ETHNOS360

MAGAZINE

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Cover photo: Dale Stroud

FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

In this issue of *Ethnos360* magazine, we are highlighting the vital ministry of our Information Technology (IT) team and the important role they play in reaching unreached people groups (UPGs).

Sharon and I have had the privilege of serving here at the Home Office for the past two years — just one floor above this highly talented and committed team. In a world where their skills are in high demand, these team members have chosen to live sacrificially, to offer themselves and their expertise to the Lord for His purposes.

The work they do is not only technical — it is foundational. Our IT team supports nearly every aspect of our missionary sending infrastructure: internal and external communications, processing of funds, mobilization, cybersecurity, data and network management, training facilities. The list is long. In this information-driven modern era, Ethnos360 simply could not exist without them.

God is using technology to accelerate the spread of the gospel. Tools like Stages and Engage for culture and language acquisition and advanced translation software are helping our teams work more efficiently and effectively than ever before. Communication between church planters and their consultants, mission leaders and sending church leaders is exponentially better today than it was only one generation ago. Just this morning I was discussing a significant church planting topic with my son who is living on a remote island in the South Pacific, far from any access to the grid. And yes, that conversation was in high definition! Amazing what is possible today.

Thank you for praying for and supporting this essential team. Their work helps carry the Good News of Christ to places where it has never been heard.

Yours in Christ,

Steve Sanford

Steve Sanford, Ethnos360 CEO

NEWS AROUND THE WORLD

URGENT NEED FOR SCHOOLTEACHERS

Numonohi Christian Academy (NCA) in Papua New Guinea (PNG) needs schoolteachers. Due to the timing of work permits and entry visas, the pre-field orientation schedule and partnership development, there is urgency to get the word out over the next two months in order to have teachers by August. If NCA cannot recruit additional teachers, then they expect grade level closures and correspondence courses in core subject areas. This will impact students' education, parents' ability to minister in support roles and

both NTM PNG's (New Tribes Mission/Ethnos360 Papua New Guinea) and partner missions' organizational function.

These are the urgent needs for the 2026–2027 school year:
- High school math teacher
- High school science teacher
- Elementary teacher
- Educational Special Services — educational therapist (NILD certified, on-site or remote)

In the USA alone, there are roughly three million elementary and high school teachers. The team at NCA is praying for at least four who feel called to invest their gifts in equipping students to follow Christ and who want to join a team

united around one purpose: seeing a thriving church for every people group and language of PNG. Serving at Numonohi Christian Academy means discipling students and supporting missionaries by helping their families thrive. One teacher supports the work of many.

The application process needs to begin by March 2026, so now is the time to reach out.

personnel-director@ntmpng.org
or go online at
www.ntmpng.org/nca

LITERACY STUDENT FAITHFULNESS

We started our second Elsengg primer with our literacy students. We have been a bare-bones crew with sickness. Please keep praying for our literacy students to stay faithful to their studies and gain proficiency to read. It is exciting to see them making progress, but it isn't easy for all of them.

Please pray particularly for Bop, Elpi, Yanto, Ledia and Martina to stay encouraged and grow in their knowledge. Copy the link to the right or scan the QR code to watch the video on YouTube. It's "The Good News as told by Bop" [one of the Elsengg believers mentioned above]. To God be the glory!
— *Scott Flaugher, Asia Pacific*

Bop's Gospel Message:
youtu.be/cZ7-
aii0bYo?si=RCWB4hM_rSEgDdME

CULTURE CORNER:

THE STORY OF THE "MOON" AND THE BEGINNING OF THE HUMAN RACE

Somewhere, no one knows exactly where, but very far "down river," there is an immense eternal tree that is holding up the sky. There are stories of individuals both divine and mortal who have learned how to climb up and down between our world and the world above us. For example, there is

the story of the moon. The moon, who is also a human, fell into disfavor with those on earth. The earthlings decided to kill the moon, so they hatched a plan to travel far toward the horizon where they would lie in wait for the moon to come down low in the sky like he does almost every night. They were lying

in wait as he descended down the horizon. When he was close enough, they shot him with an arrow which caused the moon to bleed profusely over all the earth. This blood then became human beings, and thus the planet was populated.
— *Yanomamö folklore*

TRANSLATION WORK IN ECUADOR

In our team, our focus for the year continues to be translation. A translation check helped to hone our focus and to see ways to improve our translation procedures, and we are looking forward to implementing some of the wisdom gleaned from our consultant friend. Our co-workers Kevin and Kathy Bruce will be focusing on discipleship and teaching. Our new teammates Steve and Gwen Anderson will be finishing up their Spanish study in the city and [will be] getting a house built out here. Pray for the Awa believers to see needs and help out in the church.
— *Andy and Chrissy Shaub, Ecuador*

LEARNING PHASE TWO

We went into the year with the huge task of recreating a lot of the graphics needed for the first two phases of language learning. We praise the Lord that those graphics are done and ready for printing. There were times we wondered if it was possible, but God kept providing what we needed — including some amazing artists who worked alongside us! Another thing we are so grateful for is the progress that is being made by the team working among the "K" people. They have encountered so many challenges and difficulties, but the progress they are making despite that is miraculous. We are so grateful to the Lord!
— *Joel and Andi, West Africa*

MISSIONS SMALL GROUP ENCOURAGEMENT

This [season], we've had several opportunities to invite people into our home to share about our ministry and how they can be involved. A participant shared: "I grew up going to church my whole life, but I honestly thought missions was a minor theme in the New Testament. I had no idea it started in Genesis and that Israel was meant to be missionaries to the nations all along." We would really appreciate your prayers for our small group, that God would work mightily in their hearts, stir them toward involvement in missions as senders or goers and motivate them to share what they are learning with others.
— *Lucas and Olivia Wiebe, Support raising in Germany*

FROM THE HOME OFFICE TO THE WORLD

Here at Ethnos360's Home Office, I serve a dual role as an administrative assistant and the Food Service Coordinator. Depending on the day, I might be making cookies, cleaning an oven, preparing a financial report, taking notes for a meeting or sometimes all of the above! Why do my co-workers here at the Home Office and I do what we do? Because we desire to see a thriving church for every people group—mature and equipped with the Word of God in their own native language. We know that it takes a team of people, all using the gifts and abilities the Lord has supplied, to take the gospel to unreached people groups.
— *Hannah Sipress, Ethnos360 Home Office, Sanford, Florida*

How can you be part of the gospel going to the ends of the earth?
Find your fit here:
www.ethnos360.org/find-your-fit

A NEW ROLE

We landed in the Philippines [recently] and are excited to be back despite the jet lag. As we look at returning to our ministry, we covet your prayers. Lance will begin a new role as program manager for the Philippines aviation team, while also functioning as the director of maintenance.

We are excited about the new role but also know it will be an adjustment for our family. Pray for our family as Lance begins [his new] role. Pray for our kids! We pray they would come to know Jesus as their Savior.
— *Lance and Caitlin Rensberger, Ethnos360 Aviation Philippines*

THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:
THE HIDDEN INFRASTRUCTURE

As someone who grew up in the digital age, I can't remember a time without computers, smartphones, Wi-Fi and Google. I use the internet to share social media posts, do digital banking, read the news, research questions—you name it. I understand what these forms of technology can do for me, but I don't understand what makes them work. And I think that most people would say the same. Today, Ethnos360 missionaries use these digital tools to study culture and language, translate Scriptures, format Bible lessons, send in their supply orders and communicate with family back home. This technology has become as crucial to the ministries of both church planters and support missionaries as it is in your daily life and mine.

