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ETHNOS

MAGAZINE

equipping missionaries in Canada

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ETHNOS magazine

Vol. 85 | Issue 3, 2022

Ethnos360 Magazine team

Each edition of this magazine is put together by the Ethnos360 team in the USA, and then modified for use in Canada by the Ethnos Canada team.

Editor: Rosie Cochran

Managing Editor: Bruce Enemark

Rex Crawford, Chris Holland, Ron Hyink,
Rachel Narwold, Stephen Narwold
and David Pierce.

In Canada: Martin Lamb, Jason Bechtel,
Janet Thomson and Nate Enns.

Ethnos Magazine is published by Ethnos Canada.

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Subscriptions

Ethnos Magazine is provided free to readers in Canada on a year-to-year basis. To receive the magazine or have it sent to a friend, sign up online at ethnos.ca/subscribe, email connect@ethnos.ca, or call toll free 1-844-855-6862.

If you no longer wish to receive *Ethnos Magazine*, please send a note and your name and address to Ethnos Canada, PO Box 707, Durham ON N0G 1R0.

The magazine may be read online at ethnos.ca/magazine

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

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Ethnos Canada

PO Box 707

Durham ON N0G 1R0

1-844-855-6862

info@ethnos.ca

Cover photo by David Pierce



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

I don't know about you, but I have never seen photos of a home's foundation on realtor.ca. What the realtors show us is everything above the foundation. Crack-free walls above the foundation are evidence of a firm foundation.

The Brooklyn Bridge arches the East River to connect Manhattan and Brooklyn, carrying over 150,000 travellers every day. In 1872, three years into the project, the New York residents grew skeptical that the bridge would materialize since there was no evidence of any structure "above the water line" for the second tower of the bridge. However, the chief engineer wrote the following: "To such of the general public as might imagine that no work has been done on the New York Tower because they see no evidence of it above the water line, I should simply remark that the amount of masonry and concrete laid on that foundation is equal in quantity to the entire masonry of the Brooklyn Tower visible today above the waterline."

In this edition of the magazine, we are featuring the care and process of laying a foundation for believers being sent out to plant churches. The type of building being built determines the type of foundation needed. Many experienced church planters have learned what is needed to engage in this critical ministry, and Ethnos has training to incorporate the needed facets for a solid foundation so that a sound building can be added over time. Time taken on the foundation pays off in the long run! The Apostle Paul refers to himself as a wise master builder in 1 Corinthians 3:10. He says that there is no other foundation laid other than Jesus Christ.

I am pleased to present this magazine that focuses on the training that Ethnos Canada provides for candidates preparing for the ministry. We place high value on training because we place high value on the building and development of the Church.

Yours in Christ,

Tim Whatley

Tim Whatley

Executive Director, Ethnos Canada



NEWS AROUND THE WORLD



We just got back from an Encounter trip to the Amazon,

for Wayumi, a cross-cultural missions exposure camp. It's funny how we went to serve, but I think we all were helped in various ways during our time there.

On the Enneagram scale, I am a 6. To those who may not be familiar with Enneagram personality types, it means I am loyal, protective and cautious ... in other words, little Miss "Is it safe?" Nothing about the Encounter trip we just took was safe. For my boys and others, it was their big adventurous hearts' dream come true! For a 6 on the Enneagram scale, it was an exercise in learning to "not be anxious about anything but pray." If it's not the large creatures that could eat you, it's the microscopic bacteria and bugs that you can't see but feel their effects for weeks. I think of David's prayer in Psalm 67:7, "God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him." We all want God's blessing, don't we? But how often does He bless us, we grow comfortable and then we fear going to the ends of the earth!

I'm thankful to have been a part of this Encounter Trip, for the prayers answered and the chance to step out and see that truly "By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation, You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of the far-off seas" (Psalm 65:5). There is nowhere in the world we can go that He is not already at work! And when God is with us and for us, we have nothing to fear.

—Sara Royer

where we went to help our Brazilian friends receive and host more than 150 young people from all over Brazil

for Wayumi, a cross-cultural missions exposure camp. It's funny how we went to serve, but I think we all were helped in various ways during our time there.



We led a group of Ethnos360 Bible Institute students and grads along with our family to help with Wayumi in Brazil. Wayumi is a camp designed to give a glimpse into church planting in a cross-cultural context. The camp took place along the banks of the mighty Amazon River. We worked hard prepping the base, serving tables, cleaning bathrooms and engaging campers.

Many people were challenged to missions, including our own team. I asked most of our team what their favourite experience of the trip was. I was surprised by a common theme in their answers. It wasn't swimming in the Amazon or hunting caiman at night with spears or shopping in the marketplace in Manaus on our sight-seeing day. Although those were fun things we got to experience, it was the people—the Brazilian and American missionaries, volunteers and campers we met and interacted with. The point of these trips is for participants to encounter new realities and new scenes and to ask the question, "Could I see myself doing this?" The answer from our team was: "If it means linking arms with these guys, then yes!"

—Andrew Royer

ENCOUNTERTRIP.ORG
WAYUMI.ORG



DIVIDING THE WORK, MULTIPLYING THE EFFORT

“Prior to living in a foreign country, I had no real sense of how far removed some people are to understand anything about God. By sharing our gifts in education, we were able to make it possible for others with gifts in linguistics and discipleship to be able to live in remote villages and share the love of God with the people there.” These are the words of a college professor who served along with his spouse with Ethnos abroad.

