

Family and Friends

As you may imagine, the past two weeks have been really encouraging here in the village. There has been a number of people who have given a clear testimony of faith in the Redeemer, Jesus Christ. As we have been out in the village talking with our friends it has been another reminder of the power of the Gospel of Christ. The responses have been varied, some have been simple statements of faith in the object of the good news of Christ, others have been eloquent in expressing their deep understanding of the truth. It is encouraging to find out where people are at. We are still working at talking with everyone who had been attending the teaching and some are needing additional clarification. But here are some names of your new brothers and sisters in Christ:

Stiven and Matiwa (young married couple - Stiven is the local elementary school teacher),
Rika (young single lady, Erin's language helper)
Lina (single older woman, Rika's aunt)
Guwin (young married woman; husband Otli is following the teaching but still not sure if God can be trusted)
Lipas (young married man; wife Sila is following the teaching but is not clear on the Gospel yet)
Yulita (married woman; the only one in her family who believes her husband's name is Lomi)
Amos and Lusian (married couple; Amos is a lesson writing helper and both are so excited about the Lord. One of their daughters attends regularly, but we aren't sure where she stands yet)
Obin (16 years old; Amos and Lucian's son)
Tomolai (widower; Amos's dad)
Patrisa (young married woman; Melissa's language helper; husband Kaki is our boat driver and he is not clear on the Gospel yet but has been coming)
Jon and Yowan (married couple; Jon is a translation helper and both are eager for more teaching)
Tinamadil (married woman with simple faith; her husband Liukalang has been coming but we have not been able to talk with him yet) Redi (widow; Karrie's house helper)
Sali and Mata (married couple; Mata is Melissa's house helper)
Bernard and Pitel (married couple; Bernard is a lesson writing helper),
Konrat (Bernard's brother who is from another Siar village and happened to be here during the teaching; he is amazed that he has never heard about what God has done for him before and wants the rest of his family to hear it too!)
Ogen and Teri (married couple; our landowners and big supporters of us)
Presila (married woman; husband, Devit, has been out of the village for the last 3 months and she is anxious to share the gospel with him)
Juli (young single girl; Presila's daughter and Erin's house helper)
Sakman, Josua, and Aisea (Sakman is a widower and Karrie's house helper, Josua and Aisea are 2 of her sons who are believing, she is eager to talk about God's word with everyone)
Linda (married woman, her husband, Sebel, is now listening to the recorded last two lessons on Christ's death, burial, and resurrection)
Puklun (older married woman and our closest neighbor)
Lonel (Single man)
Tande and Kelestin (married couple; Tande is a lesson writing helper)

Praise the Lord for these new believers!!! Thank you for praying for them all these years! There are several that we are still trying to touch base with and see what they are believing. Please continue to be praying!

Yesterday evening God started to teach them some new truths due to their salvation in Christ. One major thing that was mentioned was that they have been placed into God's family (clan). And with that, God only has one clan. We taught that from God's perspective, He sees them, those who have believed in the finished work of Christ for their sins, in His clan, and they are one in that new relationship. Many were really excited, and some even shared publicly on that wonderful new truth. In the west we have some struggles with being one and practically living that due to our strong worldview of independence. However, here in Siar land, everyone is related to someone, due to their clan relationships. That is not to say there aren't divisions here, there definitely are; however, they tend to view themselves as a whole more so than as individual parts. Now that they are starting to get God's truth on what He did for them in their salvation and that they are one in that salvation, many are starting to embrace it and love it. Moreover, they are starting to see that the divisions that are here are not biblical and that God wants to change it. They are starting to see that God's perspective is what their perspective should be. How encouraging!!!

We will be meeting with God's 2 week old church here twice a week, for teaching, and we will periodically be meeting together for fellowship and of course food (the Siar love to eat). Please continue to pray that God's word would do its work in the lives of the believers here, individually and corporately and that those who have not yet believed will perhaps be interested in hearing about what God has done to save them.

We leave you with a couple statements people have shared with us these past two weeks:

"We believed what our ancestors told us about how the world was made, but those were lies. God is the truth, the one who made everything! The sea, the trees, the stars, only God. God is stronger than all!" - Patrisa

Recounting the story of Cain and Abel a woman, Yelita said, "God accepted Abel's offering because it's what God required- a perfect lamb. Abel's sin went onto the lamb and the lamb died. Jesus is the lamb God sent for us, and our punishment was put on Him. He is the Redeemer. I believe this is the truth"

Thank you all for partnering with us through prayers and financial support! We really appreciate you and would love to hear from you!

Jonathan, Melissa, Zoe, Caleb, Eve, Olivia and Levi Jackson