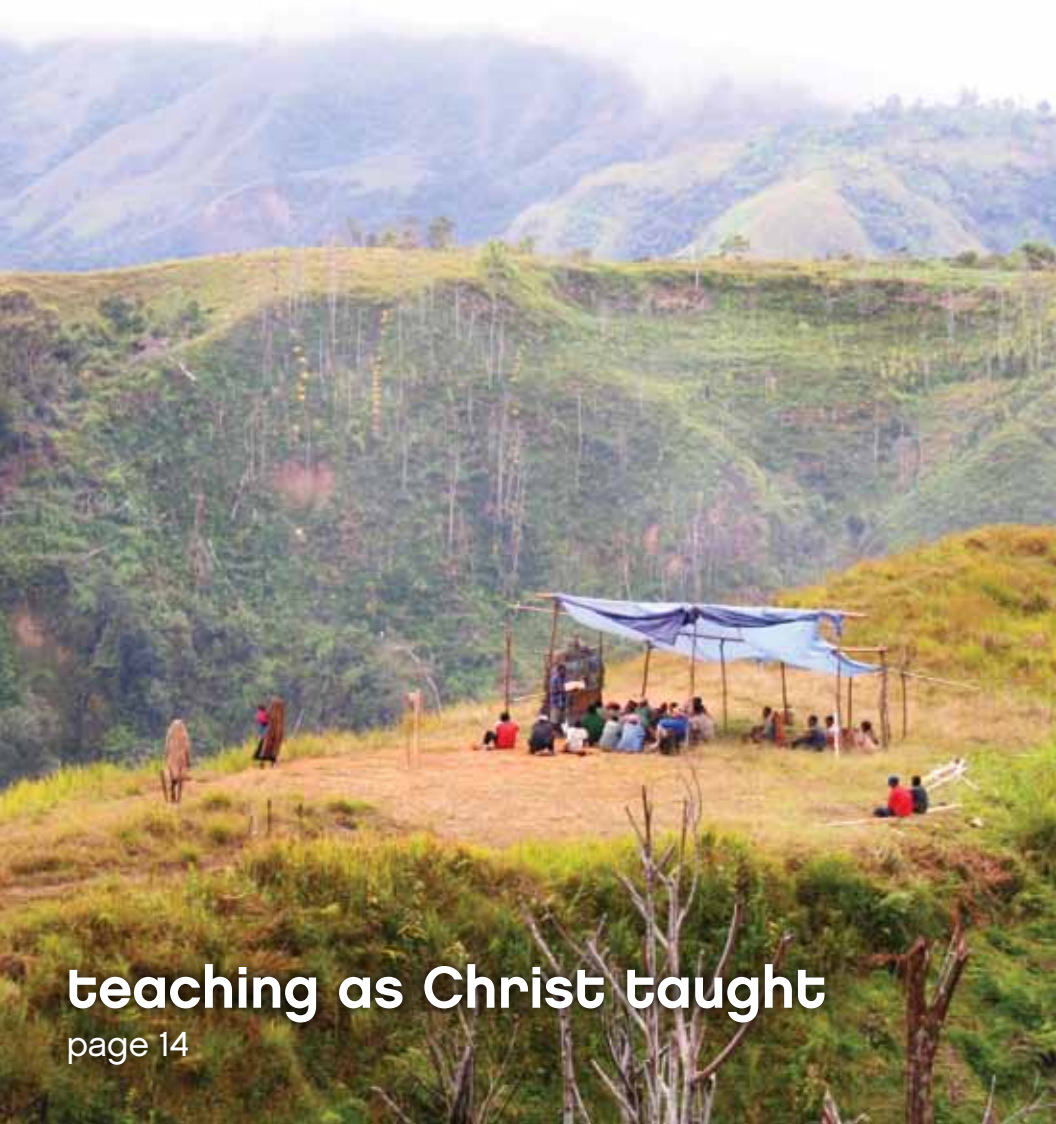


NEW TRIBES MISSION

NTM@work

your connection with tribal missions



teaching as Christ taught

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4 *connect*: Find opportunities to pray, to give, to learn, to laugh and more.



TEACHING THE WAY JESUS DID.

On the road to Emmaus, Jesus started at the beginning and “expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” (Luke 24:27) Stephen (Acts 7) and Paul (Acts 26:22 and 28:23) followed a similar course of teaching. So it’s not just effective to teach from Creation through the ascension of Christ, it also seems like we’re in good company.

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< **Watch video** of Moi people praising God after hearing evangelistic Bible lessons

< **Find news stories** about the Siars and the Akolets hearing Bible teaching

NTM@work

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Right photo by: Keith Higbee







photo by Bill Bosley

Killers of men?

In the Mwinika language the common term for fisherman literally means “killer of fish.” Jesus said to Peter and Andrew, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” The idea in Mwinika is that Jesus told Simon and Andrew “Whatever you did with the fish, now you will change and do that with people.”

For the Mwinika, what they did with the fish was to kill them. “Follow Me, and I will make you killers of men.” Hmm? Somehow that doesn’t communicate the idea that Jesus had in mind.

When translating this verse into Mwinika, Phil and Elin Henderson had to communicate “As you previously searched and tried to find fish, so now you will search and try to find men.”

The Mwinika people are hearing evangelistic Bible lessons as this issue of the magazine went to press. Read their story online: ntm.org/magazine



quicklook

Alexsya knows the Bible teaching she heard — from Creation to Christ — is just the beginning of a new life.

“Jesus’ blood bought my sin. He bought all of it. We have heard the first part of the teaching, but I know that there is more of this sweet talk in the Bible. I want to hear more,” said the young, quiet widow from the Bagwido tribe of Papua New Guinea.

“Before, in our religion, we just jumped around and God’s story was never clear. But when we heard the evangelistic lessons, they started from the beginning and it was so clear.”

—Jinila, Tala Andig tribe, the Philippines

“There’s no better book with which to defend the Bible than the Bible itself.”

— Dwight L. Moody

**And beginning at Moses
and all the Prophets,
He expounded to them
in all the Scriptures
the things
concerning Himself.**

Luke 24:27

“She has a lot of rice
to eat still.”

Robert Smith first heard this Tagalog idiom from his daughter’s mathematics tutor. He understood the words but had no idea about the meaning.

“Is she saying my daughter is skinny? What does that have to do with learning math?”

Seeing the dumbfounded look on Robert’s face, the tutor politely explained the meaning: “She has a long road ahead of her still,” or “She has a lot to learn still.”

The next Sunday in church someone was complimenting Robert on his progress in Tagalog.

Robert replied in Tagalog, “My Tagalog is getting better now but I still have a lot of rice to eat.”