Find out how you can use your skills in education to be a part of the team to plant thriving churches among the unreached.

go.ethnos.ca/teach-abroad



LANGUAGE EVALUATIONS

What does a language evaluation look like?

Our proficiency was evaluated by two language consultants. These consultants tested our ability to give instructions, tell stories, teach from the Scriptures and communicate various complex ideas. We each chose a Papua New Guinea (PNG) friend to join us during our tests and communicated all of these language “projects” directly to a native Tok Pisin speaker while the consultants observed. They then tested our friends’ comprehension after we finished talking. Our PNG friends were also directed to share some stories with us, and the consultant tested our ability to understand and engage in dialogue as well. These evaluations are certainly stressful, but we are so thankful that our mission assesses language and cultural fluency in this way. It’s a real-life, real-time way of evaluating comprehension and ability to communicate.

—Brody and Jen Pav



NEW TESTAMENT UPDATE

Lív has ministered among the B people group in West Africa. Here is her latest report:

“I am thankful to the Lord for what we have been able to accomplish in Bible translation the last months. All the New Testament is now translated into their language. The last consultant check will be in November, where the Gospel of Matthew and the last seven chapters of Luke will be checked.

What came to my mind after having finished were Simeon’s words when he saw the baby Jesus: ‘Now, Lord, you have kept your promise, and you may let your servant go in peace. With my own eyes I have seen your salvation...’ I know that Simeon was talking about his death, [and] I am not trying to be morbid here or talking about

leaving...but what has been accomplished is all by the grace of the Lord. My prayer the last years has been that I might be able to complete the New Testament, and that day has arrived. I am deeply thankful to the Lord and very humbled that He has allowed me to have a part in this work. May many of these people come to know the truth by reading His Word in their own language.”

(NOTE from Lív: “The young believer that is translating the Old Testament is also advancing in his work. He continues to work on Exodus, and we have also been able to go through the draft of the first six chapters of the book of Daniel that he has translated. I am very thankful to the Lord for him; we work well together.”)



AND IN EUROPE...

Markus Røsvik, on the leadership team in Norway, shared some news from Europe. There are two specific initiatives that are being worked on.

The first is Equip360. Equip360 is a training program that is done mostly

online but also with in-person intensive weekends.

This pre-field equipping begins as the missionary candidate ministers and is mentored in his or her home church. It launched fully in the fall of 2022. It was established to enable Europeans who are unable to attend North Cotes

College in England to receive our training and is taught in English.

The second is the European Expansion Team. This was set up for better and more efficient follow-up with contacts and leads in countries where there are no Global Partner offices. Right now, the focus is on Romania.



Image by Syd Morrison

PREPARED ***to*** ***THRIVE*** Training Future Church Planters

“We plan to start a short preparatory course for those going out under New Tribes Mission. We are pioneering with the gospel, and we must know our job and be prepared to meet it. Though we place first emphasis on spiritual qualifications, a missionary must know how to use his hands as well as his head. Pioneer missionary work must be revolutionized if we hope to reach the last tribe in our generation.”

This announcement appeared on the back of the first issues of the mission’s magazine, *Brown Gold*, less than a year after the mission’s founding in 1942.

Eighty years later, Ethnos’ training continues to prepare people for church planting in a cross-cultural context. Over the years, the training has been continually refined in order to more effectively achieve that goal of reaching the last people group.

HISTORY

With the need for training defined, mission leadership prayerfully searched for a location to hold this course, and the Lord answered. The Hi-Hat Club, formerly an exclusive nightclub in downtown

Chicago, was purchased and quickly transformed into the New Tribes Missionary Center.

September 12, 1943, saw the centre opened with a missionary rally. Days later, on September 20, the first preparatory course started with 40 students.

Ken Johnston, one of New Tribes Mission’s early missionaries and former chairman, recalled in *The Story of New Tribes Mission* that “the purpose of the course was to impart a clear-cut vision of New Tribes Mission’s world objective as well as to present, in a practical way, how to approach the job of reaching the last tribe with the gospel.”

Lance Latham, a mission leader and founder of AWANA, taught Bible doctrine, with the gospel message of grace being core to the curriculum.

Linguistics was taught by early missionary Dean Pittman, who had taken the Summer Institute of Linguistics course as a member of the first group of missionaries.

The Story of New Tribes Mission further mentions, "There was a smattering of field medicine, carpentry, mechanics, photography as well as other relevant topics.... During the early years, the curriculum constantly took on new aspects as needs became apparent."

So many desired to attend that it was necessary to schedule another class before "this short preparatory class," as the November 1943 *Brown Gold* magazine called it, was completed. The next class started in February 1944.

Originally, the course took place at night, allowing candidates to be employed during the day. But soon, more time was needed to cover the topics. Classes were shifted to the morning hours, and students could work part-time.

"BOOT CAMPS"

Though the training at the former Hi-Hat Club was being constantly improved, leadership saw that the city context did not match the rugged contexts where the missionaries would go. They looked for a property to use as a "boot camp." God provided the deserted Civilian Conservation Corps Camp, known as Fouts Springs, in the Mendocino National Forest in California.

