

March 2018

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VISION TRIP
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
23 JULY - 11 AUGUST 2018

YOUR
CONNECTION
WITH
TRIBAL MISSIONS



WHAT IS PARTNERSHIP?

In Acts 13 we read the account of the church at Antioch sending out their first mission partners, Paul and Barnabas. The example of Paul and his partnership in the Gospel with others can be a challenge to our thinking in the west. We tend to think as 'individuals' and ask the question "What does the Lord want me to do?" But for Paul, Barnabas and the church at Antioch, this was a corporate decision as they responded to the Lord speaking. So it was the church that sent them out and supported them in prayer. We see the relationship between those who went and those who sent continue in Acts 14 as they return to Antioch to report on all that the Lord had done. Paul's partnership was not limited to one church. Throughout Acts we read of other members of the team he worked alongside and others who supported him in ministry. Sometimes he was able to support himself financially as a 'tentmaker' and at other times he received financial support from the church at Philippi. The book of Philippians gives us insight into a wonderful partnership that brought joy. Paul was concerned for the welfare and spiritual growth of the Philippians as they were concerned for

him, "entering into partnership with me in giving and receiving" (Phil 4:15). The promise that "God will supply all your needs" was actually to those giving and Paul highlights the way in which giving blesses the giver as he "seeks the fruit that increases to your credit."

Therefore sending out mission partners starts with the local church who can give ongoing oversight and pastoral care but who can also pray and give. We see other kinds of support through Paul's life too; some helped with logistics, bringing a cloak and his books while others gave moral support, encouraging him and standing with him in difficult times.

by David Moore

This issue of the Link explores the importance of partnership at various stages of missionary service. As part of the body of Christ, whether as an individual, church member or working for a mission organisation, we all share the responsibility to reach the lost with the Gospel. Enjoy reading how your partnership affects the lives of those who contributed articles.

Editor

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PREPARING FOR TOUCH DOWN

In July Chris and I, together with our son Jonathan, hope to get on a plane and fly to Papua New Guinea to work in church planting, discipleship and Bible translation. We completed NTM's Bible and Missionary training at North Cotes College a year and a half ago, and with just five months to go before we touch down in PNG, life is beginning to get pretty busy.

Three months ago, we moved back to England after spending a year in Norway, where I am from. Now that we have settled in, full time preparations have begun for our next stop – the mission field. Getting vaccinations done, filling in paperwork for work permits and visa applications and researching what equipment we will need are not the most exciting things we have ever done. However, what we really look forward to is visiting different churches to share about our plans in PNG.

OUR HOPE IS THAT GOD WILL USE US TO FAN THE FLAME FOR OVERSEAS MISSIONS and that He will use our reports to raise up a committed group

to stand behind us - especially in prayer. Although we are excited, we are also nervous about what lies ahead. We are still trying to get used to being parents, Chris is taking some studies and, honestly, neither of us is the adventurous type! Over the next few months, there will be difficult decisions and hard goodbyes. We have had fantastic training and yet we feel inadequate for what lies ahead. Who are we to live amongst a people group who has never heard the Gospel of God's glory before, plant a church and translate the Bible? Without Him, we can do nothing.

WE NEED PEOPLE WHO WILL PRAY THAT GOD WILL PREPARE THE HEARTS OF THOSE WE WILL SERVE, THAT HE WILL ENABLE US, PROVIDE FOR OUR PHYSICAL NEEDS, AND THAT HE WILL FILL OUR HEARTS WITH COURAGE.



CHRIS AND INGRID HUGHES are from the UK and Norway. They have one son, Jonathan (born July 2017). They are enroute to Papua New Guinea, arriving in July 2018, where they hope to serve through church planting and Bible translation.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PARTNERSHIP IN PRACTICE

It has been our joy as a new family working in mission to experience partnership in the Gospel first hand over the last three years. As we met with our church leaders and looked for the Lord's leading we were able to come to a consensus as a church family that the church should send us. We began a period of training and preparation that included a year at North Cotes College. Leaving a secure, well-paid job and transitioning to dependence on the Lord to provide through others was a big step. We were moving from 'independence' to 'interdependence' but in many ways that is how we are meant to live as believers in a body, not 'Lone Rangers'. Each month that went by the Lord provided for our needs. We tried to work out what dependence means practically? Does that mean that we don't do anything? Nehemiah prayed for protection for the city of Jerusalem and then posted guards on the wall.

