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A THRIVING CHURCH FOR EVERY PEOPLE

# ETHNOS

MAGAZINE

The Benefit  
of Missions

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Cover photo by Dale Stroud



## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

When I read Colossians 1:13-14 and ponder the evil forces that are at work trying to prevent the rescue of souls from the kingdom of darkness, I recognize again the necessity of the team it takes to succeed in establishing thriving churches among the least reached people groups—*ethnos*—of this world.

It took an incredible and diverse team from around the globe to enable my family to move into the Moi tribe of the Asia-Pacific Region back in 2000. Prior to our moving into the Moi tribe, they were an undocumented tribe living deep in the rugged mountains.

We were dependent on the support of HeliMission, their helicopters and pilots, to get all our supplies into the mountain hamlet. After we moved in, Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) used their fixed-wing aircraft to help bring the gospel to the Moi by flying over and airdropping supplies of food and medicine.

A team of national co-workers from a church on the other side of the island flew in to cut lumber and frame up our homes. Other national believers worked with government officials to ensure we had the proper paperwork to live and serve in the region.

We had a team of skilled builders from Ontario come and do the plumbing and electrical on our home in the jungle.

A church in Canada gave an incredible gift of money which God used to pay for much of the supplies and other building expenses.

A couple of American co-workers coordinated the efforts from a nearby town, scheduling radio contact and buying supplies. The older children of our coworkers helped by watching our three children, who at the time were between the ages of one and six.

In addition to the necessary time, skills and finances it took to move into Moi, we were blessed by the spiritual supports God provided. When discouraged by spiritual attacks, God had a co-worker from the home office of Ethnos Canada call us out of the blue on our satellite phone and encourage us.

We also benefited from regular satellite calls with the leadership team of our sending church back in Canada. The spiritual oversight provided not just accountability, but a real sense of stability—we knew we were not in this alone.

We may have been the ones on the front lines of the battle, seeing lives transformed as they were rescued by God from the kingdom of darkness and brought into “the kingdom of the Son of His love”, but we were only there because of a much larger team—a very diverse team. Christ is the Head, His body is the Church, and we are members of that body, each called and privileged to do our part.

In this issue of *Ethnos Magazine*, I trust you catch our deep appreciation for you and your part. I also hope we can challenge you and others that the ministry is broad and deep and that we are desperately in need of each other if we are going to have an impact on a world that needs Christ.

Please pray for more labourers and let the saints know that there are many skills needed to accomplish this task of reaching the world. It's doable if we team up!

Yours in Christ,

Tim Whatley  
Executive Director, Ethnos Canada

# NEWS AROUND THE WORLD



Photo by Dave Brendle

## PRE-FIELD ORIENTATION

There's a place for your career experience on the church planting team, helping missionaries serving in remote villages—people who rely on other dedicated missionaries who support their work.

Associate missionaries can serve anywhere from six months to four years and beyond. Each year we provide an orientation for new associates. Over the last three years, we have had Canadian associates serve in Papua New Guinea, Mexico, the USA, England and Canada.

The orientation is designed to help the associate

missionary live and minister successfully in Canada or abroad. It does this by exploring the needed skills for developing a ministry support team, understanding the core values of Ethnos Canada, recognizing the distinctives in Ethnos Canada's strategy in world missions, becoming aware of the dynamics of living overseas, building and maintaining healthy relationships, meeting and becoming friends with others joining Ethnos Canada, and encouraging personal and spiritual growth.

[ethnos.ca/go/skilled-associates](https://ethnos.ca/go/skilled-associates)



## THE KALANGUYA BIBLE

The Kalanguya (Philippines) New Testament with Genesis and Exodus was translated by Bob Ambrosius and printed in 1983.

After a revision and reprinting of the New Testament in 2001, two Kalanguya mother tongue translators were further trained to translate the remainder of the Old Testament. With Bob as their mentor and consultant, they completed the Old Testament translation in 2018.

Now work is almost complete on a second revision of the New Testament, including footnotes and cross references to reflect the relationship of Old and New Testaments. A digital manuscript was in the hands of the printer in July, with expectations that the Bibles will be in print by the fall of this year.

You can help to get the Kalanguya Bible printed:  
[ethnos.ca/kalanguya-bible-printing/](https://ethnos.ca/kalanguya-bible-printing/)