The camp was prepared, and in January 1945, the first boot camp course began. Bible and linguistics continued to be core subjects. Field medicine, photography, hair cutting, soap making, butchering, gardening, canning, breadmaking, hiking, survival, swimming, boating, carpentry and mechanics were all taught. Students maintained the camp as part of their training.

To some of the candidates, this lifestyle was very new, but such were the skills needed to live in the harsh conditions where the unreached lived. Students also learned how to succeed without

The training pushed the students outside their comfort zones.

many of the normal conveniences of the time. They had no running water in the cabins and used wood for cooking and heating.

The training pushed the students outside their comfort zones. For some it was the hardest thing they had ever done, but it was suitable training for



the realities they would experience on the field.

In his book, Ken Johnston summed up that time of training this way: "The work was hard; the living, rough; the fellowship; sweet. Through it all, the missionary candidates were learning to trust the Lord. If a missionary was going to get discouraged by primitive conditions, it was better that he experienced this in boot camp rather than on the field. How valuable this practical approach proved to be!"

Growth in numbers led to the issue of having too many students together in one place, not allowing for the individualized attention that mission leadership desired. So, over the years, regional boot camp properties were acquired around the USA and Canada and fitted for the training, each one with its own story of God's mighty provision.

Top left: New Tribes Missionary Center, Chicago

Bottom Left: California Boot Camp

Below: New Tribes Mission Language School



JUNGLE CAMP

Though the missions course, or “boot camp” as it was called, offered excellent training to missionary candidates, mission leadership saw the need to add a “jungle camp” experience to give training more closely simulated to what candidates would experience on the field.

In the summer of 1950, the mission’s first jungle camp took place. Candidates hiked over a mountain near Fouts Springs. “They were taught how to fish, boat, swim and a little about how to maintain an outboard motor. They learned also how to do lifesaving and artificial respiration,” Ken’s book recounts.

Along with practical skills, there was an emphasis on being able “to improvise and being self-sufficient.”

“At jungle camp, as in the rest of the training, the leaders did not merely focus on the academic and physical. All the practical training in the world could never replace faith in God! Some had to stop right in the middle of a hard or fearful task to ask the Lord for strength and wisdom to finish. What a joy it was to see them go on to finish in ‘the power of His might’! Equally important as acquiring new skills and techniques was this opportunity to experience firsthand the grace of the Lord as He led them through new and trying experiences.”

LANGUAGE SCHOOL

“Linguistics had been an essential part of the mission’s training course even with the first group of missionaries. ... We saw how profitable linguistic training was for those on the field,” Ken Johnston wrote.

Because of the importance of such study, mission leadership saw the need for a separate language school for NTM’s missionaries. In 1955, the first classes of the New Tribes Mission Language and Linguistics Institute were held in Wisconsin.

Students from the boot camps came to Wisconsin to take this course.

“The linguistics course—how to reduce an unwritten language to writing—was very much like a college summer course at that time, with every student being taught a smattering of phonetics, phonemics, syntax, and morphology,” Ken’s history of the mission recalls. Literacy, Bible translation and culture were also taught.

As experience from the fields made its way back to the language school, the classes were strengthened and refined. New techniques were added, and though language study was still difficult work, the missionaries were better equipped to meet the challenge.

PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

While improvements and adjustments were continuously being made to the missionary training, it received a more thorough overhaul starting in the mid-1990s.

“A lot of our works were discussing phaseout on the field,” explained David Mough, director of education at Ethnos360 Training (ETR). Originally, the mission used a threefold litmus test. The missionaries could phase out when church plants were self-sustaining, self-propagating and self-functioning. These are good and correct standards. But how do you determine exactly when those are in place? “We needed a more detailed model,” David continued.

Many missionaries on the field were sharing insights that continued to improve the training program. Classes on culture, worldview, animism and outside influences were added or improved.

These classes helped missionaries to understand better the unknowns they were encountering on the field, to persevere through them and to teach better in light of them. This also helped with missionary retention on the fields.

Another significant change was the switch to Foundational Bible Teaching based on Trevor McIlwain’s chronological *Building on Firm Foundations*.



Sent by Calvary Monument Bible Church in Paradise, Pennsylvania, and Westside Community Chapel in Amboy, New York, **David Pierce**, his wife, Michelle, and their six children, served in Papua New Guinea for 13 years. As God closed doors there, He opened new doors of service with Ethnos360’s Ministry Advancement team in Sanford, Florida.

EQUIPPING MISSIONARIES IN CANADA

*Three facets of equipping future missionaries
from around the world, for around the world.*

Ethnos Canada began training missionary candidates in 1950 in Abbotsford, BC. Soon after, Enderby, BC was selected as a more suitable training site.

It wasn't long, however, before operations were moved across the country to Ontario. In 1959, the mission set up a small home office in Burlington and began searching for a more permanent facility in Ontario to train incoming missionaries. In 1967, Wally and Marg Jank—who were on home assignment in Owen Sound, ON—discovered a children's summer camp for sale just 50 km south in Durham.

The beautiful 70-acre property had large swaths of undeveloped cedar and maple forest. It seemed in many ways to be ideal for teaching missionaries the skills they would need to live and thrive in remote locations worldwide. The Lord moved mountains and provided funds to purchase the property for \$32,000—just half of the original asking price.

