] missionary identity, and now we needed to set that aside for another context.”

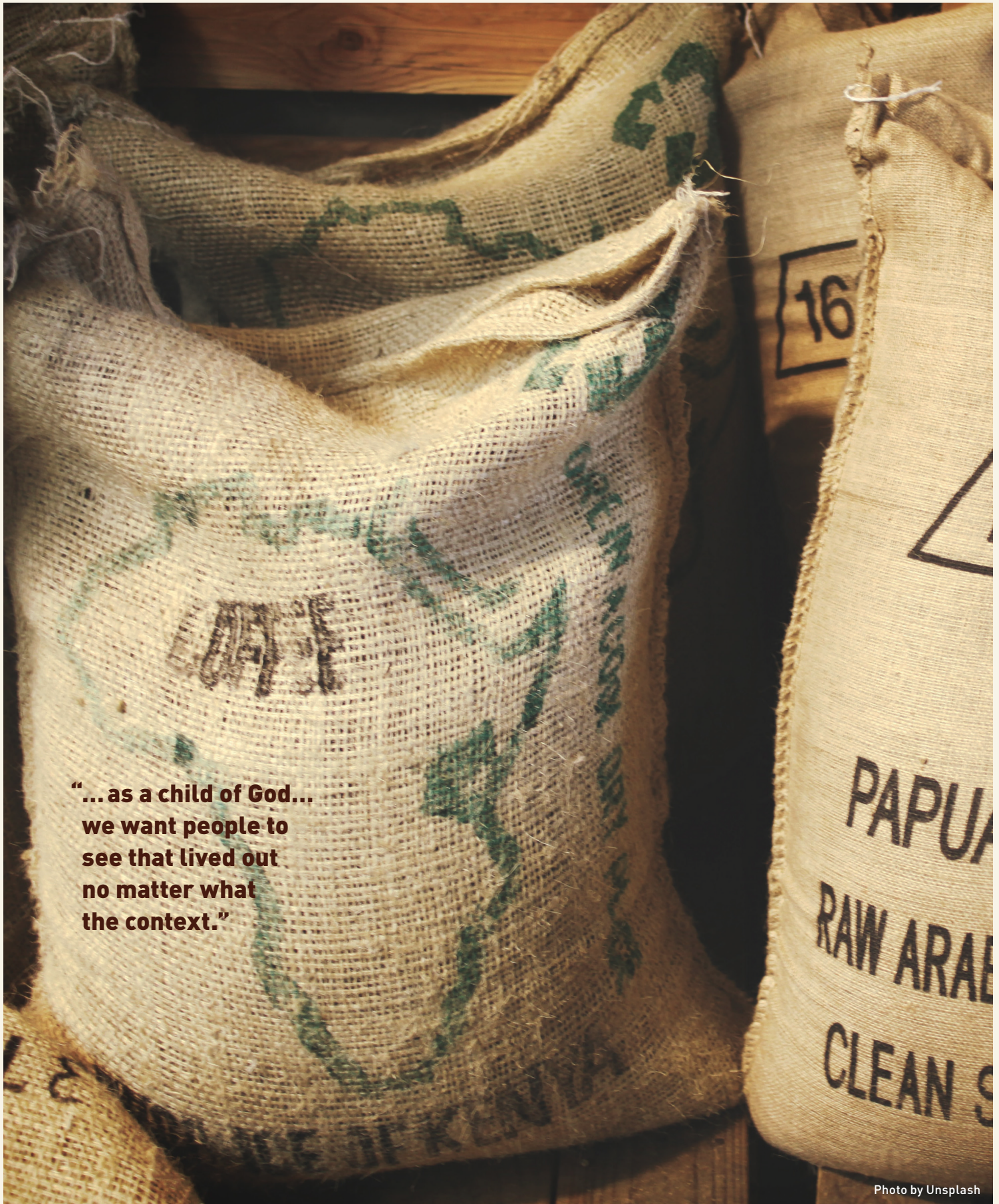
Our identity—what do we base that on? I understood their dilemma, having been raised in an organization myself where our identity is strongly based in the organization. Then, Francisco gave this incredibly enlightening picture of bringing to the forefront a different identity to meet the needs of the moment.

