

What's in it for Me?

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A THRIVING CHURCH FOR EVERY PEOPLE

# ETHNOS

MAGAZINE



ENGAGING  
ON THE  
EDGE  
OF THE  
CHURCH  
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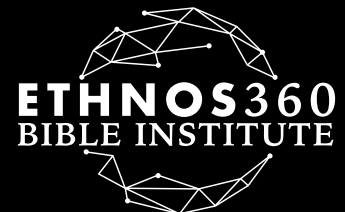
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# FROM OUR DIRECTOR

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Dear Readers,

I am just getting back from a conference made up of First Nation and White missionaries. As I interacted with them and listened to their testimonies of many years of serving our First Nation and Inuit people, I found myself crying out to God. I want God to give clarity on our role of seeing thriving, indigenous churches established in Canada.

It was Christ who said, “I will build my Church, and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it!” Though the challenges are many, as we have embarked on this new outreach to the Ethnos of our own nation, we have been absolutely blown away by the constant reminders that our God has already been at work.

Our first missionaries assigned to serve the First Nations, Dave and Judy Wright, have been intentionally focused on the indigenous church that already exists. Why? Because we want to work hand in hand with them to reach their own people.

Dave has been teaching chronologically, and how blessed we have been as these indigenous church leaders have repeatedly voiced excitement and desire to engage with us! First Nation churches are voicing strong interest in helping to orientate our new missionaries, and Lord willing—together—we will step out to see new churches established.

As we set out on this journey to see a thriving church for every indigenous person in Canada, would you partner with us? It’s His passion to see His Church established among all the *Ethnos*, and it is the Church’s responsibility to step out in obedience. Working together as one body, dependent on God’s guidance, let’s trust our Lord to continue to build His Church among our First Nations and Inuit.

Tim Whatley  
Executive Director, Ethnos Canada

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# NEWS AROUND THE WORLD



## CELEBRATING WHAT GOD HAS DONE

Founded in 1942 as New Tribes Mission, Ethnos is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. The theme for the year is “A Future Inspired by the Past.”

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY OPEVN HOUSE A FLYING SUCCESS

To celebrate our 75th anniversary, more than 600 people travelled to our Durham campus in July for the annual Jungle Camp Open House.

More than 100 people enjoyed a helicopter ride provided by NTM Aviation.

NTM Aviation also flew supplies into the Emanate students who were living in the bush for their *Jungle Camp* practicum.

[emanatetraining.ca](http://emanatetraining.ca)

## NTM AVIATION NEWS

- The newest helicopter in the fleet — a Robinson R66 — arrived in the Philippines. Its first ministry flights moved Danny and Philippa Brooks and family into the Ga'dang people group where they will be church planters.
- Three pilot families are in advanced aviation training in McNeal, AZ. Five more will train in the fall of 2018. Several foreign students from three countries are studying aviation with a goal to serve with NTM Aviation in the future.
- Helicopter training at NTM Aviation's main office in McNeal, Arizona, has been able to extend to other mission organizations, including one pilot from Mercy Air and two from JAARS.
- NTM Aviation is planning to put a helicopter in Brazil to provide service where airstrips are not feasible. This will be a first for MNTB (New Tribes Mission of Brazil).
- Ethnos Canada has requested NTM Aviation to fly for Ministry Opportunities Assessments among the First Nations. After the initial assessments, NTM Aviation plans to provide aviation service for these new ministries.





## THE BIEM MISSION TRIP

Twelve members from the Biem church hopped into a small boat and made the 15-mile trip to Kadawar, a volcanic islet out in the middle of the ocean. The goal? To check to see if there was any interest in Biem missionaries coming to live and share God's talk with them. It was made very clear that the "white" missionaries won't be coming; it will only be the Biem believers. Pray for the Biem outreach to the Kadawar people.



## NEW CHURCHES PLANTED

The nation of Papua New Guinea has seen many changes and alterations in its short history. One of the most recent changes is the planting of new churches. We have been so blessed to see two new fellowships blooming among the Iski and the Mali-Baining. Rejoice with the new brothers and sisters we have in Christ.



## TIGAK OUTREACH

One of the desired outcomes of planting a church is seeing that church reach out to others with the Good News. The Tigak church is doing just that. Recently a group on a neighbouring island asked for the gospel to be presented to them — by the Tigak church. The church accepted the invitation. Aimee Hedrick said, "Pray for the Tigak church as they carry out this work — for them to work together, for them to stay encouraged and faithful for the long haul, and for them to look to Christ for their enablement."



## MOSES WALAM

Meet Moses Walam, Jim Elliott's main translation helper among the Morop people in the Asia-Pacific region. He understands what Jesus Christ did for him on the cross. He understands that he is a sinner and that his sin debt that he could not pay himself was paid by Christ's blood on the cross. And he has chosen to believe this. He is the first Morop to hear the gospel in his heart language and believe.



## THE NAHUATL BEGIN TO HEAR

Back in May, Peter Hypki, as the spokesperson for the team to the Nahuatl people group of Mexico (descendants of the Aztecs), went before the village to request permission to teach the Word of God — translated "What God Said." The issue of permission was almost overlooked as the villagers began discussing where and when the teaching should take place. But the discussion finally came back to the request for permission, and the group decided it would be a good thing to hear "What God Said."

With the teaching to begin in July and continue for up to five months, Rachel Chapman and Katie Moore worked long hours finishing the translation of the Scriptures needed for the teaching. And then the teaching began.

The team in Las Moras, Mexico, is in its second month of teaching one of the 30 dialects of the Nahuatl through the chronological Bible lessons. This approach takes the listeners from eternity past through the Old Testament, the New

Testament and into eternity future. The teaching will give this group of Nahuatl their first chance to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray that the Nahuatl people will hear and understand.