## PALAKA LITERACY UPDATES

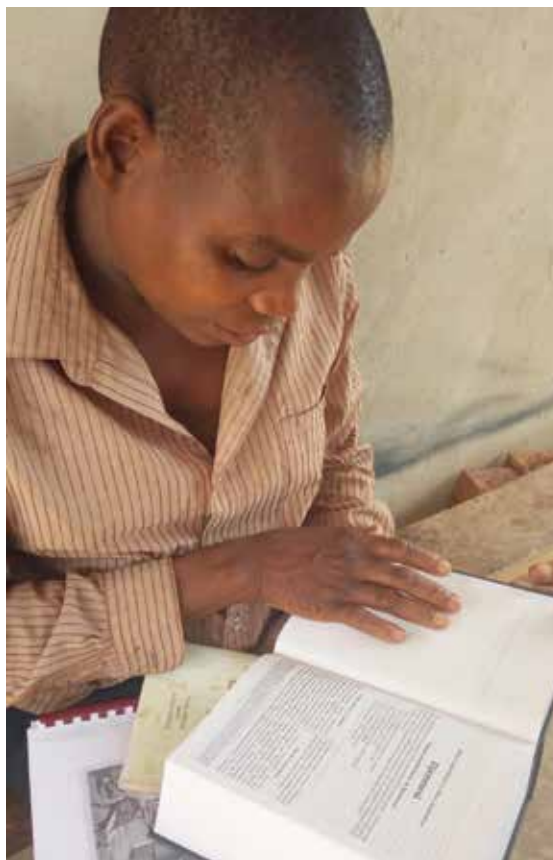
Verne and Denny Johnson have been ministering among the Palaka people in West Africa. With Bible translation moving along well in the Palaka language, during October and November, the Johnsons and the rest of the team will focus on writing literacy curriculum so that people can learn to read the translated Word of God. It will also be a time for literacy consultants to be further trained and gain experience so they can help other teams with literacy.

The Johnsons said, “We just returned from a trip to the big city where our team met with a large group of Palaka men, all unsaved. Our intent was to engage with and invite these educated workers into the literacy push we are making this year. They were thrilled with what has already been done in their language. They requested written materials for themselves and for their children who are losing a grasp on their mother tongue. They said that they could not thank all of us enough for all we are doing for them in their language and are eager for us to return next time with books to sell to them sometime after our workshop in November.”



## TRANSLATIONS COMPLETED

Praise the Lord for the recently completed New Testament translations. They have run the gauntlet of multiple consultant checks, comprehension checks and spelling checks. And each one represents not only years of Bible translation, but also evangelism, continued discipleship and literacy training. With joy we announce that the Tigak and the Mengen translations (both from Papua New Guinea) have been completed and will soon be on their way to be formatted for printing.



## HELICOPTER UPDATES

There are two ongoing projects for helicopter purchases along with land, buildings and permissions. As of August 7, the Philippine helicopter project needs only \$158,457 to purchase their helicopter; the one for Brazil needs \$916,317 to complete their project. Thanks to all of you who have given to see these two aircraft purchased.

[ethnos.ca/philippines-helicopter/](http://ethnos.ca/philippines-helicopter/)  
[ethnos.ca/helicopter-program-for-brazil/](http://ethnos.ca/helicopter-program-for-brazil/)



## NEW TESTAMENTS PRINTED

Doug Lotz is the missionary in the USA home office who prepares the New Testament translations digitally to be sent to the printers. Three translations have passed through Doug's office in Sanford, Florida recently. These are the Bulongish from West Africa, the Tepehuan from Mexico and the Kuman from Papua New Guinea. After going through the printing and binding processes, they will be shipped to their final destinations for delivery to the churches. Praise the Lord with us as His Word is translated into these heart languages.



Earlier this year, the Lolo Bibles were shipped to Mozambique. The Lolo believers now have the Scriptures in their own hands!



Photo by Seth Callahan





The Wayumi program in Pennsylvania has been a strategic asset for Rochelle Callahan and her husband, Seth, as they work among the Iski people in Papua New Guinea. Seth and Rochelle trained to be cross-cultural church planters in Durham, Ontario with Ethnos Canada.



# THE BENEFIT OF MISSIONS

**Pastor Ben Hazen believes that when people see God's plan from the beginning was to reach the world, they find a sense of purpose, and the church benefits.**

**M**aybe the answers to those big questions that plague Christians really aren't that difficult.

"For us, missions isn't just one of the things the church is doing," said Ben Hazen, director of adult discipleship at Community Baptist Church in Montoursville, Pennsylvania. "It's not just one of the things that Christ said for the Church to do. This is something that God's been up to from the very beginning, and I think when our people grasp that—there's the reason. There's the reason for missions.

"It's not, 'The missionary's trying to get us interested in missions,' or 'The pastor's trying to get us interested in missions,' or 'The apostles, they had this idea for missions.' No, this is what God has been doing from the very beginning. I think if a church is going to catch a vision for missions and what God is doing, they have to understand that this is something God's been doing from the beginning and that He's going to do it to the end."

Ben believes that view impacts people.

"We've found that when people see that purpose, they have a greater interest and desire to be involved in missions, and I would argue too, those who have stepped out in trying to be part of that purpose have found great joy and a big reason for

being. They've found the [answers to], 'What are we here for? What does God want for me? What's God's will for my life?' They've started to find some of those answers, and they're content—they have more joy."

That sense of satisfaction and joy was evident in talking with others in the church.

"I'm happy to be part of something bigger than me," said Troy Kanouff, who is on a sending team for one of the missionary couples supported by Community Baptist. Troy sees everything the church does as being connected to missions. "That's what God calls us to be. It's His story, and He wants us to tell others about Him. ... It's a cool thing, to be a part of that."

"I got excited about being on a sending team," said Missy Ward, who is on the sending team for Ethnos missionaries Tyler and Allegra Sanford. "I can see the impact it had on those missionaries."

