

The B.I people of South East Asia

The People Group

The B.I are scattered over a number of small islands, many of which are accessible only by small boats. They are composed of several ethnic and linguistic groups that were once ruled by a single powerful leader. There are approximately 600,000 B.I people, most of whom still live in small fishing villages (sometimes built on stilts over the sea) or in remote farming communities located on the fringes of jungles.

They have a strong cultural identity and affinity for their ancestral homes, which binds them together in highly communal societies that are resistant to change. While they are overwhelmingly Muslim, their animistic beliefs remain influential in daily life. Entrenched spiritual allegiances keep them blinded to the Good News. Only a handful of the B.I are followers of Jesus.

Global Interaction team among the B.I people

The team has established creative and productive ways to work among the S.I people, including through the Education Foundation, hospitality and an environmental project. S.I people are being empowered in their everyday lives, while also engaging in spiritual conversations. God often communicates with the local people through dreams and visions of Jesus and they are excited to witness and participate in the way that God is moving in their lives. There is a growing group of people who meet for Bible study and discipleship and the team is hopeful that many more will be added to its number.

Prayer Needs

- Local B.I staff at the Education Foundation would remain open to conversations about Jesus and studying the Bible
- Spiritual breakthroughs within the communities we serve among
- Deep cultural understanding and good language skills for the team, enabling them to effectively communicate the Gospel with B.I neighbours and friends
- Visas to be received easily and quickly so the team can remain in South East Asia
- The team to grow, with more committed people joining for long-term cross-cultural service

Pray for the Team Members (secure names used)

Dave (team leader) and Caz

Dave and Edwina

Maz and Ezzie

Mick and Tara

Story of Hope from South East Asia

It Takes Time

Max and Ezzie are involved in the Education Foundation, with their language skills allowing them to communicate well and build friendships with the IB. Ezzie has enjoyed getting to know Mrs N. She is a Muslim woman who has been friends with Marg, a team member who recently returned to Australia, for many years. It is through this long connection with Marg, that Mrs N feels comfortable to have conversation about faith with Ezzie.

It can certainly take many years of relationship building and sharing about faith, for someone to make a decision to follow Jesus. For Mrs N, her journey is still going and Ezzie is intentionally seeking ways to invest in the friendship and deepen their conversations. Pray for Mrs N to not only be open to conversations but also open to being transformed by the hope of Jesus.

**>>> For more stories of barriers being overcome,
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