IN PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT WE CAN BE ACTIVE IN COMMUNICATING THE NEED FOR MISSION AND HOW WE CAN ALL BE INVOLVED.

One useful piece of advice we received was to think widely and contact people who have given input into our lives over the years - Christian teachers, youth workers, friends, people with whom we have served together in ministry. We wrote and looked for opportunities to meet and talk more. We started with our sending church and met with each of the home groups. We received invitations to share more widely, visiting friends and churches in different parts of the country. As the months went by this led to a wide support network with

a focus on prayer. NTM UK encourages members not to solicit funding but to trust God to provide. As we tried to work that out practically we came to a point where we would only share about the financial aspects of support if we were asked directly to do so. We were humbled by the generosity of people who didn't have much to spare and amazed by the 'hilarious' giving of others who gave more than we could have imagined. Others offered different kinds of support such as: advice, guidance, encouragement, hospitality and help with practicalities. These relationships have enriched our lives in a way that never could have happened if we did not need their support.



Now that we are 'on the field' we still need to give time to partnership development. Maintaining and developing relationships takes a lot of time. One book we read suggested allocating 10% of time in the week to this. We write prayer letters, a prayer diary, shoot video updates and phone some of our closer friends and church leaders. The best form of contact is to visit so we are planning to return for a 'home assignment' each summer to see people face to face. We have really benefited from having two church leaders visit us here in Papua New Guinea. They had unrivalled insight into our situation and how to pray, which later proved invaluable for making the decision about sending us back here 'long term'.

THESE PARTNERSHIPS PROVIDE US WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO BE AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO OUR SUPPORTERS AND PRAY FOR THEM IN THE CHALLENGES OF LIVING FOR CHRIST IN THEIR SITUATION.

We pray too that many will be challenged to think through their part in mission, whether they are sending or going.



DAVE, EMMA AND JOSHUA MOORE are from the UK. They have been working in Papua New Guinea since September 2017. Dave works at the NTM medical clinic as a doctor and Emma teaches music at Numonohi Christian Academy. Their sending church is Christ Church Central, Sheffield.



LIBERIA

VISION TRIP

We had the privilege of being part of a three-week summit trip to Liberia in the summer of 2017. It was a small team of only five; my sister Sarah-Jane and my brother Philip and I and the team leaders Norman and Angela McCready. It was initially disappointing that we were so few in number but as it turned out it was the perfect number for the job and for travel.

We went out to help missionaries, Aaron and Amy Speitelsbach, who have been living amongst the Glaro tribe for over five years. Glaro is a very difficult tribal language but they are almost ready to begin teaching the people from God's Word, so pray for them as they make plans.

There were two main jobs for us:

- 1) Build an office with a water tower and a toilet.
- 2) Help with language class preparation.



Emma (23), Sarah-Jane (21) and Philip (20) Wilson are from Co. Fermanagh, N. Ireland.

The weather was very humid to work in but Angela was very faithful in keeping us all hydrated! We got the building to roofing stage, which was more than was expected of us. As a small team we worked well together with only occasional differences of opinion on how things should be done!

The evening literacy classes began when we were there so we helped prepare books for the lessons and attended a few classes with Amy; although given our illiteracy in Glaro we learned more than we helped!

As a young child, my siblings and I lived in Côte d'Ivoire for a few years, so it was special for us to be back in Africa and to spend time working together.

Emma Wilson



VISION TRIP 2018

This year's project will be in Hoskins, PNG
Dates: 23 July - 11 August 2018
Further information:
uk.ntm.org/content/summit-vision
Contact: summit@ntm.org.uk

NORTH COTES

BEHIND THE SCENES

Jeff and Mary Smith joined the staff team at the NTM-UK Headquarters at North Cotes in July 2014.

Jeff, who is originally from Newcastle upon Tyne, serves in the finance office and Mary from Windlesham, Surrey is a part time receptionist for the headquarters.

THEY WERE CHALLENGED INTO MISSIONS AFTER HEARING A MISSIONARY SPEAKING AT THEIR CHURCH.

They realised that you do not need a degree to be a missionary and began training in 1984 at NTM Bible School, which was then situated at Matlock in Derbyshire. The following two years were spent in missionary training, followed by language school both in the USA. After a period of deputation, they arrived on the field of Papua New Guinea in July 1988.

