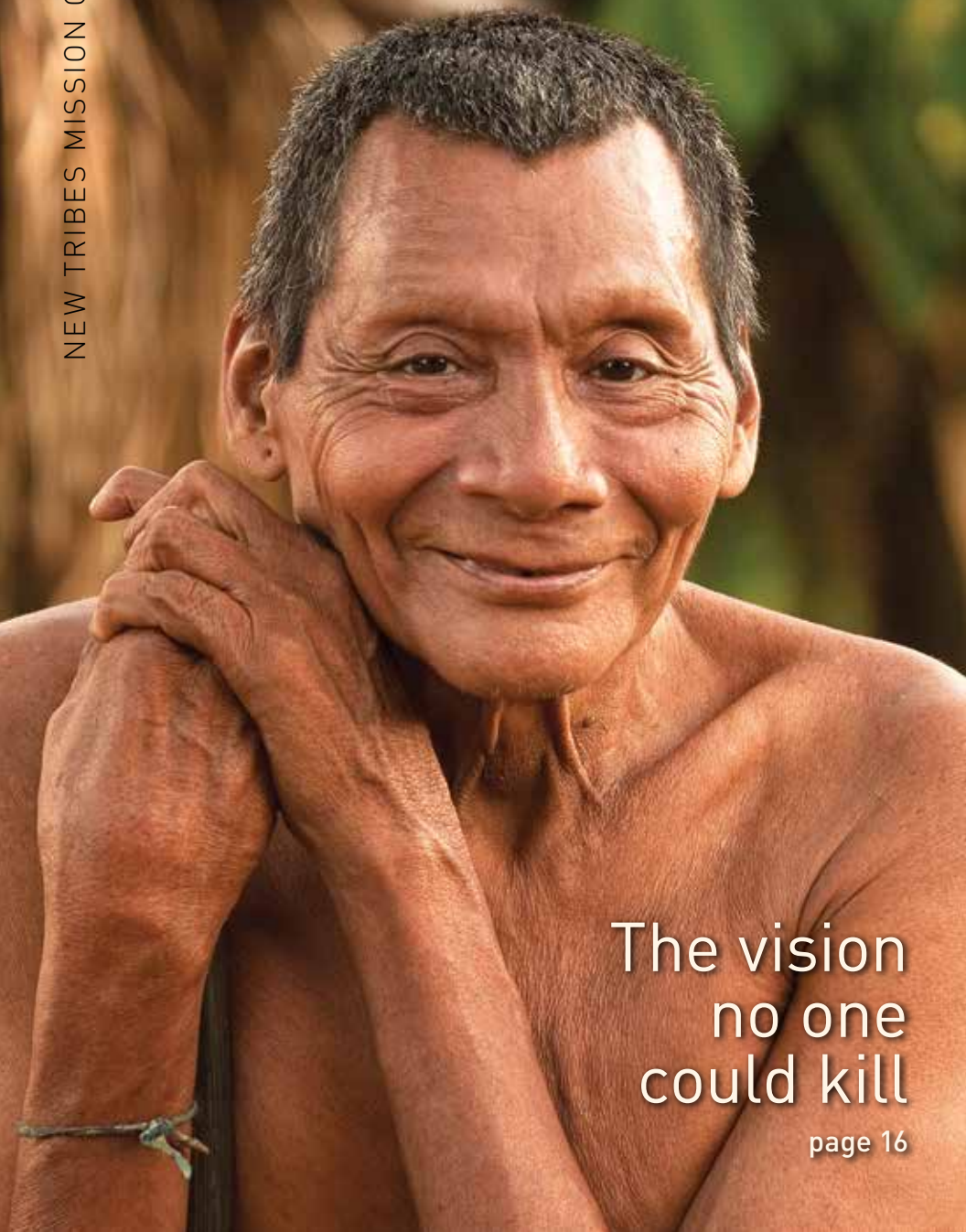


NEW TRIBES MISSION OF CANADA

NTM@work

your connection with tribal missions



The vision
no one
could kill

page 16

NTM@work

Vol. 72 • No. 1 • August 2013

NTM@work team

Executive Editor: Macon Hare
Debbie Burgett, Rex Crawford,
Cathy Drobnick, Ian Fallis, Jon
Frazier, Cathy Hedvall, Chris
Holland and Dena McMaster

NTM@work is published by New
Tribes Mission of Canada.

Subscriptions

NTM@work is provided free to
readers in Canada. To receive
the magazine or have it sent to a
friend, e-mail
info@canada.ntm.org, or call
519-369-2622.

If you no longer wish to receive
NTM@work, please send a note
and your name and address to
NTM@work
PO Box 707
Durham ON N0G 1R0

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

Requests to reprint articles

should be directed to
Executive Editor Macon Hare at
macon_hare@ntm.org
or call 407-323-3430.

*Contents of this magazine may not
be reproduced in whole or in part
unless expressly authorised in
writing.*

NTM worldwide

Canada 519-369-2622
USA 407-323-3430
Australia 011-61-2-6559-8646
Europe 011-44-1472-387700

**Cover photo and photo this page
by Dale Stroud**



contents

4 CONNECT: While none of us can do everything, all of us can do something. Starting today, discover ways that you can contact, encourage, pray for, give to, or serve alongside NTM missionaries.

16 The Vision No One Could Kill: Dreams often die when the original dreamer dies. The fire, zeal and passion that ignited their vision, and also fueled others to participate, can die right along with them. Not so with the original vision of NTM. Seventy-one years later, the dream is still alive. But so is the enemy...

30 Come On In! The Water's Fine! Whether you doggy-paddle or do high dives, there's room on the roster for you.



WATCH the online video of USA CEO Larry Brown sharing the heart and vision of NTM moving forward.
ntm.org/magazine

I could never do that!

