

DAY 7

Despite the barriers that make it seem impossible for Minangkabau to come to faith in Jesus, new life is springing up. Some have chosen to separate themselves from their Islamic culture and society, while others remain within their community as witnesses for *Isa Al-Masih* (Jesus the Messiah) among friends and family. Whatever path they choose, it will not be easy as they seek to disprove the universally held conviction that “to be Minangkabau is to be Muslim.”



Pray that Minangkabau followers of Jesus will be bold in sharing their faith with their communities.

Pray for strength and faith to withstand persecution as they follow a different way to the larger culture. Pray for households and extended family groups to come together to Jesus.

Pray for communities of faith to be able to meet for fellowship and discipleship.

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. – Luke 9:23

Rev. 12/14

7 DAY PRAYER GUIDE

The MINANGKABAU of Indonesia



The Minangkabau are one of the most strongly Muslim people groups in Indonesia and amongst the least reached ethnic groups in the world.

There may be 1,000 believers among a population of about 7–8 million. They are renowned for travelling all over Indonesia and beyond, to seek their fortune, taking their famous spicy cuisine with them. They are the world’s largest matrilineal society and are fiercely proud of their culture.

Please join with us in praying for their salvation.

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DAY 1

All Minangkabau are taught from early childhood that to gain eternal life they must do their best to fulfil their religious duties. These include repeating the Muslim creed, praying at certain times, fasting during the month of Ramadan, giving to the poor, and visiting the holy city of Mecca. Some are very committed, whilst others seem much less so. But no Minangkabau is certain that their good works will be enough to get them into Heaven.



Pray that the Spirit would convict the Minangkabau that no one can be righteous before God through good works, but rather that it requires an act of grace from God.

Pray that the Minangkabau will seek out and receive the teaching of *Isa Al-Masih* (Jesus the Messiah) and come to know Him as the One who saves.

For God sent Jesus into the world not to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

– John 3:17

DAY 2

The buffalo is an important animal in the lives of the Minangkabau people. Legend records the cunning use of a buffalo calf to give them victory in a dispute with a rival kingdom (*Minangkabau* means ‘the buffalo wins’). Ritual slaughter of animals is common at special events, including *Idul Adha*—a Muslim celebration to remember that Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son. The Minangkabau, therefore, are very familiar with the idea of sacrifice.



Pray that the Minangkabau would understand that God’s forgiveness is through shedding of blood, and that this is ultimately achieved through the blood of *Isa Al-Masih*.

Pray for openness and curiosity about the *Injil* (the gospel) and for a willingness to question the traditional Muslim belief that Jesus did not die on the cross but was swapped with someone else at the last minute.

But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. – Ephesians 2:13

DAY 3

The social fabric which holds Minang culture and society together is rich and strong, but as a new generation of Minangkabau emerge, there are challenges maintaining traditional values and identities in a globalized world.

Increasingly secular and immoral values from the West are being imported into Indonesia through music, film and literature. Because the West is considered Christian, 'Christianization'



is feared as a corrosive influence on morality and culture. Minangkabau leaders are trying hard to preserve traditional culture and values. Recent local government

measures include making the head covering compulsory for girls at school and requiring extra Qur'anic lessons for school children during the month of Ramadan.

Pray that leaders will be open to positive outside influences and encourage a culture of religious freedom.

Pray that the Minang would understand that following Jesus is possible within the context of their own culture.

... with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. – Revelation 5:9

DAY 4

Because the Minangkabau people live on the Pacific Rim of Fire, their homelands are susceptible to volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis. In 2009 over 1,000 people, mostly Minang, died when a strong earthquake shook their province. Experts predict that there may be an even larger earthquake and tsunami in the near future, raising fear about when it will strike. This opens up opportunities to talk about life and death, their fears and where they put their hope. After each natural disaster, followers of Jesus have been able to enter the province and minister sensitively to the physical and spiritual needs of the people.



Pray for those who have been touched by the love of followers of Jesus after recent natural disasters.

Pray that an uncertain future would move the Minangkabau to urgently seek the Way to eternal life.

God is our refuge and strength ... therefore we will not fear though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea. – Psalm 46:1-2

DAY 5

Despite the Minangkabau people being fervent Muslims, traditional animistic customs continue to be observed alongside their Islamic practices. Amulets are tied around the necks of small children to protect them from evil spirits, and when people are sick or troubled by demons they visit local spiritual healers. The Minangkabau are acutely aware of dark spiritual



powers, and often look for spiritual reasons for sickness and disaster. Surely this is where Jesus can meet their deepest need and bring freedom from their darkest fears.

Pray that local followers of Jesus will be bold in proclaiming and praying for the power of Isa Al-Masih to break into their communities, to bring healing and freedom from fear.

Pray for Jesus to reveal himself in dreams, visions, and answered prayers, so that the Minang may recognize his authority over all creation.

... Jesus Christ ... has gone into Heaven and is at God's right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. – 1 Peter 3:22

DAY 6

As the Minangkabau move away from home in search of work, people from other ethnic groups have, for various reasons, moved into the Minangkabau heartlands. Some are from traditionally Christian people groups, and they are relatively free to observe their own religious and cultural traditions. The faith of many is nominal and others have little interest in sharing the Good News with their Minangkabau friends and colleagues, especially as it can lead to accusations of proselytizing.



Pray that Christians living amongst the Minangkabau people will have a genuine love for Jesus and a new passion for sharing him with their Minangkabau friends and colleagues.

Pray for the few followers of Jesus with a passion to share the gospel with the Minangkabau, including some who have moved to the province to do this.

But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. – Luke 8:15