

Your connection with tribal missions

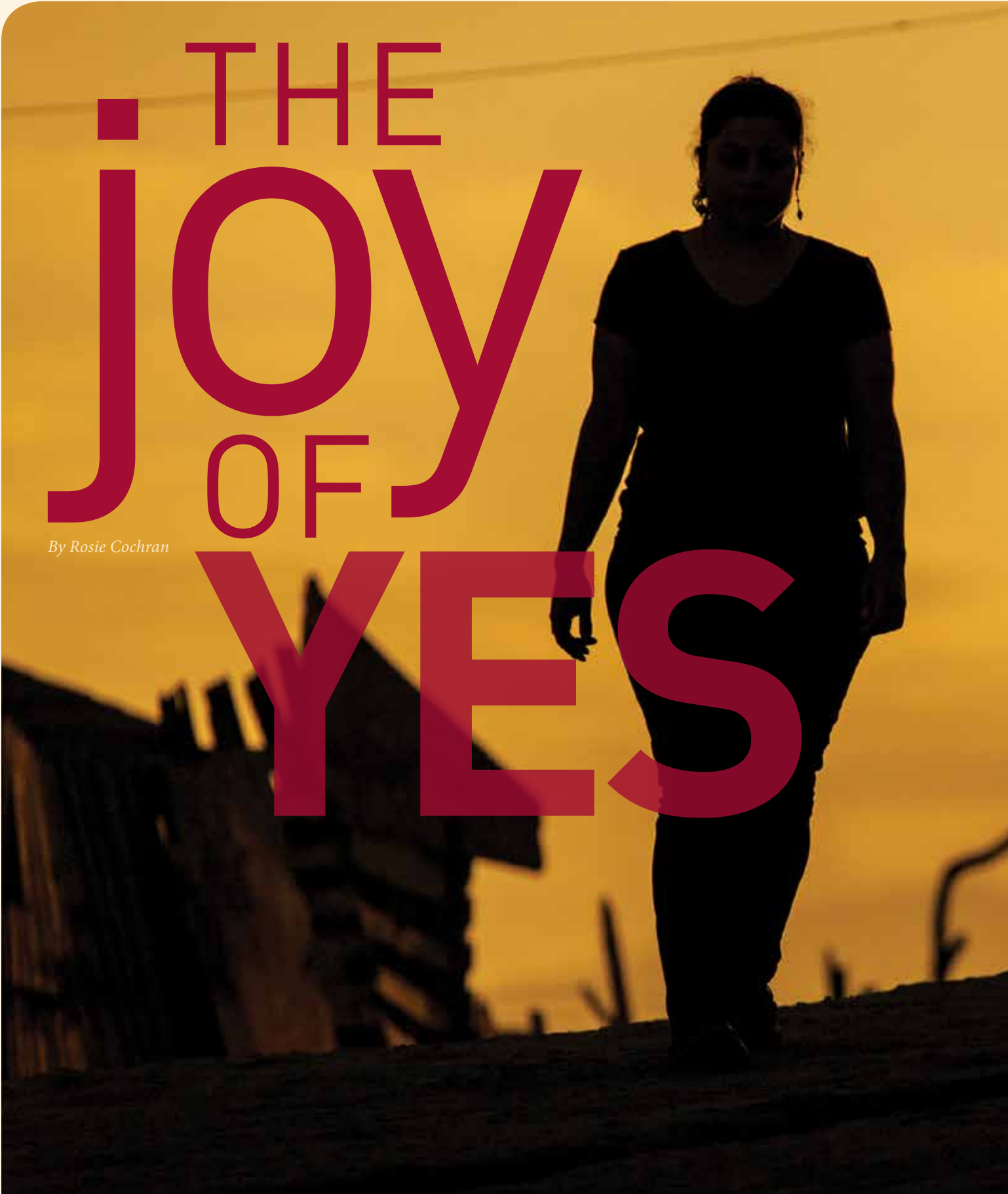
NEW TRIBES MISSION OF CANADA

NTM@WORK

Where you come from
doesn't limit God

How to connect with tribal missions. *page 10*

Needs help us grow. *page 14*



THE
JOY
OF
YES

By Rosie Cochran

A mountaintop minus the grandeur

Ramshackle tin shanties jostled each other along rutted dirt lanes up and down the mountain-side — if one could really call them mountains. Mountains speak of grandeur and stability, but the “mountains” of this neighbourhood were built on the trash of those more fortunate.

