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FROM OUR CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

As a “missionary kid” in the '70's and then as a church planter in the early 2000's, I saw firsthand how hard ministry is in a remote and isolated community. I also saw how technology is used to speed up the spread of the gospel.

As a child, it took us upwards of five hours to hike from the coast into the mountains to our home. It took a lot of time and effort to carry tanks filled with kerosene into the jungle to power our refrigerator and other equipment.

Before joining Ethnos, my dad was an engineer in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He put his gift for engineering to work and built a hydro-electric generator. This included cobbling together a turbine and making pipes out of concrete to channel the water 250 feet past our home, down nearly 50 feet to the generator. When the system was working, it was a huge blessing.

In 2001 when Kathy and I moved our children into a remote Moi village, technology had come a long way. Rather than spending months building a system that required constant maintenance, we were able to bring in a customized kit that was designed for the specific needs of our family and ministry. Within a day, we had the solar panels installed. Within a week, we had all the house-wiring completed and were enjoying the benefits of electricity in the middle of the jungle.

Compared to what was cutting edge when I was a child, our system in Moi was far simpler and far more reliable. This simplicity and reliability resulted in huge time savings. This time savings went directly into language study, which resulted in the Moi people getting the gospel months sooner.

God has given incredible minds to men and women like my dad and Tim See (whom you will read about in this magazine). God is using them and their unique strengths to accelerate the spread of the gospel into unreached people groups.

I trust you will enjoy learning about this part of our team as you read the following pages. And maybe you will see that God can use you and your unique skills too!

Yours in Christ,

Tim Whatley

Tim Whatley
Co-Executive Director, Ethnos Canada

ETHNOS magazine

Vol. 87 | Issue 2, 2024

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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.

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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

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Cover photo by Jeremy Hambrice



NEWS AROUND THE WORLD



Photo by Rodney Ballard, JAARS, Inc.

STARTING IN GENESIS

Ethnos360 Aviation helicopter pilots flew seven back-to-back flights to transport 28 guests to attend the joyous dedication of the complete Northern Isnag Bible—66 years in the making. “Everyone who attended got a copy for themselves. Some sat down right away and started reading, some in Proverbs and

others in Psalms! One lady who had recently started reading Proverbs commented, ‘[Proverbs] touched me to the very core of my being as I read it, ... and now I need to start reading from Genesis through the rest of the Bible.’”

—*native Isnag speaker, Nard Pugyao, Philippines*



HE STOPPED THE PROCESSION

Rodney is one of the Bible teachers in the Nakanai church. Last year, one of Rodney’s unbelieving family members died. [An animistic ancestral custom] was happening in the village one morning, among believers in Rodney’s family. He watched as even his own mother, a believer, stood in support while the procession took place. But then he did something so culturally taboo, so bold and so incredible.

He stopped the procession. Rodney stood up in front of his mother, his brothers and sisters, his cousins and his extended family. With tears running down his face, he said, “Yes, these are the customs of our ancestors and our people. But we are a new people. We are children of God now. We are not imprisoned by the customs of our ancestors. We follow God now. Please, I beg you—don’t do this. Let’s live out the faith that we claim.”

And the procession stopped. ... People live and die by honour and shame here in Papua New Guinea, and this act was extremely culturally shameful. And yet, God used Rodney to challenge and convict the hearts of many of his family members.

—*Jon and Janet Mitchell, Papua New Guinea*

CULTURE CORNER



Photo by Enrico Corradi on Unsplash

Imagine you grew up in a village in north-central Tanzania. You’ve never been out to the city, and all your family lives right around you, so this life and this culture is truly all you know.

If you were a part of a people group in north-central Tanzania, you would:

- be scared to leave your clothes hanging outside overnight or go to the barber shop to get a haircut, because personal items like clothes or hair can be used to put a curse on you.
- not walk underneath baobab trees because you would believe that jinns (a type of spirit) live in its branches and can possess you if you get too close.
- see witchcraft and dark magic as a normal part of life that is to be greatly feared but also used for your advantage.
- be deathly afraid of chameleons because they can suck out your skin colour.

—*John and Asmara Anyan, Tanzania*



AN INDESCRIBABLE GOD

As I was working with my Yanomamö co-worker Mateo, he wanted to talk about the way we refer to God in the Bible translation and in the lessons. It's been bothering him that the term we use doesn't invoke some of the qualities and characteristics that he has come to appreciate about God.

The Yanomamö word we use for God would roughly translate into *Chief Spirit* in English, but Mateo was uneasy, feeling that this phrase doesn't give a full enough picture. Through our study and work on the Bible lessons, Mateo has gained a newfound sense of awe about who God is. And the more he learns, the more [eager] he's become for his fellow Yanomamö to have that same understanding!

Mateo is not only helping me with language and culture issues like he has all along, but now he's actually bearing the burden of it together with me as we try to portray in Yanomamö the sometimes "indescribable" attributes of God!

—*Bobby and Sandy Jank, Latin America*



I WAS HUNGRY!

Did you know about the *piracema* season? It's when the fish swim upstream, and it's easy for you to see them jumping out of the water. We could catch the fish using only baskets and nets. When this happens, the people in the villages celebrate, and they let each other know. Everyone rushes to the river! Of course, the hungriest people arrive first, but everyone tries to catch as many fish as possible.

Some, though, don't even bother to go to the riverbank. They lie in their hammocks just watching because they're not hungry. Their bellies are full of something they've already hunted and eaten.

[Thirty years ago] when I heard about the missionaries coming up the river, I was hungry! I was very hungry for answers! I went to the river to welcome the missionaries to my village because I wanted to take the opportunity to seek these answers.

