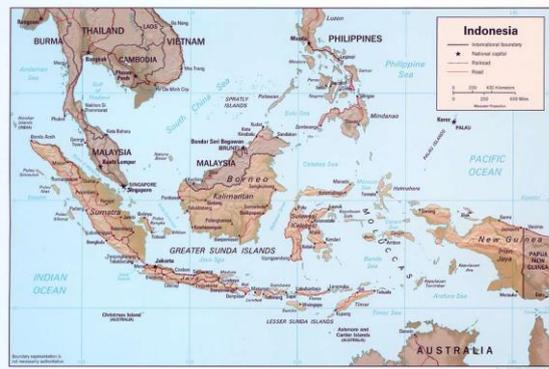


Monday 25th May

Indonesia Pop: Approximately 273 million Muslim: 83%

“if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” 2 Chron 7:14

Indonesia is made up of over 17,000 islands, of which 6,000 are believed to be inhabited. There are five main islands; Java, Sumatra, Borneo (shared with Malaysia), Sulawesi and Papua (shared with Papua New Guinea). It is a lush, tropical country with palm trees, white sandy beaches and clear, turquoise water, attracting many tourists each year. The global coronavirus crisis has led to a huge loss in the tourist trade there, causing severe economic hardship for many.



This was already a country that suffered from much poverty and is also prone to earthquakes, tsunamis, floods and other natural disasters. It is now suffering from the coronavirus outbreak among its population - it may have only registered its first coronavirus case in March but by mid-April, Indonesia was second only to China for coronavirus deaths in Asia.

As the world's largest archipelago, Indonesia's size and remoteness, puts it in a position that very few other nations face. Even in good times its healthcare system is poor, particularly in remote areas. There are approximately 273 million people living there, making it the largest and most populous country in South East Asia and the fourth most populous country in the world. It has the world's largest Muslim population - 225 million Muslims live there. Indonesia's decentralised system of government means getting a common healthcare message or policy across is challenging.

It also has a sizeable Christian minority - according to the Joshua Project, about 10 million evangelical followers of Jesus live in Indonesia. In recent decades, increasing numbers of them have begun reaching out to their Muslim neighbours. There are many small groups of believers across the country and numerous reports of church-planting movements emerging. Nevertheless, Indonesia is one of the greatest challenges in the Muslim world today. There are literally thousands of villages and towns throughout Indonesia that are 100% Muslim with no Christian witness. Today, more than ever, they need to hear the good news.

- Indonesia has one of the lowest health expenditures per capita in the region and the nation is struggling to cope with the coronavirus outbreak. Pray for the government and leaders, including President Widodo, to act with wisdom, and for much-needed medical help to get to this country.
- Pray for those who have recently lost family members, their jobs and homes in the coronavirus pandemic. Ask that in the midst of the fear and uncertainty, they would meet Jesus. Ask that while they can only see lack, they would have their eyes opened to see abundant provision in their Saviour. Ask that God would have mercy and use mysterious and miraculous ways to provide for their needs.

- Pray for the Church in Indonesia to remain firm in the truth and love of Christ and to reach out at this crucial time with the message of hope.
- Pray for the many villages and towns with no Christian witness, that this would change, with more labourers from all over the world coming to Southeast Asia to serve alongside national workers in the future.

Source of some material: <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/issue/basic-facts-about-indonesia/>
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-52124193?intlink_from_url=https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/cmj34zmw7vmt/indonesia&link_location=live-reporting-story

Tuesday 26th May

Jakarta **Pop: Approximately 30 million**

Rapid urbanisation has meant that an estimated 40% of the entire population of Indonesia live in massive cities, particularly on the island of Java. One of these cities is Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia. It is the centre of economy, culture and politics of this nation. It is also one of the world's most densely populated urban areas, with a population of 9.6 million, and roughly 30 million in the greater urban area. Another 3.5 million people commute there to work each day.

Jakarta's business opportunities, as well as its potential to offer a higher standard of living, have attracted migrants from across the Indonesian archipelago, making it a melting pot of numerous cultures. However, Jakarta was not built to support this many people, so the infrastructure is not keeping up with population growth. Traffic congestion, poor air quality and queuing are normal.