Stability was lacking in this poverty-stricken region of Mexico, where many families struggled to provide for their basic needs. These struggles were compounded by the drug trade that brought havoc to the lives it invaded. Few were left unaffected.

Inside one of those small tin shanties, within this community, sat a young woman. Rain pummeled the tin roof above her, but the sounds were lost on her. Droplets seeped through several leaks in the roof and fell to the ground beside her. They went unnoticed. Her mind was elsewhere.

Sitting in the middle of the room with her eyes closed, Amelia Orrostieta thought back on her childhood. While her father flitted in and out of their lives as poor life choices landed him in prison time and time again, her mother worked long hours, juggling multiple jobs to provide for Amelia and her two younger siblings.

Life wasn't always easy, but despite the hardships there were many good memories.

Tears welled in Amelia's eyes as she pondered the faithfulness of God in not only her life, but in that of her younger siblings. It was on this mountain with no grandeur that time and time again God had proven His faithfulness and His grandeur.

But she hadn't always understood that.

An invitation to hope

A “chance” invitation landed 14-year-old Amelia at a three-day youth camp. It wasn't the message that first caught her attention. It was seeing God in the lives of the youths she encountered that stirred hope in her aching soul. There was something different about them, and whatever it was that they had, Amelia wanted it. She sat up and listened.

They spoke of a God who loved her as a person and paid the price for her sins. This was so different from her idea of a distant god who demanded her good works.

“In that moment,” Amelia remembers, “I knew I wanted and needed to receive the love of God. . . . I confessed that I needed God's forgiveness for my sins, and I trusted in His message of salvation.”



But her new life on the inside didn't keep life from happening on the outside.

Mere months after Amelia stood and confessed Jesus Christ as Saviour, a sudden illness took Amelia's mother prematurely from the lives of her children. She became ill one day — and the next day was dead.

Amelia found herself motherless, practically fatherless, and with two younger siblings to raise. But she knew God was faithful. "I took all my problems to God in prayer," Amelia said. "And He filled me with His peace."

It was then that God brought Amelia's father back into their lives. Although her father had many problems of his own, God was going to use him to get Amelia exactly where she needed to be.

Amelia tells how her father moved them to a different neighbourhood. Once there, "I continued to go to the same church, but it was far," Amelia said. "My father didn't want me going that far ... so he took me looking around the new neighbourhood for a church."

This was a man who wouldn't think of stepping foot inside an evangelical church. And he helped her find one. An evangelical, missions-minded church started by American



Amelia reunited with her father.

missionary Rick Johnson.

This was the church God would use to change Amelia's life.

God's plans are bigger than we can imagine

Time passed, Amelia continued to grow in the things of the Lord, and her church kept missions front and centre.

"Rick Johnson had a heart for missions," Amelia recounts. "He showed us videos like *Ee-taow!* and exposed us to many aspects of missionary life." His passion for missions infused the very fibres of the young church.

They corresponded with and prayed for missionaries. They went on mission trips within Mexico and beyond with Rick, and his wife, Eunie. When they saw needs in missions, this struggling church in a poverty-stricken neighbourhood of Mexico collected money to meet the needs. They lived and breathed missions. These were the men and women who mentored young Amelia and her siblings.

And then God Himself impressed missions on this young woman's heart.

"I was on my way home from work," Amelia remembers. "I was talking with God. It wasn't an audible voice, but I thought I heard God saying He wanted me to be a missionary. So I asked Him, 'God, do you want me

to be a missionary?'"

Amelia knew in her heart the answer was yes. Still, she remembered an Old Testament principle that though children can make promises to God, their earthly father can say yes or no. She wanted her father's approval.

"God, if You want me to, I'll serve You. But if You want me to serve You, You'll have to open the heart of my father." Amelia admits, "But I never thought my dad would let me go."

Then the unexpected answer came. He said, "Yes."

Now what? She had no idea how to become a missionary. Her thoughts went something like, "I'll get my suitcase, pack a few things along with my Bible and go."

The unknowns outweighed the knowns. But by faith, Amelia said "Yes!" to God. She said "Yes!" to a magnitude of unknowns, confident that the one great known in her life, her Heavenly Father, was in control.

But it wasn't only she and her dad who had to say yes.

Amelia's church gets involved

"I knew my church needed to be involved in this, but I didn't understand how they would be the ones sending me and supporting me, praying for me and everything," Amelia recounts. She wasn't

sure how it was all supposed to work.

Neither did they. They were well grounded, well taught, and already a church with a passion for missions — but they had never sent anyone out before.

“What does that mean? What’s implied in that she wants to be a missionary? What do we do? Where do we start? How do we help her do that?” the church leadership asked missionary Rick Johnson.