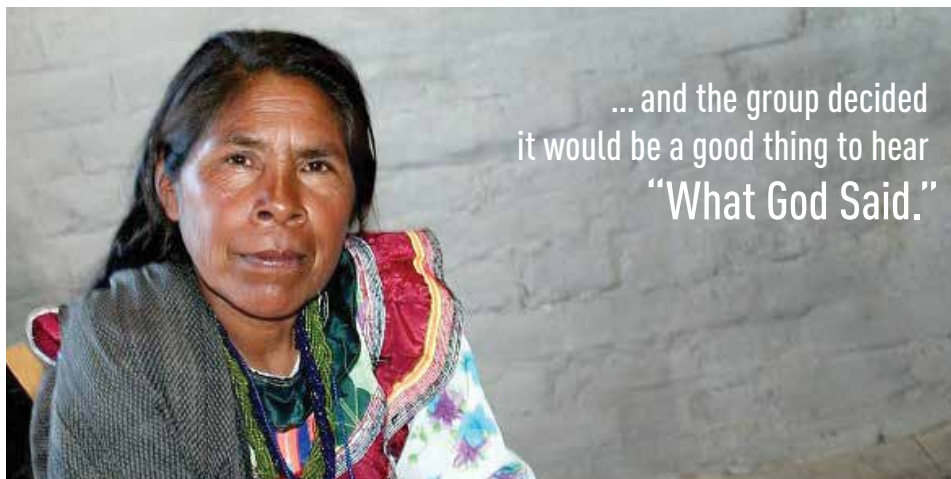






Photo by Dale Stroud



# ENGAGING ON THE EDGE OF THE CHURCH

“But that’s not how we’ve done it before!”

Those words have echoed down the halls of academia, through church vestibules and around mission conference tables. How often we find comfort, it seems, in the well-worn path of tradition!

But the world has always been changing, whether we acknowledge it or not. The framework of society is changing as technology slowly but steadily encroaches on societies throughout the world. We cannot continue to do “business as usual” anymore.

There is one thing that stays the same, though, and that is God’s story from eternity past to eternity

future. That is not in flux. His plan has not changed. He is immutable. He still wants people from every tribe, tongue, people and nation to find Him as their Saviour.

## THE GOAL

It has always been the aim of Ethnos to engage as part of the Church. The founders wanted to have Ethnos be the sending agency for the Church to use to send missionaries on their way.



Step back into Ethnos' history, back to when it began in 1942 as New Tribes Mission. It was always known as a pioneer-style mission. We would go where no one else would go. The motto could be expressed as "We go to tribal people way out in the jungles where none have gone before. We go to the unreached." There was no place too remote, no circumstance too difficult. And we were sure that the work could be completed in that generation.

Come back to the present — has anything changed? Do we still do things the same way? Are we perceived the same way? It has been 75 years — and the job isn't finished. We still go to hard places, there are still remote regions to enter, but the world around us is changing — and changing rapidly. Ethnos is still on the cutting edge of missions, but we are beginning to look at the edge differently.

### WHO ARE THE UNREACHED?

What does unreached really mean? According to Danny Germann, a

mission leader who has ministered on three different continents, the term unreached has been defined by Ethnos as a people group in which there is no maturing church

### SEE CASE STUDY #1 SERVING TOGETHER WITH THE AFRICAN CHURCH

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present. There is almost no place on earth anymore where there hasn't been at least a brush with some religious group or organization. Very few people groups are completely untouched by some form of modern civilization, but we need to distinguish between cell phones and maturing churches.

Then again, we need to recognize that the unreached are not found only in the deep, dark jungles or barren, windswept deserts or rugged, practically impenetrable mountain slopes. Many of them are in places deemed "dangerous" or "hostile." Mission strategists have stated that,



as a result of a rapidly changing political, economic and social world, often the larger population of an unreached people group is found in the densely populated areas instead of rural or even jungle villages.





## TO PARACHUTE OR NOT TO PARACHUTE

One of the practices of Ethnos in the early years was for missionaries simply to “parachute” into their ministry location with their only lifeline being one to the mission head offices in the capital city or other large city close by. We need to remember that in many of the places where Ethnos went, there was no evangelical local church with whom the missionary could associate.

And then the world changed again, and we had to do a reality check. Where was the church already? Where was the edge of the Church?



Who were our brothers and sisters in Christ already at the edge of the Church and what was God already doing there? It’s time for another reality check. We need to find out where the Church is already. We need to go to the edge of where the Church is and isn’t, turn to our brothers and sisters who are already there, and find out what God is doing. The edge is defined not by what I’m doing, but rather by what God is doing. As Danny so aptly put

it, “I’m not the first thing God ever did here!”

When we recognize where the Church is and where it isn’t, then we can go forward, engaging with the Church and working with it to

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### SEE CASE STUDY #2 QUELIMANE, MOZAMBIQUE

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go to the unreached. How far has the Church gone? What is it doing to reach beyond its comfort zone? What

is beyond the edge? How can we engage with the Church to go beyond the edge with them? And one other thing: We need to realize that God is not limited to a team put together by Ethnos to reach beyond the edge.

Therefore, as we move forward, it is not in an attempt to leapfrog over the Church to reach a goal. There is no longer a checklist to mark off as we “reach new tribes.” It is our responsibility to go to the edge, see what God is already doing with and

through His Church, and join His work to move the edge out farther.

There is nothing that compares to watching God expand His Church to every tribe, tongue, people and nation. Ethnos gets to participate in pushing to the ends of the earth, an exciting and challenging position on the edge. On the edge:

- we see Christ’s life lived out through the Body, His Church.
- we see the lives of those once held by the chains of death being freed by the new life found in Christ.
- we actually can watch the edge move out the moment that first person comes to know Christ.
- we see God carrying out His purpose of building His Church.

## MULTIPLICATION NOT ADDITION

Ethnos is moving into impossible areas, but we serve the God of possibilities. It is no longer dependent on a “we can do this” attitude. We are realizing that this job of world evangelization is not by addition but by multiplication—with or without Ethnos.

