

The Neglected But Not Forgotten Peoples of East Indonesia

RA, Mission to Unreached
Peoples (MUP)

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War torn, neglected, difficult to reach, hostile to the gospel, graveyard of missionaries; these terms describe the problems facing dedicated believers who are currently working among the 96 remaining unreached people groups in eastern Indonesia.

History

In pre-colonial times the peoples of this area, (which includes the Spice Islands) either controlled or held great sway over extensive parts of the region. The Sultans (Kings) ruled over their Sultanates (Kingdoms), and the perceived spiritual powers of these rulers were revered and feared by those whom they encountered.

Then the Europeans discovered eastern Indonesia. Myriads of explorers and spice traders made their way through the labyrinth of the eastern islands. Famed Portuguese explorer, Ferdinand Magellan, intended to reach these fabled lands, but was killed en route in 1521. The historical landscape is littered with stories of the Dutch who battled the Portuguese and others for the right to dominate the local Sultanates. The lucrative trade in coconuts, cinnamon, mace, salt, pepper, nutmeg, cloves, and coffee was the prize for the eventual victor, the Dutch.

The Bimanese sultans, who once reigned in the eastern region of Sumbawa Island, have been documented by 18th century naturalists as possessing

what is known as *sakti* (divine power). Many of these formerly independent sultanates continue to flourish through the current bloodline descendants of these once despotic rulers. Their descendants possess the relics and artifacts of the past, which contain treasures of the realm. The possession of these riches still enable the descendants to wield political and business influence over their respective regions.

At the height of their power during WWII, the Japanese invaded Indonesia. The Japanese were defeated in 1945, and in 1948 Indonesia was given full independence from the Dutch. Thus ended 350 years of colonial rule. Indonesia has been a sovereign, independent nation ever since.

Religion in Eastern Indonesia

In the early 15th century Islamic warriors swept through the archipelago of Indonesia and made their way into the eastern kingdoms. The peoples embraced the new religion and began to combine their strong ties to mysticism with the daily practice of Islam. But today this region which includes the islands of Kalimantan, Bali, Lombok, Sumbawa, Sulawesi, Maluku, and Ambon will demand great effort from those who wish to see the Kingdom of God extended. The population includes several unengaged unreached people groups (UUPGs). This acronym means that they have no Christian workers. There are also many unreached people groups (UPGs), which are groups with a small number of Christian workers and are less than two percent Evangelical.

With the exception of the Balinese Hindus, these predominantly Muslim unreached groups make up a total population of approximately 26 million. Among the 96 unreached groups in the region, 71 remain “unengaged” without any Christian witness. They are waiting to be told about the true King of Kings.

During the last decade from 1999-2002 the Maluku islands and Ambon have been filled with deadly attacks aimed at Christian and Western targets. There were also the Lombok terrorist riots in January of 2000 and the Bali terrorist bombings in 2002. These were all traced to Al-Qaeda-linked groups.

A major hotbed of jihadists resides in the Poso area of Sulawesi. This Al-Qaeda training camp is alive today and highly active, with branches multiplying into the remote areas of Sumbawa and beyond.

An Overview of Life Today Among East Indonesian Unreached Peoples

The peoples of eastern Indonesia are mostly agrarian, and the land is rich in fertile soil, lush tropical foliage and very exotic natural resources. Some areas on the island of Sulawesi have some industrial and business pursuits and have produced influential modern day political figures. Corporate business successes have been launched in the major cities of Makassar, Denpasar, and Manado. The vast majority of these peoples are still subsistence farmers. Travel in this region even to this day is largely considered primitive in nature due to the lack of a modern infrastructure.

The temperament of some of the largest unreached people groups in this region is often hostile and aggressive. Harsh life experienced at the hands of human oppressors, years of colonialism, and centuries of sultanate domination may have influenced the people in a negative way. Numbers of these unreached people groups, such as the Sasak-Bali cluster group, are renowned for their warrior like dispositions and culture. Workers must earn trust rather than expect it.—RA

Heartbeat of the Local and Foreign Missionaries

Presently, there are over 30 foreign and national mission agencies partnering in the formation of what is called The Ephesus Team for eastern Indonesia. The Ephesus Team is a cooperative inter-missions agency effort to strategically launch church planting movements among the unengaged and unreached people groups of eastern Indonesia. Those laborers involved in this area of 96 unreached people groups sense that we are on the edge of a breakthrough among these Muslim peoples. We pray for church planting movements (CPM) for God's glory. What will be the tipping point? We believe strongly that very little of eternal consequence is accomplished in God's work apart from intercessory prayer. As those of us engaged in CPM among these unreached people groups reflect upon this reality, we acknowledge our unmitigated dependency upon the hand of God.

Our Vision for Eastern Indonesia:

- To glorify God through church planting movements (CPMs) among the 96 unreached people groups of eastern Indonesia.
- To launch church planting movement capable teams, raise up indigenous leaders, and rapidly reproduce obedient Christ-followers in each village and city. By transforming the hearts of these people, we are trusting God to spawn movements to transform their societies and beyond.

Our Goals for 2013-14:

- To mobilize and equip indigenous Indonesian believers in the implementation of church planting movement essentials.
- To send teams of intercessors and gospel-sharers to the region in order to inundate the people with unprecedented prayer and gospel-sharing.
- To see churches, prayer groups, and individuals from around the world participate in coordinating prayer initiatives, which are focused on the specific people groups of eastern Indonesia. By using the *GPD* this month, you are part of this initiative.

In short, the desire of the laborers in this region is to, by faith, take these people groups off the unreached peoples list!

How Can I Pray?

- Pray that God will raise up more laborers to join the few existing workers in church planting movements.
- Pray for the hearts of the indigenous people to receive, adore, worship, and obey the Lord Jesus among these unreached peoples of Indonesia's eastern islands.
- Pray for the hearts of the believers to grow in passion and compassion for the lost of eastern Indonesia. Pray for Indonesian believers and churches to catch a vision to share the gospel in a culturally relevant and sensitive way with the unreached peoples of this region.
- Pray that workers will be led to "persons of peace" who, in turn, will lead entire households and communities to Christ. Pray that they will rely upon the Holy Spirit to guide them through the Scriptures.
- Pray that new believers will be obedient to the Word of God and persevere in the face of persecution.
- Pray that as these new believing households are transformed through loving obedience to Christ, they will begin to engage in ways to see transformation in their communities.

If you desire to send a 250 word letter of encouragement to field workers among these peoples, and/or are interested in receiving further updates by email please contact: rra@safetypost.net GPD

Day 1

Daniel 6:28

So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Scholars have estimated that Daniel was about 90 years old; he was toward the end of his lifetime of civil service to a couple of regimes when he experienced God's miraculous protection in the lion's den. God honored Daniel's faith and obedience and used him to bless Babylonians, Chaldeans, Medes, and Persians. We may confidently expect to enjoy fellowship together around the throne of God with members of each of these ancient peoples, partly because of what Daniel did. Daniel was faithful to his mission. Will Daniel be able to enjoy fellowship at that same gathering with representatives of other people groups because we too have been faithful to the task to which the Lord calls us?

Pray that God will give us the perseverance to serve Him well like Daniel of old.

Missionary biography, Hendrik van Dijken

The year was 1866. Four young Dutch missionaries were sailing through the Straits of Malacca. The intended port for these glory bearers was present day Papua, Indonesia.

