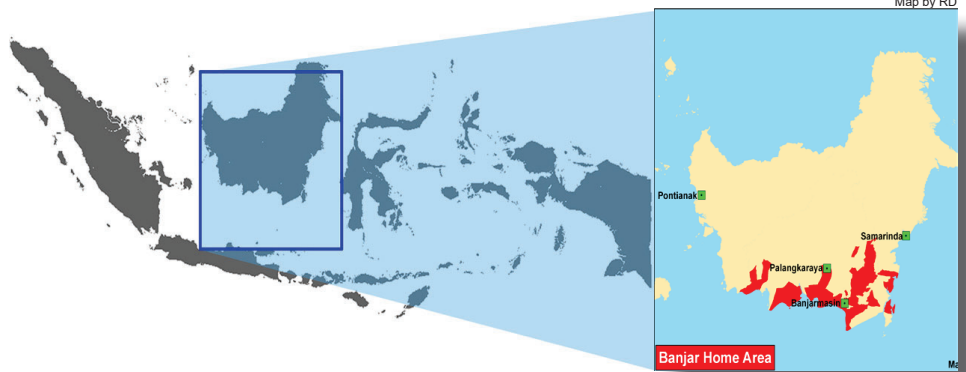


BANJAR



Photo by RD



Demography	Banjar Language	Status
Location: Kaltim, Kalsel Population: 3.850.000 Major Religion: Islam	Bible: No Jesus Film: Yes Online Media: No	Believers: <100 ⁽⁸⁶⁴⁹⁾ Engaged: Yes Indigenous Church: 0

Identity and Location

The south coast of Borneo Island is home to the Banjar people. They live along the river banks from the headwaters in the mountain jungles to the coastal towns. Banjar culture dominates the province of South Kalimantan. Many Banjar also live in East Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan and Malaysia. A few groups of them also live in Riau Province. Although they are devout Muslims, they are very proud of their ancestors who came from the former Hindu kingdom, Nagara Dipa.

Today, Banjar cultural traditions are a mixture of Jawa, Malay and Dayak cultures. Historically, Buddhism, Hinduism and finally Islam were all brought from Java to South Kalimantan. In 1525, the prince of Banjar, Samudera, became Muslim as the conditional for a promise of military assistance from Java in order to overthrow his uncle. After becoming a Muslim, he changed his name to Sultan Suriansyah.

Society and Culture

Banjarmasin, capital of South Kalimantan Province, is located 22 kilometers from the Java Sea. Many areas within the city are below sea level and are therefore become waterlogged at high tide. Lanting (houses on stilts), line the banks of the various rivers that crisscross the city. By taking a small klotok (motor boat) along the network of rivers and canals, we can see various daily activities such as bathing, washing clothes, gossiping, and buying fruit, vegetables and fish from the women selling these items from their small canoes (floating market).

The Banjar people rarely migrate to other areas. After marriage, they generally live near their parents or

siblings in Kalimantan. Most Banjar people make a living by farming or working on a palm oil or rubber plantation near the river. They are also engaged in trade, transportation and mining. Many Banjar people work in traditional sawmills using hand saws. They are reluctant to work in factories that manufacture materials such as plywood because it is not good for their health.

Beliefs

Islam has a very strong influence in both the personal and family life of the Banjar people. Religion plays an important role in combating crimes such as theft and gambling. Banjar identity cannot be separated from Islam. At the same time, traditional animistic beliefs prevail. These beliefs teach that certain supernatural powers reside in objects such as stones, trees, and mountains.

The Islamic celebrations and month-long fast of Ramadan are rigorously observed. The most famous building in Banjarmasin is the Agung Sabilal Muthadin Mosque, located in the center of the city. Since the period of Dutch colonialism, the Banjar have looked suspiciously on government schools as attempting to secularize their children. Islamic schools have been built which are considered government schools.

Needs

The Banjar do not look positively on modern methods and technologies nor do they mix much with other local ethnic groups. This isolation has limited their development of education, health care, and drinking water. In the interior, villages have inadequate infrastructure for distribution of crops and goods.