And then they prayed.

For one year Amelia and the church leadership prayed for God’s will to be clearly known. As the year came to a close, the leadership asked Amelia again, “Are you sure you’re interested in missions?” Her answer had not changed.

Rick researched the cost for Amelia to receive training through the NTM missionary training program in Chihuahua, Mexico — and then took his findings to the church leadership.

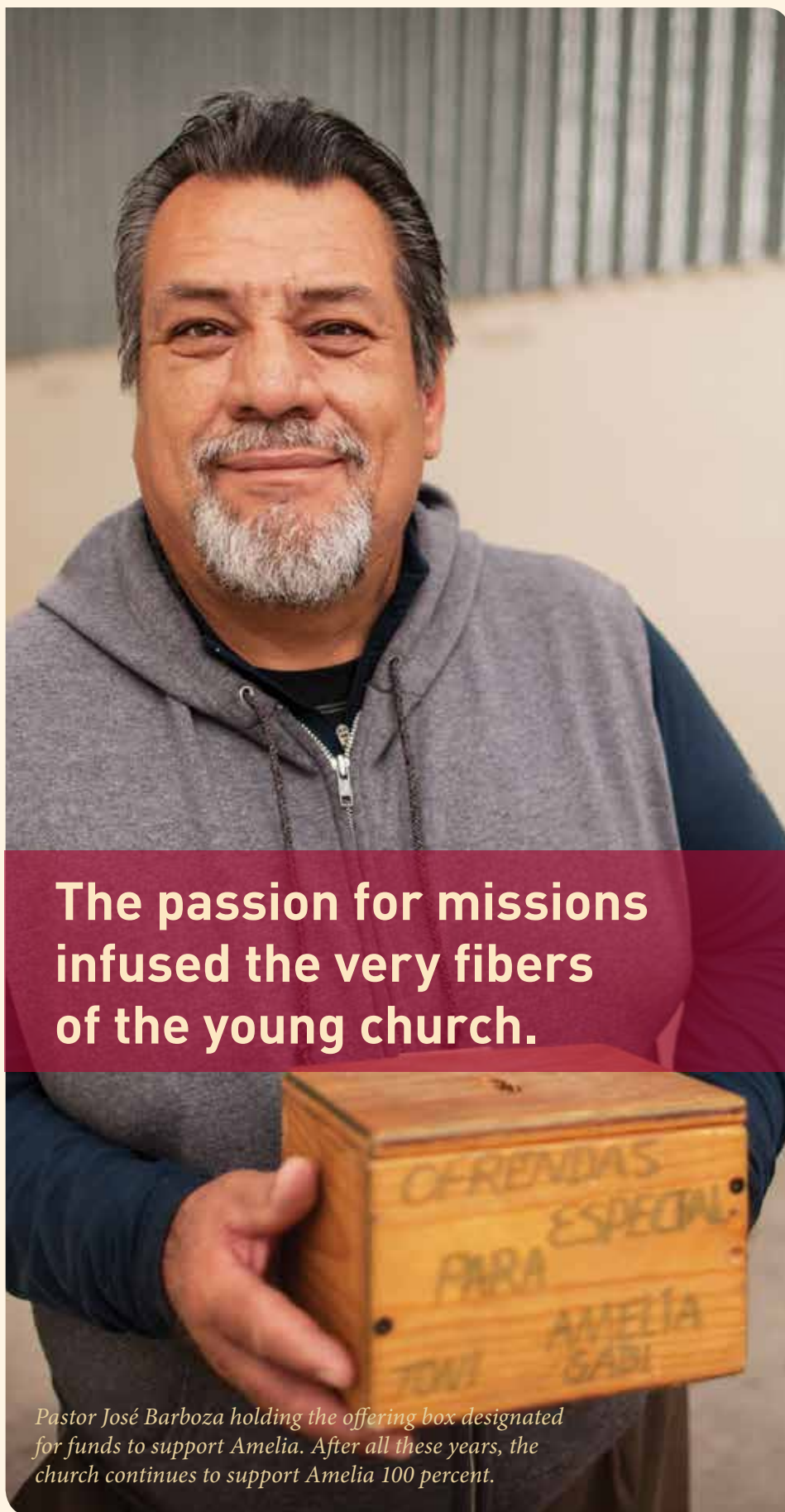
“When we got together again,” Rick said, “we put all the numbers out on the table and some of them were quite astounded. It was huge for them. It was really, really giant.”