### Missions involvement goes deeper

Missions has always been part of the culture at Community Baptist. Harry Boyer, chairman of the church's elder board, said reports on the very first meetings in 1950 show that early on they decided to guarantee a certain percentage of the church's budget would always go to missions.

But it's gone deeper.

"It has become a personal relationship between people," he said. "Not just, 'They are our missionaries and we support them because that's what we should do.' ... It's about building relationships. And when you build those relationships, people love you and work with you and support you because they love you."

"And then that builds the next level," Harry said. People begin to see what they can do and how they can be a part.

Community Baptist encourages that. "It's not OK to do nothing when you can do something," Ben said, "so we want to make sure that we explain to people what they *can* do."

That's vital because missions is a huge task.

"When you think about upwards of 1,600 language groups that haven't been reached, when you think about the average annual need for a missionary—for the average person, that's well beyond them," Ben said. "No one person is going to reach 1,600 language groups. No one person's

**I think if a church is going to catch a vision for missions and what God is doing, they have to understand that this is something God's been doing from the beginning and that He's going to do it to the end. — Ben Hazen**





going to raise 100 percent of a missionary's support level. But what ends up happening is, if the average church-going person just ends up looking at things that are beyond them, they're not going to get involved. They're just going to say, 'It's too much for me.' ...

"I want to, and I know I should, but I don't know how.' If we can break the task down into more manageable pieces, they feel like there's something they can do."

Missy agreed that the challenges can be "overwhelming" and that "it is hard to not think of it just as a money thing. ... Obviously we can give—and we should—but ... that isn't the only way to be involved. ... They can connect—let [missionaries] know they matter and that they're not forgotten."

Getting involved somehow, some way, leads to deeper involvement.

"We find there's real momentum," Ben said. "That when maybe they start supporting a missionary at \$10 a month because that's all they can afford, they'll find it a lot easier to go to \$25 a month or even \$50 a month because there's momentum."

### People need to see the bigger picture

Ben, who is also missions committee chairman and who describes his job as "waving a big huge banner for missions," says that explaining "the missionary process" is vital. People need to

understand the big picture, the calling and the need, as well as the fact that missionaries move through training, support raising and on-field orientation before their church planting ministry can begin in earnest. Even then, the work moves through phases—moving in, learning the culture and language, teaching literacy, Bible teaching, disciple-making, leadership development and teacher training.

"A lot of them don't even know that there are

**Obviously we can give — and we should — but ... that isn't the only way to be involved."**

— Missy Ward



**It's not OK to do nothing when you can do something, so we want to make sure that we explain to people what they can do.** — Ben Hazen

””

people over there who haven't even heard the gospel before, and so we've found that laying out the whole process is key," Ben said.

"When they see the whole process from start to finish, they can already start to connect the dots and see that, 'Oh, they might need this,' 'Here's a way that I might be able to help,' 'They're going to need a house when they get over there? Well, hey, I'm a builder. I'm going to go over there and build them that house.' Before they might have thought they're going to rent that house in the middle of nowhere.

"So for us, we feel that information and teaching is key, because it's going to be hard for us to engage with what we don't know. But the more we know about it, the more we'll see very clearly, hopefully maybe even by the Holy Spirit, how we can be involved."

### **"Sending teams" help people engage**

That's why "sending teams" like the ones Troy and Missy are on are so valuable to Community Baptist.

Through sending teams, Ben said, "our people

have a direct way to be involved. ... There are lots of times when a missionary comes home, and their needs are beyond one individual person." Perhaps they need a car or face a big medical expense.

"We find our people are intimidated by that or are left with the question, 'OK, how can I help?'"

But sending teams at Community Baptist connect people into a group of five to ten people who can advocate for the missionaries and "spread those needs out through the entire church," Ben said.

Ben called sending teams "a direct line of communication back to the church." And it's not just about communicating needs or updates. It's communicating what's happening in their lives, even stuff that can be, as Ben says, "embarrassing or difficult."

Or as Deb Hanczar, a member of the sending team for Ethnos missionaries Tim and Sue Sanford, said with a laugh: "It's the one time that you're allowed to be nosy."

"You've got somebody in the church that knows about you and knows where you're at," Harry said. "It's broken down the wall of, 'We can't share that because it would look bad.' They can share on an



“

We're interested because someone we know is interested in what's going on, and that's blessed the church because now you have people who might not know a particular missionary, but they know the person who is on their sending team, and that sending team person is excited and interested, and that interest spills over.

— Harry Boyer

”





Photo by Ian Fallis

**Middle:** Cleon Watts, right, made new friends when he went from Community Baptist Church to Papua New Guinea to help build a house for Seth and Kaitlyn Sanford.

**Bottom:** Students at Wayumi Expedition try their hand at learning an unwritten language.

intimate basis ... those things you wouldn't just tell everybody. It becomes that personal relationship."

So, Troy didn't just use WhatsApp to talk with the missionaries whose sending team he's on. "I'm not a good singer, but I sang 'Happy Birthday' to them. That probably wasn't good but made them laugh, I'm sure of that," Troy said.

Missy is glad she's been able to get to know Tyler and Allegra so well. "It's exciting to know Tyler likes root beer and Allegra likes mango juice."