IT stands for information technology. Our technology has hardware, the physical parts that we interact with, like laptops and internet routers, and software, the non-physical programs that guide the computer's hardware on what to do and how to do it. It also includes other things like data, networking, processes, security and much more. Some questions we might ask to understand the full scope of IT are: How did integrating IT into mission work all start? Who provides IT support? What do they do? And why does it matter for mission work among unreached people groups? The work of IT is a big picture to paint, so let's start from the beginning.

OUR PAST

Bible translation efforts were what prompted Ethnos360, New Tribes Mission (NTM) at the time, to explore if this up-and-coming computer technology could ever be beneficial to church planting missionaries. The question that started it all in 1980 was, "How can these newfangled personal computers (PCs) help our missionaries?"

One man was charged with one year of research in 1980 to evaluate if computers would be practical for and beneficial to Bible translators. This job was given to Dave Brendle, the only electrical engineer for NTM in the USA at the time. When he was not working on his responsibilities in avionics, he was ordering and testing systems and

> "How can these **newfangled personal computers** help our missionaries?"

speaking with computer companies and other mission organizations.

The year of research and testing came to an end, and Dave recommended a build-it-yourself PC kit. Five translators were interested in purchasing one, and two of them immediately placed orders. Dave's job was to build the computers, even with his full-time work in avionics. "I built the [PCs] in my spare time—nights and weekends. I built for quite a number of translators during the next two years."

Photo by Joel Potter
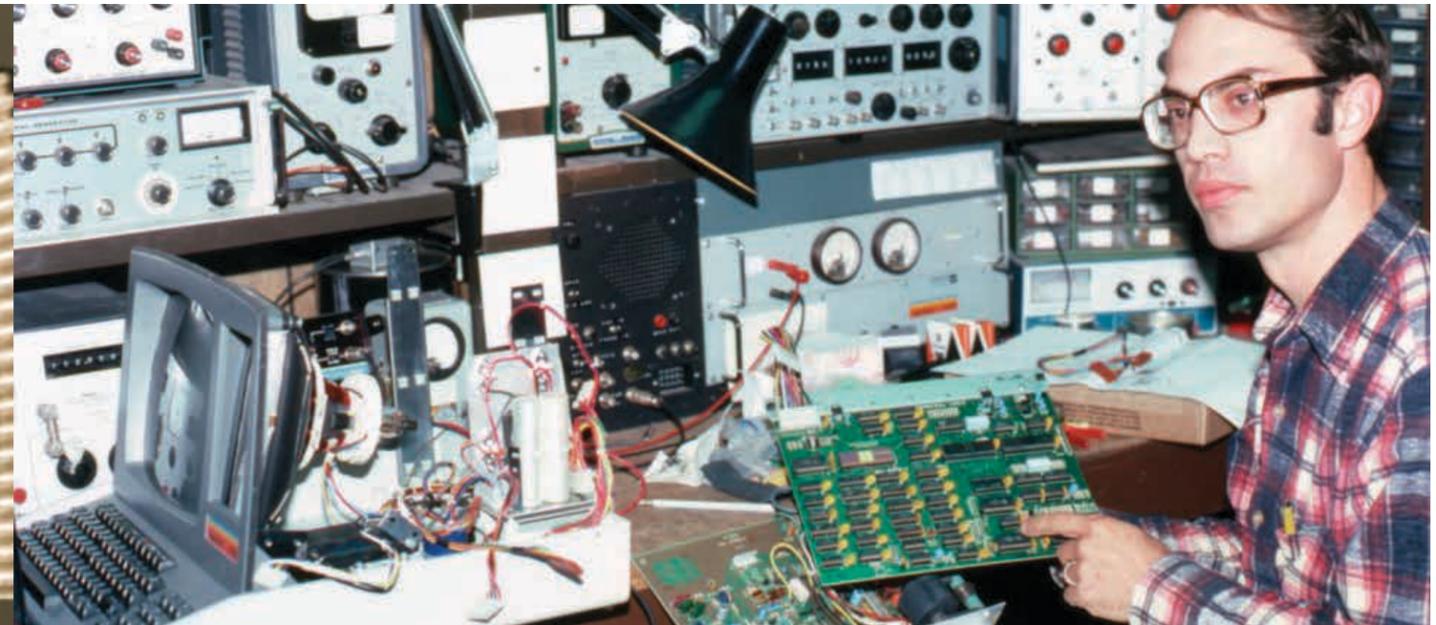
↑ Preserving irreplaceable data for missionaries

→ Dave Brendle pioneered computer technology in missions.

1941 The first fully functioning digital computer (Z3)

1942 New Tribes Mission founded

1943 In May, the first issue of NTM's magazine, *Brown Gold*; in October, five missionaries to the Ayorés were martyred.
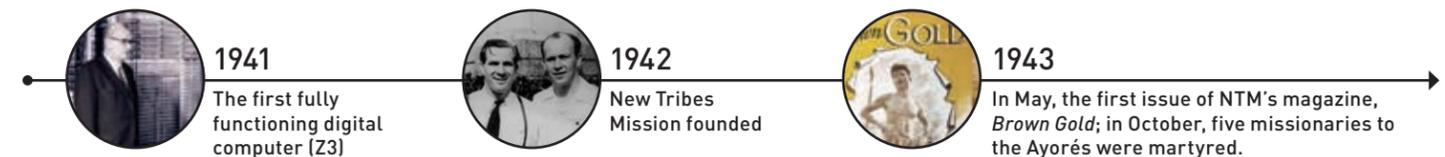
Although in 2026 we might not be able to picture our work without computers, in 1984, some people could not picture working with computers; they did not see how it could be beneficial to their work.

A REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE

Time and money. Two precious resources for missionaries who have a limited amount of both. Initially, the idea of these "newfangled" computers was not welcomed by everyone. The first reaction of Bolivia church planter and Bible translator Wayne Gill was, "This is something else to waste missionary time." Wayne was originally from Wyoming, but he had moved to Bolivia to be a missionary and had completed a New Testament translation into the Trinitario language on a standard typewriter.

Then, a clear leading of God had moved him to the Chimane people group in another part of Bolivia to translate for them. Wayne was a translation wiz. He already knew the process for Bible translation, he already had the equipment for it, and he knew it worked. This is when a pilot on a routine supply run brought the news of a "new thing called a *computer*."

It wasn't worth much consideration; it would be far too expensive. Thousands of dollars would be required to buy a computer and all the equipment to run it—a big ask for a missionary who raised his own support and would have to buy the computer himself. It would take far too much from his missionary work. It would take precious time to learn the computer, to input all the hand-written translation materials on the computer and to fix it when it would inevitably break.

In the jungle, the only technical support Wayne and his teammates had was what they could do for themselves or when the aviation team would fly in for the monthly supply drop. How could a computer possibly be worth all of that time and money and effort?

