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ETHNOS 360

MAGAZINE



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ETHNOS360 magazine

(ISSN 1527-9057)
Vol. 84 | Issue 3, 2021
#020075

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Ethnos360 magazine is published by Ethnos360.
Periodical postage paid at MID-FL, FL
32799-9625

Postmaster: Please send address changes to
Ethnos360 magazine, Ethnos360, 312 W. First St.,
Sanford, FL 32771-1231

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in the USA on a year-to-year basis. To receive the
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If you no longer wish to receive *Ethnos360* magazine,
please send a note and your name and address to
Ethnos360 magazine, 312 W. First St., Sanford, FL
32771-1231.

The magazine may be read online at
ethnos360.org/magazine.

Requests to reprint articles should be directed to
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Cover photo by Dale Stroud



FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friend,

This year we chose to step back from our usual format of reporting on so many exciting stories going on with our church planting teams around the world. It seemed with all the changes taking place around the world that it would be wise to gain a broader perspective on the task that lies ahead of us in reaching the remaining unreached people groups.

In the first issue this year of *Ethnos360* magazine, we defined and described the term *unreached* and the criteria we use to determine where to send workers. In the next issue we shared how the context of ministry within these unreached peoples is radically changing with unstable political climates, nearly 70 million refugees seeking to get out of harm's way, high exposure to the internet and digital resources, worldviews positioned against the gospel and other factors. We shared both the commitment we as servants of the Church must have if we are going to impact the world for Christ and the sacrifice we need to be prepared to accept.

I'm excited to present this issue to you. It talks about the incredible global team we are so blessed to be a part of as we labor together in Christ's mandate to reach the world for Christ. We represent Ethnos360 in the United States, but we want you to see and appreciate the extended team we are part of. I know you will be encouraged as you read this issue and are reminded again that Christ is using His Church around the world and continues to fulfill His promise that He will build His Church! The day is fast approaching for Christ's return, and I pray that He will find us deeply engaged in what He has asked us to do—to make disciples of all peoples.

Yours in Christ,

Larry M. Brown, Ethnos360 CEO

NEWS AROUND THE WORLD

CHURCH GROWTH MINISTRY

Over the years, elders from churches on the island of New Britain, Papua New Guinea, noticed that even though there are many churches in different language groups in the region, there are still major needs for discipleship and for less dependency on missionaries for help. Furthermore, there was not a lot of fellowship and unity among these churches.

Several elders and missionaries studied to see what the Bible has to say about how churches should function and then to help the churches grow to reflect that. Their focus is to develop leadership within the churches of New Britain and to equip them to address all spiritual, ministry and technical needs themselves. To do this, they are refining their vision for the national leadership team for the PNG churches, creating curriculum that the churches could use in addressing needs and equipping, and teaching and discipling the church leaders throughout the region.

So far this year, this ministry team has worked on leadership development in Central New Britain and the North Coast. They also facilitated church-building projects for the Bala and Ata churches. Many churches throughout the region helped with the finances and the building, fostering unity among the churches.



CULTURE CORNER

Counting Objects the Hewa Way

Not everyone counts on their fingers the way Americans do. Ethnos360 missionary Jonathan Kopf shared the unique way the Hewa people of Papua New Guinea count. They start with their fingers and arm parts and then move up the side of the head, ending with the nose. For example, they may

point to their shoulder without uttering a word, and you are supposed to recognize that they just “said” the number ten. When they start counting on their hand, they start with the thumb and then go to the index finger. But instead of holding the fingers up as we do in the USA, they curl them down.



ISKI NEW TESTAMENT

The New Testament translation for the Iski people of Papua New Guinea is progressing well! In early 2020, translators finished 50 percent of the New Testament. However, there was still a lot of proofreading, corrections and verifications to be done before publishing these portions — which is what the missionaries and their Iski translation

helpers have been doing since then. Now, 200 copies of these translations have been printed and transported to Papua New Guinea. The translation is also available on an Android app so that the Iski with smartphones and tablets can access them that way.



SIAWI CHURCH CONFERENCE

Linda Krieg, retired missionary to the Siawi people of Papua New Guinea, shared that the Siawi church leaders have volunteered to host the next evangelical church conference for their region this September. In a world without nearby stores, this big meeting will require much planning. In preparation for meals for the influx of visitors, the sago starch packet supply needs to be built up and ready as well as several wild pigs and many fish killed and preserved. Wisdom is needed for setting the conference theme and for choosing speakers from the various church groups.



