



## Quick Facts

**Pop. in Indonesia:** 3,700,000

### Island Populations:

Bali: 3,000,000

Lombok: 250,000

**Religion:** Hinduism

**Believers:** 0.13%

**Scriptures:** NT, OT

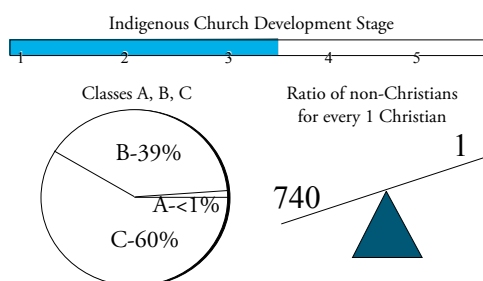
**Ministry Tools:** JRT

**Church Status:** 3

**Mission Status:** 3

**Organizations:** 10

**MS Subgroups:** 6+



Class A- Are members of a Culturally Relevant Church  
 Class B- Have close access to a CRC, but have not yet joined  
 Class C- Have no reasonable or close access to a CRC

**Identity:** The Bali are a Malay people which adopted the Hindu faith in the 9th century A.D. Their culture and features are very similar to the Javanese. Besides implementing a caste system which they learned from India, they are further divided into two groups: the Aga (indigenous to the island of Bali) and the Majapahit (Hindu immigrants from Jawa, which fled the 15th century Muslim invasion).

**Lifestyle:** In the typical Bali village, each family resides in its own compound, enclosed by stone walls. The courtyard is segmented into three areas for the graneries and livestock, the sleeping quarters, and the family temple. About 70% of the Bali are farmers or fishermen. Crops include rice, sweet potatoes, peanuts, cloves, and vanilla. Tourism is also a major source of income for many Bali.

**Customs:** Bali society is divided into four major castes: *Brahmans*, who

conduct the religious ceremonies, *Satrias* who primarily descend from the nobility, *Wesias* who are merchants, and *Sudras* who are peasants and comprise 90% of the Bali population. The Bali have different dialects for addressing members of each caste. Middle Bali is used when the caste is unknown.

**Religion:** Balinese religion is a syncretistic mix between Hinduism, Buddhism and animism. They are regarded as Shaivites because of their devotion to the Hindu god Shiva as the supreme being. There are over 49,000 temples and 60 annual religious ceremonies. Temples fill the entire island, protecting rice fields, trees, hill tops and beaches from evil spirits. Their worldview is dualistic, and the goal of life is to keep everything in balance between opposing forces. The dead are cremated to liberate the soul for reincarnation.

**Christian Outreach:** The Indonesian government's transmigration scheme has

resulted in thousands of Bali setting up communities on other islands. It is among these resettled families that significant breakthroughs to Christ have begun. On Bali itself, progress has been slow but steady. In the 1930s the government banned missionaries from the island when 100 Bali came to Christ, so Javanese evangelists were trained and sent, resulting in the first churches being established.

## How to Pray:

☞ Balinese churches have shown incredible compassion during various Indonesian calamities. Pray for their continued impact in demonstrating the love of Christ to the entire island.

☞ The Balinese are famous for their dances and various artforms. Pray for wisdom in contextualizing these cultural forms into mediums for carrying the gospel message and glorifying Christ, both among their own people and among the many tourists who visit the island.

☞ Pray for breakthrough among the Brahmin caste, and for their transformation as Kingdom leaders.

☞ Pray for the development of a special strategy to establish house/family churches in every compound.

**Every year 33,000  
 Bali die  
 without Christ.**