

#### For the Least Reached

#### **Prayer Guide**



"'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession.'"

— Psalm 2:8, New American Standard Bible 1995

# Thank you for praying with us!

Welcome to the Indonesia Prayer Guide. This monthly prayer guide forms part of For the Least Reached: A Year of Prayer, our one-year prayer initiative.

Each month we unite with the body of Christ in prayer for one least-reached country around the world. Many of the people in these countries have never heard the message of the gospel, or it's difficult for them to learn about Jesus or worship Him.

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of all the world's unreached people—a whopping 3.6 billion people—live in the 12 countries that we will pray for this year.

# WELCOME TO Indonesia!



Located in Southeast Asia, Indonesia is a vast and diverse archipelago with over 17,000 islands. It is centrally-located along ancient trading routes between the Far East, the Middle East and South Asia, resulting in cultural, religious and ethnic diversity. Its capital, Jakarta, is a bustling urban center, while other regions, like Bali, offer rich cultural experiences. Indonesia's history is a tapestry of indigenous cultures, colonial influences and modern developments which shape its complex and dynamic society. The country's economy is diverse, encompassing agriculture, industry and a growing digital sector.



#### Did you know?

- Indonesia is prone to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions due to its location on the Pacific Ring of Fire.
- Indonesia has a rich cultural heritage, with traditional art forms such as batik (a waxresistant fabric dyeing technique), gamelan music, wayang kulit (shadow puppetry) and various dance forms.
- Indonesia has the second-highest level of biodiversity in the world, with numerous unique animal species, vast rainforests and an extensive array of marine life.
- ▶ With over 17,000 islands, Indonesia offers visitors and locals fantastic opportunities for island hopping and exploring different landscapes, from white sandy beaches to volcanic peaks and lush rainforests.
- ► Indonesia boasts the largest Islamic population in the world. Over 87% of the population identify as Muslim, while roughly 10% of Indonesians identify as Christians. There are over 61,000 churches.







#### **Praying for Indonesia**

Have you ever had trouble trusting God?

It's easy to let the pressures of life and the world weigh us down. Our eyes look at what is around us instead of focusing on our LORD God. But when we see Him as our master and absolute ruler, our perspective changes. We can more easily entrust all that matters to His all-capable, all-loving hands.

I recently learned a truth from Genesis 3 that I never knew. It had a profound impact in helping me understand the way that Satan's deception deceived Eve in the Bible, and how he deceives people today.

Genesis 2 refers to God as the "LORD God" over Adam and Eve. A well-known American pastor explains this title as a reference to God being the master and absolute ruler over all creation. Yet in Genesis 3:1, Satan does not use the title "LORD God." He strips the "LORD" out and only uses "God," Elohim.

Satan does not acknowledge God as LORD God. In doing this, he shifts the focus away from God being the master and absolute ruler. He still uses that deception today.

As we take time each day to pray for the people of Indonesia, let us remember who we are praying to. The LORD God, the master and absolute ruler of all creation, can certainly answer every one of these requests. No matter what Satan says, God has not changed and He still rules over the whole world and beyond. Let's ask Him to do what only He can and expand His Kingdom across Indonesia and the world.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

- Hebrews 13:8, New International Version

Jesus Film Project

Lucinda Mason

Prayer Mobilization, Team Leader





## Week 1 Requests



□ Day 1	Indonesia has the largest Islamic population of any country in the world. Pray that God would open the hearts of the people, no matter their religious background, and give them a hunger to know Him personally.
□ Day 2	Hundreds of local languages and dialects are spoken in Indonesia, which makes reaching Indonesians in their heart language very challenging. Pray for accurate translations for the many Bibles and Christian materials in progress.
□ Day 3	New believers who come from a majority-religion background often face rejection and persecution from their communities. They can also find it difficult to fit into Christian culture and churches. Pray for whole households to come to know Christ and to follow Him.
□ Day 4	Indonesia is home to 116 million people under the age of 26—out of a total population of 278 million. Pray for believers to adopt creative strategies to reach this young population with the gospel.
□ Day 5	The country of Indonesia is made of 17,408 islands. One of these, the island of Sulawesi, has over 110 people groups. Conflict exists between some of these groups. Pray for the Christians among them to see their fellow islanders as God sees them: people who are in need of Christ. Pray for the islanders to clearly see the love and kindness of Jesus, and to respond positively.
□ Day 6	Pray this verse for every Christian in Indonesia:  "Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name." — Psalm 86:11, NIV  Add names or whole groups of people into the verse to make it more specific. For example: "Lord, teach Christians in Indonesia what You want them to do. May they rely on You. Teach them to fear (respect) You completely."
□ Day 7	Pray for anti-trafficking organizations across the country to reach their communities with practical help. Pray for them to share the love of Christ in a tactful and culturally sensitive way.