It's been said to me, "And that's why I could never be a missionary!" or "I could never do that!" or "Wow, I can't believe you do that!" and I have said similar things about tribal missionaries: "I could never live in a tribe," "I would never be able to make it without having another woman to talk to in my first language," "I would never be able to handle all the medical and dental stuff you do!"

But missionaries, tribal or otherwise, are just normal people too. We also get homesick, scared, we don't always all get along, our children fight, we like watching movies and listening to music and we are still growing in our walk with the Lord. So I'm often caught off guard and I usually don't know what to say in response to these comments.

As I've been thinking about this a little, this is what I've come up with. If God calls us to do something or go someplace, He will give us all we need to be able to do it or go. And he'll be there to teach us all we need to know in order to do what He wants wherever it is He sends us.

—Joel and Angela Ketcham, Brazil

Angela Ketcham was raised by a single mom. While she went to church, she didn't learn about tribal missions until she met Joel in college. Now they both serve at a school for missionaries' children in Brazil, where Joel attended growing up. Ever thought about teaching abroad?



Check out the opportunities:
ntm.org/magazine



Photo by Dale Stroud

Diary of a hunting trip

A Moi believer, Pupuiye, kept a diary while he was hunting.

Day 1 “Creator, whatever you want to give me, allow that to be. If God wills something for me, I will be able to do it. If He does not will something for me, then I will give it up.”

Day 2 “Creator, take my body because it’s Yours. I say that to you in order to do what you want for me. Thank you, Creator. I really thank you, Jesus. This is Pupuiye’s hunting talk. That’s all for today.”

Day 3 “Every single day I will pray to my Creator God. Definitely right now, as well as tomorrow, and the next day all the way till my very last day.”

— Steve and Carolyn Crockett,
Moi tribe, Asia-Pacific Region



Photo by Macon Hare

“I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.”

Job 42:2

"When you said you were going to read, we all thought it'd be out of the Tok Pisin Bible (the trade language). When the reading started, we couldn't believe that this was coming in our own tongue. Please finish that work (translation) fast so we can have this talk in our own tongue. The talk comes so much more clearly in our tongue."

-Biem man from Papua New Guinea

A traditional Mwinika story

Hearing traditional stories helps missionaries understand a people group's culture and provides illustrations that aid in sharing God's Word clearly when Bible teaching begins. The Mwinika people have a story about the Mwiikhopololo (a type of lizard) and the Nipalaka (a type of large locust or grasshopper).

It was dry season when uncontrolled bush fires rage. The lizard dug a hole to serve as his home. Then one day, a big bush fire came. The lizard fled into his home to avoid it. The grasshopper was trying to escape it as well. He came across the hole of the lizard and fled into it to avoid the fire. After the fire was over, the grasshopper thanked the lizard and turned around to jump out of the hole. As he jumped, his powerful back legs poked out the eyes of the lizard.

The Mwinika moral: Guests who stay with you always leave destruction in their wake.

—Phil and Elin Henderson, Mwinika tribe, Mozambique

Have you ever thought you were too ordinary to become a missionary? Phil Henderson worked in a factory making electronic parts. Now he works to establish a maturing Mwinika church. **Train with other ordinary people to become a missionary with NTM today:** ntm.org/magazine



Photo by Kris Klebs

The tongue can get you in trouble

A few weeks ago I went up to the meat counter (with a little fear and trembling) and asked for a half kilo of *lingua*. The meat man just smiled knowingly and asked me if I wanted a half kilo of *linguiça*. “Yes,” I quickly affirmed, “I want a half kilo of *linguiça* (that would be sausage). I don’t want any *lingua* (that would be tongue). Thank you.”

—*Jevon and Danica Rich, Brazil*

Homeschooled all the way through 12th grade, Danica Rich has worked in a pet store, cleaned houses and been a nanny. Now she cares for her husband and their three children, ages 5, 4, and 21 months, as they study the national culture and language of Brazil in preparation for a church planting ministry. Is your young family ready for the



next step? Consider joining NTM today: ntm.org/magazine



“God gave you a gift of 86,400 seconds today. Have you used one to say “Thank you?””

—*William Ward*

CONNECT WITH...



Julie Koop

NTM Canada Home Office

Administrative Assistant

Sending church: Grace Bible Church, Vernon, BC

Despite having grown up in a family of believers (and believing in Christ at an early age), I knew relatively little about missions until my family decided to move to Papua New Guinea (PNG) as Associates with NTM in 1995. I was 15. After graduating from High School there and returning home to Canada, I knew that I wanted to get back overseas as soon as possible.

I completed the training with NTM Canada in 2005 and served in the Philippines for 1 ½ years.

God then had me spend an incredible 4 ½ years back in PNG as part of the Interface program staff. I loved seeing God move in students’ lives and challenging them to live boldly for Him.

Now back in Canada, I’m excited to soon be a part of the support team at the NTM Canada Home Office in Ontario, and to be involved in the lives of students completing their missionary training.



scan to read my blog

bugsandbananas.blogspot.com

scan to learn about the Interface program

ntm.org/interface



Led by the Spirit

Recently missionary Jason Swanson visited the Siawi tribe where he had laboured so long. He was delighted to find the elders functioning in the Holy Spirit.

The small church would indeed look strange here in America. There is no sound system, no cushioned seats and no large worship band, just a small group of believers following and praising God.

Jason went to the meeting where the elders, Beiyema, Mabou and Nokee were teaching and realised that they were using a form of “team teaching.” None of the missionaries had taught that or modelled that so Jason realized that it was God leading them in ways to teach His people His word.