Without hesitation the reply came, “Yes, that’s true. But just keep practicing and you’ll get better.”

— *Robert and Cirena Smith,*
Philippines

Bryan and Shara Moritz



Children: Brayden and Corbyn

Ministry: Building and maintenance

Sending church: River Valley Community Church, Grants Pass, Oregon; Azalea Community Church, Azalea, Oregon

Bryan and Shara were raised in homes that reflected Jesus Christ and both placed their faith in Jesus as their Savior at a young age. Understanding the fullness of a relationship with Christ has been their adventure in life ever since.

Shara’s parents provided them an opportunity to go to Bolivia to visit family members Cam and Mary Hurst, who are NTM missionaries. Little did anyone know what doors would be opened in their hearts. They were blown away with the need for people to hear the Gospel.

What struck them the most was the area of mission support. They were introduced to teachers, dorm parents, government reps, guesthouse hosts, maintenance workers and more. They saw these jobs were vital in keeping the tribal missionaries working in their remote location teaching God’s Word.

“We were hooked when God showed us through this visit that He could use our simple gifts to be a huge part of His Great Commission!”

Bryan and Shara share a passion to encourage and hold up the tribal missionaries, their fellow servants in Christ, in order to see everyone reached with the Gospel.

ntm.org/bryan_moritz

[connect]

Pig's Blood Won't Do It

The Sekadau tribal men cornered the pig at the water's edge. Three spear jabs and the pig was dead. Sunlight gleamed off a knife blade and pig's blood slowly mingled with river water. Another group of Sekadaus crowded around a young woman and her illegitimate child, pushing them into the river.

The lilting incantations of the witchdoctor contrasted with prayers to Jesus, as the woman and her daughter were washed. Somehow the Sekadaus believed her sins, shame, and guilt could be washed away in the blood of a sacrificial pig!

To the young missionary watching from the riverbank, this was a mixing of beliefs. Somewhere, they had heard only partial truth, and then mixed truth with spirit worship. It is a serious problem, one her team is ready to tackle with clear teaching from God's Word in the tribal language.

Hear more: ntm.org/magazine



“This curriculum hits on all the major points of the Bible and leads to salvation.”

— Sunday school teacher about the **Firm Foundations** lessons

Order your copy: ntm.org/magazine



photo by Keith Higbee



He who is too busy to pray is busier than God ever intended him to be.

The latest in fashion

One day I threw an old toilet seat cover in the trash can outside our mission center. The next day we saw one of the Papua New Guinea workers walking around with it on his head for a hat.

— *Annie Earl, Papua New Guinea*

“I am free and I don't want to go back to living like I did before I knew my Savior. Now I'm free to live for Christ. I am so glad I now understand the Gospel!”
— Chito, Pai Tavy Tera tribe, Paraguay

Pizza topped with tennis shoes

One day while having our pastor and his family over for lunch, my co-worker, Rebekah, and I made pizza and I was explaining what toppings were on the pizza. Instead of saying *champiñones* (mushrooms) I said *championes* (tennis shoes). I was gently corrected and we all had a good laugh together.

Another time I was trying to say that I had been tired the past four days, but instead of saying *cansada* (exhausted) I said *casada* (married). I said that I had been married for four days. Oops.

—Jenna Currey, Paraguay

*praise

A good number of Akolets in Papua New Guinea have placed their faith in Christ. Some recognized Him as their Savior before evangelistic Bible lessons were complete. Praise God for their response and pray for them as they embark on their journey with Jesus.

Get up-to-date prayer requests from tribes worldwide:
ntm.org/magazine



Justin and Lauren Rees

connect with...



Children: Paisley and Paxdin

Ministry: Church planting

Sending churches: Cornerstone Community Church, Rockwall, Texas; Muldoon Baptist Church, Muldoon, Texas

"Throughout our lives, God has blessed us with numerous opportunities to see missionaries go, churches send and individuals pray for missions. But it was a distinctive time in 2004 when the Lord started to impress on us His desire for the world to know who He is," Justin and Lauren wrote.

That desire became more real in church every Sunday and the Spirit of God began to stir their hearts.

"God wasn't using a huge burning bush, or a huge blinking sign. He was using the sheer number of people around us to say 'See all of these people? The city of Simi Valley is covered,'" they wrote.

Their response was "All right then, we'll go where we are needed." God continued to show them that in their hometown, home state and even home country the witness of His truth, love and grace through Christ was fully accessible.

"So then the question became where are we needed? We realized that the greatest need was where there was no witness and God's Word was not available."

The Reeses completed New Tribes Mission training four years later. They plan to go to Papua New Guinea to work with one of the more than 600 language groups still unreached.

ntm.org/justin_rees

God's talk FIRST

During the night, Daokagi heard the mournful wailing and death chants begin. An important woman had died in a neighboring Dao village.

In the Dao culture, the people drop everything after a death. They travel to spend several days with the family, until the burial is complete. So missionaries expected the evangelistic Bible teaching to stop, even though it was the final week of lessons. Amid tears of sorrow, the villagers gathered to decide what to do.

Daokagi said: “Wasn’t it only three days ago the missionary told us of his own mother’s sickness and possible death? Didn’t he tell us this message was so important that even if his own mother died he would not leave us? We need to stay here! We need to put God’s Talk first.”

Instead of attending a funeral, the villagers learned of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Hear more: ntm.org/magazine



photo by Rich Brown

* pray

The **Sekadau** people in **Indonesia** fear that if they do not perform the right ceremonies they will go hungry. Pray that the believers among them find the courage and boldness to spread the Good News of freedom and joy in Christ.

Take part daily in prayer:
ntm.org/magazine



Laughing while learning

Emilie was trying to explain to our language helper in Thai that our son, Dante, really likes her. Instead, she said, “Oh, by the way, Dante’ thinks you taste good.” Our language helper laughed so hard we had to take a five-minute break. We’re so thankful for her sense of humor. As she was leaving that day, she asked Dante’, “Does your dog taste good?”

On another occasion I was trying to stretch my language skills and made a crazy mistake. Our language helper was trying to teach us the equivalent of the word “et cetera” in Thai. I tried to get bold and use the word in a sentence. What I meant to say was, “When I go to the market, I buy meat, vegetables, **fruit**, etc.” Instead, I said, “When I go to the market, I buy meat, vegetables, **wives**, etc.” **Another five-minute break.**

— *Anthony Marzett, Thailand*

A weighty subject

Two months after returning from home assignment, missionary Annie Earl had an enlightening talk with Hoibin, whom the Earls have known for 30 years.

“Annie, all my friends are talking about you since you came back from America,” Hoibin said.

“Oh, what are they saying?” I asked.