“In the Scriptures you see Paul, right? And he was a Jew. He was a Pharisee. Later you see he was a Roman

and that became very, very important. And he needed that identity to engage with people. He was a philosopher, and he was able to use that identity to engage a certain group of people there in Athens. Later, he was a tentmaker. He worked with leather, and he worked with these tents, probably for the Roman military. But he had a skill—or a craft—which helped support what he was involved in. He was a preacher and a teacher. In one way, he was all those things all the time. Yet, he used different identities to gain access and to engage with people within particular contexts.

“This has been something that we’ve worked on, that we’re still working on. And we’ve got to look at things differently, within our different identities. As a Roman, Paul would look at a certain context a little bit differently than he would as a Pharisee, and then he would engage with that context in a different way. However, as a child of God (**and that’s our core identity**), we want people to see **that** lived out no matter what the context.” By assuming an identity that is more relevant and comfortable to the people they are engaging with, Francisco and Maria hope to “be a part of giving people a chance to hear the Good News.”

How refreshing it was to hear that! Listening to Francisco speak about the new “vehicle” that God had provided for them, I was encouraged to realize that being a cross-cultural worker is not and cannot be restricted to one stereotype. When we follow what God wants us to do,



**“...as a child of God...
we want people to
see that lived out
no matter what
the context.”**



10



- A. Coffee cherries
- B. Roaster
- C. Roasted beans
- D. Cupping (tasting)

The main thing is obedience to what God is asking, whether it fits our traditions or looks completely new, keeps us within our comfort zone or stretches our boundaries, or whether it feels like it is within our abilities or forces us to recognize our inadequacies.

there are innumerable ways that you and I can minister and be just as effective.

LOOKING AHEAD

What are the next steps for Francisco and Maria? They need to do some market research to find the best place to set up a coffee company—that’s different vocabulary from the “traditional” method of evangelism, isn’t it? Francisco said, “We’re going to be asking God to lead us. That’s going to be the big thing. And yet, of course, we’re going to be aware of what people groups are in what area. Wherever we establish [this business], we want to engage with God’s people who are already there, and [we want] to see if they already have a vision for the unreached.

“The idea is to be set up in a way that we are wanted, paying taxes, employing locals and giving back to the community. But while we’re there, we’re not going to hide the fact that we are Christians—although we will be discerning regarding how we use this word. We need wisdom to know how we can engage with local brothers and sisters in that area. As we learn what their vision is, we are going to really need the Lord’s wisdom to know how to move from there into the next steps. As our credibility grows and as opportunities present themselves to teach as well as to share what God has on our hearts, we would love to be participants in what God is already doing there on the ground toward giving these least reached people groups access to the gospel. But we also recognize that God may bring in other people from outside to be a part of this as well.”

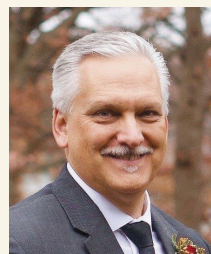
FINAL COMMENTS

As we look back at over 80 years of cross-cultural work and ministries, there have been quite a number of changes. Our technology has changed dramatically. Even our vocabulary has changed. Nevertheless, one thing has not changed—our vision. As it is with Francisco and Maria, our vision is to see a thriving, mature church in every people group. And that vision has seen any number of changes in the “*how to reach them*” category. With each year that passes since our organization’s inception in 1942, more and more restrictions have been put in place to prevent missionaries from openly bringing God’s Word to those who have yet to hear. And now Francisco and Maria are part of an ever-changing group of cross-cultural workers who have stretched beyond the “traditional” into creative ways to reach people.