— Jason and Shannon Swanson,
Siawi tribe, Papua New Guinea



Photo by Dale Stroud

"These guys (the missionaries) went step-by-step as they taught us and uncovered every root. Then we came to the head of the talk of Jesus dying for our sins, and we could clearly understand His life message.

"Oh Great Creator Being, Our God, You alone are on top. Thank you for this good, sweet talk from your Word. What you have said is true, you did send your son Jesus to die and buy our sin. Oh God, we will only hang up (depend) on You."

-Baqwido believer, Papua New Guinea

Bringing bandages until we can bring the Word

One of the difficulties for our team as we live among the Nagi people is all the waiting. We want to explain God's plan of salvation but have to wait until we can do that adequately in their language. Today I was reminded of that as we helped bandage another finger lost in a machete accident. A mother exclaimed, "If you guys hadn't come to live with us my daughter would have just died!" Of course, the real reason why we are living here is not just to give out bandages. Rather, our

prayer is that one day these mothers, daughters and all the rest of the Nagis will have a chance to understand the truth of who God really is and have His Word in their language. And that is far more important than bandages! But until then, we'll study hard, wait on God, and continue helping the Nagi people however we can.

— *Joanna K. Jansma, Nagi tribe, Asia-Pacific Region*

KIDSQUIZ

Can you guess what this beautiful flower might be called? Here are some clues: It's native to South America, and it produces what is commonly called a fruit but is actually many "berries" that grow together.

The answer is on the bottom of page 10

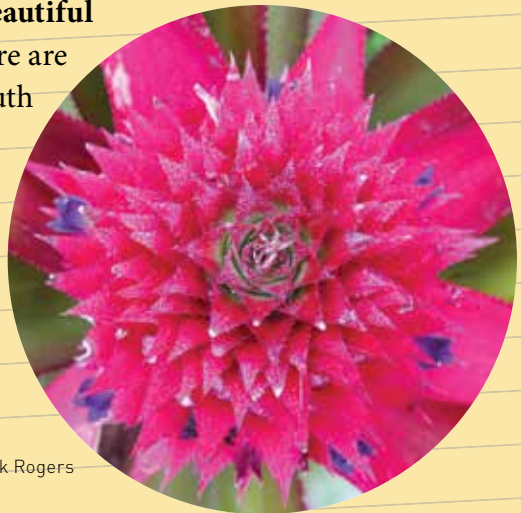


Photo by Kirk Rogers

CONNECT

How shall we serve?

Written darkly on our hearts the sinful bent to seek our way,
Selfishness, the law of nature—this our struggle every day.
Love for God dethroned, forsaken; love for self so quick to reign—,
Envy, pride that fuels ambition; while we're here, the fight remains.

Jesus; sovereign, sweet example, sparing nothing in His love,
Lived His life in full surrender, vision locked on Heaven above.
Depth of love called through His dying, in His death then let us live,
In each sacrifice and service, giving Him all we can give.

Let us sound no trump before us, in the shadows be content,
Laying down time and possessions, talents for the Kingdom spent.
Seeking His constraining values, counting earthly gain as loss,
Pride destroyed, ambition slain, our knees and hearts bowed at the Cross.

Viewing Christ, our souls are pierced with thanks and overwhelmed by grace!
Fading impulse to self-interest just to look upon His Face!
What incentive then to follow, what an aim to hear His call!
What a privilege to serve Him, what a joy to give Him all!

—By *Cathy Drobnick*, contributing editor



“Missions is scaffolding that is used to erect a building. It is just temporary to lend support until the structure can stand on its own. Then it is pulled away and moved to another location where it is needed.”

—*Steve Saint*

Comparing can be costly

As Ans Westerveld visited her friend in a Landuma village, she had no idea that a casual remark about the different sizes of the babies would be controversial. Hawadi jumped up and started clapping and chanting, “The twins are the same size! The twins are the same size!”

The Landuma’s fears, superstitions and taboos lead them to believe that comparing size or intellect leads one sibling to do harm to the other when they grow up. Hawadi was trying to prevent this from happening.

— Kirk and Yolanda Rogers, Landuma tribe, Africa

By the time Kirk Rogers had finished high school in Los Angeles, he had decided that atheism made the most sense. But while studying zoology in college, God changed his mind through a book about Bible proofs and fulfilled prophesy. Could God perhaps want to



change your mind about missions?

Explore the possibilities:

ntm.org/magazine

Photo by Muffy Halstead



CONNECT WITH...



Shaun and Melanie Humphreys

Children: Michayla, Rylan and Seth
Paraguay, South America

Ministry: Church planters among the Nivaclé

Sending churches: Hanover

Missionary Church, Hanover, Ontario

• Markesan Bible Church, Markesan, Wisconsin
• Camarillo Evangelical Free Church, Camarillo, California

Shaun grew up among the Manjúi people of Paraguay and was able to experience firsthand the joys of watching them become believers and mature in the Lord. This put the desire in his heart to be a church planter among another indigenous group.

Melanie grew up hearing missionary stories from her grandparents and after taking two mission trips, was excited to pursue serving the Lord overseas.

Shaun and Melanie met and fell in love at New Tribes Bible Institute, and after finishing up their missionary training, moved to Paraguay in 2003. They have now been working in the Nivaclé tribe for three years, where Shaun is currently preparing Bible lessons into the tribal language. When Melanie isn’t busy homeschooling the kids and making food from scratch, she can be found studying and visiting with the Nivaclé ladies.

Michayla, Rylan and Seth love playing games and sports outside with their Nivaclé friends.

Shaun is hoping to begin teaching the Bible chronologically in this remote tribe within the year.

shaun_humphreys@ntm.org

The Accident

Three Dinangat Bible teachers, Areke and his two friends, were approaching their village as they hiked home. The path was dark and they had only one small flashlight to share.