"Search and replace" made it worth it. Not only were the missionaries working on translating the Bible, they also were developing materials for their team as they learned the culture and language of the people they were working with. They had all these notes on hand-written note cards and typed papers, but paper was susceptible to threats. Countless hours of translation work could be completely eradicated. For example, one translator left her village to go to the mission base, and when she came back several weeks later, termites had destroyed over ten years of work!

The "search and replace" feature on the digitized platform allowed Wayne and other missionary translators and typists to edit and update documents in a fraction of the time it used to take. Previously, when a change
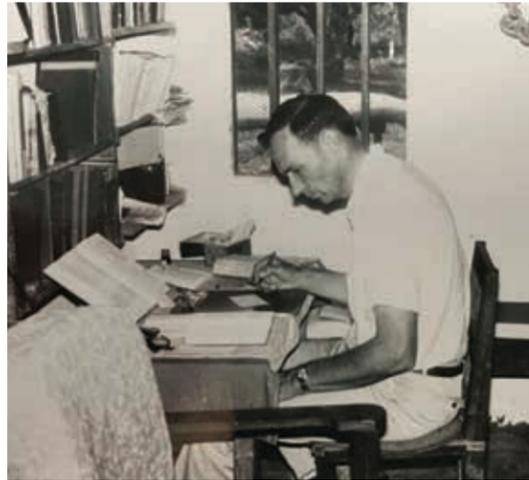
⬆ Wayne Gill doing Bible translation using notecards

⬅ Ruth Gill doing Bible translation on an early personal computer

All it took was one question and a few open minds **to change the course of how computer technology was to be utilized in NTM/Ethnos360.**

needed to be made to a document, the *entire page* would need to be retyped … and then this process was repeated for *each copy*. Now they could edit the original document without needing to recreate the change manually for each copy. Consider how this new feature radically increased time efficiency in language learning and Bible

translation. Missionaries were able to prepare these materials more quickly and thus spend more time studying the language, translating, building relationships with their indigenous neighbors and caring for their families.

After seeing the large impact that computers made on the Bible translation process, other organizational departments like the finance office back in the USA began to catch the vision as well. The finance team requested an accounting system that was able to meet the organization's specific needs, and the IT team fulfilled that request. They also developed an email system for NTM. Dave said, "Once email and communication came into play, requests for computers exploded, as individual missionaries saw how the computer could aid their connections to families and supporters." Now all missionaries could see the relevancy of computers.

All it took was one question and a few open minds to change the course of how computer technology was to be utilized in NTM/Ethnos360.

PRESENT

From training to church planting, IT supports every stage of ministry. Our IT workers fill roles both in the USA and on mission fields overseas. Although workers in the USA can help missionaries with many things remotely, some support must be given in person because the hardware needs to be installed, repaired, maintained and adjusted. Stateside IT missionaries support the organization as a whole, while overseas IT missionaries are assigned to support specific fields' needs. Without on-field IT support, church-planting missionaries have to send their computers away to be fixed, which in turn delays Bible translation and hinders communication for weeks.

I have now been around Ethnos360 for over a year at the Home Office in Sanford, Florida, and I cannot think of one worker here whose job is done without computers and IT support. On one level, we communicate on computers, and our work happens via computers. Even teams that do hands-on jobs like maintenance receive work orders online and order parts digitally. And on another level, our organizational intellectual property and our personal information are protected by IT.

"**Every step of the way, computers have been a critical component in seeing a church established among the Dinangat people.**"

— Jeremiah Markley, church planter, translator, Papua New Guinea

⬇ An IT worker in Papua New Guinea supporting missionaries

⬇ David Ogg working on the Simbari translation.
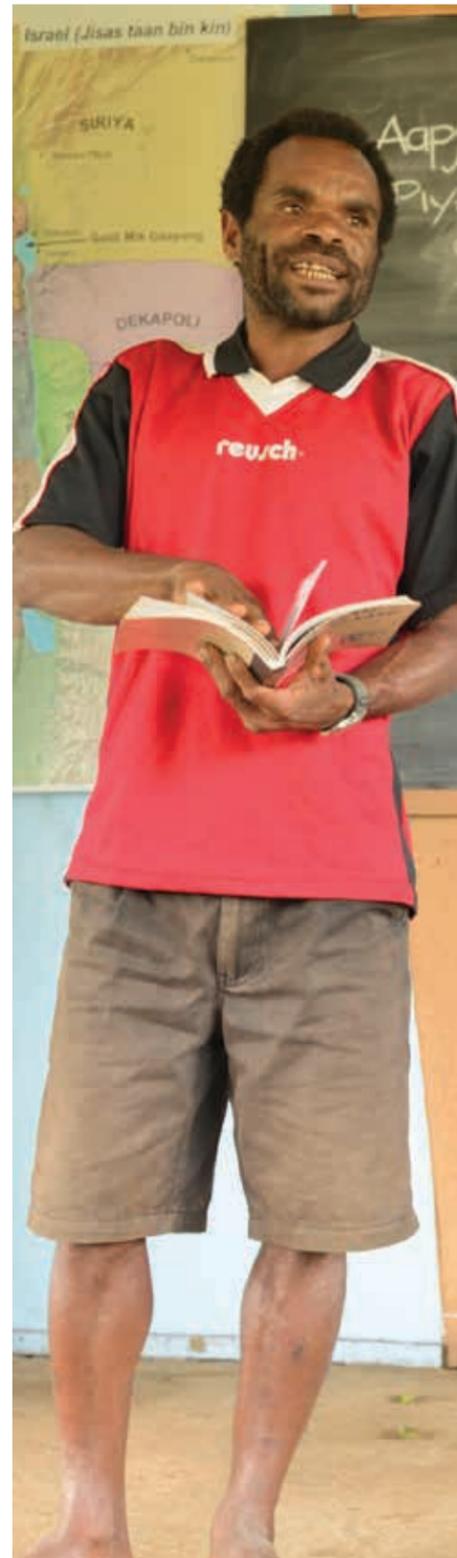
1955
Introduction of tape recorders in language learning; gospel presented to the Hamtai people of Papua New Guinea
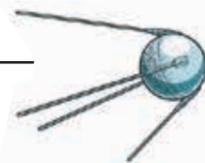
1957
Sputnik, the first artificial satellite, orbits the earth. Satellites today provide communication and navigation worldwide.

1959
NTM's Woodworth print shop printed its first New Testament (Curipaco of Colombia, Sophie Muller).

1975
Trevor McIlwain developed the chronological approach for teaching the Palawan people of Papua New Guinea.

The support ministry of IT is much more multi-faceted than I realized. Ethnos360 IT has the following objectives:

· provide the technology, tools and training to Ethnos360 staff for ministry;
· support staff members by removing technological obstacles to their ministry;
· protect against attacks on technology and information; and
· preserve irreplaceable data, such as Bible translations and important records.

So, how do these objectives impact present-day church planting practically?

A "NARROW MISS"

Benjamin and his wife, Missy, are church planters in Papua New Guinea who experienced a "narrow miss instead of a blindside." Benjamin recounted, "A couple years ago, we returned to the field after home assignment and were gathering supplies to go back to [the village] when we received an email alerting us to the fact that changes were in place to transfer our support to a new bank account. The email said that the transfer would take place in the next day or two. Only we had not asked for a transfer, nor had we opened a new bank account. After making a few rushed phone calls, the [IT team] determined that our mission account had been hacked and that a bad actor had impersonated us and successfully sent the request to the finance office without our knowing.

