

Here's another update on the Siar as the missionaries there teach! Thank you for praying for us as we challenge young and old to be involved in reaching unreached people groups like the Siar with the gospel!

Love, Greg and Hannah

What do you say when you hear something that really resonates to you to be true? Well, for the Siar one expression that they use is "Sigil i!" It literally means, "touch it" but the more accurate translation would be something like, "keep hitting that point, it's true!" This last week we heard this being exclaimed on a couple different occasions by a number of different people, as the Lord was using His word to touch areas of their lives that have never been exposed before.

The first came when we taught on the worldview of the Egyptians and the existence of a myriad of gods and spirits that ruled their lives. Ironically and sadly, the Siar's view of the world around them has some strong similarities to that of the Egyptians many years ago. You see, the Siar believe that man has the power to effect the outcome of the weather. They also believe that through special words and rituals, they can take food from another's garden and put it into theirs, they believe they do this through a "spiritual" agent. They also believe that there are spirits that live in rivers and the ocean that are part snake and part man. These spirits must be appeased in order to get a favorable outcome in the circumstances of their lives. It is at that point where we see some of the similarities to the Egyptians worldview from years ago. As we were teaching on what the Egyptians believed and how God sent plagues to display His power over all things and to expose their "gods" as lies, we had the opportunity to apply it to our friends here in Siar. We made the connection that what they have believed for years and what they have received from their ancestors was, and indeed still is, not consistent with God's Word. Then a couple ladies, led by a lady named Kelestin, yelled out "Sigil i". They have lived in fear of all these lies and now coming to realize that they are lies, they are being freed through the power of God's word.

Then on Friday, as we were teaching through Exodus 14 and God's miraculous work of parting the Red Sea, we asked the question, "Why would God bring the Israelites to the end of a sea that they can't cross knowing that Pharaoh is chasing them down to destroy them? What kind of God is that?" Well, He is a God that desires for all people to trust Him despite their circumstances. Therefore, He brought them there because they were not believing in Him and He wanted to teach them something.

You see, the position that the Israelites were in was not good, from their perspective, however from God's perspective, they were right where He wanted them. They stood in a position where all they could do was depend on Him in faith. Notice what Moses says in Exodus 14:14, "The Lord will fight for you, you need only to be still." God will do it all, you will do nothing. Wow, what an amazing God. He will do it all. Do we really believe that? The Israelites had a problem with that, they complained to Moses about their fate, thinking that they were going to die in the desert. Whining and complaining...a disease we all have. From there we applied it to the Siar that God will do everything that is necessary and everything that we desperately need for salvation. He will do it all, and we will do nothing. At that point a number of men, specifically Sali and Jon, repeatedly exclaimed "Sigil i!" That really resonated to be true to them because they complain about everything (according to their own testimony) and have believed for decades that God's salvation must be purchased with good behavior. How could that be, if man is declared righteous freely by God through faith in Christ? How is that possible if we are saved by God's grace, and that grace is the gift of salvation found in Christ alone? Those who have been coming faithfully to the teaching are really starting to understand and believe that God is the God who offers free grace, and His salvation is free to all. Praise the Lord!

Coming this week:

Exodus 16, 17:1-6 - Israelites complain once again, God providing food and water despite the Israelites.

Exodus 19 - Preparation for God giving His law. God's law is commonly misunderstood as something that we are to keep and the Siar struggle with this belief...please be praying.

Exodus 20:1-11 - God giving His first four commandments to Israel.

Exodus 20:12-17 - God giving commandments 5-10 to Israel.

Please be praying:

There are a number of "fringe" attendees. There seems to be an interest however some are not faithfully coming to the teaching. Here are a couple names of our friends that have been interested but just need to come consistently to the teaching to be able to follow, please be praying for them. Nelson, Sebel, Sili, Milal, Liukalang, Devit, Prisila, Lipas, Sila, Hotli, Guwen, Rika, Lina. Please pray that God would just touch their lives that they would see their desperate need for Him.

Pray for Erin and Karrie, as they have recently started homeschooling again. It takes a lot of their time, which they are not complaining, however they do want to spend time with the ladies in the village as well.

Pray for God's strength and wisdom as they juggle a lot of stuff.

Pray for Lane and I as we teach, continue to write lessons, work on translation and spend time with the guys. It seems that there is a solid group forming, pray that we would spend time with them and yet not forget about those who are on the "fringe."

Pray that God would use His law to show the Siar that they are hopeless and helpless without God.

Please also pray for the Jacksons who are preparing to come back into the tribe, they will be back in a couple weeks.

Pray in faith and according to God's promise that God would build His church here in Siar land.

Thanks for you continual support and prayers,

Chris for the Siar team