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A THRIVING CHURCH FOR EVERY PEOPLE

# ETHNOS 360

MAGAZINE



Training Future Church Planters

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## ETHNOS360 magazine

(ISSN 1527-9057)  
Vol. 85 | Issue 3, 2022  
#020104

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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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address to Ethnos360 magazine, 312 W. First St.,  
Sanford, FL 32771-1231.

The magazine may be read online at  
[ethnos360.org/magazine](http://ethnos360.org/magazine).

Requests to reprint articles should be directed to  
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Cover photo by David Pierce



## FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friend,

In my younger years I was a builder. One of the parts of the building you don't see (nor is it impressive) is the foundation. When was the last time you were looking at a potential house to buy and your realtor showed you pictures of the foundation? The evidence of a good foundation is seen as you tour the house and see a sound structure.

The Brooklyn Bridge arches the East River to connect Manhattan and Brooklyn, carrying over 150,000 travelers per day. In 1872, three years into the project, the New York residents grew skeptical that the bridge would materialize since there was no evidence of any structure "above the water line" for the second tower of the bridge. However, the chief engineer wrote the following: "To such of the general public as might imagine that no work has been done on the New York Tower because they see no evidence of it above the water line, I should simply remark that the amount of masonry and concrete laid on that foundation is equal in quantity to the entire masonry of the Brooklyn Tower visible today above the waterline."

In this issue we are featuring the care and process of laying a foundation for workers being sent out to plant churches. The planned structure determines the type of foundation needed. Many experienced church planters have defined what is needed to engage in this critical ministry, and Ethnos360 has training to incorporate the needed elements for a solid foundation so that a sound building can be added over time. Time taken here pays off great dividends! The Apostle Paul refers to himself as a wise master builder in 1 Cor. 3: 10. He says that there is no other foundation laid other than Jesus Christ.

I am pleased to present this issue that focuses on the training that Ethnos360 provides for candidates preparing for the ministry. We place high value on training because we place high value on the building and development of the church.

Yours in Christ,

Larry M. Brown, Ethnos360 CEO

# NEWS AROUND THE WORLD



## We just got back from an Encounter trip to the Amazon,

for Wayumi, a cross-cultural missions exposure camp. It's funny how we went to serve, but I think we all were helped in various ways during our time there.

On the Enneagram scale, I am a 6. To those who may not be familiar with Enneagram personality types, it means I am loyal, protective and cautious ... in other words, little Miss "Is it safe?" Nothing about the Encounter trip we just took was safe. For my boys and others, it was their big adventurous hearts' dream come true! For a 6 on the Enneagram scale, it was an exercise in learning to "not be anxious about anything but pray." If it's not the large creatures that could eat you, it's the microscopic bacteria and bugs that you can't see but feel their effects for weeks. I think of David's prayer in Psalm 67:7, "God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him." We all want God's blessing, don't we? But how often does He bless us, we grow comfortable and then we fear going to the ends of the earth!

I'm thankful to have been a part of this Encounter Trip, for the prayers answered and the chance to step out and see that truly "By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation, You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of the far-off seas" (Psalm 65:5). There is nowhere in the world we can go that He is not already at work! And when God is with us and for us, we have nothing to fear.

—Sara Royer

where we went to help our Brazilian friends receive and host more than 150 young people from all over Brazil



We led a group of Ethnos360 Bible Institute students and grads along with our family to help with Wayumi in Brazil. Wayumi is a camp designed to give a glimpse into church planting in a cross-cultural context. The camp took place along the banks of the mighty Amazon River. We worked hard prepping the base, serving tables, cleaning bathrooms and engaging campers.

Many people were challenged to missions, including our own team. I asked most of our team what their favorite experience of the trip was. I was surprised by a common theme in their answers. It wasn't swimming in the Amazon or shopping in the marketplace in Manaus on our sight-seeing day. Although those were fun things we got to experience, it was the people—the Brazilian and American missionaries, volunteers and campers we met and interacted with. The point of these trips is for participants to encounter new realities and new scenes and to ask the question, "Could I see myself doing this?" The answer from our team was: "If it means linking arms with these guys, then yes!"

—Andrew Royer

ENCOUNTERTRIP.ORG



## DIVIDING THE WORK, MULTIPLYING THE EFFORT

"Prior to living in a foreign country, I had no real sense of how far removed some people are to understand anything about God. By sharing our gifts in education, we were able to make it possible for others with gifts in linguistics and discipleship to be able to live in remote villages and share the love of God with the people there." These are the words of a college professor who served along with his spouse with Ethnos360 abroad.

Find out how you can use your skills in education to be a part of the team to plant thriving churches among the unreached.

[ethnos360.org/go/teach-abroad](https://ethnos360.org/go/teach-abroad)



## LANGUAGE EVALUATIONS

What does a language evaluation look like?

Our proficiency was evaluated by two language consultants. These consultants tested our ability to give instructions, tell stories, teach from the Scriptures and communicate various complex ideas. We each chose a Papua New Guinea (PNG) friend to join us during our tests and communicated all of these language "projects" directly to a native Tok Pisin speaker while the consultants observed. They then tested our friends' comprehension after we finished talking. Our PNG friends were also directed to share some stories with us, and the consultant tested our ability to understand and engage in dialogue as well. These evaluations are certainly stressful, but we are so thankful that our mission assesses language and cultural fluency in this way. It's a real-life, real-time way of evaluating comprehension and ability to communicate.

—Brody and Jen Pav



## AND IN EUROPE...

Markus Røsvik, on the leadership team in Norway, shared some news from Europe. There are two specific initiatives that are being worked on.

