

New Believers in Kaje —Page 14
The Iski and the Kominimun —Page 17
What's Mine Is ...? —Page 20

A THRIVING CHURCH FOR EVERY PEOPLE

ETHNOS

MAGAZINE



It's finally here.
—Page 4

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Ethnos Magazine team

Editor: Rosie Cochran

Managing Editor: Bruce Enemark

Rex Crawford, Macon Hare, Chris Holland, Emily Kopf, Stephen Narwold, David Pierce and Jen Rabe

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Requests to reprint articles should be directed to Editor Rosie Cochran at rosie_cochran@ntm.org.

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Cover photo Marcelo, a leader in the Tepehuan church
Photo credit Dale Stroud



Elisa Bowa



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

All of us know people who have endured incredibly difficult seasons. And we look back and see with remarkable clarity the hand of God allowing some things and orchestrating other things, so that He gets the glory.

In this magazine, you will read about the Northern Tepehuan people of Mexico and the 40 years of perseverance.

When I think about this ministry in Mexico, I am reminded of other examples of perseverance.

In the 1970's, Steve and Linda Rosengren moved their family from Canada to live among the Wana people in the Asia-Pacific Region. The unfathomable happened and they buried their three-year-old son without returning home. You can listen to their tragic story in the second episode of the Compel Podcast: ethnos.ca/episodes/ep-02-bible-translation-with-linda-rosengren/. Steve and Linda persevered and a church was birthed among the Wana people. God did get the glory.

Out of this indigenous church, God raised up a gifted man, Elisa Bowa. While training for cross-cultural church planting, Elisa met his wife and they moved to a neighbouring island and began ministering among the Elseng people.

Please pray for the Elseng people and the missionary team among them.

After incredible hardship, Elisa wrote, *"There is nothing left that can be hoped for from my life. My body is too broken down as a result of frequent trials that are heavy. All that can be hoped for is that through God's grace He will use my life to motivate and encourage others to be immovably faithful in serving among the scattered unreached tribes. To all those who are healthy I urge you to advance continuously in your ministry, right up to the time when we can all enter into that place of rest in the New Jerusalem, our Heavenly homeland. There is no suffering there. Acts 14:22"*

Within weeks of penning these thoughts, Elisa was called home to glory. Despite hardship after hardship, his wife, Juarni, presses on as part of the team bringing the gospel to the Elseng people. Talk about perseverance!

My prayer is that God will raise up more people like the Rosengrens and Elisa and Juarni who are willing to persevere through hardships for His glory. Please pray with me to the Lord of the harvest (Luke 10:2).