“This involves a lot of time and a lot of money!” Antonio reiterated as the meeting came to a close. “It is more than we have. For us, it is impossible.”

But Antonio wasn’t suggesting they give up. Over the years, the church had been taught that the work of the Lord is not dependent on the economy. So it didn’t matter that they were a church with limited resources. It only mattered that they obeyed. And in that moment, facing the financial hurdle of supporting Amelia, this understanding held them firm.

Antonio concluded, “We need to pray fervently and figure out how we can do this.”

The leadership agreed. They never said, “That’s too much. We can’t do that.” Their response was more along the lines of, “Wow! How are we going to do that?”



The passion for missions infused the very fibers of the young church.

Pastor José Barboza holding the offering box designated for funds to support Amelia. After all these years, the church continues to support Amelia 100 percent.



They still weren't sure how they were going to do it, but they were excited to be a part of what God would do through Amelia.

Photos by Dale Stroud

top left - One of Amelia's co-workers, Miguel Peña.
top right - Pastor José Barboza with missionary Rick Johnson.

Rick remembers, "They still weren't sure how they were going to do it, but they were excited to be a part of what God would do through Amelia."

And so the journey began. A journey not limited to Amelia, but one that extended to her church family. She applied to NTM in Chihuahua and received an acceptance letter, but just as she was about to purchase tickets, the unthinkable happened.

Closed door becomes a speed bump

Amelia's father ended up back in prison. And this changed everything.

With no warning, 18-year-old Amelia was once again the guardian of her younger siblings aged 8 and 10 — and taking them with her was not an option.

Her church family put forth a valiant effort to make it work, even offering to take her siblings into their homes and families so that she could go. But as Amelia corresponded with her father, it became clear that his consent hinged on her taking her brother and sister with her. And there was wisdom in keeping the family together.

"It was like God was doing miracle after miracle," Amelia remembers. "Door after door was opening — and



Amelia's dad's story doesn't end here.

Subscribe to NTM's weekly prayer emails to read the rest of his story on Father's Day.

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CANADA.NTM.ORG/SUBSCRIBE

then 'Boom!' The door was closed. ... The beautiful part was that I really felt at peace. I really could say, 'OK, Lord, You are in control. ... If You open the door, or if You close the door on me, I am content with what You want.'"

With no sign of the door reopening, but still trusting in God, Amelia arrived at church early one evening. Her siblings wouldn't be able to go with her to the Bible Institute, which meant she couldn't go. The church leadership needed to be told.

They met her at the door. "It's good you came early, Amelia, because we need to talk with you."

"I came early because I need to talk to you," Amelia responded. "But you first."

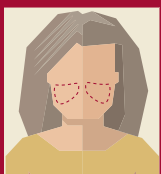
So they sat down and the leadership explained how they

UNDERSTANDING TONAL LANGUAGE

CAN YOU TALK AND SING AT THE SAME TIME?

So that's what makes learning a tonal language so difficult — it's like talking and singing.

For instance, Vietnamese is a six-tone language. In the example below, their simple, two-letter word “ma” can mean several different things, based on the tone or tones (represented by the numbers) you use to say it. In this case, there are four tones used — one being the highest pitch and four being the lowest. When you see two numbers together, it means you glide from the first tone to the second tone as you say it.



ma21
cheek



ma2
ghost



ma32
tomb



ma43
rice plant



If you're not pitch-perfect, you might be telling someone you planted ghosts this year instead of rice plants!

And that's why learning the Triqui language of Mexico was such a complicated task for Amelia and her fellow missionaries. They had to learn not only the words, but the eight different tones needed to speak those words. Everyone had to be capable of “carrying a tune”!

discussed her unusual circumstances with the directors of the Bible Institute, asking if an exception could be made. The response they received was, “We’ve prayed about it. Tell Amelia to come and bring her siblings with her.”

Amelia was stunned — and uncharacteristically speechless. She sat there with her mouth open, staring into space, oblivious to the men asking her questions. She was completely lost in the wonder of what God had done for her.

A team is born

Following four years of training with NTM came the task of putting together a team. Eventually, an all-Mexican team consisting of three singles — Amelia, Miguel and Gricelda — and one couple was established among the Triqui people of San Quintín in Baja California, Mexico.

By then Amelia's brother and sister were teenagers, settled into school and life, and God miraculously worked out the details for them to continue studying where they were. God was moving Amelia into missions, and He hadn't forgotten her younger two siblings.

Now her new life as a missionary began in earnest. But there were some bumps in the road ahead.

