

Dear Friends,

January 2010

My six month furlough time is coming to an end. I depart for Irian Jaya on January 9, 2010. This will be my last term before my retirement in July of 2012. PRAY for safety as I travel and that we will be able to find a bookkeeper to replace me.

Thirty two years ago when I first set foot in Irian Jaya, I spent six months studying the Indonesian language before moving to Nenei where I began studying the Sougb Language. Once I understood the language I had to develop a literacy program.

In those early days most of the tribal people had never seen a book or a pencil so I had to teach them how to turn pages or hold a pencil and write from left to right. When I asked several students to write something on the blackboard and turn around when finished, none of them would turn around until all of them were done because they did not want anyone to "loose face."

One of my first students was Abud. He faithfully came to class every day. Weeks would go by and he still could not distinguish one letter from another. Months passed with no improvement but he still came to class everyday. I often wished that he would stop coming because I was spending a lot of time trying to help him. Finally, after about a year, something clicked and he began to read. I remember the first time he read "God's Voice" in his own language, he cried. That made it all worth it. Abud became a pastor and also one of our first Sougb missionaries.

One of my first adult literacy classes was with the wives of our Bible School students. Their husbands could read but their wives could not. Today these same women and their husbands are serving as missionaries. PRAY for these 15 Sougb missionary families as they preach the Gospel, establish churches, instruct God's Word, hold Sunday School classes for the children and teach literacy classes for those who still cannot read.

The Sougb tribe now has the Old and New Testaments in their language. PRAY that they will have a greater desire to read God's Word and follow it.

Besides supervising the literacy program and being actively involved in helping and encouraging these missionary families, I will be returning to the bookkeeping responsibilities for all our missionaries.

Serving Him together,

*Susan J. Moers*

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