Not everyone may agree with the vehicle being used, and not everyone may be in a location where they need to make this transition. The main thing is obedience to what God is asking, whether it fits our traditions or looks completely new, keeps us within our comfort zone or stretches our boundaries, or whether it feels like it is within our abilities or forces us to recognize our inadequacies. The two of them said, “We are very supported [by our leaders] and nearly all of our partners and churches; without that it would be very difficult. So, if what we say here could help bring more understanding [about this new ministry reality], that would be wonderful.”

As Francisco mentioned, the Apostle Paul had many identities. In 1 Corinthians 9:22b, we read, “I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.” As Francisco and Maria step out with their new identity as coffee people, let’s stand behind them in prayer, asking God to direct them to the best location to use coffee as a way to reach the unreached. May they be bold and courageous, and may God continue to make the next step clear. May they be intentional with those He has placed in their lives all along the way.

And, the next time you walk into a coffee shop, be reminded that God can use any venture as a vehicle for reaching the unreached.



Contributing Writer

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.



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TO DEEPEN
YOUR KNOWLEDGE
OF SCRIPTURE,
GROW IN YOUR WALK
WITH THE LORD
AND BE FURTHER
EQUIPPED
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PRAY Hard to Reach



“One of the privileges of the Interface program for us was getting to take eight of the students into Iski for six days.... Right off the bat, they got a taste of why these people are considered hard to reach: the travel logistics.... After six hours of extremely bumpy travel [by open-back truck], we arrived at the river, where we met our Iski boat driver and his 30-foot dugout motor canoe. Not long after setting off, we began to have engine trouble.”

The group stopped at a nearby village, and a man there graciously lent them a new motor. As they waited for the new motor to arrive, “the villagers shared their desire to have God’s Word translated into their own language. That opened the door for me to explain what Ethnos360 does and to walk them through the church planting and Bible translation process we followed in Iski. Hopefully, a seed

of interest was planted —and maybe one day, these people, called the Abu people, will come to know their Creator. It was such a God moment and a great reminder that even in delays, He is ordaining conversations.”

After traveling nine hours through the dark by canoe, the group finally made it to their destination. “So yes, those students got a little taste of why hard-to-reach people are truly hard to reach.”

Pray that Christians will take up the challenge to reach hard-to-reach people groups like the Abu and the Kominimun, a group in Papua New Guinea who has been persistently pleading for someone to come teach them God’s Word.

— *Jason and Nisae Williamson, Papua New Guinea*

PRAISE He Renews Believers’ Minds



One Sunday, several Kaulong men were sharing Scriptures regarding godly living, which included 1 John 2:28-29 and 1 John 2:15-17. One of them, in wanting the folks to engage with what he said, was giving cultural examples of both good and bad actions and asking the people about each one, “What do you think? Does this action belong to Christ? Does that action belong to Christ?” Folks were responding accordingly.

When the last man teaching sat down, something uncharacteristic happened. One of the women, thinking about the currently circulating sickness, spoke up, “So, what does God think if we were to rely on the ginger root spirit or other incantations to make sick people well?”

Immediately, one of the older men stood up from where he’d been sitting, “No. When we were ignorant of God, we used to do those things. But the verses we heard today clearly say that those things of the world are not part of our lives as Christians.” Thank God with us for how He continues to renew the believers’ minds through His Word.