The language of the Triqui people proved to be a complicated tonal language. To put it into perspective, while Thai and Chinese are considered difficult to learn because

they each have five tones, this dialect of Triqui has eight. It wasn't going to be a quick study to fluency. But they persevered.

Then another jarring bump. Due to life circumstances, the couple needed to leave the Triqui work. It could have been a crippling and devastating turn in the road for the team. But by faith, the three single missionaries moved forward.

Amelia continued on with the translation of the Bible. Miguel took over translating the foundational Bible lessons, preparing for the day when teaching would begin. And Gricelda plugged away on the literacy booklets, recognizing that readers of the tribal language are crucial to an “independent-of-the-missionaries” maturing church.

They were a unified team.

The Triqui people wait expectantly

“In the beginning I had a lot of fear of translating God's Word,” Amelia shared. “I didn't want to risk changing something. ... But now that I'm in the process of translating, it's beautiful.”

Even more beautiful to Amelia is “how ready the Triqui people are to receive God's Word. The reason the Gospel hasn't been shared here is because we, the missionaries, aren't ready. We don't have the lessons ready, or the translation.



Living and serving among the Triqui people of San Quintín, Baja California, Mexico.

But the people are ready. ... I see God is preparing them to receive the Gospel.”

Amelia’s pastor, José Barboza, summed it up well. “We can say it’s a long process, but really the time passes so rapidly. Now the Triqui are almost at the door to hear and listen to God’s Word in their own language.”

What blessings are we missing out on?

What if Amelia hadn’t said yes to God and missions? What if her church had said they were too poor to take on such a responsibility? And what if the Triqui team had given up in discouragement? Would the Triqui still be “almost at the door”?

For sure, Amelia would have missed seeing the amazing things God could do on her behalf. Her church wouldn’t have seen God multiply their sacrificial offerings to support her. And the mission team would have missed falling in love with the Triqui people — and the future privilege of sharing the Gospel with them. Of course, God would have found other willing vessels — and someone else would have reaped the blessings.

What about you? Is there anything in your life that you’re missing out on? Perhaps you’re feeling fearful of the unknown. Maybe you’re wondering how a yes response to His nudges will change your world.

Or maybe you’re feeling like God is asking too much and you’re not ready to step off the mountain. But what if that mountain you’re standing on, unwilling to leave, is really just a pile of trash? And out there, on the horizon, is something truly marvelous that God has for you? Your journey, like Amelia’s, starts with a “Yes.”



left - Gricelda Villalba (on left) working on literacy booklets with a Triqui woman.



Born in Wales and raised in Ontario, **Rosie Cochran** has served with NTM for over 20 years, most of them in Venezuela. She uses her writing skills as a staff writer on the NTM Communications team, which she joined last year. Rosie is grateful for the people of Second Baptist Church of Auburn, NY, her sending church, who have stood with her all these years.



**The Triqui are
almost at the
door to hear and
listen to God's
Word in their
own language.**

Hundreds of potential missionaries; space for 25

The Mexico City area has more than 33 million people, thousands of Christian churches and an overwhelming potential for labourers for Christ. That makes it a great place for the NTM Bible Institute, which offers two years of Bible classes with a strong emphasis on reaching the unreached. Yet the school is small so it can train at most 25 students at a time.

A larger property in a good location has been found. But funds are needed to purchase it and renovate the buildings so they are suitable for the Bible institute.



You can help give more Mexicans and other Spanish speakers access to Bible training.

With adequate space, hundreds of students could be trained — students who could become missionaries in Mexico and Latin

America and around the world. Your gift will help reach tribes and transform lives.

canada.ntm.org/projects/mexico-bible-school

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Ed and Jane Skowron

Educating, entertaining and encouraging Canadians to get involved in tribal church planting and Bible translation
edskowron.com



Canadian children and high school youth are learning about missions in a unique way through puppetry, storytelling, music, and drama. For the past three years former missionaries to Panama, Ed and Jane Skowron have educated, entertained, and encouraged hundreds of Canadians to consider a career in missions. To date, they have spoken in 46 Christian school chapels in Ontario, five churches, and one retirement centre. God has already opened the door to expand their ministry to the Maritime Provinces in November 2015.

Ed and Jane love Canada. From 1980–82 they studied to

be missionaries at the NTM missionary training program (now called Emanate) in Durham, Ontario. Canada holds a special place in their hearts because it's the place where they met, fell in love, and spent the first few months of their marriage. In 2012 they even celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary by travelling back to Canada from their home in Florida.

