

The B.I and S.I people of South East Asia

The People Groups

B.I people: The B.I people liken themselves to pineapples, prickly on the outside but sweet on the inside. As a highly communal culture they observe strict societal boundaries around behaviour and religious practices. These boundaries work to maintain honour and avoid shame. 99.99% of B.I people are Muslim and the belief that following Jesus will bring shame to them and their family is a key barrier to the spread of the Gospel.

S.I people: S.I people value maintaining their distinct identity and traditional cultural practices. The vast majority of S.I people are Muslim with animistic influences. Most see following Jesus as a betrayal of their people and culture. The S.I people who are choosing to place their faith in Jesus have come to understand that following Jesus is not about forsaking their cultural identity, but about entering the Kingdom of God.

The Global Interaction team among the B.I and S.I people

The team has established various projects among the B.I and S.I people that are making an impact and expanding avenues for relationships to grow. The Education Foundation continues to offer opportunities for both B.I and S.I people to learn new skills, improve their education and grow their employment opportunities. Likewise, the Café and Creation Care initiatives are providing platforms for local people to connect with wholistic activities that respond to their physical, environmental and spiritual needs.

We thank God that He continues to reveal Himself to people in South East Asia through dreams and visions, which often prompt conversations about Jesus.

The team is witnessing more and more people open to exploring Jesus and responding to His message. Several new believers have been baptised in the past year and are now discerning how to live out their faith within their communities in new ways. God is breathing new life, hope and joy into believers. We know this to be the sanctifying work of God, He takes something that is old and He creates something that is new. As we grow with God's innovation, transformation begins to happen in every area of our lives.

Prayer Needs for the B.I people

- For the team to be sensitive to the Spirit's leading as they build relationships and seek to share the message of Jesus
- That more people committed to long-term intercultural work among the B.I people will join the team
- For B.I seekers to be emboldened to explore Jesus, not only as a prophet but as the Messiah

Prayer Needs for the S.I people

- That the intercultural team will continue to build meaningful relationships in which Jesus can be shared
- For believers to be strengthened, encouraging each other and growing in their understanding of God's Word together
- That believers will remain in their communities without experiencing opposition
- For God's Spirit to stir in the hearts of S.I people a desire to meet Jesus

Pray for the Team Members (secure names used)

Dave (Team Leader) and Caz

Daz and Bee

Pat and Joy

Max and Ezzie

Ally (candidate)

Ando (candidate)

Kate (candidate)

Mike (candidate)

Simon and Widya (candidates)

Stories of Hope from South East Asia

Witnessing Multiplication

Dave and Caz share an exciting story of taking opportunities and witnessing multiplication, "Mrs S is a young lady from the majority faith background here who works as a teacher at the Education Foundation. A western family she teaches recently sent a food package to her house using a motorbike taxi. The delivery man couldn't find Mrs S' home despite getting directions from her via her phone. Mrs S called her supervisor, Mrs N, who is a new believer to ask her advice. Mrs N suggested they pray together in the name of the Living One.

After praying they both felt Mrs S should just offer the food to the delivery man. When Mrs S called the man to tell him this he broke down crying. He explained that he has a wife and three small children and no food in the house. Mrs S subsequently sent them money to buy more food. And the family sent another food package to Mrs S... that arrived with no trouble.

Mrs S comes from an extremely orthodox family with no known believers. She continues to learn more about the Living One from Mrs N and is now praying in His name. Mrs N came to faith through Widya, another of our staff (and now a Global Interaction candidate). Mrs N plans to get baptised soon and is praying her husband will join her – he has just believed. Pray for generations of believers to multiply."

Deep Conversations

Daz and Bee spend time connecting with their community and running a café employing local staff. As they engage with people, they look for opportunities to have spiritual conversations in which they can listen to their friends and share about their faith in Jesus.

Bee shares that they are often thrown into deep conversations, "There are times here when we are so thankful for our theological training. Last week Daz was asked if he believed that the God of Muslims is the same God as ours? Thankfully, Daz had already pondered this question in great depth during one of his assignments, so was already prepared with a carefully considered answer.

Also, recently in one of our language sessions Mrs N asked us whether we thought faith alone is enough? Or do we have a responsibility to work as well? We had been looking at a verse in the Quran with her for our session that day. Our conversation was very insightful, and Daz was able to share from James 2 that the good things we do for others proves our faith in God. Mrs N was so excited that there was a verse in the Bible that spoke to this so clearly. The verse she shared from her book was a perfect bridge to point to the one who saves. What a privilege and joy it is to be able to speak on behalf of Jesus in these precious moments."

**>>> For more stories of hope, visit:
www.globalinteraction.org.au/News**