This expansion by multiplication will still require a pioneer spirit in us to go to the hardest places. And where will we go? Most definitely we will continue going to remote, isolated people groups. But we will

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### SEE CASE STUDY #3 ‘MISSIONS IS THE CHURCH’

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also go to refugee camps and to nomads, to “closed” countries and even to unfriendly or dangerous places.

It will require an unwavering faith as we depend on God alone. We must have a unity of heart and spirit that will speak to the dominant world religions that we are Christ’s disciples. And even more sobering is the fact that it will require a





Photos by Dale Stroud

wholehearted submission of our rights to embrace the privilege of following Christ.

### AND SO WE GO ...

We are part of God's metanarrative, a part of His story from eternity to eternity—a genealogy of faith that stretches over 2,000 years of disciples making disciples. And we want this multiplication of disciples making disciples to continue. But we can't do it alone. It must be done hand in hand with the Church that is at the edge, going with the message of Christ and pushing the edge farther out.

And then we go to that edge...

Bruce Enemark was raised in Panama, the youngest of three missionary kids (MKs). He and Julie, his wife, ministered with Ethnos in two different MK schools (one in Panama and one in Paraguay) for 24 years before joining Ethnos360's Home Office team. Faith Baptist Church of Chetek, Wisconsin, is their sending church and has been behind the Enemarks since they started with the mission.





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**CASE STUDY #1**  
**SERVING TOGETHER WITH**  
**THE AFRICAN CHURCH**

There is a certain clarity and exactness to theory. On the other hand, reality is not so perfect. Does the concept of “Engaging with the Church on the Edge” really work? Is it a viable option to replace the parachuting of years gone by?

**ZIMBABWE**

Come with me to Zimbabwe in Africa. Tony and Maria Verlaan have ministered with Ethnos Canada’s global partner Integral Vision (IV) in South Africa for a number of years. Tony said, “After building credible relationships with African church leaders, it is evident that the African church has a heart for the unreached people of Africa and beyond. While connecting with the church, we have seen God showing them the existing reality of the needs among the still unreached [people groups] in areas such as Zimbabwe and Mozambique.”

**THE KORE KORES**

One of the Verlaans’ connections was in Zimbabwe, where Integral Vision has not had a presence. There is a church among the Kore Kore people there that desires to cross into Mozambique to take the gospel of Jesus to the unreached Tawara people group. Sadly, the Kore Kores did not have the entire Bible in their own language. Since the



Photo by Marilyn Germann

*Kore Kore team with Tony and Maria Verlaan and Danny Germann*

initial contact about six years ago, another organization has begun that translation process in addition to training the Kore Kores themselves to carry on the translation work for future endeavours. And Integral Vision’s role? Simply one of facilitating and networking, bringing all parties together.

**THE TAWARAS**

But the Verlaans want to go beyond simply facilitating. And they don’t want to do it by “parachuting” over the Kore Kore church and placing Integral Vision personnel on the ground to learn the Tawara culture and language. Tony remarked, “We were asked by the Kore Kore church to help train people within the church using our curriculum for their missionary training programs.” And

why? In order to help the Kore Kore church grow in their spiritual maturity and to help them become equipped to reach the Tawaras. Tony added, “God in this situation has graciously opened our eyes to the Kore Kore church ..., so that together we can reach the Tawaras with the gospel and see a church established by the Kore Kore church with IV in the background, consulting and encouraging.”

Taking that engaging a step further, “there may be a possibility of still allocating an IV family to Zimbabwe or Mozambique to engage with the Tawara people, but it will be the Kore Kore church that will lead in this initiative. In fact, any foreign personnel will be under the leadership of the Kore Kore church.”

Summing up his views on the “new” way of reaching the unreached, Tony said, “[There is] an African proverb that we are trying to live out in ministry: ‘If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.’”



Photo by Tony Verlaan

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## CASE STUDY #2 QUELIMANE, MOZAMBIQUE

Let's take a look at another example of engaging on the edge with the Church by heading south into Mozambique in Southeast Africa. Kent and Jenny Schafer and Arnie and Rubenita Johnson formed the team that moved into the neighbourhood of Micaune to reach the Maindo people group. Since they live in the Portuguese-speaking part of Africa, the Ethnos global partner with whom they minister is called Visao Integral.

They began the process of assessing where best to go to reach the Maindo with the help of DJ Morrison who has worked in Africa for many years. Beyond that initial people group assessment, they made contact with local pastors from areas close to where the Maindo live and with a Maindo pastor who lives in Quelimane, which is the closest city to the Maindo work. Kent said, "Through our relationships with a different church in Quelimane, God allowed us (Schafer and Johnsons)

to visit Micaune in May 2012 with our friend and her mother (who both live in Quelimane). This ended up being a big factor in our choice to move to Micaune."

Arnie commented on how they began to engage with the Church. After he joined the team, he understood the need to find out what the church was



*Kent and Jenny Schafer and Arnie and Rubenita Johnson formed the Micaune team.*

like in the city, to find out the level of the church's maturity, and to figure out how best to challenge the church to be involved in cross-cultural outreach.

"In practice, we had much to learn, but we visited many churches and built relationships with people in the churches. We spent time listening to people's testimonies and talking

about what the gospel really is and what work is done in the mother tongue and in other minority language groups around. We also met with pastors and explained the process of [culture and language acquisition] and the importance of foundational Bible teaching. During this time, we also appealed to the churches to be praying for us. When we were about to move into the village, several churches had a special time of prayer to ask God's blessing and care on us and the work."

But that involvement didn't end when they moved into the Maindo area. Arnie continued, "Once we moved into the village, we maintained our contact with the churches as we would come out for a rest or supply buying. When we visit, the churches ask

us for updates on how we are doing, and they pray for us. We have had other opportunities to challenge the churches to think about sending missionaries.