For more information about this exciting ministry and how to schedule them to speak for your church, school, or camp you can visit their web site at www.edskowron.com

Coming to the Maritime Provinces
in November 2015.
Connect with them at
edskowron.com now.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT ED & JANE SKOWRON

"The variety in the presentation really captured interest. ..."

Faith Baptist Church, Mount Forest, ON

"Thank you for engaging our students and challenging them to consider God's work. Your presentation was very entertaining as well as challenging. ..."

Orangeville Christian School, Orangeville, ON

"The students thoroughly enjoyed the puppet show, costumes, and presentation. Their questions made it clear that they not only listened, but were excited about missionary work. The call to follow in God's great commission was well received by all. ..."

Meadow Green Academy, Mississauga, ON

"Very relevant. Age appropriate. Christ-centred. ..."

Peoples Christian Academy

"We appreciate the encouragement to our students to choose to serve God with their lives as missionaries here or globally. ..."

Faith Christian Academy, St. Thomas, ON

"Wow you gave us so many visual pictures to understand our neighbours far away, to appreciate the continuing need, and to reflect on God's call on our own lives! ..."

Immanuel Christian School, Aylmer, ON

"Your presentation opened our eyes to the wonderful things God is doing in the world. ..."

Markham Community Christian Church, Markham, ON

There is no age requirement!

by Debbie Burgett

What usually comes to mind when you think of volunteering? Retirement, perhaps?

But why wait? Nineteen-year-old Rachael Snell didn't.

I met Rachael via a Skype interview one Friday afternoon. She lives in rural Ontario and is a college student. She became interested in different types of digital and social media at school and was looking for additional outlets to learn and gain more experience. So she contacted her cousin, missionary Jason Bechtel, who serves at the NTM Canada home office in Durham, Ontario. He suggested she could help remotely with the NTM Pinterest account.

"What?!! NTM is on Pinterest?" I can hear you asking, "How does that help with missions?"

Those were my questions exactly. And Rachael had the answers.

For 30 minutes each day, so it doesn't interfere with her studies, Rachael mans 13 different NTM Pinterest boards. She pins compelling mission photos, Scriptures, quotes, recipes, crafts for kids, interesting books to

read and videos to watch. Her goal in what she chooses? To motivate people to click on links to related stories recently posted on NTM missionary blogs.

My favourite "click" was a link on the "Family Life in Missions" board. When I saw this cute little blonde girl holding HUGE black beetles, I had to read the story. Jon and Jen Quast visited two tribal communities to see what family life would look like if they lived among an unreached people group. They discovered it would involve beetles, ducks and waterfalls — and their children helping to build relationships simply by being kids. God used their trip to confirm that tribal church planting was something that their family could do — together.

I only came across this sweet, uplifting story because a college student in Canada chose to volunteer.

"If you're going to be on social media anyway," she said, "why not use it to help people be more aware? While we're still young and in school, why not use our abilities to help others go?"

Why not indeed.

Great choice, Rachael — on both counts.

Do you have a skill to contribute to the mission team?

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canada.ntm.org/volunteer-in-canada/



Estate Planning

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“It’s such a blessing to partner with NTM to minister to tribal people in villages far from home. Giving to missionaries allows my family to be a part of reaching people we’d never meet in our day to day lives. It’s exciting to know that through our giving we’re linked to the planting of churches around the world.”
— Casey Short

Casey and Summer Short have a heart for seeing lives transformed by the power of the gospel. By giving to NTM they are making an eternal impact around the world.

Estate planning offers a unique way to receive regular, fixed payments for life, while also making an impact on the world’s un-reached people.