After orientation, Jeff and Mary moved to Hoskins, West New Britain, PNG, serving there from July 1988 to November 1992. Jeff worked as joinery shop manager and construction manager before joining the team in the finance office. Mary worked in the school library.

In March 1994, they relocated to Lapilo, Eastern Highlands, PNG, where they served until joining the team at North Cotes. Jeff worked in the finance office and as insurance manager, business manager and then centre manager.

During the time they spent in PNG, Mary home schooled their four children

Julia, Peter, Kevin and David at various stages in their education. Julia, who lives in the south of England, is married to Chris with their three boys Daniel, James and Luke. Sadly, Peter died in 2009. Kevin is in his first year at university studying computer security and David is living at home and working as an apprentice mechanic at a local garage.

The following Bible verses have been an encouragement to them

"TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING; IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM AND HE SHALL DIRECT YOUR PATHS." PROVERBS 3:5-6

Jeff enjoys anything related to aircraft and driving. In the past he has also enjoyed carpentry. Mary's hobbies include quilting, sewing and crafting.

Even though they have always been involved on the support side of ministry, their service is a vital part of the work of seeing the Gospel going to the ends of the earth.



JEFF AND MARY SMITH are from England and are part of the Headquarters team. Jeff works in the finance office and Mary is a part time receptionist.

SOUTH AMERICA

A LATIN LINK

When we went to Colombia in 1991, we planned to stay there forever. Now, twenty-six years and four country moves later, we find ourselves wondering how we got to where we are now.

Four years ago, we moved back to England to take care of some health needs and see our youngest son finish school and start university. We worked at North Cotes College in a variety of different ways including teaching, and running the short-term missions programme. However, **OUR DESIRE WAS TO RETURN TO MEXICO OR SOMEWHERE ELSE IN LATIN AMERICA** and continue serving there in much the same way we had before.

Due to changes in the NHS laws, and with Jonathan's health needs, we started thinking about the possibility of maintaining our residence in the UK and offering help throughout Latin America. In 2016, we began to do just that.



We have been involved in translating and running several workshops in Spanish, thus giving our Spanish-speaking missionaries the same level of training as their English-speaking colleagues.

The two most notable areas have been:

A discourse analysis workshop, which helps missionaries to understand how to communicate in a clear and natural fashion in the new language they are learning;

A foundational Bible teaching workshop that lays the groundwork essential for presenting the truth of God's Word in a way that addresses worldview questions and understanding and subsequently allows those listening to the teaching to make a clear, informed decision about the Gospel.

In addition to these workshops, we have had the privilege of working alongside missionaries throughout Latin America, helping primarily with their culture/language acquisition and sometimes just listening as they share their burden for the people around them.

IT IS A JOY FOR US TO BE INVOLVED IN HELPING OTHERS STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE IN THEIR COMMUNICATION OF THE GOSPEL.



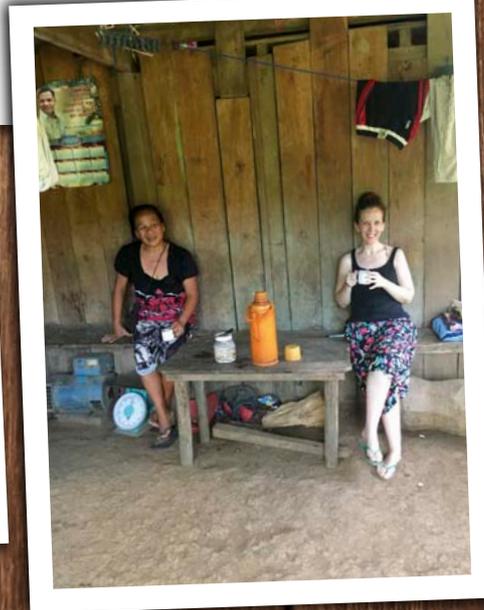
JONATHAN AND RACHEL WILLCOCK and their five children have spent time working among the Emberá people in both Colombia and Panama and have helped establish a church in the village of Chame in Panama. They really enjoy being missionaries.



THE PHILIPPINES ARE YOU STILL WILLING?