"In some of our contact, the people in the churches have helped us in tremendous ways. We have been







Photo by Jenny Shafer

helped with finding housing in the city, shipping our supplies, having places to stay while travelling, and some logistics. When we are tired or in need of encouragement, it is these churches that minister to us.

“We (Ethnos/Visao Integral as a whole) are now beginning to transition into having training modules available to use both in the church for the benefit of its own ministry and to train candidates desiring to be sent from their own churches. This work is being coordinated

by the training team in another city in Mozambique, but we are part of challenging the churches to consider asking for training. The challenges are big, and we do not know how this is to be done, but God is great.”

The Maindo people group will be reached in the future through the efforts of the churches in Quelimane teaming up with the Schafers and Johnsons. What a blessing to have these churches ministering together with Ethnos/Visao Integral and being willing to push the edge farther out!



## CASE STUDY #3

## 'MISSIONS IS THE CHURCH'

*From an interview with Mike Henderson and notes from the Wantakia team*

**THE BACKSTORY**

The year was 1963. George Kestler and BJ Upton began to work among the Wantakia people group in the highlands of Papua New Guinea (PNG) with hopes of learning their language, planting a church and translating the Bible. The Wantakia language is one of the most complex languages in PNG. Over the years, two teams of church planters endeavoured to learn the language, but due to many factors, language study was never completed. The Wantakia remained without the gospel, but they were not forgotten.

Several other language groups border the Wantakia people. In 1975, Mike and Diane Henderson began working with one of these language groups: the Aziana. They witnessed the birth of the church, its growth and, through discipleship and subsequent outreaches, saw the gospel spread throughout the entire Aziana language group. The Aziana, however, were not only concerned for their own people; they were burdened for their neighbours, the Wantakia.

In 2006, the Aziana church sent believers to reach the Wantakia, knowing that they could never learn the Wantakia language but hoping to be able to teach in Melanesian Pidgin, the trade language of Papua New Guinea. Sadly, when the Aziana church planters arrived in Wantakia, a village dispute broke out. The Wantakia sent the church planters back home and told them they would invite them back after the dispute was settled.

When that invitation never came, disappointment settled over the Aziana. They desperately wanted the gospel to reach their neighbours. One of the Aziana elders wrote a letter to

the mission's leadership, encouraging them to reopen the work among the Wantakia. That elder was Jos, and he continued lobbying to see that people group reached.

**THE JUMP START**

There was a couple from the Wantakia people group who worked at the mission base in Sobega. Through the ministry of Lynne White (a missionary with Ethnos), a Wantakia



*Jos and Erik teaching*

lady accepted the Lord, opening her eyes to why Ethnos (then NTM) had sent missionaries to the Wantakias in the past. With her concern for her people, she began asking new missionaries who came through for orientation to consider the Wantakia. When the candidates declined due to the language difficulty, this new believer took them to task, even going to the field leaders to "help them see the truth about the language." She confidently stated, "You shouldn't say that about our language. Since God is the One Who made the languages so confusing, He can also straighten them out!" As a result of her persistence, the leadership put the Wantakia people back on the official list of people groups who needed a missionary team.

**GOING TO THE EDGE WITH THE AZIANA CHURCH**

The Aziana church grew in maturity to the point where the believers no longer needed the missionaries. They had appointed their own elders, teachers and deacons. Even though the Hendersons had relocated to America at this point, Mike continued to go back from time to time in order to encourage the believers and to translate additional portions of Scripture. Step forward into 2014. Mike was back with the Azianas to continue the Bible translation work. While he was there, he received a call from some new missionaries who wanted to visit the Aziana church and to invite some Aziana believers to guide them on a survey to the Wantakia people.

The response from the Azianas? They were ecstatic! "They need the gospel in their own language," was voiced



*Pangwa and Kamaru from Wantakia language group*

by the Aziana believers. Jos and a few other believers agreed to help these new missionaries survey the Wantakia people. The Aziana church committed to help the missionaries in any way they could, so the Wantakia could be reached. There were even some Wantakia in the Aziana village who were excited about the prospect of having the gospel shared in their language in their own villages.



Photos by BJ Sanders

*Wantakia team***THE PURPOSEFUL PARTNERSHIP**

After three successful surveys, the missionaries decided on a location for the team to build their homes and begin culture and language acquisition.

Many Azianas made the 12-hour hike to Wantakia, so they could help the new missionaries slab lumber for their homes. They modeled hard work and stressed the importance of the message these missionaries were bringing. "While we were levelling the ground for our houses, the Wantakia men were admiring how hard the Aziana men were working. At that moment, Jos put down his shovel and told them that before he heard God's Word, he thought work was only for women. But now, after hearing the way God started His story, he realized that God made man to work. The Wantakia men were speechless. This was something different than they had ever heard before," said Jeremy Hambrice.

In 2015 the Sanders, Hambrice, and Crabtree families moved into

the Wantakia village of Pinji. The Aziana church has continued to help the team. "We frequently call the Aziana elders and ask their advice on how to handle certain aspects

*Wantakia team*

of the Wantakia culture. The Aziana culture used to be very similar to the Wantakia, before God's Word changed many aspects of it, so they are able to give us some incredible insight," said Jack Crabtree.

The Aziana church supports and encourages the team whenever and however they can. "One time, an elder named Jason carried a huge bag of oranges to Wantakia just to encourage us," said Jack Crabtree. "This guy is a spiritual giant, and as he sat in my

kitchen, he told us, 'You missionaries are working hard out here, but make sure you're working for the Lord. If you are doing this work for any other reason, it will all burn up just like our grass roofs.' That's the kind of gut-level honesty we need out here!"

And they aren't finished with the team yet. "The Azianas are still faithfully running their literacy program, so when we get ready to launch the Wantakia literacy program, we'll definitely be asking for their advice," said Jack Crabtree.

