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ETHNOS

magazine

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FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

This issue of *Ethnos Magazine* explores why thorough preparation matters for cross-cultural ministry. Bruce Enemark's feature takes us inside the Ethnos360 Training Center in Missouri. And although his article focuses on the American program, the principles it describes also shape the missionary training we provide here in Canada.

Eighteen years ago, my wife, Mel, and I moved with our children to the community of La Princesa in Paraguay. We had gone to bring the gospel to the Nivaclé people, but first we needed to learn their language and culture.

The Nivaclé language was challenging. One example of its complexity is, whereas English has three articles—*a*, *an* and *the*—Nivaclé has more than 30. The article a speaker chooses can communicate whether someone is alive or dead, present or absent, near or far, if they are known to the speaker, and much more. Which article should be used when speaking about the apostle Paul's relationship with Jesus?

I remember watching Nivaclé toddlers run around our home and longing for the day when I could speak as well as they did. At times, fluency seemed almost impossible. But the training Mel and I had received equipped us for the demanding work ahead. We studied cross-cultural church planting in Durham, Ontario, then completed more specialized language training in Missouri. There we studied phonetics, phonemic analysis, discourse analysis and practical techniques for learning another language.

In 2003, this linguistics course was incorporated into the missionary training program in Durham. Now, after a two-year pause, Ethnos Canada is preparing to relaunch the program in the fall of 2027.

As you read Bruce's article, I hope you will see why this kind of preparation remains so important. Then, on page 14, Matt Gunther explains what the relaunch means for Ethnos Canada and how you can pray — and perhaps consider whether God is leading you to be trained.

Our desire is to equip missionaries who will serve with humility, learn language and culture well, and communicate the gospel clearly. We long to see them contribute to the establishment of thriving churches among Unreached People Groups and to the completion of the Great Commission.

Yours in Christ,

Shaun Humphreys

Chief Executive Officer
Ethnos Canada

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Cover photo: Nathan Kelm



A TRANSITION YEARS IN THE MAKING

When I agreed to lead Ethnos Canada in 2010, I told the Board I could commit to four years. Sixteen years later, I am incredibly grateful for the privilege God has given me to serve in this role.

I never expected to stay on the Executive Leadership Team for the rest of my ministry. Kathy and I have always had a heart to return to the field. At the same time, I knew a healthy ministry could not be built around one leader. We needed to make room for other leaders to grow and prepare for the day when someone else would carry this responsibility.

That is where Shaun Humphreys came in.

In 2020, Shaun was one of four men added to Ethnos Canada's Executive Leadership Team. Shaun had already spent 16 years with his wife, Melanie, serving among the Nivaclé people of Paraguay. He understood cross-cultural church planting, the joys and struggles of field ministry, and the importance of a team working together.

I saw in Shaun the experience and character needed for this responsibility. In the spring of 2022, at my request and that of the rest of the leadership team, the Board appointed Shaun to serve alongside me as Co-Executive Director.

Some of you will remember that we introduced Shaun in the March 2024 issue of *Ethnos Magazine*. We shared how our different strengths allowed us to care for people better and lead Ethnos Canada together. But we did not explain clearly enough that this was also part of an intentional succession plan.

This past February, Shaun formally became CEO of Ethnos Canada. This was not a sudden change. It was a plan we had been working toward for years, and it had my full support from the beginning.

I want you to know that Shaun continues to have my complete support. He is a gifted leader who loves the Lord, cares deeply for people, and believes strongly in the work God has given the Church to do.

I am grateful to Shaun. His willingness to take on this responsibility has freed Kathy and me to follow the Lord back to Asia. For many years, that has been our heart's desire. With my return to the field, my stepping off the Executive Leadership Team is now complete.

This is a big change for Kathy and me, and for Ethnos Canada, but God is not changing. He was the One leading before I became Executive Director. He has been the One leading throughout these past 16 years. And He is the One leading Shaun and Ethnos Canada now. That gives me tremendous confidence as we move forward.

Would you pray for Shaun and Melanie? Pray that God will give Shaun wisdom, courage, and grace as he leads. Pray for the Executive Leadership Team as they serve alongside him. And pray that together, as churches, missionaries, and supporters, we will keep our focus on the work God has given us: bringing the gospel to people who are still waiting to hear it.

Visit *go.ethnos.ca/mag-leadership* to learn more about Shaun and Ethnos Canada's Executive Leadership Team.

Yours in Christ,
— Tim Whatley

NEWS AROUND THE WORLD



SUPPORT WORKERS NEEDED IN MEXICO

Our time in Mexico found us attending the Ethnos México conference. Nearly all the missionaries with Ethnos México come together once every two years for a time of relaxation, of encouragement from God's Word and of sharing with each other what they have seen God doing in their different ministry locations. This was so exciting to hear; [however,] the growing number of missionaries working in Mexico comes with a new set of challenges. They could use support workers as well as those directly involved in church planting.

—Jonathan and Rachel Willcock, New Tribes Mission UK

Are you interested in a support role? Explore how God can use you here:

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NECESSARY HARD COPIES OF SCRIPTURE

The final check on Job, Joel and Amos [for the Higaunon Bible translation] is all complete. It has been rechecked for any errors and is now on their phone app, along with the other books of the Old Testament that [the Higaunon] already had. Also, we were able to begin printing hard copies of our revised teaching program and Old Testament books. These are all on their phones, but there are many situations where they will need access to hard copies as a backup for the phones when there is no power available or when phones die.

—Ron and Michelle Jennings, Philippines



LESSONS FOR "P" BIBLE TEACHERS

The "P" people of Southeast Asia Mainland met together for a time of Bible teaching. "God answered abundantly with safe arrivals, eager students, wonderful teaching sessions and safe border crossings for those returning to their country. It was a joy to watch as God's Word was clearly taught from beginning to end in 61 lessons. The 'P,' [being] in more comfortable circumstances, were challenged by the diligence and sacrifice of those coming and ministering at great risk.... We know the prayers of many were a vital part."

—Dave and Fran, Southeast Asia Mainland



A CHALLENGING CONFERENCE

This year the [national church] leadership meetings and conference were held in [a mountain town], which is fairly remote for everyone that attended....The Lord provided great weather and minimal distractions, and we can say that all in attendance were able to head home having been well fed spiritually. Bill shared the teaching time with two other men, and they focused on Christ's work on Calvary as the source of salvation, the source of sanctification and the source of our secure future with God for eternity. Please pray for those in attendance as they all departed with the challenge to follow God and be obedient to His Word.