NEW SURPRISE HELICOPTER!

Recently, Ethnos360 Aviation promoted the need for three helicopters for Papua New Guinea (PNG). Through you, God has provided the first R66, and we are just over halfway to the second one. If you would like to give to the PNG project, go to: go.ethnos360.org/helicopters

Meanwhile, the Asia-Pacific region also had a pressing need for a helicopter. A Canadian donor seeking a project to fund agreed to provide not only for the helicopter but also for the outfitting and shipping to the field. Rejoice with us at God's downpour of blessing, as this helicopter will serve as an essential tool for the spreading of the gospel in Asia Pacific.



GUANANO OUTREACH

Do you remember the evangelistic outreach the Guanano church in Colombia made to a neighboring Cubeo village? The discipleship of new believers in that village was halted by the pandemic last year. Now, three Guanano believers — Orlando, Rey and Leoncio — will begin a Bible study through the book of Acts to help disciple the new Cubeo believers. Please pray for the growth of the Guanano teachers and Cubeo people.



TURU LITERACY WORKSHOP

Darcy Berglund, missionary in Asia Pacific, shared about the literacy workshop that her co-workers will teach to the Turu people. “The team has been working hard these past months both to prepare for and then to complete this overwhelming project. Imagine learning how to read Turu, with six vowels, each with six different tones equaling 36 vowels to learn! They will need prayer as they get everything printed, finish up translating the teacher’s guides and begin to figure out the logistics of teaching literacy to the Turu people and training literacy teachers.”



WHAT MAKES US WHO WE ARE?

One thing that we can be sure of is change. We live in a changing world—culture changes, fads are by nature changing, whatever “favorite” you have today may be changed tomorrow. On the other hand, we have an unchanging God, and it is He Who continues to work changes in each of our lives. Likewise, He has guided Ethnos360 through many changes over the years. Time and space won’t permit me to tell you the whole story, but I would like to take you on a journey that touches on the significant points from the formation of New Tribes Mission to who and what Ethnos360 is today. It’s a journey that God by His grace has allowed us to take.

It was back in 1942 that Paul Fleming, Bob Williams and Cecil Dye were led by God to start a mission agency for the purpose of sending eager missionaries to reach the unreached. In the spring of that year, New Tribes Mission was founded.



*The mission quickly
became global in
membership.*

The three men felt the need to have a pledge that would outline their God-given task. The burden on their hearts was to reach the last people group in their generation. Here is a portion of the Founders' Pledge:

"We hereby pledge ourselves:

- A. To work for the completion of the Bride of Christ until death.*
- B. To measure all of our effort in the light of this task.*
- C. To refrain from doing even the good things if they do not contribute to the most important thing: namely, reaching the last unevangelized [people group] in our generation.*
- D. To do nothing that would hinder or detract or render us powerless in the accomplishment of this goal."*

They were definitely not alone in the desire to go to the unreached. There were many young people, single and married, who longed to be used of God to reach people in remote locations with the news of Jesus Christ. Believers responded to the challenge, and the first group was sent to Bolivia in 1942; this group consisted of 10 adults and six children. In October 1943 five of those men were

martyred in Bolivia attempting to reach the Ayoré people group.

Paul Fleming had the desire to see the mission engage in preaching the gospel in "10 countries in 10 years." That goal was reached in only seven years. What had started in Bolivia continued to grow, and by 1954 the countries in which there were missionaries included Colombia, Brazil, Malay (now Malaysia), Paraguay, Japan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Panama, Senegal and three other countries.

Throughout the years, God moved hearts in multiple places around the world, nudging people

to join the work of New Tribes Mission. The mission quickly became global in membership. As a missionary kid growing up in Panama in the late 1960s, I remember that we had missionaries serving in Panama from Canada, Germany, England, Australia, New Zealand, Holland, Denmark and the USA.

GROWING PAINS

You see, the mission had grown from that handful of missionaries to more than 3,000 members coming from multiple countries, languages and cultures. With such numerical growth came increased responsibilities for the Executive Committee that operated from the US home office. With the leadership on the fields being accountable to the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee was functioning as both the “US committee” and the “international committee.” This left little time to develop the structure for partnership and coordination *between* fields, among other things. They knew that change was needed and began seeking God’s direction.