Areke slipped on a wet rock in the darkness and a small knife shot through the bag he carried and pierced his side. His friends ripped off his shirt and covered the wound. Then they struggled to help Areke cover the remaining distance up the mountain to their village.

Arriving home, a closer look showed that the knife had cut deeply and Areke had lost a lot of blood. They sent for medical help. The next day, a doctor hiked to the village to stitch up the wound.

The doctor told Areke that his ribs had saved his life by deflecting the



Photo by Gary Smith

Areke

knife blade. He is very thankful for God's protection. But Areke says he is also thankful for something else. He is thankful for the opportunity to suffer for Jesus. Missionary Gary Smith shares, "Areke says his desire is to be like Christ, so he is glad he was pierced in the side just as our Lord was."

"Father, the way You love us is beautiful and we know that it is only because of Your Son Jesus that we exist now. In one voice and one heart we say thank You!"

-Jaspa, a Dinangat believer from Papua New Guinea

When the Bible leaves the classroom

NTBI students are studying God's Word inside the classroom, but it usually doesn't stay there.

This time, the Bible went to the soccer field.

Twenty-three-year-old Ricardo worked at a local restaurant. He didn't speak English well and was the sole provider for his mother and siblings. So he worked long hours and spent his little free time with family.

Then an NTBI student co-worker invited him to play soccer and he jumped at the chance.

From the beginning, Ricky noticed something different. He had been disillusioned in the past by young people who called themselves Christians, yet participated in activities clearly considered wrong.

But these students impressed him. He was so impressed, that even though he couldn't play often himself, he brought his 16-year-old brother regularly, hoping to curb some of the negative influences in his life.

Later, one of the students asked Ricky some survey questions for a class project. One of the questions: Where do you think you'll go when you die?

That question began to gnaw at his heart and prompted him to meet regularly with the student to ask his own questions—which were patiently answered from Scripture.

Then late one night a month afterward, Ricky texted frantically.

"I don't know if I'll go to heaven or hell when I die! Can you help me?"

Since it was exam week, the student had planned on studying before class the next day. But Ricky's text changed all that. Instead, they met early in the morning at a picnic table outside the school to go over Scripture again—and Ricky placed his faith in Christ.

Now his family wants to know what has caused such a change ...

So where are you planning to attend school? If you want to find God's Word making a difference both inside and outside the classroom, NTBI may be for you. Enroll for the spring semester today: ntbi.org



**NEW TRIBES
BIBLE INSTITUTE**



Photo by Dale Stroud

Driving in the Asia-Pacific region

First of all, you have to redefine where the road boundaries really are. They span the front yard, the sidewalk, the curb edge and the one lane of “pavement.”

Rapidly flashing your headlights means many things: “OK to pass now,” “Dangerous to pass now,” or “Get out of the way.” Generally you have three seconds to figure out the nonverbal message that’s intended.

The central concept of Asia-Pacific motoring is the faster you go, the better your horn works. If you sound it loudly and frequently, it’s like an invisible energy barrier protecting you and the vehicle from all harm.

Although an attempt is made to drive on the left side of the road, the dull white lines simply wish a hearty *Selamat Datang* (welcome) to the traveller.

No need for seatbelts since you have the horn to protect you.

The national sport of Asia-Pacific region is passing. The Vertical Triple is passing three vehicles in one acceleratory movement. The Horizontal

Triple is passing a vehicle that itself is in the process of passing. The Double-Double is passing at precisely the same time another vehicle, coming in the other direction, is also passing. If you can’t pass in one of these movements, you tailgate.

Accidents are rare because of the protection the horn provides. When there is an accident, it’s usually due to a malfunctioning horn.

If you cause an accident, get out of your car and run for the nearest police station before you are beaten by the gathering crowd.

—*Doug and Jael Robitaille, Asia-Pacific Region*



Photo by Dale Stroud

“**God’s work is not man working for God; it is God’s own work, though often wrought through man’s hands.**”

—Hudson Taylor

Doing better than the teacher!

Candy Wingo was drilling word flashcards with Agustin to give him practice in learning to read his language. He is shy so he was saying the words softly but doing very well. So well in fact that when she showed him one card he said “*ja’kuder*,” which means “it is upside down.” Candy didn’t catch what he said and thought he was misreading the word. She asked him to say the word again. Laughing heartily, he repeated “*ja’kuder*” and it dawned on Candy what he was trying to tell her.

—*Barry and Candy Wingo, Tepehuan tribe, Mexico*

A 57-year-old grandmother of six, Candy Wingo plugs away at her part in the Great Commission. And someday, Agustin will be able to read God’s Word in his own language. Have you considered what your role might be? Find



opportunities:
ntm.org/magazine

Fat and Beautiful

I couldn’t believe my ears. What had the Jula ladies just asked me? We had just finished our Bible study and were sitting outside chatting. That’s when it happened. My pastor’s wife repeated herself, and I realized that, unfortunately I had heard her correctly.

“Amanda, which one of us is fatter?” she asked, indicating herself and another friend from church. All eyes suddenly focused on me.

I knew that in West Africa being fat is a good thing. It’s a sign that you have enough money to eat well. Here, your friends greet you by telling you how fat you are, even if you’ve recently (with much effort, sweat, tears, and moments of extreme hunger) managed to drop ten pounds. It’s meant to be an encouragement. In fact, we’ve

been told by women here that they will avoid drinking lemonade because it causes them to lose weight. *Mental note: we need to buy more lemons.* So this answer should have been easy. A cursory visual exam confirmed that my pastor’s wife is easily the larger of the two. I tried to force my mouth to speak, but I couldn’t. Out of respect for every Western woman I have ever known I just couldn’t make myself say, “You’re the fatter one.” It just wouldn’t come out! Instead, I copped out and left them with a very diplomatic and vague, “It’s difficult to say.”

