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## *My Call to IGo* by Tim Stoltzfus, IGo Pastor

God has given me a burden for the people of earth who have never heard the gospel. A burden is something you carry. It is heavy—you know it is there because you can feel its weight. For more than two decades, God has been stirring my spirit and keeping this burden alive.

About twenty-two years ago, I was sitting at my desk in Grenada studying for my Sunday morning message. My sermon title was, “The Conditions of Man in Relation to the Gospel.” I outlined the three possible categories of all men on earth in relation to the gospel: those who have heard and believe, those who have heard and rejected it, and those who have never even heard it. God began to speak to my heart about this third category. He really started grabbing my attention about the billions of people who have no access to the gospel.

Upon our return from Grenada, God continued

to press upon my heart the unreached as I taught Missions class at Maranatha Christian School. I began to read more about worldwide missions and found my heart tender and yearning to invest my life in taking the gospel to an unreached people group. There were times God filled me with such love that I could weep for those who had never heard.

God’s plan for my life involved many years of rewarding service in our local church and in various mission and nonprofit organizations. I have been extremely blessed by God’s hand leading me in paths of fulfilling ministry within His kingdom and have no regrets for investing those years of service. Yet, there remained within me a longing to become more directly involved in the cause of global missions. As I considered my age and the remaining years of active service I have available, if God grants me health and strength, I realized

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that the window of opportunity to engage in such work was narrowing. I have often wished I could “just get over this” and finish life easily on my last stretch of years—but I just cannot. There remains in my heart a deep place that I long to open. I long to labor directly on behalf of the ethnos—the ethnicities, the people groups who have never heard about Jesus.

There is a certain sadness that sweeps over me in the realization that I am too old to go to an unreached people group and assist in personally bringing the gospel to them. That window of opportunity is gone for me. But I see IGo as a place where I can invest in the next generation and strive to instill the same burden that God has given me into the lives of young people. And I pray that many of them will GO—that they will go in my stead, and in yours.

Physically going is not the only way to obey the Great Commission. There are other strategies

which are often more effective than sending a person from North America—such as partnering with native missionaries and local churches. But much work remains to be done, and we conservative Anabaptists need to be sending some of our sons and daughters out to help in the global harvest in-gathering.

The work and vision of IGo is to mobilize young people in partnership with their home churches to fulfill the Great Commission. We strive to do this by providing sound Bible instruction, creating awareness of global needs, and offering practical training in missions. God is raising up a generation of conservative Anabaptist young people whose hearts throb for Jesus and the cause of the unreached. I am greatly humbled by the opportunity to serve at IGo and in a small way assist in mobilizing these youth for the worthy cause of taking Jesus to the people groups of the earth who are still waiting to hear for the first time.

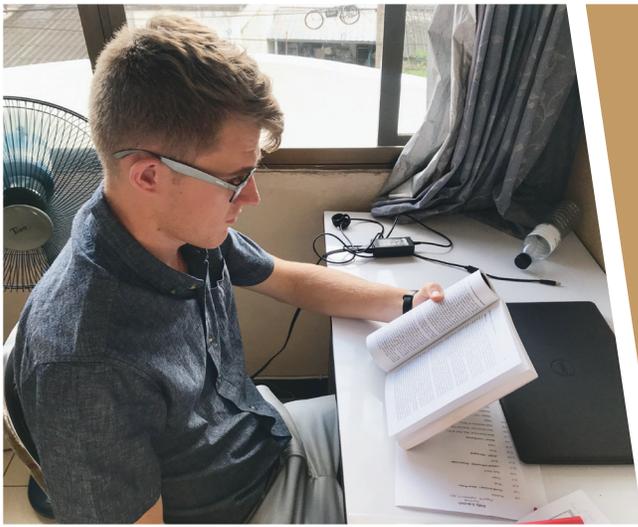


## *IGo First Semester 2021-2022*

**Back Row:** Douglas Yutzy, James Bortrager, Nathaniel Weiler, Marcos Froese, Timothy Burkholder, Hadassah Wollman

**Middle Row:** Wingamkamliu Rentta, Angie Miller, Janessa Weaver, Keribeth Smucker, Casey Weaver, Sheri Siegrist, Cheyanne Miller

**Front Row:** Abigail Wollman, Neil Gingerich, Derek Martin, Bryson Weber, Rachel Martin



*Praise God* for the start of a new semester!



## New Pastor Family

IGo would like to welcome the Tim Stoltzfus family who arrived in Chiang Mai on June 13, 2021. Tim will be serving in the pastor role for IGo Christian Fellowship, and we are very blessed and excited to have their family join our team. Tim and Linda are the parents of nine children. Their five youngest children have moved with them to Thailand. They are from Watsontown, PA, where Tim served in the role of pastor at their home church, East District Mennonite Church. Tim was previously employed by Anabaptist Financial as Operations Manager, and from 1998-2001 their family served as missionaries in the country of Grenada. We are grateful for the wealth of knowledge Tim has to offer in the areas of leadership, missions, and education, which will be an asset to the institute. The Stoltzfus family brings with them a sense of excitement and enthusiasm as they embark on this new endeavor.



Tim & Linda Stoltzfus, Julianna, Christiana, Josiah, Adelaide, Asher



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## I WITNESS NEWS INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

### OUR MISSION

**The purpose of IGo is to provide students with a cross-cultural setting in which mission work, Biblical teaching and personal discipleship can take place simultaneously.**

We believe that it is more beneficial to be training missionaries overseas rather than in the affluent Western setting. IGo provides students with opportunities to travel and minister in Asia, with regular returns to the classroom for teaching and mentoring by instructors. The focus is not solely theoretical; instead it addresses the everyday issues a student experiences in ministry.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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