### Relationships build involvement

Harry said those personal relationships carry on through the church. "We're interested because someone we know is interested in what's going on, and that's blessed the church because now you have people who might not know a particular missionary, but they know the person who is on their sending team, and that sending team person is excited and interested, and that interest spills over."

Harry likened it to a spreading fire, igniting interest and involvement.

That's why the sending teams are "an indirect way to disciple people," Ben said.

"We're finding that a lot of times our sending teams have more passion or interest in spiritual things.... I think it has something to do with rallying around a purpose, around a missionary.... And then when you see prayers answered and needs met, ... there's a greater level of excitement."

That too carries over to "spur on real Christian community at our church. Yes, we want to see the missionary helped, ...but we've benefitted way beyond that," Ben said.

### Wayumi: another avenue for involvement

The Wayumi program in Pennsylvania has also been mutually beneficial.

"From the very beginning of the development of the Wayumi program, Community Baptist Church has been heavily involved," said Greg Sanford, director of Wayumi and a teacher and elder at Community Baptist.

Teams helped remodel the buildings that had been used for years as a missionary training centre. Church member Cleon Watts stepped in to help oversee the work when an Ethnos missionary

needed to step back due to a death in his family. They cleared land, built cabins, donated paneling and lumber and more.

“We had one group of retirees who became known as ‘The Wreckers’ because they came and gutted each building that needed to be remodelled,” Greg said.

Community Baptist members continue to be involved.

“We help buy before the groups come,” said Bill Hanczar, Deb’s husband. “We help clean after groups leave.... We’re...happy to be quiet and serving.”

“Linda, my wife, she comes up and she works in the kitchen, and she loves to be part of something like that,” Troy said. “It’s a blessing to us.... You come here, and you can work until you’re stone-dead tired, and you enjoyed yourself.”

“It’s another way for them to...be actually involved in missions,” Ben said. “I feel bad for the church that doesn’t have that opportunity.”

And there are additional benefits.

“Another thing Wayumi does for us,” Ben said, “is that it gives us a level of backing. It’s not just Community Baptist that’s interested in missions. It’s more than our church. There are many churches and groups. So Wayumi [is] another voice...saying this is true, this is what God has for us, this is God’s purpose, this is what He’s left us here to do. So, it’s not just us.”

### Is it too much involvement?

That’s not to say people don’t have questions and even doubts about the church’s missionary involvement at times.

“As you’re trying to advertise and push for missions, especially to give more for missions,” Ben said, “you think, ‘OK, are we taking away from our general fund and our things that we’re supposed to do as a church?’

“And I’ve just found that it appears that God loves to bless and spur on churches that are partnering with Him in a great way in the Great Commission. And so, I believe that any ounce of energy or even money that we put toward missions isn’t taking away from our bottom line: it’s going to add to our bottom line—that God sees that and rewards it.”

Deb called it “God’s math.”

**It’s a blessing to us.... You come here, and you can work until you’re stone-dead tired, and you enjoyed yourself.** — Troy Kanouf



Photo by Ian Fallis

She sees the same thing in the missions budget.

“It’s like we look at this balance—we’ve spent this much money, [but] we’re up money.”

Beyond budgets and money is the question of success.

“We believe that missions is a key to being a successful church,” Ben said. “Succeeding at missions is going to make us a successful church, at least according to God’s idea of success.”

### Facing good challenges

And like any step of faith, the missions emphasis has produced challenges, one of which Community Baptist is facing right now. A half-dozen couples and families from Community Baptist are preparing to go to the mission field.

“We are in a unique position as a church,” Ben said.

The challenge is “how to make sure we’ve got adequate support financially for everybody that’s in the stream coming through,” Harry said. “We’re going to have to step up to the plate, because these are our people.”

“He who calls you is faithful, and He will do it,” Ben quoted from 1 Thessalonians. He’s called us to reach the nations, and Ben said that “those churches that embrace that radically, maybe even at a great cost to themselves or beyond their budget or their regular means” will find Him faithful.



“It doesn’t mean we’re not nervous at times. [But] year after year the Lord continues to bless those that are stepping out.”

### A narrow, deep view of missions

Community Baptist does, however, take what some would see as a narrow view of missions.

“Our focus would be anyone and any efforts whose main goal is to get the gospel to those who have not heard,” Ben said.

“We believe very strongly that in the Great Commission itself when Jesus says therefore go and take the gospel to every tribe, tongue and nation...that He’s talking about ethnic groups. We believe that the key word for missions is *ethnos* [people group].”

But the view is also deep.

“For every one that’s out there on the front lines, there’s probably ten or twelve others who are not only buying supplies and teaching the kids and

transporting people, [but] there are also supporters back here at home—those who are training those missionaries to get to the field, those people who... build their houses and all of that.

“We want to be able to connect the dots.”

That understanding has led one church member, Tom Garber, to begin a support ministry called I-Tech, serving the energy needs, particularly solar energy needs, of missionaries in remote locations. The church stands behind him because the dots connect.

