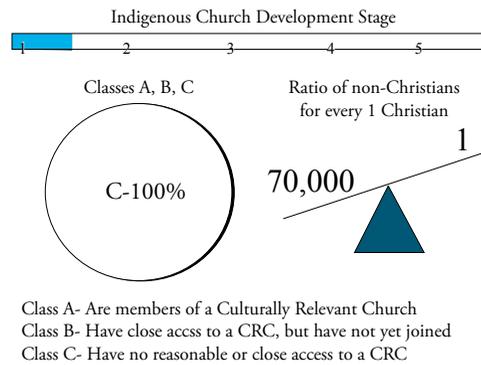


Banjar



Quick Facts

Population: 3,500,000
 Indonesia: 3,000,000
 Malaysia: 500,000
Language Group: Malayan
Religion: Islam
Believers: 0.001%
Scriptures: None
Ministry Tools: J
Church Status: 1
Mission Status: 1
Churches: 0
MS Subgroups: 6



Identity: The Banjar trace their identity to a legendary Hindu kingdom, however their language and culture suggests they are the descendants of intermarriages between the Jawa, Malay and Dayak. They live primarily along the Southern and Southeastern coastal regions of Kalimantan, though there are a significant number in Central Kalimantan (500,000), as well as Malaysia (est. 500,000 to 1 million).

Lifestyle: Banjar settlements tend to be located along rivers and canals, which are used for multiple purposes, including transporting goods in floating markets, bathing and washing laundry. Their capital city Banjarmasin is below sea level, and though 22 miles inland, will rise and fall during the day according to the tides. Many Banjar work as laborers in plantations and sawmills near their homes.

Customs: The Banjar are famous for their architecture, which includes

uniquely designed styles according to social status. In wealthy homes, beautiful carvings decorate pillars, stair railings and cabinets. Since Islam forbids images of people or animals, the Banjar may depict their traditional mystical animals in a stylized floral motif.

Religion: The Banjar were once Hindu and Buddhist, but they converted in mass to Islam in the 16th century, when Prince Samudera adopted the new religion in order to build a military alliance with the Jawa. Today, the Banjar are becoming increasingly high-practice Muslims, diligently celebrating Ramadan, faithfully observing feast days, and enrolling their children in Muslim schools. A small minority of Dayak from various tribes have converted to Islam, and in so doing have assimilated and intermarried with the Banjar, creating unique Banjar-Dayak sub-groups.

Christian Outreach: A small breakthrough among the Banjar has begun

through the outreach of Indonesian missionaries working together with an expatriate mission team. FEBC has a commitment to broadcast the gospel to them in their own language, however this hasn't been easy as the Bible has yet to be translated.

How to Pray:

☞ Recently, there has been growing interest among Indonesian churches for the Banjar. Many have adopted them for prayer and short-term outreach. Pray for their effectiveness and perseverance in seeing an indigenous disciple-making movement established among them.

☞ The Banjar have tended to be a reclusive people throughout their history. Pray that God might supernaturally open the door for encounters between the Banjar and his people.

☞ Pray that a team of Banjar might be put together to translate the Scriptures in the next five years in close cooperation with a Bible translation expert.

☞ Pray for the immediate deployment of missionary teams for each of the unengaged Banjar subgroups, which are yet untouched by any efforts.

**Every year 31,000
 Banjars die
 without Christ.**