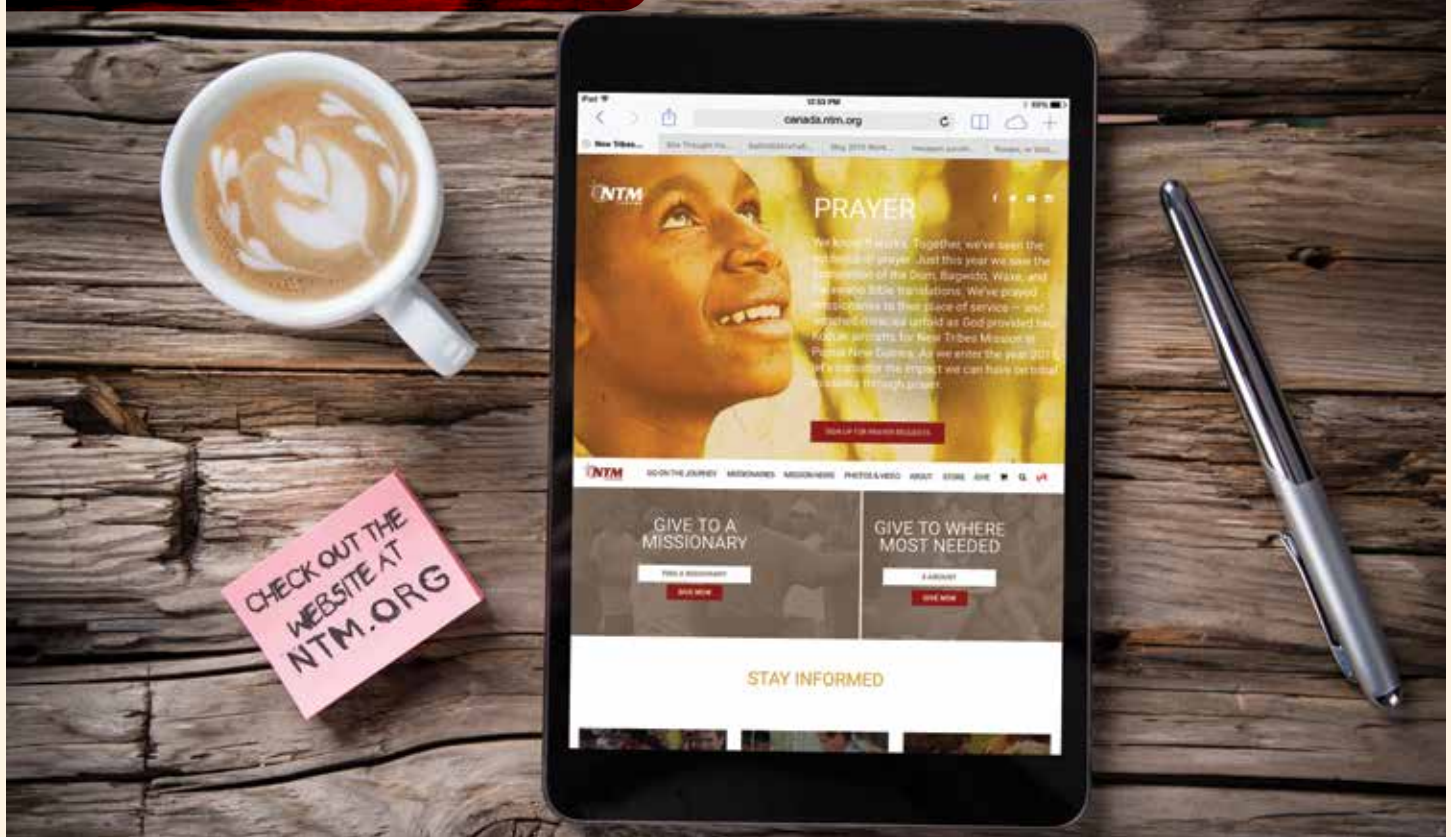
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Link Charity is a new partner with NTM.

NTM’s new website



PRAY

Gricelda wasn't raised in a Christian home. Her initial contact with "Christianity" was steeped in legalism, and brought nothing but fear into her life. It wasn't until she was an adult that Gricelda connected with a church that wasn't like any she had seen before.

"Their religion was very different. I saw a beautiful relationship," Gricelda said. "As I listened and we had studies in the Bible, I finally understood grace."

It was there that Gricelda was exposed to missionaries and personally challenged to become one. But the costs were great. Gricelda had a good job and it would mean giving that up. Even so, she picked up an application for New Tribes Bible Institute in Chihuahua, Mexico. She filled it out,

but then filed it away instead of sending it in.

Time passed. The question of whether she was heading into missions kept resurfacing. Knowing a decision needed to be made, Gricelda looked hesitantly at the stack of folders.

"Okay," she said, "I'm going to grab one of the folders. If it's the application, then I'm going to go. If it's not, I'm not going." She held her breath and pulled out a folder — and then looked down. "It was the application," Gricelda said. "Now I didn't have any reason not to go."

Fast forward 10 plus years and God has taken Gricelda to places she couldn't have imagined, and allowed her the privilege of being part of a team reaching the Triqui people group of San Quintín in Baja California, Mexico.

Has it been easy? Not always. But Gricelda says, "I identify with the people here and I just love living with them. There are many necessary things that need to be done in the work here. And I can do them."

Pray for Gricelda as she prepares literacy booklets and takes care of a myriad of sometimes seemingly insignificant tasks, while just loving on the people.