—Bill and Karen Michaud, Papua New Guinea

CULTURE CORNER: COLOURFUL TRANSPORT

"A goat, or *chiva*, is the name used in Colombia for a traditional bus from rural regions, used to transport not only people but also goods and animals such as chickens and pigs. For this reason, in the region where we live it is called *mixed*.

"From the comfort of the city, the *chiva* is often seen as a picturesque means of transportation, whose handcrafted replicas are bought by tourists.

"However, in the place where we live, the *chiva* is not picturesque at all—much less something you would consider using to move your household."

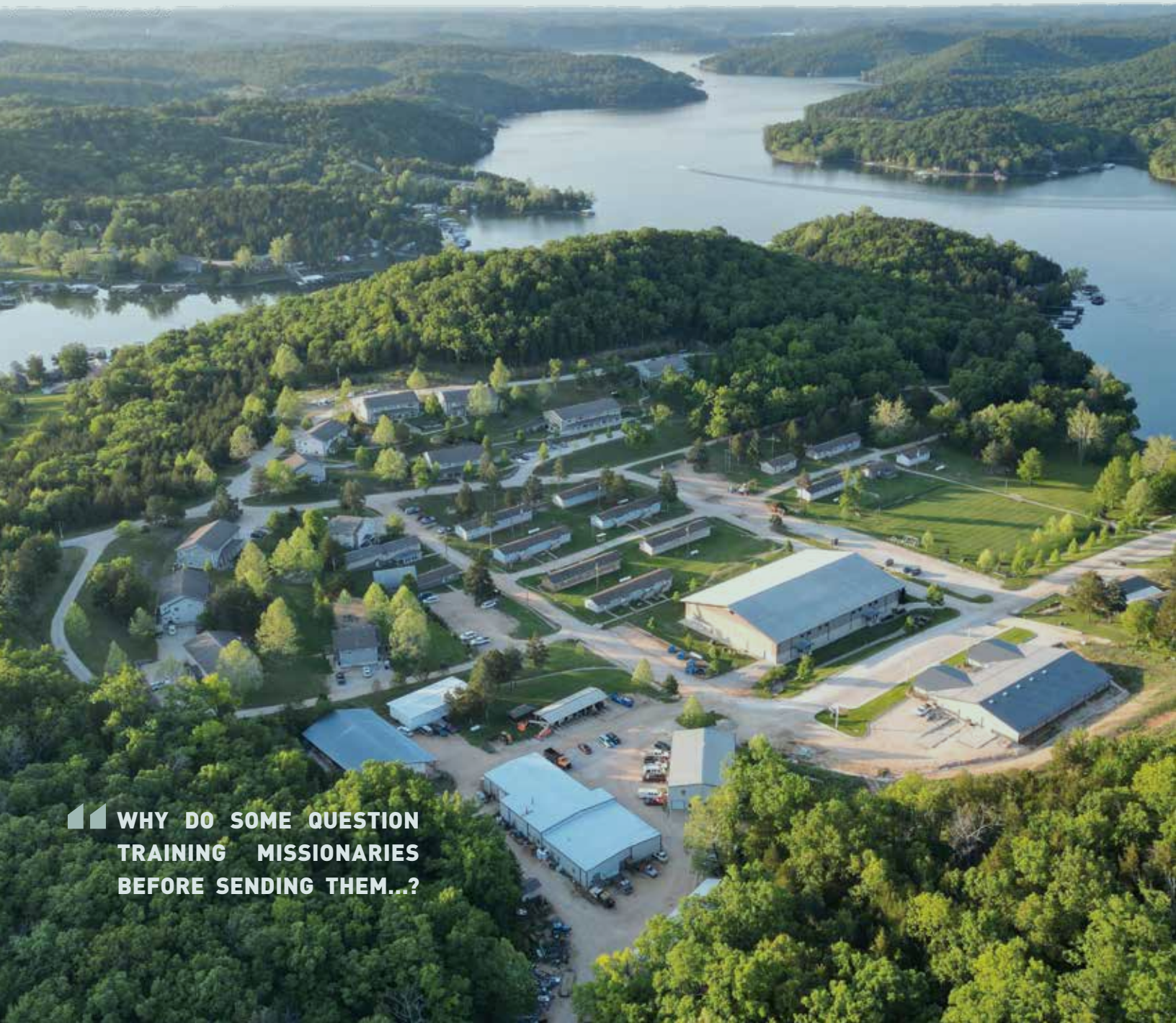
While Hans and Liliana travelled to their new home by boat, their furniture—including their tables and refrigerator—travelled by *chiva*. Because it got stuck in the mud several times, it took the *chiva* driver 27 hours to travel the 57 miles!

—Hans and Liliana Frank, Colombia



3 BILLION UNREACHED

The World Needs You Equipped



WHY DO SOME QUESTION TRAINING MISSIONARIES BEFORE SENDING THEM...?

Ethnos360 Training Center Director Brian Coombs





Photos by Nathan Kelm

There are still people alive today who have never heard the name of Jesus.

So why would we spend years training before going to them? Nobody questions training a pilot before handing over the controls of an airplane. Nobody questions training a surgeon before handing over a scalpel. So why do some question training missionaries before sending them to the world's unreached people groups?

Training wheels, training exercises and on-the-job training—we understand the word, but what does *training* really mean? Training can be defined as the process of learning the skills or knowledge needed to perform a particular job, activity or task **effectively**.

The March 2026 issue of *Ethnos Magazine* gave you a look into how Ethnos begins to train young (or older) students how to study the Word of God, how to apply it to their lives and how to share it effectively. In other words, Ethnos360 Bible Institute is teaching to make the students ***proficient*** **in their knowledge and use of God's Word.**

In this issue, though, we want to look at **the next step in the process of getting prospective global workers (missionaries) ready to reach the unreached.** Allow me to introduce you to Brian Coombs, the director of Ethnos360 Training Center, located on the beautiful shores of the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri. With the exception of very few Ethnos360 global workers, all of us have spent many weeks at the centre. Let's let Brian tell us why.

Why ETC?