Yours in Christ,

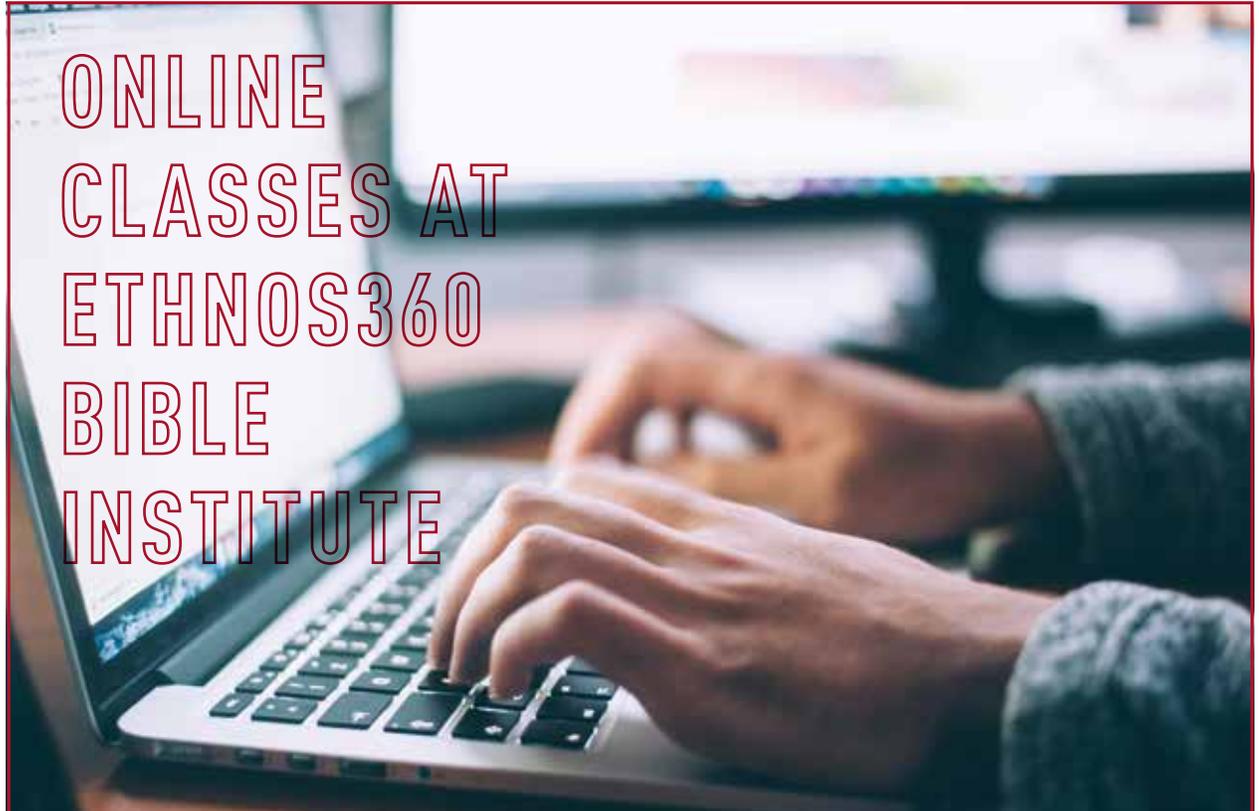


Tim Whatley

Executive Director, Ethnos Canada



NEWS AROUND THE WORLD



Ethnos360 Bible Institute now offers online classes in addition to traditional on-campus classes.

The Bible Institute staff decided to add online classes in order to make their Bible courses more accessible. These college-level online classes last 5-15 weeks, depending on the number of credit hours (1-3) in the course. Each credit hour only costs \$75.

Online students can view class videos at will, turn in assignments and interact with their instructors and other students using Populi, an online classroom software. Ethnos360 Bible Institute is proud to offer these new courses and hopes that they will allow many new students to have access to core Bible teaching.

Apply Now: go.ethnos.ca/onlineclasses



NEW MISSIONS PODCAST FOR WOMEN

Women of simple faith and great courage have often been the first to respond to the call to take the gospel to some of the most remote and isolated villages on earth. To see a thriving church established, we need not only God's Word in the heart language but also women to disciple women in their walk with Christ.

In October 2019, Ethnos Canada launched a missions podcast for women, *Compel*. Hear from homeschooling moms, women Bible translators and church planters. Hear the stories of the faithful and persevering service of women that help advance the gospel message.

The *Compel* podcast exists to engage Canadian women with the biblical basis for missions and connect them to ordinary women who are serving around the world sharing God's heart for the nations. Our desire is to come alongside our sisters in this journey, and share how women can be involved in spreading the gospel story to the ends of the earth.

Listen to the *Compel* podcast on Apple Podcast, Spotify, or at compelpodcast.ca



NEW BIBLE TEACHINGS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Early in 2020, the Amdu, Pei and Wantakia people groups in Papua New Guinea began hearing Bible teaching for the first time in their languages. The Bible teaching walks each group chronologically through the Bible in 70 lessons, helping them understand clearly God's love and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. The missionaries teach several times a week and will continue for a few more months, culminating in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Please keep the missionaries and the Amdu, Pei and Wantakia peoples in your prayers. Perhaps we will soon be able to celebrate many new brothers and sisters in Christ!



LITERACY FOR THE ELSENG PEOPLE!

Late in 2019, the first ever literacy course among the Elsen people of Asia Pacific began. This is the first time any Elsen people are learning to read and write in their heart language, since their language was previously unwritten. Taught by Carolyn Rowan and Scott and Natasha Flaughter, the literacy classes are attended by a small but faithful group of Elsen people. This literacy course will end in late May, and it is the first step to enabling the attendees to read, study and someday teach the Bible that is even now being translated into their language by Carolyn Rowan.



WATER FILTRATION SYSTEM FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Dozens of missionary families live and work at Lapilo, one of Ethnos' support centres in Papua New Guinea, and the work they do is critical to the success of the church planting ministries in the area. Some twenty years ago, a water filtration system was installed there, providing vital, clean water to the staff and the surrounding community. Unfortunately, the system was not designed for so much use for so long. A replacement was needed and would cost over \$87,000. Praise the Lord with us that all the money has been provided, and the new system will be installed.

It's Finally Here:

The Word Reaches the Mountains of the Tepehuan

The Setting

Scattered throughout the Sierra Madre Occidental Mountains of Mexico live the Northern Tepehuan people. Though they live in the rugged canyons and hills of the mountain range, we will focus on



one town nestled in the mountains—a place we will call BG.

It is a small, western mountain town. Men wear cowboy hats or baseball caps. Ladies mostly still wear sweaters over their dresses and scarves on their heads.

The road into BG winds through the mountains on a very narrow dirt road with treacherously steep drop-offs among the pines and scrub oak trees. Coming around a curve in the road, you can view the town from above, resting in the valley between the high mountain peaks. Two large hills of sawdust are heaped up beside the two sawmills. There is an old, abandoned gas station on the edge of town.

If you arrive late enough in the afternoon, you will see smoke drifting from the stovepipes as people prepare their evening meal, the smoke hanging in the sky just above the roof line. In earlier years you would have seen small fires beside people's homes or kerosene lamps lighting windows with a dull golden glow. Now that there is electricity, you will see white lights twinkling from windows and shining from streetlights.