Enroute to Papua they met a Christian man named Moli. He appealed to the four missionaries to begin mission work in the Maluku islands. They heard a "Macedonian Call" much like the one described in Acts 16:6-12. Three of them, Hendrik van Dijken, T. F. Klaassen, and A. De Bode, answered that call, changed their plans, and began a work in this area. The work was slow and painstaking. The first baptisms took place in 1874 when they dedicated the first church.

The growth of the church came after 1900 when a perceived "new" missionary method was applied. People were baptized in groups (households). This rapid growth began in Tobelo in 1898 and developed quickly throughout the islands from 1900.

"Perintis Injil" (pioneer of the gospel) reads the inscription at the base of the present-day bronze statue that memorializes Van Djiken's obedience to Christ. Several mango trees from that time period shade the land where Van Djiken and his colleagues planted the gospel in the Maluku area of Halmahera.

Pray for today's believers to hear and respond to God when He calls them to re-direct their efforts. Pray for entire households of unreached people groups to embrace Isa Al Masih (Jesus, the Messiah).—RA

Continued. Fast Forward to Today

Only a short walk from the present day tribute to the faithfulness of these three missionaries lies a sharply contrasting memorial to a more recent story. From 1999 to 2002 one of the largest jihad efforts to eradicate the few Christians in this eastern area of Indonesia was launched.

This second and more recent memorial stands less than 100 meters from the bronzed likeness of the first bearer of the gospel; two divergent kingdoms are represented therein. The moss covered remains of a bombed out church building chronicles the stark contrast between the transformational power of the gospel and the cruelty and fallen-ness of man. A mass grave reflects a small representation of those who were killed at that time in the conflict. This mass grave tells the tale of those who were eviscerated, bludgeoned, decapitated, maimed, and hunted down by Laskar Jihad and other Muslim terrorist groups. Many of their children were stolen and shipped back to Java to be raised in Islamic boarding schools and madrasas. This has resulted in a generation of stolen children and many eradicated families who dared to say the name of Jesus. The challenge is to finish what Hendrik Van Djiken and others began by faith.

The Lombok Riots of January 17, 2000, which targeted the few Christians in this area, were incited by the violence unleashed in the Ambon, Maluku, and Poso areas of Indonesia. Islamic solidarity and prowess expressed a higher stakes commitment from that day forward.

Pray for Muslim Indonesians to understand God's perspective on these two "monuments" offering such contrasting spirituality.—RA

Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.

It sometimes seems today that God is silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves (1:13). But as we watch the ebb and flow of international affairs through the centuries, we can be confident that God is wisely and fairly working out His purposes until the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea (2:14). Those who lost their lives to Laskar Jihad did not die in vain. God is using the blood of His martyrs in Indonesia and all over the world.

Pray for the nations to watch and understand what God is doing in Indonesia, even when it involves tragedy.

Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed...just as he had done before.

Just like Daniel, Darlene Rose had to choose between safety and obedience. Put yourself in her place. Would you find it hard to hear the Lord tell you what to do in such a crisis? How would you go about finding His perfect will when one option means relative safety and the other means facing brutal oppressors? Though she faced years of brutality, her actions were a strong testimony to the Indonesian Muslims. She was willing to suffer and even die for the sake of taking them the gospel.

Pray that you will clearly hear the Lord's voice when you face difficult choices.

Missionary Biography, Darlene Rose

The year was 1942, and the Japanese invasion and occupation of the Dutch East Indies (present day Republic of Indonesia) was imminent. Word had spread rapidly throughout the region regarding the human atrocities experienced by captives of the Japanese aggressors. Missionaries who stayed would have to suffer alongside Indonesians.

Russell and Darlene Rose's mission agency had begun to implement their evacuation plans as they gathered in south Sulawesi. Their leader, Dr. R.A. Jaffrey, drew a line in the sand before the missionaries gathered that day. Those who chose to stay and suffer alongside the Indonesians were to remain standing in place, and those who were led to escape stepped over the line. The missionaries were given a time to seek the Lord before the last boat left the coast.

Darlene and her husband chose to remain. She lived through the next several years in a Japanese internment camp, while her husband was never to be seen again after the Japanese whisked the men away from the women. Darlene's story of trust and obedience, as relayed in her book entitled, *Evidence Not Seen*, in the midst of unspeakable suffering at the hands of her captors, is one of the many stories of those who gave seed to the advancement of the gospel in the eastern area of Indonesia.

Pray for today's missionaries to have the presence of mind to hear the Lord's voice when they encounter persecution and face death.—RA

Missionary Biography: Anna Tan

Day 4

Isaiah 25: 7b-8

“**W**hen your bucket gets kicked, what spews forth will be either bitterness or blessing. I can’t answer for others, but I know what I desire. When God takes me through suffering, I want to respond with blessing,” commented Anna Tan, Singaporean missionary to the Sasak Muslims of Lombok island, Indonesia.

One morning in 2001, Anna was found with 80 percent of her body covered in 2nd and 3rd degree burns. Anna had awakened to the daily routine of making coffee in anticipation of her time with the Lord. The propane gas tank, which supplied the stovetop operation, had leaked profusely overnight. In her sealed kitchen area she unknowingly walked into a cloud of undetectable gas and lit a match.

Anna obeyed the Lord’s voice to demonstrate and proclaim the glory of Christ among the Sasak people. Her life represents just one from among the 70 missionaries who have come and gone in service among them in the past 23 years of modern mission efforts. For those of us still called to be among the Sasak, we jointly believe God to launch a rapidly multiplying movement of Sasak worshipers of Christ.

Anna is a reminder of the high cost and the privilege of obeying God’s voice to the least reached peoples. She spewed forth blessing as she clung to Christ’s sufficiency, even as she died.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to plant blessings in the hearts of God’s children who face suffering.—RA

On this mountain He will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; He will swallow up death forever.

The end of shrouds, funerals and the stench of death; that is what Isaiah is proclaiming. And this is a promise to the faithful in all nations. How can anyone say no to such a promise? Though the majority of humanity will say no, there will be a remnant from all nations that will say yes to the Lord, and yes to life. That is why we pray for them.

Pray that the Lord will bring unimaginable life to the nations that we intercede for this month.

Mbojo (aka, Bimanese) People

Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom.

Imagine the excitement of those who hear of their Creator for the first time. His power resulted in the Universe being created out of nothing. No god can boast of such a thing! And there's more: His understanding no one can fathom. By giving allegiance to this Creator, people are joining with the One whose understanding is far beyond anything mankind can imagine. What a hope! What a privilege!

Pray that when the unreached hear of the One who created them, that they will marvel in such a way that it will be impossible to not worship Him.



Bimanese women

Though the air was hot and sticky, Mun felt a chill down her spine when she visited her home village among the Bimanese people. People she had known all her life as friends looked

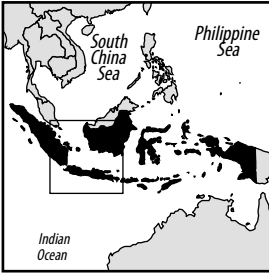
the other way and pretended they didn't see her. She later commented, "I returned to my home village of Wiara. Upon my arrival I was greeted with coldness from the entire community. No one there is a believer. They were raised Muslim and expected me to stay that way."

Mun has recently been looking for persons of peace (described in Luke 10 and Matthew 10 as people who welcome Christ's ambassadors). After a recent visit to her home village, she offered to jointly study the stories of the Old Testament and New Testament in the Discovery Bible Study (DBS) approach. Her mother and family members agreed to study these stories and have begun to yearn for God's ways. Mun has committed to train her mother to share these stories with other persons of peace and their households.