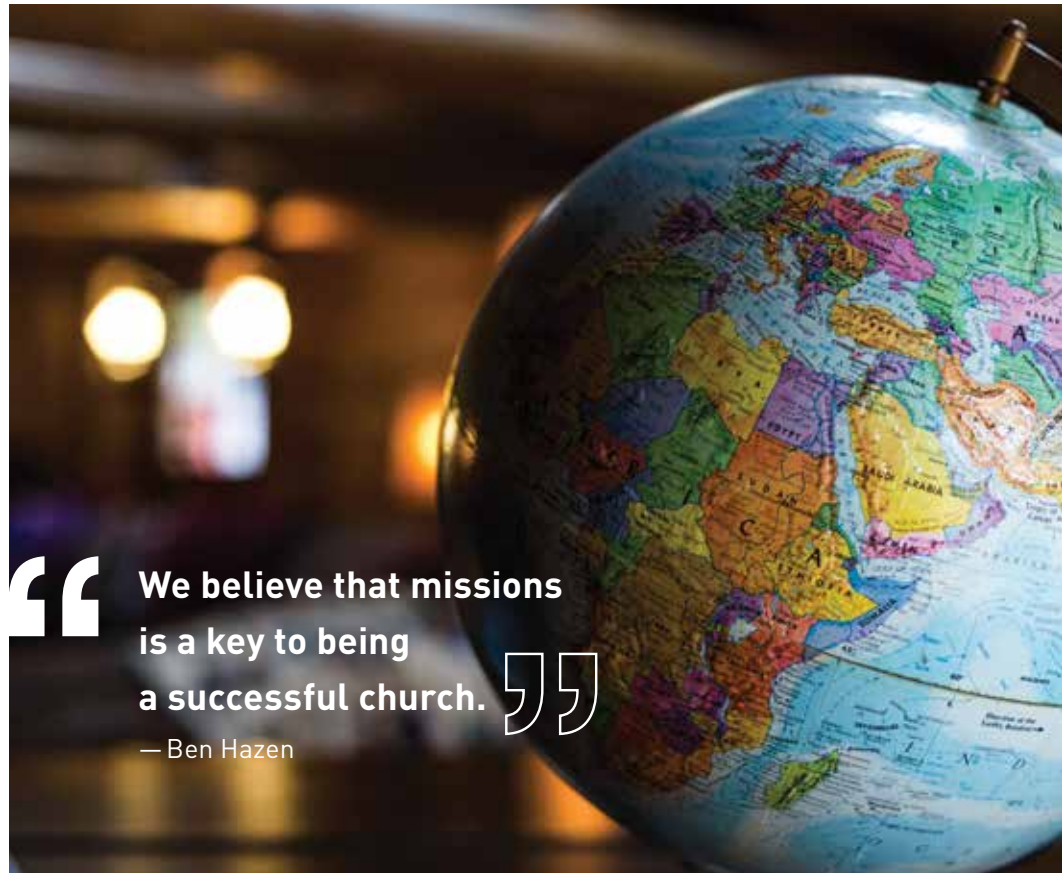
“Every aspect is important,” Missy said. “They can’t do one without the other. They can’t be in the [village] if someone can’t take them the supplies.”

“It takes everybody involved to make this happen,” Troy agreed. “If it wasn’t for the Bible school, if it wasn’t for the training centre, if it wasn’t for Wayumi—it takes all of that to make it work... Everyone has a place in that story.”

“We really do not differentiate between a



Photos by Patrick Fore, Rawpixel and Kyle Glenn – Unsplash



**We believe that missions  
is a key to being  
a successful church.**

— Ben Hazen

[church] planter and a support missionary,” Harry said. “Our viewpoint of support missionaries is that they are part of the team, part of the string of everybody that has to be there to keep those missionaries on the field.”

“It’s the body of Christ, really, in action,” said Chris Santalucia, Community Baptist’s director of shepherding ministries.

“I think sometimes the people stateside might go... unnoticed,” said Shelly Karshner, who is on a sending team for PJ and Heather Garton who serve at Ethnos’s training centre in Missouri. “I think sometimes their needs can be way more than we realize.”

Deb recalled a trip she made to Papua New Guinea and the staff at a mission centre there.

“To see all those people in that supporting role, playing a role that is so vital—all the supply buying, the weight for the planes, everything packaged up... It takes special people to do that.”

### A passion for people to hear

Many would say it also takes special people to relate to missions and missionaries the way the folks at Community Baptist do. But it’s all a matter of the heart.

“You just have to have a love for wanting people to hear God’s story,” Troy said. “If you don’t have that love, I don’t think missions, I don’t think church, I don’t think any of that works for you. You have to have that passion for people to hear the gospel message.”



After 15 years writing and editing for daily newspapers Ian Fallis has spent more than 20 years writing and editing for Ethnos360. He’s interviewed missionaries and the people they serve around the world, travelling to Africa, Latin America and the Asia-Pacific region. Sunrise Church Ontario in California has faithfully stood by him throughout his ministry.

