

The Andai of Papua New Guinea



The Andai people live in the mountains of the East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea. Their staple food is sago. They process the trunk of the sago palm to make a flour which is subsequently mixed with a little water and cooked over the fire into dry, pancake-shaped loaves. The Andai people also eat green leafy vegetables and occasionally hunt for animals such as tree kangaroo and snake.

The need to collect sago sometimes leads the Andai people to leave their villages for weeks at a time because the sago palms grow far away from their villages. While they are processing sago, Andai families live in temporary shelters in small bush camps. They also cultivate some produce in small gardens, although reportedly gardening is not part of their traditional culture.

The Andai people primarily speak their vernacular language, also called Andai. Although some people also speak Tok Pisin, which is one of the trade languages of Papua New Guinea, proficiency in Tok Pisin is limited. Many women do not speak more than a few basic words of Tok Pisin.

Despite trends of modernization in Papua New Guinea, the Andai people hold on to their traditional way of life. They hunt with bow and arrows, construct their houses from materials derived from the palm tree, travel in dugout canoes, and some, especially men and boys, wear traditional clothing.

In 1982 the first Lutheran church was planted in the Andai area. The Lutheran church has both local leadership and foreign missionaries working amongst the Andai. While most people in the area profess Christianity, there appears to be much nominalism and, although it is not always admitted openly, it seems that traditional spiritual practices are common. Sorcery, divination and magic are still practiced.

There is no Scripture written in the Andai language, and many people cannot understand the Bible well in any other language. There is a need for God's Word to be translated into Andai. Since many Andai people have never been to school, they will need significant outside assistance in translating the Bible.

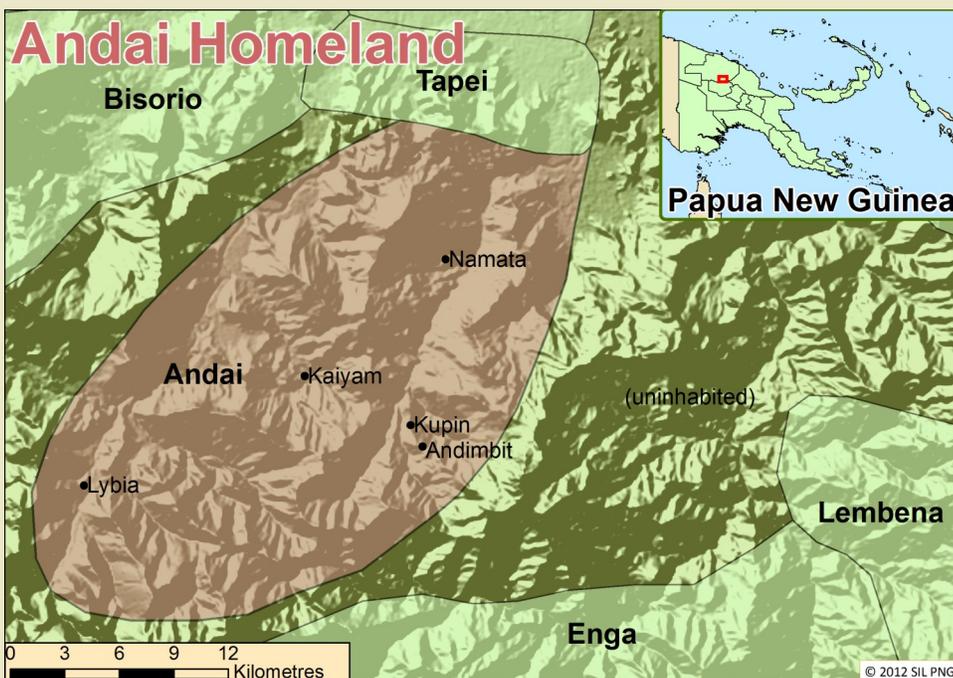
Primary Religion:
Christianity

Disciples (Matt 28:19):
Estimate 90%

Churches:
5

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):
None

Population (date):
500 (2000)?? JP says 1,400?/



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Have They Heard The Gospel?

