

Jawa Muslims



Quick Facts

Population: 52,000,000

Indonesia: 51,000,000

Malaysia: 650,000

Singapore: 30,000

Australia: 10,000

Religion: Sunni Islam

Believers: 0.20% (MBB)

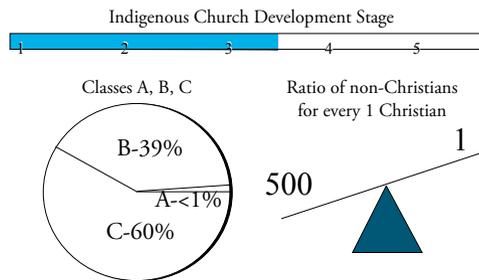
Scriptures: NT, OT

Ministry Tools: JRGT

Church Status: 3

Mission Status: 2

MS Subgroups: 30+



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 Jawa are the largest ethnic group in Indonesia, living primarily on the island of Java. Their total population exceeds 80 million, though only about 65% are Muslims. An estimated 20 million Jawa have adopted Indonesian as their mother-tongue. The rest speak various dialects of Javanese, of which there are at least 21 according to the latest surveys.

Lifestyle: The occupation of most Jawa was once wet-rice farming. The arrival of the Dutch in 1605 brought about changes through education, agricultural technology, and industrialization. The Jawa are now over 35% urbanized. New farming techniques have increased rice yields, enabling the Jawa to sustain a high population growth rate and one of the highest population densities in the world.

Customs: The Javanese language has nine styles of speech which are required for addressing different seg-

ments of society, according to status, rank, age, etc. After WWII and the exit of the Dutch colonialists, many younger Javanese made little effort to learn these various styles and preferred to communicate in Indonesian, which is perhaps the simplest of the Malay languages.

Religion: The beliefs and practices of the Jawa have been influenced by Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam. The Jawa have syncretised elements of all three with their traditional beliefs, and formed a unique mystical religion known as Keabatanin. During the 15th century Muslim missionaries began to evangelize the Jawa, resulting in stronger adherence to Islamic practices. Followers of orthodox Islam are known as Santri Muslims, and followers of Keabatanin are known as Kejawen Muslims.

Christian Outreach: The gospel has made excellent progress among the non-Islamic Jawa and hundreds of

thousands have come to faith in Christ, especially among the Negarigung and the Mancangari sub-groups. However, among the more Islamic areas in the North and West, the Church is still very weak, most notably among the Pesisir Lor. The growth of radical Islamic sects which promote hatred of Christianity has further isolated these groups.

How to Pray:

☞ Revival is sweeping through the Jawa church in Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia. Pray that this revival would impact the rural Jawa churches as well.

☞ Ask God to raise up thousands of laborers from this revival for His harvest among the unreached Muslim Jawa communities.

☞ Pray for the establishment of strategic training centers that will prepare Jawa believers for Muslim evangelism and church-planting.

☞ Horrible atrocities have been committed against Jawa Christians. Pray for God's love and forgiveness to fill their hearts for those radical Muslims which don't yet understand the grace of God. Pray also for courage in the midst of persecution, threats and intimidation.

Every year 450,000 Jawa die without Christ.

Jawa Muslims (cont.)

MAJOR JAWA SUB-GROUPS



| Sub-Group | Population | % MBB* |
|---------------|------------|--------|
| Pesisir Lor | 18,600,000 | 0.02% |
| Negarigung | 13,150,000 | 0.38% |
| Mancangari | 11,600,000 | 0.32% |
| Banyumasan | 6,600,000 | 0.30% |
| Pesisir Kulon | 2,500,000 | 0.24% |
| Banten | 500,000 | 0.60% |
| Osing | 350,000 | 0.94% |

*MBB = Muslim Background Believers

PESISIR LOR

The Pesisir Lor are the largest and the least-evangelized of the Jawa sub-groups. They pride themselves on being the most Islamic Jawa group, and give great honor to the two great Muslim missionary pioneers who labored among them, Sunan Kalijaga and Sunan Ja'far Shodiq. Pilgrims come to their graves to pray and seek blessing. The Pesisir Lor prefer Islamic music to their own traditional Jawa music and would rather hear recitation from the Quran than watch the customary puppet plays. Unlike other Jawa sub-groups which are more reserved and passive, the Pesisir Lor tend to be more open, straightforward and emotionally expressive.

BANYUMASAN

The Banyumasan speak a distinct Jawa dialect with unique pronunciation and vocabulary, making it difficult for other Jawa groups to communicate with them. At the same time, the Banyumasan have an easier time learning the national language Indonesian than other Jawa groups, due to their common use of the vowel 'a' rather than 'o'. About 20% of their population are orthodox Muslims, the remaining 80% being nominal or practicing the traditional Jawa mystical religion. Traditional shaman actively practice among them, and are highly regarded.

PESISIR KULON

The Pesisir Kulon are also known as the Cerbon people, which comes from a combination of the words water (*ci*) and shrimp (*rebon*). Their language has been influenced by the Sundanese, whom they live among, as well as by Arabic and Malay. The coastal area in which they live has rich fertile soil with acres of coffee, sugar, and tobacco plantations, as well as citrus orchards. Many Cerbon also engage in fishing and exporting salted fish and shrimp products. The city of Cirebon is a popular tourist destination due to its fine crafts of wood and clay which are produced there, as well as the production of the elaborate *batik* cloth, which has become in high demand.

BANTEN

The Banten are the descendents of an ancient Jawa kingdom and port city on the northwest coast of Java. Today they are divided between those who speak Jawa-Banten in the north, and those who speak Sunda in the south. They practice cooperative farming and resource pooling. One type is the *royongan* in which profits from a joint labor are collected by the village elder and then used to repair houses of prayer or the mosque. Another form is *liliuran* in which the community helps a farmer bring in the rice-harvest without expecting any kind of payment.

OSING

The Osing live on the South East coast of Java, along the foothills of the Ijen-Merapi volcano, which supplies them year-round with fresh water. Their language is called Ngoko Osing, and it is a blend between Jawa and Madura. Their culture is also a blend between the traditional Jawa and the Bali, though unlike the Bali they gave up the Hindu religion for Islam. Their special dances and clothing, as well as their proximity to Bali have made them a tourist attraction, and the government is seeking to protect their traditional culture and beliefs.