Pray for the four to six house fellowships in the area of Wiara to rapidly reproduce into new churches within the next year. Pray for boldness and love in the hearts of Bimanese trained lay leaders, and ask the Lord to enable them to aid in the national church planting movement. —RA

*Bimanese people: 750,000 Muslims, 200 believers
Status: Engaged in a church planting movement effort
Location: Sumbawa Island*

Sumbawanese (aka, Semawa) People



Knees to the earth! Saleh assumed the praying posture at dawn's first light. Saleh had known nothing of life outside of Islam. Islam defined his understanding of community. To be Sumbawanese is to be Muslim. Or so he had always assumed.

As Saleh prayed, he was deeply shaken by a new image of a person clothed in splendid robes of white enwrapped in a bright light. Saleh had fallen face down, struck by a deep sense of dread over his sinfulness in the presence of this Person. Saleh recognized the man in his vision as the one known as the prophet

Isa (Jesus). The message Isa declared in the vision that day "Come and follow Me." Recollection of this event sent alternate waves of thrill and fear through the very core of Saleh's being.

On the heels of this vision, a man came to Saleh's home village. This man, Masri, asked who among them has experienced a dream or vision of Allah. Saleh practically stumbled over himself to invite Masri into his household. Masri has begun to train Saleh to take a series of stories from the Bible back to his family.

Pray for many Sumbawanese people to be given dreams, visions, and supernatural healings that they can only attribute to Jesus. Pray for indigenous lay leaders to be well equipped so they can facilitate healthy, rapidly multiplying movements to Christ.—RA

500,000 Muslims, 20 believers

Status: Engaged in a church planting movement effort

Location: Sumbawa Island, a small island to the east of Java

The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings."

According to the customs in the Ancient Near East, each group of people lived in the service of their own god, whom they worshiped and served in exchange for his blessing. The defeat of Judah had supposedly marked their God as a lesser deity, unworthy of worship by the mighty king of Babylon. However, through the faithful testimony of Daniel and his friends, Nebuchadnezzar was confronted with the glory and power of Yahweh, God of Judah and God of the nations. In this case God used the interpretation of dreams to reveal Himself to the king. Later He used other demonstrations of His great power to convince Nebuchadnezzar and others of His supremacy.

Pray that God will use the faithful service of His children to reveal His power and love to the mighty of our day.

Sasak People

Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.

Joel's prophecy foresaw that God would summon the nations to the Valley of Jehoshaphat and pronounce judgment on the wicked, but declare refuge for His people. As the prophet looked out over the sea of humanity in the valley, he was vividly aware that the great and terrible Day of Judgment was imminent. This prophecy was a picture of today's world in which vast multitudes hang in the balance of decision. Will we give each human society the valid opportunity to decide to follow Jesus? Will we offer the refuge of salvation to the nations to save them from judgment?

Pray that God will raise up messengers from His Church who will go out into the unreached harvest field.



Create International

A Sasak man

"I am your new confession of faith!" were the words Jakir, a devout Sasak Muslim man, heard Jesus speak to him in a dream. After a specific dream detailing baptism, Jakir awakened that same morning and took himself to the river. When he was sure that no one was around, he dunked himself under water. A few weeks later Jakir still did not understand salvation in Jesus. Even so, he dreamt again of Jesus baptizing him. In obedience to this unknown God, he went down to the creek and knelt in the water and baptized himself again to make sure it was done properly.

Before he had these dreams, a church planting movement worker had shared with Jakir about the Savior during multiple visits. He shared with him through Discovery Bible Study (DBS) stories, through the JESUS Film in Sasak, as well as a contextual movie entitled "Irun's Dream." After Jakir truly acknowledged that salvation is through Christ alone, he wanted his friend to baptize him as the statement of his new heart condition.

Pray that God would continue to go ahead of and behind missionaries with undeniable signs and wonders that point to Jesus Christ. Pray that local and foreign missionaries will be filled with boldness to start more Discovery Bible Study story groups among Sasak households that will reproduce rapidly into a mighty movement to Christ.—JK

2,600,000 Muslims, 100 believers

Status: Engaged in a church planting movement effort

Location: Lombok, a small island east of Java

Hindu Balinese People

Create International



Balinese women

“In the name of the Lord Jesus, I deliberately set my feet on the soil of Bali and claim it for Him.” To that original faith claim, Dr. R.A. Jaffrey later added, “The light of the gospel preached by Spirit-filled missionaries will drive out the millions of demons of darkness, and these people, enchained by the devil so long, will be set free.”

Rodger and Lelia Lewis were among those early missionaries who started their work in Bali in the early 1950s—and yes, demons were driven out, and people were set free. But it was a battle, according to the book, *The Battle for Bali*. With Hinduism intricately woven into the fabric of both family and culture, to choose to follow Christ often meant ostracism and economic isolation for the Balinese people.

Though Rodger went to be with the Lord in 1999, Lelia still serves among the Balinese. They have had an enduring influence on the island. A church planting movement is now in the early stages among the Balinese.

Pray for healthy house fellowships led by Balinese lay believers to reproduce. Pray for national and foreign laborers to walk in humility and spiritual freedom, and to appropriate the weapons of the spiritual warfare which rages before them.—RL/RA

3,280,000 Hindus, 5,000 believers

Status: Engaged in a church planting movement effort

Location: Bali Island, just to the east of Java Island

But the Prince of the Persian Kingdom resisted me 21 days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

This comment made by the angel of the Lord to Daniel gives us some insight into what happens when we pray. We know from this passage that the Lord responds to our prayers. In this case he sent His angel to Daniel. But notice that the answer to this prayer was delayed because of the work of the enemy, the Prince of Persia. It may take much regular prayer before the Lord breaks through the spiritual darkness. Will you be one who prays for the unreached nations until the Lord is victorious?

Continue to pray for the peoples we lifted up this month.

Day 9

Habakkuk 2:14

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Habakkuk eventually understood that God wanted all the peoples, all the nations, to see and understand His authority. God parted the sea because He wanted those who didn't know Him to see His salvation and turn to Him. His chastisement of Israel was partially intended to show the nations the awesome power with which He would later come to redeem her. No matter what the situation in the world may be today, our future is glorious! Our responsibility in this great drama of life is to willingly bear witness of His glory to every nation!

Pray that God will speed the day when the knowledge of the glory of the Lord covers the earth!

Buginese (Bugis) People

Do you know the origin of the name “boogeyman”? During the Spice Islands trade of centuries past, the Bugis people were known as marauding sea-faring pirates.

The present day Bugis people depend upon their own good deeds to gain access to heaven. According to their worldview, to pray five times daily and to make the pilgrimage to Mecca will 99 percent guarantee heaven.

There are over five million Bugis people who are spread out over southern Sulawesi. Due to the unique challenges of intense spiritual warfare among the Bugis, few workers stay focused upon them.

Our church planting mission teams learned that prayer is crucial, while on a prayer drive a couple of years ago. After two years of sharing, follow up and prayer, one household has believed. Three other households believed through this network, bringing the total to 17 people that came to the Light. With a population of 5,010,000, there are only 10 known Bugis churches and they are presently not reproducing. Who else among the Bugis has seen the Light? Be assured that these seekers want to be found.

Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field according to Matthew 9:38. Pray that the eyes of the Bugis will be opened to see Jesus Christ alone as Lord and Savior. Pray that many Bugis households will turn from strongholds of Islam to freedom in Christ.—SS

5,010,000 Muslims, 5,000 believers

Status: Engaged in a church planting movement effort

Location: Southern Sulawesi Island

Makassarese People



Create International

A skeptical
Makassarese
elder

Fresh water was in short supply, so it seemed to the foreign missionaries that a Makassarese community would want their help. They were in for a surprise when they approached the village elders about a possible well-digging project. The tersely lipped Makassarese leader rubbed his chin

and glared at them. He said, “We refuse to lift a finger for the digging of your water wells. Furthermore, if others choose to help you, we shall not allow them to benefit. We will block their ability to obtain clean water.”

This Makassarese community has been without clean water for generations. Quite commonly, they make trips to the mainland in order to obtain drinking water. Why would they refuse help with such an important matter?

The Makassarese operate with the world view that there are only limited blessings from the god that they worship, only a limited amount of resources and power available from Allah. Their human leaders are perceived to have the power, and no one is to combat this reality. Such a worldview hinders their development as a community.

Pray that more people will desire to see a church planting movement launched among this resistant people group. Pray for persons of peace from among the Makassarese, who are presently being taught the Word of God, will have wisdom as they begin to minister to their people.—RA

2,130,000 Muslims, 583 believers

Status: Engaged in a church planting movement effort

Location: South Sulawesi

...I will overthrow what I have built and uproot what I have planted... Should you then seek great things for yourself? Seek them not.

God admonishes us, as He did Jeremiah's scribe Baruch, to abandon selfish ambitions which are not only futile, but also irrelevant. Most people spend their lives pursuing either things or accomplishments. It is tragic when believers chase personal aspirations to the ignorance or neglect of the clearly-revealed purposes of God. In light of what God is doing and wants to do among the nations, can we possibly justify seeking great things for ourselves? Seek them not.

Pray to yield your aspirations, ambitions, and dreams to His perfect will.

Day 11

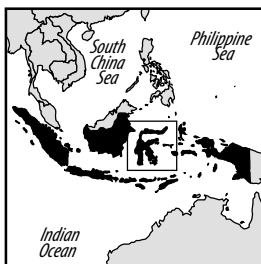
Isaiah 25:7-9

The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces. . . . In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in Him, and He saved us."

This verse and in fact the entire Bible should be good news to peoples like the Konjo Pesisir who need hope. Isaiah here portrays the heavenly banquet in which men and women from every nation will rejoice in the goodness of God. Though Christ's death has conquered the power of death for all who put their trust in Him, His return will banish the presence of death from the redeemed of every nation. How tenderly the Sovereign Lord will wipe away tears from faces upturned in joyful praise!

Pray that the Lord will guide us until we see Him face to face.

Konjo Pesisir People



What is our prayer for the 200,000 Konjo Pesisir people of southern Sulawesi Island? We pray for thousands of multiplying Konjo Pesisir house churches to come out of darkness into the brilliant light of Christ! The desire of present and future followers of Jesus is to see this people group rapidly reproduce as obedient worshipers of the living God.

No more fear, no turning back, total spiritual freedom. . . that would be the passionate wish of any one who knows them. Satan's hold on these people is fierce.

They fear the loss of their homes, their lands, their families, evil spirits, and outsiders. All these fears continue to cripple any new believers. Satan incessantly whispers lies to the Konjo Pesisir as he preys upon their shame and deep wounds.

Twenty years ago Isa Al Masih (Jesus the Messiah) called one young Konjo Pesisir woman to be His apostle to her people. Persecution of every form has not stopped her from being faithful to this vision. Estimates of between 500 to 1,000 believers are now numbered among this unreached people group. Some 30 fellowships meet in numerous villages.

Pray for steadfastness of heart for the Konjo Pesisir believers. Pray for the rapid reproduction of disciples in the house fellowships led by healthy Konjo Pesisir leaders.—MA

200,000 Muslims, 500-1,000 believers

Status: Unengaged in a church planting movement effort

Location: Southern Sulawesi

Luwu People

Day 12

Romans 10:3

Little Hamadi scurried onto his *tikar* mat (made of thinly woven bamboo), which ushered in his nightly sleep. Many times he imagined his *tikar* mat becoming a magic carpet like the ones he heard about in the folklore of the great Islamic Ottoman Empire. His teachers at the Islamic school in the south-central region of Sulawesi Island told him many stories of glorious Islamic empires.

When he woke up in the morning Hamadi quickly fixated upon a much weightier endeavor. As a Luwu Muslim aged seven, he is expected to participate in the Islamic Fasting Month of Ramadan. Thus, the fasting month commenced. By five o'clock he was absolutely famished.

Hamadi thought of all the heroes he heard about in school. There were the Bali Bombers (jihadists) who fought against Western decadence. Then there were the heroes of the 9/11 World Trade Center. "Those men gave their lives for Allah," commented his teacher. Yet even at this tender age, Hamadi quietly wondered to himself, "How could they be true heroes when so many people suffered because of what they did?"

Pray for the younger generation of Luwu to become disillusioned with spiritual counterfeits. Pray for house fellowships to break out into a rapidly reproducing movement of disciples.—RA

290,000 Muslims, 150 believers

Status: Unengaged in a church planting movement effort

Location: Southern Sulawesi

Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

People are very good at attempting to create God in their own image. Since we have a fallen nature, we can easily try to view God as being as wicked as we are. Such is the situation for the jihadists who use the Name of the God of Creation as an excuse for murder. Such people have interfered with the advance of the gospel. It will be very difficult to get the gospel to such people. However, we must remember that it took hundreds of years to see the Kingdom of God penetrate Viking communities that were once dedicated to piracy.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to shower His mercy on the Luwu people so that they will not listen to the jihadists, but instead listen to His voice of love and mercy.

The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; so they entered the king's service.

Daniel and his friends did not serve in Babylon on missionary visas, but as trainees for civil service positions. They were among the first "tentmakers" working in positions of useful service among foreign nations; but they also served as representatives of the Most High God. Today, many countries have closed their doors to career missionaries. But God can use people like the Christian businessmen mentioned in this prayer entry. Those with medical skills can serve just about anywhere. The possibilities are endless!

Pray that our Heavenly Father will bless the 21st century tentmakers who serve Him in nations around the world.

Mamuju People

It was a dark night when the survey team met with a new contact; a Christian businessman, in the capital city of the region populated by the Mamuju people of south-central Sulawesi. All were seated on a woven mat. The brightly lit dome of the area's largest mosque lay visible through a nearby window as a poignant backdrop to those gathered. The discussion that night was about how a person could bring about a church planting movement (CPM) among the Mamuju people.

On a survey trip that ended in this city, it seemed that endless rice fields lay strewn across the territory of the Mamuju people. Children were also part of the landscape on this trip; those who wore school uniforms mingled alongside those who could no longer afford to attend school. At times, children were stationed at points along the road to collect offerings for the local mosque.

The religion of the Mamuju unites Islam with traditional occult practices. Commonly the Mamuju people consult the local *dukun* (shaman/healer) for healings as well as for the appeasement of demonic spirits. Their belief systems include celebrations and rituals that utilize sacred knives.

Pray for the implementation of CPM training that is being launched among the few believers in this area. Pray for the few believers who serve among the Mamuju to begin to trust God for entire households to come to faith.—MV

60,000 Muslims, no believers

Status: Unengaged in a church planting movement effort

Location: South-central coastal Sulawesi

Selayar People

Day 14

Daniel 7:9, 10

“I’ve had dreams about Isa (Jesus!)” declared Moh, the Muslim head of his village. This was the response my Indonesian national partner and I heard when we sat down with this man and first mentioned the name of Jesus. Moh lives on a relatively small island called Selayar which is off the south coast of the island of Sulawesi.