Only a few short months after the land was purchased, the first class of students arrived—seven in all.

*Why not have a shorter training
and begin ministry sooner?*

For many years, the training course in Durham was an intensive one-year boot camp. The program was designed to prepare spiritually mature missionaries and included practical training such as Jungle Camp and an afternoon work program.

Since Ethnos Canada didn't have its own linguistics training, graduates of the Durham course had to travel to the United States for an additional year of Language School. In the early 2000s,

trainers John Challinor and Matt Gunther began developing a Canadian Language School. By 2003, students could take the full training in Durham.

In the early 2010s, the missionary training program underwent a period of major course development, was organized into three semesters, and was renamed Emanate. Emanate means “to flow out, issue or proceed; to send forth.” As light emanates from a light source, our graduates are sent out to shine the light of Christ unto the uttermost parts of the earth.

Over the years, our students have come from the uttermost parts of the earth, too! As a registered post-secondary learning institution, Ethnos Canada is privileged to train international students from as far away as Germany, Australia and New Zealand—in addition to Canadians and Americans.

18-MONTH TRAINING

One question that is frequently asked about our training is, “Why is the program so long?” Many other mission agencies require only weeks or months of training, not three semesters. Combined with the roughly two years of Bible training that are required as a prerequisite, the process can take nearly four years. Why not shorten the course and arrive on the field sooner? That's a fair question.

Most other organizations *do* require some form of Bible school or seminary training before arrival, possibly even a masters' degree or doctorate in theology or missions. They depend on that education process to provide their candidates with Bible knowledge and missions methodology. We've found that the task of cross-cultural church planting requires specific and in-depth training that is not covered by most Christian colleges or universities.

As a basis of comparison, you could take the highly demanding job of pastoring a church and



Photo by Justin Myer



Photo by Karen Whatley

Top: The Ethnos Canada training campus and home office.

Bottom: Mentorship is a critical part of the training.

add to it the unique requirements of raising financial support, adapting to a new culture, learning two languages to a high degree of fluency, and translating the Bible. The resulting ministry requires a level of training that is unique.

In-depth and in-house training also ensures that the training is directly applicable to the contexts where we work. Where else can missionaries learn about Bible translation, animism, cross-cultural communication, round wood construction, chicken butchering, teamwork, and small engine repair—all under one roof? Missionary training is about more than checking off an academic prerequisite; it is about learning practical and hands-on skills that will be needed on the field. Edwin Esau, co-director of our training, reminds us: “This is not just a school; it’s a training ground.”

For example, our training includes five months of linguistics classes, which improve students’ ability to acquire a new language directly from the people they’ll serve. The time invested in learning phonetics, phonemics, and grammar is well worth the effort when it comes time to communicate God’s Word with clarity.

Ethnos Canada also requires both husbands and wives to take the training so that they will be prepared as a family to thrive on the mission field, not just survive. The task before them is a marathon, not a sprint. It takes decades before a new church has grown to maturity and biblically qualified indigenous elders are ready to take the reins of leadership in the local church.

As a result, it is wise for missionaries to avoid accumulating costly education debt and instead

get specialized training for cross-cultural church planting. Edwin Esau suggests, “It is so helpful to have some life experience serving in your church. Come to us with high school, maybe a trade, Bible school, and an eagerness to learn and grow in your walk with the Lord—and we will train you.” Ethnos Canada is committed to providing affordable training; our instructors are all missionaries who raise their own support to decrease the cost of tuition and reduce the financial burden on future missionaries.

All the linguistic tools, all the practical skills, and all the church planting techniques are for naught if ...

Finally, an 18-month training provides time for students to be influenced by their trainers and to show evidence of godly character and spiritual growth. This happens in the context of our weekly One-on-One discipleship program, in which students are paired with staff for mentoring and personal evaluation. But discipleship also occurs informally as they rub shoulders with veteran missionaries from a variety of fields around the world.

Students also have a great opportunity to learn from members of the broader Ethnos Canada community. Because the Durham campus is also the home office of Ethnos Canada, it is staffed by many former overseas missionaries and frequently

visited by others. These men and women serve as an example and a resource for our students as they seek the Lord’s guidance for their future ministry.

As long as it may seem, Ethnos’ 18-month training is just a short stage in an ongoing learning process. Missionaries should expect to receive even more detailed region-specific and culture-specific training when they arrive on the field. This training will build on the foundational principles they have already learned in Durham. As each season of ministry will bring new challenges, Shane Whatley, one of the trainers, likes to encourage the students to be self-motivated “lifelong learners.”

KEY FACETS

Ethnos Canada’s training is one of ten missionary training programs worldwide that coordinate their efforts to prepare future missionaries for ministry on the field. The training teams work hand-in-hand with representatives from the International Ministries Team—a group of field leaders from around the world who provide leadership and direction in areas of culture and language acquisition, translation and literacy, Bible lesson preparation and church planting.

As ministry contexts worldwide shift, change, and grow in complexity, the International Ministry Team helps the training centres stay relevant.

In addition, church planting teams are increasingly diverse, and missionaries need to be prepared to become members of a global team. Their



Photo by Jason Bechtel



Photo by Anthony Goddard



Photo by David Buck

training unites them in faith, in focus and in methodology; although they hail from a variety of home countries and speak different heart languages, they have much in common—thanks in large part to their training.