Motivated by the love of Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, Ethnos360 exists to assist the ministry of the local church through the mobilizing, equipping and coordinating of believers to evangelize the least reached people groups, translate the Scriptures and see indigenous churches established that glorify God.

"This is the purpose statement for Ethnos360. Here at the Ethnos360 Training Center (hereafter ETC), we exist to accomplish the ***equipping*** portion for Ethnos360. We prepare believers to share the gospel, disciple new believers and help churches become strong and able to reproduce.

"We want to help prepare every part of a candidate's life for ministry. This training happens in the classroom, through mentoring, during outreach and in ministry practicums both on and off campus.

"Our classroom training has four main areas: Christian Living, Cross-Cultural Church Planting, Practical Skills, and Culture and Language Learning. Classes meet from 8 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday. In the afternoons, each candidate works on a campus work detail. This keeps costs lower and helps candidates to learn new skills and to build strong work habits.

[Another integral part of the training/equipping curriculum at ETC is mentoring.] "Mentoring has two parts at ETC. The first part is personal mentoring. Each candidate has a mentor and usually meets with that mentor once a week. During this time, one of the things a candidate works through is a personal growth plan. This plan supports what they learn in class and helps them grow in godly character.

"The second part is setting up training teams. When candidates arrive, we place them on a team. This team works together in many settings. Team members have opportunities for teamwork, conflict resolution and

OUR STAFF HAVE MORE THAN
1,000 years
OF MINISTRY EXPERIENCE.





↑ Phonetics
← Practical Skills
↓ Simple Living



Photos by Nathan Kelm

practicing clear communication. They meet each week and plan for a practicum called Simple Living. They also serve together in our Custodial practicum. Both Simple Living and Custodial practicums give candidates real-life, hands-on teamwork experience.

"This year, we began an off-campus ministry practicum. We send students off campus, where they put many classroom principles into practice. Experienced staff go with them. These staff members give input, lead debriefs and help when needed. We are still shaping this practicum, but it will likely last two to four weeks. We thank the Lord for this open door as we train the people He has entrusted to us.

"We also offer extended training. Our Advanced Linguistics Course goes deeper than our regular program. Students learn how to create an alphabet and study the grammar and flow of an unwritten language. This course ends with a two-month practicum.

"We also offer Tech Specialist Training. This intense five-month course gives hands-on training in electrical work, solar power, water filtration and other skills. These skills help workers live and serve in remote places where people still need to hear the gospel.

"An incredible team makes this training possible. Together, our staff have more than 1,000 years of ministry experience. Everyone at ETC is involved in training our students. This includes the building and grounds team, mentors, bookkeepers and classroom teachers.

"In 2002, I visited a village in South America. Under the wing of an airplane, I met a man who had heard the gospel from missionaries. He looked me in the eyes and thanked me, through a translator, for giving my life so he could hear the gospel. I worked on maintenance at the time, but he understood that the Great Commission takes a whole team. Each person has a part to play. That is what we train for."

Training in What?

So, what is actually taught or modelled at ETC? I was able to get a few of the staff to let me in on what they teach. For some of the instructors, the decision to minister at ETC came after years of on-the-field service; for others it was different factors that led them to Missouri.

NATHAN AND KAYLEE KELM

"When I (Nathan) was 18, my parents became associate members of New Tribes Mission (NTM) [now Ethnos360], and we spent my senior year in Bolivia. I was already moving toward full-time ministry, and God used that experience to direct me toward missions. Kaylee learned about NTM and Bolivia through a family her church supports.

"After training, we went to Bolivia with the intention of church planting in an unreached people group. However, as we finished our national culture and language study, we were redirected into the Bolivian training program, where we spent eight years teaching national believers to do cross-cultural church planting. We had the joy of sending one of our students to the people group we had hoped to work with! My main role there was teaching culture and language acquisition (CLA), [a process] which we had just spent two years putting into practice ourselves. As a couple, we mentored students toward ministry readiness.

"When God allowed chronic health issues to bring us back to the USA, the ETC was a natural fit. I continue teaching CLA as my main ministry role, as well as mentoring, serving on the leadership team and using my love of photography to provide photos of campus life. As Kaylee's health improves, she has supported various ministries in administration, Bible study and hospitality."





BOB AND SONYA HAZEN

Bob grew up in Pennsylvania, and Sonya grew up in Canada. They were both saved as children, and they had the privilege of hearing stories about church planting and support work from NTM missionaries. After high school, Bob completed missionary training with NTM in the USA while Sonya went through the training with NTM in Canada before moving stateside for the language school part of training.

"We met here in Missouri during our training and were married in 1983.

"In October 1984, we moved to Liberia, Africa, and began working in a remote people group, [but] in 1990, civil war broke out, forcing us to leave the country.

"Since there was no end in sight to the war, we moved to Ivory Coast in 1991. We were involved in a number of ministries there. In 2002, we were forced to leave the country due to civil unrest there.

"In 2003, our mission leadership asked us to be involved in the training of missionary candidates. That is what brought us to Missouri, back where we first met. We have served here since July of 2006 — so 20 years!

"Together we team teach some classes — Stewarding Time, Communication, parts of Teamwork and Practical Spirituality — and mentor students who are [in the training].

"During our years on the field, we saw how vital classes like Teamwork are. Learning how to deal with conflicts that can arise between co-workers and learning how to be a good teammate are so important to staying on the field and functioning well as a team. Practical Spirituality classes are also important not only for the mission field but for living the Christian life wherever we are.

"Learning to steward time well is also [necessary] in the life of a missionary. They must make their own schedule and decide how to divide their time between studying language, being with the people they want to reach, maintaining their home, being with their families, keeping in touch with their financial partners, and on and on.

"During our years on the field, we were involved in several different ministries. We are able to talk with students about living in an isolated village, struggling to learn the language. We have also been in different support ministries on the field, so we can share what it is like not to be right on the 'forefront' but to serve with joy those who are. We can definitely encourage them that no matter where they serve or what ministry they have, God is always, always faithful and keeps His promises."

GREG AND HEIDI GREENLAW

"We served for 27 years in Papua New Guinea (PNG); the first 15 years were spent planting a church among the Nakui, and then we served for an additional decade supporting and shepherding [the missionary team] in the Sepik Region.

"We primarily teach in the Practical Spirituality thread. We teach topics such as teamwork, singleness, women's roles, marriage on the field, childrearing on the field, sexual integrity and leadership/followership. Heidi and I team teach many of the classes and mentor students as well.