The first time we surveyed this island we were introduced to Moh. As the head of his village, he holds much sway in the community. Over a cup of coffee, we told him about Jesus the Messiah on our short visit. We talked about Adam and Eve and the fall of man. Then we concluded with the story of how Jesus shed His blood as payment for our sins which separate us from Allah. Upon the first mention of Jesus, Moh cut us off to say that he has encountered Jesus in multiple dreams! Now we have returned several times to the village to give Moh a New Testament and to challenge him to put his faith in Jesus.

Pray that Moh and his family will turn from their old beliefs and make Jesus lord of their lives. Pray for a rapidly reproducing network of house fellowships in this village. Pray that the Holy Spirit will lead us to persons of peace (spiritually receptive people) among the Selayar who will become believers in Jesus.—BA

115,000 Muslims, 300 believers

Status: Unengaged with a church planting movement effort

Location: Selayar Island and southern Sulawesi

As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took His seat. The court was seated, and the books were opened.

Daniel was given a glimpse of the end times as seen in these verses of the Great White Throne judgment seat. (See also Revelation 20:11-15.) The dead will then stand before the Father’s throne and be judged according to what they have done. What an awesome vision for Daniel to behold! As he continued to watch, the Son of Man was led into the Father’s presence and was given authority, glory, and sovereign power. All peoples, nations, and men of every language worshiped him (7:14). How glorious and how comforting! God has not given us an impossible commission. It will be accomplished as we yield ourselves to Him.

Thank the Lord for this glimpse of the future. Pray that He will hasten the day when through us, some from every nation will sing His praises.

The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.

Trust in the Lord develops righteousness that leads to quietness and confidence in the Lord. Today we are reading about a woman who is being threatened and persecuted, yet she is quiet and confident in her Lord and Savior. What a gift He has for the nations if they will only listen to His voice!

Pray that this year many from unreached peoples in Indonesia will put their trust in the One who takes away our fears and replaces them with quietness and confidence.

Makian Timur People

“A locket of hair, a fingernail, and a photo of yourself!” demanded the mass of students who surrounded Nitha’s dorm room. Nitha had come to this Islamic boarding school for an education. On school break back in her home village among another Muslim people group, Nitha and her family members had recently come to follow Jesus through what her friend called a “Discovery Bible Study.” What she received was an opportunity for personal transformation. She returned to her boarding school with a newfound passion for Jesus. Her school friends opposed her when she shared her new faith.

And now those same boarding school friends falsely accused her of theft. In their worldview, to discover guilt or innocence was in the hands of the local *dukun*. Nitha refused to give them what they demanded. She knew their false accusations, if “confirmed” by the *dukun*, would result in her public humiliation and a severe beating. “Was this what Jesus went through?” she thought. She chose to surrender her fears to her newfound Lord.

Based upon real events, Nitha is a composite story of the consequences often faced by those who live in Muslim people groups and trust Christ.

Pray for those people among the Makian Timur who will come to Christ. Help them to be strong in endurance and obedience so that they can withstand persecution.—RA

30,000 Muslims, no believers

Status: Unengaged in a church planting movement effort

Location: Maluku Island, to the east of Java

Sula People

Day 16
Isaiah 37:20

Create International



“Go away”!, cried Nisa. Not even a momentary silence calmed her tormented soul. The “spiritual guide friends” the local *dukun* had bestowed upon her would continue to torment her. She was plagued night and day with demonic faces, fears, and voices. “If only there was a way to get out from under this curse,” lamented Nisa.

It is a common occurrence among the Sula people to take girls at age 13 to a *dukun* to invoke and secure a spirit to accompany her. This spirit is employed to imbue her with powers to attract the opposite sex. Nisa’s parents want her married early to a man of means, and they think the *dukun*’s efforts will help her find this man.

The Sula people consider themselves staunch Muslims. Yet, they also practice many traditions that seek favors from the spirits said to reside in the holy places of former Islamic leaders. They are known as high-level practitioners of sought-after guardian spirits.

Pray for the revelation of God’s truth that Christ is the all-powerful deliverer. Pray for national laborers trained in church planting movements to be sent among the Sula people to proclaim the matchless Name and power of Jesus Christ.—RA

80,000 Muslims, no believers

Status: Unengaged in a church planting movement effort

Location: Central Maluku

Now, O Lord our God,
deliver us from his hand, so
that all kingdoms on earth
may know that You alone,
O Lord, are God.

It could be a big trial like a possible takeover from a hostile nation, or it could be a personal trial as serious as the one faced by the girl in this story; but God can deliver, and when He does, His Name is glorified among the nations. Have you prayed for someone oppressed by demons or sickness? Do you pray for their relief so that the lost may see His deliverance? Is the purpose of your prayer personal comfort, or the glorification of our Lord?

Commit to God in prayer the crises of your life. Pray that He will answer our prayers in ways that will glorify Him among the nations.

The God we serve is able to save us from it, and He will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if He does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image. . . .

What courage and what insight! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego teach us at least three lessons as we confront the challenge of principalities and powers raised up against the knowledge of God. First, God is able to deliver His servants from danger, and give us great boldness and confidence. Nothing is too hard for Him! Second, He is not obligated to rescue His servants from physical harm; His power is directed by His wisdom. Third, a balanced view of God's ability and His providence keeps us from timidity on the one hand or presumption on the other.

Pray that our wonderful Lord will teach us to walk in truth and wisdom as we face challenges to His authority.

Geser-Gorom People

How did I get here except by the hand of Jesus the Savior? Mutmainah mused. A daughter of vagrant farmers, she now stood before the wife of a powerful regent of the Geser-Gorom people. Mutmainah had begun to teach women in her village area how to read. She simply did this because she felt that God asked her to teach them. All she knew of her newfound faith in Jesus was to obey what He told her. The regent's wife heard news of the program, and now Mutmainah was summoned to meet with this woman of influence.

After Mutmainah and her family began to study the stories of the Bible, her life was ruined, that is, ruined for nothing short of God's glory! She prayed for Jesus the Savior to place her into the lives of those who are seeking after Him. Now as she stood before these women of governmental influence, she recalled the words from the Proverbs 30:28, "The lizard you may grasp with the hands, yet it is in kings' palaces." Here she stood among "kingly" types as a Muslim background believer; yet she had the confidence of the hand of God.

Pray that God would place obedient disciples of Jesus into all levels of the Geser-Gorom society. Pray for a massive movement of multiplying churches among the Geser-Gorom.—RA

32,000 Muslims, very few believers

Status: Unengaged in a church planting movement effort

Location: Central Maluku Island

Buol People

Day 18
Daniel 4:32

The Buol people's former sultans were quite effective implementing a class system of the have's and the have nots. Zul, a simple rice farmer, definitely inherited the *takdir* (fate given by Allah) of the have not's.

Zul's neighbors, Burhan and his wife, had recently begun to talk with him about the prophet Isa (Jesus). They invited Zul and his family to a discussion of the prophets as studied from the books of Moses, Psalms, and the gospels. During his last crop failure, Zul had observed Burhan and his wife standing in the middle of their rice field as they cried out to Allah in the name of Isa Al Masih (Jesus the Messiah). They asked Allah to bring rain for the parched land so that Allah would be glorified. A beautiful rain did descend at that moment! Mysteriously though, rain fell only upon Burhan and his family's farm. That prayer and apparent intimacy with Allah had mystified Zul. Why did Allah answer Burhan's prayer in the name of Isa Al Masih and not his?

