

Hi Everyone,

With apologies...we've had problems with our email for a few weeks now...so some of you have received the SIAR updates but some have not due to the difficulties...so I thought I'd send you the last 3 updates from the SIAR missionary team in PNG to get everyone caught up...the Week 6 Update just came in today:

Thank you for praying for us during the Wayumi College course we had last week! It was a good group and we believe several of them will end up on the mission field because of the week. Pray with us that the impact of their week will continue in their lives as they prepare for the mission field!

Greg & Hannah

Week 4 SIAR Update:

Have you ever watched the waves of the ocean relentlessly crash on the rocks? As you sit and watch one unleash its power on the rocks, there are many behind it waiting their turn. There seems to be no break or rest for the helpless rocks; it's perpetually pounding. When will the calm come?

Well the last 5 days of teaching have been described, by one of our friends here, as the pounding waves of God's truth being unleashed in their lives but the calm must be coming. What a wonderful way to describe the truths of God's word when Genesis 3 and 4 are clearly understood. The hard truths of what God has said about mankind, that we are all under sin and born separate from Him. Difficult truths to hear, yet necessary nonetheless. They are necessary so that the need for a Savior can be properly understood and realized in our lives. Nobody enjoys hearing bad news, even if it is true, but when it comes with God's truth, the bad news always leads us to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Last week we asked that you all would be praying for us and our Siar friends when we introduced and taught through some hard hitting passages. Be encouraged, God is working. Another one of our friends, Yelita, stated that "the teaching was so heavy that after the teaching I felt like I worked all day in the garden; I just went down to the river to wash up." God's word is hard hitting and wants to expose us to who He is and who we are in light of His perfect character and nature. When we are examined by His perfect standard, it should always be a sobering experience. We are nothing compared to Him. The waves of God's truth are pounding away in the lives of the Siar, but the calm of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is coming.

We are still about 2 months away before we get to the wonderful message of Christ however please be praying for our Siar friends that God would continue to pound away in their lives as He sees fit so that their hearts and minds will be prepared for the Good News of salvation by faith alone in Christ alone.

What's come up this week:

- Tuesday – We will be teaching on the differing testimonies of the descendents of Cain and Seth. They will be learning that Cain's descendents followed their own evil desires and gratified themselves with things of this world. However Seth's descendents started worshiping God.
- Wednesday - We will introduce what God did through the life of a man named Noah and how God saw the sins of mankind during that time.
- Thursday – God gave the men and women during Noah's time many years to believe in Him but they insisted that they didn't need Him; therefore God sent a flood to judge their rebellion against God.

- Friday – We will end the week with God judging the sins of mankind at Babel.

As you can see, this will be another week of God wanting to expose the Siar's sinfulness. As our Siar friends will be hearing these heavy truths they will also be reminded of God's promise of the Deliverer in Genesis 3:15. There is a calm after the storm!

Please continue to be praying.

Chris for the Siar team

WEEK 5 SIAR UPDATE:

This week brought our biggest rainfall yet and in a span of three days we accumulated more than 2 feet of rain. This posed a bit of a distraction and an obstacle for some of our Siar friends in coming to the lessons. Of course this was discouraging for us, but we were also reminded through it that the work of building the Church is God's work and He is in control of the circumstances of our lives and the lives of the Siar.

Even though the rains continue to come, as do a myriad of other distractions, we are extremely thankful for the consistent attendance of many of our friends here. Some of them live far away and continue to come in the rain and faithfully listen to the teaching. We couldn't be more thrilled with their desire to hear and believe the truth.

This lesson of faith in spite of difficult circumstances was particularly poignant this week as we taught on Noah. How ideal for the Siar to be learning about Noah and his example of faith in spite of the whole world around him rejecting the truth. As he displayed faith through the 40 days and nights of rain, it was as if God was challenging the Siar to remain faithful to hear from Him and believe in spite of their present circumstances. Many of them related well to Noah and have begun to feel the pressure like he did, but are remaining faithful to come, be taught, and trust God's Word.