## Learn more about sending and sending teams

The book *Serving as Senders — Today* by Neil Pirolo addresses both the need for people to partner with missionaries and the six areas of care that a missionary needs to function effectively while preparing to go, on the field and upon returning home.  
**Available at bookstores and online.**

Ben Hazen, missions committee chairman at Community Baptist Church, is available via email for information about sending teams:  
**[bhazen@experiencecommunity.org](mailto:bhazen@experiencecommunity.org)**

Dawn Sanford helped develop and implement the concept of sending teams at Community Baptist and can also be reached by email:  
**[dmsanford@gmail.com](mailto:dmsanford@gmail.com)**





Locals call it a creek, but a sizeable stream separates the campus for Wayumi from Pennsylvania State Route 287.

Without a bridge, it'd be tough to get there.

It's like the gap in knowledge, understanding and perhaps even motivation that keeps most believers today from being involved in God's work among unreached people groups.

And Wayumi is a bridge.

"The average person doesn't know what their role [in missions] is," said Ben Hazen, director of adult discipleship at Community Baptist Church in Mountoursville, Pennsylvania. "Wayumi is a great first step."

"First, Wayumi is bringing much-needed awareness to churches regarding all that is involved in reaching an unreached people group," said John Green, pastor of Cornerstone Church of Clarion, Pennsylvania. "Second, Wayumi is providing a holistic strategic plan to help the church effectively engage in this process."

Even where there's a desire to engage—as there has been at Cornerstone—a church can come up short. "There's a big difference between good intentions and accomplishing a strategic

vision," John said. "Wayumi helps a church's good intentions to accomplish something great for God become an attainable strategic plan... Wayumi lays out a strategy that has been fully developed and fine-tuned over years of successful experience

**There's a big difference between good intentions and accomplishing a strategic vision.** —Pastor John Green



that helps the church launch their good intentions into a plan of action.”

In addition to the three-day sessions geared for church leaders and members, Wayumi holds week-long youth camps all summer and week-long college programs in the spring and fall.

Though the time frames are different and the methods are tailored to each group, the message remains the same.

“There are still somewhere between 1,500 to 2,500 language and ethnic groups on this earth that do not have access to God’s Word in their language or know clearly of what Jesus did for them 2,000 years ago,” said Greg Sanford, a veteran Ethnos church planter who directs Wayumi. “Somebody needs to translate the Bible for them and tell them of Jesus.”

“Wayumi is a phenomenal program,” Ben said. “It’s one thing for a pastor at a local church to talk every week about the Great Commission, ... and it’s another thing to go into a back room where there are four huts and smoke and people ... speaking a foreign language. Wayumi is kind of bringing the mission field to America. They’re helping people visualize what it’s like.”

“So many people don’t know about unreached people groups and have no idea the process of how to reach them,” said Elizabeth Minium. Elizabeth interned at Wayumi’s summer camp and is now on her way to the Philippines with her husband, Alex, as part of Ethnos360 Aviation.

“It’s amazing to see teenagers having their eyes opened up to the world and what all the

Lord is doing.” “We love the comprehensive, biblical approach they present regarding the Great Commission, the role of the church, and the reality of the situation for unreached people groups,” said Seth Callahan. Seth and his wife, Rochelle, are church planters sent out through Ethnos to Papua New Guinea. “Wayumi is where I point anyone who expresses to me a potential desire to engage in cross-cultural missions.”

Find out more at [wayumi.com](http://wayumi.com)



Photo by Rochelle Callahan

## WAYUMI Expedition

Ben Hazen shares about his experience on Wayumi Expedition, a summer camp and missions trip rolled into one.

Watch the video at [ethnos360.org/magazine](http://ethnos360.org/magazine)



Photo by Dale Stroud

**Top:** Alex and Elizabeth Minium, heading for the Philippines with Ethnos360 Aviation, are grateful for Wayumi, not the least because they met there.

**Bottom:** Wayumi presents “the reality of the situation for unreached people groups,” says Seth Callahan, who should know — he and his wife, Rochelle, work among the Iski people of Papua New Guinea.





# Invest a weekend in missions at **WAYUMI**

**YOUR ADVENTURE INTO CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS —  
WITHOUT EVEN LEAVING NORTH AMERICA!**

Bring your group to **WAYUMI WEEKEND RETREATS** in scenic central Pennsylvania to gain a bird's-eye view of what it takes to reach the still unreached peoples of the world.

- **Learn** how God is reaching unreached peoples around the world.
- **Experience** the challenges of ministering in a foreign culture.
- **Discover** the team necessary to reach isolated people groups.

**[WAYUMI.COM](http://WAYUMI.COM)**

## Praise. WATCHING FROM A DISTANCE

The seminar was simply fabulous! And we had hardly anything to do with it.

Here in the Philippines, there is a large [people] group called the Higaunon to the far north of us. The church in that place is more established than the Banwaon church. Each year they hold two week-long seminars for the church leadership. This year the Higaunon believers agreed to hold their seminar here with the



Photo by Albert Castelijn

Banwaon church leaders.

We love that the Banwaon elders and deacons organized everything. Dates, times and invitations going out to the Bible teachers in all the Banwaon outreaches. Food for the week, snacks and accommodations. They even built a little toilet block near the church.

Then the day came. **Everyone** in the village, including us, was fidgety with anticipation, ears to the ground. Finally, we heard the roar of motorbikes ... all loaded with Higaunon Bible teachers, church leaders and their wives. We ran out to the road and yelled and waved a big welcome ... [to] all eighty-six of the Higaunon believers.