“They’re all saying since you came back from America you’ve changed. You’re not the same as when you left,” Hoibin replied.

“In what way have I changed?” I asked.

“They’re all saying you’re fat now. You’ve put on a lot of grease (weight),” Hoibin said.

To Papua New Guineans this is a compliment. They think it’s great if you gain weight because that means you’re eating well.

“You didn’t walk in America, did you?” Hoibin continued.

“Yes, I did some, but not as much as I do in Papua New Guinea,” I replied.

Ah, the woes of home assignment — all that fast food and all the conveniences.

— Annie Earl, *Papua New Guinea*



photo by Dale Stroud

Todd and Sue Nelson



Ministry: New Tribes Bible Institute, Jackson, Michigan

Sending church: Ganson Street Baptist Church, Jackson, Michigan

“Ten years into our marriage, we were invited to Ganson Street Baptist Church where we heard the Gospel and got saved. We were in our early 30s at that time. Over the next eight years we became very involved in all kinds of ministries at the church because we wanted to learn, grow and serve the Lord. The Lord laid on our hearts the desire to take a family mission trip to Honduras, and two years later we led our youth group’s mission trip to Mexico. The Lord used those trips to open our eyes to the mission fields of the world.

“We were encouraged to take classes and learn more about the Bible at New Tribes Bible Institute in Jackson, Michigan, very close to our church. We started with a few classes and were intrigued with the chronological Bible teaching, which made the Bible really make sense. We ended up taking all the classes and graduating in 2003. After a few years, we received additional training at the Missionary Training Center in Missouri and graduated in May 2010.

“God challenged us to missions as we studied His Word at New Tribes Bible Institute. The whole direction of our lives changed when we got saved and invested time studying God’s Word. We want more and more students to learn, grow and be challenged by God’s Word so that the course of their lives will be changed, too.

“Todd’s desire is to teach God’s Word, so the Bible School is the perfect place for him to exercise his gift. We are both eager and excited to be multiplying ourselves, encouraging students to be the next generation of tribal missionaries.”

ntm.org/todd_nelson

[connect]

What's Your **Heart** Language?

"I speak Spanish just fine." Pedro told the missionary. But he soon changed his mind. Pedro was helping the missionary translate Bible lessons into his heart language. Pedro read a passage in Spanish, and the missionary asked him what it meant. Time after time, Pedro would say, "I don't have any idea!" Then they would work together to write the Bible story in Guarani. Pedro clearly understood the stories in Guarani, and expressed surprise at how little Spanish he really knew.

Though Pedro could communicate in Spanish, it wasn't enough to communicate deeper issues of spiritual truth. So the missionaries will take the time to learn Pedro's first language, his heart language, and translate God's Word and Bible lessons. Then Pedro can understand who God is, his need for a Savior, and the new life Jesus offers.

Hear more: ntm.org/magazine



photo by Steve Jackson

THE TERMINATOR

One night I went to a friend's house to roast some game on his open fire and brought my language-learning note pad along just in case. His family was watching *The Terminator* in their palm-walled house and any curious people passing by could spy out a few scenes through a small open window. As I sat and chatted with my friend he began asking questions about the movie.

"Is it real? Is there a man like that?"


It dawned on me that I could gather a whole slew of vocabulary that would otherwise be difficult to gather, for example, the word "real." First he asked me in Portuguese, "Is it real?" I asked him how to say that in the tribal language and I had the word for "real" or "true." Following that were adjectives like hard and fast from phrases like hard iron or fast truck. And so on it went.

Who would have ever guessed that *The Terminator* could help in spreading the Gospel?

— Phillip Schuring, Kaxuyana tribe, Brazil

quicklook

The Lolo people of Mozambique had a problem. After listening to God's Word from the beginning, and hearing about Jesus' birth, they said: "We used to think that salvation came from following the Law and going to church. Now we hear that no one is able to keep the Law. How then can we be saved?"




If there's anything we can't stand it's people who talk while we're interrupting.

At a disadvantage

One evening just after dusk, Garry and Faith McCay were sitting by a campfire watching the local children play hide-and-seek in the dark. Not long after the game started, their son, Kade, appeared from his hiding place somewhat frustrated and said, "It's not fair! They can always find me first ... because I'm white."

—Kol tribe, Papua New Guinea



Has your relationship with God changed the way you live your life?
—Francis Chan

photo by Dale Stroud

"Before, we were truly ignorant of God's Talk. If you had asked me about God's Talk before, I wouldn't have been able to answer you. My heart was only dark; I didn't know. Then you taught us God's Talk and my heart lit up. Now I know God's Talk. My heart is like a light, no longer dark inside."

—Auiyo, Nakui tribe, Papua New Guinea

[connect]

It Makes Me Cry . . .

As four Mwinika men helped translate Bible stories from Creation to Exodus, they began to see God's holiness. One man said, "We are worried about God's standards. Just show us the Law. We want to know the list of rules that we need to do!"

But when they translated the Ten Commandments into their language, they realized how desperately they fell short of God's standards. They said, "We are all at zero! We have no chance!" They covered their faces with their hands and began to cry. The missionary cried too, assuring them that he came to tell them they are in trouble but that there is hope. The law was doing what God meant it to do: showing them their sin, and preparing them to hear about Jesus.

Hear more: ntm.org/magazine



So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, **persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets**, from morning till evening.

Acts 28:23

quicklook

"It's true! This is a true talk!" shouted Todopui after the Bible lesson about Jesus' death, burial and resurrection was presented to the **Dao** people of **Indonesia**.

"Jesus has done a very big thing for us," said Bedenadus.

"This really is a big and true talk!" cried Wadamena.

Almost the entire group of Dao people who attended the lessons expressed faith. Some did it by jumping up and exclaiming, but most simply grinned ear-to-ear and listened to their brothers and sisters witness.



* pray

The Manjui church in Paraguay recently recognized three men as elders. During the service one believer encouraged others to give so that the ordained men could be sent from the church to other communities where the Gospel is needed. Praise God for these faithful men and pray that their ministry will bear much fruit.

Find out how you can pray daily for work God is doing around the world: ntm.org/magazine





photo by Rich Brown

“I love this curriculum! I had searched and searched for good material to help people who don’t really know anything about God. I teach the unchurched. If it wasn’t for NTM I don’t know what I’d do. . . . One 15-year-old just told me, ‘I’ve learned so much!’”

—Retired lay teacher about the Firm Foundations lessons



Find out more about the curriculum: ntm.org/magazine

Weight a minute

We are so thankful for those in the supply department and the pilots that help to figure out the loads and move it all. It is not a job to take lightly.