—*M village leader Gondim, Brazil*



ALL THINGS UNDER CHRIST

The Amdu church was studying Ephesians 1:10 and was asked the question, "Have we put all things under Christ?" One believer admitted that he had been avoiding getting baptized, and others in the church admitted that they were convicted by this too. As a result, the believers came together for a baptism service on Christmas Day, and Benjamin and Missy's sons were baptized alongside their brothers in Christ.

"God's Word is changing lives! We're thrilled to be watching this happen."

—*Benjamin and Missy Hatton, Papua New Guinea*

CHU'U!

I was able to encourage our Korevajtu friends to ... try to reach other ethnic groups with the gospel. But first I told them that they should be purchased by the Father through the blood of His Son, and I asked if anyone wanted to be bought. The grandfather of the community, sitting in the front row answered, "Chu'ü!"



NOW WE UNDERSTAND

The Iski church studied the book of Revelation for the first time. The turnout was huge, and the teaching ended in applause. One believer stood up and said, "Praise be to God, He loves us so much and wants us to grow in our faith and reach the rest of the Iski language group, and so He continues to equip and invest in us. Revelation has impacted us beyond words. We used to think of the book of Revelation like we thought of our old customs. ... Now we understand it and what it will look like for believers in the new heavens and new earth. Now we understand clearly, and we are filled with joy and thankfulness!"

—*Jason and Nisae Williamson, Papua New Guinea*

Already understanding some of the language, that moment was unforgettable for me. That simple word expressed by the grandfather had a great meaning in my life. The grandfather answered the question of who wants to be bought by saying: "Me!"

—*Hans and Liliana Frank, Colombia*



Photo by Nathan Kelm

Divine Assembly for God's Glory

**Technology. Engineering.
Solar panels. Water filtration units.**

These terms are not usually associated with missionary work or mission organizations. Some of us may picture a missionary as someone who is involved solely in Bible translation or language learning and preaching in a remote village. Surely an engineer couldn't be used for that kind of mission work, could he?

This is the story of how God did just that—how He assembled a team of engineers and tech guys to help get the gospel to remote locations.

Time is an unreplaceable resource for missionaries as they work to get the gospel to an unreached people group. Missionaries want to spend their time learning the language and teaching God's Word. But the daily tasks of living take so much more time when living in a village hundreds of miles from the nearest store, gas station or electric pole.

Nearly 50 years ago, it was very difficult and costly for missionaries to live in these remote places. Women often spent hours every day boiling water so that it was safe to drink. Families had to rebuild when their village house burned down due to incorrect wiring or lightning strikes. Missionaries used kerosene lamps for light, which did not work well in the humidity. They had to use their gas boat engines connected to car alternators to charge the battery, which had just enough power for their communication radios and a tiny light.

God saw the challenges these missionaries had in daily living and ministry and the time and energy it was taking away from getting the gospel to people. He had plans to assemble all the parts at just the right time to help them—one person and electronic component at a time. He had plans to use technology to assist them in accomplishing

T is for teaching.

E is for equipping.

C is for consulting.

H is for helping.

their purpose, to save them time and to speed up the gospel's entry into unreached areas.

Nestled in the woods on the shores of Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri, there is a building that houses some intelligent minds, incredible engineering feats and humble hearts. That place is Offgrid Tech (OGT). It is part of the training that Ethnos provides to those who are being readied to go out into parts of the world where "normalcy" doesn't include electricity, clean water or other aspects of what we consider a developed society.

Offgrid Tech exists to fulfill the Great Commission by training and equipping missionaries to manage the physical aspects of living in remote locations. They accomplish this by offering several levels of technical teaching, providing appropriate equipment and offering relevant consultation. Whether missionaries want to use solar power or need a water purification solution, Offgrid Tech can provide them with the technical help they need to have an effective ministry. And this isn't only for Ethnos missionaries; OGT offers its expertise and equipment to all like-minded mission organizations.

The TECH part of their name is actually an acronym that captures the heart of their ministry. T is for teaching, E is for equipping, C is for consulting and H is for helping.

God began assembling the components for this ministry by calling a missionary kid named Tim, using a pile of wood and an ill-fated outhouse.

The History of Offgrid Tech

Tim See grew up in the country of Haiti where his parents worked with Unevangelized Fields Mission (now known as Crossworld). His father helped to start 37 churches in the mountains while helping missionaries with their construction projects. Tim remembers travelling when he was 13 years old, going with his father to help a missionary build a church. Because that missionary didn't know how to build a church building, the wind had knocked down the walls and rafters soon after he had put them up. Tim helped as his dad took the rubble on the ground and created a

Left: Brian Hofer works to assemble power distribution boxes for missionaries' solar power systems.

church building that would stay standing even when earthquakes hit.

Later, that same missionary had a thriving ministry teaching children how to read so they could read the Bible to their families. The ministry had so many children that they needed a bigger outhouse. The missionary knew that he needed a strong concrete floor in his outhouse to protect against the termites, but he didn't know how to build it. He ended up getting materials that did not work to reinforce the concrete in his outhouse floor.

Tim said, "This poor missionary was doing the best he could, but he was spending way too much money. And the Lord just said, 'Tim, I want you to learn how to make an outhouse floor so that you can help other missionaries do it correctly.'" This was the Lord calling Tim as a teenager to help missionaries with the technical challenges they faced on the field.

When he returned to the USA, Tim chose to earn his architectural engineering degree because

he would learn about 17 different fields of engineering including structural, mechanical, electrical and hydrological. His plan was to take what he had learned and help missionaries with technical aspects on the mission field.