— *Peter and Pam Van Der Decker, Papua New Guinea*

PRAISE The Road to Graduation

Praise God that four Mexican students graduated from the Mexico Bible Institute in Chihuahua in May. Two students, married couple Vicente and Monica, had an especially challenging journey to graduation. Vicente, son of a Tarahumara pastor, lost his eyesight several years ago as a result of some bad decisions he made as an unbeliever. When he and Monica put their trust in Christ, they decided to attend Bible school “so that Vicente might become a helper as he worked with a missionary on the translation of the Bible into his dialect [of Tarahumara]. The first year was very hard for the couple: leaving their home in the mountains, having to adjust to a level of Spanish that they were not familiar with, leaving their two boys with their grandparents (the boys eventually joined their parents in the city), living in a big city and taking classes all in their second language.... But they persevered.” They even decided to retake the first year of classes to really understand the content. “What a difference this last year made. They often mentioned how encouraged they were to finally see and

understand God’s grace, which was meant for more than just our salvation, but for our daily walk with Him. ... [T]hey plan on returning to their local village where they desire to help others understand God’s Word and

apply it to their lives. Vicente will also continue to help with the translation process as a comprehension checker.”
— *Ryan and Rebecca Beachy, Mexico*



Sending Christmas Gifts to Missionaries

ethnos360.org/give



The best way to send a monetary Christmas Gift to your missionaries is to give through the Ethnos360 Home Office. To ensure that your gifts arrive before Christmas, mail a check payable to **Ethnos360** to arrive by Nov. 24 or give online at ethnos360.org/give by Nov. 24.

Ethnos360 has limited the amount of individual non-taxable Christmas

gifts to \$250.00 that may be given to a missionary. For gifts over \$250.00, the difference of the gift will be considered income to the missionary.

Please do not send a package overseas unless you check with the missionary. In some cases, custom charges can exceed the value of the gift. Mailing cash or checks internationally is not advised.



INTERFACE

YOUR COLLEGE-LEVEL MISSIONS COURSE ACROSS THE GLOBE

PAPUA NEW GUINEA 2025

This past summer in Papua New Guinea, I had the privilege of spending five weeks seeing first-hand what God is doing among the nations.

Through the Interface program, we students had the opportunity to learn from veteran missionaries, worship with believers from another language and culture, experience the joys and struggles of cross-cultural ministry and so much more.

While many dear memories have remained with me after returning home, one thing in particular has weighed heavily on my heart.

As I reflected on this trip, I was deeply convicted of the fact that there are people in Papua New Guinea, believers and unbelievers, tribal folk and town folk, reached and unreached, that I now know by name. Yet so many [people] back home have no idea who these people are.

Week after week, we walk into our carpeted, artificially lit church buildings. Meanwhile on the other side of the world, there is a [people group], very near a village I visited, which does not and will not have a church in their own language unless someone goes to them, learns their language and shares God's Word with them.

I know that [people group's] name now.

More importantly, the Lord knows their names, and He desires that they know His name (1 Timothy 2:4). Incredibly, we are assured in Scripture that one day there will be people from every tribe and tongue worshipping the Lamb (Revelation 7:9). But that is not yet a reality. There are still countless people groups who do not know Christ's name.

Coming home, this knowledge deeply burdened me. However, I was

faced with the realization that many Christians do not share that burden.

The question arose, "How am I to respond?" I could assume that people simply do not care or that if they were more spiritual, they would see the need. Or I could recognize that I experienced something life-changing this past summer, something not many have the privilege of witnessing.

I saw Christ's name being made known. I experienced the hope of the gospel in new ways. I heard stories of [people groups] begging for missionaries to come to them.

I could keep these things to myself, looking down on those who do not hold the same convictions I now have. Or I could be a voice for the countless lives in Papua New Guinea who touched my life. I could share their stories with those back home who may otherwise never hear of them and the incredible things God is doing in their land.

Quite honestly, I don't think I could do otherwise. I know too many names now — names of those whom Christ knows. Some of them are my brothers and sisters in Christ, leading lives of sacrifice that put me to shame. Some of them I never met in person, but my heart bleeds knowing they are still waiting to hear the gospel for the first time. All of them are loved by God, precious in His sight.

The question remains, "How will I respond?"

As the great missionary C.T. Studd once said, "Only one life, 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last."

This life is so short. Will we, in everything, live for Christ? Will we spend our lives for the sake of knowing Him and making Him known? I pray that we will.