"We touch on these topics in view of mission field realities. Fostering a mutual understanding of these practical issues helps keep our organization's culture more homogenous. I believe it's because we have (and have always had) this 'in house' missionary training that our organization can operate with the tremendous unity Heidi and I experienced on the field. Two years of 'onboarding' often pays decades of dividends.

"The more technical classes equip our new missionaries with the tools they need to learn unwritten languages, create alphabets and literacy primers, translate [Scripture] and [develop] Bible lessons.

"Our 27 years in PNG fuel the content of what we teach. For 20 of those years, I served as a culture and language consultant, visiting our interior teams every six months during their early years of learning culture and language. We worked with all types of teams among all types of villages. During the decade that we served as field leaders, we witnessed firsthand what causes teams to unravel … and reconcile. In the church plant [where we served], we experienced many frustrating times and also some glorious moments. We raised six children in PNG, each of them unique in personality and malleability. When Heidi talks about child training, she speaks from broad experience and brings it to life with living examples.

"We want all aspects of our training to be focused on *principles*, not rules, but we mustn't get stuck in the realm of the theoretical. The practical principles must be animated by real scenarios for them to be relatable, meaningful and memorable. That's the reason field experience matters so much."

Missionaries share insight from their personal experience with missionaries-in-training.



Photos by Nathan Kelm

BEN AND CRYSTAL NIELSEN

"I (Ben) learned about NTM from a former pastor who was, himself, a former NTM missionary. After hearing about the mission and that there were unreached people groups in the world, I decided I wanted to be a missionary. I attended NTBI from January 2010 to December 2011, and that is where I met Crystal. Once Crystal and I got engaged, I no longer thought missions work was an option due to Crystal's health problems. However, after 10 years, the Lord challenged my heart with serving in a support role here in the USA. After much prayer, we decided to step out in faith and see if the Lord would raise the support we needed. About a year later, we finished our initial ministry partnership development [building a prayer and financial support team] and arrived at ETC to begin serving.

"I serve as the volunteer coordinator, on the grounds maintenance team, and by drawing our campus maps and floor plans. Crystal serves as the assistant volunteer coordinator.

"While we have been serving at ETC, I have been able to work with the students who serve on the grounds work detail team. I have been able to teach them many skills in the realm of gardening and landscaping; however, I believe the biggest thing we teach them is how to do their work well as to the Lord."

Does It Work?

That's all well and good to express the desires and hopes of the staff, but is it effective? Can anyone give a clear testimony to the efficacy of the training? YES! I'm going to introduce you to a number of former students from ETC, and I think you'll see quickly that it does work.

I was able to get in contact with Laura Joachims, ministering right now in West Africa. When asked about her choice of training agencies, she responded, "I had friends who trained with Ethnos360, and I was able to see how well prepared they were to enter the field. I knew I was called to go to the unreached, but I had no idea how to do that well. I knew I needed training, and Ethnos360 had the most extensive program I could find!"

"We looked at many sending organizations, all with great people involved, but we chose Ethnos360 because everything the organization does is for the purpose of seeing a mature church among unreached people groups. That really makes Ethnos360 stand out."





"No other training program that we know of provides students with this sort of training in such a robust way."



Jimmy and Shelby Stewart are ministering with Ethnos360 Aviation, after initial training at ETC. But with his piloting skills, what made them choose ETC? Shelby said, "My husband and I have been passionate about reaching the unreached with the Good News of Jesus through aviation for years, but we weren't sure which organization we would serve with once it was time to move in that direction. We looked at many sending organizations, all with great people involved, but we chose Ethnos360 because everything the organization does is for the purpose of seeing a mature church among unreached people groups. That really makes Ethnos360 stand out."

How about someone who really wants to be a church planter? Why choose a two-year course when they are so eager to share the Good News quickly? Josh and Carissa Bell are ministering in West Africa. His response? "We chose ETC because of its focus on training church planters to preach the Good News among the least reached. Because of this very specific goal that we had in mind in ministry, ETC was our first choice to receive the necessary training and discipleship. No other training program that we know of provides students with this sort of training in such a robust way."

There is a young family engaged in ministry in a creative engagement environment, so I'll forego the husband's name; I'll just call him "H." They aren't in a "normal" location with freedoms and openness to share the gospel. Why did they choose ETC? "I chose ETC because it was the next step! Before going to EBI, I already decided that I wanted to serve with [this organization]. I knew their goal, establishing maturing churches among the unreached; I appreciated their methodology; and I was impressed by the members I had already met—not because they had magnetic personalities or larger-than-life charisma, but because they were humble and godly. Some of them had planted churches, translated Bibles or served for a lifetime in other roles—all of them had sacrificed—yet the only person they wanted to talk about was Jesus and the people He died for. So, I thought, 'Whatever training, whatever community produced people like this, I want to be a part of that.'"

Length of Training

Remember that by definition, training involves making someone effective. When asked about their thoughts on the length of training at ETC and whether the two-year training was indeed effective, the missionaries responded in this way.

Laura said, "It's definitely a big time commitment, and for those who are eager to get to the field quickly, it









"I quickly discovered that the work Ethnos360 does is an extremely lengthy and arduous journey. Missionaries need to be well-trained and ready to endure the course."

Photos by Nathan Kelm

can be intimidating. I was much more focused on learning how to do the work *well* than how to do it quickly, so the length of the program was never an issue for me. I also developed some of my closest relationships during those years, so I cherished the full time I had in training. As with so many learning experiences, the more you learn, the more you realize [what] you don't know! I don't think it's possible to have a training program that **fully** prepares you for everything cross-cultural ministry will require; we keep on learning our whole lives in the midst of ministry."

I asked Gaby Gutierrez, a young lady serving in Brazil, her thoughts on the length of the training program. She was not shy in her explanation. "It was the reason why I chose it! I did feel like all the classes were necessary and helpful for helping set up expectations and teaching new skills... or even for learning to think about things I wouldn't know *how* to think about. I actually left feeling that it could've been longer." Thankfully, there is ongoing training for missionaries while on the field, so Gaby will keep learning!