There are three key areas of focus in preparing missionary candidates: Bible, character, and methodology. These components are woven together inside the classroom and out, formally and informally.

1. **TRAINED BY GOD'S WORD**

The Bible is the student's primary textbook. Missionary candidates are required to attend Bible School prior to enrollment in Ethnos' missionary training program, but their dependence on God's Word doesn't end there. "We are principally a theological mission," says Brian Wardlaw, co-director of the training. We're going to the ends of the earth to deliver a life-saving message about who God is and what He has done—a message contained in the pages of the Bible.

Our missionaries labour for years to translate the Bible into the heart language of the people they serve, because a newly planted church will only thrive if God's Word is seen as divinely inspired and directly practical to their daily walk with Him.

Before communicating that message into another language, however, the messengers themselves must first have a clear understanding—especially

of the gospel of grace and the believer's secure position in Christ. All the linguistic tools, all the practical skills, and all the church planting techniques are for naught if the message isn't clearly taught.

Throughout the training, in small groups and larger classes, students wrestle through questions such as: What is worldview and why does it matter? What elements of my own worldview are derived from my culture rather than from the Bible? What does a clear gospel message look like, and how can we keep it from being polluted by works and self-righteousness? How do the Old Testament and Gospels work together to pave the way for an understanding of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? How are the Epistles directly applicable to a newly planted church—and to me as an ambassador of Christ?

There is no substitute for learning from God's Word and giving it full authority in our life and ministry.

2. **GROWING IN GODLY CHARACTER**

Secondly, this time in training is an opportunity for missionary candidates to grow in godly character. When asked about the missionary task, Edwin Esau said, "It's not just about preaching the gospel; it's also about living the gospel." The character of the messenger needs to reflect the beauty of the message.

Ethnos' trainers are keenly aware that the task



Left: The "Jungle Camp" practicum exposes students to a wide variety of experiences.

Below: Training future missionaries.



Photo by Jack Crabtree

The character of the messenger needs to reflect the beauty of the message.

of cross-cultural church planting is intense and difficult. The missionary will face hardships and stresses on a daily basis, and the pressure will get overwhelming at times. There will be more illness, less privacy, and more physical and emotional demands. There will be times of great excitement and times of extreme discouragement.

The training program doesn't attempt to simulate life on the mission field, nor do trainers intentionally make the students' lives more difficult. Nevertheless, these 18 months are rigorous; between the demands of coursework and family life, afternoon work program and Jungle Camp, students are stretched—uncomfortably, at times. At the same time, they are encouraged to grow in perseverance, in dependence on the Lord, and in Spirit-filled relationships with their families, classmates, trainers and the local church.

Their motivation to serve the Lord is especially important—and this is where a clear understanding of God's grace is so vital. As Edwin Esau



Photo by Dale Stroud

explains, “Godly character is built on a clear understanding that we’re accepted in the beloved and that we’re serving because He first loved us. We’re not serving to be accepted by Him; we’re serving because we have *already* been accepted.”

We want resilient missionaries and missionary teams, and this character must be developing and growing here in North America, before they live in relative isolation for years at a time, disconnected from their extended family and home church.

3. UNITED IN METHODOLOGY

Lastly, the training is an opportunity for candidates to unite behind common ministry goals and field-proven methodologies. In the last 80 years, missionaries serving with Ethnos Canada and our global partners have served in hundreds of people groups around the world. They have adapted to a diverse range of cultures and contexts, and they have learned many key lessons along the way.

What worked? What turned out not to be helpful? Which approaches to ministry enable newly planted churches to thrive, and which lead to

needless struggle? Today’s training is based on the collective insight of generations of missionaries.

The key lessons learned over the years have become Ethnos Canada’s distinctives as a mission. These distinctives include a commitment to living among the people we serve, to ministry in their heart language, to Bible translation, to chronological Bible teaching on a worldview level, and to long-term discipleship rather than isolated short-term evangelism. We teach candidates the biblical and practical rationale behind this approach and arm them with specific tools to carry out the task ahead.

It is worth repeating that these three key facets of training don’t just occur inside the classroom. In Afternoon Work Program, students learn teamwork and specific skills for life on the field, but this hard physical work often reveals areas in which the student needs to grow—in work ethic, in communication, or in submission to others. Likewise, Jungle Camp is designed to teach adaptability and simple living skills, but it includes a time of guided Bible study. Finally, students are encouraged to apply the lessons they have learned in ministry methodology in their churches and in the community whenever appropriate.

MOVING FORWARD

As the world rapidly changes, today’s missionaries face challenges that were unknown to previous generations of missionaries. Building upon the foundation of our training and 80 years of experience reaching the unreached, Ethnos Canada continues to improve its training to meet the church planting challenges of today and those to come.

As Paul Fleming, founder of New Tribes Mission, put it, “Today we must prepare to take advantage of the opportunities of tomorrow.”

Left Top: Teaching literacy in Papua New Guinea

Bottom: Forming relationships is a key first step in ministry.



Photo by Mike Goddard



Sent by Faith Community Church in Gambrills, Maryland, **Todd Culbertson** and his wife, Rebekah, are part of the team equipping future missionaries. Todd serves on the Emanate chapel team and the Academic Coordinating Team and teaches several interactive linguistics classes. He also oversees Emanate’s social media.