The Lord brought Tim and his wife, Chris, together and gave them a heart to go to the mission field. Chris had grown up as a missionary kid in the country of Brazil. They entered then-NTM's training and were on their way to Indonesia—or so they thought. The training centre asked Chris to stay and teach culture and language learning courses for missionaries because of her linguistics training and experience on the mission field. Once leaders saw Tim's knowledge and experience in all those engineering fields, they asked him to come on staff and lead the construction and maintenance department for the training centre.

Part of Tim's role at the training centre was leading the work detail program. In his role he interfaced with all the men in training. Once they arrived on the mission field, these missionaries

Tim wrote to NASA and said, "I'm trying to help missionaries with solar panels. Could you please send me information for using solar panels on planet Earth?"

Below: The OGT warehouse contains equipment vital to mission work in remote locations.



Right: A team installs a solar panel on the home of a believer in a village of West Africa.

Bottom left: A demo of OGT's patented bucket filtration system

Bottom right: OGT equipment enables missionaries to live and minister among the Hewa people of Papua New Guinea.

had many technical questions. Missionaries from many different countries wrote letters to Tim because they knew that he knew a lot about engineering and about the mission field. Tim took time in the evening, after a full day of overseeing work teams, to find answers for missionaries' questions and then write them explanations of what to do.

In 1976, when solar panels were still in the very early stages of use, some missionaries took them to the field and then reported that they did not work. Tim started doing research and learned there was only one solar panel that would work in the heat of the tropics. He bought two tiny solar panels to test how much sun they needed, how to place them and what batteries would work with them. There were no instruction manuals explaining how to set up a solar electric system.

In his research, Tim wrote to NASA and said, "I'm trying to help missionaries with solar panels. Could you please send me information for using solar panels on planet Earth?" They wrote back and



said, "No, I'm sorry, we can't help you because we don't use solar panels on Earth. The only place we use solar panels is in outer space on our satellites. If you find out how to use them on Earth, you let us know so that we'll both know."

So, Tim saved up his money and started testing panels, batteries and charge controllers to find out which ones truly did work together for missionaries. He also recreated the hot and humid conditions experienced on the mission field to see which equipment would hold up. He did not want missionaries wasting time and money to ship equipment to the other side of the world only for it not to work.

After his testing, he was able to recommend a particular set of solar electric system equipment that would work for missionaries. He also explained to missionaries how to care for their



Photo by Nathan Kelm



Photo by David Pierce



Photo by Jonathan Ames

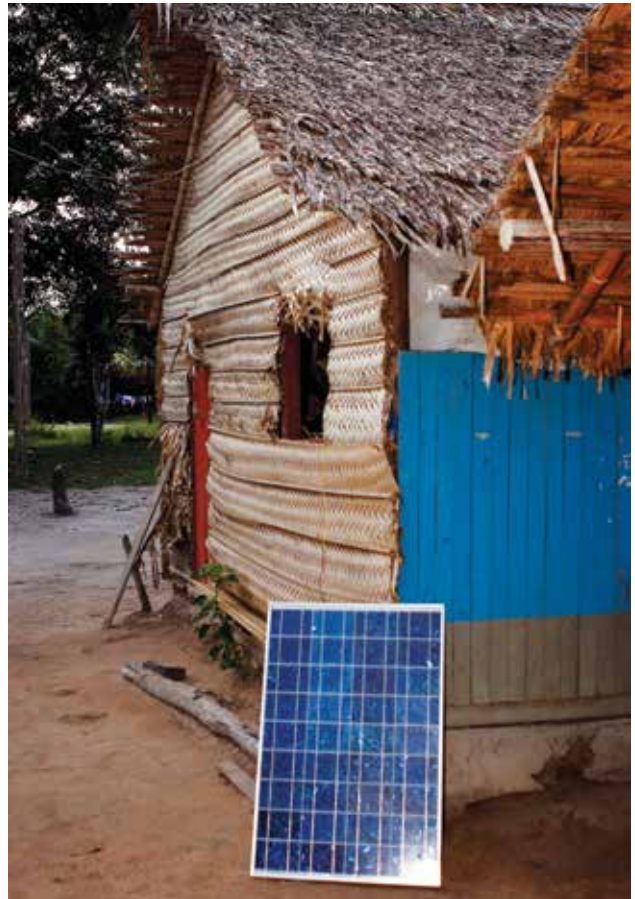


Photo by Dale Stroud

Left: A team installs solar panels on missionary Jonathan Ames's house in Kuyu, Papua New Guinea.

Top: Tim and Chris teaching a lab.

Bottom: The contrast between modern solar technology and more traditional housing represents the life of missionaries living in remote regions of Brazil.

systems so that they would continue to work and provide electricity. This was the beginning of many years of research and development so that Tim and the team at OGT could recommend the best equipment for missionaries on the field.

Sometimes Tim would invent equipment or parts to meet a particular challenge that missionaries had when that equipment or part was not yet on the market. They started making simple fuse blocks for solar electric systems after 18 missionaries' houses mysteriously caught fire. The OGT staff suspected that rats had chewed through their wires. Today fuses or special breakers are built into every system.

Other times God connected Tim with manufacturers who listened when he explained the challenges missionaries had when using the manufacturers' product on the field. They then adapted their product to overcome common challenges like insects and snakes getting in, ants eating the copper out of the wires or the lack of sunlight during monsoon season.

The Book

Eventually one missionary wrote, "Why don't you just write down all of your best ideas, and then I won't have to keep asking these questions because I don't know what questions to ask anyway."

In his spare time in the evenings, Tim started writing down his ideas in a book especially for missionaries. He began by looking through his binders containing hundreds of letters to find the most common questions missionaries had asked him. He explained technical concepts in simple ways that would help missionaries use the information to help with daily living in remote locations. The goal was to have a simple manual that missionaries could use to find the answers to their questions on 32 different technical topics.