Albert went up to say, "G'day," but after that, we left them to it. That might seem strange, but we wanted to make a clear point

on this very first inter-tribal seminar that they are perfectly capable of running something like this.

We might not have been physically present at the meetings, but we kept hearing wonderful things. Reports of deep, encouraging teaching from the Higaunon church leadership. Singing, singing and more singing. Laughter and fellowship.

Later, the Banwaon church elders shared that they learned so much and now plan to have their own seminars. We are so encouraged. This seminar was a big step forward as we move towards completing the Banwaon New Testament and phasing out of full-time work here in the tribe. The Banwaon church continues to mature.

—Albert and Lynne Castelijn

## YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE RICH

Here are opportunities for anyone to give to heart language ministries.

### REACH OUT FOR AS LITTLE AS \$3

**Mengen Literacy and Evangelism:** The three churches among the Mengen people in Papua New Guinea are inundated with requests to learn to read and write and for Bible lessons. But they lack the materials they need to do so. Here are some of the specific things your gifts can help provide:

- Mengen literacy kit: \$1,250
- Six Mengen Evangelistic Bible teaching booklets for teachers: \$60 each
- 50 Bible study Booklets for Acts: \$3 each
- 50 Bible study Booklets for Romans: \$3 each
- 50 Mengen Bibles: \$10 each

### GOT \$14 FOR A BIBLE?

**Guahibo Bible Printing:** The Guahibo church of Colombia has a wonderful problem

that you can help solve. Interest in God's Word is so high that they are out of Bibles. With your help, they can print 20,000 more copies at a cost of less than \$14 each.

### BRING A VERSE TO LIFE FOR \$35

**Bible Translation:** Your gift to Bible translation means another people group will be able to open God's Word in their own language, read it and understand it. That's because your \$35 gift provides for translating a verse; for literacy materials so people can learn to read and write; and for Bible lessons in their language.

You can find out more about these and other heart language projects and give online or learn how to give by mail or electronic funds transfer at [ethnos.ca/translate/](http://ethnos.ca/translate/)



# The Old Honey Hunter

Far above the ground, Le'enis inched out on a limb, his gnarled feet gripping it expertly. He gave the honeycomb a good whack with his long stick. But then he lost his balance. The old honey hunter crashed down through the branches to the foot of the huge tree.

In the Manjúi culture of Paraguay, being a strong and capable person is highly valued. So when a sick or wounded person thinks he might die or become a helpless invalid who can't provide for his family, he resigns himself to his useless fate, refuses to eat or drink and eventually dies. And this seriously injured honey hunter began to follow his culture.

But Le'enis was also part of a new culture as a believer and follower of Jesus. And his 21-year-old grandson was going to make sure he didn't forget it. He sat on a mat and gently held his grandfather's head in his lap. Softly stroking his hair, he reminded Le'enis that it was the God of the Bible, not fate, that was in charge of both the quality and the quantity of life.

He reminded him of God's provision, His goodness, His sovereignty and His plan—His perfect plan. But most of all, he reminded his grandfather that the sweetness in life came not from the honey that he found, but from the loving God who supplied the honey.

And the weakened, old honey hunter listened to the truth — and lived.

Sometimes life can just jar the truth right out of us. And in our weakened, vulnerable state, we can fall for deceptions. If Le'enis' family had just shaken their heads and walked on by, this story would have had a very different ending. But one grandson took it upon himself to tell his grandfather the truth—and it made the difference between life and death.

“But exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin” (Hebrews 3:13).

There are a million things that we can be talking about. But there's nothing that invigorates or inspires us or that rallies our spirit more than the truth. What kinds of conversations are you having? May our words always bring life-giving truth.

—Debbie Burgett, Staff Writer



Photo by Pete Humphreys

# CONNECT WITH *missionaries!*



**SHANE & KAREN  
WHATLEY**

Connect with Shane and Karen at  
[ethnos.ca/shane-and-karen-whatley](https://ethnos.ca/shane-and-karen-whatley)

Ministry: Equipping cross-cultural church planters in Canada

Sent by Clifford Community Church, Clifford, Ontario and  
GraceWay Bible Church, Trenton, New Jersey

Shane and Karen are missionary kids from the Asia-Pacific Region and Panama, respectively, and their growing up experiences impacted them in seeing the need for church planting among the unreached around the world.

Shane's family served with the Lauje tribe which has a thriving, growing church today.

Karen's family were dorm parents the first term and served in carpentry/maintenance and guest hostess/hospitality the second term.

After graduating from the Ethnos360 Bible Institute in Jackson, Michigan, they dated long distance while getting their Elementary Education degrees from Philadelphia Biblical University (Shane) and Florida Bible College (Karen). They married in 1996 and headed to the Asia-Pacific Region two years later to teach and gain experience at Mountainview International Christian School.

Karen worked in the main office as registrar and director of admissions, and Shane taught 4th grade.

After serving for 4-years as associates, they returned to Canada and completed the missionary training program in Durham, Ontario. They served at the training centre for three years before returning to the Asia-Pacific Region.

For their second term on the field, they served on the missionary orientation team—Shane as leadership and a Culture/Language Consultant and Karen as the Personnel Secretary for the field committee.