They both laughed and let me off the hook as the two of them discussed among themselves who is larger.

—*Amanda Kay, Jula tribe, Burkina Faso*



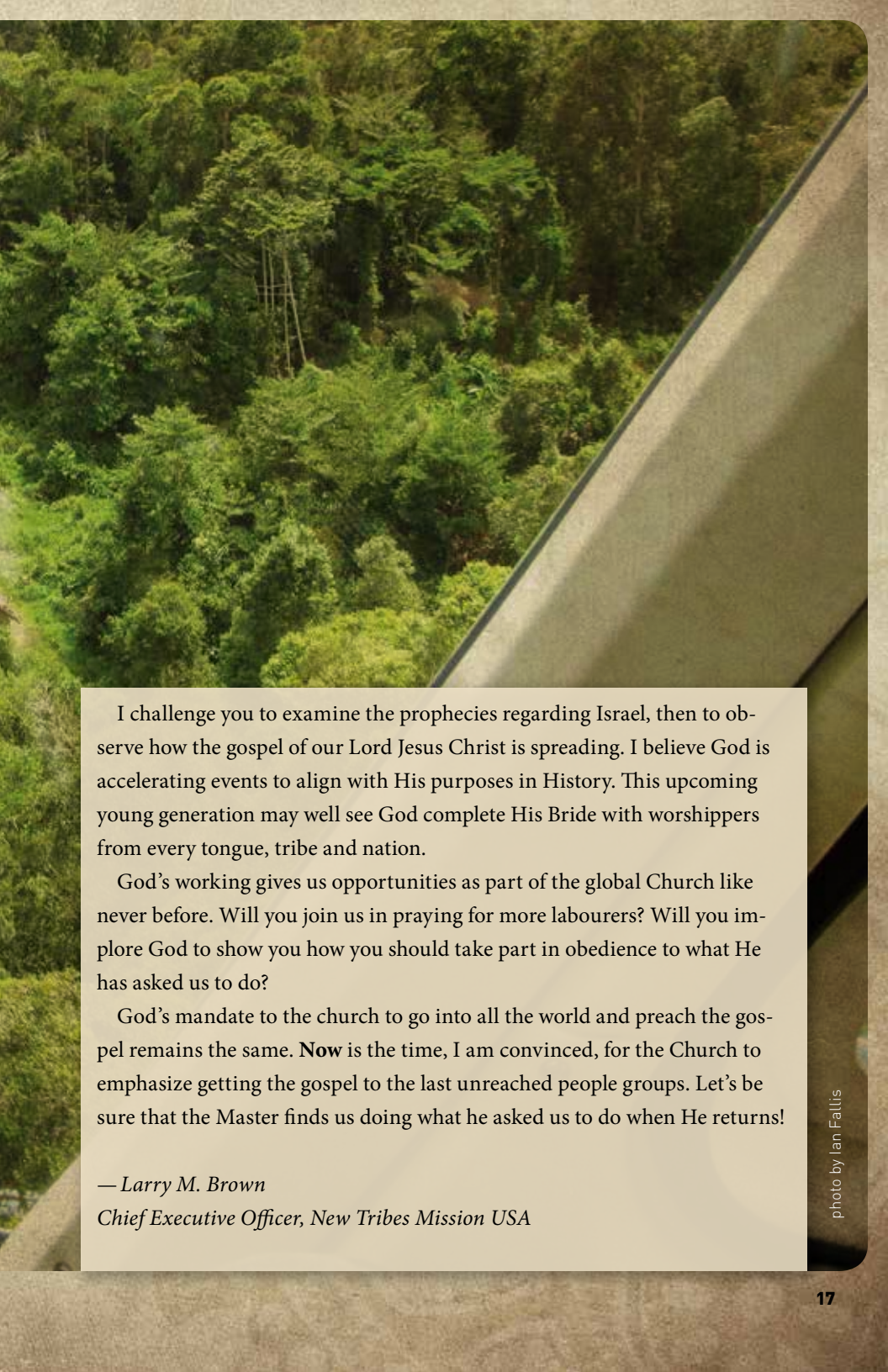
IN SEASON

I'm convinced we are in the "last season" before Christ's return. Incredible doors are being opened, and **now** is the time for the Church to emphasize getting the gospel to the last unreached people groups.

We cannot know the time of the Lord's return, but we can know the season: *For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ... But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.* (1 Thessalonians 5:2-4)

Friends, it's imperative to understand that we are in "seasons of the last days." It's exciting and sobering as we see prophecies fulfilled faster than ever before. Consider only two key indicators of Christ's return:

- The fulfillment of promises regarding the nation of Israel, and
- The proliferation of the gospel into all the world.



I challenge you to examine the prophecies regarding Israel, then to observe how the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is spreading. I believe God is accelerating events to align with His purposes in History. This upcoming young generation may well see God complete His Bride with worshippers from every tongue, tribe and nation.

God's working gives us opportunities as part of the global Church like never before. Will you join us in praying for more labourers? Will you implore God to show you how you should take part in obedience to what He has asked us to do?

God's mandate to the church to go into all the world and preach the gospel remains the same. **Now** is the time, I am convinced, for the Church to emphasize getting the gospel to the last unreached people groups. Let's be sure that the Master finds us doing what he asked us to do when He returns!

— *Larry M. Brown*

Chief Executive Officer, New Tribes Mission USA



The VISION

No One Could Kill

by Debbie Burgett, contributing editor

The customs official warily scrutinized the boisterous group of seven fresh-faced young men standing before him — and the array of musical instruments they wanted to bring into Latin America.