Once Tim finished *Tech Tips for Living in Remote Locations* in 1990, he offered to teach its concepts to missionary candidates at the training centre as an elective course. As the students who took the course arrived on the mission field, field leaders discovered that those missionaries could install the equipment they needed in their remote locations and learn the language two years faster than those who did not have that course.

Soon after that, they asked that all missionary candidates take the Missionary Technology course as part of their training. Tim and Chris even travelled to the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada to train instructors to teach the

"Sometimes Tim would invent equipment or parts to meet a particular challenge that missionaries had..."

course to missionary candidates there. Later they added a one-semester Tech Specialist course for individuals interested in supporting overseas operations within an entire field or, at the very least, among their team. They have since begun offering Summer Solar Electric Systems, a one-week seminar to help better equip missionaries in planning and selecting equipment, setting up water and solar equipment and maintaining a solar electric system. Attendees learn about PV panels, solar electric batteries, charge controllers, inverters, fuse and breaker boxes, grounding, surge protection and basic household wiring. The seminar also covers the most efficient types of lighting, fans, kitchen appliances and pumps for use on these systems.

If Tim and Chris had gone to Indonesia as they had planned, they would have been helpful to the missionaries in that country, but the ministry of Offgrid Tech would not have been born. By keeping them in the USA, God multiplied their influence in speeding up the advance of the gospel as they've helped thousands of missionaries across the globe. Over and over God assembled and fit the components in place at the perfect time to help missionaries through technology challenges. Today the team of OGT continues to help missionaries save time and materials, as well as preserve their health and safety, as they work to bring the gospel to those in remote or isolated contexts.

The Philosophy of Offgrid Tech

Purpose driven. Technology assisted.

It's not about incredible technology or the unique tools available. It's not about geographic locations or complex cultural paradigms. It's not even about a specific language or group of people. It's about the only purpose worth investing our very lives for: seeing the hope of the gospel extended to those in remote or isolated contexts.

So why do missionaries use technology, and why does OGT train, equip and support missionaries? The answer that drives OGT is that *time is a non-replaceable resource*.

True Stories

Brian Holmquist Versus Lightning

Because so many missionaries were experiencing problems with lightning, Tim did research to find ways to help protect their equipment and houses.

Lightning doesn't have to strike something directly to cause considerable damage. Even nearby lightning sent high-voltage spikes through the missionaries' laptops, solar electric systems and house wiring and often caused fires or destroyed the equipment. Tim designed a lightning protector into which missionaries could plug their equipment.

After much trial and a "chance" conversation with an electronic engineer, Tim's design was completed, but he didn't have any way to make a several-million-volt lightning strike to test that it actually worked. One day, Tim hooked up his protector to his personal computer, and God provided a horrendous storm complete with a direct lightning strike to the power line and into the wires running to his house. His mother had been editing the *Tech Tips* book on his computer and said that eight inches of fire shot out of the outlet where the computer was plugged in. Despite this, Tim's lightning protector worked, and his computer with *Tech Tips* was saved. God tested out his protector so that Tim could confidently manufacture many more and send them to the field.

In the Missionary Technology course, the instructors at OGT teach missionaries how to discharge the clouds before lightning strikes using tools like lightning rods and ground fields. More recently the OGT team designed a "lightning brush" to help in places where lightning strikes frequently and closely, like Brian Holmquist's house in Papua New Guinea which was close to the equator where the lightning strikes are more intense. The lightning brush they designed was a thick copper cable with its 10,000 tiny wires fanned

out to make a brush to deionize the clouds and protect everything mounted underneath it.

However, because the lightning by Brian's house was so close and so frequent, it melted the ends of most of those wires into thousands of tiny glass-like beads. The team needed to find a different solution for Brian, so they looked for stainless-steel wire that would hold up. They couldn't find any that was the right size until Tim was talking with his Christian dentist one day and found that he "just happened" to have the exact kind needed as he used it to make dentures. They mixed the stainless-steel wire with the copper, and the specially designed lightning brush held up under extreme conditions.

Linda Krieg, a Pioneer in Solar Electric

In 1986, Linda Krieg moved to Papua New Guinea (PNG) to serve in a remote village. Linda was a widow who joined a team working with the Siawi people. During her 27 years on the field, she served as the team linguist and taught the Bible and literacy to the Siawi people. In her later years there, she completed the Siawi translation of the New Testament with some Old Testament portions. She also served as a linguistics consultant and translation consultant for other missionaries in PNG.

Linda was one of the first missionaries on the field at the time to use solar electric panels. Because it was new technology that few others were using, Linda needed to understand how it worked. Naturally, she had a lot of questions. She was so grateful for Tim See's answers to those questions through the years, as he helped her to set up, maintain and troubleshoot her system.

Linda went through the missions training in Missouri before they taught the Missionary Technology class to all missionary students and before Tim wrote *Tech Tips*. While she was there, she got information from Tim on what equipment to buy and how to set it up in the village.

Linda wouldn't describe herself as a "mechanical person," but she felt confident that she could use solar electric panels because she could have Tim talk her through any problems that came up.

Linda was also one of the first missionaries to use both a solar-powered refrigerator and a solar-powered chest freezer. Most missionaries at the time used kerosene-powered refrigerators, which had many problems. The cost of shipping kerosene and the danger of an open flame in a house with a grass roof were serious issues with these refrigerators. After Linda's kerosene refrigerator died, she heard Tim talk about the solar-powered chest freezer and decided to get one, as well as the solar-powered refrigerator. Tim purchased the same solar-powered refrigerator and ran it on his test system in Missouri so that he could answer her questions. Linda was so grateful for her solar-powered refrigerator and freezer that were so much easier to maintain, allowed her to keep food when she was away, and even made it possible to have ice in the jungle.