In 2000 the Executive Committee formally concluded that a *truly* international partnership was the best way forward. At two forums (2001, 2002) where several countries were involved, it was agreed that God was indeed moving the mission

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toward a new global partnership with a new leadership structure. The countries involved identified several important issues to be considered:

- The International fellowship of entities would be collectively referred to as “Global Partners.”
- All those who would be included in this global partnership must be able to take ownership of the original mission’s values.
- Non-western input was needed.
- A new global leadership model was presented which would have a worldwide perspective and not be anchored to a single geographical region.
- Intercultural respect was promoted, resulting in harmonious teamwork.





- The Global Partners needed to agree on core doctrine, purpose and values.
- Sending countries should handle their own in-country organizational responsibilities.

In order to begin the lengthy process toward a network of global partners, New Tribes Mission's Executive Committee was restructured into a US Sub-Committee and a Field Ministries Committee. The former took care of all things that pertained to the USA, its departments and training. The latter would be responsible for the following areas:

- Leading in articulating the needs, casting a vision, identifying priorities and formulating strategy in seeing that church planting and

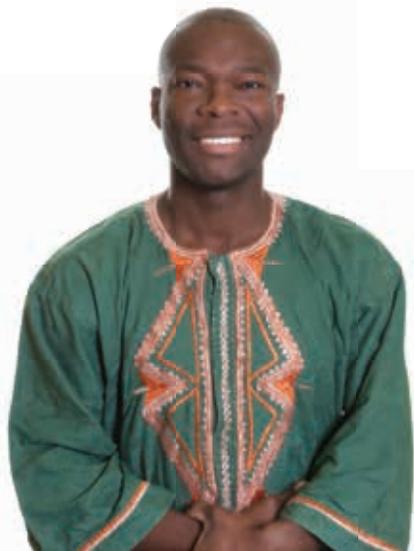
cultivation took place among all the unreached people groups in the world.

- Fostering complementary partnerships in church planting ministries among missionaries from *western, non-western* and *tribal churches*.
- Ensuring that all fields, both existing and planned, would have effective leadership teams and that every church planting team would receive timely consultant help at every stage of their ministry.

The Field Ministries Committee later became the International Ministries Team (IMT) whose main responsibilities were to give leadership to Field Leadership Teams and to build cohesiveness between sending and field entities. This team continues to bring unity and consistency in goals, strategy and methodology across the network of global partners.

ENTER THE GLOBAL MINISTRIES AGREEMENT

In January 2008, a task force made up of 13 men from 10 nations as well as some from the International Ministry Team was appointed to draft the Global Ministries Agreement (GMA). This document would provide the framework of the purpose, doctrine, core values, ministry values and policies for the new network of Global Partners. To be a Global Partner, the leadership of the entity must agree to abide by the framework outlined in



the Global Ministries Agreement. Each entity that signs the Global Ministry Agreement maintains its own identity (e.g., Ethnos360 is still Ethnos360) but becomes one of the Global Partners.

In April 2008, a GMA Board was proposed that would consist of nine members whose main responsibility would be to ensure that all Global Partners followed the Global Ministries Agreement. The GMA Board today has members coming from seven different nations.

In August 2009, there was a forum for the express purpose of introducing and signing the GMA by partner entities.

What had started in 1942 as a single missionary-sending organization known as New Tribes Mission has evolved into a fellowship of member entities that are closely bound together by their purpose and core values, their ministry distinctives (heart language ministries and clear translations of Scripture, for example) and their deep commitment to see the gospel taken to the unreached ethnic groups of the world. This fellowship is called Global Partners.

Global Partner members work to expand the Church beyond the edge where the Church now exists.

PRESENT REALITIES

There are four leadership teams that provide direction in specific areas within Global Partners.

1. On each field, ministry initiatives are led by Field Leadership Teams that give direct

This document would provide the framework of the purpose, doctrine, core values, ministry values and policies for the new network of Global Partners.



leadership and shepherding to the church planting ministries in the unreached people groups.

2. The International Ministries Team (IMT) provides leadership and support for any Global Partner's ministry initiatives, consultant teams and church planting teams in the carrying out of ministry purposes around the world.

The IMT defines the equipping strategies (known as e1, e2, e3—see sidebar for explanations), sets the standards and helps to form





THE STAGES OF EQUIPPING

There are three stages of equipping that all missionaries go through as they are being trained by Ethnos360 in the USA or by any of the other Global Partners around the world. Appropriately enough, those stages are called e1, e2 and e3.

