



A crowd gathers at our base in Sentani as our operations staff prepare to unload the body.

A Heavy Day

(Sorry, I am not able to share names or locations with this story)

This past Friday was a tough day. As you know, we support a number of schools in isolated interior villages in Papua. On Friday a young teacher from one of the interior schools we support was attacked outside of her village. We received an emergency request for a medivac flight but unfortunately, she died right near our airplane before she was loaded. Since she is not from the mountain areas of Papua but from the coastlands, we flew her body along with her husband and some co-workers out to Sentani. It was a devastating way to end the week, as some of our MAF staff personally knew this woman and her husband.

As I thought through what happened a passage of scripture popped into my mind:

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair;

persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our bodies.” (2nd Cor. 4:7-10)

This teacher along with her husband knew full well the potential dangers of choosing to serve in this location, but they had a desire to follow God's calling and to go where they were needed. The power of the gospel is not dependent on us; it is the power of God. And we have this power in us, Christ in us! This great treasure we have cannot be taken away, it can't be defeated. Although we mourn, although we are devastated, we are *not* defeated.

We don't know exactly why this happened, but it appears it was an isolated incident, not a larger security concern affecting surrounding villages. But this type of violence seems to be increasing in Papua. Serving interior in these schools - which is so desperately needed - is a very real danger for these young teachers. Please pray for her family and friends as they mourn and process this loss. Please also pray for this village, as all the teachers have been evacuated and the students now have no school. Please pray for peace, and that Christ will be known to these young kids growing up in the small, unknown parts of Papua.

October 14th

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