They considered it a privilege and blessing to welcome new families to the field and assist them through their initial year and a half of culture and language study.

Returning to Canada in November of 2011 for Home Assignment, they sought treatment for Shane's Fabry Disease. Treatment for this genetic disorder made a return to the mission field impossible.

They rejoined the training team for Ethnos Canada in July, 2012. They greatly enjoy this ministry of preparing candidates to GO to the unreached, proclaiming the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.

*Use your career experience to help expand the reach of the gospel to every tribe. Our Skilled Associates program seeks to match your occupational skills and spiritual gifts with specific ministry roles.*

*Find your place on the team — [ethnos.ca/go](https://ethnos.ca/go)*





**PETE & LESLEY  
DOERKSEN**

Connect with Pete and Lesley at  
[ethnos.ca/pete-and-lesley-doerksen](https://ethnos.ca/pete-and-lesley-doerksen)

Only God could bring a German Mennonite boy living in Bolivia, South America and a Canadian girl living in Liberia, West Africa together!

Pete came to Christ through the faithful witness of a friend, and reading missionary stories, which ultimately challenged him to go and tell others about Jesus. The first step was a short term missions trip to Liberia.

Lesley came to Christ at the age of 10. Shortly after, her parents moved to Liberia as missionaries with Ethnos Canada. She lived in close proximity to

**Ministry: Public Relations —Short Term Trips Coordinators  
 Sent by Christian Mennonite Church, Steinbach, Manitoba**

a people group who had no gospel witness, and no Bible in their own language. By the age of 15, the challenge to “Go and make disciples of all nations” was pressed on her heart.

After getting married and completing Ethnos Canada’s missionary training, they moved their family to Guinea, West Africa where they lived for 13 years. They served in many different support roles—from dorm parents, to bush house builder, to guest house and project leaders for short term teams. Pete and Lesley have four children who loved living in the jungle!

In 2010, they transitioned from Africa to Papua New Guinea (PNG) and served with the Interface program for college students. After three years in PNG, God moved them back to Canada. For the last five years, they’ve been involved in equipping pastors in West Africa.

Earlier this year, they’ve gone through another transition by joining the Public Relations Team. They will be coordinating short term trips overseas and within North America. They are looking forward to helping people see the need and showing them tangible ways they can be involved.

*Are you looking for a way to serve the Lord on a short term trip? Are you interested in learning more about what God is doing to fulfill the Great Commission? Want to come with us to Wayumi or Interface? We’d love to hear from you!*

[ethnos.ca/go/mission-trips/](https://ethnos.ca/go/mission-trips/)



See firsthand what it takes to plant a church among people who have no concept of the God of the Bible. Learn from missionaries on the field and spend time with indigenous people in Papua New Guinea.

**INTERFACE**

A six-week college-level course in Papua New Guinea.  
[ethnos360.org/interface](https://ethnos360.org/interface)

**FIELD SUPPORT INTERNSHIPS**

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# THE PLAYI

# LEVELLING

**F**ootball season's here in the USA, but for all you hockey fans, I know you are excited to see how your team's equipment manager is honing his skate sharpening skills for the upcoming season.

Or are you anticipating following the action of the front office staff as they book planes, buses and hotels for away games?

Maybe you're eagerly searching the sports news to find out what changes the laundry team has made to keep those jerseys bright and shiny.

Wait! You're not?

I'm not surprised. If this were a multiple-choice test administered to sports fans, the most popular answer would be "None of the above."

Fans go to see sports games for the action. But to see the equipment manager? No.

Missions is the same way. We celebrate the work of "front-line" missionaries. But what about the folks who labour behind the scenes to make it all happen?

Would you like to read a digit-by-digit account of accounting? Interested in an article on complying with HR or privacy regulations in an international nonprofit organization? How about a bright little feature on the cost-saving motion-sensitive lighting system in our Ethnos home office?

Um, no, thank you.

"So what?" you may ask. "Is that really a problem?"

On the one hand, no. The value of missions is not measured in the ledgers of missions organizations but

in the involvement of God's people here and in lives changed there.

But on the other hand, yes.

It's a problem when we value missionaries who serve in support and missionaries who serve in North America *less* than those whom people like to call "front-line" missionaries. As a missionary who serves in a support role in the USA, I have seen that happen.

That's why it's more difficult to find support—and keep it—in roles like this one. It's why people who leave church planting ministries to fill vital support roles or leave the foreign field to come to North America and fill strategic international roles usually see their support plummet.

This leads to the loss of experienced missionaries in vital and strategic roles. Therefore, either those roles go unfilled and front-line missionaries lose some of the help they need, or we have to ask other front-line missionaries to fill vital support roles... and the cycle repeats.

But you can help too. As you grow in the Lord and He prompts you to increase your generosity, would you consider supporting a missionary who serves in support or even in a Canadian support role? Would you encourage others to do so?

After all, if you truly want to support "front-line" missionaries, you ought to help ensure they have the support team they need.

—*Ian Fallis, Senior Editor*



# NG FIELD

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**We may not celebrate  
the folks behind the scenes,  
but they're vital to the team.**



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