What were these *gringos* up to?

In her book *God Planted Five Seeds*, Jean Dye Johnson recounts the ensuing conversation between the suspicious official and Joe Moreno—the only one of the group who could speak Spanish.

“What are you then, *señores*? A band?”

“No *señor*, not a band.”

“An orchestra, then?”

“No *señor*, not an orchestra,” said Joe. “We are missionaries.”

The official’s black eyebrows shot up in astonishment.

“*Missionaries*? But you do not look like missionaries. You look more like football players.”

Joe translated the comment to his companions and they all grinned.

Didn't they have better places to go and better things to do?
Why go to a jungle?

The official was not amused.

"Since you are not an orchestra and not a band, I cannot dismiss the possibility that you have brought these instruments into the country to sell them."

They were at an impasse until the customs official had a bright idea. They could prove the trombone, mellophone, two accordions, guitar, trumpet and cornet were for their personal use by playing something. The eager young men struck up a rousing hymn that quickly drew a crowd. Alarmed, the official let them go right away.

So began the 1942 journey of the first NTM missionaries into Bolivia's "Green Hell" — the vast carpet of relatively unknown jungle stretching eastward from the base of the Andes Mountains.

But why? Why of all the places in the world did these seven young men choose to go there? Didn't they have better places to go and better things to do? Why go to a jungle?



Left: Six of NTM's first seven missionaries before the Ayoré contact

Top: Paul Fleming in Malaysia

Above: Jean Dye Johnson, widow of one of the five slain men, with Ayorés

Because of a simple yet powerful vision.

The Vision Some Called Crazy

Founders Paul Fleming and Cecil Dye birthed the vision of New Tribes Mission — to reach the last tribe for Christ in their generation. That meant going to the most remote people

groups, those previously unknown to the outside world and with a never-before documented culture, language and belief system. It meant becoming an advocate for those who had no opportunity to pick up a Bible, turn on a radio or TV or drive to a nearby church — because those things didn't exist for them yet. It meant taking the gospel to those who had no hope of hearing it unless someone would go and tell them.

That vision found a home in seven young hearts. If the goal was to reach the last tribe, someone had to be willing to go and reach the first one. So they said goodbye to everything dear and left their 1942 world behind — a world just as real for them as ours is to us.

When their plane took off that late November day, it was the same year Muhammad Ali, Roger Staubach,

Harrison Ford and Joe Biden were born. Corn dogs and Milky Ways were the new favourite munchies of the day and the novel invention of duct tape would soon be on the shelves. Hugely popular pastimes included Saint Louis Cardinals games, Abbott and Costello routines, the recently released films *Casablanca* and *Bambi*, as well as Bing Crosby crooning the chart-topper “White Christmas.”

Yet it wasn't only pleasant realities they were leaving behind.



Top: Mel Wyma

Left: Chuck Johnson with Araona men

Right: Jean Dye Johnson

So with the vision planted deeply in their hearts,
they moved forward

Probably the hardest challenge of all for the young men, and one which they received serious criticism for, was choosing to leave the very real fighting of World War II to someone else. But these were not irresponsible, cowardly boys. They wanted to engage in battle — a raging spiritual one. As many before them, including the first disciples and the Apostle Paul himself, they wanted to give their lives for something they truly believed in, whether the world, or even other believers, approved or not.

So with the vision planted deeply in their hearts, they moved forward to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to one of the darkest places in the world, whatever the cost.

And for five of the men, it cost dearly. They lost their lives at the hands of the Ayoré people they were trying to reach.



The vision burst into the Biem tribe

"This is God's talk," said one of the Biem believers. "I've heard it. See, it's just one story, from the Old Testament to Jesus. There is no other road but Jesus. God meant it this way from the beginning."

"I can't stop thinking about this talk," another Biem believer told missionary Brandon Buser. "It's what I think of when I first get up. Yesterday, I woke and that's what I started talking with my wife about. We went to the garden and were there all day talking about this talk. Then all of a sudden it's night and we have to stop. But in the morning, we start all over again. It's always on my mind."

The Vision Refuses to Die

But the vision they believed in didn't die. Their martyrdom breathed new life and passion into the hearts of others to go as well. Eventually, a church was established among the Ayoré people group, and some who had participated in the killings came to know the Lord themselves.

Once again, even death couldn't thwart God's plans.

What began as seven young men dragging their instruments through an airport has become 3,200 strong,

carrying the vision on. NTM missionaries now work in Africa, Latin America and the Asia-Pacific region, live among 245 different tribes, translate Scripture in more than 100 languages and reach a new tribe with the Gospel every 45 days.

The truth is setting tribal people free.

However, the vision itself was not accomplished. Though faithful missionaries in the last generation gave their hearts and souls and, in some cases, even their lives in pursuit of the

The vision guided the Guanano people group

Herman, a Guanano believer, is seeing God work through His Word. It has motivated some Guanano believers to resolve conflicts. One man travelled to another country to talk with someone he had a conflict with in order to respond in obedience.

There has also been true compassion and care for the sick. When family members have not handled health issues well, the body of Christ has determined to be workers together with God and respond by prayer and showing compassion.

The Word of God is working in the hearts of His people through the gifts of His Spirit to accomplish His work in the body of Christ.

goal, reaching the last tribe for Christ didn't happen.

So what hindered the progress?

The Vision Faces Reality

As we've all discovered at some point in our lives, everything appears much smaller from a distance. From an airplane, trees look like bite-sized broccoli and cars shoot along like ants on caffeine. But come in for a landing and true proportions take shape.