Do you know how much your computer bag weighs? How about all the groceries that you bought at the store last week? How about everyone in your family? Each time my family travels, everything gets weighed – people, cargo, and all. (There’s no hiding your weight, ladies).

Each box or container gets wrapped to protect it from water damage, labeled and weighed. Things like eggs are marked fragile (not that anyone reads it). Bottles and liquids are marked which end goes up. Freezer and cooler goods are marked and stored in the appropriate place. In fact we need to know the weights several days ahead of time so that loads can be figured. Then throw in two different forms of transportation where a load in one does not equal a load in the second, and math figures start flying all over the place.

—Rick and Anji Zook, Mouk tribe, Papua New Guinea

Learn more about NTM Aviation: ntm.org/magazine



photo by Keith Higbee



Teaching took the Uriay people from asking, "What was it like for God if there was no ground and no sun?" to praising Him for salvation.

photo by Elias Struik



‘Jesus’ blood covered my sin’

by David Bell, contributing editor

Noel’s head dropped to his chest and his body hung limp.

What was the Uriay man thinking as he portrayed Christ’s death on the cross?

“I almost cried,” Noel said. “Before you all started this teaching, I was in Satan’s canoe. I said bad things about other people ... and as I hung there I kept thinking about how Christ bore all this pain and punishment for my sins. He died and His blood was poured out to cover my sins.”

“Before you all started this teaching....”

Missionaries Elias and José Struik remember those days well, days of building relationships with the people and learning their culture and language.

They remember the day when they told the people they would be using an airstrip in another nearby village instead of building a new one in the village where they had built their homes. The people were angered by the announcement. Having an airport is a status symbol in Papua New Guinea. The news prompted more than half the people to move out of the village.

The Struiks remember the night Kobi’s screams awakened them. Kobi, a witch doctor, said “spirits” told him that someone was planning to poison his wife. Terrified, he grabbed his bow and arrow and ran through the village. It was one of many incidents when the missionary team would see the desperate need the Uriays had for the message they would teach.

By studying the culture of the people, the missionaries knew “that nothing happens without a reason” in the Uriay culture. “Whether you get ill, step on an ax, or a bird flies over your head, there is a very specific spiritual reason for it. Visible and invisible forces play a huge role in everyday life.”

Those visible and invisible forces play daily on the people’s fears—fear of spirits, witch doctors, tribal enemies,

sickness and death. Fear rules village life and is the motivation behind most of the Uriays’ actions.

Having gained a workable knowledge of the culture and language, the day finally came when the missionary team could begin addressing those fears through evangelistic Bible teaching.

“What was it like for God if there was no ground and no sun?” asked Wobere, a village leader, on one of the first days of teaching, in response to Elias’ teaching about Genesis 1:1, “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*”

“We gave him the only answer we could think of,” Elias said, that “we really don’t know. We are not like God. We need air to breathe and sunlight to see and ground to walk on. We can’t really imagine a life without these things.”



photo by M’Liss Spero

Right: Lisa Kappeler
Below: Elias Struik



photo by José Struik

As they listened to the day-by-day account of Creation, the Uriays were most interested in the various species available for food. The missionaries told them not to think about how good the fish would taste or how God created bananas, but to think about what they were learning of the Creator God.

Sitting on the front row, quietly listening to the teaching were three women—Dakruma, Imi, and Keyna. Each woman contributed her thoughts about what they were learning.

“Yahweh God, He made it all by His own strength. He didn’t go to school. His thinking wasn’t short. He didn’t sweat. He didn’t need all those things Himself. He prepared it for us. He is good. He always has been there.”

The missionaries were delighted with what the Uriays were beginning to understand, and another important Bible lesson would begin to open the

people’s eyes to their need of a Savior.

The Uriay people stared as blood spattered everywhere when Elias stabbed a lamb. Not a real lamb and not real blood. As an illustration he stabbed a plastic bag filled with red-stained juice, attached to a cutout of a sheep.

“The picture was clear,” wrote the Struiks’ co-worker, Lisa Kappeler. “Adam and Eve had rebelled against God and a couple of leaves just weren’t sufficient. God was providing a covering, and that included the shedding of blood.”

The Uriays were learning that God desired a close relationship with Adam and Eve, but sin had separated that first couple from their Creator.

A few lessons later, the Uriays would again see the connection between the blood of a lamb and salvation.

Elias and his son portrayed an Egyptian father mourning the death of his first-born son and told how the Israelites were saved because they followed God’s instruction of applying the blood of a lamb to the doorposts of their homes.

As the missionaries taught about the Israelites’ journey to the Promised Land and God giving the Law to Moses, the Uriays began to see their own sinfulness and God’s holiness.

The people watched as Lisa handed her co-worker, Matt Clayton, a mirror so he could see the charcoal smeared on his face. Matt took the mirror and tried to use it to wipe the stain from his face.

“I gave you the mirror so you could see the charcoal on your face,” Lisa said.

The illustration emphasized that God gave the Law so the Israelites could see their sinfulness. The Uriays



photo by M'Liss Spero

began to see themselves in the Ten Commandments. "That's us!" they agreed. "We all do that stuff."

As Elias taught about the sacrificial lamb that would cover the Israelites' sins as they wandered through the desert, he asked, "What was the person thinking when he saw the blood flowing down when the lamb was killed?"

Imi replied, "That person knew he was guilty and deserved death but understood that the lamb was taking that punishment."

The Uriays listened intently to the Old Testament lessons and were beginning to form a foundation for understanding God's plan of salvation.

Elias taught them about the Israelites being bitten by snakes when they spoke against God and Moses, and how God instructed Moses to "make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live."

Elias asked, "Would it help for someone that was bitten by the snake to take medicine perhaps? Or pray to God for healing? Would praying help, because that's a good thing, isn't it?"

"No!" several people responded. "People only would be restored if they trusted God in obedience to His Word and looked at the bronze snake on the pole."

The bronze serpent was a situation that Jesus referred to when speaking to a Pharisee named Nicodemus. The Uriays would hear that lesson and others as the missionaries introduced teaching from the New Testament.

"It blows me away," said José, "to see how major concepts like the virgin

birth, the deity of Christ, and Jesus being without sin are accepted so readily."

"This is the most important talk," said Imi. "I want everybody in our village to hear and believe. I am so concerned about those not attending."

As they heard lessons about Jesus' life on earth, they began to recognize Him as the Almighty One, the Creator. During a lesson about Jesus healing the man with the paralyzed hand, Elias asked the people how Jesus did it.

"He did it just like in the beginning," Dakruma said, "by His mouth. He just spoke."

Elias asked the people, "Do we need to clean ourselves up before we can listen to God's Talk?"