After winding down the mountainside, the road empties onto a plain and heads straight into the heart of town. Upon arrival, the smell of wood smoke with that hint of pine trees and dry grass fills the air, dogs are barking, and the air has a frosty chill to it. As you are welcomed into a house, the warmth from the wood stove draws a sigh of contentment from you.

It is here that the Tepehuan New Testament dedication took place last November. But it is important that we go back and see the “road” that was travelled in order to be able to witness this event.

The Tepehuan

It's been a long time coming. The work has been going on for 40 years. I agree, 40 years sounds like a long time until you consider that the Tepehuan people are reclusive and wary of strangers. Past interactions with outsiders made them wary of new people. It's no wonder that they looked askance at any new people coming into their lands.

But God is faithful.

Initially, the Tepehuans were reticent to share their culture and language with the missionaries, often hiding from missionaries when they went to visit Tepehuan homes. It took time to develop relationships between them and the missionary families. It took time to gain their trust through working with them and helping them with medical needs, literacy, used clothing, seeds for gardens and other physical helps. But as trust developed, so did the ability to begin to learn the Tepehuan language, a language that is grammatically difficult, though phonetically easy.

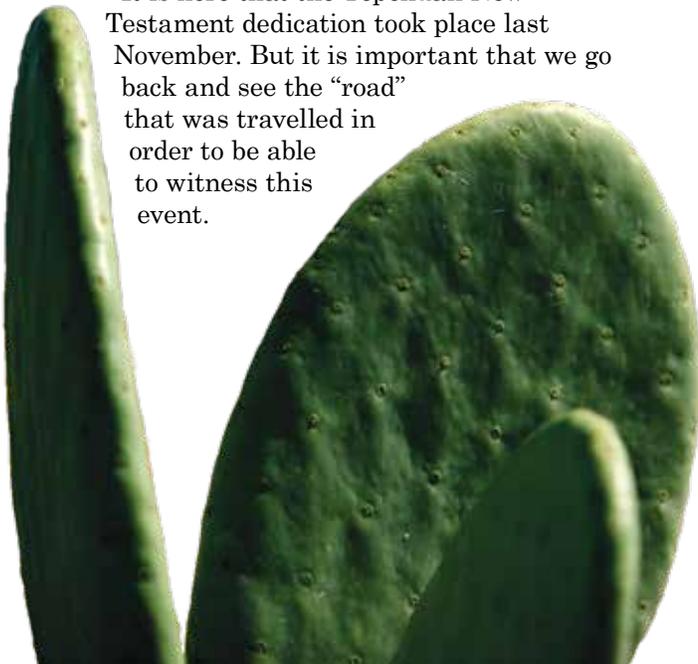
Looking Back

Back in 1944, after a two-day mule ride, a Summer Institute of Linguistics couple named Burt and Marvel Bascom arrived in a small outpost called BG. BG is one of four religious ceremonial grounds for the Northern Tepehuan. The Bascoms spent the better part of the next 20 years working toward a New Testament and a dictionary for the Tepehuan people.

By 1979, when Kevin and Wendy Case and Don and Judy Johnston and their family opened the work for New Tribes Mission with the Northern Tepehuan, there were already a couple of Pentecostal churches flourishing in the town among the Mexican population, but there was no outreach or church planting efforts being done with the Tepehuan in their language. This team were the pioneers to open the work.

From 1979 to 2003, Kevin and Wendy were the constant on a team that saw nine families come and go. Many of those families had a tremendously positive impact on the Spanish-speaking Mexican community, and a Bible-believing church was planted in the mid-1980s. This is the church with whom the current missionary team partners, recognizing the church as key in the work to reach the Tepehuan.

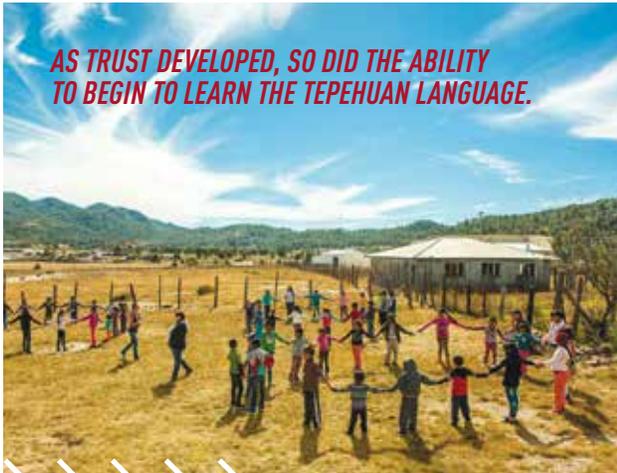
In 1995 Canadians Irvin and Shirley Bauman joined the Cases, and in 1996 Matt and Starr



Arnold joined the team. The team decided that Kevin would continue in translation and rely on the Lord to raise up the team to help with the other parts of the work. This was no small step of faith, as the same hope had come and gone with other families over 20 years.

Yet God is faithful.