I pray that in all things we would live in such a way that we can honestly say, "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20:24).

Christ is worthy of this.

— Rebecca Asi



ENCOUNTER

LEARN. SERVE. EXPERIENCE.

BRAZIL 2025

I'm incredibly thankful to God for my time in Brazil and for the amazing believers I had the privilege to meet.

It was powerful to witness how God moved beyond language barriers and cultural differences to unite us as one Body in Christ. The Brazilian community showed the love of Jesus in such practical and genuine ways — whether it was washing hundreds of dishes for the fortieth time that week with laughter ringing through the kitchen, singing in English and Portuguese in perfect harmony or sharing testimonies through Google Translate.

Their humility and wholehearted willingness to serve the Lord in everything deeply challenged me. Their vulnerability and joy reminded me of what it means to follow Jesus with passion. I was struck by the truth that Christ truly died for all — and that His love fills our hearts to the point where we can't help but praise Him.

With that in mind, how can we not join in the Great Commission — to carry the gospel to every tribe, nation and tongue?

— *Tori Fregm*

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Renovate to Reach is a single, unified campaign with one vision and two locations:

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At the Ethnos360 Training Center, renovating buildings is essential to equip laborers with the tools they need to reach the unreached.

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**RENOVATE TO REACH:
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**RENOVATE TO REACH:
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A THRIVING CHURCH FOR EVERY PEOPLE



Photo by Joel Potter

CANADIAN ARCTIC PROJECT

The previous magazine issue had an article about the new Canadian Arctic work among the Inuit. Working in the Arctic is very costly, and taking the gospel to those living in this area requires strategic research and planning. Before missionaries can be sent into the area, a multi-location Ministry Opportunity Assessment (also known as a people group assessment) must be completed. Your generosity will help raise the \$115,500 needed for the assessment of nine villages in Arctic Canada. Following the assessments, strategic allocation of missionaries can be determined. The missionaries can then begin the process of culture and language acquisition, leading to a presentation of Truth in those locations.

go.ethnos360.org/arctic-project



PRAY The Clarity of the Gospel

John, the newest member of the translation team, recently checked the Gospel that bears his name: John. Modern-day John was fascinated with the narrative. The biggest reaction came when the purpose of John's testimony was read from John 20:31, "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."

John turned to Jamie and said: "This is so clear; so easy to understand. If someone believes in Jesus, they can know they have eternal life."

So, why do my people say something different? If you ask them if they are going to heaven, they just shrug their shoulders and say, 'I have no idea if I have eternal life. I wonder what God will say about me when I die.' Yet here it is clearly written that we have eternal life if we believe in Jesus!"

Please pray for the translation of the Gospel of John to be completed in a timely manner so that it can help many to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and be granted eternal life.

— Jamie and Char Hunt, Paraguay

CONNECT WITH NEW MISSIONARIES



ALICE WALTERS

Serving in Papua New Guinea

Sent by Northwoods Church,
Cornell, Wisconsin



[ethnos360.org/missionaries/
alice-walters](https://ethnos360.org/missionaries/alice-walters)

Alice was born and raised in Wisconsin. “I was born to Christian parents but lost my father to cancer when I was four years old. [I] experienced some very difficult things during my mother’s second marriage and eventual divorce. Finally, she is now married to a man who loves the Lord and has redeemed the role of ‘father’ in my life.

“I was told the truth of the gospel as a child and claimed to believe even into adulthood. However, I lived the way I pleased in my teens and twenties until my choices placed me in a miserable

situation.” She was saved in 2012 while reading John 4. “I finally stopped blaming God for my suffering and agreed to trust that He would take care of me.”

She has spent her adult life serving others. She spent six years in the US Army National Guard where she was trained as a medic. She served many summers at Bible camp as a counselor, cook and camp nurse. In 2016, Alice received her RN (registered nurse) license.