After a period of silence several spoke and agreed that they would need to get rid of their sin to understand God's Word. But Tyob's deep voice interjected some enlightenment to the group.

"No," he said. "We can't change ourselves. That is something only God can do."

And change was on its way.

On Sept. 8, 2010, the Uriays heard the climax of evangelistic Bible teaching.

Aendru had heard about Jesus dying on the cross before, but never understood that it was for his sins. When he saw Noel's reenactment of Christ on the cross, he put his head down and couldn't hold back the tears.

In the following days, several gave testimony that they now trust in Christ for their salvation.

"I am a child of God," Dakruma said. "Jesus is my punishment-bearing man!

His blood poured out so that I don't have to get the punishment for my sin.”

“It's because of His love for us and His mercy that He was willing to die on the cross,” said Imi. “He died so I don't have to go to Hell.”

Several weeks later, Imi's prayer showed her thankfulness to God and a deliverance from the fear that has captivated the Uriays for so long.

“Thank You God for being far above all things. Thank You that everything is beneath You. You created the sky, ground and all other things. I believe You and so I am in Your hands. Whatever trouble comes up, I put it into Your hands. I'm not afraid because You have all the power and You are above everything.”

*“That person knew he was guilty and deserved death but understood that the lamb was taking that punishment.”
-Imi, a Uriay believer [pictured below]*

photo by Jack Houseley



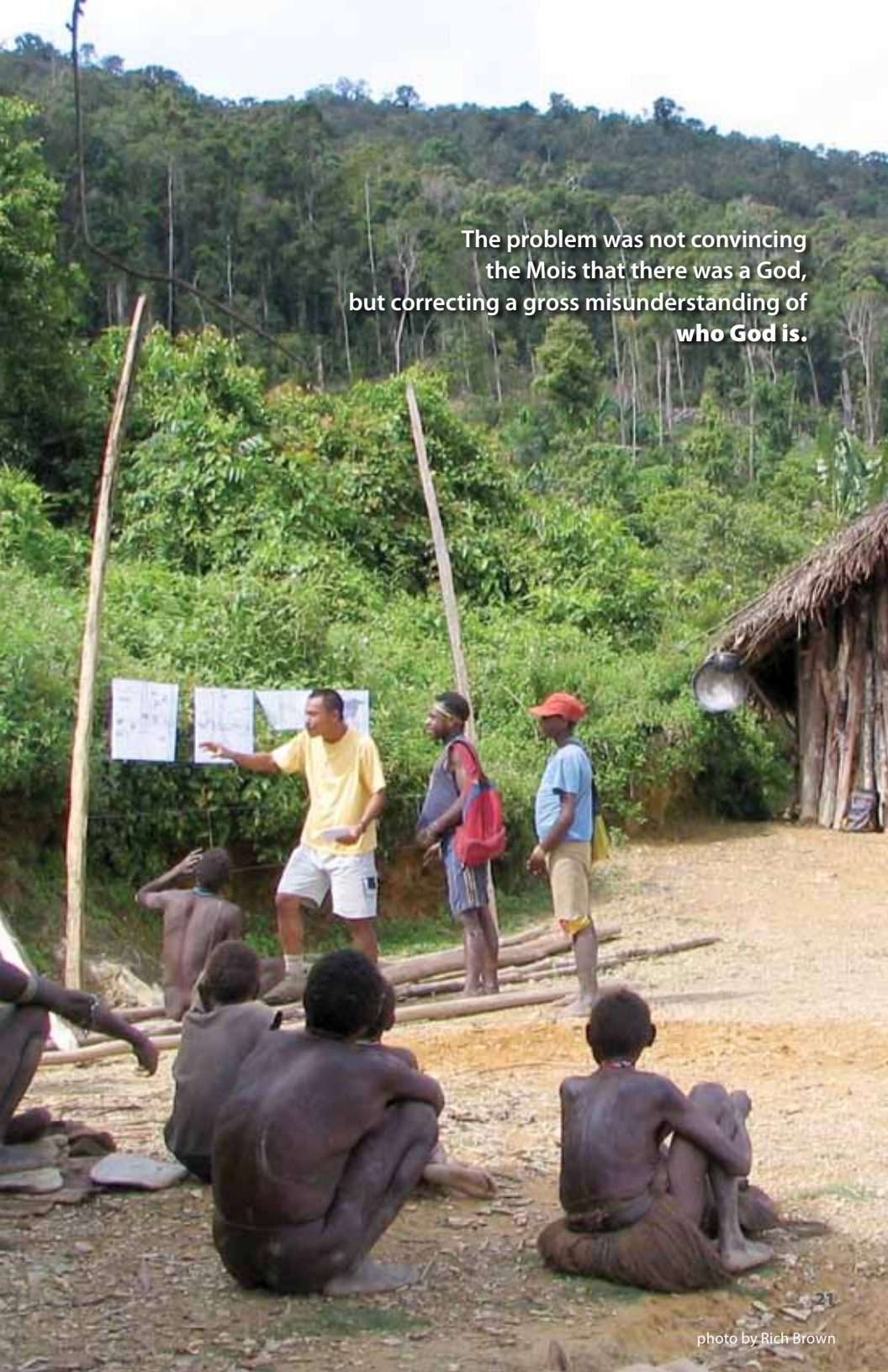
A message from the Creator

by Stephen Crockett, missionary to the Moi people
of Papua New Guinea

One thing that we quickly realized with the Moi people is that though they may be animists, worshipping evil spirits and trying to manipulate their world through sorcery, they were not without a religion. They are very religious. They could write their own “bible” complete with a creation story, to the struggle of good versus evil...all the way to death and what happens in the afterlife.



The problem was not convincing
the Moisi that there was a God,
but correcting a gross misunderstanding of
who God is.



When we told them that we were living among them and learning their language and culture because we had a message from the Creator that we wanted to share with them, some of them were quite convinced that we must be talking about the creator that they knew from their culture, the one with wives and siblings and good and bad behavior.

Others were skeptical. One even said to us, "Where is this Creator? If he comes and stands on your front porch and starts talking, only then will I come and listen to His Talk."

Another Moi man told us right out that he was not coming to the teaching. "My garden is big! The Creator's Talk is small!"

The problem was not convincing them that there was a Creator, but correcting a gross misunderstanding of who God is. This is why we started

right in the beginning, before the creation story, describing what the Creator God was like. Slowly we began to build, moving into the creation account and using it to cement in their minds just how awesome our God really is. By the time we taught on the fall of man and the resulting alienation of mankind from a holy God, the Moises were starting to get the picture that they were in serious trouble. They began to hang all of their hope on the promise of Genesis 3:15 that God would send a Deliverer. God's Word was powerful enough to create the universe so in their minds, it was not **if** but rather **when** the Deliverer will be sent.