In 2009, all the members of the team had to evacuate due to unrest in the area. In 2010, the Arnolds and Cases conversed with the field leadership about returning to BG and about whether or not to assign new families in the area. At the same time, the Lord had put it on the heart of Chris and Rachel Thomas to join the work.



Starr Arnold with Tepehuan woman

Because the instability continued, the Thomas family decided to move into town and joined the Spanish-speaking church.

The Arnolds continued itinerantly and then in 2014 moved back into town with the Thomas family. The Case family continued to do translation itinerantly. From 2014-2017, the Arnolds and the Thomases led the church with two Mexican men and their families and Marcelo, a maturing Tepehuan believer. In 2017, the Arnolds returned to the USA due to health issues and family concerns. The Thomas family remain key members and leaders in the Spanish-speaking church that seeks to minister to the Tepehuan and others in the community.

A Different Perspective

The Tepehuan team has seen a number of families come and go. As I listened to the present team members discuss the team's past, I was pleasantly warmed by their comments about those who went before them. They firmly asserted that the relationships that they were able to develop were made possible by those former members of the team who had so effectively broken down the walls of resistance that the Tepehuan people have put up to protect themselves. What a testament to God's grace and faithfulness!

Joel Potter, my co-worker who did the interview, made a powerful statement: "This work is not by the book." The team has, over the years, had to adjust their perspective, their ways of doing things, even if it didn't fit the "right way" of the standard church planting pattern. One of the team members said that none of the team "fit the mold" and couldn't "put God in a box" in how they ministered. This work has the added complexity of being in a bilingual setting, adding so many twists and turns to the "accepted" ways of attaining their goals.

Required: Readers

If you were to talk to the international literacy coordinators for the mission, Jerry and Joyce McDaniels, you would find out very quickly that they feel the primary reason to teach literacy is for the people to be able to read the Word of God for themselves. And this team agrees with them.

Matt Arnold commented, "Starr and Shirley developed and ran the literacy program from 2004-2009. Starr, Shirley and Irv taught small groups

of men, women and children. They were able to see about 20 individuals become literate. Most of these were already believers or interested in the chronological teaching.”

Matt said that, due to the lack of tangible value in their daily lives, the Tepehuan haven't considered literacy a priority. Because of that, he continued, “our teams shifted the strategy as seeing literacy solely as a pre-evangelism tool (and it may function that way at times) to a development/discipleship tool for those who are moving towards Christ in the teaching.

“Most of the Tepehuan believers, numbering around 30, know how to read. Many of them were taught in the school as children and with practice became proficient readers quickly. All Tepehuan age 30 (maybe even 40) and under had an opportunity to learn how to read in both Spanish and Tepehuan. There is literally nothing to read in Tepehuan, [aside from] the Bible lessons, the translation and a few primers. The value of reading in Tepehuan is only seen in those 30 who want to read God's Word.”

The Translation and the Translator

Beginning in 1995, Kevin and Wendy began the tongue-twisting and brain-wrenching task of translation. I found it amusing and ironic that Kevin had been told years before that he didn't

have the aptitude to be a translator! Yet he was given this task by the translation consultants who came in to visit.

And, yes, God is faithful.

Throughout the years, he has kept at the task, loving the challenge of putting God's Word into the Tepehuan language, even though, as Kevin said it, “I never considered myself a desk person.” Twenty years is a long time, but he was faithful to the Lord. When it became too risky to stay in BG, the Cases moved to Chihuahua to continue the translation, pulling helpers out of BG and taking consultants into BG as safety allowed. My heart was blessed to hear Shirley Bauman affirm him in his ministry. From what she shared, it was obvious that Kevin Gutwein, a translator and one of the translation consultants, appreciated working with Kevin on the translation.

Then in 2018, Kevin and Wendy made it to Sanford, Florida, to sit down with Doug Lotz to get the Scriptures formatted for the printer. I had the distinct joy of watching them put God's Word in the Tepehuan language in book form for the first time in history.

Kevin stated, “The translation is accurate and communicates well.” He acknowledged that there is always room for improvement, but he was encouraged because the Word of God is now in the hands of the Tepehuan believers.



*IT'S ONLY BY GOD'S GRACE THAT WE ARE WHERE WE ARE TODAY,
WITH A FINISHED NEW TESTAMENT IN THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE.*



I asked Kevin what he felt were the largest obstacles to getting the translation finished. He gave me two. The first that he mentioned was the lack of a Tepehuan church to support the project and to give input into the process of terminology development and other linguistic helps.

The other demonstrates Kevin's honesty and humility. He said, "[It] was my own struggle to be diligent and keep after it. It has been quite a battle. It's only by God's grace that we are where we are today, with a finished New Testament in the hands of the people. As a young person, I struggled academically. ... But by God's grace, here we are."

The Dedication

I didn't get to go to the dedication, but I think Wendy's words will help you see the joy and delight that participants experienced. She said, "It is very challenging to share with you in a nutshell all that happened during the dedication of the New Testament in BG on November 24. We would love to sit down with you one-on-one and share all the stories. God's presence was so evident in so many ways, and your prayers were answered above and beyond our expectations.