It is the most wonderful gift in ministry to witness the Lord raise up a church to know Him, worship Him and to teach others about Him. When we first arrived into a little jungle village on the island of Palawan over a decade ago, we doubted our abilities, we questioned how to do things, we made many mistakes and yet God was always faithful to the teaching of His Word. A maturing church did not happen overnight and it did not happen without many hardships and discouragements along the way.

However, as the Word of God began to be held with authority and affection amongst a group of believers there, God raised up men to be leaders and teachers.



DANNY AND PHILIPPA BROOKS are from California and N. Ireland. They have two children, Isabela (7) and Judah (5). They have been serving the Lord in the Philippines for 14 years.

It was with mixed feelings that we came to realise as a missionary team, that we were not all needed there anymore to lead the church along.

WE HAD TAUGHT, TRAINED AND PRAYED FOR THIS DAY AND YET IT WAS SO HARD TO LEAVE.

At the same time, God was also at work within our own hearts. We had said "yes" to Him twenty years ago when He laid missions on our hearts and He was asking us again, "Are you still willing?" At that time, an opportunity to start again in another village, on another island, was presented to us. It required learning another language and adapting to a new culture again.

THE DECISION WAS NOT JUST ABOUT A NEW PLACE, BUT ABOUT KEEPING OUR HEARTS IN A PLACE OF BEING WILLING TO FOLLOW THE LORD, WHEREVER HE LED US.

We have been living for seven months now among the Ga'dang people of Northern Luzon. We joined a team here and are in the early stages of language and culture learning. We still have struggles and fears, but we have faith in a God who uses our weakness and our inability to keep us dependent on Him and to bring glory to His Name.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As this Link went to print, Danny had just been diagnosed with cancer. Please remember the family in your prayers as they face some big decisions in the coming days.

UNITED KINGDOM

OTHERWISE OCCUPIED

We are Mervyn and Mildred Tannahill originally from N. Ireland. We entered NTM Bible College in January 1990 and then progressed to the USA and then completed our training to become NTM missionaries. We served the Lord in Côte d'Ivoire and returned to N. Ireland in 2002 for an extended home assignment.

During our time at home God redirected our pathway and we were invited to come and be part of the Campus Management Team at NTM, North Cotes. We arrived in September 2004 to take up our respective ministries.

Over the years we have seen God do many wonderful things in the lives of our students and the greatest blessing of all is to see many of them go on to serve the Lord throughout the world. We continue to be encouraged to hear of how the Lord is blessing their ministries among the tribal people, to hear of souls being added to the Body of Christ and to hear of these tribal brothers and sisters desiring to go and tell others the good news of the Gospel.

WHAT A THRILL TO OUR HEARTS THAT THE LORD ENABLED US TO BE PART OF THE TEAM AT NORTH COTES SEEKING TO PREPARE THESE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN FOR THE MISSION FIELD.

Sadly, because of our ongoing health problems, after much prayer and in fellowship with our leadership, Mildred and I took the difficult decision in 2017 to step back from our ministries at North Cotes.



MERVYN AND MILDRED TANNAHILL are from N. Ireland and now live in England. They have two children and five grandchildren.

WE DO NOT WANT TO USE THE WORD "RETIREMENT" FOR AS YOU WILL APPRECIATE THERE IS NO RETIREMENT IN THE LORD'S WORK.

Yes! One may retire from the physical aspects of Christian ministry but not from the spiritual, for the Lord reminds us in Luke 19:13, "Occupy till I return."

We are kept busy ministering to the needs of others and we are thankful to the Lord for trusting us in this ministry. Pray for the work of NTM at North Cotes and for us that the Lord would use us for His Glory.



Outside their home in Côte d'Ivoire in 1998

NORTH COTES UPDATE

VOLUNTEERS

Here at North Cotes we are very thankful for people from countries all over Europe who volunteer to serve on campus each year. Currently we have thirteen volunteers working in the business office (including I.T.), kitchen and nursery.