Shelby Stewart responded with honesty and transparency: "The length of time initially intimidated and frustrated me. My husband and I had been in ministry



for years, both with overseas experience, and had college degrees from Christian universities. I didn't see the need to *seemingly* prolong our arrival on a foreign field when there is so much need [on the field]! However, I quickly discovered that the work Ethnos360 does is an extremely lengthy and arduous journey. Missionaries need to be well-trained and ready to endure the course. **ETC's training absolutely does that.** Even as support workers, it is so important to know all the ins and outs of church planting so that we can be as involved as possible in the work. I am so thankful for all the classes we took."

There was another responder who is now married to a pilot. Her name is Valerie Mikkelson. She said, "Though two years of training, in addition to the prior time taking Bible [classes], initially sounds like a long time, I saw those two years as an investment toward decades of ministry. Knowing that I was spending a couple of years receiving training that would increase my effectiveness and longevity in ministry for potentially *the next fifty years* (emphasis added by editor) felt completely worth it to me."

And "H"? He was so logical, practical and honest in his reply. "I knew that training with [this organization] would be an investment; I counted that cost before I signed up. But the alternative was more intimidating. Moving my family halfway across the world, learning a new culture and language and having a fruitful ministry after just a short 'crash course' in cross-cultural ministry sounded like wishful thinking. And besides, I don't think I was at a place of spiritual maturity at that time to uproot myself from community and grow on my own. Not that we're ever 'sufficient' for what God has before us, but I'm thankful for the four years [including the two years at EBI] of the investment of others in my life before striving to invest in others by the Spirit.

"There were classes that seem to be unnecessary for our [present] context. For example, Simple Living, where we practiced living primitively as a team in the woods, didn't seem to have application for life in a metropolis. But the lessons I learned about myself and about teamwork were invaluable. Plus, now I know how to process a whole chicken, which might come in handy soon! When I finished, I was both thankful for the entirety of training and also ready to leave! Two years does seem like a long time at first, but the pace of training allows for [two] of the most important aspects of ETC: relationships and mentoring. Relationships with peers, with mentors, with the community and with a local church take time, and that's not something to push against.

"I'm glad I didn't rush overseas with youthful zeal and good intentions. I know that I'm equipped and grounded to last in hostile territory and bear fruit as I depend on Christ and my teammates."



For more on the discussion about zeal and taking time to be trained well, check out this Ethnos360 podcast episode.

The Classes

The question came up about Laura's favourite or most beneficial classes while at ETC. She commented, "I loved all of the language classes! It's fascinating how the Lord created languages and [gave us] our ability to make so many different sounds. There are so many other things I learned in class that 'became part of me' which would be difficult to articulate clearly, but I know what I learned at ETC shaped me to handle the unique challenges of adapting to culture, working in teams and clearly communicating God's Word."

And Josh in West Africa? "Worldview was excellent. It was practical, and I have found that it reshaped the way that I analyze the world around me while also helping me better identify barriers and teach the biblical story in other contexts. The fact that it was principle based, with practical, real-world examples made it possible for me to wrap my head around the ideas and principles. These principles have guided me as I have studied a number of different worldviews."

Valerie had slightly different favourites. "Foundational Bible Teaching (FBT): Even though I have been a Christian for years, I have struggled, at times, to see the metanarrative [the overarching theme] that runs through the Old and New Testaments. However, the FBT class gave me a front row seat to the relationship between the Testaments.

"Culture and Values: Our creative God blessed mankind with a variety of languages and cultures, and I loved getting to learn about the differences among them.

"Ministry Partnership Development: This class gave me practical tools and principles for doing the intimidating but faith-strengthening work of developing a ministry team—a vital part of ministry and a chance to pour into others who have poured so much into me."

Shelby explained her favourites like this: "My two favourite classes were Worldview and Education and Families. The Worldview class taught me just how much I don't know about the mind of unreached people and just how deeply rooted their beliefs are. It will take more than a simple one-time evangelism moment

"It's not just school; allow the Lord to really work on your heart and shape you into the person He wants you to be, no matter where He leads you." I think that holds true for any believer at any time in their life.



Photos by Nathan Kelm

"It is the Word which equips us to transform the world-views of others. Without solid, deep roots in the story of Scripture, we have nothing to offer others."





Do you want to know more?

Everything you want to know about ETC
ethnos360training.org

to change the belief system of an entire people; it takes years, decades even, to get to the roots of those beliefs.

"The Education and Families class eased a lot of my anxieties about raising a family overseas. We received great tools to care for our family emotionally and spiritually through culture differences and transitions. We also gained insight into how educating our children will look when it is time for that."

Useful or Useless?

Think back to your days in Geometry class. What was *the* favourite question? "When will I ever use this in my real life?" Taking that thought to the places of ministry, are these classes useful "in real life"? Did the teaching they received "stick"?

Jimmy and Shelby were able to dip into their new knowledge before even getting to the field! They said, "While home for the summer, we were meeting with supporters, churches and friends. We were able to answer nearly every question thrown our way (or answer pre-emptively) about the work we will be involved with *because of the classes and interactions with seasoned missionaries at ETC."*

Josh and Carissa are helping Africans in West Africa to be ready to go to the unreached in their own countries. Josh said, "I daily use the tools that I learned in Phonetics and Worldview. These two courses were incredibly helpful in my ability to communicate the truth of Scripture to others."

Our friend "H" commented on that question: "Right now, I'm learning the language and culture of [this country] alongside my wife (and I guess our two kids are also learning!). We constantly find ourselves in situations or conversations that would tempt us to make assumptions. We ask questions to find the answers we've already decided are true, and that type of thinking can go undetected. But our courses in Culture and Worldview have equipped us to ask better questions and to adopt the attitude of a learner. I could go on about lessons in teamwork, phonetics, the local church and more!"

And in Brazil, Gaby answered, "Since I have arrived in Brazil, I have thought many times to myself, 'Wow, everything I learned at ETC was so true and accurate.' The things they said to prepare for happened, the methods they taught us are working for me, and they painted a good picture of what life will look like."

Life Application

When asked about any advice that Laura would give to someone contemplating being trained at ETC, her succinct answer was, "It's not just school; allow the Lord to really work on your heart and shape you into the person He wants you to be, no matter where He leads you." I think that holds true for any believer at any time in their life.

