



# To Every Tribe

Jesus is worth it

Dear brethren, family, friends, and supporters,

The Mission of *To Every Tribe* is to plant self-sustaining, self-reproducing, indigenous churches in the world's last unreached people groups. The focus of *To Every Tribe* has been to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those in Papua New Guinea and Mexico who have never heard it. As a student at the *Center for Pioneer Church Planting* in Texas, I have been studying Scripture, theology, and missiology, and I've taken many short-term mission trips. Forty percent of my training with *To Every Tribe* will be on the field. I just returned from twenty-four wonderful days in Papua New Guinea. To the right is a photo of the other team members who also went to PNG (I'm in the orange shirt). Some of the goals of the PNG trip were to learn about culture and language, to get acquainted with the places where *To Every Tribe* works, to learn team building, to encourage believers, and to promote the gospel.



We set out March 2nd, spending one night in Port Moresby, (PNG's capital) and then spent the first half of the trip in the gorgeous Eastern Highlands. We spent several days in Goroka. I enjoyed walking around and talking to people in this city. There were many opportunities for evangelism, since most of the people I met were happy to stop and talk for as long as I wished. We stayed for a week with the Bena Bena Tribe. These are beautiful people who have had the gospel since 1980. *To Every*

*Tribe* is now discipling them and learning from them. I learned a lot of Pidgin English (the trade language) from Bena believers. Our team split on Sunday and went to several churches. I went to a mountaintop church, which was an hour hike from our base. I was invited to share my testimony there (which I did in Pidgin) and to preach. I spoke on the topic of prayer, and my message was translated in their tribal tongue.

The second half of the trip was spent in the East Sepik Region. We planned to go only to Chambri Island, but in God's providence we were entreated to go to an unreached region called Blackwater. A Blackwater man met us at the airport to ask when we were going to come to his village to share the Good News. He compelled us to take a survey trip there in the middle of our time with the Chambri. Chambri is a six-hour drive on the back of a truck and a two-and-a-half-hour canoe ride. The canoe ride was exciting, but a little scary! We went from large rivers to small waterways, to lakes, and to swamps. We had about fourteen people, all our packs, and two drums of gas piled into this one dug-out canoe. When we arrived in Chambri, we lived in bush-houses like all the nationals do, washed and collected drinking water in their stream, and I made many friends among them.



Chambri is a difficult place to live in due to high temps, limited resources, the remote location, and the struggling church there. I enjoyed our time there, however, and am highly considering living there for a time. A Chambri believer is building a house for *To Every Tribe* so that missionaries would have a place of their own to live. Perhaps this will be the Wilkinson's next home!

I also loved the Blackwater Region. The village we visited is called "Govamas." Blackwater is a region with about 4000 residents. It's far more remote than I could have imagined; it took us six hours by motored canoe to get there from Chambri Island! Much of the region around Blackwater is also unreached. Govamas is a physically beautiful place with waterfalls and a nice village center where children play and go to school. Water is piped in from the waterfall to the village center. We were able to slide down the waterfall into a clear pool of cold water. The people were kind and extremely interested in having missionaries on a long-term basis. This people group has never heard the evangelical gospel before. Catholic missionaries taught them and established a church there years ago, and their message was mixed in with the animistic beliefs of the tribe. David Sitton, our leader, explained to them what we're there for and what they could expect from us. He clarified that we're not focusing on social needs, but that we might be able to help them in that way indirectly. He presented the gospel to them and answered questions. Two or three hundred people were there. There were no remarkable reactions except

that we're welcome there. That's awesome in itself! *To Every Tribe* will definitely be moving in there as soon as possible, and I hope to be on that church planting team, but we're praying that the Lord will direct our path.



The Govamas "welcoming crew."



Barry and Paul from Govamas met us in Wewak and led us to their village. They were so excited we agreed to go!

Every place we went the people begged me to stay and teach them. They asked David to send missionaries, too. The harvest truly is great and the laborers are definitely few. Won't you pray to the Lord of the harvest for laborers to go into these peoples? Please pray that I'll be useful in the Lord's service wherever I am. I tried to make the most of opportunities during our 47 hours of flying, 17 hours in canoes, 18 hours in and waiting for PMV's (PNG buses), and our additional time in many other locations in PNG. The Lord even allowed me to share Christ with two Jewish men from Israel and a Muslim man from Iran. I also connected well with several national believers who I'd love to have for partners on the field. Our team also met PNG's Prime Minister in a restaurant, and he followed through with his promises concerning *To Every Tribes*'s status in their country. *To Every Tribe* is now recognized by the government and our visas are pending. Praise the Lord!

I really see God's guiding hand in our lives, especially on this trip. While in PNG I also learned that we're expecting a baby! Perhaps a future missionary! Thank you for your support of us in prayers and tangible means! God is using you to bring His salvation to the ends of the earth. We'll keep you in touch as our plans continue to develop. Please pray for our preparation and that God would provide long-term teammates for us to go with. God bless you!

Love in Christ,

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