The first is Equip360. Equip360 is an e1 training program that is done mostly online but also with in-person intensive weekends. (e1:



## NEW TESTAMENT UPDATE

Liv has ministered among the B people group in West Africa. Here is her latest report:

"I am thankful to the Lord for what we have been able to accomplish in Bible translation the last months. All the New Testament is now translated into their heart language. The last consultant check will be in November, where the Gospel of Matthew and the last seven chapters of Luke will be checked. What came to my mind after having finished were Simeon's words when he saw the baby Jesus: 'Now, Lord, you have kept your promise, and you may let your servant go in peace. With my own eyes I have seen your salvation...' I know that Simeon was talking about his death, [and] I am not trying to be morbid here or talking about

leaving... but what has been accomplished is all by the grace of the Lord. My prayer the last years has been that I might be able to complete the New Testament, and that day has arrived. I am deeply thankful to the Lord and very humbled that He has allowed me to have a part in this work. May many of these people come to know the truth by reading His Word in their own language."

(NOTE from Liv: "The young believer that is translating the Old Testament is also advancing in his work. He continues to work on Exodus, and we have also been able to go through the draft of the first six chapters of the book of Daniel that he has translated. I am very thankful to the Lord for him; we work well together.")

receive our training and is taught in English.

The second is the European Expansion Team. This was set up for better and more efficient follow-up with contacts and leads in countries where there are no Global Partner offices. Right now, the focus is on Romania.

This 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.) It will launch fully in the fall of 2022. It was established to enable Europeans who are unable to attend North Cotes College in England to



Image by Syd Morrison

# PREPARED to THRIVE

Training  
Future  
Church Planters

*“We plan to start a short preparatory course for those going out under New Tribes Mission. We are pioneering with the gospel, and we must know our job and be prepared to meet it. Though we place first emphasis on spiritual qualifications, a missionary must know how to use his hands as well as his head. Pioneer missionary work must be revolutionized if we hope to reach the last tribe in our generation.”*

This announcement appeared on the back of the first issues of the mission’s magazine, *Brown Gold*, less than a year after the mission’s founding in 1942.

Eighty years later, Ethnos360’s training continues to prepare people for church planting in a cross-cultural context. Over the years, the training has been continually refined in order to more effectively achieve that goal of reaching the last people group.

## HISTORY

With the need for training defined, mission leadership prayerfully searched for a location to hold this course, and the Lord answered. The Hi-Hat Club, formerly an exclusive nightclub in downtown

Chicago, was purchased and quickly transformed into the New Tribes Missionary Center.

September 12, 1943, saw the center opened with a missionary rally. Days later, on September 20, the first preparatory course started with 40 students.

Ken Johnston, one of New Tribes Mission’s early missionaries and former chairman, recalled in *The Story of New Tribes Mission* that “the purpose of the course was to impart a clear-cut vision of New Tribes Mission’s world objective as well as to present, in a practical way, how to approach the job of reaching the last tribe with the gospel.”

Lance Latham, a mission leader and founder of AWANA, taught Bible doctrine, with the gospel message of grace being core to the curriculum.

Linguistics was taught by early missionary Dean Pittman, who had taken the Summer Institute of Linguistics course as a member of the first group of missionaries.

*The Story of New Tribes Mission* further mentions, “There was a smattering of field medicine, carpentry, mechanics, photography as well as other relevant topics. ... During the early years, the curriculum constantly took on new aspects as needs became apparent.”

So many desired to attend that it was necessary to schedule another class before “this short preparatory class,” as the November 1943 *Brown Gold* magazine called it, was completed. The next class started in February 1944.

Originally, the course took place at night, allowing candidates to be employed during the day. But soon, more time was needed to cover the topics. Classes were shifted to the morning hours, and students could work part-time.

#### TRAINING CAMPS

Though the training at the former Hi-Hat Club was being constantly improved, leadership saw that the city context did not match the rugged contexts where the missionaries would go. They looked for a property to use as a rustic training camp.” God provided the deserted Civilian Conservation Corps Camp, known as Fouts Springs, in the Mendocino National Forest in California.

The camp was prepared, and in January 1945, the first training camp course began. Bible and linguistics continued to be core subjects. Field medicine, photography, hair cutting, soap making, butchering, gardening, canning, breadmaking, hiking, survival, swimming, boating, carpentry and mechanics were all taught. Students maintained the camp as part of their training.

To some of the candidates, this lifestyle was very new, but such were the skills needed to live in the harsh conditions where the unreached lived. Students also learned how to succeed without

*The training pushed the students outside their comfort zones.*

many of the normal conveniences of the time. They had no running water in the cabins and used wood for cooking and heating.

The training pushed the students outside their comfort zones. For some it was the hardest thing



they had ever done, but it was suitable training for the realities they would experience on the field.

In his book, Ken Johnston summed up that time of training this way: “The work was hard; the living, rough; the fellowship, sweet. Through it all, the missionary candidates were learning to trust the Lord. If a missionary was going to get discouraged by primitive conditions, it was better that he experienced this in the training camp rather than on the field. How valuable this practical approach proved to be!”

Growth in numbers led to the issue of having too many students together in one place, not allowing for the individualized attention that mission



Top left: New Tribes Missionary Center, Chicago  
Bottom Left: Training camp in California  
Top: New Tribes Mission Language School

leadership desired. So, over the years, regional training camp properties were acquired around the USA and Canada and fitted for the training, each one with its own story of God’s mighty provision.

#### JUNGLE CAMP

Though the missions course offered excellent training to missionary candidates, mission leadership saw the need to add a “jungle camp” experience to give training more closely simulated to what candidates would experience on the field.

In the summer of 1950, the mission’s first jungle camp took place. Candidates hiked over a mountain near Fouts Springs. “They were taught how to fish, boat, swim and a little about how to maintain an outboard motor. They learned also how

*Along with practical skills, there was an emphasis on being able “to improvise and being self-sufficient.”*

to do lifesaving and artificial respiration,” Ken’s book recounts.

