

Aceh of Indonesia (Southeast Asia)

The Aceh people (pronounced ah-CHE) live on the northern tip of the island of Sumatera in the province of Aceh. Their provincial capital of Banda Aceh is commonly known as “the Veranda of Mecca.” It has been a stopping place for Southeast Asian Muslims journeying by ship to Mecca, their “holy city,” in Saudi Arabia. The Aceh people speak their own language, and the majority also speak the national Indonesian language. The Aceh are a blend of many races, which explains why they are fairer skinned and taller than most other Indonesians. The Aceh people are strict Sunni Muslims and have been very instrumental in spreading Islam throughout Indonesia and other parts of Southeast Asia. It is often stated that “to be Aceh is to be Muslim.” The Aceh people strongly and even violently oppose other religions. The Aceh Province is the only province in Indonesia where Shari’a Islamic law has been formally instituted. Pray that the strongholds will be broken down and they will desire to know Christ. Pray that a church planting movement will take hold among the Aceh people and we will see the Gospel penetrate their hearts. Prayer will be a key in seeing this people group reached because of their strong opposition to other religions.



MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=100036&rog3=ID>

Southern Tai of Thailand (Southeast Asia)

The Southern Tai live in about fourteen different provinces in southern Thailand. They usually live on the beaches and in the marshy swamplands, which gradually reach the foothills of jungle-covered mountains and into lush valleys. Although Thai is the official language of the country, most Southern Tai speak their tonal language, Dambro, at home. More than half of the Southern Tai are firm believers in Theravada (orthodox) Buddhism, which was introduced into Thailand in 329 B.C. Tai Buddhists devoutly follow the principles of Buddha (the “enlightened one”) and seek to eliminate suffering and improve their future by gaining “merit” in their present lives. Ultimately, they are in pursuit of nirvana, or perfect peace. They believe that merit can be acquired through feeding monks, donating to temples, and frequently worshipping in the temples. They also follow the old tradition that a man should enter a Buddhist monastery for three months to study Buddhism. Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect the small number Southern Tai Christians. Pray that God will raise up qualified linguists to translate the Bible into the Dambro language. Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Southern Tai towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.



MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=109517&rog3=TH>

Talysh of Iran (Central Asia)

The Talysh peoples (Harzani, Kajali, Karingani, Takistani, Talysh) inhabit the northwestern regions of Iran. Another group of them can also be found in southeastern Azerbaijan. They occupy a land of sharp contrasts, ranging from the high, forested Talysh Mountains, to the subtropical coastal land along the Caspian Sea. They refer to themselves as the Talushon, and speak an Indo-Iranian language that is also called Talysh. Although all of the Talysh groups speak their native language, most are also fluent in Azerbaijani, and some speak Russian or Farsi. The Talysh are virtually 100% Muslim, primarily of the Shi’ite branch. They consider Jesus to be a prophet, a teacher, and a good man, but not God’s son. Since Islam is a religion of works, they believe that after death they will be judged by their good deeds and by their knowledge of the Koran. Like other Muslims, they observe the five “pillars” of Islam, which include affirming that Allah is the only god and Mohammed is his prophet, praying five times a day, giving alms generously, fasting, and making a pilgrimage to Mecca. Pray for greater freedom to preach the Gospel in Iran and Azerbaijan. Ask God to give the small number of Talysh believers opportunities to share the Gospel with their friends and families.



MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=109766&rog3=IR>



PRAY
ONE minute...TWO times a day...
for THREE unreached people groups

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