

# Papua

The GIDI (Evangelical Church of Indonesia) Church with whom we work in Papua/Indonesia has over 1000 congregations spread over Papua's interior and coastal areas as well as in many parts of mainland Indonesia. The church in some areas has celebrated its 50 years since the Gospel came and in some areas such as the Tokuni tribe and Korawai tribes (southern interior) have just been begun with as few as 5 believers in their language groups.

A Mission here (World Team to whom UFMWW personnel are seconded and was previously RBMU International) work in a number of ministries with the Church such as pioneer church planting, Bible Translation, Aviation, Theological Education, Medical, MK Education, teaching in Christian Primary schools, discipleship of women.

The context in the Church exists and serves especially in Papua has changed enormously over the last 10 years or so. This is due to a variety of reasons. While the core of the GIDI Church remains in the isolated village areas where the Church is established loved, valued and very much an entity, the changing situation socially is producing a drain to urban areas, for instance from the YAHUKIMO area alone we have over 1000 young people living and studying in Wamena. A fairly large number of the Papuan people now have jobs with the Indonesian Government, such as in

teaching, medical and office work in centres of administration that are opening all over the interior as new Government centres are established. Members of our GIDI churches

also have high Government positions such as Mayor of new Government towns and so forth. A recent change too has taken place since the Indonesian Government granted special autonomy for Papua Province, this means quite enormous amounts of funds are being filtered through over a period of 25 years in order to 'develop' Papua. Some of these funds which are significantly large are given through the Religious

Dept. to the local Churches. While this is helping the Church be more financially independent there are many negative spin offs being felt in areas such as poor financial management and a keen political influence on the Church.

Another social phenomena that is having a massive influence on the Church at all levels is the HIV/AIDS crisis. There are many deaths of GIDI members from AIDS, along with TB and Malaria. While this is mainly in the urban areas the village areas are being affected too.

Our Sinode Church leaders are aware of the many needs in their young Church and so make requests for personnel to come and help according to their needs and individual gifting from their partnering mission organization. While there are some tensions on occasions between Church and Mission as the national leadership are leading the way with their own Mission and Vision for their Church we enjoy very good relationship and fellowship and our presence is requested with the Church as our sponsor for visas.

The GIDI church has a large vision to become a Church which sends their own missionaries locally, nationally and internationally and we also partner with them in these activities.

Thus, there are many personnel needs and opportunities to serve God's Church to help and enable it be the change agent Christ wants it to be, to be salt and light in changing circumstances at this key time of church development.

**Come and serve the local church and help enable it to be the change agent Christ wants it to be**

Some ministry opportunities which have been highlighted together with the Church Leadership.

1. Youth Workers for Wamena city. Many youth with no parental guidance needing mentors, disciples, just people skilled in Youth Work to come alongside them.
2. Computer trainers, English teachers and trainers in matters of governance and organisational management.
3. Medical personnel needed for the GIDI Medical centre in Wamena and also in specialised areas such as HIV/AIDS.
4. Theological training, to look as innovative ways to help mature and train Church Leaders to meet the present challenge Biblically and Contextually, this can informal or formal.
5. Ministries to the majority religion. There are many thousands of immigrants from other parts of Indonesia to urban areas in Papua.

Some ministry opportunities directly for World Team as a Mission:

1. Teachers for the MK school in Sentani.
2. An Administrator for Mission matters so that field missionaries do not need to be taken out from their areas to serve in this essential role. This includes property management, finances of the Mission.