*Pray for the Holy Spirit to draw the Buol people to Jesus.
Pray for the Holy Spirit to thrust out a national team
that will implement a church planting movement among
this unreached people group for God's glory.—RA*

*96,000 Muslims, five believers
Status: Engaged in a church planting movement effort
Location: Northern Sulawesi*

You will eat grass like cattle . . . until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone He wishes.

Daniel's fourth chapter is a kind of celebrity tract in which the most powerful king of his day tells how God broke his pride and stubbornness, and how in simple childlike surrender, he came to acknowledge the most High God as his Sovereign. Nebuchadnezzar said, "I raised my eyes toward heaven, and my reason returned to me and I blessed the Most High. . . ." When we are tempted to believe that any individual or any nation is beyond the saving power of God, we should be reminded that the king's heart is in the hands of the Lord; He directs it like a watercourse wherever He pleases.

*Pray that God will give us
the faith to trust Him for
miracles in the hearts of men
and nations.*

My Name will be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun.

The heart of God for all the nations is very evident. God wanted His people to shine forth among the nations so all could see His salvation. So it is today. Today God sends His workers into the harvest fields of the world, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting, the nations will know of His glory. It's all about spreading His great Name to the nations!

Thank the Lord for the privilege of being entrusted to carry His Name to the nations. Pray that our response to His challenge will bring honor to His Name from the rising of the sun, even to its setting.

Kaili Ledo People

Bernice Condit



Muhaimin stopped for a moment and smiled. Yes, motorbikes were coming. It must be them! He collected his hoe and walked back to his thatch-roofed hut in anticipation. He called to Ani to put the kettle on.

Sure enough the gospel bearers came. These young men had been visiting for months. Whenever they came, it broke the monotony of living deep in the jungle with few neighbors. They joked, sang, and brought fish to share.

Maryam was the first to have come to visit Muhaimin and his family. She was the one who challenged Muhaimin and his family to follow Jesus. She had impressed them with her youth and fire for Jesus, and she could answer all of their questions. And now “the boys” were here again. He’d have to remember the questions from last month and what he did to obey God’s Word since their last visit. The path of Jesus was very exciting. Muhaimin wanted to show that he was obedient to Allah, especially now that Ani and the family had also decided to follow Isa.

Pray for church planting movement equipped workers to go into Kaili-Ledo communities for God’s glory. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bring a stirring among the Kaili-Ledo people so that they will see their need for Jesus as Savior.—adapted from JK

343,000 Muslims, 50 believers

Status: Unengaged in a church planting movement effort

Location: Central Sulawesi

Bungku People

Day 20
Daniel 3:4-5

Colorful flowers and beautiful wedding attire were everywhere at the Bungku wedding, and the foreigners had to stop and take a look. They tried to be discreet as they dismounted their scooters to enjoy the view and hopefully catch a glimpse of the beautiful bride. They were startled by what happened next. “Welcome to our wedding celebration! We are so happy you stopped by!” exclaimed the wedding hosts to these uninvited foreigners. The mother of the bride nodded her approval to the hosts. She thought that perhaps if she welcomed these foreigners, the spirits would be appeased.

Such scenarios often play out among the Bungku people who live along the southwest coast of the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. Until recently the Bungku have been isolated due to difficult terrain which lies between their home area and the modern flow of Indonesian society.

Along newly built roads, village after village still remain lost and unreached without a gospel witness. But new roads bring new opportunities to take the gospel to these people loved by God!

Pray for a national team to start church planting movements in the Bungku villages which are along the new roads. Pray for God to draw people with a spiritual hunger to introduce the church planting leaders to households and communities who are receptive to the gospel.—MV

34,500 Muslims, two believers

Status: Unengaged in a church planting movement effort

Location: Southern Sulawesi

This is what you are commanded to do . . . you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.

Throughout history many pretenders have contended for the allegiance of men's hearts. Nebuchadnezzar sought to command worship of his gods and his glory; but Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to join the crowds in such idolatry. Likewise, today the people of God are called to prophetically denounce idolatry in its many forms and point the nations to the one true God. Yahweh will not share His glory with another, and He longs for the people of the earth to turn from false gods.

Pray that God will break our hearts with the tragedy of a world bound by the futile worship of idols. He alone is God!

Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket. . . . Before Him all the nations are as nothing; they are regarded by Him as worthless and less than nothing.

To stand before a wall-sized world map is to catch a glimpse of the immensity of this earth. Yet Isaiah asserts that when we stand before the Creator, the creation dwindles to comparative insignificance. What perspective this fact gives to God's people! We are so easily overawed by the scope of the Great Commission that our resolve weakens and our courage fails. But God is greater than His commission, greater than His earth, greater than any obstacles we will face. He loves the nations and regards them as infinitely precious and worthy of the death of His Son.

Pray that our Almighty God will teach us to fix our eyes on Him so that we may act in faith before the nations.

Wolio People

“If only I hadn’t been born a Wolio,” muttered Fifi, a 13-year-old daughter of Wolio *dukuns*. Jules is a neighbor of Fifi’s older sister. She is a foreign woman called to be salt and light among the Wolio. Extraordinary prayer has defined her work as a missionary. Through a season of prayer and fasting, Jules asked the Father to bring more seekers and persons of peace to her. Finding these kinds of people are essential to get a church planting movement started.

Driven by a hunger for something better than the Wolio belief system, Fifi began to spend time with this foreign woman. After several years Fifi has come to follow Jesus. Her spiritual journey has included multiple dreams and visions of Christ, healing from epilepsy, demonization, and persecution. Fifi’s story is chaotic. To reproduce multiplying disciples of obedient worshipers of Jesus is sometimes difficult. Jules clings to the reality that God is our constant friend, and He is faithful to His purposes among the nations.

The Wolio people practice Sufi Islam, a mixture of Islam and mysticism. They often seek after a *dukun* in order to secure a “helpful” spirit guide.

Pray for the Wolio people to recognize the demonic spirits that ensnare their hearts and keep them away from the true God. Pray for more church planting movement equipped workers to be sent to their area. Pray for a massive movement to Christ among the Wolio people.—RA

215,000 Muslims, 11 believers

Status: Engaged in a church planting movement effort

Location: Southwest Sulawesi

Bajau (aka, Sea Gypsy) People

As we walked along the well-worn paths of the Bajau village, I was fascinated by the picturesque sights, but I sensed a dark, demonic undercurrent. I knew that if God called us to work with the Bajau, an absolute prerequisite would be a strong prayer team.

Later we began to establish our life in a rented home in the capital of the province. Our team sought to engage people in spiritual conversations. A team member, Yeti, struck up a conversation with a young mother who wandered dejectedly through our neighborhood. The mother explained that she needed work in order to pay for bus fare to return to her Bajau village. After Yeti invited her into our house, all of the women gathered around her, listened to her story, and shared the gospel with her. They then gave her some ironing to do to earn some money.

When my husband returned home, he met the young mother and heard what had happened. He sensed the Spirit's leading to talk with her further. She received Jesus. She is one of only a couple of known believers among the Bajau.