Jakarta is seen as Indonesia's equivalent to New York, so is home to the nation's rich and famous. It is also home to millions of people living below the poverty line. When the coronavirus pandemic first emerged in Indonesia, like many capital cities, Jakarta became the epicentre of the crisis. President Joko Widodo stopped short of locking down Jakarta, saying instead that social distancing rules would be implemented more firmly. But the reality is that being able to socially-distance is almost impossible. Many people live in densely-populated neighbourhoods, or kampungs, where extended families live closely together. Although public areas and schools are closed, public transport is still busy as the vast majority of people can't work from home. In recent weeks thousands of people have travelled from the capital to their homes in other parts of the country, raising the threat of infections multiplying all over the nation.

Watch a Prayercast video about Jakarta to learn more about this city and how to pray for it:
<https://www.prayercast.com/jakarta.html>

- With so many unreached Muslims living there, Jakarta is in great need of the good news. How many will go into eternity separated from God? The need is urgent. Pray for them to hear about Jesus at this time.
- We know that God is drawing Indonesian Muslims to Himself through dreams, visions, miracles and the loving witness of followers of Jesus. Pray for biblical and culturally-relevant discipleship of believers from Muslim backgrounds that would enable them to reach their own people effectively in creative ways at this time.

- Praise God for existing communities of believers from Muslim backgrounds living there. Pray they will have a vision in these times to reach more and more Muslim people groups in the region.

Wednesday 27th May

The Sunda Pop: Approximately 38 million

“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

Indonesia is made up of 780 people groups, of which more than 200 remain unreached. The Sunda, Betawi and Palembang are three of these unreached groups. Frontiers have named them as priority groups, as they are seen as having least access to the gospel. We will be praying for them over the next three days. Today we begin with the Sunda.



They are the largest unreached Muslim people group in Indonesia. They are renowned for their friendliness and place a high emphasis on family life. This is illustrated in Suryana’s story:

“Suryana sits surrounded by children and grandchildren. As they swap jokes, she laughs and feels glad for their kindness, hospitality, and devotion to family.

Harmony and peace are important in Suryana’s culture, and conflict rarely shows up in her family. Every potential disagreement is covered in laughter. And in this home, the king of laughter is Suryana’s youngest son, who is gifted with ngadabor—a natural talent for puns and jokes.

Like most Sunda on the Indonesian island of Java, Suryana’s family is poor. They grow their own vegetables on their small plot of land. Her children also pick up seasonal work on nearby rice farms and tea plantations in the mountains.

When Suryana prays, she invokes the Islamic names of God and also calls upon the gods that her people have worshipped since pre-Islamic times. Even though she’s a devoted Muslim, she holds a complex mix of animist beliefs. While she welcomes laughter during the day, she lives in fear of the evil spirits that come at night to torment people.”

You might like to watch a Prayercast video clip about the Sunda: <https://prayercast.com/sunda.html>

- Pray that the Sunda will turn from Islam, idols and other gods to worship Jesus, the protector and deliverer from every fear.
- Pray for Sunda families to know lasting peace in eternal salvation through Christ.
- Pray for Sunda Muslims to find their true identities as sons and daughters in the family of God the Father.

Thursday 28th May

Betawi **Pop: Approximately 5 million**

The Betawi are the original people of the area in and around Jakarta. In the surrounding areas they make a living by farming rice, growing fruit and fishing. Over time, their land has been sold for development, so that many farmers have moved to the city for work. They are likely to be found in the middle and lower economic tiers and living in the less developed neighbourhoods where they work as tradesmen, civil servants, craftsmen and in private companies. Betawi youth are less inclined to follow the traditions of their parents, which leads to family tensions, seen much more in the larger, populated areas.

Their average level of education is quite low, possibly because the Betawi have associated schooling with the lifestyle of the ethnic Chinese or the colonial Dutch, causing them to reject education. This general resistance to schooling is strengthened by Islamic teachers who have urged the Betawi not to attend government-run schools, but instead to enrol in Islamic schools.