INTERFACE

YOUR COLLEGE-LEVEL MISSIONS COURSE ACROSS THE GLOBE

If you've never stepped foot on some Ohio dirt, I can introduce you. It grows endless corn and runs straight to the horizon, never mounding into any significant hills or impressive scenery. We have our moments of Ohioan glory, such as when the setting sun spills liquid gold right in the path of a monstrous thundercloud, and the two wage a war; but I've been filling my lungs with the same mild, earthy air for my whole life. God knew that I needed red Brazilian dust, warm compound bricks radiating equator heat and a good spiritual shaking. He gave it to me.

On the first day of Interface, I hung my hammock from some cabin beams and prepared for the week of training in Pennsylvania. By that night, swinging with a small notebook under a single lightbulb to the serenade of crickets, all I could think to write was, *"How did I get here?"* It wasn't in frustrated befuddlement, but in wondrous mystification.

Then, over the next three weeks in Brazil, I was immersed in each moment. While I tried to absorb everything that could be felt and smelled and tasted, the thought hit me over and over. Listening to the nostalgic creaking of a tire swing, drinking in the way orange bled into purple on the South American horizon: *"How did I get here?"* Sitting on streetlight-lit concrete, hearing Portuguese swirl with English

while a volleyball shot into the midnight sky: *"How did I get here?"* Perching at the edge of an Amazon River tributary, drawing circles in Brazilian sand and letting the warm wind curl my half-dried hair, glancing towards the opposite shore where an unreachd people group were milling from hut to hut and where drying piranhas glinted in the sun: *"How did I get here?"* Almost a month after coming back to the States, I'm still not sure. What can I say? God's ways are infinitely higher. His blessings are scandalously bountiful.

During Interface, every day was brimming over with vivid tales of the Lord's faithfulness. In His mastery, God wrought stories more elaborate than any wordsmith or screenwriter would ever dare attempt. In one, God wove together a feverish canoe trip through a pitch-black Papua New Guinea jungle by a young family bearing a

dangerously sick child. He decided when and where their radio would jerk to life, and He authored in just enough mysterious tribal medicine to postpone the symptoms, buying time for a small plane to be boarded while torch-bearing humans lined up to light the midnight runway. Missionaries, students and teachers sacrificed a slice of their day to share their testimonies; their lives overwhelmed and overflowed. As Interface students, we had the opportunity to begin living our own lives with abandon. We each began opening our tightly clutched hopes and dreams and taking the first step into future adventures which the Master Talespinner had for us.

Together, our team experienced so many new things, but we only had time to get just enough to tantalize. I longed to freeze the sun and the clock, to stay in a moment until I could get my arms around it



Image by Abigail Tighe

and experience every angle ten times over, until it became a piece of my soul and ingrained in my bones. Blue smoke corkscrewed into the sky during each sunrise, reminiscent of last night's bonfire. I watched the moon and stars at two in the morning through an old camp bus window, pondering conversations and marvelling at the created majesty of the universe. There were countless

shining eyes, contagious laughs and incredible moments. I wanted them all in a frame, but the frame falls far short.

Have you ever felt small? Gloriously small, free from having to bear the weight of the world, a contented mite joyfully contributing your tiny bit to God's intricate story of the world? During Interface, each day brought me to that smallness. There I was, thousands of

miles away from the cornfield war of sun and thunder, standing beneath a perpetually cloudless sky, bearing witness that the God of Ohio was the same God of Brazil.



—by Abigail Tighe

INTERFACE BRAZIL 2022

It's been three years since the most recent Interface program in Papua New Guinea (PNG). We hoped that 2022 would be the year of return to that amazing place, but God had other plans. Due to continued COVID restrictions, bringing a group of more than 25 into PNG would have been a logistical nightmare, and so we pivoted to another option — Brazil.

We had already planned to visit the Eastern Brazil location for one of our two-week Encounter trips, so some of the logistics were already in place, but we needed to add the in-depth educational aspect typical of Interface. The easiest way to do this was to use the already-established Wayumi Course as the first week of our three-week trip. The Wayumi Course in Pennsylvania is a one-week intensive that many Christian colleges and universities use as a crash course in cross-cultural missions, showing the methods God is using through Ethnos around the world in reaching the unreached. We teach what we do, how we do it, and why we do it, with a bit of a tribal culture and language acquisition simulation experience as well.

After Pennsylvania, we flew to the Shekinah Missionary Training Center in Vianópolis, Brazil, where the students were led through an abbreviated version of the Creation to Christ foundational Bible teaching that Ethnos missionaries use around the world. The students

also undertook a service project for the Shekinah campus, removing the tile roof from their dining hall to make way for repairs and a new roof. They did this project in a fraction of the time allotted, so they were able to be a blessing to one of the missionaries there by removing their aging roof as well. The students were able to travel to an interior people group location where a church has yet to be established — it was a sobering reality check to see, first-hand, the difficult task of culture and language acquisition by the missionaries there, as well as to witness the heartbreaking reality that many people have yet to hear the life-changing truth of the gospel.