Whenever Linda came to the USA on home assignment, she would learn about the newest technology from Tim and purchase what she needed to take back. Whenever Tim taught the Missionary Technology course to the missionaries in training, he would tell the men and women in the class, "If a single woman like Linda Krieg can do this, then you can do this too."

In some of her later years when she was completing the Scripture translation, Linda lived in the village alone, without any Western co-workers. During this time, she taught some of her Siawi friends how to help her maintain her solar electric system. Linda says, "My solar [electric] system was what allowed me to be in there by myself. And the Siawis and I could take care of it. I had all that set up because Tim [helped] me."

One of the basic things that OGT teaches is that missionaries should not use a particular technology if it doesn't save them time to focus on their ministry. Years ago, Tim saw missionaries take too many solar panels to the field, and they ended up wasting their time with extra equipment that they didn't need or that wouldn't work well. That is one reason that OGT does extensive research and development—to save missionaries time and money by pointing them to the equipment that will work in their environment.

"God multiplied their influence in speeding up the advance of the gospel as they've helped thousands of missionaries across the globe."

OFFGRID TECH PERSONNEL

Benjamin Baum

Research and Development Engineer

Brian Hofer

Purchasing & Manufacturing Coordinator

Ray Milton

Manufacturing / Production Manager

Ernest M. Jones

Lead Instructor

Tina Jones

Part Time Assistant

Randy Damschen

Director

Tim See

Retired Volunteer/Consultant

Today when the staff of OGT gives missionaries help and advice about how to design their solar electric systems, they encourage them not to go larger than a certain size. The point is that it's not about trying to recreate all the comforts of home in the jungle—it's about saving time and energy to reach people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In Conclusion ...

Much of the above article was written by Tamara See. I then went myself to interview the staff of OGT. To say that I was overwhelmed by what I saw and heard would be an understatement. The care, the concern for safety, the desire to be a blessing—the team at OGT is an incredible display of God's grace and love.

While at OGT, I asked them what items were most asked for by missionaries. The answer? Water filters and complete solar electrical systems, of course. But just as needed are the advice and help that the missionaries ask for to diagnose problems or to choose replacement parts.

Since they work with humans, their biggest challenge is ... communication! Another challenge is the constantly changing cultural landscape in the countries where missionaries serve. As electricity and roads move deeper interior and technology is more available, this affects the dynamics of living. On the other hand, the biggest blessing for OGT team members was being a part of the success of missionaries' ministries. They felt blessed to be able to help provide missionaries with the energy needed to keep them ministering in their respective isolated villages and hamlets.

I ask that you bring the team from OGT before the God of all mercy that He would continue to endow them with the wisdom they need, the creativity to work through challenges and eyes to see the best path forward.

Contributing Writer

Tamara See grew up at the Ethnos360 Training Center in Missouri watching her parents, Tim and Chris See, faithfully serve missionary candidates through hospitality, teaching and the ministry of Offgrid Tech. She served the people of Southeast Asia for 18 years and is currently serving at the Ethnos360 Home Office in Sanford, Florida. She is grateful for her sending church, Riverview Baptist Church of Osage Beach, Missouri, who have been a key part of her ministry since the beginning.

Managing Editor

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



Training and Equipping the Next Generation of Labourers

INVESTING IN OUR BIBLE TRAINING INFRASTRUCTURE

Our distinctive training methodology is critical to missionaries' success and longevity on the field.

The period of two years at Ethnos360 Bible Institute (EBI) in Waukesha, Wisconsin, followed by three semesters of missionary training in Durham, Ontario, establishes a significant foundational knowledge of Scripture, church planting, and culture and language acquisition, preparing missionary candidates to follow God's call effectively.

Our EBI campus in Wisconsin requires updates and some significant repairs. Estimates indicate that these projects will command a \$5 million investment, a necessary measure to prepare our next generation of missionary candidates.

These projects include:

- Addressing structural deterioration within EBI's hollowed-out, underground former coal room which threatens the building's foundation.
- Significant updates to EBI's fire detection and suppression systems, to stay code-compliant and keep students, staff and families safe.
- Renovating two guest apartments at EBI into a new, unified office space for the school's advancement team, who currently perform their indispensable work from a single cramped office in the childcare wing of the building.

TO LEARN MORE:



Andrew Moser, EBI
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go.ethnos.ca/revitalize-ebi



Watch a video about the revitalization
of the Bible Institute.
go.ethnos.ca/revitalize-ebi-video

PRAY Literacy Is Not Their Priority

“During our field conference, I was reminded again of some of the unique challenges our co-workers working among indigenous people face. One expressed to me the challenge of encouraging our friends to see the importance of learning to read.

“As reading has never been part of their lives or culture and since there is little written in their language, spending time learning to read isn’t a big priority. Learning to read and write doesn’t make

them better hunters, help them find wild game or plant their gardens and help them grow. The pressing things that take up their daily lives don’t include reading. It’s never been a habit.

“[Reading is] something most of us probably don’t even think about; it’s just automatic. Pray for these people to desire to learn to read and to read God’s Word as it’s translated into their language.”

—*Randy and Laurie Steel,*
Paraguay



PRAISE Making Hay as the Sun Shines

“There’s an old saying that says that we are to ‘make hay while the sun shines.’ It reminds me of the verse that says, ‘I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work’ (John 9:4). The situation in the country continues to remind us that the night is coming when no one can work here, though we don’t know when that will come. So, in the meantime, we’ve been making our hay as the sun shines.”

After multiple “marathon” weeks of work, Susie and her team were ready to submit their “hay” to the printer: six primers (learn-to-read books) and two

pre-literacy books. They also had six levelled readers (books with little stories to read after each primer) on the to-print list. They also printed a bunch of flash cards for future use.