BUSINESS OFFICE



BUSINESS OFFICE



KITCHEN TEAM



NURSERY TEAM



BUSINESS OFFICE



CAMPUS

The building next to the Headquarters, which was formerly the RAF Medical Block, has been demolished as it was not suitable for development due to its deteriorated state. The refurbishment of the William Carey - single students' dormitory is ongoing. The fire alarm system and emergency lighting have been upgraded in some areas.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

GOD USES PEOPLE

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" [Romans 10:14-15]

It is remarkable that God uses people like you and me to accomplish His plans. When we contemplate the immense task of fulfilling the Great Commission, we may find ourselves wondering if there isn't a better way. I know what I am like, and I suspect that you are not that much different. Moreover, God knows what we are like; He made us. The psalmist expressed it this way, "For he knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust." [Psalm 103:14]

AND YET, GOD INVITES US TO PARTICIPATE IN WHAT HE IS DOING AND TO BE USED BY HIM.

In a sense, He limits Himself to you and me. He has chosen to use the foolishness of preaching to save those who believe. In fact, Paul tells us that this plan of action pleased God. [1 Corinthians 1:21]

We can be certain that God acts according to His will. In other words, God always works in accordance with what He wants. And what He wants is always consistent with His own character. Our participation in His work does not contradict any aspect of who God is.



STEPHEN AND CATHERINE TIBBERTS
Before joining the team at North Cotes in 2010, Stephen and Catherine served in Colombia and Mexico. They have four children, two at home and two in university.

Furthermore, calling frail, needy individuals to labour as His co-workers is not only the right way, but it's the best way for God to achieve the result He wants.

Allow me to suggest a possible divine motivation for including us in the process.

GOD IS RELATIONAL. THIS ATTRIBUTE OF GOD IS REVEALED THROUGHOUT THE PAGES OF SCRIPTURE.

Jesus' prayer in John chapter 17 clearly amplifies this truth. God wants to work with us. He has chosen His team and it includes you and me. I find that truth most remarkable.

The commission to preach the Gospel and make disciples is a command, but it is also an invitation to work alongside our Lord and Saviour. What a privilege it is to participate in His eternal purposes!

IMPACT 4 ETERNITY

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

During a recent visit to Dinangat, Ralf Schlegel was able to spend a lot of time with his translation helpers. He asked one of them whether he would occasionally be able to travel to Goroka (where the mission base is located) to help him with the translation there, or if that would be too much trouble for his family and looking after their gardens? He answered, "There is nothing more important than God's work! Everything else is second and can wait! We started this Bible translation together and we will also finish it together!" Those words were a real encouragement to Ralf, Elli and their co-workers the Markleys and Smiths. He is so right; it is such a privilege to get to do God's work!

The translation of Revelation will soon be ready for checking by a consultant. They also want to finish II Corinthians for this next check, but that is still a long and challenging process. Please pray for wisdom and strength for the translation work!

ASIA-PACIFIC

There are many established churches already in Asia-Pacific. The maturity of the believer's faith varies greatly. Many areas that are now into the second or third generation of the church are experiencing apathy in the younger generations. Many of these believers have known nothing but going to church and registering their religion on their identity card. Their social and religious identities are closely intertwined in a way that is very difficult for those of us from western cultures to understand. Please pray for this younger generation - that there will be those who clearly disciple them and teach them. Pray that they will not only

come to an understanding of the awesome privilege of forgiveness through Christ's death and resurrection but will also respond with a sincere desire to get serious in their relationship with Him.

Pray for David and Chris Price as they serve within a hospital in Asia-Pacific training nursing staff and supporting the local church.

SOUTHEAST AFRICA

The Tawara people in central Mozambique need to hear the Gospel. A church among the Kore Kore in Zimbabwe desired to reach the Tawaras; however, there was a problem. The Kore Kore believers recognised that they lacked the understanding and training for cross-cultural evangelism. The Kore Kore asked Integral Vision (NTM/Ethnos360's global partner in Southeast Africa) for help.

Tony and Maria Verlaan have been involved in the training from South Africa. Tony says, "God, in this situation, has graciously opened our eyes to the Kore Kore church ... so that together we can reach the Tawaras with the Gospel and see a church established by the Kore Kore church, with Integral Vision in the background, consulting and encouraging." An African proverb that they are trying to live out in ministry states: 'If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.' Moving ahead of the African church is 'going fast'; 'going together' is WITH the African church.

THE HARVEST TRULY IS GREAT, BUT THE LABOURERS ARE FEW: PRAY YE THEREFORE THE LORD OF THE HARVEST, THAT HE WOULD SEND FORTH LABOURERS INTO HIS HARVEST.

LUKE 10:2