Along with practical skills, there was an emphasis on being able “to improvise and being self-sufficient.”

“At jungle camp, as in the rest of the training, the leaders did not merely focus on the academic and physical. All the practical training in the world

could never replace faith in God! Some had to stop right in the middle of a hard or fearful task to ask the Lord for strength and wisdom to finish. What a joy it was to see them go on to finish in ‘the power of His might!’ Equally important as acquiring new skills and techniques was this opportunity to experience firsthand the grace of the Lord as He led them through new and trying experiences.”

#### LANGUAGE SCHOOL

“Linguistics had been an essential part of the mission’s training course even with the first group of missionaries. ... We saw how profitable linguistic training was for those on the field,” Ken Johnston wrote.

Because of the importance of such study, mission leadership saw the need for a separate language school for NTM’s missionaries. In 1955, the first classes of the New Tribes Mission Language and Linguistics Institute were held in Wisconsin. Students from the training camps came to Wisconsin to take this course.

“The linguistics course—how to reduce an unwritten language to writing—was very much like a college summer course at that time, with every student being taught a smattering of phonetics, phonemics, syntax, and morphology,” Ken’s history of the mission recalls. Literacy, Bible translation and culture were also taught.

As experience from the fields made its way back to the language school, the classes were strengthened and refined. New techniques were added, and though language study was still difficult work, the missionaries were better equipped to meet the challenge.

### PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

While improvements and adjustments were continuously being made to the missionary training, it received a more thorough overhaul starting in the mid-1990s.

“A lot of our works were discussing phaseout on the field,” explained David Mough, director of education at Ethnos360 Training (ETR). Originally, the mission used a threefold litmus test. The missionaries could phase out when church plants were self-sustaining, self-propagating and self-functioning. These are good and correct standards. But how do you determine exactly when those are in place? “We needed a more detailed model,” David continued.

Many missionaries on the field were sharing insights that continued to improve the training program. Classes on culture, worldview, animism and outside influences were added or improved.

These classes helped missionaries to understand better the unknowns they were encountering on the field, to persevere through them and to teach better in light of them. This also helped with missionary retention on the fields.

Another significant change was the switch to Foundational Bible Teaching based on Trevor McIlwain’s chronological *Building on Firm Foundations*.

### CONSOLIDATION OF FACILITIES

Over time new mission institutes were opened and others closed. Ultimately, staffing and maintaining multiple aging properties proved to be difficult and costly. Also, each missions institute had its own strengths and weaknesses. Thus, the decision was made to consolidate the facilities into one training center, combining the training of missions institute and language school. This provided unity in what was taught as well as continuity throughout the duration of the training.

New Tribes Mission Missionary Training Center in Missouri, now called Ethnos360 Training, is where training takes place today.

### CURRENT 2-YEAR TRAINING

One question that is frequently asked about Ethnos360’s training is, “Why does it take so long?” That’s a valid question. Two years seems like a long time especially compared to the weeks or months that many other mission agencies provide for their missionaries. Why not have a shorter training and begin ministry sooner? Why do students take almost 50 classes besides those specific to Bible translation?

When I asked Ethnos360 Training staff these questions, in every case they directed me to feedback from former students.

David Mough mentioned that at the end of the training, they ask the students to give testimony regarding their time of training. “Almost every one says, ‘We thought two years was a long time. But two things happened. First, it went by like that [as he snapped his fingers]. And two, I can’t imagine going out there and doing this job without this training.’” He’s also received similar notes from missionaries on the field. He tells the students that church planting is the hardest thing they will ever do in their lives. Often the students confirm to David that he was right.

*Why not have a shorter training and begin ministry sooner? Why do students take almost 50 classes besides those specific to Bible translation?*

David’s been part of conversations with missionaries from other agencies who were not as prepared. They couldn’t seem to get any traction in their work as they struggled through issues that are covered in Ethnos360’s training. He’s been encouraged to see Ethnos360 missionaries passing on some of the lessons that they’ve learned to others.

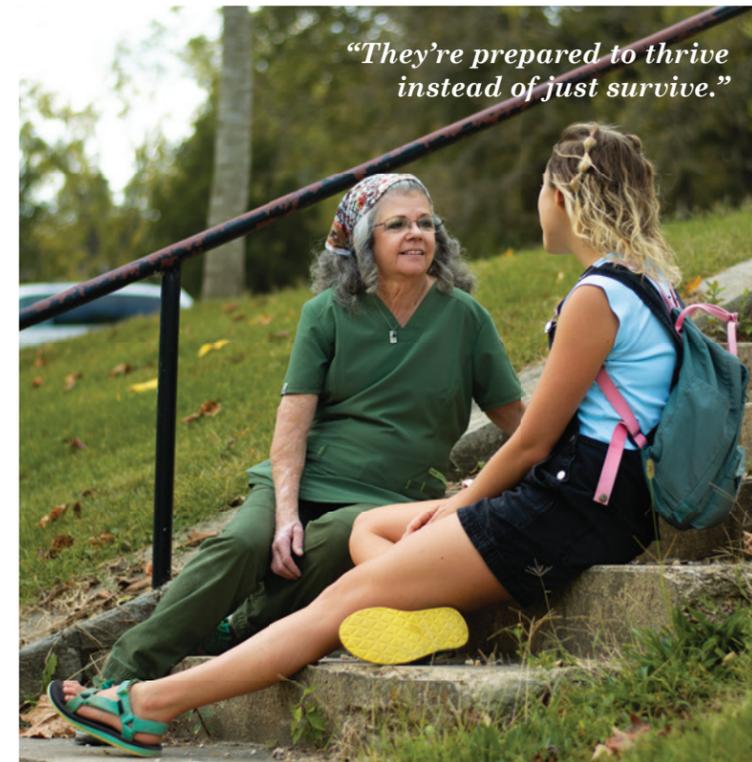
Jim D’Arcy, former director of mentoring at Ethnos360 Training, mentioned that the depth of training is what sets Ethnos360’s training apart from others. “They’re prepared to thrive instead of just survive.”

