

## The Pasi of Papua New Guinea



representative photo, [Papua girl](#) by Apple 2009 CC

The Pasi people came from an animistic tradition of fear and appeasement of evil spirits, sorcery and witchcraft. There was frequent warfare with neighboring tribes until the Australian government brought the area under its control in the late 1940's. The Roman Catholic Mission sent priests and national workers to visit the Ayi-Pasi area some years later. Today there is a Seventh Day Adventist Church in each of the three Pasi villages. The churches use Pidgin English, the trade language, to teach the Christian message resulting in confusion, lack of understanding and inattention. Many do attend church services faithfully, but it is hard to know how much they understand.

Each village is an entity in itself with occasional disagreements and fights between them, but also intermarriage. The first outside contact made with the Ayi people was sometime after World War II. Their ancestors were probably pushed south from the coast as other tribes came and gained control of more desirable land. They have had a hard life of gardening, hunting and fishing; a lack of medical help and education until recent times has kept their population low.

Economically, the people are subsistence farmers who are self-sufficient in regards to food supplies and housing. They earn some money by selling food crops and wild game at the Nuku market or more local occasional markets.

**Primary Religion:**

Christianity

**Disciples (Matt 28:19):**

Many

**Churches:**

3

**Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):**

None

**Population (date):**

360 (2000)