"Armed with this information, finance office personnel were able to report to the bad actor's bank management, and together they prevented the transfer of funds from happening. Without the swift response from the IT team, an entire month's income would have been lost and would probably not have been recoverable. From across the ocean in Papua New Guinea, it would have been very difficult for us to deal with this problem on our own."

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

Long since gone are the days of typewritten and handwritten Bible translations and weeks-long delays before hearing from family, friends and supporters while on the field. Additionally, new technology has made church planting more efficient and effective in other major areas like financial transactions, protection of personal information, Bible education and missionary training.

Directly impacting Bible translation, computers were game changers for how information was to be stored and retrieved, shared and edited, and printed and copied. No more giant file drawers for paper copies, no more termites eating original script. Edits could be implemented immediately. Consultants could receive the finished or almost finished translations via email rather than waiting for the consultants to make the trip to the village. And the completed translation could be emailed to the formatter instead of being sent by snail mail.

To receive mail in a remote village still takes a lot of time—several weeks or months. But now, missionaries don't have to ache for a word from home. Worldwide instant messaging is made possible through the work of IT. Missionaries can stay connected with co-workers, family, friends and supporters.

While missionary grandchildren in the early days would barely know their grandparents back in their home country, now they can FaceTime—hear their voices, see their faces. Missionaries can keep in touch with their adult children who have repatriated. Instead of isolated work, missionaries can consult co-workers and collaborate in real time. Churches can stay up to date on their missionaries' needs—practically, spiritually, financially. This level of connectivity has made it safer and easier for missionaries to live in remote areas and minister to unreached people groups.

Andy Wegner, who serves in the mobilization department at Ethnos360's Home Office, expressed his appreciation for IT support: "If I didn't have a computer to do my job, I would have to be driving [all around the country], costing us a lot more money. We would need a lot more supporters on our team. Our computers allow us to connect with people all over the world and mobilize through online content, which is becoming more and more effective for mobilizing college students and older adults alike."

IT supports Bible education by providing the systems for managing students and classwork at Ethnos360's residential Bible institute in Wisconsin. Not only do IT personnel upload and organize the recorded lectures for Ethnos360

Photos by Joel Potter
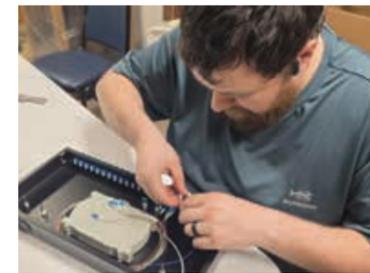
← Julie Enemark provides help desk support to Nancy Fleming at the Ethnos360 Home Office.

→ Brian Hicks supports the IT needs of pilots and support staff at Ethnos360 Aviation.

→ IT intern Quang Duong learns from help desk administrator Josh Draughon.

→ Scott Rodman prepares computers for missionaries.

→ Ethen DeMarce prepares fiber for the main internet backbone at the Ethnos360 Training Center.

→ John Caballero's skills from the corporate world serve the Ethnos360 IT team well.

"I communicate daily with people on different continents and in multiple countries. This morning alone, I met with people in Africa, South America, North America and Southeast Asia. **We were able to hold a meeting and work together smoothly because of the technology that keeps us connected.**"
— Keith Copley, Church Planting Consultant

Bible Institute's online classes, but they also organize the student dashboards and the instructors' accounts. Similar online discipleship programs have been created for believers located in places where a traditional missionary cannot go and provide this education in person.

In the past it was not easy for missionaries and national co-workers serving in different countries to connect and share resources online. In 2024, IT members from several countries worked very hard to create a safe, global online platform where missionaries from the Americas, Africa, Asia and Europe could collaborate and share ministry expertise. This platform ensures that everyone has access to the excellent resources available for church planting, regardless of where they are from or where they work.

PROTECTING THE WORK AND THE WORKERS

Besides serving Ethnos360 missionaries, IT specialists are dedicated to the security of students in training, interns, volunteers and those who partner with Ethnos360 financially. The IT team provides new tools that focus internally on the work being done; they also safeguard the organization from those outside the organization looking to attack our systems.

1980 Research begins on computers— can they be helpful for translators?

1981 First laptop computer (Osborne 1)

1983 Microsoft Word released

1980s Personal computers become mainstream.

1991 Tim Berners-Lee releases files describing his idea for the "World-Wide Web." The internet has enabled an increasing number of missionaries.

1992 50th anniversary of NTM

Cybercriminals, like those who tried to steal from Benjamin and Missy, actively seek security weak points to exploit. These kinds of attacks can cause outages that disrupt missionary care, training, finance operations, communication and donor engagement. Missionaries' livelihoods depend on these systems being in operation. Reliable systems help keep missionaries equipped and supported when they need to be focused on their ministry roles. Ethnos360 IT blocks multiple hacking attempts each day which, if they had gone through, would have been disastrous. The dynamic team of IT workers is constantly learning how best to serve and protect their missionaries and systems.

CHALLENGES

Missionary challenges today differ from challenges of the past … on the surface. Adapting to change and troubleshooting technology is a major part of the work of IT, a job that did not exist when Ethnos360 was founded nearly 85 years ago. However, the age-old, root challenges to mission work remain the same: shortages of laborers and resources.

Even with an unprecedented number of opportunities for those with tech skills, people simply do not know that their skills in IT can be used directly in missions. Director of IT Neil Byce says, "Each time I share the story of our vast and ever-growing IT needs, I'm met with the same reaction: surprise. People lean back, eyebrows raised, genuinely stunned. They tell me they had no idea Ethnos360 depended so heavily on technology. The thought simply never crossed their minds that servers,

cybersecurity, software development, connectivity in remote regions and the countless digital tools behind the scenes all play a vital role in global missions.

"What's even more striking is how often someone admits they never imagined that a shortage of IT personnel could slow the spread of the gospel. Yet the reality is that every Bible translation, every communication link to a remote team, every flight operation, every training center, every donor interaction—all of it relies on the quiet, unseen labor of people in IT. And once people see that picture, once they realize how deeply technology intertwines with frontline ministry, they never look at IT in missions the same way again … and they often become a huge advocate for us."

Skilled workers are necessary but in short supply. The demand for more workers to fill these positions, both stateside and overseas, is always growing. Currently, our IT team has over 20 open roles in the USA and 11 open international positions. We are thankful for the faithful laborers who serve with us now, and we trust God to fill the major gap of laborers.

Another challenge for IT missionaries serving in support roles is that they often experience difficulties as they raise funding to do their ministry full-time. Churches and individuals don't always recognize how vital these roles are to sustain church-planting efforts.

Part of being in the world of nonprofit missions means dependence on God for meeting needs through His people, including financial needs. Software programs, data storage and equipment need to be financed. We praise God for His provision.

Dave Brendle said, "Our IT team has always found ourselves facing major challenges. … However, God has always brought in the right people just in time to meet these needs. God continues to provide the next generation of workers to meet the challenges of the future." The demand is increasing for people to join the mission work of providing IT support that enables more churches to be planted.

THE FUTURE OF IT IN ETHNOS360

What is on the horizon for information technology at Ethnos360, and how will it help with church planting?