"It was amazing to have Arnolds, Baumans and us together again in BG along with some of our children. Watching our adult children walk the streets of BG, interacting with people and listening to what God is doing in their lives was so



The Tarahumara Connection

“Back in about 2005 or 2006, we had three Tepehuan believers (Marcelo, Juan and Cleotilde), one Mexican believer (Francisco) and three missionary kids who wanted to get baptized. Due to visa issues, the missionaries could not perform this ‘religious’ activity. The Mexican believers, due to the influence of city churches, didn’t feel themselves qualified to perform the baptism. So, the Lord led us to the idea of inviting the Tarahumara elders from that church to come and perform the baptism with us. The Tarahumara people group neighbours the Tepehuan. Not like next door, but like a few counties away.

“The missionaries presented the idea to both the Tarahumara church and the new Tepehuan believers, and everyone was excited. The Tarahumara church sent more than 20 believers over for the special day. The Spanish-speaking Mexican church hosted the event. More than 150 people from the area came out to experience this baptism.

“Three timid Tepehuan, one very shy Mexican man, and three bashful teenage missionary kids stepped into the waters of baptism as the missionaries looked on. It was truly a sense of the wedding feast, where language and culture are all put aside and we celebrated the One Lord and One Saviour and One baptism, together. That has knit the hearts of the two groups together. God is amazing!”

— Matt Arnold

incredible. Each one who attended added something to the mix and was there for a reason in God’s appointed time.

“Chris and Rachel Thomas had paved the way by letting people around town know about the events and activities planned for the weekend. Excitement was high. Though we would not have chosen ... the same weekend [as a political event in town], it drew people in who would not [normally] have attended the events, giving more opportunity to pass out New Testaments and to share with people. We were grateful for the Tarahumara friends (*left*) who came from across the canyon to provide Rancharo-style Christian music during downtime between



events. (This was the third time that the neighbouring people group, the Tarahumara, had joined with the Tepehuan.)

“It really was a celebration. It was wonderful to see Kevin’s six main co-translators honoured for the many hard years of work in the translation process. The church fed over 300 people between events. You would have loved watching the Tepehuan believers handing out New Testaments, talking to people, and a few being asked to sign Bibles for people. Locals came up, asking for copies to take to Tepehuan people they know who live in outlying areas. About 350 New Testaments were distributed over the weekend. That was far beyond

what we hoped. Everywhere we went people were interested and asking questions. People were happy with the Word in their hands. We are grateful to the Lord for the overwhelming response.”

Let me say it again: God is faithful.

An Outside Perspective

One of the most important aspects of a missionary’s ministry is that of being sent out by their church. This can be said of the Cases as well as the other missionaries on the team. God allowed two of the pastors from one of the Cases’ supporting churches (Rocky Mountain Calvary in Colorado Springs, Colorado) to attend the dedication.

Rocky Mountain Calvary was introduced to the Cases through one of their missionaries, Sean Rafferty. Sean planted a church (Capilla Calvario) in Chihuahua 11 years ago. Kevin and Wendy attended the church, and a friendship was born.

“I personally have known them in the context of church/missionary relationship since 2015,” said Pastor Dan Johnson, the missions pastor. “The Cases took a one-year home assignment in 2015 and spent six months of that year volunteering with the missions department here at church. We quickly saw their dedication to the Lord, [their] humility and joy, and we were compelled to begin supporting them and encouraging them.

“From that point on, we would do field visits with them while they lived in Chihuahua over the next few years. The translation work had clearly been born of God, and [since] we insisted in supporting them in that, we introduced them to the staff and church. As a church we have continued to reach out to them and encourage them as well as spread the word about the ministry and all that God has done in and through them.”

When asked what the most impactful aspect of the translation project was for him or for his congregation, Pastor Dan said, “Truly the most impactful aspect is the ‘full story.’ As I had Thanksgiving dinner with Kevin, Wendy and Debbie (their daughter), I heard all about the trials of decades of little fruit and little impact in the BG community and surrounding areas. They shared [how Satan would tell] them that they were wasting their time; how worship drove [Satan] away; how all they had to offer was a smile and a kind demeanour over many years; how the Lord allowed them to sacrifice and persevere over those years of little to no fruit to show; how donors and churches



GOD IS FAITHFUL.

stayed faithfully with them when reports showed little results; and much more. Perseverance is the story, and now they are seeing the fruit of Bible studies, love, smiles and changed lives.

“The missionary needs to have a true calling or they won’t last. However, if the calling is true, there is no greater calling than to bring God’s Word in the heart language of any people group. I would caution [supporting churches] that the one fruit to look for is perseverance and not to expect a revival before that translation is done, ... to stick through the seasons of sowing and watering and to send people from the church to visit and encourage the missionaries in the field [as well as] fasting and praying for them.”

And finally, I wanted to know what stood out most to Pastor Dan as he attended the dedication. He responded, “The honour the community showed to Kevin and Wendy stood out most. Memories of people grabbing their Bible and kissing it will forever bring me to tears. It’s too rich to explain.”