Josh responded quite eloquently: "Two points of encouragement from me on this one. [First of all,] dig in and pursue real, honest conversations with your trainers at ETC. Seek friendships where you can learn from those training you. Aim to trust God to cultivate these friendships where you can sit at the feet of others and appreciate their different perspectives. [Secondly,] even if classes are about ministry, make sure that the depth of your [personal] studies in God's Word grows deeper and deeper. It is the Word which equips us to transform the worldviews of others. Without solid, deep roots in the story of Scripture, we have nothing to offer others. We may be able to speak the language well in a culturally relevant way, but without a vibrant growing study of God's communication to us, we have nothing valuable to communicate."

In the Future

I have been challenged by the comments of those I interviewed. I went through the training a few years ago, but I needed to be reminded that even here in the USA, I can use what was taught to us back then to see changes in my own neighbourhood or church family.

I think that "H" said it so well in his advice to prospective ETC students. Look at his comments and apply them to your own situation, to your own "training centre" where God has you.

"Don't get too busy. ETC is like a greenhouse, so take the time to grow. When you're on the field, hardship and difficulty will come, but green branches don't burn. So, take the time to grow. Know your staff and teachers. Invest in mentorship. Ask questions. Memorize Scripture. Practice your gifts. Learn from one another. And enjoy time with the Father."



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 for the Harvest

The preceding article has shown why Ethnos360 USA invests so much in preparing missionaries before sending them to serve among Unreached People Groups. Ethnos Canada shares that conviction. Our training centre in Durham, Ontario, is a sister school to the Ethnos360 Training Center in Missouri. Both exist to help prepare believers for the demanding, long-term work of cross-cultural church planting.

For more than 55 years, Ethnos Canada has trained missionaries at its Durham campus. Hundreds of graduates have gone on to serve in the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Asia Pacific, Mexico, Brazil, West Africa, Central Asia, and the Canadian Arctic. Through their work, the gospel has been proclaimed, disciples have been made and churches have been planted where people once had little or no access to the Good News.

The need for this preparation has not changed. As the preceding article makes clear, effective missionary training reaches far beyond the classroom. Candidates need practical skills and a sound understanding of culture and language, but they must also learn to depend on Christ, work well with others and persevere through hardship. Their walk with God must remain at the centre of everything.

A NEW CLASS IN 2027

After a two-year pause, Ethnos Canada will relaunch its missionary training program in the fall of 2027. Preparations are already underway as staff review the program, ready the campus and prepare to welcome a new class. We remain convinced that training Canadian missionaries in Canada is an important part of pursuing our vision: a thriving church for every people.

Jesus told His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest” (Matthew 9:37-38).

WILL YOU PRAY WITH US?

Pray for the staff and leaders shaping the renewed program. Ask God to give them humility, wisdom, grace and genuine care for each person entrusted to them.

Pray that God will call men, women and families to come, provide for their needs and develop in them the faithfulness and resilience needed for cross-cultural ministry. Pray also for the churches that will disciple and send them.

COULD GOD BE LEADING YOU?

If He has given you a desire to help bring the gospel to people who have never heard, missionary training in Durham may be your next step.

Learn more and begin the conversation at **ethnostraining.ca/request-info**

The task is great, and the opposition is real. But Christ’s promise still stands: “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).



Training Leadership Team

Matt Gunther was challenged towards missions as a child by a visiting missionary’s slideshow in his church. After completing Ethnos’s training in 2003, the Lord directed him to join the training team at Ethnos Canada, where he has served for the past 23 years with his wife, Joan. Cecil Lake Christian Fellowship in British Columbia is their sending church and has faithfully held them up since they began their ministry with Ethnos Canada.

CONNECT WITH

YOUR MISSIONARIES



JACOB & BETH DEVINE
JONATHAN, NAOMI

Serving in Papua New Guinea

Supporting Cross-Cultural Church Planting Through Guesthouse Ministry

Sent by Woods Harbour Wesleyan Church, Woods Harbour, Nova Scotia

ethnos.ca/jacob-and-beth

Jacob and Beth serve as guesthouse managers in Papua New Guinea. Jacob also trains Papua New Guinean carpenters in the centre's carpentry shop and assists with construction and maintenance projects.

Together, they oversee national co-workers who cook, clean, maintain the gardens, shop, and transport guests. The guesthouse welcomes short-term work teams, vision-trip participants and families visiting missionaries. By providing a welcoming, well-run place to stay, the Devines support missionaries and ministry teams serving throughout Papua New Guinea.

The Devines are currently visiting relatives, friends and supporting churches in North America. They look forward to returning to Papua New Guinea in July 2027. Jonathan is eager to rejoin his classmates at Numonohi Christian Academy for Grade 9, while Naomi is excited to return to her friends in Grade 5.



TRAINING FOR **WHEREVER GOD LEADS**

I highly recommend the Ethnos missionary training! It was during this training that my heart was challenged by God's heart for the nations and I was equipped to go and serve cross-culturally.

The training is incredibly well-rounded, covering everything from Christian life principles such as teamwork, the gospel, living in unity, and navigating conflict, to practical aspects of missionary life like living in community, serving alongside others, church planting, and learning language and culture. It provides hands-on opportunities to grow in character, build relationships, and learn what it looks like to live and serve alongside others with different backgrounds and perspectives.

The training not only deepens your understanding of God's heart for the nations but also equips you with practical tools and skills to serve effectively in a cross-cultural context! Whether you hope to serve with Ethnos, join another organization, or stay in Canada and serve in your local community, this training will be a valuable asset. The lessons and skills you gain are applicable far beyond cross-cultural missions and will equip you to serve others and live out your faith wherever God leads you!

Katie Wright just arrived for her first term in Papua New Guinea. She is sent by Central Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta

Sending **CHRISTMAS GIFTS** to Missionaries

To help ensure that your missionary receives your donation before Christmas, please choose one of the following options:

- **Cheque:** Mail a cheque payable to *Ethnos Canada* early enough to arrive by November 25.
- **Online:** Give at **ethnos.ca/give** by November 25.
- **Interac e-Transfer:** Send your donation to finance@ethnos.ca by November 25.

Donations processed through Ethnos Canada qualify for an official income tax receipt. The missionary receiving the funds is required to report them as taxable income.

If you would prefer to send a **personal gift**, please contact your missionary directly to ask whether an Interac e-Transfer is the best option.

Before mailing a package overseas, please check with your missionary. In some countries, customs duties, taxes and related fees can exceed the value of the gift. Mailing cash or cheques internationally is not recommended.