“[God] walked with me through all my years of education — bachelor’s

degree, nursing degree, [Ethnos360 Bible Institute], ETC [Ethnos360 Training Center], and through MPD* (which was terrifying for me).”

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is where the Lord has taken Alice “to serve church planters and PNG nationals as a nurse in the clinic at the highlands mission base [which has] a family practice clinic which offers check-ups, physical assessments, labs, x-rays, minor surgeries, vaccinations, medications [and] treats some emergencies.

“[God] brought me to PNG where I am learning the trade language and preparing to work as a nurse in the clinic here. I also have countless opportunities here to assist with nursery, children’s church and discipleship with other women.”

**MPD (Ministry Partnership Development) is Ethnos360’s term for the process by which missionaries acquire and maintain support for their ministry. This includes finances, prayer, accountability and encouragement.*



ANDY & MARTHA WEGNER Max, Sylvie & Margot

Serving at Ethnos360 Home Office

Sent by Fellowship Bible Church,
Little Rock, Arkansas



[ethnos360.org/missionaries/
andrew-and-martha-wegner](https://ethnos360.org/missionaries/andrew-and-martha-wegner)

Andy and Martha are entering the Mobilization and Communications departments at Ethnos360’s Home Office as products of the ministry of mobilization. From a very young age, Andy was captivated by the world of missions, thanks to his globally minded church. But as he grew up, that passion took a back seat — until he went to Wayumi with his church’s youth group and the Lord rekindled that personal desire to be a part of missions. Andy then took the next step of going to Ethnos360 Bible Institute in his hometown of Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Martha also had the desire for global mission work, beginning in high school after she had the opportunity to take short-term trips with her youth group. Then, when she was a college student, missionaries from Ethnos360 came and shared about their church planting ministry in Papua New Guinea, and God ignited a fire in her for this ministry to the unreached.

Their paths crossed in 2017 at Ethnos360 Bible Institute. Martha came in with her set-in-stone, 20-year plan of being a church planter, and Andy came in, hesitantly taking the next step that God had made clear during his time at Wayumi. Since that time, the Lord has graciously and patiently brought them both to a place that says, “Not my will, but Yours,” and they trust that the Lord will direct their path in His timing and His way.

The journey to working at the Home Office has been anything but linear. After Bible school, Andy first received his diagnosis for Lyme disease, something that he had likely been dealing with for the last decade of his life. After a season living in the Milwaukee area, they felt the Lord leading them back to Martha’s hometown of Little Rock, Arkansas, so they could spend time with their future sending church. It was a sweet two years of building community there, and then they left in 2023 to attend Ethnos360 Training Center in Missouri, with the goal of being equipped for church planting. Just a few months into their time there, Andy’s health hit an all-time low with his Lyme disease relapsing as well as facing some issues with mold in the area. They made the hard decision to step out of training, knowing this meant God was closing the door to the ministry of church planting among the unreached overseas.

After taking some time to rest and heal and seek the Lord on what was next, Andy and Martha visited the Home Office, knowing there were great needs there. While meeting with the Advancement team, they saw all that God was doing and the doors He was opening to raise up the next generation of laborers. They asked, “How could we not want to be a part of that?”

CHUCK & MEGAN HODGES and children

Serving in Papua New Guinea
Sent by Life Fellowship of Frederick,
Frederick, Colorado

[ethnos360.org/missionaries/
chuck-and-megan-hodges](https://ethnos360.org/missionaries/chuck-and-megan-hodges)



With a heart for tribal ministry, **Chuck** and **Megan**, together with their children, are in Papua New Guinea where Chuck will use his skills as a nurse to serve others. Chuck shares, "I grew up in South Texas and came to know the Lord at a young age. It was during high school that I truly grasped what it meant to follow Him. Over the years, God has guided me through a remarkable journey, drawing me closer to Himself through various life experiences. In 2004, I began my healthcare career, which sparked a passion for missions.