As the task of reaching tribal people began in earnest and missionaries came up-close and personal with the reality of the situation, it was clear there were many more people groups throughout the world than previously thought, and hence, a bigger and more time-consuming job.

Along the same lines, the work of tribal church planting was found to be much more difficult than initially expected. As with our own ventures, what can seem like a doable project at the beginning, on closer examination, often turns out to have unknown facets which complicate matters. Reaching tribal people proved to be an "over the top" and "out of the box" massively challenging experience. Everything about it was hard. It was hard to get there, hard to live there, hard to love the people found there,

Everything about it was hard. It was hard to get there, hard to live there, hard to love the people found there ...



photo by Matt Musser

very hard to learn and understand the tribal cultures, languages and animistic belief systems, and particularly hard to stay there for the long years it took to establish a maturing tribal church.

Not impossible, just extremely hard. And so was the progress.

But probably the most significant hindrance to reaching the last tribe

for Christ was the same problem that Jesus mentioned in His day.

The Vision Requires Labourers

“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few.” Matthew 9:37

While the pool of those willing to be missionaries was already small, those willing to go into tribal areas was fewer still.

And it remains the case today.

More than 100 people groups (representing roughly 10 million people) have asked New Tribes Mission to bring them God's Word, yet they're still waiting for available missionaries. There are simply not enough labourers to go around.

Yet even as the enemy desperately flails about, managing to get off a few rounds here and there as he fights his losing battle, all his hindrances ultimately have no power to stop God's plans.

While progress may have slowed, it never died. And neither did the vision.

With renewed determination and zeal, the newly restated vision and goal of NTM as we move forward is the same as the original — *to reach the last tribe for Christ in this generation.*



But with one-third of the world's people groups still unreached—representing millions of tribal people—is it even possible?

Surprisingly, the goal is actually realistic today.

Let's get some shopping done

Acts 1:8 says, "*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.*"

According to the Greek, the places listed in Acts 1:8 are not in order of priority, but are equal in priority.

Imagine being sent on an important errand to the store to get milk, bread,

eggs and cheese — all necessary items for a wedding brunch. If you brought back only milk because it was first on the list, you didn't fully understand the task or realize the vital role you played in completing it. But serving that wedding brunch is going to require more than just milk.

God is planning a wedding, and His bride comes not just from the

...all his [Satan's] hindrances ultimately have no power to stop God's plans.



Photo by Dale Stroud



Photo by Craig Lowell



Jerusalem where you live, but from Judea and Samaria — and even from the ends of the earth.

So if you wanted to start giving equal priority to His work here, there and to the ends of the earth, what would that actually look like? What changes would you need to make?

The vision yielded fruit among the Yanomami tribe

Brais, a Yanomami pastor in Brazil, is once again standing strong for God in the midst of severe opposition.

“What about our cultural feasts?” he asked the other believers early in his teaching ministry. “What about our singing, and the way we deal with our dead, the way we talk about women? We need to begin to really change in these areas where we have heard God’s Word speak to us.”

Recently Brais was invited to attend a meeting of witchdoctors and tribal leaders. He will most likely be the only Christian there. The witchdoctors are concerned because young men no longer desire to become witchdoctors. Since Brais has spoken so strongly against them, he is somewhat concerned about what might happen.

“Brais said he felt like he was Daniel going into the lion’s den,” wrote missionary Mike Hartman. “In his prayer he mentioned that he wanted to only speak what God would have him say and not his own thoughts, and that he was glad that God already knew what was going to happen.”

The Vision is Doable Now

Over the years since the first missionaries, valuable tools, techniques and training have been developed and proven highly effective in tribal church planting around the world. Also, missionaries now have the incredible power of computers and up-to-date software and technology available to them which those before us didn't. But perhaps the most effective tool we have at our disposal today is the eagerness of both national and tribal believers to be trained and

mentored through the process of establishing maturing churches among their own people—and they're asking NTM to be the catalyst to do it.

It's already happening in Papua New Guinea. The Mouk tribe is now reaching the Lusi tribe and also the Kove tribe. The Ata tribe is now reaching the Mamusi tribe. And those are only to name a few.

The combination of these important factors makes the vision of reaching the last tribe for Christ in this generation more doable now than ever.



Left: Dan Rabe in Senegal



But if we as the body of Christ commit to freely go and freely send, the vision will become not only doable, but unstoppable.

The vision met the Maco people group

More than 50 Macos recently agreed that their sin could only be paid for by Jesus Christ, the Redeemer sent by God. It was the crowning moment of years of learning culture and language culminating in ten months of teaching Firm Foundations Bible lessons.

For an hour-and-a-half a steady stream of people, men and women, young and old, spoke of how they were giving their sin to Jesus Christ, the One who died to pay for it all. Many spoke through tears.

Kaya, the village leader, testified, "The things that we are talking about today are not words that the missionaries have told us, they are words that God's Spirit has spoken into our hearts."



Photos by Dale Stroud

However, Romans 10:15 says, "*How shall they preach, except they are sent?*"

The Vision Comes with a Catch

All the tools in the box are useless without two groups of people willing to make them work:

- Those individuals willing to go and be the mouthpieces **and** those willing to go and be the manpower behind the mouthpieces.
- Those individuals and churches willing to disciple, mentor and eventually *send* both the mouthpieces and the manpower into the world **and** in addition, *send* abundant support and resources, including prayer, to assure their needs are amply met so they can focus on the job for the duration.

There is no third category for believers.

Like inhaling and exhaling, the goers and the senders are equally necessary to breathe the life-giving truth of God's Word around the world. If we as the body of Christ commit to freely go and freely send, the vision will become not only doable, but unstoppable.

