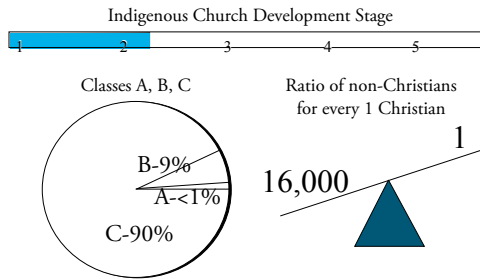


Sunda Muslims



Quick Facts

Population: 32,000,000
 West Java: 27,000,000
 Banten: 1,800,000
 Jakarta: 1,200,000
 Central Java: 300,000
Religion: Islam
Believers: 0.0062%
Scriptures: NT, OT
Ministry Tools: JRGT
Church Status: 2
Mission Status: 2
MS Subgroups: 4



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 Sunda are a Malay people who live primarily on the western side of Java, Indonesia. Around 27 million speak their ancestral language called Basa Sunda, and the remaining 5 million now speak Indonesian as their mother tongue. The name Sunda is Sanskrit in origin and means water.

Lifestyle: Most of the Sunda live in the densely populated province of Indonesia—West Java, with over 1,000 people per square kilometer. High population growth rates have put pressure on the traditional agrarian economy, forcing many to move to cities like Jakarta. In rural areas the Sunda are subsistence rice farmers, though some engage in small cash-crops such as tobacco and tea. In coastal areas fish-farming is prevalent.

Customs: The Sunda consider themselves to be more open and friendly than the “formal” Java, their neighbors to the east. They value soft-spokenness

and community harmony. Though they practice strong individuality and live in nuclear families, they also follow a code of village behavior called *adat* which obliges one to be generous with good fortune, so as not to provoke envy.

Religion: Indian influence on Java has been varied throughout history and there are some who have converted to Hinduism and Buddhism. However, after Islam became the dominant force in South Asia, traders brought this new religion to Java and converted many. In the 16th century the Sultan of Banten forced his nobles and officials to accept Islam, and the religion became well established. However, almost all the pre-Islamic traditional practices and beliefs remained intact and are still dominant today in all aspects of life.

Christian Outreach: Dutch missionaries began work among the Sunda as far back as the early 19th century. Their efforts resulted in hundreds of non-

Muslim Sunda becoming believers—a community which includes many thousands today. Unfortunately, this group has become ingrown, ethnically mixed and culturally isolated from the Muslim majority. Even so, some missionaries today are attempting to equip these believers for future “cross-cultural” Muslim outreach.

How to Pray:

☞ Pray for the development of culturally sensitive discipleship materials, radio programs and Scriptures in the Sunda language.

☞ Ask God to protect Sunda believers from fear of sharing their faith with family and friends, despite the continual threat of church burning if they openly evangelize or convert anyone.

☞ Ask God to give creativity to the emerging church among Sunda Muslims so they can remain in the community and be a witness.

☞ Pray for effective training programs that will equip and send thousands of Sunda teachers to every village and community.

☞ Intercede for those caught up in Muslim extremism that the grace of God might open their eyes.

Every year 300,000 Sunda Muslims die without Christ.