

BANGKA

OF INDONESIA

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QUICK FACTS

People Name: Bangka

People Cluster: Malayu of Sumatra

Language: Malay

Trade Language: Indonesian

Population: 217,000

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for the effectiveness of the Word of God as it is distributed among the Bangka people.

Ask God to raise up workers from among Indonesian believers to go and minister to their brothers and sisters.

Pray for the agencies looking to work among the Bangka people. Pray that they would have wisdom and discernment.

Ask God to do amazing things among these people through the lives of the few believers.

Pray for dreams and visions of Jesus among the Bangka people.



LOCATION

The Bangka people live on a beautiful island, called Bangka Island, which is located east of Sumatra in the South China Sea. It is often a popular vacation destination for Indonesians because of its beaches and proximity to the city of Palembang, the capital of South Sumatra. About 60% of the island's population is Malay, and about 25% is of Chinese descent.



LIFE

Tin mining, which began in the 18th and 19th centuries, is a major industry on Bangka Island. There are also numerous pepper plantations, which were especially prosperous during the late 1980s. However, since then, the price of pepper and tin have both dropped dramatically, thus seriously affecting the Bangka economy.

Today, the Bangka still make their living working in tin mines. However, a variety of other trades are also prevalent. Many are farmers, fishermen, and boat builders; and still others are craftsmen, producing cane work, plaited mats, porcelain, and ceramics. Bangka who live in and around cities are often merchants or traders.

The people are counting on help from the government or private industry to stabilize the economy, which has been unsettled since the decline in the price of pepper and tin. The economic situation, however, has not only affected the people financially, but mentally as well. Many feel added stress because of their economic situation and are not prepared to handle possible future hardships.

In marriage, the tradition is that a couple lives somewhere that is not close to either set of parents, and because of this, the Bangka often intermarry with other ethnic groups. Engagement is initiated when the groom's family gives gifts to the bride, and the engagement ceremony is conducted in a sung dialogue called *berbalas pantun*.

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BELIEFS

Though many of the ethnic Chinese on Bangka Island are Buddhist or Confucian, the majority of the island's inhabitants are Muslim. The Bangka people themselves practice Islam combined with their traditional animistic beliefs.



WAYS TO HELP

The economy continues to decline. Those who are business-minded could market some of the Bangka's goods to a wider buying audience and provide more economic security for the people.

Those with business initiatives to employ the Bangka people could potentially find much use for their ideas here.

Would you be willing to be among the FIRST to engage these people with the hope of the Gospel? Would you be willing to lead a team? Contact us today to find out more - we need people to visit the Bangka of Indonesia and find other great ways to bring new teams to live among them for the sake of the Kingdom.

CONTACT

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