Students are prepared through mentorship and academic studies. These two sides of the same coin are necessary for the future missionaries who will plant churches among unreached people groups.

Elisa Passetti, one of the team members overseeing the mentoring team, explains “We have core content as far as the things that are



Image by Brian Coombs



Top: The Ethnos360 Training campus

Bottom: Mentorship is a critical part of the training.

taught, the academics, in the classroom. But then we have core context. And that is the environment in which they learn it. And mentoring is part of that environment.”

### MENTORING

“Mentoring is a critical part of our training here,” said Jim Turek, one of the full-time mentors at ETR.

Mentoring has looked different and had different names throughout the mission, but, in fact, it has always been a core component of the training.

Much of that mentoring (as well as the academics) takes place in the context of a team. Students are formed into teams of ten to twelve people who work together over the duration of the two years of their training. The teams are created with intentionality. They consist of families with children, families without children and single people. This mirrors the realities of life on the field where missionaries work together with a variety of people and often people from different cultures. “And so just starting early, having a rounded team like that, just gives them that opportunity to learn how to work together in those types of situations,” Craig Cassel, another full-time mentor, explained.

Mentoring takes place on an individual level as well.

“The students do a self-assessment related to a lot of key character qualities that are important for a missionary to have,” Jim D’Arcy explained. Those character qualities center around the spiritual qualifications of an elder as well as ministry abilities.

“And based on that self-assessment, the student comes up with a personal growth plan, and the mentor comes alongside the student in those things and does some coaching for growth in those areas.

“They also identify areas that the students are strong in on a personal level and try to reinforce and encourage those character qualities as well.

*“When they get to the field, they need to be dependent on the Lord.”*

“It’s a big part of the training program, helping them to be ready. Let’s face it: it’s a high-stress career to serve in a cross-cultural ministry. So, we want the students on a character level and on a personal level to be prepared to engage in that in a healthy way.”

Personal mentoring might take place in their homes or in coffee shops. Occasionally, they trek the 90-minute drive to Springfield and spend the day together shopping. Ultimately, it is about personal growth in the context of relationships.

Throughout the training, other areas of need often come to light. Sometimes there are sin issues, but more often there are simply areas that the students need to mature in. Are they flexible? Are they a team player? Issues like these will be intensified when they begin working in a missions context.

Guided by their mentors, the students chart a course for growth. Elisa Passetti asks, “What are actual steps—measurable, practical, achievable

steps—that you’re going to do to reach consistency or better consistency or growth in that area?”

While willing and ready to help the students, more than one mentor mentioned that their first response is to encourage the students to bring their concerns, stresses and needs to the Lord. “Really, it’s the bottom line,” Elisa said. “When they get to the field, they need to be dependent on the Lord.”

“Everyone’s going to be a little different,” Craig Cassel reminded me. “What we’re looking to see is not that by the end of their two years they’re going to be the perfect church planter or missionary, but that there’s been a trajectory of growth throughout the two years that they’ve been here, and that trajectory is going to continue as they move on.”

#### **SIMPLE LIVING**

One highlight of the training is the time spent in “Simple Living.” Based on the jungle camp of years past, the context of Simple Living includes the students living in the woods for almost three weeks. They build their own housing structures out of wooden poles and vinyl from old billboards.

During their time, they are introduced to the basics of camping, canoeing, cooking from scratch, butchering, haircutting, plumbing, sawmilling, small engine repair, supply buying, suturing, vehicle maintenance and extended planning.

Mastering those skills is not the point. The experiences provide the context for learning broader lessons. “We’re not making experts out of anybody,” said Aaron Knapp, who oversees the Simple Living module. “We’re giving them a wide range of exposure to things” which are necessary on the field.

As the students repeatedly see God’s care for them as they are moved beyond their comfort zones, they amass small triumphs. Aaron tells the students, “We’ve got an environment where things are going to be naturally challenging. . . . But, when those challenges come, you need to wrestle with it as a team, and you’ll overcome it. And that’s a little victory. I hope that you have loads of little victories all throughout this time because that will build your confidence as you move forward to go into the unknown.”

Once on the field, the time in Simple Living becomes a reference point in the students’ lives. “And

*‘I did this hard thing. So, therefore, this gives me some confidence in the future that I can do this.’*

that’s such a big part of what all of this is, what jungle camp has always been in the past, people getting a chance to do something hard that they can use as a checkpoint in the future.

“It becomes a point of reference for a victory. ‘I did this hard thing. So, therefore, this gives me

some confidence in the future that I can do this.’ And that’s real.”

Teamwork is a major emphasis of the Simple Living time. In fact, the Stewarding Relationships class (previously called Teamwork) was moved in the schedule to take place during Simple Living. Working through stresses as a team with input from mentors provides the students opportunities for significant personal growth and strengthens the teams.

#### **ACADEMICS**

How do you plant a church among a people group who have a completely different worldview than you? What if they don’t have a Bible in their language? How about if their language isn’t even in writing? How do you measure when the job is completed?

If the mentoring program equips future missionaries to succeed in church planting ministry by strengthening their team and family relationships and walk with the Lord, the academics at ETR trains them to succeed in church planting ministry by giving them the necessary tools to do the work among unreached people groups.

Courses like phonetics, phonemics and linguistics sound like rather heady subjects. They are.

