

# BJ & JILL SANDERS

+ *Olivia, Sophie, & Graham*

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

### Where They Serve

- Serve in the Highlands region of Papua New Guinea, near Goroka
- centered among the Wantakia people
- Community located in the mountains at approximately 6,800 feet elevation

### Ministry Focus

- Maintain ongoing relationship with the church in Wantakia, which they helped plant alongside two other families
- Regularly travel into the village to disciple and encourage believers
- Established Wi-Fi connection for ongoing communication and support while in town
- BJ serves in leadership roles while based in town:
  - Supports missionaries in remote “bush” locations
  - Equips new missionaries arriving on the field
- Ministry extends beyond one village to support broader regional efforts

### Goals and Vision

- See a mature, thriving church established in Wantakia
- Desire believers to grow in faith, hope, and love
- Equip believers to be grounded in Scripture and stand firm in Christ
- Pray for opportunities to extend the gospel to neighboring villages
- Trust God to open doors for unity among villages sharing the same language

### The People They Serve

- Wantakia people live in a remote, mountainous region
- Sustain life through hunting and gathering
- Previously had little to no literacy or formal education
- Many families now able to read and engage Scripture personally
- Also serve missionaries:
  - Those in isolated locations
  - Those new to the field
  - Provide encouragement, guidance, and support

### Challenges in Ministry

- Conflict between villages limits outreach opportunities
- Desire to see the gospel spread to neighboring communities
- Syncretism is a major spiritual challenge:
  - Blending Bible teaching with traditional beliefs
  - Cultural practices influence understanding of truth
- Many believe righteousness comes through good works rather than Christ

### Spiritual Landscape

- Only one biblically sound church in their language group
- Approximately 75 baptized believers
- Many children actively learning and responding to biblical teaching
- Encouraging signs of growth in the next generation

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