During the story of Noah one of them spoke out during the lesson and said, "You are just like Noah and we are just like the people outside of the ark. You are calling out to us to get on





board before it is too late and we all go to the lake of fire!”

People must feel that hopeless desperation before they will reach out to accept the Savior. It was neat to see this mindset slowly take over their hearts as we continued teaching our way through the Old Testament.

I remember the day that we taught



photos by Rich Brown



about Moses going to Pharaoh and saying, “Jehovah says, ‘Let my people go.’” Pharaoh responded just the way some of the Moiss had responded when they heard there was a message from the Creator. “Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord nor will I let Israel go.”

The Mo'is were beginning to understand God's greatness and couldn't believe Pharaoh's arrogance. Their incredulity continued to grow as time and time again God revealed Himself to Pharaoh. And time and time again Pharaoh refused to give in. The Mo'is thought he was absolutely crazy. "When will he acknowledge that he can't win?"

Then the day came for the story of the Israelites standing before the Red Sea. The Egyptians were approaching and the Israelites were scared out of their wits. We tried to get the Mo'is nervous about what was going to happen to the Israelites but they would have none of it. They just laughed and said, "It will be all right. The Creator God can do anything. He promised to send a Deliverer through the Israelites so there is no way that the Egyptians could wipe them out."

What a blessing to see the Mo'is learning to "stand back and see the salvation of the Lord," right along with the Israelites.

We continued to teach chronologically through stories of God's provision for the Israelites with manna, quail and water from the rock. Their view of God continued to grow as they saw God being faithful to an unfaithful people. I remember the day we told the story about the Israelites worshipping the golden calf while Moses was up on Mt. Sinai with God. One man blurted out, "God is watching them!"

What a blessing to hear him say that! You see, the plan was that if their view of their sin and God's holiness was incomplete then we would not go on and tell the rest of the story. Only after they entered into a state of desperate hopelessness concerning their sin would we move on to the



photos by Rich Brown

"Thank you Jesus!
For this new heart
now will live where
the Creator is."



birth of the Deliverer. That day after the teaching about the golden calf, the same man came up to me and said, “Wow, this is a big talk!” More than one of the teenage boys was having a hard time sleeping at night as their minds raced with the dilemma that they were in personally, as sinners before a holy God.

We taught through the prophecies concerning the Messiah and on to the birth, life and death of Jesus Christ. What an amazing experience to look into their eyes. It was like watching a dead person come to life. I’ll never forget it. And hearing the testimonies afterwards, articulating their understanding of the Good News in their own unique way, was amazing.

Poeiye said, “When the Moi people give birth to their children, how many times do they cut the cord? Do they do it that first day and then again today? No! If you truly believe in Jesus then the cord of a new heart has been cut for you. . . . Thank you Jesus! For this new heart now will live where the Creator is. It will live in Heaven.”

It takes a lot of time to teach chronologically, but it is well worth it. They become so grounded in the Word that their faith becomes unshakable. There is no turning back. This is just the

start of the whole process of teaching through Scripture, building “precept upon precept.”

I remember when we began to teach Romans, almost dreading it because of how complicated its doctrine is. It was amazing for me to see the Mois never batting an eye—for them it all made sense and was just the next step in their understanding of how great and awesome the Creator God is.

A good example of this was when I read from Romans 1:18: “*The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.*” I then asked the new Moi believers what they thought about this. Could they think of any instance where God had revealed His wrath against sin?

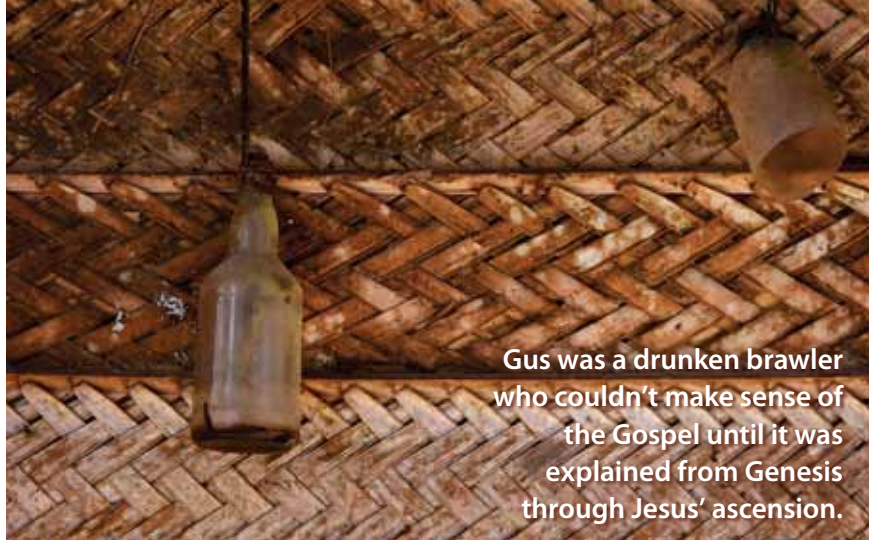
Finally one girl about 15 years old spoke up and somberly said, “I know when God revealed His wrath against sin. It was when Jesus was hanging on the cross and God took the sins of the world and placed them on Jesus. Then He poured out his wrath on Jesus and shed Jesus’ blood for our sin. That was when God revealed His wrath against sin.”

I could hardly speak. Here were these young believers, cut off from the rest of the world, and yet exhibiting a deeper understanding and greater appreciation than many Western believers who have been reading the Bible for years. Honestly, she put me to shame. Again and again as we moved through Romans they continued to exhibit this profound understanding of scripture.

For this reason, I am convinced of the importance of teaching chronologically.



Left: Karen Brown and Carolyn Crockett
Above: Steve Crockett



Gus was a drunken brawler who couldn't make sense of the Gospel until it was explained from Genesis through Jesus' ascension.

'Happy I belong to God'

by Dena McMaster, with Lindy Drake and Barry Spor, missionaries to the Guanano people of Brazil

God saved Gus' life so he could get saved.

He was the best fighter and brawler at the weekly Guanano drinking fests. He would often go to missionary Barry Spor's house to work on Bible translation with swollen knuckles and tell Barry whom he had beaten up that week.

Gus spent a lot of time with Barry as he helped Barry learn the Guanano culture and language for three years, and then helped write Bible lessons. He was exposed to the heart of the Gospel during that



"Thank you for coming here so I could know Jesus as my Rescuer."

time. He learned that he had a sinful nature that God hated, knew that he was going to Hell and couldn't do anything to change that. He understood that God had promised to forgive his sin debt and to rescue him from Hell if he'd trust in Him. But he couldn't understand why God, who hated sin, would send a Savior.

