

Who are the Lampung?

About 1.5 million Lampung people live in Indonesia's Lampung Province on the southern tip of Sumatra. The Lampung have several different subgroups. The *Abung*, or mountain people practiced head hunting and remained in isolation until the 19th century. The *Pesisir*, or "Edge" people who live along Sumatra's southern coastline were influenced by the Islamic kingdoms of Java in previous centuries. A third group of Lampung live in the eastern lowlands.

Languages

The Lampung language belongs to the Austronesian language family and has been described as a derivative of "old" Malay. The Lampung language has two major dialects and eight sub-dialects. About 75% of Lampung people also speak *Bahasa Indonesia*, the Indonesian national language.

Livelihood



Lampung Province is one of the poorest in Sumatra. According to the World Bank, 40%

of Lampung's inhabitants live below the poverty line, and many children are malnourished. The majority of Lampung earn their living by farming, forestry, animal husbandry and fishing. A small number also work in construction, in education or as government employees.

Culture

Lampung people in the mountains and the eastern lowlands have maintained many traditional practices. They have extravagant weddings. They use charms and other means to interact with the spirit world. Honorific titles are granted to some men as a mark of status in the community.

Traditional Lampung people follow a hereditary elder system in which the first son of a man's first wife not only inherits a large percentage of his father's property, but also becomes the head of the family after his father dies. Lampung people along the coast, unlike their mountain kinfolk, have been influenced by other ethnic groups and retain fewer traditional practices.

Beliefs

Most Lampung people are Muslims in the Shafia sect. Urban Lampung are particularly faithful in carrying out the rituals of their faith. In the past several years, the government has helped to build many new mosques and religious education facilities throughout the province.

Community pressure discourages the Lampung from learning about or accepting the Good News. It is estimated that only about 30 Lampung follow Jesus.



For more information about the Lampung, visit: www.apeopleloved.com/lampung



Population: 1.5 million
Location: South Sumatra, Indonesia
Languages: Lampung, Bahasa Indonesia

Prayer Points

Pray that followers of Jesus from other ethnic groups in Lampung Province would begin to reach out in love to the Lampung people. May they demonstrate God's love in practical ways as well as by sharing the Good News.

Barriers such as community pressure and the poor witness of some "Christians" in the area keep many Lampung from accepting the Good News. **Pray** that these barriers would be removed and that the Lampung would meet Jesus in dreams and visions.

Pray that God would send followers of Jesus to the Lampung people. **Pray** that these followers would develop sensitive and effective strategies for reaching the Lampung.

Pray for Lampung followers of Jesus to grow strong in faith. May they have courage to follow Jesus despite opposition. May they be salt and light in their communities.