The 15 students and seven staff members on this team were all impacted by what God showed us this summer. He is good, He is never changing and He wants the world to know Who He is. Thirteen of the 15 plan on being involved in cross-cultural ministry overseas in some capacity, whether in support roles or church planting. The other two are seeking God's direction as to their futures, but a life of ministry through cross-cultural missions is an option in that seeking process. We stand in awe of what God has done in the lives of this team. Pray for them! Pray that they will not be distracted as they pursue what God has shown them through Interface Brazil 2022.

Are you ready to go? **INTERFACETRIP.ORG**



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Pray. THE NEW KUYU TEAM

Brian and Arlita Burnham are ministering with Ethnos360 Aviation in Papua New Guinea. They shared the following report:

We have some exciting news from Papua New Guinea (PNG)! After years of waiting by both the people group and the missionaries, we have a team ready to move into a new people group's location. The LeBlanc and DeValve families moved to PNG in January of 2020. They completed their orientation to the country and the trade language, Tok Pisin, but were delayed in moving into a people group by the pandemic, new babies, paperwork and medical issues. While they waited, they served in support roles to make sure other teams could function well as they translated, taught and disciplined in other people groups. But finally, after surveying a people group in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea and determining their need and their desire to have missionaries, the LeBlanc and DeValve families have teamed up with the Ames family to reach the Kuyu people.

The Kuyu people have been

giving letters to the neighbouring Pal people group for **seven years**, asking for missionaries. The Pal people have had missionaries there, and now have an established church. Because the Kuyu people have seen the life-changing transformation in the Pal people but can't understand the Pal language, they are desperate for missionaries to come. It took the missionaries a 10-hour hike, even after a helicopter ride, to reach this remote location. [Editor's Note: They had to walk to the village because the helicopter landing zone hadn't been checked out yet. Now it has!]

As the missionaries visited the Kuyu people, they explained that they would come to do four things:

1. Learn the Kuyu language,
2. teach them to read and write in their heart language,
3. translate the Bible into the Kuyu language and
4. teach them God's message from beginning to end.

Pal believers accompanied the missionaries so that the Kuyu people could ask them questions

[in the trade language] about what it was like to have missionaries come to live with them. Even though the Kuyu people are spread out in several different villages, they came together in one location, and representatives from each village said "Yes!" that they want the missionaries to come.

Recently, the team signed a formal land agreement and determined in which village to build their houses. There will be other missionaries who serve in support roles who will come alongside them to help them build. They'll also need support from the aviation team, as they determine shuttle locations for our new R66 helicopter to be able to bring in their house building supplies.

Pray for the team as they build houses and relationships among the Kuyu.

Note: An added blessing was that Brian was able to fly into Kuyu to address a minor maintenance issue that arose while the helicopter was in Kuyu, so he has seen this location firsthand!

CONNECT *with missionaries*



DENNIS & VALERIE EASTON

Church planting among the Ga'dang
People, Philippines

Sent by L'Amable Bible Chapel,
Bancroft, Ontario

Connect with Dennis & Valerie at
ethnos.ca/dennis-and-valerie

We have been ministering in the Philippines since 2010. After learning Tagalog, the national language, in Manila we moved north to begin church-planting among the Ga'dang (GAT-dung) people. Raising five children and homeschooling them in a remote village is a lot like doing the same in Canada—just with more electric fans and no winter boots. In fact, that was one of the things the Lord showed Valerie as we were sensing the Lord's call to the mission field. One day, Valerie was hanging cloth

diapers on the clothesline and thought, I could be doing this anywhere in the world, couldn't I? Why not overseas? Sure, there are a few more interruptions—people at the door needing medical attention or any manner of other things—but the Lord gives grace for all of those things.

We praise the Lord that we were able to finally teach the first phase of Bible lessons in 2020 along with our co-workers, Polter & Claudi Pulac.

The Ga'dang of our village are steeped in a religion that has

blinded them to the wonderful grace of salvation that God offers through Jesus Christ. Instead they seek God's blessing and healing by trying to do good works. It was a great privilege to declare to them that Christ has paid our sin-debt in full. However, they will need to hear more teaching before a church is established. There are two neighbouring villages that we plan to teach soon as well. Pray for the Holy Spirit to break through the lies that hold the Ga'dang in bondage.

Interested in teaching abroad? visit go.ethnos.ca/teach-abroad to learn more.





JASON & ERIN BAAN

Administration and Curriculum Development with the Establish team, Saskatchewan

Sent by Huron Chapel Evangelical Missionary Church, Auburn, Ontario

Connect with Jason & Erin at
ethnos.ca/jason-and-erin

We met at the University of Guelph, married, and raised a family on Jason's family's farm. We homeschooled our kids and served in our local church. We were always interested in missions, but over time God worked in our hearts to consider His command to go.

In the fall of 2015, we entered the Emanate training program

in Durham. Our education and work experience gave us a heart for creative access contexts... places where visas are limited and missionaries must wear multiple hats. In 2018, God took us out to join a team in North Asia.

Throughout our time overseas, God made it abundantly clear that He alone directs our steps. And throughout these past few

pandemic years, He's made it clear that He's moving us on to something different...a ministry with the Establish team in western Canada.

We have a heart to see God's church worldwide established in Christ and empowered to disciple. We're excited for this new phase of ministry, and trust that God has us right where He wants us.

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FOUNDATIONAL DISCIPLE-MAKING

Thank you for praying so faithfully for the development of Ethnos Canada's Establish resources!

