



The Caravan

CaravanFriends.org



Berani

Berani

[ber'AN'ee] / an Indonesian word meaning "brave"

Berani's friends consider him the bravest of the Caravan animals but he didn't always have a lot of courage. Before he knew very much about Jesus, the young rhino had a lot of trouble falling asleep at night. He didn't like the dark and would lie awake at night, wondering what mean and ugly creatures might be creeping around the forest near his home.

After Zeke explained to him that God sent his son, Jesus, to Earth and had given Him power over wind, water and even death, the little rhino knew he didn't have to worry any more. If Jesus could control everything on Earth, surely he could take care of any monsters hiding in the trees. Berani sleeps soundly now.

There aren't very many Christians on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia, where Berani lives. Most people practice Islam and believe that Jesus was a great teacher but not God's son. Berani and his family have to be very careful when they tell people about Jesus and when they gather to worship God because many people don't like it. Berani doesn't worry, though, because he learned that Jesus protects us.

Indonesia. Indonesia is the largest island nation in the world. It sits in Southeast Asia just off the coast of the Malay Peninsula. The main islands are called Sumatra, Java, Kalimantan and Puncak Jaya. The country has a population of more than 240 million people and 86 percent of the people follow Islam. Only two out of every 30 people in Indonesia believe that Jesus is their Lord and Savior.

Islam. The people who follow the religion of Islam are called Muslims. They believe in one supreme God but don't know that Jesus is God's Son who was sent to die for their sins. Muslims consider Jesus to be Isa, a prophet and teacher but not God or the promised Savior. The most important teacher for Muslims is the prophet Mohammad. Mohammad taught that people are sinful and that they need to live a very strict religious life and do good works for God to forgive them.



Rhinoceros. The Sumatran Rhinoceros is also known as the "hairy rhinoceros" because of its long, shaggy hair. It lives mainly in the tropical forests of Sumatra and Borneo, two islands in Indonesia. This type of rhinoceros is different from others because of its reddish-brown skin and two horns. Other rhinos in Asia only have one horn.

Favorite Verse

“ So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you. Deuteronomy 31:6 (NLT) ”