

Pioneer

Bible Translators



Praying for Papua New Guinea: Kayan Language Group

The beat of the *garamut* drum is something heard less and less often in the jungles of Papua New Guinea. This “jungle phone” is traditionally used as a means of communication between villages. Instead of words, different beats, deep and piercing, call for meetings, ask for individuals, inform about visitors, and generally facilitate communication. Globalization has brought cellphones, and in many areas cellphones have replaced the *garamut*. Not in the Kayan area.

The Kayan people are internationally known for their *garamuts*, which can be found in the halls of the University of Queensland Anthropology Museum. Just as they hold fiercely to the knowledge of *garamut*-building in the face of globalization, so they hold fiercely to their local language. They are a relatively small language group filling just one village. And yet they aren't shifting

to any of the neighboring languages, nor are they losing linguistic ground to Tok Pisin or English.

Kayan is exactly the type of group that needs the Bible in their own language. Their attitude and actions demonstrate the importance of the Kayan language and their dedication to maintain it despite the pressure to shift to more powerful languages. The Bible is the voice of God to them, as His Word is to us, and they long to hear His voice in their mother tongue. They also long to be a part of the translation process that will see that done.

The Kayan people expressed excitement at being part of the Lower Ramu Project. Please be in prayer for the Kayan community and PBT leadership as the project moves forward.

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Joshua 1:8



Location of Kayan in relation to the other groups involved in the Lower Ramu Project.



Please be praying for:

- * God to raise up leaders in the community willing to serve on the community board;
- * the community board to be sensitive to God's leading;
- * God to open the hearts and minds of the Kayan people to Him through the Lower Ramu Project.