

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS,
AND THANK YOU TO ALL OUR
FINANCIAL PARTNERS.

OCTOBER 2024

MATTHEW & SARAH THOMPSON

Taking God's word to those who haven't heard

Hello friends,

• This month has been a time for catching up on various tasks that were set aside while we were in full-time language classes. Alongside this, we have continued to learn more Indonesian through community engagement and personal study. Matthew has also been busy finalizing reports from his previous survey trips, aiming to share the needs of the groups we encountered with others.

Last month, we shared that we were hoping to survey one more language group at the end of October. Unfortunately, that opportunity has fallen through, and it is looking increasingly likely that doors are closed for us to survey there. We ask for your prayers for this bibleless people group, that in God's timing, He would open doors for them to receive the gospel.

Here are some insights about the spiritual landscape in Papua based on our observations and information from fellow missionaries. In Indonesia the government requires citizens to identify with a religion, choosing from Islam, Christianity, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism, or Confucianism. Most Papuans, particularly those indigenous to the region, identify as Christians. Consequently, nearly every town and village has at least one church.

Many of these "Christians" are committed to their church, attending services weekly and contributing their tithes and offerings. They are baptized and participate in the Lord's Supper, and often adhere to a lifestyle that avoids drinking, and some don't smoke or chew betel-nut, believing that these actions make them Christians.

Contributing to this belief is the fact that the primary Indonesian Bible translation can be quite formal, making it difficult for many locals—even those fluent in Indonesian—to fully grasp its message. This has perpetuated misunderstandings that do not align with biblical teachings. While there are many sincere believers in Papua, there remains a prevalent struggle to understand that salvation is a gift received through faith in Jesus' completed work on the cross and resurrection from the dead, rather than something earned through good deeds. This misunderstanding is not limited to Papua but is very real here.

Many Papuans, especially young people, are eager to listen and learn about the Bible. We ask for your prayers for this urgent need for God's Word and biblical truth to be preached and understood in Papua. Please also pray for us as we seek God's guidance in our next steps. Thank you for your continued support!

Love in Christ

Matthew, Sarah & Azariah

Prayer Requests & Needs

- Biblical truth to be preached in Papua
- The Bibleless of Papua
- God's guidance in next steps
- Continued Spiritual growth



A date night in



Azariah growing and exploring



The Commission with friends

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