Questions? Call 1-844-855-6862 or e-mail finance@ethnos.ca

go.ethnos.ca/christmas-gifts

Finding My Place in the Great Commission



This summer, I had the opportunity to put my full faith and trust in the Lord. He asked me to take a risk and surrender to Him. As a result, I was able to see His goodness at work and how intentional He is.

While interning at Ethnos360, I was able to turn my vague question of "What is missions?" into "How can I be a part of the Great Commission?" Before coming to Sanford, Florida, I had little knowledge of the mission field, and I didn't really understand how I could be a part of God's heart for the nations. Little did I know that He had the entire summer waiting for me to find out.

God started opening doors to this stateside internship toward the end of April, and before I knew it, I was on my way to Florida toward the end of May. I soon discovered that I would be a part of the Communications team as a Digital Marketing specialist! I am currently going to school for Media Communications, so I was very excited to see how God would use the skills I've acquired in school here at Ethnos360. **Not only did I gain reassurance in the gifts God has blessed me with, but I've been able to obtain experience and wisdom that I will be able to carry with me no matter where I go.**

The community God placed me with during my time here is one I will never forget. Not only were the other interns open to new friends, but the staff and volunteers were too! Everyone made it so easy to adjust to a new home and to make strong connections. It didn't matter that I had never been here before nor that I would be leaving. I cherished my time here and all those around me. It was because of their warmth and kindness that I was able to embrace the short-term change.

God's goodness and intentionality this summer was shown through His people, the work and His greater purpose. I get to go back home with new-found confidence in Him and encouragement to answer the questions that I was asking myself before my time with Ethnos360. There is room for each of us in the Great Commission. I can't wait to see how God uses me.

—Maddie Buzzard, Summer Intern with Communications, Home Office, Sanford

ethnos360.org/short-term-trips/internships

PRAISE A Peso a Day, Given in Faith

The Higaunon church holds a conference for all church leaders, deacons and their wives twice a year. This is a time of encouraging one another through teaching and reporting on what God is doing throughout the region. A few years ago, the women decided (unbeknownst to the men) that they would each save one peso every day to support their mission work. (It takes about 60 pesos to equal one U.S. dollar.) At that next conference they presented a motorcycle to one of the Higaunon missionaries. It came as a complete surprise to all the men! The women have continued this practice, and this year they presented two Bible teachers with motorcycles. A single peso may not seem like much, but when combined and given in faith, it is amazing what God can do with it.

—Lance and Laura Ostman, Philippines



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PRAY

God Is Working Throughout Papua New Guinea

Bill and Karen Michaud spent a month visiting with different churches in Papua New Guinea, providing hands-on help, consultation and encouragement. They returned with the following prayer requests:

Pray for the Menya church as they "adjust to the reality that their 'spiritual parents' [the expat missionaries who lived there since 2007] are not going to be with them any longer." Pray that they will continue to grow in the Lord.

In Kuyu, people are learning to read in the Kuyu language, and the missionaries are gearing up to teach the chronological Bible lessons for the first time. Pray for the team as they translate and prepare for the teaching. Pray that God will prepare the Kuyu people's hearts.

Praise God that in Dom, the church now has a new church building.

Pray for the Mihi church as they transition into a new season; the missionaries will not be returning. Bill, along with two believers whom Bill is discipling from the Gimi people group, "spent many hours together [with the Mihi church leaders], talking about the needs of the church, discussing plans for two outreaches and helping them understand how to be good stewards of the resources that the Lord has entrusted to them." Pray that the leaders will shepherd the church with Jesus, the Good Shepherd, as their example.

PRAISE

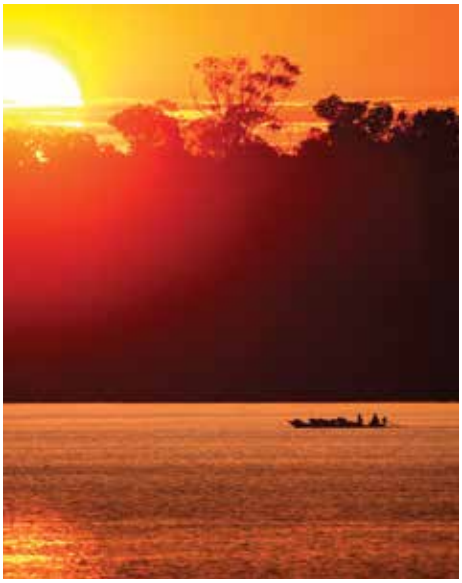
Hundreds Learned About Mission Aviation

In July, a group travelled to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, to represent Ethnos360 Aviation at EAA AirVenture, the largest annual aviation convention in the world. Praise God that it was an encouraging and fruitful time. The team had conversations with hundreds of people, and several aviators showed interest in serving with Ethnos360 Aviation. Young people learned about the possibility of serving in mission aviation in the future — a career choice many are not aware of when considering how to serve the Lord! Some people heard the gospel, possibly for the first time, and some received gospel tracts. Though 10,000 aircraft flew to the show, no accidents occurred, and the show ended before a tornado caused devastation just north of Oshkosh.



From Head Knowledge *to Real World Experience*

I was a participant on the **Brazil Encounter 2026 trip**. I think this trip was impactful for me in a few different ways. Though this was my first time out of the United States, I



grew up in a mission-minded home and was always immersed in knowledge of what missions looks like globally. I think this initially impacted me in some interesting ways since, in going to Brazil, I expected to be met by culture shock but found that I experienced very little of that—a good reminder that everyone we meet [regardless of culture] is merely a person made in the image of God, going about their life despite differences of language or culture.

I think one key take away for me was that, though I have a rich knowledge and understanding of missions, many people do not. I was very convicted by my lack of sharing with others the need for church planters, Bible translators, [and others] to go to the myriad of unreached people groups who are left without contact to the message of the gospel. As Romans 10 says, "And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?" and "How shall they preach unless they are sent?" If we are not actively sharing with those who could go the need for people to go to the many unreached people groups, *how will they know of the need?* And if no one goes to them, how will they hear and believe the Good News of the gospel? I'm so thankful for my time in Brazil, getting to experience [engaging with] a part of the global body of Christ, my brothers and sisters; it was truly such an unforgettable blessing. This has definitely continued to confirm my desire to serve on the field somewhere long-term, and I can't wait to see how the Lord in His sovereignty will continue to open doors and opportunities for me.

