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.

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.

Prayer Points

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.