After nearly two decades of serving as a paramedic and flight paramedic, I decided to pursue a nursing license to expand my ability to serve. Now, I am excited to fully embrace my calling in missions.

"Megan was raised in rural Kansas, where she was taught to know and worship the Lord from a young age. She has always loved Jesus, but when she learned about missionaries in 'the jungle,' she often prayed that God would call someone else to that position. Through God's transformative power and grace, Megan now joyfully

embraces His call to serve in the jungle. She has homeschooled our children and has ministered to both kids and adults within our church through music.

"We have always felt a deep calling to missions, but the opportunity never fully materialized until now. Through [God's] guidance, we have found ourselves aligned with Ethnos360, an organization that shares our vision. We feel profoundly led to serve the missionaries and [people group] communities of Papua New Guinea, fully trusting in God's plan for us."



DANIEL & STACIA MYERS

Serving in Asia Pacific

Sent by Burley Bible Church,
Port Orchard, Washington



[ethnos360.org/missionaries/
daniel-and-stacia-myers](https://ethnos360.org/missionaries/daniel-and-stacia-myers)

Daniel grew up in Washington. His interest in missions was first sparked by a missionary family who served in Brazil. They were church planters who lived among an unreached people group. When they would come and speak at his church, he would listen to their stories and all that God was doing to reach this people group with the gospel. This missionary family's testimony not only inspired Daniel, but it also inspired his older siblings. He now has three brothers serving in the Philippines and a brother and sister serving in Papua New Guinea. From the time Daniel was

about 13, he decided that he wanted to be a missionary — realizing the harsh reality that unless someone goes and tells the unreached, they have no chance of being saved. God has continued to grow Daniel's desire to go to those who have no access to the gospel.

Stacia grew up in Asia Pacific as a missionary kid. Her parents served as church planters among the Buru people. Stacia's desire to be a missionary grew as she saw the testimony of how her parents faithfully served the Lord and persevered in their ministry. They sacrificed so much to see the Buru people reached with the gospel and disciplined to maturity. Stacia says, "God helped me grow in the understanding of His character through the book of Jonah. God called Jonah to go to the Ninevites to warn them of their coming judgement, but Jonah ran the opposite direction because he knew

that God would forgive the Ninevites if they repented. Jonah knew that God is full of compassion and mercy, but he was still so prideful and thought they didn't deserve God's grace. I knew that I was acting in a similar way in thinking that the Buru people didn't deserve to be saved because of how they lived and acted. But I realized that I didn't deserve to be saved any more than they did.

"I knew that my parents' faith was real and that God calls us to sacrifice our comforts and leave our friends and family so that others may hear the Good News of Christ."

Daniel and Stacia met at the former Ethnos360 Bible Institute in Jackson, Michigan, and were married two years later. Then they attended Ethnos360 Training Center in Missouri. There they learned about how to plant a church and how to study a culture and learn a language; they learned practical skills and took classes on spiritual growth. Daniel also took an extra-curricular course in linguistics, which added another eight months to the training, and he graduated in December 2024. Since January, Daniel and Stacia have been raising support to go to Asia Pacific this fall to serve as church planters among an unreached people group.

What do you do?

I took a deep breath. I was visiting my home country and chatting with neighbors. I knew I had a delicate choice. I hoped to form a relationship with them, maybe even share the Good News of Jesus someday. But should I say I was a missionary?

I knew from past visits that the word came loaded with baggage. For many, *missionary* implied colonialism, bigotry or religious fundamentalism. And judging by recent conversations in the neighborhood WhatsApp group, it wasn't unreasonable to think they'd avoid me afterward.

"I help establish micro-enterprises among some of the most marginalized peoples in the world," I said. It may have only worked in that moment, but starting with something more palatable opened up a warm exchange of stories from our travels across the Middle East and Asia.

