

Manam Ministry Update / February & March 2017 / The Webb Family

Ministry Update:

Firstly, I wanted to thank everyone that has been praying for us during our ongoing time of language and culture study. Last month Shelby and I had a visit from the NTM language consultants again, and things went very well! Ryan is now at level 8/9 “capable mid.”! Meaning, Lord willing by next language check, he should be completely done, and ready to move unto the next phase of ministry!!! We are very excited!

Secondly, as many years have gone by, its easy to forget the specifics of the history and the tasks at hand, which is essential in the way we minister and pray for the Manam people. This month, Shelby and I also desired to remind all of us, on what has taken place over the years, concerning the Manam people. In hopes that, this will remind all of us how to better pray for the needs of this ministry, for the glory of God.



Another death. of a vouna man in our village. this month.

Prayer Requests:

- Ryan is close to finishing learning the Manam language. Pray he can finish strong!
- Continue to pray for the work of the Holy Spirit, in the lives of the Manam people, in preparing them for the hearing of God’s truth. Pray for our time in “pre-evangelism”, to “prepare the ground” for the future teaching of God’s Word.
- Continue to pray for more *monthly financial supporters*, as finances have been extremely tight lately, with a transportation costs, things breaking, community relations, and taxes.
- Continue to pray that we will find new co-workers! We have the opportunity to speak to a new group of NTM missionaries on April 13th!
- Pray for the continual deaths of the young people in our villages, as we desire to clearly share God’s truth with them, in hopes that they might have eternal life. It’s sad as I help dig their graves, sit with them during the wailing, and try to comfort them, meanwhile knowing, as far as I know, that they were separated from Christ and spiritually dead in their sins. God knows who are His and those who have trusted in the finished work of His Son, Jesus Christ. To this day, the gospel isn’t clearly proclaimed among the Manam people, and the truth of God is not known...which is why we are here. Their daily lives still revolve around fearing, worshipping, and trying to manipulate the spirits of their ancestors.

Ways to Financially Partner with this Ministry:

Email us at ryan_webb@ntm.org / Giving Online: ntm.org/give / Giving by Credit/Debit Card: 866-547-2460
Giving by Check: New Tribes Mission 1000 East First Street Sanford, FL 32771 Account: Ryan Webb 202057

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This is a picture of, a monument, of the 1st outside “missionary” to come to Manam in 1919. Sadly however, they came with another gospel, rather than the one given to us in Scripture...only found in Jesus Christ.

Short Manam History:

1. The Manam people are steeped deep in animism, ruling their daily lives and robbing them for worshipping the only one, true living God, worthy of being praised!
2. **Since 1919**, the Manam people has had **missionary activity / outside exposure**, primarily from the **Catholic Church**. Since then, the Catholic Church has tried to have a presence among the Manam people. Thus leading to a synchronized animistic / Catholicism world view. Mixing one form of religion with another, meanwhile **never knowing the real truth of God**.
3. As believers, seeing the desperate need of the Manam people, as an unreached people group. **New Tribes Mission** sent two **missionary** couples to Manam in **1999**. Sadly, in **2004**, both missionary couples left abruptly, for personal reasons. They weren't able to finish **ANY** of the ministry tasks that NTM works in, in regards to establishing a mature body of believers.
4. In **2012**, NTM **reopened** the work to a single missionary couple (our previous co-workers).
5. In **2014**, we joined them in the Manam ministry. However in **2016** they left for personal reasons, in the early stages of ministry, during their time in learning the language and culture “CLA”.
6. Since that time, (about 15 months) our family has been alone here on the island, without co-workers.

Primary Ministry Tasks:

1. **CLA** - Being able to effectively communicate God's truth to the people! We are close to the finish!
2. **Literacy** - Preparing the people to one day be able to read, learn, and grow in God's truth! Currently, literacy isn't being taught in their heart language, and the vast majority of the Manam people can't read or write in their own language. Making it nearly impossible to clearly understand God's truth, as this is their primary form of communication.
3. **Bible Teaching** - The Word of God has never been carefully taught through, to the Manam people. As a result, they have no solid Biblical foundation or understanding. This is why we desire to thoroughly teach through God's Word from beginning to end. Without a solid Bible foundation, it's easy for syncretism, in an animistic culture, to creep in and choke out the clarity of God's Truth.
4. **Bible Translation** - In 1996, the Bible Translation Association of PNG translated the New Testament into the Manam language. However these were untrained men, using unbelievers, who didn't even know the Manam language well. NTM consultants deemed the existing Manam Bible translation as unreliable and unusable, as it failed to meet the requirements of being a faithful Bible translation. Currently the Manam people don't have an understandable Bible translation in their heart language.
5. **Discipleship** - In a population group of over 20,000 Manam people, not a single mature Manam believer can be found. There is not a Bible believing, local assembly of believers who are able to be Biblically qualified and function as an overseer in the local church. Manam is completely UNREACHED in regards to any mature believers.

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