

Betawi in Indonesia



The Betawi people are descendants of the people who came to what is now Jakarta in the 15th century, and they currently live in areas surrounding Jakarta. Most farm rice, grow fruit and fish. Those in Jakarta are servants to the wealthy, craftsmen, or traders, and they are often resistant to public education, preferring instead to be educated at local Islamic schools. Though they are Muslim, the tenets of their religion have been changed to fit their culture. They are: 1) greet each other with a peace blessing, 2) pray five times a day, 3) marry daughters at youngest marital age, and 4) be hospitable. They blend their Islam with belief in spirits. These people struggle to keep up with Jakarta's ever-increasing urbanization and modernization.

Ministry Obstacles

The Betawi are resistant to outside ideas, and most automatically reject the gospel.

Outreach Ideas

Hospitals are a wonderful method to demonstrate the love and compassion of the Lord. Job training run by lovers of Christ might open doors to the gospel.



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POPULATION: 5,725,000

LANGUAGE: Betawi

RELIGION: Islam

BIBLE: Portions

STATUS: Unreached

Prayer Focus

Pray for the Holy Spirit to direct the few Betawi believers to be a blessing to their Muslim neighbors and family members. Pray for Betawi believers to disciple others in Christ's ways and that these new believers will disciple others as well.

SCRIPTURE To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him? An idol! A craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and casts for it silver chains. Isaiah 40:18-19, ESV

PRAY that this people group will soon understand that they can never form an idol that compares with the Lord.

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