But the studies are more than a mere academic pursuit; they are immensely practical. The students seek to be able to learn a language (often unwritten) effectively and to be able to study and



Photo by Josh Clark



Photo by David Pierce



Photo by David Pierce

Left: “Simple Living” exposes students to a wide variety of experiences.

Right: Training future missionaries





Photo by Jack Crabtree

*Missions has never been easy.  
In some ways, it's now harder than ever.*

comprehend a foreign culture to the point where the missionary understands how the people think.

Teaching literacy and translating and teaching the Bible will follow. These sacred responsibilities demand more than just a surface understanding of language and culture.

#### TRAINING FOR NEW CONTEXTS

Ethnos360 Training works hand-in-hand with the International Ministries Team. These people are literally the “consultants to the consultants” and function internationally with the global partners of Ethnos360. The International Ministries Team provides leadership and direction in areas of culture and language acquisition, translation, literacy, Bible lesson preparation and church planting.

Missions has never been easy. In some ways, it's now harder than ever. This is due, in large part, to the increasingly complex contexts that unreached peoples are a part of.

When Ethnos360 first started, many of the unreached people groups we ministered among were isolated. Their culture and language were less intertwined with others. Missionaries had easier access to unreached peoples; often, they themselves reached out to the missionaries, inviting them to come.

That is no longer the case. It hasn't been for a while.

David Mough said that having this connection to the International Ministries Team helps “to keep our training relevant.”

“Without them we would lose our relevancy on the changes. ... What are these new things that are going on that actually should be mentioned back here?”

The goal of reaching unreached peoples has always been to see thriving churches among every people. But the process of reaching them is not straightforward. It may be going in faith to point A and seeing what doors God opens along the

way. Larry Goring, chairman of the International Ministries Team, often likens it to climbing to the top of the first mountain in order to find a path to the next mountain.

As much as the time in training seems long to some, the staff at Ethnos360 Training realize that the training they give cannot train every missionary for every context. The initial training is now more principle based.

Students are introduced to church planting methodology, culture and language learning and the like. When they arrive on the field, the training becomes specific to the challenges of that region.

We're “dealing now with how fast culture changes because of technologies,” said David Mough.

“So, at Ethnos360 Training—our course offers core principles that will be a reality no matter where you go.” Principles like living in proximity to the people, evangelizing, teaching and training in the people's language, and studying their culture.

#### MOVING FORWARD

As the world rapidly changes, today's missionaries face challenges that were unknown to previous generations of missionaries. Building upon the foundation of our training and 80 years of experience reaching the unreached, Ethnos360 continues to improve its training to meet the church planting challenges of today and those to come.

David Mough summed it up, “People groups are changing, and ministry contexts are more complex because of technology and globalization. And so now we must equip future missionaries to adapt to serve in these contexts while remaining true to our enduring ministry core values.”

Or as Paul Fleming, founder of New Tribes Mission, put it, “Today we must prepare to take advantage of the opportunities of tomorrow.”

Top Left: Teaching literacy in Papua New Guinea

Bottom: Forming relationships is a key first step in ministry.



Photo by Mike Goddard



Sent by Calvary Monument Bible Church in Paradise, Pennsylvania, and Westside Community Chapel in Amboy, New York, **David Pierce**, his wife, Michelle, and their six children, served in Papua New Guinea for 13 years. As God closed doors there, He opened new doors of service with Ethnos360's Ministry Advancement team in Sanford, Florida.



Photo by Dale Stroud



# INTERFACE

YOUR COLLEGE-LEVEL MISSIONS COURSE ACROSS THE GLOBE

If you've never stepped foot on some Ohio dirt, I can introduce you. It grows endless corn and runs straight to the horizon, never mounding into any significant hills or impressive scenery. We have our moments of Ohioan glory, such as when the setting sun spills liquid gold right in the path of a monstrous thundercloud, and the two wage a war; but I've been filling my lungs with the same mild, earthy air for my whole life. God knew that I needed red Brazilian dust, warm compound bricks radiating equator heat and a good spiritual shaking. He gave it to me.

On the first day of Interface, I hung my hammock from some cabin beams and prepared for the week of training in Pennsylvania. By that night, swinging with a small notebook under a single lightbulb to the serenade of crickets, all I could think to write was, "How did I get here?" It wasn't in frustrated befuddlement, but in wondrous mystification.

Then, over the next three weeks in Brazil, I was immersed in each moment. While I tried to absorb everything that could be felt and smelled and tasted, the thought hit me over and over. Listening to the nostalgic creaking of a tire swing, drinking in the way orange bled into purple on the South American horizon: "How did I get here?" Sitting on streetlight-lit concrete, hearing Portuguese swirl with English

while a volleyball shot into the midnight sky: "How did I get here?" Perching at the edge of an Amazon River tributary, drawing circles in Brazilian sand and letting the warm wind curl my half-dried hair, glancing towards the opposite shore where an unreachd people group were milling from hut to hut and where drying piranhas glinted in the sun: "How did I get here?" Almost a month after coming back to the States, I'm still not sure. What can I say? God's ways are infinitely higher. His blessings are scandalously bountiful.

During Interface, every day was brimming over with vivid tales of the Lord's faithfulness. In His mastery, God wrought stories more elaborate than any wordsmith or screenwriter would ever dare attempt. In one, God wove together a feverish canoe trip through a pitch-black Papua New Guinea jungle by a young family bearing a

dangerously sick child. He decided when and where their radio would jerk to life, and He authored in just enough mysterious tribal medicine to postpone the symptoms, buying time for a small plane to be boarded while torch-bearing humans lined up to light the midnight runway. Missionaries, students and teachers sacrificed a slice of their day to share their testimonies; their lives overwhelmed and overflowed. As Interface students, we had the opportunity to begin living our own lives with abandon. We each began opening our tightly clutched hopes and dreams and taking the first step into future adventures which the Master Talespinner had for us.