AI (artificial intelligence) talk has taken over the conversation in the tech world lately because it is impacting everyone. Many people have already integrated AI into their daily lives for working, cooking, managing their schedule, taking care of the home and more. This powerful tool continues to develop rapidly.

Careful stewardship of time, resources and missionary information is the hallmark of the Ethnos360 IT team. This is shown in their use of AI. One example is that they have set up firewalls with AI-integrated smart protection tools. Our team has set these up carefully so that they work alongside us to keep our systems and information safe from cyberattacks.

People have begun to ask questions about how this technology will affect missions, "Now with AI, you won't need people to do Bible translation anymore, right?" AI will never replace the need for human laborers to share God's amazing story of Creation, sin and redemption through Christ. AI doesn't operate through love. It doesn't bond and build trust with people. It won't cry with you in times of tragedy or feast with you in times of celebration. Shared human experiences give missionaries a deeper connection with the people to whom they are ministering.

We rely on God's sovereignty and guidance, using tools like AI only where they can safely and thoughtfully support the ministry.

TEAM GROWTH

A series of projects is underway to standardize the tools and systems used at all our US centers in Arizona, Florida, Missouri, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin; the goal is to strengthen unity by reducing downtime. A connected, unified system makes for better synergy between team members and technologies. Moving toward a cloud-based system reduces physical maintenance needs for servers and enables access to resources anywhere in the world.

Our IT team will continue to adapt and grow to ensure our efficiency, effectiveness and security as a mission,

and as key ministry roles are filled, the team will be able to launch exciting new initiatives for our different departments. In a world of ever-changing technology, we trust God for our future.

FINAL THOUGHTS

From a missionary's first steps in training to the complex tasks of language learning, Bible translation and church planting, our IT professionals ensure that every stage of ministry is empowered by reliable, secure and innovative technology. Though IT is often behind the scenes, its impact is front and center.

A thriving church for every people. That has been the heartbeat of the Ethnos360 IT team since the beginning. Each day, barriers are removed—education, communication, translation and literacy barriers—and tools are provided by the ministry of the IT team that will continue to accelerate the Great Commission while relying on God's provision.

People like Dave, Neil and many others on the IT team support the ministries of stateside workers like Andy and Keith and international church planters like Wayne and Benjamin and Missy. God gives each of us experiences, opportunities, dreams and skills so that, being empowered by His Holy Spirit, we can partner with Him and the local church to bring the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Contributing Writer

Megan Bartlett graduated from Liberty University in 2024 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration: Communications and began interning with Ethnos360. Now, as a volunteer, she continues to serve in the Communications department at the Home Office in Sanford, Florida. It is Megan's joy to be a part of reaching the unreached by bringing awareness to the need for missionaries and encouraging others to take part. She is supported by her home church, First Baptist Church of Barron, Wisconsin.

➔ IT team members from around the USA gathered at the Home Office for their annual meeting.

Photos by Joel Potter

Google

1998
Google launched

2007
Apple releases iPhone, transforming mobile computing.
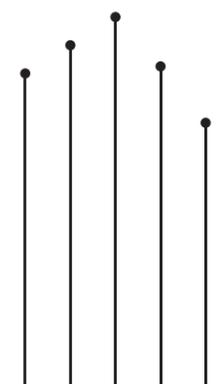
75th ANNIVERSARY

2017
75th anniversary of the mission, changes name from NTM to Ethnos360

2025
To date, 111 New Testament translations completed

2026
86 New Testaments in progress; all missionaries use computers for work

EMPOWER CHURCH PLANTING THROUGH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

IMAGINE THIS

Imagine living your entire life without access to God's Word. For billions of people around the world, that is still the reality. Have you ever asked yourself what it will take to reach them? Behind every Bible translation and thriving church is a network of support — and you can be key in making that happen.

Reaching the last, the least and the lost isn't easy. It requires courage, commitment and — believe it or not — information technology (IT). In today's world, missionaries in remote locations can remain connected with the rest of the world, but only if they have the technology to make it happen. IT tools, like computers and computer programs, aren't just a convenience; they are a lifeline for missionaries serving in isolation. They enable missionaries to learn languages, disciple believers and communicate with co-workers across continents.

Ethnos360 reaches people who do not have access to a thriving church, and we can't do it alone. You can play a key role in carrying out the Great Commission by choosing to **pray, give or serve**, specifically in Information Technology. Your involvement helps missionaries stay connected, equipped and encouraged as they bring God's Word to those who have never heard.

PRAY ABOUT IT CHALLENGES

Prayer is powerful, and it's essential to pray about the information technology that keeps Ethnos360 missionaries connected and equipped. Our IT team faces unique challenges that impact the entire mission team, and we need your prayers.

God reminds us in James 5:16b: "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." Your prayers help strengthen the unseen

IT framework that enables the whole mission body to serve together. Our IT staff regularly pray together about these needs, and we've seen God provide wisdom and protection in many challenging situations.

Join us in prayer for the following:
- *Staffing:* Pray that God would direct skilled IT professionals to join the team and help carry the growing workload.
- *Cybersecurity:* Pray that God would protect our systems and missionaries from attacks and give wisdom as we strengthen defenses.
- *Wisdom:* Pray that God will give our team insight and creativity as we tackle increasingly complex technology issues in a rapidly changing world.
- *Funding:* Pray that God would meet the financial needs we have for critical upgrades and tools that enable church planting and missionary support.

Will you pray specifically for Ethnos360 IT as we keep missionaries

OUR IT TEAM HAS:

23 open positions across the US

11 open international positions.

→ IT team in prayer

connected and the gospel moving forward?

To sign up to receive Ethnos360 IT prayer updates, visit our IT webpage ethnos360.org/go/IT.

GIVE TOWARD IT NEEDS

Technology has been essential in speeding up our efforts of church planting and Bible translation worldwide. We have increased our use of technology, and costs have also increased.

Technology is the unseen framework that keeps Ethnos360 missionaries connected, equipped and protected as they serve around the world. When you give to the Ethnos360 IT General Giving Project, you're helping make that possible.

Your gift will help modernize outdated systems, strengthen connectivity for missionaries in remote areas, protect identities and data, and provide essential tools that enable Bible translation and discipleship.

In 2026, your support will enable us:
- To strengthen defenses against

> **TECHNOLOGY IS THE UNSEEN FRAMEWORK that keeps Ethnos360 missionaries connected, equipped and protected as they serve around the world.**

cyberthreats at our US locations as well as threats against the irreplaceable data of our missionaries worldwide.
- To replace aging server hardware that keeps our systems running.
- To expand IT support for our retirees, honoring their years of faithful service.

Your gifts help missionaries stay connected and equipped to share God's Word with those who have never heard. Will you join us in meeting these urgent IT needs? Give today to see technology help us reach the unreached.

To give to this project visit our IT webpage ethnos360.org/go/IT.

SERVE AS AN IT MISSIONARY

Is God leading you to missions service? Ethnos360 needs people with a wide range of professional IT skills to help keep the mission moving forward.

Currently, our IT team has 23 open positions across the United States and

Photos by Joel Potter

← Neil Byce

11 open international positions. As technology becomes increasingly vital to Bible translation and church planting, the need for more staff continues to grow. We are praying for individuals with experience in these areas:
- Cybersecurity
- Networking
- Hardware and Software
- Application Development and Administration
- Databases
- Website Administration
- Help Desk Support
- Project Management
- IT Leadership

When you serve, you become part of the story to see a thriving church for every people. We have both on-site and remote opportunities to serve as a career member, associate member, volunteer or intern.