Pray that the Bajau who typically are nomadic boat dwelling fishermen will be drawn to Jesus, the great fisher of men. Pray for the launch of strong church planting movements among the Bajau. Pray for faithful laborers and for the ramping up of intercessors to come alongside this effort.—LH

204,000 Muslims, two believers

Status: Engaged in a church planting movement effort

Location: Southwest Sulawesi, other parts of Southeast Asia

If you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

Isaiah is talking about glorifying God through our care for those who are exploited by the world. When we take care of the needs of the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed, we are acting as His hands and feet. Thus people will praise His Name, and He will be glorified. That is why the workers we read about today are taking care of the poor. God tells us to do it!

Pray that our Gracious Father will teach us to sacrificially give on behalf of those who are desperately hungry both for bread and the Bread of Life.

You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your sins.

Because Israel was entrusted with great blessings, her mandate was equally great: to bless all the families of the earth. When the chosen nation rebelled in selfishness and idolatry, her punishment was correspondingly severe. But is it not the same for us? Jesus declared, “From everyone who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked” (Luke 12:48). We who know Jesus Christ and who have the means to take the blessings of the gospel to the ends of the earth are obligated by our opportunities to do so.

Thank our Gracious God for our blessings and acknowledge the responsibility they place upon us. Pray that He will keep us from the sins of selfishness and self-indulgence.

Wawonii People

Haiyul and his forefathers had been farmers for countless generations. But because of slash and burn techniques and other destructive farming practices of the Wawonii, the inherited land of Haiyul’s family became infertile. He switched to living off the abundance of the sea as a fisherman, and has done well in his fishing efforts ... until recently. Now his crippled boat lay strewn across the reef.

His boat had been destroyed because on one evening Haiyul had begun to feel restless over the mysterious visions he had received: a vision of what he assumed to be Isa Al Masih (Jesus the Messiah). He shared these visions with his *imam* (Islamic leader). The imam reacted strongly against Haiyul’s experience. He shared Haiyul’s vision with the Wawonii elders. These visions of the splendor of the Savior shared in curious amazement with the *imam* resulted in temporary financial devastation for Haiyul and his family. The elders had ordered his boat to be destroyed.

Haiyul built a new boat and bravely began a new life in Christ. Often, he looks back upon this time as a severe test. God, in his mercy, has given him so much more than the life he once knew. As he and his family have begun to understand the Word of God, they have begun to worship Christ and obey His words.

Pray for the Wawonii people to be given dreams and visions of the Savior leading to a church planting movement among them. Pray that the laborers sent among the Wawonii will demonstrate the humility and gentleness of Christ.—RA

27,500 Muslims, five believers

Status: Unengaged in a church planting movement effort

Location: Southwestern Sulawesi

Banjar People

Day 24

Jeremiah 4:2b



Abudin wept over the news of how Jesus treated the woman with the issue of blood (Matthew 9). He had never known the hope of forgiveness

for his own sins. Abudin felt a wave of remorse and repentance for the abuse he had shown to women. On that day God's grace collided with Abudin's shame as he and his family members studied the Word of God together. He knew what he must do; he must ask forgiveness from each one of his three wives. That would be necessary for his step of obedience to His newfound Lord and Savior.

The Banjar see all of life through the lens of Islam. Their daily practice is heavily monitored in ritual observance. In this people group the intersection where animistic belief and Islam differ has long been blurred. Their strict adherence to ceremonial obligations is one of the highest among east Indonesian people groups. Their suspicious nature toward any influence outside of their Islamic norms is a hindrance to the spread of the gospel. Islamic boarding schools thrive among the Banjar.

Pray for spiritual breakthroughs among the Banjar people for God's glory. Pray that the few laborers among them will have emotional and spiritual strength when they experience spiritual warfare.—RA

3,500,000 Muslims, 200 believers

Status: Engaged in a church planting movement effort

Location: Southeastern Kalimantan

If you put your detestable idols out of my sight . . . and if in a truthful, just, and righteous way you swear, 'as surely as the Lord lives,' then the nations will be blessed by Him . . .

The Lord will act to bless the nations, but we also have a responsibility. We must put away our idols of selfishness, greed, and whatever else might be a hindrance to our obedience to Him. Are we willing to do that so the nations will be blessed? Are we willing to do what it takes to be good ambassadors of the One who calls us to the nations?

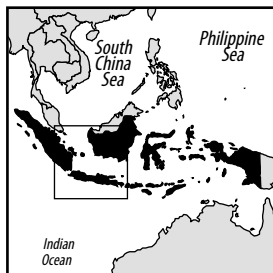
Pray that the Holy Spirit will point out our idols so that we can toss them aside and watch peoples like the Banjars be blessed!

Sanggau Sekadau People

In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

What a note of assurance, of triumph, of victory! God's unchangeable kingdom will last forever. These words of certain victory should encourage and strengthen us in the task of world evangelization. We do not yet see the Kingdom in its glory and power, but the Kingdom is here. It is among us. It is growing, pulsating with power as God calls and fills his people with the power of His Spirit. It is growing as God thrusts his people into a worldwide harvest, calling those from every nation to share in the glory of eternal fellowship with the Heavenly King.

Pray that the King of kings and Lord of lords will strengthen our hands, quicken our minds, and encourage our hearts with a vision of His victorious Kingdom.



Blue mixed with alternate hues of black and purple could be seen on Tin's face near her eye. Physical abuse at the hands of her husband was the norm for this second of three wives of Alif, a Sanggau Sekadau clan leader. Tin had often appealed to Alif's role as Islamic teacher in order to dissuade him from the inevitable mistreatment she suffered. At any unguarded look of objection to Alif's philandering, the beatings increased. Tin's painful narrative portrays the ashen heap of mistreatment of women condoned by Islam.

Tin had clung deeply to the Islamic instruction that Allah created her to satisfy the needs of her husband. A crossroads moment lay before her; her Alif had begun to molest their daughter. She sought help, and the community leaders responded. In order to save face for her husband, she was ordered to remain quiet, regardless of whether or not the molestation continued. Perhaps she could take solace in her role as guardian and protector of Islam for her family, she thought.

Pray that the hearts of the Sanggau Sekadau people will be broken over their sin, and that they will turn to the forgiveness and redemptive power of Isa Al Masih. Pray for God to send church planting movement workers to show the Sanggau Sekadau people the love of Christ.—RA

110,000 Muslims, five believers

Status: Unengaged in a church planting movement effort

Location: Kalimantan Island

Melayu Sambas People

The Night of Power, the night that annually ushers in the much-anticipated end to the Muslim month of fasting, Ramadan, was here. Rahmad usually looked forward to this time, but now his mind wandered. Recently a foreigner and his Indonesian friend had visited Rahmad's Melayu Sambas village and had said things Rahmad could not forget. The foreigner dared to broach an unthinkable topic. "Have you ever considered that the Kingdom of Allah is available for mankind to discover? I am praying that Allah will lead my friend and me to people who want to study the books of Moses, Psalms, and the gospels in order to know and understand the heart of Allah. Are you and your household among such people?" Rahmad's *imam* had always taught that no book but the Qur'an could be trusted as completely accurate.

Rahmad shook himself from a momentary shiver in his soul as he recalled the memory of that recent conversation. The memory hadn't ceased. Over the past two weeks, Rahmad and his family had met with these men and discovered powerful truths as they studied these stories.

Pray for church planting movement laborers among the Melayu Sambas people to be bold and loving. Pray that they will find "persons of peace" who will open the doors of their community to Jesus.—RA

450,000 Muslims, 10 believers

Status: Unengaged in a church planting movement effort

Location: Kalimantan Island

This is what the Lord Almighty says: "These people say, 'The time has not yet come for the Lord's house to be built.'"

