



For immediate release | September 16, 2022

## Grandson of a Cannibal Receives Inaugural Gospel Legacy Award



Maria & Yotam Nainggolan

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**TORONTO, ON:** Yotam and Maria Nainggolan are the recipients of the inaugural Gospel Legacy Award, established by Taina and Peter Youngren earlier this year. The award, together with the regular monthly support from the partners of World Impact Ministries, will provide the necessary funding for the first two years of operation for newly acquired campus in Sentani, Indonesia.

The grandson of a warrior from a cannibal tribe, Yotam hails from Papua in eastern Indonesia, while Maria comes from the opposite end of the country, from the island of Sumatra.

“Our tribe used to be cannibals. Two missionaries brought the gospel to the Yali people, but the tribe, including my grandfather killed the missionaries and ate their flesh. They didn’t know that the missionaries brought the good news of salvation.” As Yotam shares his testimony, one cannot help but notice the joy and peace that exudes from his eyes and face.

Maria tells her story. “In 2012 I was studying Economics Management. I was exposed to Christianity, but because of so many different teachings I wondered if God really existed. Then, a friend of mine enrolled in World Impact Bible Institute in the city of Medan. My friend often talked about God in a



way that I had never heard before. It made me seriously listen. When I finished my studies in 2017 I enrolled at WIBI. That's how I met my husband. Through the Bible school I found out who God really is, and that Jesus Christ is my true saviour. After Bible school I immediately started ministry."

After their marriage Yotam and Maria returned to Papua. In spite of the Covid pandemic, they gathered the initial students to teach the first year of WIBI Papua. They commented: "Even though we could only have a few students due to government restrictions, we wanted to go through the first school year to give us training in how to operate the school, administratively and spiritually."

In October this year WIBI Papua is expanding, preparing to train 50 students, who will be equipped to be pastors, evangelists and missionaries in Indonesia, the country in the world that has the largest Muslim population. A new facility has been obtained to serve as campus for the growing school.



New WIBI Campus in Sentani, Papua, Indonesia

The Gospel Legacy Award was established earlier this year, as Peter and Taina Youngren took a step of faith to believe God to provide for an annual investment for a special project that will accomplish something meaningful for the gospel. This year's award, \$25,000, is not from the regular funds of World Impact Ministries. Peter commented: "We decided to believe God personally for finances, just like we ask the partners of World Impact Ministries to believe God. Our goal is to highlight one project every year. We have decided that our legacy will be to invest in others, who share the gospel, just like people have invested in what we are doing for Christ and with Christ."



Taina commented: “Sharing the gospel with people who have little knowledge of Christ has been Peter’s passionate mission, but it has also been my guiding light. Our goal is to challenge fellow believers to be innovative in the way that they participate to help finance the advancement of the gospel. We want everyone, even those who live in places where the gospel of Jesus Christ is little known, to also be reached.”

To hear more of Yotam’s and Maria’s testimony, click [here](#). To find out more about the Gospel Legacy Award, contact Taina Youngren at [legacy@peteryoungren.org](mailto:legacy@peteryoungren.org).