Looking Ahead

It is the team’s hope and prayer that the Scriptures will not just sit on bookshelves but will be used to spur the believers on to further growth and maturity.

And this is what is already happening. The photographer at the New Testament dedication was delayed in his departure from BG due to bad weather. Coincidence? I don’t think so. Because of



Juan, on right, one of the pillars of the Tepehuan

that delay, he was given the opportunity to observe something that had never happened among the Tepehuan people.

He and the Cases had to go searching for a key to the house in which they would be staying. It “just so happened” that the key was in the care of one of the believers. As they went to get the key, they needed to follow the cultural norms of the Tepehuan. One does *not* just go, get the key and leave. Proper etiquette requires a visit, some coffee, maybe a snack.

But here is what thrilled his heart: the believers asked Kevin to do a little Bible study. Wendy



Kevin Case



The first impromptu Bible study

observed, “While Kevin was looking for a passage to read, Bibles came out of the woodwork. When he looked up, everyone had a Tepehuan Bible.” That had never happened before in the history of the Tepehuan people group, ... and the photographer was there to see it happen.

This is not the end of the team’s ministry. Kevin said it well: “Someone made the comment that the New Testament dedication had to be a good time of ‘closure’ for us. I responded that, for me, what God is doing among the Tepehuan is just getting started. It’s like the airplane is sitting at the end of the runway, and the rpms are spooling up for takeoff.”

When asked about the translation being in the hands of the Tepehuan believers, Matt said, “It is our hope that this would be a key part in the process of seeing the Tepehuan [believers] not only value their own place in the body of Christ, but also [of seeing] the Mexican church, who was more excited than imaginable about [the dedication], adopting the Tepehuan as full members into the Body.”

NTM Mexico has implemented a strategy to assign two new families to a purely Tepehuan

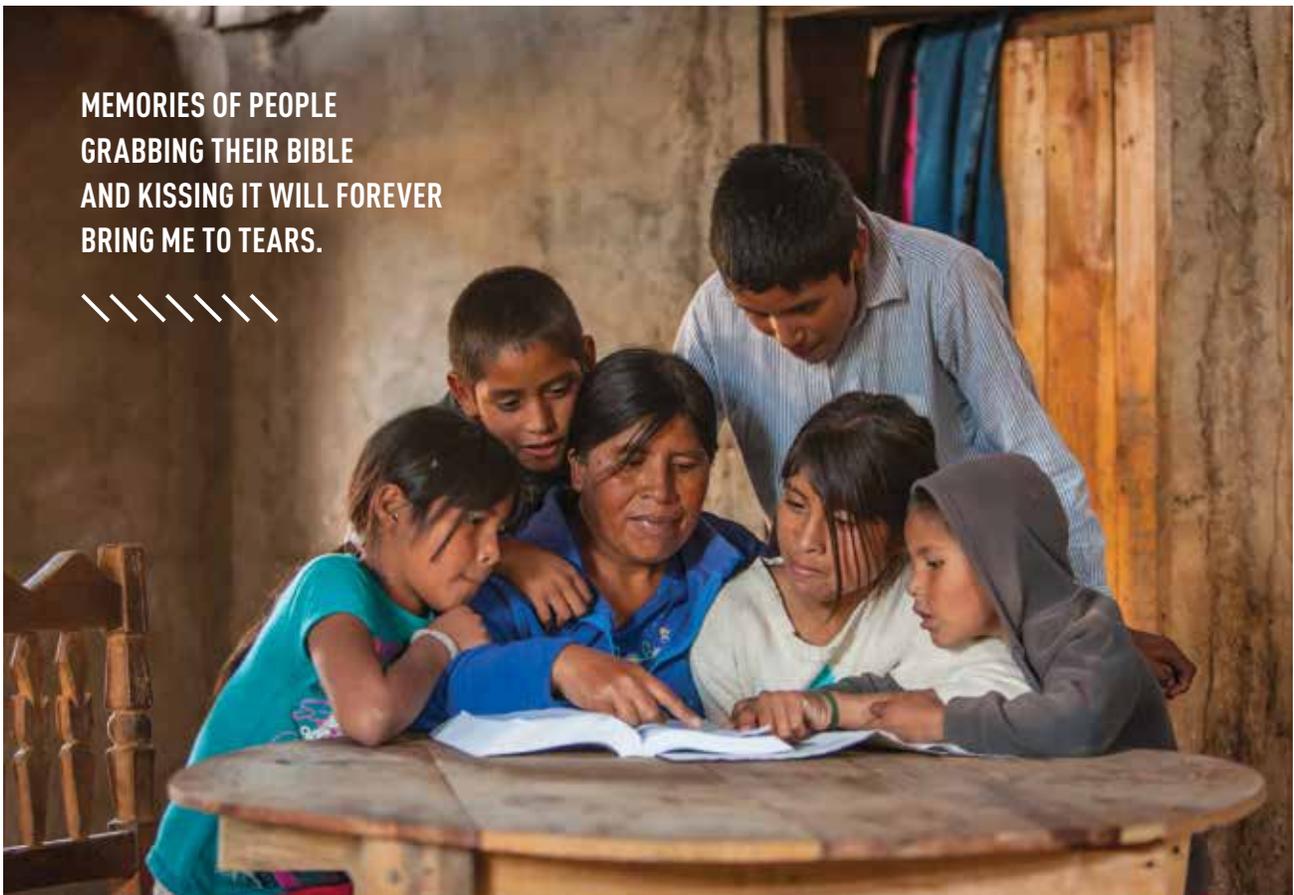
community 45 minutes’ drive from town. This is possible due to the relationship of the former missionary team and a Mexican couple, Oscar and Rosa, local believers and leaders in the community and in the church where Chris and Rachel Thomas work. This is the next phase of the work. We anticipate hearing and sharing many more things as the Tepehuan church grows and strengthens itself in the Word.