Because Jesus broke through the chains of death and hell that victorious resurrection day long ago, breaking through the remaining barriers of worldview, culture, language, geography, and politics in tribe after tribe around the world—in this generation — is very possible with God.

Acts 1:8 says, *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to*

Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.”

Whether we’re in our 20s or in our 70s, if we’re still breathing, we are His witnesses — both as goers and senders — for this generation. God wants to use us, the global body of Christ, in the power of His Spirit, to spread the message of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

But reading this magazine won’t get the job done.

Doing something will.

In 1942, seven fresh-faced young men plunged into the jungle — and the first tribe came to Christ.

Have you thought seriously about the part you can play?

Plunge in today.

Somewhere out there in the world the last tribe is waiting ...

The vision lit the way into Loron hearts

About 200 beautiful voices rang out in worship, a united fellowship of believing Loron women joyfully singing praises to God at a recent three-day conference.

“Don’t think that it is from our own goodness that we can be saved,” they sang in the Loron language. “It is because of the grace and goodness of Jesus that we will go up to Heaven.”

Many of the ladies, ranging in age from late teens to early 60s, walked 10 miles to be part of the fellowship and worship. The happy group of believing women listened eagerly to God’s Word taught.

“It was really good to be with Christian ladies from other villages ... to see that we have a unity with each other because of Christ,” one remarked.

Another observed, “The joyful days that we spent together were a witness to the village that God has changed us.”



Photo by Dale Stroud

... if we're still breathing, we are His witnesses ...



Photo by Dale Stroud

Simbari believers

Don't miss the forest for the trees

It is encouraging to see more and more believers awakened to the fact that the job of the Church is to “make disciples” (Matthew 28:19). Being a theme of the entire New Testament, its importance cannot and should not be diminished.

At the same time, we don't want to miss the equally important other half of the command: “of all nations.”

The idea of making disciples among every people group is present in three other Great Commission verses: Luke 24:46-47, Mark 16:16 and Acts 1:8. But it is also a theme of all Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation.

In Genesis 12:3, God promised Abram, “in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

In Revelation 5:9, the fulfillment of this in Jesus is seen when “they

sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.’”

The command to “make disciples of all nations” applies right here at home, and out there as well.

Your pastor or another church leader would probably be delighted to help you find ways to be involved in making disciples right where you are.

And talking with a missionary could shed light on helping make disciples elsewhere.

You'll find even more ideas in the online version of this article:

ntm.org/magazine

Come On In! The Water's Fine!

Whether we're able to contribute in a small, medium or large way, it all makes a difference in seeing tribal people reached with the gospel in this generation.

What can you do?

Ready to Dip Your Toes?

Sometimes we need to “test the waters” before jumping in further. Here are some quick, easy ways to get your feet wet:

- **Pass this magazine along** — especially to the young people you know.
- **Inform young people and your youth pastor** about retreats to *Off The Grid* in Ontario and the six-week summer college level course at Interface in Papua New Guinea.
- **Give a small gift for an encouraging reason.** For instance, give \$10 to a missionary and designate it for Valentine's Day.
- **Send an encouraging note or email** telling your missionary how thankful you are for the specific work they are doing.
- **Pray for missionaries** that you know personally or that your church supports.

Wading is Welcome Too!

- **Go and sponsor others for retreats** to *Off The Grid* in Ontario or to the

six-week course at Interface in Papua New Guinea.

- **Sponsor students to attend NTBI.**

They will receive a deeper knowledge of God's Word and a fuller understanding of His plan to reach the world.

- **Read eye-opening material on missions.**

- > *Serving as Senders* by Neal Pirollo—Learn how to be a better teammate for your missionaries.
- > *A Mind for Missions* by Paul Borthwick—Nurture understanding and involvement in missions.
- > *Western Christians in Global Mission* by Paul Borthwick—The changing paradigms in missions.

- **Commit to praying weekly** for the missionaries you know personally or that your church supports.

Diving in the Deep End

- **Send missionaries by faithfully** supporting those who choose to go with regular finances, prayer, correspondence, encouragement and visits.



Moi woman and Canadian Caroline Crocket

- **Organize “Pit Crews” at your church** — groups of six to ten people committed to making sure their assigned missionary stays well-maintained and running smoothly out on the track. For instance, raising funds for needs like a reliable vehicle, a plane ticket or a trip to the dentist.
- **Lend your skills** as an associate missionary for six months to four years.
- **Serve with NTM** as a career missionary. If you’re young, you bring time, energy and technical savvy to the pool. If you’re older, you bring a depth of maturity, knowledge, and experience.
- **Commit to pray daily** for the missionaries you know personally or that your church supports.

For those of you who can't be parted with your electronic equipment long enough for a swim, here are some ways to dip your toes without getting electrocuted!

- **Sign up for NTM's Twitter feed** and re-tweet.
- **Like NTM on Facebook**, then share the posts or comment on them.
- **Visit the NTM website** and share magazine issues, news articles, videos or photos on your favourite social network or via email.

The vision travelled to the Tigak tribe

Tigak believers are sharing the gospel message and seeing others come to Christ.

Paska went to visit a friend who was extremely ill and shared the gospel with him. The friend listened and expressed his faith in Jesus Christ. The next day when Paska's friend died another Tigak believer entered heaven.

Damaris began sharing with a young friend who had never attended Firm Foundations Bible lessons. Nor had he ever expressed any interest in the gospel. But as Damaris shared, his friend listened and said he understood and believed what he heard.





OFF THE GRID

**Want to open
your eyes to
World Missions
without having
to leave Canada?**



Scan for *your*
adventure in
tribal missions.

canada.ntm.org/OTG

313363 HWY 6 S
Durham ON N0G 1R0
OTG@canada.ntm.org
519-369-2622