E1: PRE-FIELD EQUIPPING

The Pre-Field Equipping stage begins as the missionary candidate ministers and is mentored in his or her home church. Candidates can apply to one of 10 different training centers within Global Partners. US citizens usually attend the Ethnos360 Training in Camdenton, Missouri.

Once the missionary has completed partnership development and has raised the necessary support, the missionary is able to head to the field of God's choosing. As soon as the missionary lands, the next stage begins.

E2: HOST COUNTRY CULTURE AND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (CLA)

This stage is about learning the culture and trade language (or the language of wider communication) and being mentored by people of the missionary's new host country. This ideally takes place within the setting of the local church of the host country, getting to know pastors and people of the church, some of whom may end up being the missionary's partners. The goal is to get to a level of fluency in the language and of cultural awareness, allowing them to thrive in the host culture. Culture and language acquisition consultants and field leaders will come alongside to give help and guidance during this important time of adjustment to the new ministry context. If you would like to see what e2 is like, here is a short video to watch:

go.ethnos360.org/e2

At this point, the missionary now has the trade language learned and is comfortable in the host country. Now it is time to see where the Lord has planned for the missionary to begin a church planting ministry. Once there, it is time for stage three.

E3: PEOPLE GROUP CULTURE AND LANGUAGE/CHURCH PLANTING

In this stage, the missionary is once again learning another culture and language. Living among the unreached people group they desire to reach with the gospel, they are not merely learning the culture and language. They are cultivating and developing relationships with future brothers and sisters in Christ, with a future new church. Again, consultants and leaders are available as needed to guide the missionary in learning what may be an unwritten language and an unknown culture. The missionary will need to lean on the consultants as they go from step to step with language, literacy, Bible translation, lesson preparation and so many other areas as the Lord builds His Church among the people group to which He has sent the missionary.



*Before he even joined New Tribes Mission,
he went on a mission to reach Iceland
with the gospel — at the age of 18.*



the curriculum of the e1 training. They assist the Field Leadership Teams with guidance and consultative help for the church planting teams.

3. The Global Ministry Agreement Board (GMA Board) is a leadership team who serves all Global Partners by maintaining clarity regarding the commitments that bind us together in the GMA. The GMA Board is accountable to all the Global Partners.
4. Sending entities train, mobilize, connect with sending churches and tend to any other logistical service that helps keep members on the field.

All entities are equal Global Partners, whether they are fulfilling a sending role or a field role or both roles. The ultimate goal of all Global Partners is to see maturing churches planted that will continue to multiply.

As of 2021, there are 31 entities that comprise the network we call Global Partners.

THE STORY OF ONE MAN

I want you to meet Oli Jacobsen, a good friend of mine who actually gave me most of this history lesson. His life was key in seeing New Tribes Mission through this whole process of becoming the network of global partners it is today (Global Partners) with Ethnos360 being one of the global partners.

He was born and raised in the Faroe Islands, those dots of land out in the North Sea between Scotland and Iceland. Before he even joined New Tribes Mission, he went on a mission to reach





Oli and Judy Jacobsen



Iceland with the gospel—at the age of 18. While back in the Faroe Islands, he was challenged to further ministry to unreached people groups by an Englishman visiting the Faroe Islands. Since he had a limited knowledge of English, the Englishman helped him fill in the application to attend the training facility in the USA. It turns out that he along with a friend from the Faroe Islands were the first people from the Faroe Islands to be trained in the USA with New Tribes Mission.

Being a good language learner (English was his fourth language), he was able to complete the missions training course (then known as “boot camp”) and went on to the language institute to continue training in preparation for reaching an unreached people group. The Lord had other plans for him, though: he was married in 1968 to Judy who is from Wisconsin. Both of her parents were born and raised in Germany. So, both Judy and Oli have European roots. They were asked to stay on as staff at the language institute, and in 1976 he became the institute’s director.

After seven years as director, they were asked to move to the Philippines. He served as the director of that field for 10 years.

In 1994, they moved back to the USA to become part of the Executive Committee for the mission, and he became the chairman of the Executive Committee in 2001, ministering in that position until 2007.