Together, our team experienced so many new things, but we only had time to get just enough to tantalize. I longed to freeze the sun and the clock, to stay in a moment until I could get my arms around it

and experience every angle ten times over, until it became a piece of my soul and ingrained in my bones. Blue smoke corkscrewed into the sky during each sunrise, reminiscent of last night's bonfire. I watched the moon and stars at two in the morning through an old camp bus window, pondering conversations and marveling at the created majesty of the universe. There were countless

shining eyes, contagious laughs and incredible moments. I wanted them all in a frame, but the frame falls far short.

Have you ever felt small? Gloriously small, free from having to bear the weight of the world, a contented mite joyfully contributing your tiny bit to God's intricate story of the world? During Interface, each day brought me to that smallness. There I was, thousands of

miles away from the cornfield war of sun and thunder, standing beneath a perpetually cloudless sky, bearing witness that the God of Ohio was the same God of Brazil.



—by Abigail Tighe

## INTERFACE BRAZIL 2022

It's been three years since the most recent Interface program in Papua New Guinea (PNG). We hoped that 2022 would be the year of return to that amazing place, but God had other plans. Due to continued COVID restrictions, bringing a group of more than 25 into PNG would have been a logistical nightmare, and so we pivoted to another option — Brazil.

We had already planned to visit the Eastern Brazil location for one of our two-week Encounter trips, so some of the logistics were already in place, but we needed to add the in-depth educational aspect typical of Interface. The easiest way to do this was to use the already-established Wayumi Course as the first week of our three-week trip. The Wayumi Course in Pennsylvania is a one-week intensive that many Christian colleges and universities use as a crash course in cross-cultural missions, showing the methods God is using through Ethnos360 around the world in reaching the unreached. We teach what we do, how we do it, and why we do it, with a bit of a tribal culture and language acquisition simulation experience as well.

After Pennsylvania, we flew to the Shekinah Missionary Training Center in Vianópolis, Brazil, where the students were led through an abbreviated version of the Creation to Christ foundational Bible teaching that Ethnos360 missionaries use around the world. The students

also undertook a service project for the Shekinah campus, removing the tile roof from their dining hall to make way for repairs and a new roof. They did this project in a fraction of the time allotted, so they were able to be a blessing to one of the missionaries there by removing their aging roof as well. The students were able to travel to an interior people group location where a church has yet to be established — it was a sobering reality check to see, first-hand, the difficult task of culture and language acquisition by the missionaries there, as well as to witness the heartbreaking reality that many people have yet to hear the life-changing truth of the gospel.

The 15 students and seven staff members on this team were all impacted by what God showed us this summer. He is good, He is never changing and He wants the world to know Who He is. Thirteen of the 15 plan on being involved in cross-cultural ministry overseas in some capacity, whether in support roles or church planting. The other two are seeking God's direction as to their futures, but a life of ministry through cross-cultural missions is an option in that seeking process. We stand in awe of what God has done in the lives of this team. Pray for them! Pray that they will not be distracted as they pursue what God has shown them through Interface Brazil 2022.

Are you ready to go? [INTERFACETRIP.ORG](https://www.interfacetrip.org)



Image by Abigail Tighe



## Praise. PFO 2022

It was amazing to see God work during our annual pre-field orientation (PFO) for support workers who will serve from one to four years. There were 17 that came to the Home Office in June. They



will be ministering in Papua New Guinea (PNG), Mexico, Brazil and the USA (the Home Office, The Homes of Ethnos360 [the retirement center in Sanford], Ethnos360 Bible Institute and Ethnos360 Training). Here is how one of the attendees, Tiffany Beachy, described it:

“PFO was intense, convicting, encouraging, overwhelming and wonderful! It was such a blessing to meet other new missionaries in person, to hear their stories and to grow together during the week. It was delightful meeting some of the staff at the Home Office. One couple picked me up late at night and were kind enough to take me

back to the airport way too early in the morning [when I left].

“I’m already using what I learned about partnership development and have presented my ministry to churches and friends. The sessions were thought-provoking with appropriate breaks. My favorite bits were when we would study the Scriptural basis for various topics. I definitely have some lifelong friends from PFO. Three couples are going to the same field as I am [PNG], so we hope to see each other occasionally. One couple will be serving at the same location as I will which is awesome!”



## WAYUMI

YOUR ADVENTURE IN CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS... IN PENNSYLVANIA.

Step into cross-cultural missions without leaving the USA.

- Focus on what the Bible says about reaching all peoples
- Interact in a cross-cultural setting
- Discover the challenges of learning a new language and culture
- Connect with your guides—all veteran church planters

**Group Retreats** // 3 days, all ages:

This is our basic program for individuals, families and church groups that provides a bird’s-eye view of missions.

**Expedition** // 6 days, 9th-12th grade:

Take your youth group on a combined mission trip and summer camp without leaving the USA.

**College Course** // 7 days, ages 18+:

This is our college-level intensive missions course with hands-on experiences and practical sessions.

WAYUMI.ORG



## Pray. THE NEW KUYU TEAM

*Brian and Arlita Burnham are ministering with Ethnos360 Aviation in Papua New Guinea. They shared the following report:*

We have some exciting news from Papua New Guinea (PNG)! After years of waiting by both the people group and the missionaries, we have a team ready to move into a new people group’s location. The LeBlanc and DeValve families moved to PNG in January of 2020. They completed their orientation to the country and the trade language, Tok Pisin, but were delayed in moving into a people group by the pandemic, new babies, paperwork and medical issues. While they waited, they served in support roles to make sure other teams could function well as they translated, taught and disciplined in other people groups. But finally, after surveying a people group in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea and determining their need and their desire to have missionaries, the LeBlanc and DeValve families have teamed up with the Ames family to reach the Kuyu people.

