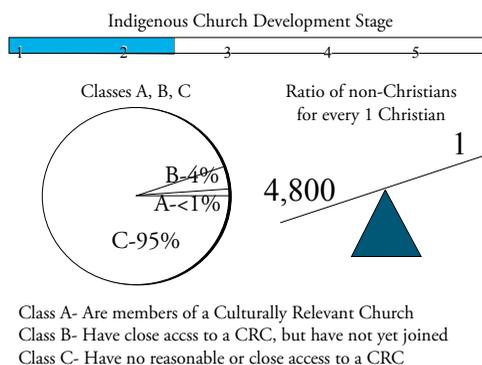


Sasak



Quick Facts

Pop. in Indonesia: 2,400,000
Location: Lombok Island
Language Group: Bali-Sasak
Religion: Islam, Ethnic
Believers: 0.02%
Scriptures: Yes—NT, OT
Ministry Tools: JR
Church Status: 2
Mission Status: 1
Churches: 2
Mission Organizations: 5
MS Subgroups: 6



Identity: The Sasak are a Malay people related to the Java and Balinese. Their language incorporates terms from the ancient Kawi language (proto-Javanese), Indian Sanskrit, and Arabic. They make up the majority of Lombok island's population.

Lifestyle: The Sasak are divided into two main groups, the Waktu Lima and the Waktu Telu. The former live in the central and southern plains, and the latter live in the northern mountainous regions. The Waktu Lima are more integrated into the Indonesian market and operate on a cash economy. Their villages are located near roads or towns. In the southern plains the climate is more dry, which makes it difficult to irrigate rice fields, and food shortages can sometimes occur in this region. In the mountainous areas, dry field and shifting cultivation is common.

Customs: The Sasak have a complex social system that ranks people accord-

ing to their relationship with aristocratic or commoner lineages. Their language also reflects this status system, with high, middle and low usage levels. A person of higher rank will use a low-level vocabulary when speaking to a person of lesser rank, and a person of lesser rank will address a person of higher rank with a high level vocabulary.

Religion: The Waktu Lima and the Waktu Telu differ widely in their practice of Islam. Waktu Lima are relatively more orthodox, whereas the Waktu Telu have created a unique ethnic religion that blends Islam, Hinduism, and animism. Both groups have religious officials called *kijaji*. In Waktu Lima villages, the *kijaji* are expected to perform Islamic requirements such as the five pillars on behalf of the village. Among the Waktu Telu, religious officials function mostly as spirit mediums.

Christian Outreach: There is yet no significant breakthrough among the Sasak

though several missionary teams are now committed to long-term outreach among them. There are many isolated believers who are not being disciplined for lack of personnel.

How to Pray:

✞ The Sasak have the highest death rate of infants and birthing mothers in Indonesia. Pray for specialized outreach to meet this need through medical-missionary centers and Kingdom development teams. Pray also for increased involvement of Indonesian believers to reach the Sasak with Christ's love.

✞ A group of Muslim teachers known as the *tuan guru*, are seeking to Islamicize the Sasak through establishing madrassas and mosques, and even implementing Sharia law. Pray that this influential group might come to faith in Christ and that their plans might come under the authority of His will.

✞ Only portions of the Bible have been translated into Sasak, and some of these are over fifty years old. Pray for a new and complete translation of the entire Bible into the Sasak language. Pray also for a complete survey of Sasak dialects, some of which may require a unique Bible adapted to their context.

**Every year 21,000
Sasak die
without Christ.**