At that time, due to his involvement in the move to internationalize the mission, he became the chairman of the International Ministries as well as the chairman of the GMA Board. The main



responsibilities he has in this ministry involve extensive traveling to Global Partner entities worldwide, speaking and being an encouragement to the missionaries at their field conferences as well as helping leadership teams in their responsibilities. He has also been very involved in working with some of the newer sending entities of Global Partners in Europe and Asia.

I stand amazed at how God has worked through Oli Jacobsen's life. Did you see the progression from being a non-English speaker to taking the New Tribes Mission training in English to ministering as a leader in that same mission? And then did you notice that he was the leader of the team that was involved in the change-over from its being a primarily America-based mission to the global partnership it is now? Oli was blessed to lead a multinational team of godly, wise men who had a wealth of experience in their various countries, and together they helped implement the paradigm shift and were able to bring about the creation of the Global Ministry Agreement that binds us together as a global team called Global Partners.

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

Thinking back to Oli's trek from the Faroes to the USA for training, it is encouraging to note that now there are 10 training centers globally to train

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missionaries from different countries and cultures, and that number is steadily increasing.

Where do we stand, then, as a mission? Some people may still think that Ethnos360 is the leadership team for the Global Partners. Not so. Ethnos360 is an equal member among the Global Partners, and its leadership team (the Ethnos360 Executive Leadership Team) is at the same level of leadership as the leadership teams of the United Kingdom, Germany, Brazil, Colombia, Canada or any other entity.

As of this year, there are 2,327 missionaries working together with Global Partners, ministering among 263 people groups. (Of that number



of missionaries, about 1,350 were sent out from Ethnos360.) There are 96 completed translations of the New Testament (usually with portions of the Old Testament as well) with 123 in progress.

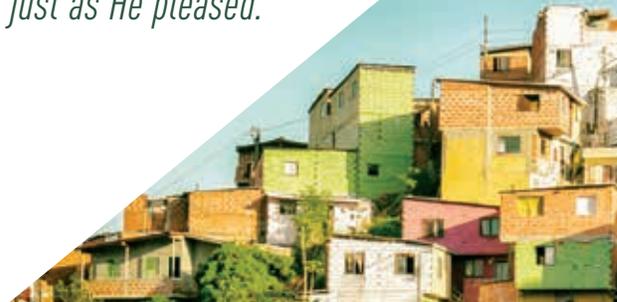
What started out as a tiny body of American missionaries has blossomed into a multi-ethnic, multicultural and multifaceted body of believers with one goal—reaching the unreached with the story of God’s love and grace. The process by which a group of people grew into a network of global entities known as Global Partners reminds me of some verses penned by the Apostle Paul.

“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many... But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased... [T]here should be no schism in the body, but the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually” (I Corinthians 12: 12-14, 18, 25-27).

Let us carry on until He returns, laboring, praying, giving and going in order to see a thriving church for every people group around our globe. May our Lord find us faithful to the task He has given us to go into all the world.



*But now God has set the members,
each one of them in the body
just as He pleased.*



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 and proofreader. Faith Baptist Church of Chetek, Wisconsin, is their sending church and has been behind the Enemarks since they started their ministry with Ethnos360.



Ethnos360 Bible Institute Online

EBI Online

We wanted to make you aware of a recent development for Ethnos360 Bible Institute (EBI). We would like to announce the launch of Ethnos360 Bible Institute Online! Our entire EBI program is now available online. Check it out at e360bible.org/academics/online-education.

Format

A full-time student can complete the entire 64-credit program in two years. With EBI Online, this includes summer classes. The academic calendar is broken down into three trimesters per year (Fall, Spring and Summer) with short breaks between each trimester. This year-long schedule is due in part to the fact that EBI Online targets a different demographic from our traditional campus. Most of our online students are in the workforce. A program that runs year-round makes it possible to spread the academic calendar over a longer period of time.

Because we value foundational Bible teaching, courses are offered in sequence. For example, Pentateuch and Old Testament History are offered before Prophets; the Prophets course is offered before the Gospels and so on. This approach allows us to provide the best possible training for our online students.

All courses were pre-recorded with studio quality. Each course runs seven weeks and is broken down into weekly lessons. Our approach provides the right balance of structure and flexibility. Students can watch the course lectures and complete learning assignments at their convenience during the weekly lesson, as long as they meet the weekly deadlines. All of our courses include video lectures, group discussions and learning activities designed specifically for an online format.