A small company of Jews had returned to Judah from exile in Babylon. Initial efforts to rebuild the temple were frustrated by opposition from surrounding peoples. The people of God became too discouraged to do anything but rebuild their own homes. Haggai's message was, "God will honor us only if we put His concerns first!" What about your church? Is it putting God's kingdom first? What about its vision for the world? Does God want to use us the way He used Haggai to rebuild a neglected mission vision?

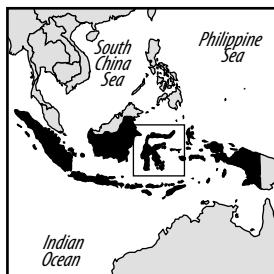
Pray that the Lord will give us the courage, vision, and wisdom to be like Haggai. Pray that the Church will have a vision for reaching peoples like the Melayu Sambas which have been neglected for too long a time.

Gorontalo People

About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way.

Just as there was a “disturbance” in the hearts of the Greeks who heard the apostles preach in the book of Acts, there is also a “disturbance” in the hearts of unreached people like Jawaria who hear the Word of God today. The gospel is intended to disturb the listener! Either the Holy Spirit prompts them to repent, or they allow other voices to keep them away from the Savior.

Pray that more Gorontalo people like Jawaria will hear and obey His voice!



Jawaria, a Gorontalo woman, considered her long journey from a past full of unmet longings as a faithful adherent of Islam. Then came the day she was introduced to Ati. This woman who followed Jesus was radically different from anyone else Jawaria had ever known.

Ati trained Jawaria to take selected Bible stories, one at a time, and have her household gather and discuss them. As a patterned response, Ati trained her to use the

following questions related to the stories they discussed: What does this story reveal about the character of God? In what specific ways will you obey God from this passage of Scripture? When do you plan to obey truths? When and with whom will you personally share this story so that others too can know God and His ways?

As Jawaria honestly thought about her life, she realized there were numerous times she had hurt others. She felt like one who had been invited to know Allah and yet was always separated by a great chasm between herself and a holy and just God. Did the stories in the Bible have the answer?

Pray for the church planting movement efforts among the Gorontalo. Pray for many Gorontalo to seek God's true and straight pathway found in Jesus alone.—RA

*1, 011,000 Muslims, less than 3,200 believers
Status: Engaged in a church planting movement effort
Location: Northern Sulawesi*

Kaidipang People

Day 28

Acts 17:19-20

Irwan noted the intensity of Halim, the Kaidipang Muslim man, who now sat across from him. Halim shared how his soul felt empty, and how he longed to know the source of the ache which caused this pain. Irwan, a new follower of Jesus, began a stream of interactions with stories from the Word of God that were crafted to speak into the worldview of Muslims. They meet twice weekly in a Discovery Bible Study (DBS).

Irwan prays often for Halim to share these stories with his household as well as his network of relationships. Why wouldn't the Father be bringing this man to saving faith along with his household?

The process may take time, even several years. But the Holy Spirit must have time to patiently work. And people like Halim must open their hearts to His promptings. When will there be lasting spiritual fruit in Halim's life? This will take much prayer and much love on the part of Christ's ambassadors. "To be effective prayer warriors, we need to be effective lovers ... real prayer comes not from gritting our teeth, but from falling in love." Richard Foster.

Pray that those who will someday labor among the Kaidipang people will be people of prayer and intense love. Pray for God to raise up church planting movement laborers who come from within Kaidipang communities.—RA

10,000 Muslims, five believers

Status: Unengaged in a church planting movement effort

Location: Northern Sulawesi

And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming? For you are bringing some strange things to our ears; so we want to know what these things mean."

Alas, the Athenians were simply looking for some novel ideas to ponder. It is possible that people like Halim are also in that same category. Some people may not receive Christ after hearing the good news. But it is also possible that they will turn their hearts over to the Risen Christ as they learn about Him.

Pray for missionaries to continue to plant seeds of faith in the hearts of people, even when they appear to reject His Word.

And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim, king of Judah, into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylon.

Tragedy strikes. The chosen nation goes into exile. But in Daniel we also see something exciting happening. Throughout this book, one message is trumpeted clearly: God is still on the throne! Five times in succeeding chapters the power of God is displayed which causes the most powerful leader in the world to acknowledge Yahweh's sovereignty in the affairs of men and nations. God's intention here is that all men learn to recognize that although the heathen rage and the kings of the earth take their stand against the Lord and His anointed, He still reigns triumphant.

Pray that the Lord will teach us to see His sovereign hand behind the affairs of men and nations.

Campalagian People

Create International



Devastation awaited restoration. Ina lingered for a bit as we concluded our art therapy sessions for villagers traumatized by the recent floods. The exacting lines sculpting Ina's leathery skinned face revealed the harshness of life in this

fertile farmland area of southern Sulawesi. I felt led to ask her privately if she was a reader, and she nodded. I asked her if she had ever read of the beauty and splendor of Jesus the Savior from the gospels. Animatedly, Ina confided her desire to hear more about the life of Jesus. She shared with me that many years ago a man with a Muslim background came to her Campalagian village and declared himself a follower of Jesus. Ina recalled that she had received a glimpse of the life of Christ through a brief discussion of the gospels with him. She noted that many others in her village had gathered with this man at the time. However, as Ina commented, that opportunity to learn more of Jesus the Savior seemed very long ago. (adapted from the book, *Sumbi Life*)

Pray for national church planting movement laborers to be sent to the Campalagian people. Pray for laborers to find the persons of peace who will introduce them to Muslim households that are receptive to the Word of God. Pray for laborers to be raised up who will walk in the humility and power of the Holy Spirit.—RA

66,000 Muslims, no believers

Status: Unengaged in a church planting movement effort

Location: Southern Sulawesi

Konjo Pegunungan People

Day 30

Leviticus 19:18

“If only I had insisted that Zul come with me to our neighbor’s home!” lamented Lili. The girl could not shake the shame and stabbing guilt she felt. She recalled the awful moment her younger brother, Zul, had fallen from the aged palm tree. Zul had been left in Lili’s care while her mother spent several days away at a relative’s funeral in a neighboring Konjo Pegunungan village. How could she ever forgive herself? How could her mother ever forgive her? Konjo Pegunungan people are known to take offense quickly and to hold grudges deeply.

Lili recalled how she initially rushed Zul to the local *dukun*. The *dukun* prepared a concoction of crumbled Qur’anic verses ground to a fine powder added to holy water from Mecca. “Take your brother home, force him to drink this mixture, then let Allah determine his fate,” admonished the *dukun*. Two days passed since Zul was injured, and nothing had changed. Finally, Lili mustered the courage to go against the *dukun*. Lili secured a public minibus to escort her frail brother to the local government health clinic.

Pray for spiritual breakthroughs among the Konjo Pegunungan. Pray for a hunger for the righteousness, mercy, and forgiveness of Christ to rise up among the Konjo Pegunungan people. Pray for church planting movement equipped national laborers to be sent among the Konjo Pegunungan.—RA

150,000 Muslims, less than 100 believers

Status: Unengaged in a church planting movement effort

Location: Southern Sulawesi

Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

Today we are praying for the Konjo Pegunungans, a people noted for holding grudges. In our human, fallen ways, it is very easy to hold relationship-destroying grudges. In His wisdom, love, and sovereignty, the Lord offers something far better: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Pray that this message of love and reconciliation will soon penetrate the hearts of the Konjo Pegunungan people so that they can experience the freedom and peace that was originally intended for mankind.