Call Themselves Christian	90% (estimate)
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion	Probably a high percentage. The traditional worldview, including belief in local spirits and spiritual powers, remains strong in people's thinking. However, the way a person thinks about the world is not equivalent to their adherence to a particular religion. Data is not available on the number of people who still practice elements of traditional religion (such as sorcery).
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is Comment	0% All people in this group have heard of Jesus. It is not known how deep their understanding of what they have heard is.
Attitude to Christianity Comment	Somewhat resistant While nearly everyone in the Andai area professes to be Christian, some people are only nominal Christians. Some traditional religious rituals, such as using magic for hunting, fishing and attracting women, continue to be practiced by some people. Fear of evil spirits and belief in their power is common.
Attitude to Religious Change Comment	Somewhat receptive Unreceptive to new denominations
Number Of Pastors Comment	1 There are also some trained evangelists working in the area fulfilling pastoral-type roles
Number Of Missionaries Working Comment	The Lutheran Mission occasionally conducts medical patrols in the area.
Are Cross-Cultural Missionaries Needed?	Cross-cultural missionaries are needed to assist in Bible translation. An oral approach (such as recordings or Bible storytelling) could be helpful in this area. Any missions effort should be coordinated with the existing Lutheran churches and mission.
Number of Communities Comment	5 Kaiyam, Kupini, Awarem, Namata, Andambit
Number Of Churches Comment	5 Lutheran

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Is The Word Of God Translated? No

Any Hindrance To Scripture
Distribution? Lack of scripture

History of Christianity Began

Year Began 1982

Significant Events

The Gutnius Lutheran Church of Enga Province, in cooperation with mostly American missionaries sent by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, began evangelizing in the Andai area in the early 1980s. The first center was in Kupini. The first ordained Andai pastor is Luke Raimon, of Andambit village, who is the "Circuit Pastor" as of 2005. Kaiyam village was selected between 1998-2000 to be the site of an airstrip. A concerted push to complete the strip was begun in mid 2005. Between 1990 and 2000, the Gutnius Lutheran Health Services of Enga Province and Dr Steve Lutz carried out vaccination patrols throughout the Andai area, achieving full immunization of the population in the late 1990s.

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Group Description

Geography/Environment

Comment

Located at the head of the Arafundi river, a tributary of the Karawari River, in the East Sepik province of Papua New Guinea

Language/Linguistics

Percent Monolingual

40%

Literacy

Literacy Attitude

Somewhat receptive

Comment

The people asked for elementary schools and were concerned that none of the children were being educated.

Adult Literacy Percentage

3%

Comment

4% for men and 2% for women

Active Literacy Program

No

Comment

Most of those who are literate are men over the age of 30.

Economics

Subsistence Type

Hunter-gatherers

Comment

Sago processors. People in the Andai area often leave their village and go and live in smaller temporary bush camps while processing sago.

Average Annual Income

Self sustaining

Occupation

Sago processing

Income Sources

Eaglewood

Products / Crafts

Baskets, sago, spears, dugout canoes, paddles

Trade Partners

Maramuni (Enga)

Modernization / Utilities

Two way radio in Kaiyam

Community Development

Health Care

Poor

Comment

There remains a raging tuberculosis problem. Large numbers of children are malnourished and many under the age of five are not fully immunized. They have no access to health professionals because the nearest health center at Amboin on the Karawari is too far to access and not reliably staffed or stocked. Occasionally one or two are evacuated to Enga Province for surgery or intensive care, but this does not affect the general standard of public health which was and remains poor. The Aid Post at Kupina has been unused for more than five years. The Lutheran mission has an itinerant doctor who occasionally goes on medical patrols in the area.

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Diet	Poor
Comment (Diet)	Primarily sago, also some vegetables and occasional meat (snake, cuscus, fish, pig, etc.)
Water	Good
Comment	The Andai people live near the Arafundi and Karawari rivers. There are also numerous smaller streams where people can also get water.
Shelter Description	The people make their homes with sago palm frond roofs, limbum (black palm) floors and sago palm walls. Most people just have one large room, where people both eat and sleep. Three or four families share one house. The houses are built on posts several meters off the ground. Cooking is done inside rather than outside of the house.
Electricity	None
Energy/Fuel	Fair
Comment	Wood
Clothing	Women and some men wear second-hand, western style clothing. Other men and boys wear traditional clothes, a malo, a type of loin cloth, sometimes with a bundle of leaves hanging down at the back.
Transportation	Walking, canoes
Infant Mortality Rate	5%
Life Expectancy	64 years
Leading Cause of Death	Malaria, Chronic Lung Disease, Tuberculosis, Pneumonia
Comment	Although the national infant mortality rate is 5%, infant mortality in the Andai area is estimated to be between 15 and 35%. Life expectancy in Andai is also estimated to be 40 or 50 years, which is well below the national average.