Why EBI online?

The purpose of Ethnos360 Bible Institute is “to establish believers in the foundational truths of the Bible with an emphasis on church planting among people groups without the gospel.” Decades of history have shown us that our Bible Institutes not only have provided solid biblical training but also have had a

tremendous impact in mobilization. We all agree that EBI is a good thing. But again, why EBI online?

The current reality of our culture is that many people are pursuing online education. We believe that an online program with our distinctives will better prepare men and women for serving with Ethnos360. Our courses are taught by Ethnos360 missionaries and flavored by our distinctives: a heavy emphasis on missions, focus on discipleship, grace and Christian life principles, foundational teaching and a strong emphasis on hermeneutics.

What about discipleship?

Online students do not have the benefit of face-to-face interaction with staff and other students. Nevertheless, because we value discipleship, EBI Online has made great strides towards creating opportunities for discipleship within our program.

All students enrolled in one of our academic programs are required to find a mentor in their local church and meet with that mentor for two semesters. We provide criteria for finding a mentor and articulate the expectations of both mentor and student.

EBI Online has found other ways to bring discipleship into our program. In all our courses, we have created learning assignments that are designed to enable the student to integrate the truths of the Word of God into everyday life.

Some courses include live discussions where the students and teacher meet on Microsoft Teams to discuss what they are learning in class and answer any questions they might have. In the near future, we plan to launch a weekly discussion time where students and teachers interact.

How much does it cost?

Each course taken for credit is \$160 per credit hour. There are 64 credit hours in all. Students can audit a course for \$40 per credit hour. Other semester fees include a \$100 Technology Fee and a \$100 Admin Fee. A full-time student should expect to pay approximately \$5,720 per year. This means that a full-time student should expect to pay approximately \$11,440 for the entire program.

If you have any questions about our Online Program, feel free to contact: scot_keen@ntm.org

Wiley Scot Keen

Academic Dean of Online Education

Ethnos360 Bible Institute

www.e360bible.org



Pray. WHAT IS THIS SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM GOD?

When was the last time someone asked you to tell them about Jesus? In fact, have you ever been asked that question?

Better yet, imagine this: It is Sunday, and you are in your seat at church. The service has just ended when a group of nine people walk in. They walk straight to the minister and introduce themselves as being from a small town a short distance away. They explain they have heard rumors about a message from God that is contained in a special book and that they have heard the minister

is able to read and explain that message. Sadly, none of their townspeople read or write, and they are hoping that he or a friend of his will come and help them understand this message.

Sounds a bit bizarre, doesn't it? But these things really happen.

Pray for missionaries to minister to this language group.

Geoff and Dar Gail McNabb minister at the home office in North Cotes, England.



Coffee for Thriving Churches



Ethnos360 has teamed up with Twin Valley Coffee to help missionaries all over the world and to provide great coffee at the same time.

Twin Valley Coffee's mission statement is held as the uncompromising standard: *Excellence Beyond The Cup!*™ Their website states: "After you've had your first cup of Twin Valley Coffee, you will be 'ruined for the ordinary.'"

Buy coffee from this website, designate the missionary you wish to benefit, and they will receive the profit. For example, if you purchase a 12 oz. bag, the missionary you designated will receive \$2.06.

Available in single-serve cups, fresh grounds, whole bean and frac pacs.

Learn more at: CoffeeForThrivingChurches.com !)))

Praise. NEW AIRSTRIP BRINGS REQUESTED BIBLE TEACHING

Three Wano Bible teachers and I flew to the village of P in a helicopter and were there two days later when a Mission Aviation Fellowship plane came in and did their first landing on the airstrip.

Weather was an issue and slowed down the original plan, but we praise the Lord that the plane was able to make it in after circling for about 45 minutes — and that the airstrip is now open. Also, we praise the Lord that He kept the weather open here so that the plane was able to bring us back home as well.

We are really excited that the P airstrip is now open, and our next step is figuring out which Bible teachers we will be able to send there soon. This all is a huge answer to prayer [as the village of] P has been asking for Bible teaching in their village for more than four years, and with the airstrip being open, it will be that



much easier to send teachers. A three-day hike has now turned into a 10-minute flight.

Pray for the Bible teachers that will finally get to go.

Tim and Rebecca Ingles minister among the Wano people in Asia Pacific.