For IT volunteers, we generally need a commitment to serve for six months or more because of the onboarding needed to get familiar with our technical systems. Ethnos360 IT in the USA accepts volunteers who can commit a minimum of 14 hours per week. This allows our partnership to be effective and sustainable.

Is God calling you to take the next step? Learn more about specific opportunities both in the USA and internationally on our IT webpage ethnos360.org/go/IT.

—*Neil Byce, Director of IT*

CANADIAN ARCTIC PROJECT

The June 2025 Ethnos360 magazine introduced the new Canadian Arctic work among the Inuit. Ministry in the Arctic is costly and requires careful research and planning. Before missionaries can move into remote communities, a Ministry Opportunity Assessment must be completed.

Your generosity will help raise the $115,500 needed to assess nine Arctic villages. Once the assessment is finished, missionaries can be strategically placed—ultimately leading to a clear presentation of Truth in these communities.

go.ethnos360.org/arctic-project

Read more.

PRAY Jesus Alone Can Straighten Us

Benjamin and Missy Hatton, with their teammates Bart and Emily Allen, minister among the Amdu people of Papua New Guinea. The Amdu church is maturing as the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of our brothers and sisters. The Hattons witnessed evidence of this in several believers' lives recently.

"One believer who has struggled over the years to demonstrate that he has a clear understanding of how a person can be made right with God has encouraged our hearts recently with the clearest comments about his confidence in Christ alone for his salvation. He said in one meeting, 'If someone thinks they can straighten out their own life and become acceptable to God, then the Holy Spirit won't come and live in them. Only those people who declare that it is true that Jesus alone can straighten us are accepted by God and His good Spirit comes and lives in them. I say it is true that Jesus alone can straighten us.'

"There are a number of people like this man who enjoy our meetings and come regularly but struggle to communicate that they have a clear understanding of their helplessness before God. Pray for these people that the eyes of their understanding would be opened and that they could express a clear testimony of faith in Jesus."
— *Benjamin and Missy Hatton, Papua New Guinea*

PRAISE Exceedingly Much Hope

When Paulina, a young mother, became very sick and was nearing the end of her life, she said, "I trust Jesus, my Lord-Owner-Boss. If He wants me to get better, I'll get better, but if He wants me to go to be with Him, then I will. I'm good with whatever He wants." She passed away two days later.

Merrill and Teresa share that "as the believing family put her into the hole and covered her with dirt, they began to imagine her chatting with Jesus. They were all excited about that possibility. And then they mentioned Enoch and Abraham, along with the disciples, and many others, that she was possibly visiting with them too. This burial became a wonderful celebration of life! Suddenly everyone was saying, 'Truly we are those who live with exceedingly much hope!' Yes, there was a great party celebrating their huge hope in Christ."

Praise the Lord for the hope that comes from trusting in Him. Praise Him that this people group now has Scripture and Bible lessons in their language in the form of radio broadcasts, podcasts and printed Bibles.
— *Merrill and Teresa Dyck, Latin America*

RENOVATE TO REACH

RENOVATING TO TRAIN, TRAINING TO REACH THE UNREACHED

For more information about how you can be part of reaching the unreached through renovating our training centers, contact us.

ETHNOS360 TRAINING CENTER
ETC-Development@ntm.org
573-317-8670

ETHNOS360 BIBLE INSTITUTE
Andrew_Moser@ntm.org
716-534-0467

www.ethnos360.org/projects

PRAY
My Fire Had Gone Out

Felix, an elder of the Dinangat church, shares of how God worked in his heart when missionary Ralf, who Felix says is "like a brother to me," came for a visit in October 2025. "[Years ago] through the missionary team, I heard God's story of salvation for the very first time – and I understood that Jesus died on the cross for me personally. I believed and became a child of God. For several years now, Lukas and I have been serving as elders of our church.

"[Missionaries] Ralf, Elli and Mimi came back to Dinangat for a few weeks. Before we wanted to continue with the translation work, Ralf – as always – first asked: 'How are you? How is the church doing?' And he quickly noticed that I was not doing well.

"My wife had a baby in August, even though she's in her mid-40s. Our nights were short. I was the only one preaching on Sundays. ... And I had lost sight of Jesus. I was living more focused on my circumstances than on His strength.

"I sensed my inner fire was low — almost out.

"The next day Ralf worked with Lukas [the other church elder] on 2 Peter. And it didn't take long for him to see that Lukas was struggling with the same thing I was: He was tired, worn out, dried up on the inside.

"That first Sunday I preached. I stood up front — but I knew I had little to give the church. Ralf offered to preach the second Sunday. ... Ralf preached about the fire of our faith. About our relationship with God. He spoke about a fire that goes out when we don't tend to it.

"That sermon hit me straight in the heart. When Ralf sat down after preaching, I stood up. With teary eyes I confessed to the church: 'My fire is out.' Many things had brought me to that point, but the most important one was that in my daily life I had stopped looking to Jesus.

"As I spoke, I saw people nodding all across the room. Many were in the same place.

"God showed us grace. ... [A]s Lukas and I continued taking turns working with Ralf on the translation, God used many of the very verses we were translating to encourage us personally. God is so patient with us and so faithful. Please keep praying for us and for the church — that our fire would burn clearly and brightly again."
— *From elder Felix via Ralf and Elli Schlegel, Papua New Guinea*

ETHNOS360 AVIATION

Brazil Hangar Project

"Praise the Lord the first literacy class has finally begun!" The team among the K people of Brazil is bringing the gift of reading — opening the door to the Good News for thousands of K people. Two new families have just joined the team as they prepare to translate Scripture and teach foundational Bible lessons.

But with the deadline looming for losing the current hangar space, the K team and seven others will have no R66 helicopter service to sustain them in their isolated locations. The solution? Build a hangar. Until full payment is made on the land, though, construction cannot continue.

Can you help reach the people of Brazil?

Go to **ethnos360aviation.org/projects/brazil-hangar-1** for details and to help with the project.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SEMINARY

Want to deepen your understanding of Scripture, grow in your walk with the Lord and be better equipped for ministry? Southern California Seminary (SCS) provides accessible, affordable, accredited graduate-level Bible education.

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For more information, please contact Leroy Hill, adjunct professor, at the SCS Admissions Office.
Leroy.hill@socalsem.edu | 619.201.8969

ats The Association of Theological Schools
The Commission on Accrediting

LEARN MORE

INVEST IN A LEGACY THAT LASTS

Why an Endowment?
The Ethnos360 Ministry Endowment Fund is more than a financial tool — it's a commitment to sustaining gospel impact for generations to come. By creating a permanent fund, we ensure that the resources needed to support missionaries and ministry operations remain strong, even in times of economic uncertainty.

Your Gift Makes a Difference
When you give to the Ethnos360 Ministry Endowment Fund, you're not just giving for today — you're investing in tomorrow. This board-designated fund is designed to generate sustainable income through prudent investment, with earnings dedicated to strengthening the long-term stability, administrative capacity and operational resources of Ethnos360. This allows us to mobilize, equip and support missionaries in assisting local churches to evangelize unreached peoples, translate Scripture and establish mature churches.