Society & Culture

Family Structures	Each person belongs not only to a nuclear family, but also to a clan. People have a strong sense of affiliation to their clan.
Neighbor Relations	Largely peaceful, with occasional land disputes
Authority / Rule	Each clan has a leader who is in charge of that clan's ground. When he dies, either his brother or son will become leader. In addition to clan leaders, each village also has a leader known as the komiti. Additionally, there is another leader, the kounsil, who is responsible for a ward area, and a magistrate, who conducts the village court system.

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Social Habits/Groupings	People live in family homes in villages. Each village has families from one or more clans living together. All of the areas visited practice sister exchange for marriage, where a woman from one clan will marry a man from another clan. This man's clan in turn has to send a female relative (not necessarily a direct sister) to marry someone in the original bride's clan. Andai clans (not including Imboin) only exchange brides amongst themselves and with neighboring Maramuni clans.
Cultural Change Pace Comment	Slow The Andai are extremely isolated.
Identification With National Culture	Similar
Self Image Comment	Depressed The people feel pressured into submission by the neighboring Maramuni group. In the opinion of one person who has had contact with them, they feel very isolated and forgotten.
Judicial / Punishment System	Village court system. Small crimes are taken to the village magistrate who will sit down with all involved parties and discuss compensation and punishment.
Celebrations	The Andai people in the mountains have their own sing sings, (traditional dances) with their own unique way of decorating themselves and their own special words and music. Men play the kundu drum, while women dance and sing. However, they reported that they currently do not practice these sing sings often.
Recreations	Chewing betel nut. Story telling. Hunting
Art Forms	Weaving; making bows and arrows.
Attitude to Outsiders	Somewhat receptive
Attitude to Change	Somewhat receptive
<u>Youth</u>	
Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Look after younger siblings
Youth Problems	Lack of educational opportunities
<u>Education</u>	
Primary Schools	0
Secondary Schools Comment	0 People in the Andai area want their children to attend school but there are currently no opportunities for them to do so.

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Status of Christianity

Religion Population Percent

Religion 1

Comment

Doubly Professing

While nearly everyone in the Andai area professes to be Christian, some people are only nominal Christians. Some traditional religious rituals, such as using magic for hunting, fishing and attracting women, continue to be practiced by some people. Fear of evil spirits and belief in their power is common. People are not receptive toward Christianity if it is defined as "a life-changing relationship with One who demands that you give up all your attempts to save your own life via religious ceremonies."

Church Growth

Total Baptized

Comment

300

Between 300 and 500, depending on actual population figures. Most people in the area are baptized into the Lutheran church as infants.

Lay Leaders

5

Christian Hospitals/Clinics

0

Comment

The Lutheran church carries out medical patrols in the area from time to time.

Scripture

Scripture Use

Comment

Individuals and some churches

Currently read the Bible in Tok Pisin

Urgent Need of Translation

Estimated 60% of the population can speak some Tok Pisin. Proficiency in Tok Pisin is particularly limited amongst women and children..

Missions and Churches

Organization #1

Lutheran Mission

Country of Origin

USA

Main Ministry

Comment

Church planting

Main work: 1980s onward, emphasis on church planting and congregations. Second work: 1990s onward, emphasis on vaccinations and capacity building among local helpers (TB treatment administrators, Aid Post orderly, midwives.)

Year Stated

1982

Number of Adherents

500

Comment

Most of the Andai people are part of the Lutheran church, although it appears that many do not actually attend services.

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Number of Congregations	5
Comment	One church in each village
Number of Expatriates	0
Comment	None reside in the Andai area. Expat Lutheran doctors based in Enga conduct occasional medical patrols in the area.
Number of Local Workers	5
Number of Workers Using Local Language	5
Language Used by Workers	Andai and Tok Pisin