In 2016 the three missionaries were asked to be the key speakers at the Aziana Christian Conference in order to meet with and encourage all the Aziana believers. "It was so humbling to stand before these godly men and women who have experienced so much testing and suffering. Although we were there in order to be a blessing to them, as I sat around the fires listening to their testimonies, we were the ones who were being blessed instead," said BJ Sanders.



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## PRAISE

### Nothing is too Hard for God

Daylight was having a hard time peeking through the fog and heavy rain. For Jim and Joy Elliotts' friends in another village in the Asia-Pacific Region, that was not a good thing. Their son was showing symptoms of appendicitis and needed an emergency flight.

After sharing this with his recently saved translation helper, Jim was encouraged by Moses' simple prayer of faith: *"God, I believe You made the rocks, sky, trees, water, dirt [and] leaves ... so we know this is a small thing for*

*You to open the clouds. We pray You would."*

They turned to the Scripture passage they were to translate that day. It "just happened" to be the story of God calming the wind and the waves with His Word alone. What a powerful passage at an opportune moment for the new believer. More powerful than that was watching the God of all creation open a path through the darkened skies for the helicopter to make the emergency flight. Praise God with us for showing His awesome power and love.



Photo by Joy Elliott

Moses

# Monthly Gifts Can Help Equip National Co-workers

Have you discovered the blessings of partnering in the ministry of an Ethnos missionary by giving monthly?

Did you know you can multiply your “return on investment” with monthly gifts to help train national co-workers?

Your gifts will go to develop and provide specialized training to national co-workers around the world who are already committed to and working as missionaries so that they can be leaders in adapting Ethnos’ effective methods to their contexts.

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You have three options for making monthly gifts to help train national co-workers.

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Or, if you’re already giving monthly, simply add the amount you want to give to equip national co-workers to your cheque, and on the form provided add “Equipping National Co-workers” and the amount you are giving toward the project.

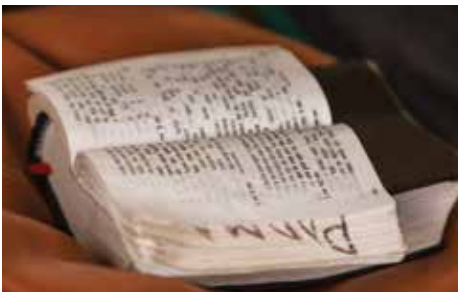
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Go to [ethnos.ca/projects/national-missionary-training/](https://ethnos.ca/projects/national-missionary-training/). Click the “Donate to this project” button, put in your gift amount and hit “Add to Cart.” On the next page, click “proceed to payment”, then “proceed as guest”. On the Billing Address & Payment step, you’ll see the words, “One Time Donation”. Click on this, and select the “Monthly Donation” option.

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Pre-Authorized Debit, also sometimes referred to as EFT, is a safe and efficient way to support equipping national co-workers monthly. It’s also quick and easy to modify or cancel your giving. You can call toll free 844-855-6862 to request a PAD form, or find a form, instructions and answers to frequently asked questions at: [ethnos.ca/give/ways-to-give/monthly-PAD/](https://ethnos.ca/give/ways-to-give/monthly-PAD/)

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... your gifts will help more and more people become part of God’s team working toward His goal of a thriving church for every people.





## CONNECT WITH

### Nathan & Emily Willems

#### Maddie, Brynn, Annika and Myla

Ministry: Pilot/Mechanic

Sending Church: Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Frontier, Saskatchewan

Nathan started off life as a missionary kid (MK) in Guatemala and Emily a farm kid in Saskatchewan.

We met while serving at Rock Solid Refuge, a ministry for teenage boys who struggle with life-controlling issues.

We are blessed to have four daughters – Maddie (5), Brynn (3), Annika (2) and Myla (11 months). In Grade 6, while listening to a missionary home on furlough, Emily sensed God leading her into a similar future in missions and while reading missionary stories during Bible School, God gave Nathan the desire to become a missionary pilot.

It's now been 12 years of working

towards the role of pilot/mechanic. Three years of Bible school, a 4-year maintenance apprenticeship, four years of training and gaining experience as a pilot while living in northern Manitoba, and one year at Emanate in Durham, Ontario.

Our time at Emanate was so valuable in understanding the work that we will be supporting and in preparing our family for what's ahead.

We are currently headed to the NTM Aviation headquarters in Arizona for the final stage of preparation before going overseas.

Our location of service will be decided in the Spring of 2018.

We appreciate the church planting process used by Ethnos and while Nathan loves flying, our heart is to see the gospel shared in the heart languages of people who haven't heard.

NTM Aviations's tagline is *Millions Unreached, None Unreachable*. Our desire is to help make it possible to reach some of the most remote people groups in the world.



Connect with Nathan & Emily:  
[nathanwillems@ethnos.ca](mailto:nathanwillems@ethnos.ca)

### John and Joyce Meerstra

#### Jaycee and Jared

Ministry: Pilot/Mechanic in Papua New Guinea

Sending Churches: Pineridge Bible Chapel, Oshawa, Ontario and Grace Bible Chapel, Timmins, Ontario

John is from Ontario and Joyce is from Alberta. They each trusted Christ as their Saviour while young.

The Lord continued His work in each of their lives to direct them into missions.

For Joyce her parents were missionaries in Mali, West Africa and returned back to Alberta when she was a baby. Missions came to the forefront through her parents, missionaries visiting their home, and then solidified while attending Bible school. After graduating from Emanate, Ethnos Canada's missionary training program, Joyce settled into a support role at Ethnos Canada's home office in Durham, Ontario.

In John's case, his parents were

challenged later in life into mission work. They served in the Philippines doing grounds and building maintenance at an NTM Aviation flight base. Little did John know how moving to the Philippines at the age of 14 would direct the course of his life. By rubbing shoulders with the aviation team and watching the planes, God began to give him a desire to serve missionaries as a pilot/mechanic.