“It’s exciting how much interest there has already been in these learn-to-read materials! Can you pray that God will raise up people with time, ability and desire to be able to teach these people how to read their language? And that somehow it will be able to be funded in a sustainable way so that even if I leave, it will still be able to continue? Please pray that we’ll be able to finish our teachers’ guides when I get back from this



trip. We’ve been working hard on them, but they still will take a few more days of working together and then a bit of formatting. Then maybe a first literacy class this summer?”

—*Susie,*
West Africa

MK Corner

Chad Mankins was raised in Panama, an MK whose life was unalterably changed with the death of his father at the hands of Colombian guerrillas. Praise the Lord, Chad didn't become bitter and decide NOT to follow the Lord's leading in his life. Here is a glimpse into what the Lord had for him to do.

TWO BELIEVING COUPLES BAPTIZED IN TOBOLAND!

You heard that right! For the first time in 22 years of our ministry among the Tobo people, I (Chad) had the privilege of baptizing four Tobo believers while I was in Stone Village in January and [February]!

It started shortly after I had finished teaching a brief course to the church on believers' baptism. The course included an overview of salvation and our position as children of God. We then walked through what the significance of baptism is, what it is NOT (a means to our salvation or a way to "get right with God" or identification with a specific church denomination) and what it IS (a mark or a picture of our salvation and a way to show that we are a child of God because we have believed in the finished work of Christ).

The course was well-received. Afterwards, Ambox and his wife, Nailen, and Ambox's brother Rams and his wife, Nenare, all expressed the desire to get baptized right away! So we hiked about 10 minutes up the mountainside to a dense patch of jungle where a small calf-deep mountain stream was flowing through a steep ravine. In short order, Ambox made a small clearing overlooking the stream and then hopped down the bank and expertly dammed up the water using rocks and large blocks of clay taken from the cliffs lining the small brook.

About a dozen men, women and children were on hand to witness the ensuing event. I began by baptiz-

ing Ambox. It was such a joy for him to be able to share his testimony, and then, through baptism in the cold, clay-coloured waters sprinkled liberally with colourful flower petals, he publicly demonstrated his faith in Christ in front of his family (some physical, some spiritual, most of them both). After I lifted him back up to the surface, we shared a long embrace and, yes, not a few tears were shed!

Ambox then helped me, and we baptized his brother Rams. ... It was very special to hear this brother's testimony and to witness his quiet and heartfelt joy.

Next, Ambox and I baptized Nailen, who gave a loud and clear testimony of her faith in Christ. It was touching to see the tender affection that Ambox showed his wife during and after her baptism, in ways that are rarely seen between spouses in public in Tobo culture.

Finally, Nenare came to get baptized. Her soft voice quavered with emotion and was barely audible over the sound of the waterfall upstream from us as she said through tears, "I have been a bad woman, and cannot save myself. But I believe and know that Yesu rescued me from the payment of my badness. He died for me and rose again and gave me life!" As Ambox and I plunged her beneath the chilly waist-deep water and then brought her back up again, it was difficult for me to hold back my own tears as I reflected on our many years of ministry and our waiting for this opportunity, this privilege, to be part of something as special as seeing these two dear Tobo couples take this huge step of faith. The Tobo live in an area where false teaching, syncretism and cult activity are rife. So many lead lives fuelled by desperate attempts to curry the favour of God and the spirit world by hard work, crushingly burdensome rules and rituals, and the constant fear of not knowing one's ultimate level of success or failure in all of those efforts. These four men and women have truly been freed, and they gratefully chose this picture of baptism to identify as believers in their Rescuer.

—Chad Mankins,
Tobo, Papua New Guinea



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— attendee —

PRAY

“The Missionaries
Eat Children”



“We were [recently] reminded of just how scared unbelievers are of us. They especially instill fear in their children about going near us. There is one village nearby where most people chose not to hear God’s Word when it was first presented. And we’ve had a few interesting interactions with children from there.

“While we were hiking through there on the way back from our area conference, a little girl started hissing at me and swatting the air at me. By her reaction, I figured she thought I was a ghost. Then a young boy from there came to our village with a relative. He saw [one of our co-workers] and ran all the way back to his village. He ran straight through the jungle instead of following trails. His relatives and parents found him after many hours of searching.

“Of course, people from our village knew what had happened and told us. It was both a funny and sad story to them. They were sad that since the parents have fed lies to their kids about us eating/shooting children, their son almost died.”

Pray that God would remove this fear and superstition from the village and prepare the people’s hearts to understand and accept God’s Truth.

— Paul and Ellen Swenson,
Papua New Guinea

Expand the Reach of the Gospel with Offgrid Tech

**PURPOSE
DRIVEN.
TECHNOLOGY
ASSISTED.**

GIVE

Giving toward a missionary's solar power system or water filtration system is a great way to support expanding the reach of the gospel to unreached people groups living in remote locations.

Paying for the extra expenses of solar panels, storage batteries, charge controllers and inverters can be a huge hurdle as a missionary is getting ready to make the very challenging move to an unreached village that has no grid power whatsoever.

The staff at Offgrid Tech are missionaries supported by their own supporters, which allows Offgrid Tech to offer their equipment more affordably to missionaries from any qualifying organization due to the low overhead costs.

Your donations to the Offgrid Tech General Giving project will go toward offering increasingly discounted equipment for all the missionaries we serve. You also have the option to add a memo to designate your donation for the specific missionary or project that the Lord has put on your heart.

Examples of Past Projects

\$6,600-\$18,000 — Offgrid Tech has supplied hundreds of complete solar power systems for missionary families throughout the years. These systems have a wide cost range depending on the size and needs of the missionary's family and ministry.

