Manggarai of Indonesia

Profile Text

Introduction / History
Indonesia is the fourth most populous nation and continues to grow rapidly. It has one of the most ethnically diverse populations in the world, with more than 750 distinct people groups, many of whom are Muslim. Located in southeastern Asia, the many islands of Indonesia command vital sea routes between Australia, Europe, and the Asian mainland. These islands are the principal link between the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

The Manggarai are located in the western portion of Flores Island in the province of Nusa Tenggara. They are close neighbors to the Bima and the Timorese. Their language, which is also called Manggarai, is a member of the Austronesian language family and has 47 sub-dialects. Little is known concerning the specific lifestyle and culture of the Manggarai; however, it is reasonably assumed that they are fairly typical of the other ethnic groups living in Nusa Tenggara.

What are their lives like?
The island of Flores is extremely mountainous, with peaks that rise more than 7,000 feet and a number of active volcanoes. The Manggarai people are a small group and are not well known to the outside world. They are a hardworking people who rely on the soil for their subsistence. Their main crop is rice, which they grow in irrigated fields. They also raise livestock and fish, which they catch in the nearby sea.

Language
Manggarai

Religion
Christian

Population
698,000

Evangelical
8.00 %

Audio NT
Not available

Jesus Film
Not available

Progress
3.2

Country Map

Ethnolinguistic Map

Linguistic Map

Ethnologue language map

Peoples

Geography

Country: Indonesia

Continent: Asia

Region: Southeast Asia

Persecution Rank: 45 (Only top 50 ranked, 1 = highest persecution ranking)

10/40 Window: Yes

Location in Country: Lesser Sundas, west third of Flores Island

(Source: Ethnologue 2010)

Maps

Political map

University of Texas or other map

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volcanoes. The interior of the island is heavily forested, and the few rivers that traverse the island are not navigable. The climate is tropical, with little daily variation in temperature. There is, however, a marked division between wet and dry seasons.

The principal agricultural products cultivated are corn, rice, coconuts, cinnamon, coffee, tobacco, cotton, and wax. Fruits and vegetables are grown in the gardens around the villages. Livestock and poultry are also raised, and there is some exploitation of mineral deposits. Large quantities of mother-of-pearl are obtained from the fisheries of the Flores Sea. Fishing appears to be relatively unimportant, although the people do have fish ponds from which they extract salt during the dry season.

A Manggarai village is often composed of small individual settlements. In the mountains, the people live on swiddens (land that has been cleared by "slash and burn" agriculture) for part of the year. After harvesting the crops, however, they return to their home villages. Each village usually has its own mosque. The head of the mosque is responsible for all ceremonies, religious anniversaries, and the rites of the agricultural cycle.

Manggarai descent is traced through both the males and females, and the circle of kinship is divided into various sub-groups. The center, however, is the nuclear family composed of a man, woman, and their children. If a Manggarai man wishes to marry, he sends an eloquent woman to the house of the prospective bride. Acting as his representative, she makes the marriage proposal for him in very descriptive language. A bride-price is then paid, dependent on the social status of the woman. After marriage, the young couple immediately establishes their own household.

What are their beliefs?
Islam is the dominant religion in Indonesia today and is practiced by a majority of the population. Before the fourteenth century, Hinduism was widespread in the area but is now practiced by only a small number of people. Less than one-fifth of the population is Christian; Protestant; and many Chinese follow Buddhist-Taoist teachings. Animistic religions (belief that non-human objects have spirits) are still followed by tribes in remote areas.

Half of the Manggarai are Sunni Muslims and most of the rest are animists. As a whole, the island of Flores is largely Catholic, but many of the people have mixed their faith with animistic practices. However, in the past, the western part of the neighboring island of Timor has experienced an outpouring of God’s blessing.

What are their needs?
The Manggarai have no Christian resources available in their own language. A great need exists for Christian literature to be translated into their native language. Above all, sustained intercession is necessary if the
Manggarai are to come to a saving knowledge of Christ.

**Prayer Points**

* Ask the Lord to send missionaries who will invest their lives in the Manggarai of Indonesia.
* Ask the Holy Spirit to grant wisdom and favor to missions agencies focusing on the Manggarai.
* Ask the Lord Jesus to reveal Himself to the Manggarai through dreams and visions.
* Pray that signs and wonders will follow the Manggarai believers as they share Christ with their own people.
* Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will begin breaking up the soil through worship and intercession.
* Ask the Lord to bring forth a triumphant Manggarai church for the glory of His name!
* Pray for translation of the Bible to begin in this people group's primary language.
* Pray for the availability of the Jesus Film in the primary language of this people.
* Pray for Gospel messages to become available in audio format for this people group.

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**Roman Catholic 100.00 %**

(Evangelicals distributed across Christianity segments)

**Progress Indicators [3]**

- **Evangelicals >5%**
- **Evangelicals >10%**
- **Least Reached:**
- **Level 1** Less than 2% Evangelical. Some evangelical resources available, but no active church planting within past 2 years

**Bible Translation Status**

- **Submit Update:** Go
- **Bible Portions:**
  - New Testament: None Reported
  - Complete Bible: None Reported

**Ministry Resources [5]**

None Reported

**Ministry Activity**

- **Register** your ministry activity among this people group. Contact the Adopt-A-People Clearinghouse to learn about others that might be focused on this people group.

**Data Notes:**

- **Data Sources:**

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**Prayer Links**

PrayerGuard.net