That was the road that he followed after returning back to Canada after high school. After further training with Ethnos, he headed over to Papua New Guinea in 1994 to join the aviation team there.

While on home assignment, John met Joyce and they married in the summer of 1999. Their daughter, Jaycee, was born in 2001 and Jared, their son, in 2003.

With gratitude and joy they have served a number of missionary teams from beginning to end. Survey and move in flights, seeing a New Testament translated into the local language, to moving out flights many years later after a thriving church is established.

Psalm 65:8 says, *"Those that live at the ends of the earth stand in awe of His wonders"* NLT.



Connect with John and Joyce:  
[johnmeerstra@ethnos.ca](mailto:johnmeerstra@ethnos.ca)

# SIGN UP TO BE A “FIRST RESPONDER”

FirstStory Ministries needs Canadians who want to know about the needs of reaching Canada’s aboriginal peoples — and who are willing to help, through both prayer and finances.

Learn more and sign-up at  
[firststoryministries.ca/firstresponders](http://firststoryministries.ca/firstresponders)




FirstStory is a ministry of Ethnos Canada.

## PRAY



Photo by Ralf Schlegel

### He Didn’t Stand a Chance

“I’m not normally an overly emotional person. ... Crying, especially, isn’t something I’m really into,” wrote Seth Callahan. “Getting so worked up that you uncontrollably start leaking bodily fluids just seems a little over-the-top, you know?”

Then Seth watched as the Iski people’s eyes were opened to the depths of God’s love for them. Their salvation testimonies were filled with awe and gratitude. Later, while compiling some of those testimonies, a few unexpected tears came. “Come on,” Seth wrote, “I didn’t stand a chance!”

Read a few of the Iskis’ testimonies and see if you don’t agree:

*“Before, we heard the story of Jesus healing the blind man. I was blind, but yesterday my eyes were opened.”*

—Rudolph

*“It is true for me, the Saviour came, a Lamb without spot died for me.”*—Bnaga

*“It’s big. I am not going to do any work to save myself. I will hide under the blood of the Saviour.”*—Alvis

Pray for the infant Iski church in Papua New Guinea.



Photo by Colton Williams

Will and Kiagl

### Praying for a Profound Impact

*“We have been waiting for all of God’s talk to be finished ... for us Kuman people. [Then] we will no longer have to ask someone else what God is saying*

*to us. My innards will finally be soft (be at peace).”*

—*Kiagl, Kuman Bible teacher*

Next Easter, Will and Kelly Tallman get to see that happen.

After years of diligent translating, Will Tallman saw the translation take shape into a print-ready format during his five weeks at Ethnos’ USA home office in Florida. Then those precious files were sent to the printers.

“We’re only in one village at this time,” Will said, “but as Easter nears, we’re planning an evangelistic outreach to the surrounding villages. Pray for an evangelism explosion among the Kuman people in the Asia-Pacific Region. Pray that as they hear God’s Word, they will come to know Him as their Saviour. Pray that this first printing of 2,000 Bibles will have such a profound impact on Kuman lives that we’ll need to print more immediately.”



# Partner to Prepare Missionaries

I did something really stupid when I visited West Africa.

Well, to tell the truth, I probably did a lot more than one really stupid thing. But this one I found out about. I found out because the officer in the uniform at the border crossing made sure we knew we had offended him.

Yeah, when I do stupid, I do it big.

You see, when my colleagues and I filed into his office, each of us failed to say, “*Bonjour. Comment ça va?*”

We missed one of those important things that everyone who visits West Africa needs to know: Greetings are mandatory, even if you don’t speak the language.

And when you move to the edge of the church, you cannot begin to imagine the number of opportunities for cultural faux pas, not only for Western missionaries, but for missionaries from that very country.

Some of these errors can be laughed off; others can sour or even embitter relationships.

Things are different on the edge, and missionaries need to be prepared for that. And this need provides opportunities for you to partner.

## **Training for National Co-workers**

We believe that one of the most important tools God has given Ethnos is the training that’s been developed to prepare people to plant churches cross-culturally.

- Bible training ensures that candidates have a good understanding of the Scriptures and know how to study for themselves.
- Missions training imparts the basics of a variety of skills vital to cross-cultural church planting, such as language learning, Bible translation and lesson development.

- Ongoing training through seminars and workshops around the globe and on-site visits by consultants keeps each team working together toward the common goal of establishing a thriving church.

Our 75 years of experience tell us that all three of these pieces are vital for success.

Previously we offered you the opportunity to help fund the equipping of national co-workers. In the last year alone, you gave in excess of \$6,000.00. Thank you!

In 2017 and beyond, Ethnos will continue to equip national co-workers around the world. Your partnership will make that possible and will also help us in:

- developing curriculum to train people in their own regions. Funded by your partnership, skilled trainers, experienced missionaries and local

**Things are different on the edge, and missionaries need to be prepared for that.**



leaders will work together to determine what will be taught and how.

- developing the programs to present the curricula. Your gifts enable these same teams to work out where to teach, who will teach and other important details.

You've partnered with us in God's work for the first 75 years. Will you prayerfully consider a gift toward the next 75 years?

#### What Your Gifts Can Do

- A gift of \$75 will provide for textbooks and supplies needed for missionary training classes.

- A gift of \$750 will help with a family's incidental travel costs, such as visas, food while travelling, baggage fees and more.
- A gift of \$7,500 could cover the travel costs, including airfare, for a couple or family to get to Canada for training.
- A gift of \$75,000 would provide for all the costs for three couples to come to Canada for training.

**Give online:** Go to [ethnos.ca/projects/national-missionary-training/](http://ethnos.ca/projects/national-missionary-training/)

**Give by mail:** Send a cheque made out to Ethnos Canada to:

Ethnos Canada, PO Box 707, Durham ON N0G 1R0. Enclose a note that the cheque is for Equipping National Co-workers.

