



Dear Friends and Family,

February, 2015

I have begun writing this newsletter on a flight from Buffalo down to our New Tribes Mission headquarters in Sanford, Florida (see picture above) and anticipate finishing it on my way back... I have the privilege of not only heading into the sun and escaping some cold Canadian winter weather, ☺ but will be attending a Leadership forum for our ministry leaders across North America and some from around the globe. There are new challenges before us a ministry as NTM considers how our work of planting tribal churches is growing and changing around the world... Globalization is changing boundaries, languages, cultures, and religions, not only resulting in greater religious confusion and the clash of cultures, but in some cases even culture collapse. All of this creates not only challenges to the Gospel but unique opportunities as people are on the move and many nations are also now coming to us. As Psalm 2 says the nations truly are "*raging*" around us and we can at times be led to fear, but the Psalm ends with a beautiful prayer between the Father and the Son, "*Ask of me and I will give you the nations for your inheritance.*" As we see "*nation rising against nation,*" I think of Acts 17:26 that says, "*it is God who determines the boundaries of the nations that men might seek Him.*" Praise the Lord that he is sovereignly working through all these events to bring all people groups to Himself! And He wants to use us to do this!

Please continue to pray for the three greatest resources we need the most: people, provision, and partnerships! **Reaching unreached people groups is costly** and the challenges are many and the reality is, it takes time! How long have many of our own churches existed here in Canada to disciple a local body of believers...and yet our NTM missionaries are beginning in most cases from scratch!

Consider the daunting task before them: Having been trained for a few years in preparation, and having raised up a team of partners to send them, they now have to learn the culture and the language of the people they are reaching. (And many times they have to learn the national language of the country first.) They often need to create an alphabet for them and then teach them how to read and write for themselves. They have to then create lessons from the Bible beginning from The Beginning and leading up to Christ, so that the tribal people will have a solid understanding that might permeate an existing animistic worldview that is so dark and hostile to God's heart. By time they come to teaching on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus a number of the people are usually ready to embrace Christ and a church is born. It then takes many more years to disciple the church to maturity and to raise up leaders from their own people that will be sent out to other areas of the tribe to reach their own. And of course to see the Bible finally translated into their own tongue is an enormous task. (Still some 2000 languages do not even have one portion of the Word of God in their language!) This process from the time a young family goes into training to seeing it completed is about fifteen years, minimum. And this is what we are asking folks to commit to as we raise up more labourers across Canada who are willing to go. (You can learn more about our training at www.jointheimpossible.com) It is costly but no doubt worth it when God uses willing vessels to reach a people that was previously lost in darkness. ...People often ask well why not just raise up nationals to do it who are already there? And the answer is that in many places NTM now works there is an incredible



partnership between western missionaries and national workers, and there are places where in fact only nationals can go; but the reality is also that in many remote places where we serve there is yet no national church in that language and culture. The desire is that through our work one might come into existence that can then continue on the task. As you can appreciate it takes a significant team of people to accomplish this!



Would you cut off your finger to hear God's word? Although NTM has received many requests over the years for missionaries to come to a certain tribe we were gripped again by this story we just heard from a missionary family in PNG. One tribal man was willing to cut off his finger (a cultural sign of desperation) in order to get a missionary to come to his village. He couldn't understand why there was no other missionary who might come from North America to meet their need for the Gospel!! Thankfully they were able to convince him to keep his fingers, even though the answer sadly remained the same, "We have no one to send you - but we promise to tell others about your village and maybe they will come...!"



Dom New Testament being edited and prepared for first printing.

During my time at our headquarters in Sanford, Florida I was blessed to see the **Dom New Testament** being edited and made ready for printing. As I shared with you previously, these are the people I grew up with in PNG where my parents served and what a thrill it is to see the faithfulness of our coworkers complete the task, and know that our people are about to get the Word of God in their own language for the very first time. We have been informed that the official dedication of the New Testament won't be now till 2016 and I do pray that we might travel back to PNG as a family for this. However I have been asked to consider going myself early this summer to take a provisional printing of Bibles into the Dom that the believers can begin to use for themselves. A larger more final printing will then be done later. A trip like this is not cheap but it's important for me to get back to the

mission field especially as I represent the work across Canada...and of course it's a real privilege for me to have this part in the Dom work. If you would like to give towards my trip please contact us or our ministry directly. We would be so grateful for your assistance.

Please continue to pray for me as I arrange **Church leaders forums** across the country. April I will be way up in Whitehorse, and we are also planning an area wide missions conference there which many of the churches are excited about. Then in May I will be in a number of cities across Saskatchewan. All of these are done with a desire to both serve the church in these areas and to raise up more labourers to reach those who are still waiting without Christ!

On a personal note: We drove down to Orlando in January to enjoy a refreshing week as a family (thanks to some dear friends who provided us this special time together with a beautiful place to stay) as we also had some ministry business to attend to at our HQ there. We enjoyed a trip on an airboat through the everglades hunting for crocs and even got to swim with manatees, which was quite a unique experience. We are now praying for the **Lord's provision to get back to England** this summer Lord willing, to see Martin's parents (his dad will be recovering from heart surgery) and his sister and family are also home on furlough from PNG and serving at the NTM headquarters there. We have some airline points we can use towards a portion of this but if you would like to help towards our trip or any of our other ministry travel needs we would greatly appreciate it. Thanks as always for your love and prayers that sustain us!



Enjoy the rest of the winter and stay warm!! Love, Martin and Tammy, Cassandra, Cody and Carly

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