Pray. ATTRACTED TO A POWERFUL MESSAGE

Melki is a young married man who came to our teacher training course a while back. He was eager to help his villagers come to know the truth that had changed his life forever. He went back to his village with great expectations, not in himself, but in the power of God's Word. He started teaching through the first course, and people heard the powerful message of the God of Creation and how He was holy, all-powerful, never-changing, eternal, all-seeing and all-knowing.

Melki's villagers got more and more interested and asked him to teach every day. They decided



their garden work could wait until after they had finished class each morning. Many were thrilled to hear the gospel of grace for the first time. There were dramatic changes in their lives and in their community.

More and more people were attracted by the transformation of their neighbors. Melki now provides teaching for the unbelievers, new and more mature believers.

God transformed a community which was known for sin and addictions. Just think how He can use each one of us to teach and disciple others. Is discipleship more important to us than food?

Please pray for Melki as he disciples and teaches.

Jim and Kathy Tanner minister as church planting consultants in Papua New Guinea.



Your Purchases Total a Big Gift!

In the first half of 2021 our shopping partners contributed more than \$1,420 to Ethnos360.

These partners designated Ethnos360 as the charity to benefit when they purchased products on Amazon.

That's enough funding to translate more than 40 Bible verses. Or it could sponsor about 3 hours of flight time, allowing missionaries to travel to their ministry location or get supplies in a remote location.

To date, partners shopping through Amazon Smile have made it possible for Ethnos360 to receive more than \$22,330 in donations from Amazon.

So if you're using Amazon Smile to help Ethnos360, thanks!

If you're not, it's easy and free to start. **!)))**
Go to go.ethnos360.org/9Nj

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CONNECT WITH *new missionaries!*



JEZEKIEL VAN DER DECKER

Ministry in Country:
Church Planter in Papua New Guinea

Sending Church:
Immanuel Bible Church, Chelsea,
Michigan

"I had to be convinced from God's Word of His heart for the world to be reached with the gospel and of His desire for me to be a part of it."

The merging of two worlds began prior to Jezekiel's second birthday, when he and his family stepped off a plane into the tropical heat of Papua New Guinea (PNG).

As his family started a cross-cultural church planting ministry in PNG, Jezekiel began learning the language and culture through his friendships with the local children. These relationships provided opportunities to participate in his family's ministry as he grew.

Jezekiel realized his need for a Savior at an early age as his parents taught chronologically through the Bible during family devotions. From that time on, he wanted his PNG friends to hear the Good News and invited them to hear the most important story ever—the story of God's redemption that unfolds throughout the pages of Scripture.

As a teenager, Jezekiel dealt with fear and doubts, realizing that despite "knowing" the right

answers, his life wasn't quite lining up. He sought assurance in the fact that he had "believed" at age 5, but that would not assuage his doubts.

But when he told God, "I don't care what I've done or what I've said; I am trusting in You right here, right now and right on out," his fear and doubt turned to peace and joy. "I no longer had the burden of making sure I had the words right," Jezekiel said, "because Jesus did the saving, and He is the one I am trusting."

Over the years, he faced the pressing reality of many language groups around the globe with little or no access to the gospel. However, need and other people's expectations are not adequate motivation for missions. Jezekiel said, "I had to be convinced from God's Word of His heart for the world to be reached with the gospel and of His desire for me to be a part of it. Through studying God's Word cover-to-cover for two years

[at Ethnos360 Bible Institute], I was convinced of just that."

Through studying the Bible, Jezekiel became convicted regarding his personal involvement in missions. God used several letters from PNG people groups who were begging for missionaries, as well as his prior exposure to the great need there, to give him specific direction. God has given him a passion for cross-cultural church planting, especially in the area of discipleship and Bible teaching.

With a desire to be well equipped for ministry, Jezekiel completed missionary training with Ethnos360 in December 2019 and moved to PNG in January 2021. After completing an initial orientation and study of the national language and culture, he began serving at one of the mission centers in early June 2021 while continuing the process of forming a church planting team.

Connect with Jezekiel at ethnos360.org/missionaries/jezekiel-van-der-decker



Through the ministries
of their church,
they became acutely
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of unreached people
groups and of the
Great Commission.