The Kuyu people have been giving letters to the neighboring

Pal people group for seven years, asking for missionaries. The Pal people have had missionaries there, and now have an established church. Because the Kuyu people have seen the life-changing transformation in the Pal people but can’t understand the Pal language, they are desperate for missionaries to come. It took the missionaries a 10-hour hike, even after a helicopter ride, to reach this remote location. [Editor’s Note: They had to walk to the village because the helicopter landing zone hadn’t been checked out yet. Now it has!]

As the missionaries visited the Kuyu people, they explained that they would come to do four things: Learn the Kuyu language, teach them to read and write in their heart language, translate the Bible into the Kuyu language and teach them God’s message from beginning to end. Pal believers accompanied the missionaries so that the Kuyu people could ask them questions [in the trade language] about what it was like to have missionaries come to live with them. Even though the Kuyu people are spread out in



Image by Vikki Chartier - Unsplash

several different villages, they came together in one location, and representatives from each village said “Yes!” that they want the missionaries to come.

Recently, the team signed a formal land agreement and determined in which village to build their houses. There will be other missionaries who serve in support roles who will come alongside them to help them build. They’ll also need support from the aviation team, as they determine shuttle locations for our new R66 helicopter to be able to bring in their house building supplies.

**Pray for the team as they build houses and relationships among the Kuyu.**

*Note: An added blessing was that Brian was able to fly into Kuyu to address a minor maintenance issue that arose while the helicopter was in Kuyu, so he has seen this location firsthand!*

## SENDING CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO MISSIONARIES

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. 23 or give online at [ethnos360.org/give](https://ethnos360.org/give) by Nov. 27.

*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.*

**Questions?** Call 1-866-547-2460, ext.1245 or e-mail [financeUSA@ntm.org](mailto:financeUSA@ntm.org).

## CONNECT WITH *new missionaries*



Mobilization and Volunteer Coordinator  
at Ethnos360 Home Office, Florida

Sent by MKE Lakeside Church,  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Connect with Joseph at  
[ethnos360.org/missionaries/joseph-stovall](https://ethnos360.org/missionaries/joseph-stovall)

Joseph's path took him from the Panhandle of Florida where he grew up to elsewhere in the country before bringing him back to Florida to serve at Ethnos360's home office.

While a student at Ethnos360 Bible Institute, Joseph said, "I heard with absolute clarity the call to go to the nations." He learned about the unreached peoples around the world with no access to the gospel.

"I had a command and a mission, and that's all it took."

During his second year of school, his health began failing.

Lyme disease was the culprit. It made him question whether he could serve as a church planter overseas.

He actively improved his health and continued to Ethnos360 Training in Missouri. Toward the end of training, he visited Ethnos360's home office in Florida. There, the Lord changed his direction.

Joseph now serves in the Mobilization Department at the home office.

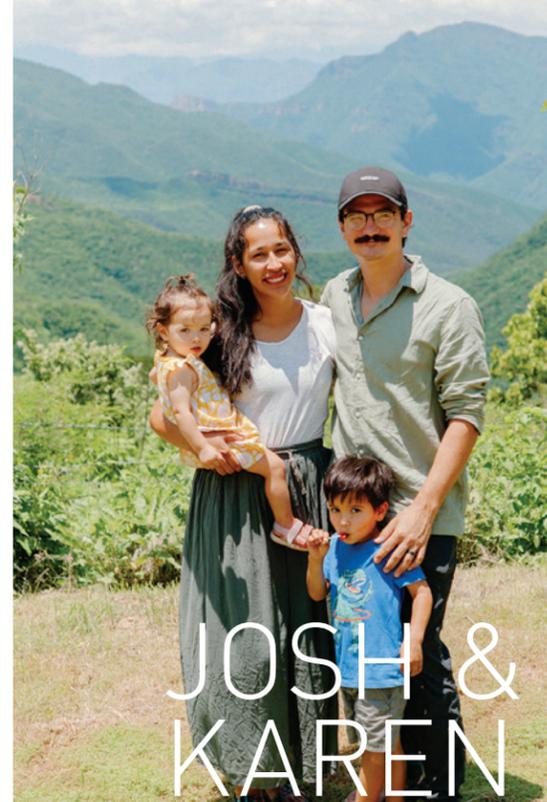
Whether it be through working with volunteers at the home office meeting with college

students, Joseph desires to "spur them on to pursue the Lord with what He's calling them to do."

"My goal and my job is to mobilize the next generation and the Body of Christ as a whole to reach the people groups overseas or just to be a part of what God is doing in general with missions.

"That's why I wake up in the morning.

"It's essential that we continue to operate here at the Home Office to help raise up more laborers, to equip those whom the Lord leads to go and to be a voice in the USA for the unreached."



JOSH &  
KAREN  
CLARK

ABEL AND ZION

Directors of Encounter,  
Ethnos360 Home Office, Florida

Sent by New Beginnings Church,  
Bixby, Oklahoma

Josh and Karen originally planned on heading to Papua New Guinea to be involved in church planting among an unreached people group. But their plans have changed. "God has made it abundantly clear for us to serve at Ethnos360's home office in Sanford, Florida."

Many support missionaries make it possible for each church planter to remain on task and on the field. That includes people in areas of aviation, construction, education, finance, IT, medical and many more.

"There is a huge need for people to help fill in the background work for the mission to continue." This is why Josh and Karen are serving as the directors of the "Encounter" program.

Encounter is one of Ethnos360's short-term trips. The goal is mobilizing young people who want to be involved in missions and need somewhere to start.

