



PRAY FOR THE INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDERS

WHERE ARE THE ISLANDS?

That's a question we can't really answer for security reasons. Suffice to say, they're in the Indian Ocean! They are strongly influenced by Islam - open proclamation of the gospel invites opposition for our missionaries, and conversion to Christianity can bring persecution for Island people. By living and working in these communities, learning local languages and understanding culture, it is possible to develop relationships through which the gospel can be shared. Bringing skills like English teaching and vocational training lends legitimacy to our missionaries' presence and helps the communities.

WHAT DO THEY BELIEVE?

Each island has its own distinctive people group, with their own language, culture and beliefs, but all practise some form of Islam, mixed with a variety of traditional animistic

beliefs, occultism, ancestor worship and fear of the spirit world. Some younger people who have studied abroad are influenced by more fundamentalist Islam, while others are questioning their traditional beliefs and becoming more materialistic. There are few who follow Jesus.

WHAT IS BEING DONE TO REACH THEM WITH THE GOSPEL?

TIMO (Training In Ministry Outreach) teams have lived and worked on the Islands in recent years. Now several individuals and families are continuing that pioneering work longer term. English language classes, literacy and numeracy teaching for women, and medical work are bringing positive benefits to the Islanders. Friendships which have been formed enable missionaries to speak about Jesus, pray for people and encourage the reading of Scripture.

WHAT CAN WE PRAY FOR?

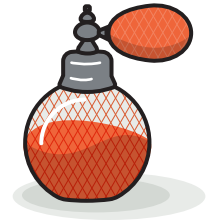
More and more of the Bible is becoming available in Island languages on apps that people can access on phones and tablets. Give thanks for this ease of access and pray that many would read God's Word!

Pray that the few Island people who follow Jesus would know very deeply God's grace and love. Pray that they would have the courage they need to stand for Christ and would share their hope with their families and communities.

Despite there being no official church body on the Islands, some Islanders recently set up a WhatsApp group for local believers to send out encouragements to each other. This is a huge step in the right direction of connecting Islander believers and giving them a place to go for prayer and for encouragement in their own language. Please pray that more members will be added to this group, that it will remain secure and the body will not be harmed by access to this group falling into the wrong hands. Pray for their protection.

It is estimated that 97.9% of the population on the Indian Ocean Islands is unreached with the gospel. Pray for more labourers to come to this harvest field. We are starting to see real kingdom change, but more Christians are needed to disciple young Island believers. Please pray about whether you could respond to, or share about this need.

The Islanders are heavily involved in witchcraft, communicating with spirits and adding the occult to Islamic practices. As a consequence, it's not uncommon to encounter demon possession and evil spirits. Pray for protection for new believers and for missionaries.



SOMETHING SMELLS GOOD...

One of the major industries on the Islands is perfume distillation.



FISHING

Fishing remains small scale off the Islands, usually for subsistence rather than industry, despite tuna stocks. These are instead harvested by European countries.



TRANS-OCEANIC TRADE ROUTE

The Indian Ocean is the world's oldest long-distance trans-oceanic trading arena and is sometimes known as the cradle of globalisation.

You can download our prayer PDFs from: eu.aimint.org/resources.