Dave and Judy Wright, former church planters among the Mengen people in Papua New Guinea, returned to Canada just over seven years ago with a question swirling in their minds: "OK, Lord, what's next?" What's next turned out to be a relationship with a Woodland Cree elder, Norm McCallum, and an invitation to teach on reserves in northern Saskatchewan using Ethnos's signature foundational

Bible-teaching approach.

Fast forward to the present, and Dave, Judy, and a small team of writers, editors, and disciple-makers continue to serve in the Aboriginal and wider church contexts in western Canada. Their teams seek to establish believers in the truths of God's Word and empower them to disciple others.

Please continue to pray for the Establish team as they serve in northern Saskatchewan and beyond.

establishseries.com



What an incredible time to be alive! Over the last couple of years, we have had a pandemic that has forever impacted our “normal.” Along with the pandemic, there have been supply chain issues, increased cost of living and global unrest. Despite those things, **the gospel continues to go out to those who have never heard it**, and here at Ethnos360 Training [in Missouri], we have the privilege of training candidates to do just that: pierce the darkness with the light of the gospel.

For my wife and me, 2020 was a year that gave us great clarity or improved vision — or as we would say 2020 vision. As we had to change how we lived life during the pandemic, it gave us a fantastic opportunity to consider many things about our ministry. As we considered where we were, I realized that I was in danger of becoming stagnant in life and ministry, just going through the motions. I came to realize that I was buried in all I was doing and needed to get a new perspective. I determined that in some ways I had become like a hamster running on its wheel, running hard, yes, but not going anywhere. The reset that came with the change of life was very welcome and brought great clarity. I realized that I had become comfortable and needed to be stretched to further increase my dependence on God. I wonder if you can relate.

For me personally, with travel pretty much stopped, I was given another terrific opportunity to stay home, a very welcome change. As we moved

into 2021, I was bemoaning the fact that travel was starting to open again and that I would need to travel again. I remember very clearly walking in from my garage complaining about this when my wife suggested we move to Ethnos360 Training in Missouri from our Home Office in Florida. That same day, our realtor was looking at our house, and we started the process of listing our home. My family and I moved here to Ethnos360 Training in May of 2021, and in August of 2021, I was asked to take on the role of Interim Director. What a privilege it is to serve here at our training centre!

I urge you to consider an evaluation like my wife and I did. This evaluation for us brought about incredible opportunities we would have missed had we not re-evaluated where we were. It is wise to be still before the Lord and to step back from the pressures of life and move toward what God would have for us next.

It has been awesome to be surrounded by young people who are responding to God’s calling on their lives and are moving out in faith during a time of uncertainty that surrounds us. Young people going against the flow of our culture, walking away from security and the known, stepping into the unknown to consider how they may be used by our God in the Great Commission. Young people willing to sacrifice homes, careers and financial security, and leaving family behind to see people from every tribe, tongue and nation represented



around the throne as we see in Revelation 5:9. Not only are they willing to make these sacrifices, but they are willing to follow the Lord's leading into a humanly impossible task. Praise God that He tells us in II Corinthians 4:7 that the power to accomplish this task comes from Him, as we are just earthen vessels. Awesome candidates, each one unique, but also ordinary in that they too are unable to reach the lost on their own without the power of Christ.

Here at Ethnos360 Training, we equip our candidates with skills to learn culture and language. We equip them with skills to learn how to understand cultural mores and how that affects worldviews. We equip them to teach God's Word to those who have never heard it and to translate the Scriptures into other languages. We equip our candidates with tools for literacy and church planting. We send our candidates out with the best training we can give them, but it is their dependence on God that will ensure the work gets done.

Despite our candidates' training, they will be faced with many opportunities to quit. This is no different than for anyone else actively living out the Christian life. I often tell the story of John Stephen Akhwari, a marathon runner at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. John was there representing his country of Tanzania. Seventy-five runners would start the marathon that day, only 57 would finish. John Stephen Akhwari had

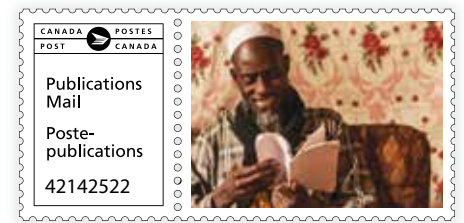
a nasty fall around the halfway point of the race where he dislocated his knee and was advised not to continue by the medical team who arrived to help him. Despite their advice he finished the race that day over an hour behind the first-place finisher, in dead last among those who finished. As he came across the finish line, you could see his bandages dangling off him in the pictures taken. When asked why he finished, he simply said, **"My country did not send me 5,000 miles to start this race. They sent me 5,000 miles to finish it."** Just as John Stephen Akhwari had many opportunities to quit and was encouraged to do so, the same is true for each of us. I urge you to consider the fact that the Lord did not leave us here on the earth to start the task of the Great Commission but to finish it. Consider how you might be more involved today in what the Lord is doing.

If you are interested in ways that you could assist us here with our training or if you are considering training for yourself, please contact me at **brian_coombs@ntm.org**. We have many ways in which you can be involved, from prayer to giving to volunteering to going. We would love to have you as part of our team.

—*Brian Coombs,*
Interim Director at Ethnos360 Training in
Missouri, USA

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