**Give by phone:** Call toll free 844-855-6862 to give by credit card during East Coast business hours. Please have your card ready, along with the name of the project: Equipping National Co-workers.

—By Ian Fallis, managing editor



Photo by Joel Potter

Ethnos Canada has teamed up with Twin Valley Coffee to help missionaries all over the world and to provide great coffee at the same time.

Twin Valley Coffee's mission statement is held as the uncompromising standard: *Excellence Beyond The Cup!*™ Their website states: "After you've had your first cup of Twin Valley Coffee, you will be 'ruined for the ordinary.'"

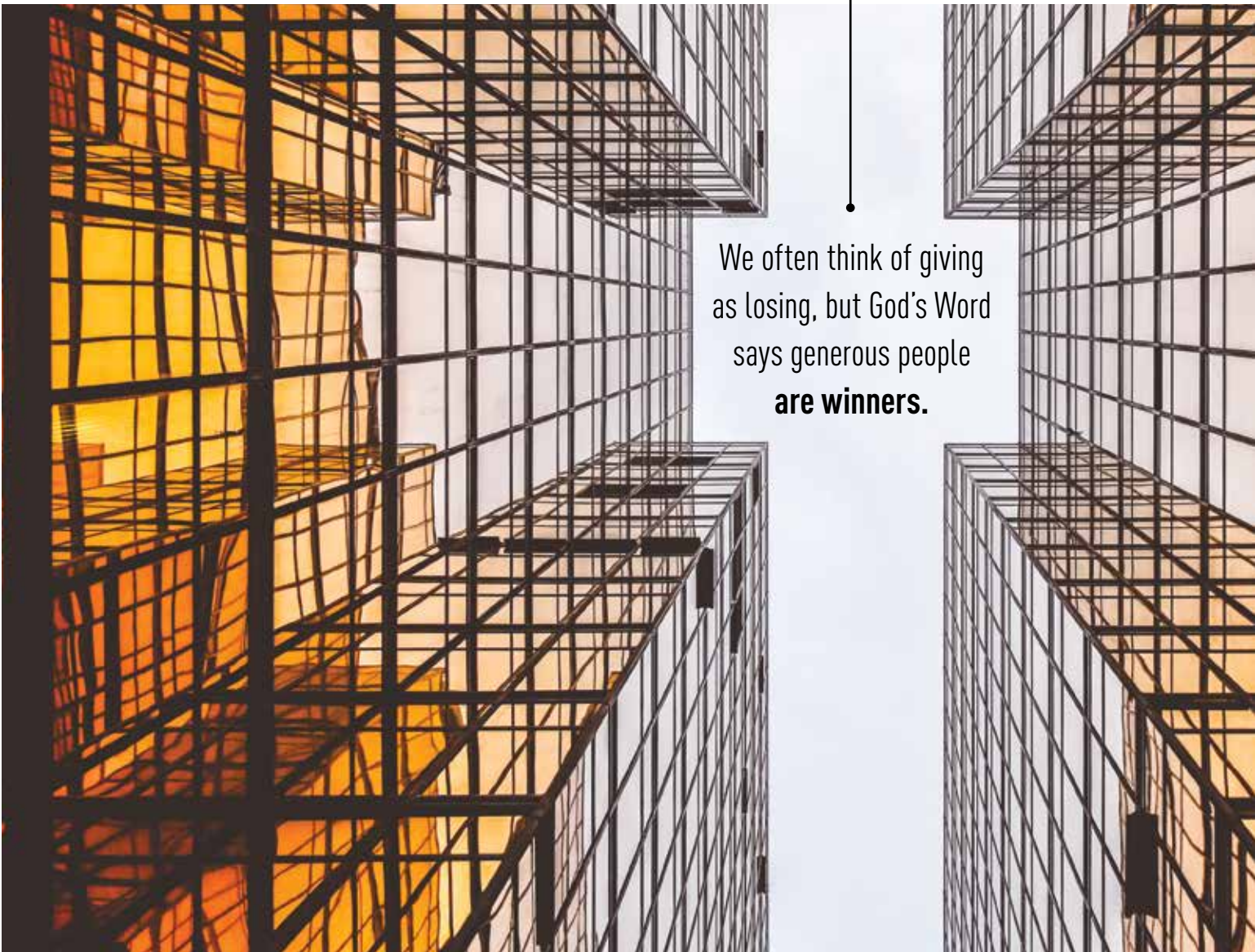
Buy coffee from this website, designate the missionary you wish to benefit, and they will receive the profit. For example, if you purchase a 12 oz. bag, the missionary you designated will receive \$2.06 USD.

Available in single serve cups, fresh grounds, whole bean and frac pacs.

Learn more at: [CoffeeForThrivingChurches.com](http://CoffeeForThrivingChurches.com).



# THE BENEFITS OF GENEROSITY



We often think of giving  
as losing, but God's Word  
says generous people  
**are winners.**

“*What’s in it for me?*” doesn’t seem like the kind of question we ought to be asking our Almighty Creator, God. So it’s surprising how many times His Word seems to answer it, as He speaks about the benefits of obedience, the blessings of following and the rewards that await us in Heaven.

And that’s why, as the New Testament exhorts us to be generous toward missionaries, He also tells us what’s in it for us.



### GENEROSITY MAKES YOU A PARTNER IN THE WORK

God’s Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) is for all believers, and the original Greek of Acts 1:8 indicates that we’re not to put a higher priority on the place we live than on the ends of the earth. But how can you do that?

Generosity puts you there, as a full partner.

Though the meaning is obscured in most translations, 3 John 8 tells us we have a responsibility to meet the needs of missionaries. But John doesn’t dwell on that. He quickly moves on to the why: “*that we may become fellow workers in the truth.*”

You should never feel that you’re less than a full partner in the work because you’re “just” giving. That’s not how God sees you. In fact, the phrase John uses here—*fellow worker*—is one Paul reserves for missionaries in all but one case.