The Impact of Your Legacy
Through this fund, Ethnos360 can remain focused on its calling: establishing a thriving church for every people. Your partnership ensures that, regardless of fluctuations in annual giving or economic conditions, the work continues — strong, steady and effective.

Join us in building a foundation for the future. Your gift to the Ethnos360 Ministry Endowment Fund creates a lasting legacy of hope and transformation. Your partnership gifts can be designated for the Ethnos360 Endowment Fund.
Questions? Call 407-547-2345 or email financeusa@ntm.org.

ethnos360.org/projects/ethnos360-ministry-endowment-fund

PRAY I Want to Tell Everyone

"As we worked through [Bible lessons for the Turu people], God began opening eyes and hearts.

"One friend, Fedius, said, 'No one has ever shared God's Talk like this. I was always told God was angry and that I had to work hard to appease Him. But God's Talk says something so different. He knew I couldn't do enough good, so He sent Someone to take the punishment for my sin. He asks me to trust this plan only. I want to do this. And I want to share this talk with my wife and friends.'

"Another friend, Fodius, shared, 'God worked hard to give us this specific talk and that's why you and I must work so hard to translate and teach it well. This talk that says His plan for sending Someone to take my "heavies" (punishment) is enough to make me right with Him. And once I am right with Him, He stays with me and gives me the strength to live rightly. This is such a light talk to hear. I want to tell everyone.'

"[Then,] unprompted, he stood before a large group of Turu people and shared how God has given us His Talk and shown the way to be made right with Him, ... making the point that what God provides is what we need to trust in."

Praise the Lord that "God is opening hearts to His Word," and "Turu believers are beginning to speak God's Story to their own people."

— *Ryan and April Beck, Asia Pacific*

PRAY Longing for Help to Arrive

Brian and Bailey Pruett serve at Ethnos360 Aviation's headquarters in McNeal, Arizona. "After years of hard work and prayer, our team launched a helicopter program in the Amazon. …We have been burdened for Bruno (and his family) who has been the only pilot and mechanic in our flight program in Brazil for years. The program has grown and now has two regions and two hangars that it operates from. Needless to say, Bruno has been longing for help to arrive." God did send help — Kyle and Whitney Coulliard and their family have moved to Brazil where Kyle has joined Bruno as a pilot.

"Presently, there is so much work to do that we cannot possibly meet the needs with our small team. There are people groups who are completely hidden from and unreached by the outside world. They have no idea who Jesus is and no possible way to find out because the news of salvation isn't in their language.

"Please pray with us as we work to train pilots and mechanics for this daunting task. Pray as we try to build up this flight program in Brazil, that God would provide the resources and connections that we need to support our church planters." The team will need to purchase property to build a hangar to house their R66 helicopter; pray that God will supply the funds.

"Finally, pray that God will send people to fill all the positions on the team that we need!"

— *Brian and Bailey Pruett, Ethnos360 Aviation, Arizona*

CONNECT WITH NEW MISSIONARIES

ELI AND MARTHA NELSON
& Elisha, Neva, Hadassah, Nili

Serving in Papua New Guinea

Sent by Grace Community Church in Spofford, New Hampshire

Eli was born in Colorado but grew up living "all over" the USA. His parents are believers, and he heard and understood the gospel at a young age. The Lord used a mission trip to Haiti and a mission trip to Ecuador to solidify in Eli's mind that he needed to be involved in establishing churches among the unreached. As he grew in his walk with the Lord, he realized that "Christian life doesn't end with salvation," and he knew he wanted to be a part of discipling new believers to spiritual maturity.

Martha remembers hearing Bible stories about Jesus when she was just three years old, and He quickly became her "hero," but it would be a few years before she recognized that not only does Jesus love her, but He also died to save her from the penalty of her sins. "From that moment on, He was not only my hero, but He was also my Savior." In fifth grade, Martha's prayer to the Lord about her future was, "When You say 'go,' I'll go." She even "packed a bag and set it by the doorway" in anticipation. In her early twenties, she learned about Ethnos360's work in Papua New Guinea and began saving for Bible school.

Martha and Eli met at Ethnos360 Bible Institute, graduated, and over the course of three years, married, started a family and focused on what the Lord would have them do before attending Ethnos360 Training Center. "At this point, we were sure that we would be church planters [to an indigenous people group]. But God is in the details, working things together for our good and for His glory. This delay opened our hearts to whatever God would have us do and set us up well for what God was going to show us while we were at the training center."

"During our time at Ethnos360 Training Center, we clearly saw our strengths and weaknesses and how we function together as a team. We realized we were suited well for support work on the field and began shaping a new vision for our family around the gifts that God had given us. **Since Eli's background is in IT, we focused on the needs that different fields had for IT workers. With how prevalent computers are and how critical maintaining systems can be, we found it was a huge need in most fields.** We also wanted to serve on a field where we felt we could both serve together. Martha is an encourager and wanted to use this on the field somewhere. We heard about the need for support workers in Papua New Guinea (PNG), and through prayer and godly counsel, we decided to pursue serving there and arrived in August 2025."

The Nelsons are now learning Tok Pisin, the trade language of PNG. When they advance far enough in their Tok Pisin study, Eli will begin working in IT, and once their kids get older, Martha will "jump into different areas of need here."

ethnos360.org/missionaries/
eli-and-martha-nelson

GABY GUTIERREZ

Serving in Brazil

Sent by Cascade Community Church in Monroe, Washington

Gaby became a believer after she heard the gospel at a youth conference. "I finally understood that I was a sinner, and that I needed the Savior." After graduating high school, she attended Ethnos360 Bible Institute. In 2019, she visited Shekinah, the mission's training center in Brazil, and she felt this is where God was leading her to serve. So, after finishing training at Ethnos360 Training Center, she moved to Brazil in August 2025. She is currently learning the culture and language. "I am interested in church planting afterwards, but I am also open to whatever God wants me to do."

ethnos360.org/missionaries/
gaby-gutierrez

MARK AND AUTUMN BOGNER & CHILDREN

Serving in Papua New Guinea

Sent by White Rock Fellowship in Dallas, Texas, and Christ the Redeemer Church in Spokane, Washington

Mark and Autumn were both blessed to come to know the Lord at a young age. Autumn knew early on that she would serve the Lord in ministry, and it was at a college fair that the Lord led Mark towards missionary aviation. He trained as a pilot and mechanic at Moody Aviation, and then the Ethnos360 Aviation leadership asked him to fill a need in Papua New Guinea (PNG) as the maintenance controller. Mark and Autumn met in 2023, they were married, and they moved to PNG in August 2025. They are currently learning the trade language, Tok Pisin, before Mark can begin serving in the hangar. Autumn is praying about opportunities to continue using her skills to serve the Lord.

ethnos360.org/missionaries/
mark-and-autumn-bogner

BETHANY JAMES

Serving in Papua New Guinea

Sent by Open Door Bible Church in Belton, Missouri

Bethany grew up in Papua New Guinea (PNG) as a missionary kid. Throughout her childhood and teen years, she grew in her relationship with the Lord, and He gave her a desire to teach. In college, she was able to teach at Numonohi Christian Academy (NCA) in PNG to fulfill part of her student teaching requirements, and now that she has completed her education and gained some teaching experience in the USA, the Lord has brought her back to NCA where she teaches English to missionary kids whose parents serve in church planting and support roles. This is Bethany's first year teaching at NCA, and she looks forward to seeing how God will use her "skills, talents and heart to serve Him and His people in Papua New Guinea."