—*Hannah*



Photo by Joel Potter

go.ethnos.ca/mag-arctic-canada-moa

Help bring the Good News to the Inuit

Ministry in Arctic Canada is costly and requires careful planning. Ethnos Canada is conducting a multi-location Ministry Opportunity Assessment in nine Inuit communities.

On the first visit, the team listened to residents, learned about the local dialect and ministry needs, and heard people express a desire for spiritual renewal.

Your generosity will help complete this $115,500 project by funding visits to the seven remaining communities. The findings will show where ministry teams can serve most effectively. They can then learn culture and language, build relationships and prepare to clearly share the gospel.



PRAY The Dominions of Darkness and of Light

I (Jordan) have been developing Bible lessons comparing the Domain of Darkness [and] the Domain of Light. The indigenous believers often struggle to distinguish between natural and supernatural realms. For instance, they ask, "Why is taking a pill considered natural and fine in God's eyes, but having a traditional doctor chant and blow smoke over a sick person is not?" To help them, we teach not only the categorical differences between natural and supernatural, but also the fundamental distinction between the powers of darkness and light and their respective dominions.

In a recent lesson, this illustration caught their attention: Just as a fisherman must tire out an exceptionally large fish by letting it repeatedly run before pulling it in, the devil has used his powers for millennia to manipulate people in darkness. He cunningly allows them to feel as if they are getting ahead by submitting to the powers of darkness, but he is actually slowly dragging them to their final destruction.

The realization that they are free from the authority of the devil is mind-blowing for the indigenous believer. However, they often remain fearful. They think, "Maybe God can't help me because I'm a native and not white," or "Maybe God's power isn't as strong as the devil's." Ultimately, their struggle is not a question of knowledge but rather of confidence in God and the supremacy of His kingdom of light.

Pray for wisdom as we disciple these [indigenous] churches and believers. Pray that we would know how to address clearly their cultural objections to many of the truths in God's Word. Pray that we would have wisdom in how to help them repent of sins and grow in holiness.

—Jordan and Rachel Keefe, Colombia

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Eternal Perspective in the Jungle

In this issue of *Ethnos Magazine*—as we read testimonies from staff and alumni—we learned about Ethnos360 Training Center's important work to equip missionaries to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. To most of us Westerners, "the end of the earth" is a good way to describe the beautiful, lush rainforest that is home to the Maliyali people of Papua New Guinea. Jenna Schoch found herself in this remote landscape as part of her Interface trip, a five-week college-level missions course. Here is what she had to say about her trip to Maliyali and the believers she met there.

"My favourite memories from Papua New Guinea are the ones I made in Maliyali. This is a people group in the middle of the jungle—so remote that we had to take an eight-seater plane and then a helicopter just to get there. Maliyali used to be an unreached people group; they had no access to God's Word in their language, and not a single one of them knew the gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ.

"Eight years ago, missionaries moved in and began to learn their language to the point of fluency. They translated portions of the Bible into Maliyali and then taught the people through God's Word from Genesis to Revelation. These unreached people got to hear for the first time of the One True God who exists eternally and created all things. They heard about Adam and Eve and recognized their own personal sin and separation from God. They learned that Jesus Christ, who is God, came to pay the price for their sins and that He rose from the dead. They heard of the truth that God offers forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life to all who place their faith in Christ. Now, more than 100 Maliyali men and women have placed their trust in Christ for salvation.

"While we were there, we got to live with the missionaries and, through their translation, hear the testimonies of the Maliyali believers. One of these believers was Dennis. Not only did Dennis spend about 10 minutes communicating the joys of the gospel to us

in his testimony, but he took it a step further, saying he wanted to encourage us as his brothers and sisters. He said,

'The works of this ground are many, but they all have an end/finish to them. They end, but God's work does not! Therefore, you students, I want to tell you a verse we just heard in Sunday's message, 1 Corinthians 15:58 — whoever does God's work, the fruit of that work will not be lost or fall away. It has a reward! But whether you will take that work or another work, you all must be looking to God continually for strength. And later, will you see our faces again or not, I don't know. But we will see each other again in heaven. When we all see Jesus' face, all of us redeemed ones will be eternally, joyfully residing with Him!'

"Recently, I've been thinking about that idea a lot, especially since I just finished a summer class studying the books of Daniel and Revelation. As believers, we know our Saviour will return and usher us into His perfect Kingdom in the new heavens and new earth that we will dwell in forever. We also know that our Lord will hold us accountable for the decisions we made as His stewards. Am I making choices today that I will be reaping the benefits of throughout eternity?

"My prayer for myself and for you is that being about our Father's business would become the natural instinct of our lives, because we are convinced that it is worth it."

"As those who are joined with Christ, our lives have far greater significance than serving the desires of the flesh. In Christ, we get to serve the One True God as living sacrifices being used for His eternally good purposes. And He even goes so far as to reward us for the service He Himself equips us for!

"All of this goes into the lesson God has been continuing to teach me even now that I'm back home. I've spent a lot of time reflecting on these memories and even rereading my prayer journal from the trip. One of those journal entries from the trip finished with this: 'At the end of the day, I am certain that whatever I am to suffer or sacrifice, You are worthy. And the reward I have in You will cause the tears and troubles of these pilgrim days to fade into the past.'

"I hope that this reminder encourages you as well. The God of the universe wants you to be a part of the amazing, glorious, eternal work He is doing. My prayer for myself and for you is that being about our Father's business would become the natural instinct of our lives, because we are convinced that it is worth it."

Isn't that a powerful reminder to work for fruit that will endure forever? Consider taking a moment right now to ask the Lord to help you focus on the things of this life that will bring Him glory. Consider asking Him what He would have you do today — maybe that is taking your next step towards missionary training, witnessing to your unbelieving neighbour or praying for the work and workers featured in this magazine — and cling to the assurance that **our God is worth it.**

— Abigail Patterson with Jenna Schoch



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Ethnos's vision: ***A thriving church for every people —***
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That's why our Ethnos Training program exists — where future missionaries gain the essential skills to face these challenges. They learn church planting methodology, cross-cultural engagement, literacy program development, Scripture translation principles, and Bible instruction methods that are understandable and transformative in order to leave a growing church that will thrive even after the missionaries have gone.

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