\$250 — Over the last decade, Offgrid Tech has supplied thousands of water filters to missionaries at deeply discounted prices. Most missionaries need to purify their own water. Offgrid Tech offers a variety of proven water filtration systems, including one for which we have a patent and that we manufacture ourselves.

Current Needs

Offgrid Tech General Giving: Your gift will be used where needed most when you give to the OGT General Giving project. If you desire to designate your gift for a particular missionary or project, you can do so on the checkout page. Use the "Special Instructions for Finance Team" link in the upper area to designate your gift. Thank you.

Offgrid Tech Non-Cash Donations: Donate tools, equipment or warehouse inventory. Contact us directly at offgridtech.org/contact-us to see if this option is a good choice for you. Offgrid Tech can use certain equipment and tools in our daily operations, pass them on to missionaries or sell the items and put the proceeds towards the Offgrid Tech General Giving project.



Ways to Give
Give online by going to
ethnos.ca/offgrid-tech

PRAY

All Christian ministry is a spiritual battle, so please partner with us in prayer as our team works toward equipping foreign missionary workers who are setting up a home in the most remote corners of the world. Life in general involves challenges and spiritual conflict, and missionaries are in a unique spiritual battle as they carry out the Great Commission set forth by Christ Jesus Himself in Matthew 28:18-20.

Missionaries living in remote areas might be good at building relationships with the locals, learning a new language or teaching the gospel, but they may not be so good at technical aspects of living in a remote location. Your prayers are vital for them to handle all the technical challenges of remote living by themselves.

SERVE

Ethnos encourages all Christians to consider their role in missions. Consider if God would want you involved in a support role with Offgrid Tech.

While we do not currently have any open positions at Offgrid Tech, we are always praying for engineers and experts who have a heart to assist us in design and consultant work (chemical, mechanical, hydraulic, biological and electrical) whenever the need arises.

Contact us to discuss ministry opportunities at offgridtech.org/contact-us



CONNECT WITH YOUR MISSIONARIES



JOHN & RACHAEL BURBIDGE

AND NATHANIEL

Church Planting in the Philippines

Sent by Bancroft Bible Chapel, Ontario
and Mundaring Church of Christ, Australia

Connect with John & Rachael at
ethnos.ca/john-and-rachael



Both John and Rachael placed their trust in Christ for salvation at an early age, having been raised in Christian families.

John was introduced to the needs among unreached people groups by a missionary speaker at his church in Ontario. Rachael has known about New Tribes Mission for as long as she can remember, as her home church in Australia supported a number of missionaries.

After completing her training to be a school teacher, Rachael moved to Paraguay to serve short-term as a teacher in 2007.

She saw firsthand the impact

of the gospel among the Ayoré people and decided to complete Ethnos' missionary training before moving to the Philippines in 2015.

After completing his missionary training, John moved to the Philippines, and has been serving among the Agta people since 2003.

In 2020 Rachael was serving at a regional supply centre for missionaries, overseeing book-keeping, guest rooms and supply buying for missionaries living in remote communities.

When missionaries had to move into the cities due to lockdowns, God brought John and Rachael

together. They were married in 2021 in the Ethnos helicopter hangar.

The following year they moved back into Agta and resumed literacy classes among the Agta.

Pray for the Burbidges as they finish their maternity-leave and return to the Philippines later this year, with their son, Nathaniel.

Over the years, the Agta people have moved from having a superficial form of Christianity to having a genuine faith in Christ.

Pray for the Agta believers as they mature in their faith.



MARGARET MEED

Serving in West Africa

Sent by The People's Church, Somerville, New Brunswick

Connect with Margaret:
ethnos.ca/margaret-meed



I was born into a Christian family and grew up on the campus of New Brunswick Bible Institute (NBBI) where at a very young age, I asked Jesus into my heart. I don't remember what I actually understood of the gospel at that point, but I am confident in my salvation because I believe that I am a sinner saved by the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

I was very active in my church growing up, serving in nursery, Awana, on the worship team, and missions committee to name a few. I also volunteered at Sandy Cove Bible Camp in the summers. Living at NBBI

and attending a missions-minded church, I was exposed to missions frequently. In high school I learned of a particular unreached people group and realized that all tribes and languages will be represented in heaven (Revelation 5:9). I realized that someone would have to bring these people the gospel. This is what got me actively thinking about long-term missions.

Upon graduating from NBBI, I enrolled in missionary training with Ethnos Canada in 2020, where God directed me toward serving among the people of West Africa. Following the regular training, God then

led me to take an advanced linguistics course with Ethnos360 in Missouri. After spending a year raising my support, I arrived in Senegal in January 2024. I am now in the process of learning French and West African culture. This will equip me to partner with the local African church as I move toward ministry with a more remote people group.

I am excited to be a part of God's work among the unreached people groups of West Africa with a focus toward linguistic and translation ministry.