The Betawi people are artistic and expressive. Their philosophy for life is "Good fortune is for today; tomorrow is tomorrow's affair." They believe that Allah will give them good fortune. Islam is not only the dominant religion of the Betawi, but it is also the cultural identifier. For a person to be a true Betawi he must be a Muslim. There is also a degree of animism mixed in with their spiritual beliefs. They still believe in spirits that inhabit particular places such as trees, bridges and graveyards.

- Ask the Lord to protect new believers and to spread the gospel amongst this people group.
- Pray for better educational opportunities to not only improve their economic situation, but as a means for sharing Jesus Christ with them.
- Pray for a spiritual breakthrough among the Betawi people, especially in Jakarta. Pray that God would send the right people to them to demonstrate His love.
- Pray for more churches, organisations, ministries and partnerships to facilitate effective sending of workers to this people group. Pray for protection, provision and fruitfulness among those who are sent to this pioneering location.

Friday 29th May

Palembang city and people



Today we pray for a city and a people, as both have the same name - Palembang. They are a Malay people, some 3.3 million in number, who are 90% Sunni Muslim with only 3 out of a 1,000 being Christians according to the Joshua Project. As a people, the Palembang believe that marriage and family is for the promotion of unity, togetherness, and mutual assistance. They seek to avoid anything that might be divisive, including anything that takes them away from Sunni Islam.

Palembang is the capital city of the island of Sumatra. It is an ancient city – the oldest continually inhabited city in Indonesia. The city is wealthy but is also known for much poverty, despite its petroleum-based economy. The city of Palembang sits on the Musi river and has developed its culture and economy as a river city. Houses are built anticipating floods and rice is grown in harmony with the river and the seasons. Yet that water provides for only one crop of rice a year. Their shamans cannot prevent flooding, though the people depend on them for this and other needs.

- *“But our ancestors were proud and stubborn, and they paid no attention to your commands.”* (Neh 9:16). Pray that the Palembang people will pay attention to the commands of the Lord of lords so they can enter into His blessings.
- There is a need for agricultural and small business consultants to work with farmers in developing their land management and crop selection. Pray for workers with the right skills to go and bless the Palembang people and for whole families and communities to believe in Jesus together.
- There are a few believers among the Palembang people. Pray that the Holy Spirit would create a longing for hope and salvation during these rapidly changing weeks and there would be more and more opportunities to point the Palembang people to the Saviour.

Source: <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/issue/day/palembang-people-of-sumatra-indonesia/>

Saturday 30th May

Healings and the Harvest

Let's end this week with an encouraging story from this region:

“Kareema had been suffering from back pain for years. She'd sought treatment from doctors, physiotherapists and even folk healers. But none of them found a physical source of her pain.

Then, at a relative's wedding, Kareema met Frontiers worker Vicky and her friend Miriam who was a Muslim background believer. As the three women chatted, Kareema shared about her back pain. Miriam began praying silently. She wondered if God wanted to heal Kareema right then, in front of



all her relatives. When she asked if they could pray for her, Kareema accepted the offer. They prayed, but at first there was no improvement to her back.

But after they prayed a second time, Kareema became startled. She moved around, bending forward and twisting her back. “I'm healed,” she announced. “The pain in my back is gone!”

Kareema praised God for healing her back. As they rejoiced together, Vicky said to her, “This physical healing is just

one of the signs God gives you to show you how much He loves you. He also offers you spiritual healing for your heart.” Vicky and Mariam explained that through God’s gift of Jesus Christ, we can be forgiven our sins and spend eternity with Him.

And then, with her entire family as witnesses, Kareema held out her hands in prayer and accepted Christ’s gift of spiritual healing.

“This is a season of harvest,” Vicky reports. As she, her teammates and other believers pray with Muslims for physical healing, God is opening doors to share the message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

And every week, more Muslims are entering the Kingdom and receiving His gift of forgiveness and eternal life!”

- Praise God for delivering Kareema from her back pain and for transforming her into a joyful witness for the gospel. Let’s pray for her family, friends and community to also receive Christ’s gift of spiritual healing.
- Pray for the good news to spread beyond this village and into other regions.
- Thank God for preparing the hearts of Muslim men and women in this region to receive Christ’s offer of healing and salvation - and pray for many more to enter the Kingdom.
- Ask the Lord to raise up more workers like Vicky who will make disciples among Muslim families.