Praise God for His Word now in the Tepehuan language. Pray for the growth of the Tepehuan believers as they soak up the Word and apply it to their lives.

Bruce Enemark was raised in Panama, the youngest of three missionary kids. He and Julie, his wife, ministered with Ethnos360 in Panama and Paraguay for 24 years before he joined Ethnos360’s Advancement team in Sanford, Florida, now working as the managing editor. Faith Baptist Church of Chetek, Wisconsin, is their sending church and has been behind the Enemarks since they started their ministry with Ethnos360.



**MEMORIES OF PEOPLE
GRABBING THEIR BIBLE
AND KISSING IT WILL FOREVER
BRING ME TO TEARS.**





From August to December 2019, the Kaje people of Papua New Guinea heard the chronological Bible teaching for the first time. Many of the Kaje trusted Jesus Christ as their Saviour. Praise God!

Missionary Abby Goheen recounts a conversation with a Kaje lady after the lesson about Jesus' death and resurrection:

Ellen came and sat down next to me with red, swollen, downcast

eyes and said, "Jesus died for me. He died because of my sin."

"Yes, Ellen," I said. "He died for you. Now, whose family are you in?"

She put her head down and said, "I know... I am in Satan's family."

"Ellen, whom are you putting your faith in?" I asked.

She shot her head up with a big smile and confidently answered, "Jesus. My faith is in Jesus!"

"Ellen, then Jesus took you and

brought you into His family! If you are putting your faith in Him, then you are not in Satan's family. You are in God's! There is no work that you need to do. Jesus did all the work, and He finished it! Now you are in His family."

Ellen gave me the biggest smile, and I could just see the relief and the hope fill her face.



Pray. AIRING THE CHIMANE RADIO ONCE AGAIN

Some twenty years ago, several missionaries to the Chimane people in Bolivia started a recording project. That recording project expanded to become a Christian radio station that broadcasted 24/7 in five languages, bringing encouragement to many believers in Bolivia.

Unfortunately, there have been problems in the last two years. The Chimane radio team, made up of expat missionaries and Bolivian Christians, writes, "Today because of the high cost of electricity, three lightning strikes and many repairs, we are presently off the air. It's a sad day when the radio is not on to encourage the many who listen."

The team is working hard to put the radio station back on the air, but their financial situation is slowing their progress immensely. Please pray that God will provide the needed funds to return the Chimane Radio station to the air.

If you would like to help fund the program, give to ethnos.ca/chimane-radio/



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Praise. PIAPOCO NEW TESTAMENT REVISION COMPLETED!

After many years of hard work, the new translation of the Piapoco New Testament is complete. It had become obvious that a clearer Bible translation in the Piapoco people's language was necessary. Piapoco believers who were trained to translate joined Wayne and Patsy Gibson on the translation project and have done excellent work.

Now, the new translation of the Piapoco New Testament has been completed, and in October 2019,

there were 2000 Bibles delivered by truck, motorcycle, plane or river launch to the areas where the Piapocos live.

Roberto, one of the Piapoco translators said, "I am really pleased with how it turned out. We thank God greatly, regarding His Word, because He allowed us and you all to work with it, so that we might produce God's Word in our language."



STAY IN A JUNGLE CAMP HOUSE AND
EXPLORE HOW GOD IS REACHING
UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS
WITH THE GOSPEL

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Pray. THE ISKI AND THE KOMINIMUN

Two years after receiving the gospel themselves, the Iski believers teamed up with the expat missionaries to present the gospel to their Iski relatives in another village.

But the Iski people are not the only ones attending the Bible lessons. They have been joined by the Kominimun, a people group with a language and culture different from the Iski. There are no missionaries working among the Kominimun, but they want the gospel so badly that they have been begging for missionaries to come to their people. For years,

the answer has been, “We don’t have people to send to you. Just wait.” But they don’t want to wait any longer — and for good reason!

That is why thirty bilingual Kominimun have been travelling over an hour each way to hear Bible lessons at the second Iski village. What great lengths they have gone to in order to hear the gospel! How exciting! Pray that many Iski and Kominimun will believe in Jesus and that God will send missionaries to disciple the Kominimun and translate the Scriptures into their language.