### GENEROSITY STORES UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN

That one exception is found in the book of Philippians. Paul is writing to thank the church at Philippi for their generous gift to his missionary work and calls the man who brought the gift, Epaphroditus, “*my... fellow worker*” (Philippians 2:25).

Paul later exhorts the Philippians to continue in generosity because it’s good for them: “*Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account*” (Philippians 4:17).

That reminds me of Jesus’ encouragement to “*store up treasures in Heaven*” (Matthew 6:19-21) rather than on Earth. Jesus tells us we ought to put our resources into things that last—into God’s work—instead of using them here on things that don’t last. Paul writes that giving to missionaries is one

way we can store up treasures in Heaven.

But what about the here and now?

### GENEROSITY UNLEASHES GOD’S ABUNDANCE

Apparently God knew the Philippians would ask that same question because after one more verse He had Paul write, “*And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus*” (Philippians 4:19).

We treat that as a blanket promise for all believers today. But when Paul wrote that, he was writing to a group of believers who were generous toward his ministry as a missionary. So surely it applies to folks who are generous toward missionaries today. I’ve seen that myself.

Early on in our ministry, my wife and I too often said, “We can’t afford to.” We said that about doing and about giving. But as we’ve matured in giving—as we’ve learned to respond positively to His promptings to generosity and trust Him—we’ve seen Him provide for us repeatedly. He’s provided according to His riches in glory, giving us peace, growing our faith and blessing us.

### IS IT ALL ABOUT YOU?

So does God say this because it’s all about you and me? Certainly not! It’s all about God—we belong to Him and owe Him our everything. But He loves you and me. He loves us so much that He gives us opportunities to be fellow workers with each other and with Him, and then He blesses us for doing so.

What an amazing God we serve.

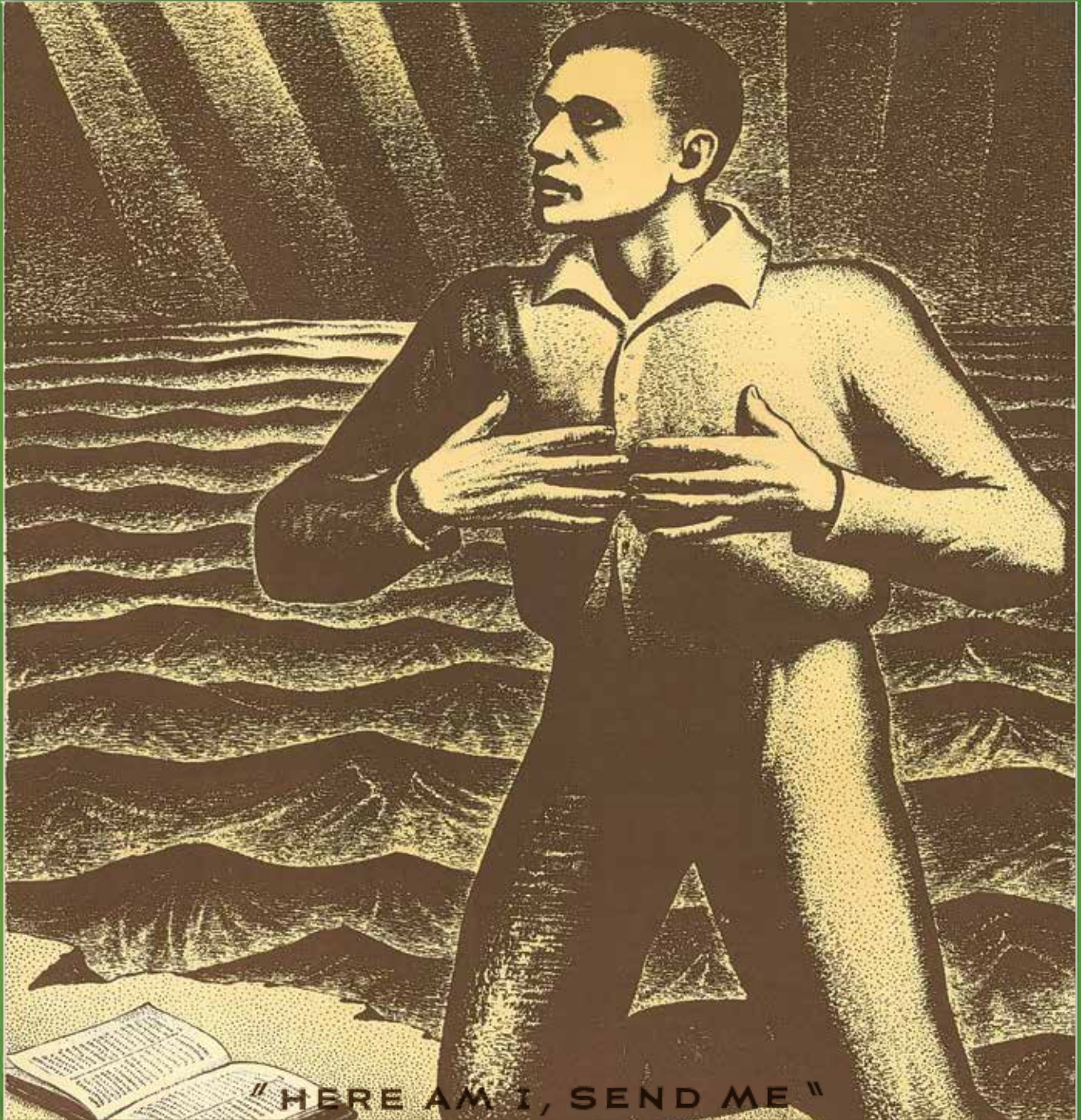
—Ian Fallis, *Managing Editor*



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**is TO GIVE YOUR OWN LIFE**



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