ethnos360.org/missionaries/
bethany-james

DAN AND MADISON MURPHY & DAUGHTER

Serving in Mexico

Sent by Warsaw Community Church in Warsaw, Indiana

Dan was 30 years old when he put his faith in Jesus as his Savior, and Madison, though raised in a Christian home, did not grasp her need for a Savior until her mid-20s. Both said that the simplicity of reading and studying God's Word transformed their hearts and minds. They were both engineers in the medical device industry, and after getting married, they began to seek how to use their gifts and abilities for God's glory; they decided to leave the corporate world to join the mission field. When they attended a retreat at Wayumi in Pennsylvania, they were challenged to get involved with cross-cultural missions, so they completed training through Ethnos360 Bible Institute online and Ethnos360 Training Center. They were open to wherever God would lead them for long-term ministry, and earlier this year, Dan and Madison and their daughter moved to their new home in Mexico to begin culture and language acquisition.

ethnos360.org/missionaries/
dan-and-madison-murphy

LAURA JOACHIMS

Serving in West Africa

Sent by Fellowship Bible Church in Rogers, Arkansas

"I've always liked rules! As a child, I built my identity on being the 'good kid' who always did the right thing. It was a shock when I realized that my 'goodness' didn't make me right with God. I'm so thankful, now, to live in the security of His goodness, given to me freely through Christ. I want to invite others into that same freedom and joy! That's why I'm currently learning culture and language in West Africa, so that I can pursue church planting and translation work here among those who have never heard the Good News of the gospel."

ethnos360.org/missionaries/
laura-joachims

AM I WILLING TO COUNT FORKS?

God impressed this question on my heart during a recent study of Ezra. After serving with Ethnos360 in Southeast Asia Mainland for 18 years, God now has me in an unexpected ministry far behind what many consider to be the forefront of missions. Many see the forefront of missions as a remote place in another country, where the missionary must learn a different culture and language to teach the Bible.

My current ministry is serving in the Information Technology (IT) division of Ethnos360 as an administrative assistant. My daily work involves planning meetings, onboarding new IT staff, taking notes and organizing essential information. Sometimes my heart aches to be in Asia again, teaching God's Truth in the heart language of my friends there. Sometimes I wonder about my daily tasks in this role when they are so different from what God originally called me to do.

The question about counting forks came when I noticed in Ezra that God specifically named and called some servants to do behind-the-scenes work to facilitate His worship.

Ezra led the Jewish exiles back to Jerusalem from captivity in Babylon to rebuild the temple. His God-inspired record names and counts all groups who were a part of re-establishing worship in the temple. These people would make it possible for the nation of Israel to worship God in the way He specified.

God stirred up their spirits to go and rebuild the temple (Ezra 1:5). Ezra includes many different roles in his list: priests, Levites and temple servants (Ezra 2:36-70). The priests and some Levites could be considered on the forefront of temple service. The priests offered sacrifices, taught the Law and judged the people. Some Levites assisted the priests, purified objects and led worship through music (Nehemiah 8:7-8, 1 Chronicles 23:3-5, 28-32).

However, I noticed that the Bible also records the names of Levites serving in less prominent ways in the temple worship. These Levites serving in behind-the-scenes roles were an important and necessary part of worshipping the Most High God in the way He commanded.

COUNTING FORKS AND GUARDING GATES

Some Levites were "in charge of the serving utensils, being required to count them when they brought them in or took them out" (1 Chronicles 9:28 AMP). Their job was to do a daily count of the utensils, like the meat forks, shovels and bowls used in the sacrifices. Some had the job of counting forks every day!

Others prepared the food used in worship. It says "Mattithiah … was entrusted with the responsibility for baking the offering bread" (1 Chronicles 9:31 NIV). This was not just a random assignment: Mattithiah was entrusted with this job of baking the bread used in worship, day after day.

Other Levites were gatekeepers who were "in charge of the gates of the house of the Lord … as guards" (1 Chronicles 9:23 ESV). This included taking turns being stationed to guard it at night. Their responsibility was watching — to safeguard and protect the treasures within God's temple.

Regardless of whether these servants of God counted forks, baked bread or guarded gates, their purpose was the same: to make sure people worshipped God as He designed.

I was encouraged that God recorded the names of His servants who did these behind-the-scenes jobs in the temple because so many of the tasks that my co-workers and I do each day in our IT roles are similar.

Just like God noticed these daily temple tasks, He sees the daily support tasks we do so that people around the world can worship Him: writing computer programs, setting up email accounts, configuring network equipment, protecting against cyberattacks and helping missionaries with computer questions. God also sees my co-workers in the finance office who process donations and those in the personnel department who update records and assist new staff members.

Without these tasks of "counting forks," our missionaries would not have the finances or computer resources needed for them to help plant thriving churches. God uses the people who are doing those tasks to be a part of His glory being seen in all people groups.

CHOSEN AND ENTRUSTED

Not only does the Bible name these roles, but it also says that King David and his officials specifically chose the people for their temple roles (Ezra 8:20). They were chosen by God-appointed leaders for their roles of service, just like our missionaries are appointed by local churches to serve. Today we often say that those chosen by the church for ministry are "called to ministry." These Levites were "called" to count forks, bake bread and guard gates. Today support missionaries are called to serve in many different operational ministries like finance, information technology, maintenance, communications, MK education, member care, food services and mobilization.

The Bible also explains that the gatekeepers were chosen and entrusted by David and Samuel to guard the temple and its treasures (1 Chronicles 9:22–26). Their obedience was essential to people worshipping God in His temple.

Likewise, when our finance team processes donations and prepares audit reports and when our IT team protects Bible translations and personnel records from cyberattacks, they are playing crucial roles in advancing the worship of God among the nations.

Isn't it encouraging to know that God uses these unseen tasks to bring glory to Himself? He has chosen and entrusted people for these unique support roles so that worship can flourish worldwide.

God calls people in different seasons of life to use their gifts in support roles. Some He calls after missions training, others after serving overseas and others even mid-career or in retirement.

How has God chosen and entrusted you? Are you willing to count forks for God's glory? Will you step into the role He's asking of you by serving behind the scenes? Is He leading you to support those behind the scenes with prayer and finances so that His name is worshipped among the nations?

— *Tamara See*
Administrative Assistant for Ethnos360 IT

→ Marie Modin, entrusted with finance office tasks

Tory Weiss, Wanda Hull, and Caroline Elter, entrusted with housekeeping tasks

Roland Shafer Jr, entrusted with IT infrastructure tasks

Luke Myers, entrusted with groundskeeping tasks

Tamara See, entrusted with administrative assistant tasks

THE GREAT COMMISSION COURSE

YOUR GUIDE TO WORLD MISSIONS.

What is missions?

What does God say about those who have never heard?

How can I be a part of it?

How can my church be a part of it?

These are some of the questions that many of us are asking as we read His Word and consider the world we live in. The Great Commission Course is a free resource that was created to respond to these questions to provide clarity, encouragement and a challenge to those pursuing answers.

WHAT TO EXPECT

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- Discover God's heart for the nations

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