RAY & JESSICA WILLETT

AND CHILDREN
MATTHEW, JANE & DANNY

Ministry in Country:
Church Planters in Papua New Guinea

Sending Church: Grace Community Church, Sarasota, Florida

Ray and Jessica both grew up in Sarasota, Florida, and met in 11th grade. Ray was an immature believer, and Jessica an atheist at the time. They began to date during their senior year and got engaged a year into her college studies.

Convicted that his life didn't look the way it should as a believer who was soon to be married, Ray

asked Jessica to consider attending church with him, and they began to attend Grace Baptist Church. At Grace, they indeed heard the gospel of grace.

Jessica realized that she was dead in her sin and in need of the only One Who could save her and make her alive — Jesus Christ. She trusted Christ, and she and Ray were

baptized and discipled by many faithful believers and missionaries over the following years. Through the ministries of their church, they became acutely aware both of the great needs of unreached people groups and of the Great Commission.

Once Jessica had graduated from college, they worked to pay off the school debt quickly. God was directing them to go into church planting among the unreached. They trained with Ethnos360.

Before entering Ethnos360 Bible Institute in Jackson, Michigan, they adopted their son Matthew. God brought along Jane and Danny during their time at the Bible Institute and then at Ethnos360 Training in Missouri.

Shortly before leaving the USA for Papua New Guinea, their home church merged with Grace Community Church. Ray and Jessica were lovingly sent by a large church community standing behind them.

Ray and Jessica have been in Papua New Guinea since August 2019 and have completed their national culture and language study. They are forming a team with the intent of being part of a long-term church planting ministry soon.

Connect with the Willetts at ethnos360.org/missionaries/ray-and-jessica-willetts

GLOBAL



SPIRITUAL
UNITY

In 1996, Debbie and I took our four children to Papua New Guinea to join the work there. I was 39, and God was going to expand my experience in ministry in many different ways. To this day I am very grateful for what I learned. From our marriage in 1981 to our moving overseas in 1995, our exposure to missions was pretty much from our American perspective. I quickly gained an appreciation for diversity of the team represented in Papua New Guinea. We had programmers from Belgium and Germany; pilots from Australia, Denmark and Canada; teachers from England and Scotland; and financial staff from Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Ireland. There were church planters from Korea, Germany, Kenya and many from America as well. After working with in this amazing team for a number of years, we returned home for home assignment. I remember coming back to what was then the International Headquarters in the USA, and it felt very American. I am thankful our leadership recognized this and our need to grow into what we had become: a very global mission.

I am saddened to hear all the tension related to racial issues today when in reality we are all descendants of Adam and Eve, created in God's image. God created diversity, and all through His Word, He expressed His love for all ethnic groups. We first learn of God's plan of salvation in Genesis 3:15 and then see this plan being fulfilled through His promises to Abraham from whom all the nations (ethnic peoples) will be blessed. This is shown in Genesis 12:1-3.

Over and over in the Old Testament, God, though He is working through Israel, purposed to bless all nations (ethnic peoples) as we see in Psalm 22:27-28, Psalm 67, Isaiah 56:3,6-7, Zechariah 2:10-11 and Ephesians 3:1-6. My favorite is in Revelation 21:26, "And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it." In this case, the *nations* means literally the *peoples*. Redeemed people from every nation and ethnic group will dwell in heaven's light. In the eternal city, there will be no more divisions, barriers or

exclusions because of race or politics. All kinds of peoples in eternity dissolve into the people of God, and they will move freely in and about the city. The reference to "nations" reminds us that our national distinctions, like our personal appearances, are God-given. Revelation 7:9 refers to "a great multitude of all nations," and Revelation 5:10 refers to believers as "kings and priests" who reign with Christ.

AROUND HIS
ETERNAL THRONE
EVERY PEOPLE GROUP
WILL BE PRESENT TO
WORSHIP HIM
FOREVER!

In Acts 2, we see the evidence of the coming of the Holy Spirit, and I count 16 different people groups being present to witness this amazing event. Did representatives from each of these people groups accept the Good News of Christ? Probably not, but we know that some did. What is important is that right from the beginning of the proclamation of the gospel, it was for all peoples! All people groups were welcomed! Christ made it crystal clear that His Bride, one body, would be made up of people from every ethnic group, and around His eternal throne every people group will be present to worship Him forever!

Today we have the privilege of teaming with believers from many ethnic groups as we co-labor with Christ as He builds His Church. Ethnos360 is truly blessed to participate in this great ministry with all of our global partners.

—Larry Brown, *CEO Ethnos360*

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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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