

Background information in relation to the publication of the Kemtuik Hymnbook

The Kemtuik people live about 80 km South – West of the capital Jayapura in Papua. In 1925 the missionaries Bijkerk en Schneider started to do mission work amongst the Nimboran, Kresi, Mlap, Moi en Kemtuik language groups. In a number of years most of them were adapted to the Christian religion, although many firmly hold on to the old believes as well. Churches and Christian schools were build in almost all villages. Till 1962 the Papuan tribes used to speak a form of Papuan Malay, besides their own tribal language. After 1962 the official Indonesian language was taught as well.

Because the lack of reading materials, many Kemtuik people continued to be illiterate. In 1975 SIL linguists started work amongst the Kemtuik people. Within a couple of years, an alphabet for their own Kemtuik language was established and booklets were written in the Kemtuik language. Many illiterates became literate and started to read both Kemtuik and Indonesian. Recently, July 2008, the dedication of the New Testament in Kemtuik took place. Hundreds of Kemtuik people bought their own New Testament.



Kemtuik people, like many other like music. Three years ago, Ny. Yuliana Marasian started to translate Indonesian hymns into Kemtuik. Also, Mr. Pdt. Okhtopianus Sueymala started to write Kemtuik hymns based on traditional Kemtuik melodies. Singing together is a very strong evangelistic tool. Although, Psalms and general known Christian

Indonesian hymns are included in the songbook as well, their own songs speak very much to their hearts. People just love to sing these songs, time and again. This month, August 2008, the Hymnbook with around 100 songs became ready for printing. Almost 500 copies of the Songbook could be printed with your financial help. Thank you very much indeed and may the Lord bless you.

In name of the Kemtuik people,

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