"Our vision for these short-term trips is to send groups of college students into some of the countries we work in as an organization" that they might learn the realities of church planting, serve the missionaries they visit and experience first-hand how they might be involved long-term.

Josh and Karen see their role as one of multiplication. "We could be one family to go but how much more of an impact can we have if we mobilized 50 people to go as well."

Connect with Josh and Karen at [ethnos360.org/missionaries/josh-and-karen-clark](https://ethnos360.org/missionaries/josh-and-karen-clark)

## ENCOUNTER

YOUR BRIDGE TO MINISTRY AMONG UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

### Encounter Mexico 2022

In July our team of 18 headed to Chihuahua, Mexico. Chihuahua is home to the Bible school and missionary training for Mexican nationals. Our team went to learn, serve and experience what it takes to reach an unreached people group in Mexico.

A highlight of the trip was the last weekend [we were there]. We sent two teams to two people groups who have been reached with the gospel. All the participants had the opportunity to see the church that God had planted

though Ethnos360/Global Partner missionaries and to experience the challenge that there are still around 100 unreached people groups in Mexico who need to hear God's story of redemption for the first time in their mother tongue. Pray that God would use this trip in the lives of the participants as they ask God to show them where they fit in reaching the unreached.

—Josh and Karen Clark

For more information about how you can go on Encounter, see [encountertrip.org](https://encountertrip.org)



**W**hat an incredible time to be alive! Over the last couple of years, we have had a pandemic that has forever impacted our “normal.” Along with the pandemic, there have been supply chain issues, increased cost of living and global unrest. Despite those things, **the gospel continues to go out to those who have never heard it**, and here at Ethnos360 Training, we have the privilege of training candidates to do just that: pierce the darkness with the light of the gospel.

For my wife and me, 2020 was a year that gave us great clarity or improved vision — or as we would say 2020 vision. As we had to change how we lived life during the pandemic, it gave us a fantastic opportunity to consider many things about our ministry. As we considered where we were, I realized that I was in danger of becoming stagnant in life and ministry, just going through the motions. I came to realize that I was buried in all I was doing and needed to get a new perspective. I determined that in some ways I had become like a hamster running on its wheel, running hard, yes, but not going anywhere. The reset that came with the change of life was very welcome and brought great clarity. I realized that I had become comfortable and needed to be stretched to further increase my dependence on God. I wonder if you can relate.

For me personally, with travel pretty much stopped, I was given another terrific opportunity to stay home, a very welcome change. As we moved

into 2021, I was bemoaning the fact that travel was starting to open again and that I would need to travel again. I remember very clearly walking in from my garage complaining about this when my wife suggested we move to Ethnos360 Training in Missouri from our Home Office in Florida. That same day, our realtor was looking at our house, and we started the process of listing our home. My family and I moved here to Ethnos360 Training in May of 2021, and in August of 2021, I was asked to take on the role of Interim Director. What a privilege it is to serve here at our training center!

I urge you to consider an evaluation like my wife and I did. This evaluation for us brought about incredible opportunities we would have missed had we not re-evaluated where we were. It is wise to be still before the Lord and to step back from the pressures of life and move toward what God would have for us next.

It has been awesome to be surrounded by young people who are responding to God’s calling on their lives and are moving out in faith during a time of uncertainty that surrounds us. Young people going against the flow of our culture, walking away from security and the known, stepping into the unknown to consider how they may be used by our God in the Great Commission. Young people willing to sacrifice homes, careers and financial security, and leaving family behind to see people from every tribe, tongue and nation represented

around the throne as we see in Revelation 5:9. Not only are they willing to make these sacrifices, but they are willing to follow the Lord’s leading into a humanly impossible task. Praise God that He tells us in II Corinthians 4:7 that the power to accomplish this task comes from Him, as we are just earthen vessels. Awesome candidates, each one unique, but also ordinary in that they too are unable to reach the lost on their own without the power of Christ.

Here at Ethnos360 Training, we equip our candidates with skills to learn culture and language. We equip them with skills to learn how to understand cultural mores and how that affects worldviews. We equip them to teach God’s Word to those who have never heard it and to translate the Scriptures into other languages. We equip our candidates with tools for literacy and church planting. We send our candidates out with the best training we can give them, but it is their dependence on God that will ensure the work gets done.

**Despite our candidates’ training, they will be faced with many opportunities to quit.** This is no different than for anyone else actively living out the Christian life. I often tell the story of John Stephen Akhwari, a marathon runner at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. John was there representing his country of Tanzania. Seventy-five runners would start the marathon that day, only 57 would finish. John Stephen Akhwari had

a nasty fall around the halfway point of the race where he dislocated his knee and was advised not to continue by the medical team who arrived to help him. Despite their advice he finished the race that day over an hour behind the first-place finisher, in dead last among those who finished. As he came across the finish line, you could see his bandages dangling off him in the pictures taken. When asked why he finished, he simply said, **“My country did not send me 5,000 miles to start this race. They sent me 5,000 miles to finish it.”** Just as John Stephen Akhwari had many opportunities to quit and was encouraged to do so, the same is true for each of us. I urge you to consider the fact that the Lord did not leave us here on the earth to start the task of the Great Commission but to finish it. Consider how you might be more involved today in what the Lord is doing.

If you are interested in ways that you could assist us here with our training or if you are considering training for yourself, please contact me at [brian\\_coombs@ntm.org](mailto:brian_coombs@ntm.org). We have many ways in which you can be involved, from prayer to giving to volunteering to going. We would love to have you as part of our team.

—*Brian Coombs,*  
*Interim Director at Ethnos360 Training*

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



WISCONSIN



PENNSYLVANIA



MISSOURI



ARIZONA



FLORIDA



Find out more at  
[go.ethnos360.org/volunteer](https://go.ethnos360.org/volunteer)

**ETHNOS360**