As the conversation shifted to what had drawn us abroad, I shared my two-fold passion: to help people affected by poverty, conflict or lack of education and to engage in meaningful dialogue about faith and origin stories with those wanting to know more. My neighbors seemed intrigued by our respect for people, even with different beliefs. With some, I shared how many people overseas often live in systems where they must perform or appease to move towards a distant God. However, I've come to understand that God is the One who moved to form a relationship with us.

"I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you" (*1 Corinthians 9:22b, 23*).

Paul clarified that he didn't hide his relationship with Christ or his commitment to the law of God. But he did choose identities most conducive to relating with the people he was with "for the gospel's sake." Whether Jew or someone "outside the law," he knew which identity to pick up or lay down, depending on those he was with.

Core and Wearable Identities

I find it helpful to think about identity in terms of our Core Identity and various Wearable Identities.

My Core Identity is that I am a child of God, an heir with Christ. That's defined by God and can never be taken away.

Wearable Identities are temporary. They're often the roles society uses to describe us. When I teach, I'm a "teacher." But does that fully define me? Am I always a teacher? Would it be healthy if that were my primary identity in my marriage?

Every day, we choose which identity to present. Even the clothes we wear communicate our values. Our speech reveals what we want others to know about us.



What Would You Say?

If I asked you your Core Identity, how would you answer? And what about your Wearable Identities?

Is your church attendance, your job or your involvement in clubs and organizations core to who you are, or are they just temporary roles?

As we age, we gather more identities, far too many to list when someone asks, "What do you do?" So, we choose the identity that fits the moment. Most of us have had to describe ourselves in a job interview at some point. We become good at wearing the identity that fits the situation.

So, how do we ensure we choose the right identity to fit those around us, "for the gospel's sake"?

"Are you a Christian?"

This time I was overseas in a large Muslim-majority country, and of course I wanted to say "Yes!" and share the gospel with my new friend.

But I knew that in his region, many Christians lived in ways he found very strange, even offensive to his conservative rural Muslim values. He'd seen "Christians" who seemed to love eating pork and dressing immodestly to attend churches with loud Western music.

So I tried a different approach:

"Well, yes...but maybe not the kind of Christian you're thinking of."

I spent the rest of the conversation distancing myself from his perception of immorality. It kind of worked, but for the most part, I found myself explaining what I wasn't, rather than helping him understand who I was and Whom I followed.



Paul clarified that he didn't hide his relationship with Christ or his commitment to the law of God. But he did choose identities most conducive to relating with the people he was with "for the sake of the gospel."



So now, with others, I try to sidestep and go straight to the heart. How can I express that I love Jesus, love the gospel and want to share those truths in a way that opens up relationship possibilities?

If I'm in a context where I'd like to read the Bible with someone, I might say, "Yes, some may call me a Christian, but I like to think of myself as someone who loves God's books." With others who seem to dislike religion, I might say, "I'm not really religious in the way you might think. I'm following a relationship that used to be called the 'Way.'" That often sparks curiosity. The early believers called themselves followers of the Way, and, in fact, the term *Christian* only appears a couple of times in Acts as a nickname given by others.

Of course, not all identities work with all people. And that's the point: We get to choose the identity that most helps introduce others to the gospel.



Photos by Dale Stroud

Our Identity for the Gospel

When faced with others' assumptions about who we are or what we believe, we don't have to accept the "boxes" they place us in. Instead, we can use how we communicate our identity to offer them a new way of seeing us, perhaps a new "concept box" that reflects our relationship with people, with God and with the gospel.

Just as Paul wrote about the gospel, we do this so that we might share the blessings of the gospel with them.

As we speak with others, are we putting them first? Could God use an identity we choose as a route for them to hear the gospel? What identity will build a bridge, not a barrier? Sometimes, the identity we adopt will challenge people. But at other times, like Paul, we may choose an identity to "win those"—to "save some."

The author and his wife served in a restricted context in Asia for 17 years. Their children are now working or at university. They currently help set up and guide new and existing teams in the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia and Southeast Asia.

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