CONNECT WITH *missionaries!*



RYAN AND ABIGAIL DE ROOS

SYDNEY

Ministry: **Pilot/mechanic in training, en-route to the Philippines**

Sending Church: **Heritage Baptist Church, Kentwood, Michigan**

Connect with the de Roos family at ethnos.ca/ryan-and-abigail-de-roos/

Ryan grew up in Lucknow, Ontario; Abigail in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

They have been training for the last seven months with Ethnos360 Aviation in Arizona, preparing to serve overseas in a pilot/mechanic capacity.

A big milestone for them is that they have finally received their country assignment! It's been many years of training leading up to this point and they are extremely excited about their future of serving in the Philippines!

Ryan and Abigail have an additional 12-15 months at the aviation headquarters where Ryan will continue getting helicopter maintenance experience as well as starting

the helicopter flight training. The helicopter training is a large undertaking in both the skills area and as a financial investment, but we are excited to see what God has in store for them. They are also eagerly anticipating the arrival of their second child in early April, another girl!

Please pray for the de Roos family as preparing to serve as a missionary pilot family overseas is a huge investment of time, resources, and energy. Pray that the Lord will be able to raise up the financial support they need, so they can begin their ministry in the Philippines where there are urgent needs. Prayer is also appreciated for a safe delivery for their baby in April.



BRENT AND JODI RISTAU

HUDSON, SOPHIE, CHARLIE

Ministry: **Disciple Maker**
 Sending Church: **Santa Barbara Community Church,**
 Santa Barbara, California

Connect with the Ristau family at
ethnos.ca/brent-and-jodi-ristau/

Brent and Jodi Ristau are Ethnos Canada's only missionaries living in the Yukon Territories. Not only is the Yukon Canada's most secular region, it also has a diverse representation of 14 indigenous people groups who now largely speak English as their first language.

Brent says, *"Our hope is that our intentional discipling of others will result in a multiplication of believers who become established in Christ through foundational Bible teaching. Our prayer is to see the people groups of the Yukon established in Christ."*

Please pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as Brent and Jodi seek to know which community outside of Whitehorse they should engage with first. Pray for a discipleship and Bible study group in Whitehorse that Brent is facilitating — that they will come to a clear understanding of the gospel and become intentional disciple makers themselves. Pray for Brent and Jodi as they raise and disciple their own three children.

Thank you in advance for praying. Thank you for partnering with us so that one day those that Brent and Jodi are discipling will see thriving churches across the Yukon.

WHAT'S MINE IS...

You have given of yourselves to see the light of the gospel taken to remote corners of the world. You've given of your finances, your time and your energy to see that sparkle of understanding appear in the eyes of those who didn't know about the Son of God coming as a baby, living a perfect life, dying for them and rising again to bring new life.

I've thought about what it takes for the world to know about the Saviour of mankind, to understand why He came to die and to accept His gift of life. Christmas has come and gone, and we gave and received gifts. It is appropriate that we consider the greatest gift of all—eternal life. That makes me think about the parable of the Good Samaritan and the cast of characters whose lives reflect the three ways we can think of who we are, of what we have and of how we respond to the Great Commission.

You remember the story, don't you? The thieves lying in wait for anyone to come along to take from them. Their whole attitude was "What's yours is MINE!" Take, take, take. Life is about what's good for me and mine!" At times we will take as much as we can get, whether it is someone else's time or energy or even money.

And then as the spotlight moves on to the three other religious leaders or lay people, we can see

yet another attitude: "What's mine is MINE!" Move to the other side so you don't have to see people in pain, ignore the cries for help, seal up the bank account so nothing can slip out that doesn't benefit you. You as a believer have within you a great... no, an unfathomable gift—the Spirit of Truth. How can we keep it to ourselves? And

**YOU AS A BELIEVER
HAVE WITHIN YOU A GREAT ...
NO, AN UNFATHOMABLE GIFT
— THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH.**

then all those other things we claim—our time, our money, our abilities—God has given them to us. How can we keep them tightly hugged to our chest?

And then, of course, the Samaritan came along. The scorned, the unloved, the reviled Samaritan who, for all practical purposes, should have followed

suit and gone WAY around the injured man. But no, he exhibited that godly character of "What's mine is YOURS." He gave of his time, his supplies, his transportation and his money in order to see that injured man taken care of, to make sure he survived, to ensure he had a life before him. He seemed to have no qualms about helping someone who would normally despise him. He was indeed the "neighbour" that demonstrates how we need to respond.

Thank you that, like the Samaritan, you have given of your time and possessions. You have given to see His Word go forth to the nations. May God continue to work in all of our lives that we might fall down before Him and tell Him without hesitation, "What's mine is Yours!"

—Bruce Enemark, Managing Editor



ETHNOS CANADA
313363 HWY 6 S
PO BOX 707
DURHAM ON N0G 1R0



COMBINE YOUR HEART FOR TEACHING WITH YOUR PASSION FOR MISSIONS.



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