Gus struggled with the concept that due to his sin nature he was going to Hell unaccepted by God, but at the same time God loved him and wanted to accept him into His family. He could not make sense of those two seemingly opposite thoughts.

One day at a drinking party, Gus quarreled with his dad and brothers. The quarrel ended with Gus hitting his father and a brother in the face. He was really shocked and sad about what he did as he staggered drunkenly back home.

When he got there his wife told him to not come home until he was sober. That pushed him over the edge. He went into his house, got his shotgun, put a shell in it, went into the living room of his house and told his wife good-bye. He put the end of the gun in his mouth and pulled the trigger.

Boom! At the last second his wife yanked the gun barrel away, saving his life. The blast went through the wall instead. Gus, though shaken to the core by the incident, was not quite ready to change his ways.

He continued to work on the 68 lessons from Genesis through Jesus' ascension with Barry. By the time the Guanano missionary team, Barry and Denise Spor and Lindy and Carol Drake, reached the lessons on Abraham, Gus had trusted in God's

Rescuer and Sin Payer. Like an Old Testament saint, Gus now trusted in the One God promised to send to pay his sin debt.

"As we got to the end of teaching the 68 lessons," wrote Barry, "we had an all-day teaching day on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Gus was just really eating up this new teaching that explained all that Jesus did to pay his sin debt and rescue him from Hell."

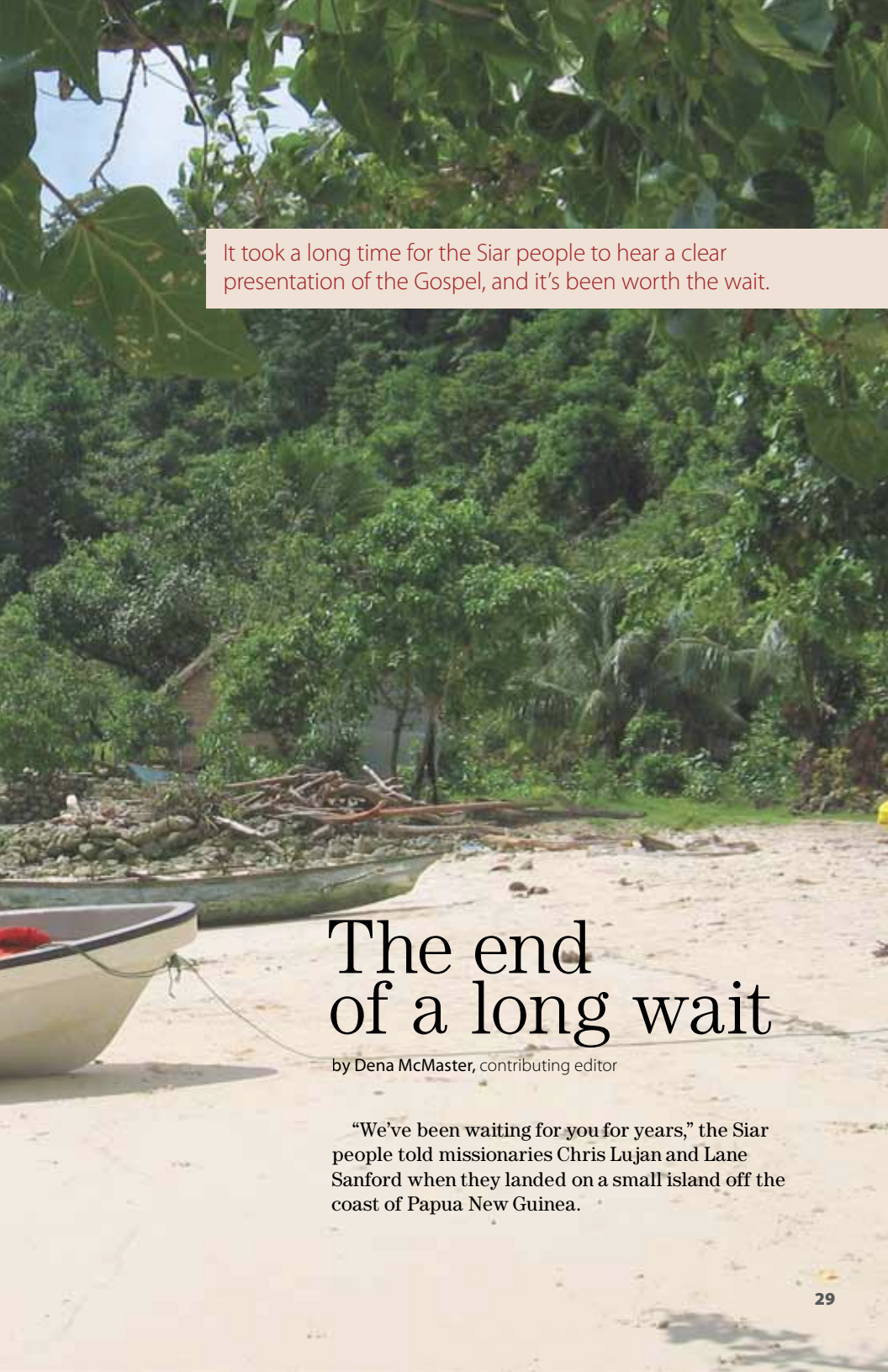
Barry watched as Gus bounced up and down on his bench with each new revelation of God's saving grace. His face shone with excitement.

"As we wound down and were nearing the end of that day's long teaching," Barry continued, "I could see Gus still bouncing in his excitement out of the corner of my eye as I taught. Then all of a sudden without warning, Gustavo just flew off his bench right at me. The first thing I thought was 'Oh boy, am I ever in for it!' thinking of his reputation for beating people up and all. The next thing I knew Gus had his arms around me and he was crying into my shoulder, saying things like, 'Thank you for coming here so I could know Jesus as my Rescuer.'"

Gus told Barry, "If you hadn't come I would have gone to Hell never knowing what Jesus had done and never trusting Him to rescue me."

Then he turned to the group of people there that day and shared, "You must think that I am crying because I'm sad, but that's not it. I am crying because I am happy. Happy I belong to God and happy that I have the One I have trusted in, Jesus. I want you all to be happy like I am."





It took a long time for the Siar people to hear a clear presentation of the Gospel, and it's been worth the wait.

The end of a long wait

by Dena McMaster, contributing editor

“We’ve been waiting for you for years,” the Siar people told missionaries Chris Lujan and Lane Sanford when they landed on a small island off the coast of Papua New Guinea.