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AND WATCH
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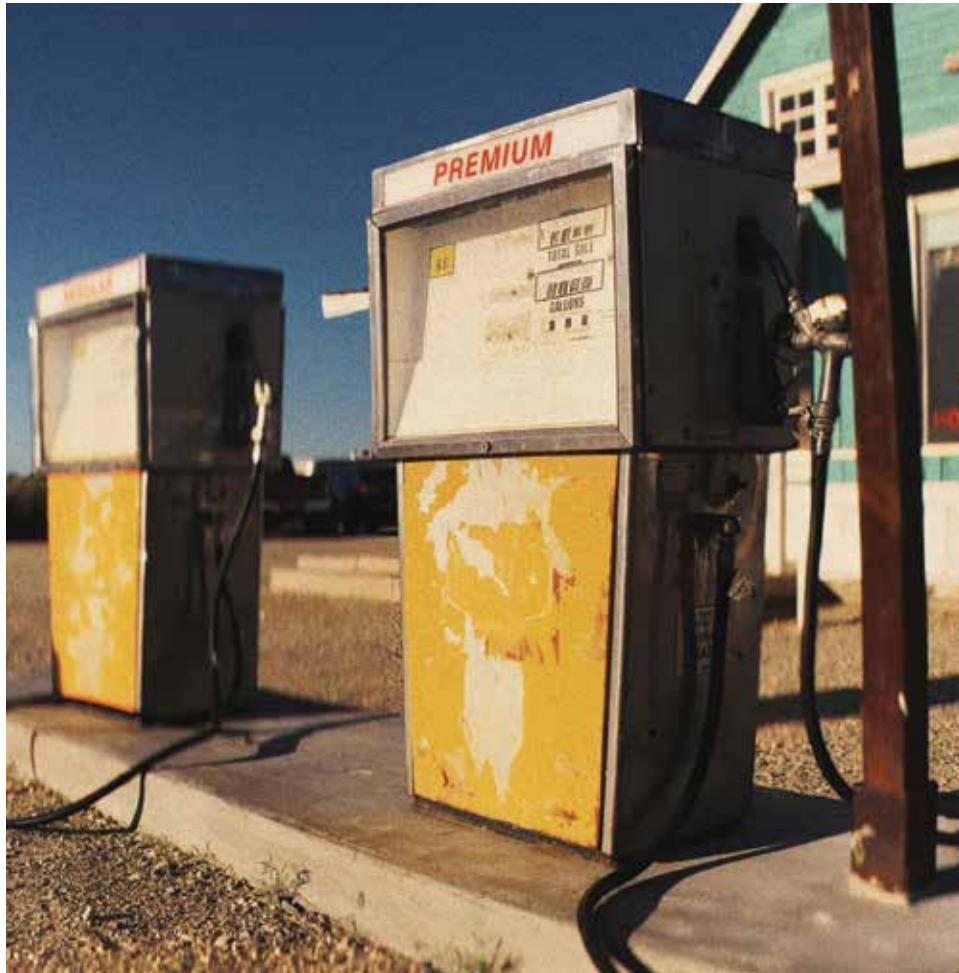


Photo by Carl Nenzen Loven - unsplash

The doctors said that my dad would never walk again. After teaching all day in one of the remote churches high up in the mountains in Haiti, he set up his jungle hammock to spend the night. But he severely injured his back when rats chewed the ropes off one end of his hammock. As he was recovering in Michigan, all of us kids pitched in to help make ends meet for the family. At age 17, my job was to service 650 LP gas customers. In my spare time, I pumped gas at a little country gas station. God had a plan—I just didn't realize it!

Decades later while doing construction and maintenance here at the Ethnos360 Training Center in Missouri, I received a satellite phone call from missionaries in Africa. Following their contingency plan, they had stashed an emergency supply of diesel fuel for their Land Rover in the jungle halfway to the northern border. But they just heard that the rebels were coming from the north! They urgently asked if I knew how to make diesel fuel in the jungle!

Decades earlier a semi driver had coasted into that little country gas station, his fuel tanks empty. Little did I know that he was part of God's plan. Since we didn't sell diesel fuel, he bought specific quantities of motor oil and kerosene which we kept on hand for heating the farmers' milking parlors. I watched him carefully mix the two, pour it in his tank and drive away.

Every small village that I had visited in Africa sold kerosene at the corner store to light their homes. And almost everyone kept used motor oil to help repel ants and termites. After I explained how to filter used motor oil with a roll of toilet paper, they were soon ready to evacuate to the south.

Some may say, "It just so happened," but I believe God had a plan.

A few years ago, I was helping in the mountains of Asia Pacific. One of the ladies was suffering from the severe effects of carbon monoxide poisoning, but every time she was flown out for medical attention, the symptoms would fade. But way

back at age 17, while helping the family make ends meet, I was taught that LP gas pressure must be adjusted precisely to 0.41594 pounds per square inch to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Because of her high elevation in the mountains, her gas oven was receiving far more gas than it could burn. The unburned gas created huge amounts of soot in the oven—and deadly carbon monoxide.

But as part of His plan, God also provided a way to measure the gas pressure very accurately without all the fancy tools, and I learned this when I was in charge of the 650 LP customers when I was 17. We tied a scrap piece of clear plastic tubing to an old stick, filled the tubing half full of water, and measured the distance the water moved as we adjusted the pressure. That night, after we cleaned all the soot out of her oven, I was treated to one of the best pieces of freshly baked pie I have ever had!

I know it's not glamorous, but it was an outhouse that God used to challenge me to offer my life to help others on the mission field. There was only one more place on his property that one missionary could put his outhouse, so the hole had to be deep enough that it would never fill up. But because termites were a huge problem, he really wanted a concrete floor.

After receiving many conflicting recommendations for the size rebar he should use, he finally chose to buy railroad rails for reinforcement. He did the best he could, but even as a teenager I realized there must be a better way! God used that outhouse floor to challenge me to "present my body as a living sacrifice to God," as Paul mentioned in Hebrews 12:1. God had a plan for my life, and He also has a plan for your life. And only God knows how He will use the lessons you are learning NOW to be a blessing and a help in years to come.

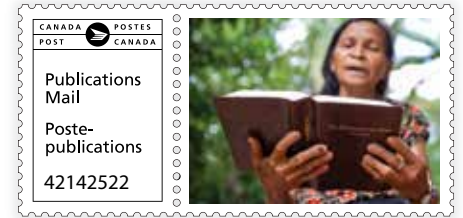
Have you considered presenting your body as a living sacrifice?

—*Tim See,*

Retired volunteer/consultant with Offgrid Tech

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