CONNECT WITH

Kristin Simmons

Papua New Guinea > Elementary School Teacher
Sending Church > Faith Baptist Church,
Huntsville, Ontario

kristin_simmons@ntmpng.org



Kristin's family moved to Papua New Guinea (PNG) as missionaries the summer before she turned 13. She attended Numonohi Christian Academy (NCA) from 9th-12th grade and was part of the boarding program there. She thoroughly enjoyed her time at the mission school, and it was during her senior year, when she had a teacher's aide position, that she decided she wanted to become a missionary teacher as she saw the need NCA had every year for teachers. She returned to Canada and earned her Bachelor of Christian School Education degree, always with the long-term plan to teach in a mission school.

She got married in 2009 and moved to Korea with her husband to teach English for a year. While in Korea, her husband was in an accident and passed away a week later. She returned to Canada unsure of what God had next.

A few months later she saw an opening at NCA in Goro-

ka, PNG, for the following school year. She arrived in PNG in June 2011 as a Skilled Associate and has spent the past four years teaching grades one, four, and kindergarten.

The past four years have been a testament to God's faithfulness. He has helped Kristin to work through the grief of losing her husband and reaffirmed her passion to teach missionary children. She counts it a privilege to be a part of what God is doing in PNG: to hear reports in church of new works opening, to see pictures of the Bible teaching, to watch videos featuring tribal people sharing their testimonies, and to celebrate completed works with New Testament Bible dedications.

Kristin is finishing up her associate term this summer, and after a year in Canada, Lord willing will return to PNG as a career member.

Anyone willing to join Kristin and teach abroad?
canada.ntm.org/teach-abroad

Needs help us grow

By Ian Fallis

The needs all around us can be overwhelming. Human trafficking. Homelessness. Bigotry. Abuse. Poverty. Lack of access to God's Word, and to the salvation Jesus died to make available to all.

Where do you start? And where do you stop?

I'd suggest that the answers to those questions are anywhere, and nowhere.

I understand that most of us feel like we're at our limits already. Living demands so much from us — our time, talents, energy, and money. How can we possibly do more?

You and I cannot.

However, God's love is infinite, His resources are limitless, and He's free from the bounds of time. When you're doing God's work, He will take care of the bills. He makes the time. He pours unfettered energy into our lives. He brings people alongside to help.

You can best discover that truth by embracing it.

However, I have found that it also works if you just sort of stand at a distance and reluctantly hold its hand, sweating nervously, like a boy at his first dance.

It worked for me when a friend was injured recently. He's a friend who needs to see the love of Jesus lived out before him. I asked God, "How can I do that?" When He answered, I felt like that little boy. I wanted to let go, run and

hide. But I held on, and I offered to help watch my friend's shop over the weekend, to give him time to recover.

Then the worry swept in. It was a long drive to his shop. A long drive means spending money for gas, as well as for a place to stay overnight and for meals. And it's a lot of time and effort. Sounds like whining, doesn't it? Yes, I whined at God.

Full of grace and mercy, He reassured me that He is capable of providing, especially when we're obedient and serving Him.

At the same time, we need to remember that meeting needs does involve a cost for us. God will provide, but perhaps not in the manner to which we are accustomed, or in the way we want. We might have less time for other things — even for things we deem important. We might have to lower our standard of living, or postpone or cancel a purchase we were saving for.

No, I don't really like that either. At times I'd like to be able to say to God, "Hey, hasn't this cost me enough?" I've given up some things in order to meet the needs of others, as you certainly have too. And I'm sure we could all talk about hardships we've endured while serving Him. Isn't there some limit to how much He can ask of us?

Well, no. He gave His own Son so that we could have





eternal, abundant life. He gives us all we have and all we are — down to our next breath. My possessions? They're not mine. They're His. My time? It's not mine. It's His. My money? Wrong again.

More importantly, my limits are not God's limits.

We should live in that reality, but we're human. We're flawed. We'll have to forcibly remove our focus from ourselves and put it back on God.

And when we do, we'll be able to live and give generously, and have peace about how we are using the resources God has put into our care. We won't need to feel guilty about saying no. There's no reason to lose sleep over even more needs.

Even better, we'll be ready to respond when He nudges us, because we will hold everything in an open hand, not a closed fist.



Photos by Dale Stroud

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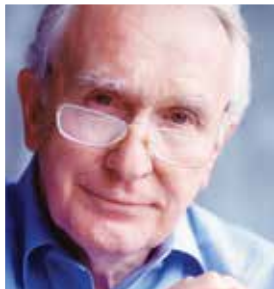


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