The people handed the missionaries a letter received from the leaders of New Tribes Mission in response to their request for a missionary in 2003. The letter stated that there were no missionaries to send at that time. But the Siars did not give up. They kept the letter and patiently waited.

When a team came looking for a place to settle among the Siars in 2006 and people heard that the men and their families wanted to live among them, learn their culture and language and translate God's Word in order to give them the Gospel message, they were warmly welcomed.

Preparations began to make the dream of the Siar people come true.

Chris and Erin Lujan and their two small children and Lane and Karrie Sanford and their three children moved into the village and began making friends and studying the culture and language of the Siar people.

Each day revealed more and more about the Siars and brought the team one step closer to being able to fulfill the people's dream of hearing God's Word. Soon Jon and Melissa Jackson and their five children joined the team.

Several years of long, hard labor helped the missionary team become comfortable and proficient in the Siar culture and language. As they understood more clearly, they began the next step of preparation for the chronological teaching of the Bible.

"At the end of the day," wrote Chris, "we are seeking to see Siar world views evaluated, changed, displaced and replaced by God's infallible world-view that is found only in His Word.

Having a solid foundation to understand the story of God is the best way for the Siars to know and experience God."

The men are translating the Scriptures into the Siar language, and in July of this year all the Siars will have an opportunity to listen to the message God has prepared for them.

Already some who are helping with the translation and lesson preparation are beginning to see the light. Recently when Lane was reading about Joseph in Genesis 39, a village leader stopped him.

"Lane, please stand up in front of us and read that out loud so we can all hear it," he said.

As he read, the leader shouted, "Yes, yes, this is it. It is clear and we are finally hearing God's Talk in our language and it is clear! You meant it when you told us before that you came for this. It is really happening!"

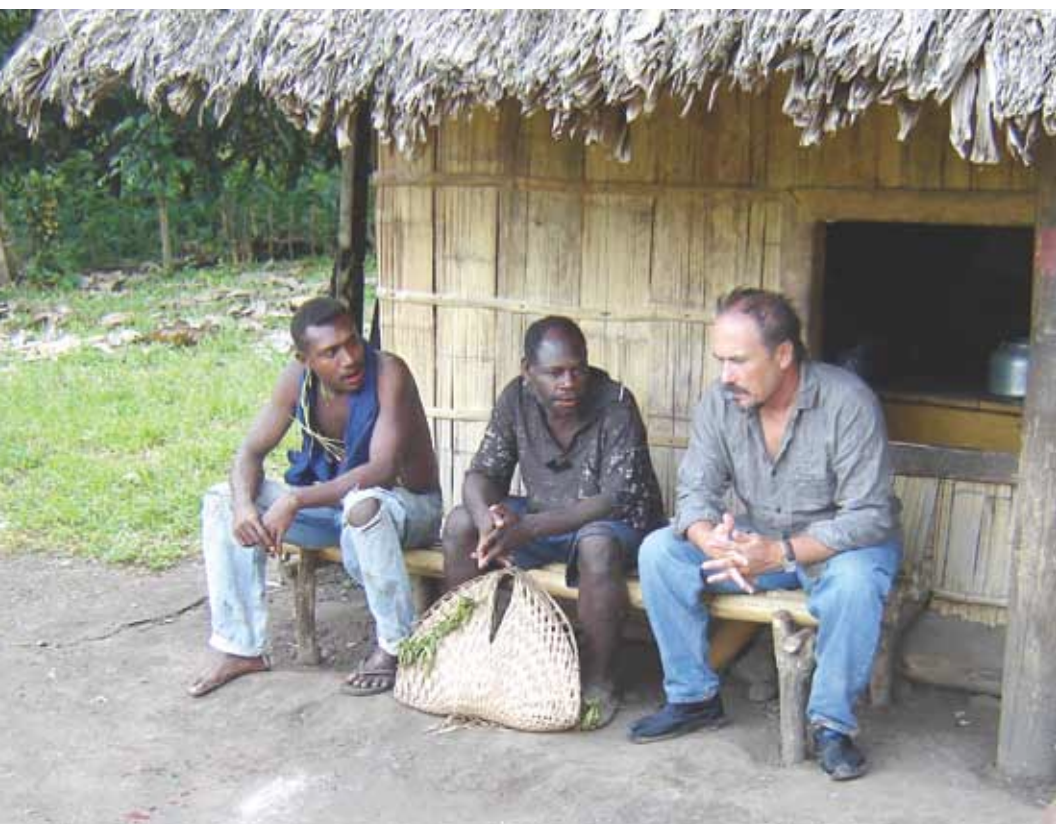
For the rest of the story follow along as the Siar people hear the Good News at ntm.org/news.

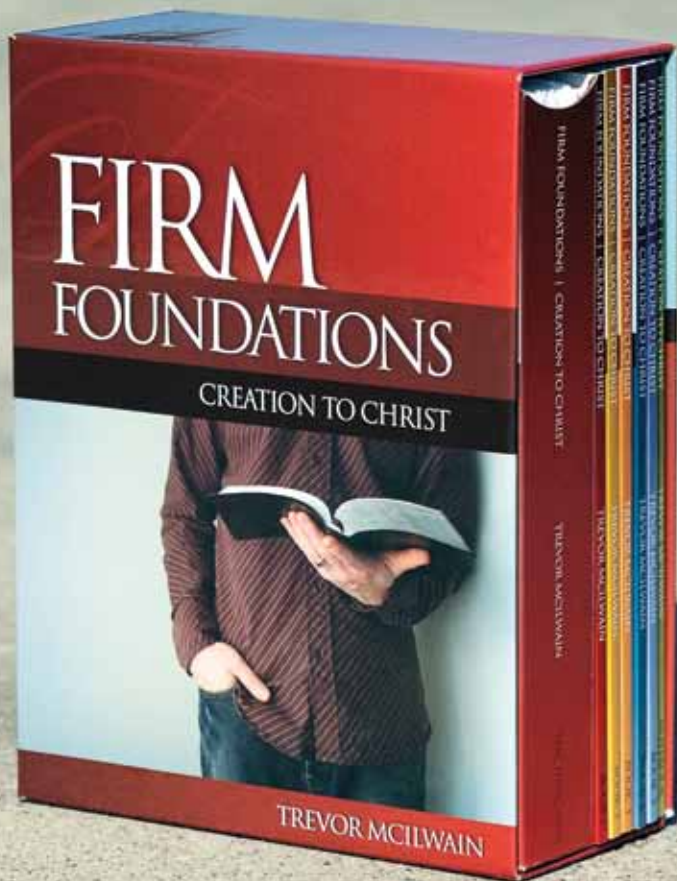


photos by Randy Wise



Bottom left: Lane Sanford
Bottom right: Randy Wise





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