## Week 2 Requests



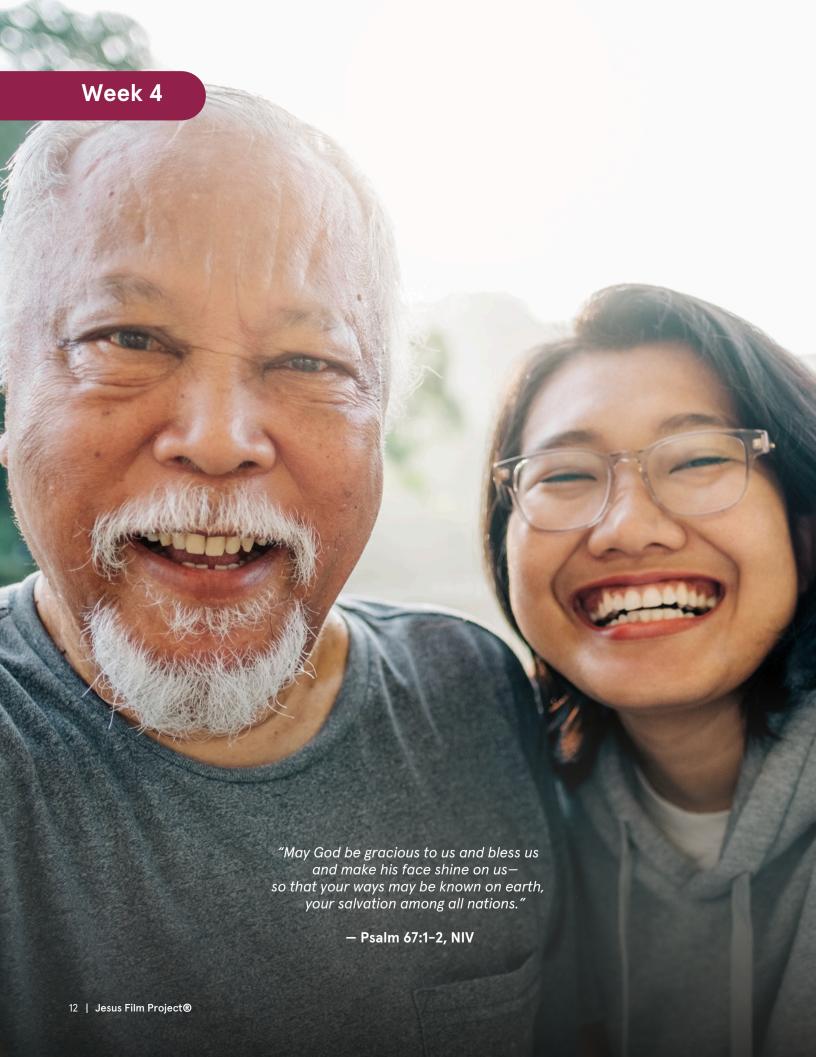
□ Day 8	Many of Indonesia's Islands are covered, or partially covered, in forests. This makes it difficult for Christians to reach some of those who live in these areas with the gospel. Ask God to give believers wisdom on how to reach everyone in Indonesia with the good news of His love, even those in hard-to-reach places.
□ Day 9	Praise God that the Indonesian church continues to grow amidst intense opposition. There are many new lay leaders and pastors in need of discipleship and training. Pray for God to provide more spiritually mature leaders to churches in Indonesia.
□ Day 10	Almost half of Indonesia's population lives on the island of Java. Praise God that the church on Java continues to grow! Although a number of Christians there are facing hardship and persecution, these difficulties are causing churches to draw close to one another in unity. Pray that this peace and unity will increase and that God's message will go forth.
□ Day 11	Some areas in Indonesia have been home to Christians for centuries. Sadly, many denominations in these regions struggle with immorality, divisions and even indigenous occult practices. Pray for God to touch these churches so they may return to true biblical faith.
□ Day 12	There are more than 700 heart languages in Indonesia. The Bible has only been translated into 10% of these languages, and some of these translations are only for a portion of the Bible. Pray that God would raise up Indonesian believers to do this translation work. Pray that teams of believers could live among the unreached people groups there to learn the culture and languages, and to translate the Bible.
□ Day 13	In the following verse, Paul clearly encourages us to pray for everyone. Let's pray for every Indonesian person to know Jesus and to trust Him as Savior!  "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all peopleThis is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." — 1 Timothy 2: 1, 3-4, NIV
□ Day 14	Pray that God would raise up Indonesian leaders at both regional and national levels who strive for justice and who lead the people with wisdom and compassion.

