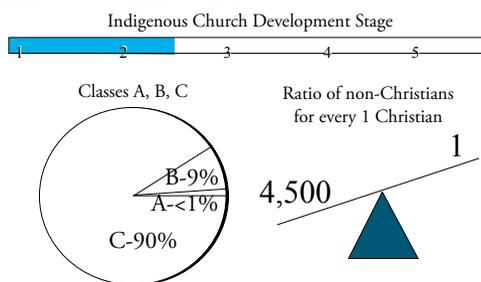


Makassar



Quick Facts

Pop. in Indonesia: 2,250,000
Location: Sulawesi Island
Language Group: S. Sulawesi
Religion: Islam
Believers: 0.02%
Scriptures: NT, OT
Ministry Tools: JRT
Church Status: 2
Mission Status: 2
Churches: 5
Mission Organizations: 13
MS Subgroups: 3



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 Makassar are a Malay people closely related to the Bugis. They occupy the southernmost tip of Sulawesi, as well as the Selayar and Spermo islands. A seafaring people known for their production of large ships (*pinisi*), the Makassar empire and capital was the dominant trading center of eastern Indonesia until the 17th century Dutch conquest.

Lifestyle: Residence patterns include the urbanites in the capital city of Makassar, the fisherman villages on the coast, the farming villages of the plains, and the scattered hamlets in mountainous regions. Shipbuilding is still an important industry among the Makassar, the secrets of which are passed down orally through a special dialect. Over the last century, rice farming has replaced sea-trading as the most important economic industry.

Customs: Makassar society is governed by a strict social code called *siri*

(respect and honor). Violating one's *siri* can result in serious consequences, and under such circumstances the government authorities may refuse to intervene. Violation of marriage taboos are considered major offenses (e.g. communication between the bride and groom before the wedding ceremony), and in the past were punishable by death.

Religion: The Makassar began to adopt various Islamic practices commencing with the conversion of the king of Gowa in 1605. However, the conversion has always been superficial at best. The Makassar continue to practice pre-Islamic rituals conducted by their traditional priests (*sanro*). They believe soil, plants and animals are the property of spirits, who demand sacrifice as payment. Rural imams hold mostly honorary positions, responsible for performing marriage, divorce and death rituals.

Christian Outreach: Significant effort has been put into reaching the Makas-

sar by international mission agencies, though outreach has been mostly confined to urban areas. Church growth in Makassar City is moderately increasing, and the progress is encouraging. However, discipleship of Makassar believers in urban areas is complicated by the presence of non-Makassar churches. Partnerships with these indigenous believers to channel Makassar seekers and connect them with other Makassar believers is proving essential.

How to Pray:

☞ The Makassar are regarded as one of the most open Muslim peoples to the gospel in Indonesia. Pray for wisdom in bringing the gospel to them wrapped in redeemed Makassar cultural forms and traditions.

☞ The complete translation of the whole Bible in 1999 is a cause for great rejoicing. Pray for its use by Makassar believers to both evangelize and make disciples.

☞ There are several thousand evangelicals living in the city of Makassar from various ethnic backgrounds. Ask God to give them a burden to pray and love the Makassar people, and that those seeking after truth might be drawn to the light.

**Every year 20,000
 Makassar die
 without Christ.**