Here are a few of their testimonies:

- Stiven stayed late after one lesson and expressed his own struggle to stand strong in believing God's Word when some of his relatives have rejected it. He was very challenged by the idea that Noah stood alone and had faith in God no matter what. He also said that this reaffirmed to him his need to hear every single lesson and understand the whole truth from God's Word.
- Sakman remains faithful in her attendance and most days comes to both morning and evening sessions. She shared with Karrie and Erin that it doesn't matter if she comes to both sessions, she still learns something new every time. Her deep desire is to truly understand and believe the truth, and has of her own volition become the recruiter of those in the village who aren't coming to the teaching.

Next Week's Lessons:

- Abram's call and journey to Canaan
- The Promise to Abraham
- Abraham's offering of Isaac
- Jacob and Esau

Prayer Points:

- David, a leader in one of the local churches, has been coming and is struggling with the idea that man can do nothing to please God or be made right in His eyes. As we tackle the story of Abraham and his justification by faith, be praying for David.
- Venta, a lady who attends the SDA church, is also struggling over the teaching and whether it is the truth or not. Her false doctrine has kept her ensnared in lies and the conflict in her thinking has brought some difficult decisions for her to make.
- Wilson, also a strong SDA attendee, has been a close friend for years, but the teaching has stirred up a strong prideful response in his heart. He has boldly contradicted our teaching and secretly tried to cause division with those that are attending. Pray that he would humble himself under the Word of God.

Please be faithful in praying for the Siar. This week brings tremendous foundational truths for their salvation, so pray that we would teach clearly and they would be open to what God Word has in store for them.

Lane for the Siar team

WEEK 6 SIAR UPDATE:

This was another exciting week to be in the village. Thursday and Friday's lessons really challenged the lives and worldview of our Siar friends. On Thursday, they learned that God judges all sin, just as He did many years ago in Sodom and Gomorra. Many were convinced that they are no better than those who lived in those two towns and that God has the right to judge them of their sin. God was convicting them of their sin as He promised He would do (John 16:8). Then on Friday they heard the wonderful message of God providing a substitute for Isaac. I was again reminded of God's wonderful character as He provided everything that Abraham and Isaac needed. Many were amazed at the love and grace of the Lord as He kept His promise to Abraham. Truly the picture of a perfect God lovingly and freely providing what a sinner needs.

That wasn't the only thing that we were stoked about this week. Two of our bible lesson writing helpers, gave clear testimonies of faith in Christ alone as their Redeemer. Both of these guys, Amos and Sali, are further along in the lessons because they are helping us make prepare lessons that not only communicate truth, but sound good as well. As I sat with them individually they were clearly sharing about Christ and His finished work on the cross for their sins. They both also shared that they are believing that they can do nothing to receive God's free salvation, but that God gave it freely to them. Rejoice with us in the Lamb of God that died for Amos and Sali, and rose again to save them from the punishment of their sin. Man, isn't God awesome!

Coming up this week:

- This next week we will be teaching on Jacob and Esau, then getting into what God did in the life of Joseph and then finishing the week with God calling out Moses. Please be praying for these up and coming 4 lessons. Pray that God would continue to show himself to them and that they would thereby see that they fall short of God's standard of perfection and need the Redeemer.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray that the Siar would internalize the truth of God's word. It is one thing to listen to God's word but quite another to believe it to be true. Pray that they would be believing in the character and nature of God and in His revealed word.
- Pray that we would be allowing God's love to shine through us to our friends; that our lives would be a vivid example of God's eternal love.
- Pray that we would also continue to depend on the Lord, as the danger of familiarity can at times breed a dependence on self. Now that we have been teaching for over a month and a half, some things have become routine, so please pray that we do not rest on ourselves but find our source of life, strength, and clarity of mind in the Lord.
- Please also pray that we would be sensitive and good listeners to our friends here. Pray that we would listen to what they are saying and believing in, and from there graciously bring them back to God's word.

Thanks again for standing with us in God's work here in Siar land!

Chris for the team