# Week 3 "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you." – John 14:16-17, NIV 10 | Jesus Film Project®

## Week 3 Requests



□ Day 15	Pray that many will see and respond to Christian social media posts and ads that spark interest in who Jesus really is.
□ Day 16	Pray for organizations who would like to offer more training on practical life skill options, such as organic farming, that can provide people with food and a reliable income.
□ Day 17	Pray for the demand for prostitution in Indonesia to decrease. Ask God to soften the hearts of the people, so that men and women would mutually respect one another.
□ Day 18	Some businesses in Indonesia use deception to attract and exploit vulnerable migrant workers. A widespread effort is underway to expose these businesses. Pray that this effort will be successful. May freedom and hope be restored to those whose lives have been hurt.
□ Day 19	Pray for God's continued work in the region of West Papua, where over 90% of indigenous peoples are Christian. They still face tribal differences, mixing of animistic and polytheistic beliefs and opposition to their faith. Pray for the Papuan people to be a blessing to their nation and for the government to treat them fairly.
□ Day 20	Join with me in praying this prayer written by Paul for the Christians in Ephesus. Today, we pray this for Christians in Indonesia.  "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better."  — Ephesians 1:17, NIV
□ Day 21	Pray for Christian organizations to seek and follow God's wisdom when teaching others who follow a majority religion about Jesus.



#### Week 4 Requests



□ Day 22	Sumatra is the largest unreached island on earth. Most of its people groups follow the majority religion. Others practice a folk version of the majority religion. Many obstacles stand in the way of reaching them. Pray for Christians to reach beyond their own ethnic groups to share the gospel with those around them who do not yet know Jesus as Savior.
□ Day 23	New safe houses for women and children are opening in Indonesia. Pray for those in these homes to experience emotional healing, to learn practical life skills and to begin a relationship with Jesus.
□ Day 24	Over 194 million people make up the seven largest people groups in Indonesia. Pray for God to soften the hearts of these people and for them to have opportunities to hear and accept the gospel.
□ Day 25	Pray for the people in Indonesia who are suffering from illnesses to get the medical care they need. Pray that God would raise up more Christians in the medical field to meet spiritual needs in addition to physical needs.
□ Day 26	The indigenous peoples of Kalimantan, on the island of Borneo, speak around 80 different languages and many dialects. Christians make up a majority of many groups, and a sizable minority in others. Christian leaders in this region need training, but lack of Scriptures in the indigenous languages hinders this training. Praise God that new models of Scripture translating are accelerating this process significantly in many languages in Kalimantan.
□ Day 27	Join me in praying that all Indonesian Christians will faithfully read the Bible, learn what God wants them to do, and then do it:  "And may your hearts be fully committed to the Lord our God, to live by His decrees and obey His commands, as at this time." — 1 Kings 8:61, NIV
□ Day 28	Bible translators aim to begin translation work soon for 30 people groups who live in hard-to-reach places. Pray for God's provision of people, equipment and resources for this project.

#### Week 5 Requests



Day 29 Pray for programs that train both children and educators on the dangers of human trafficking and the tactics of traffickers. Pray that God would protect vulnerable young people from this threat.

Day 30 Pray for unity among Christian denominations and churches in Indonesia, that they may work together in harmony to spread the gospel, to serve their communities, and to be a beacon of hope and love.

Lord Jesus, we thank You for giving us a chance to pray for Indonesia each day this month. We believe You will continue Your work there until everyone has heard clearly about Jesus and been invited to follow Him. Someday we'll see how You answered our prayers. May heaven be filled with Indonesians who started to follow Jesus in part due to our prayers this month. We give you all honor and praise.



#### Resources

- You can see these requests and others in our <u>Prayer Experience</u>, a web based app.
- Joshua Project has a tremendous amount of information about every country. This link will take you to information about Indonesia. joshuaproject.net/countries/ID
- Prayercast has great prayer videos: prayercast.com/prayer-topic/indonesia
- ▶ A great way to help someone learn more about Jesus is to share the JESUS film in their heart language. We have over 2,000 languages available on our website. jesusfilm.org/watch/jesus.html/english
- We also have multiple other films and short videos available. jesusfilm.org/watch
- ▶ For more Jesus Film Project® prayer resources—including access to each month's family prayer guide—visit the prayer page on the Jesus Film Project website: jesusfilm.org/pray



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Each month we will focus on a different least-reached country. Many of the people in these countries have never heard the message of the gospel, or it's difficult for them to learn about Jesus or worship Him. Nearly 75% of all the world's unreached people—a whopping 3.6 billion people—live in the 12 countries that we will pray for this year.

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