

The People

Nearly 210,000,000 people live in Indonesia. Bahasa Indonesia is the official language while English, Dutch, and local languages (primarily Javanese) are spoken as well.

Islam (87%) is the primary religion, with smaller proportions of Protestant Christianity(6%), Roman Catholicism (3%), Hinduism (2%), Buddhism (1%), and other (1%).

The HKBP people in the East Sumatra District mostly live in rural, agrarian conditions, but there are a variety of small trades in the capital city of Pematangsiantar. About 30% of the population are small farmers living in rural villages. Another 30% work for wages on the surrounding plantations producing tea, rubber, palm oil, and cocoa beans.

What can we do in our companion relationship?

- Pray regularly for and with our partners
- Learn about the culture, watch news reports about Indonesia. Spend a Sunday School hour learning about Christians in Indonesia
- Exchange correspondence when possible
- Support global mission and specifically the work of the HKBP.

Sumatra Indonesia



ELCA Global Missions

Indiana – Kentucky Synod Sumatra in Indonesia



**We are walking together
with our fellow Lutherans
on the island of Sumatra
in Indonesia!**

The Indiana-Kentucky Synod has a relationship with the Huria Kristen Batak Protestan - HKBP (pronounced ha-ka-bay-pay) District V, East Sumatra. HKBP is the governing church body in Indonesia that is part of the Lutheran World Federation. It currently has about 3,000,000 members. The presiding bishop is the Ephorus, or superintendant, currently **Reverend Bonar Napitupulu**.

The HKBP Church body is the largest Lutheran Church in Asia.



Facilities and ministries:

Rostered Personnel of the HKBP include the ordained pastors plus other ordained leaders who serve as "Preacher-Teachers", Deaconesses, and Biblewomen. The Preacher-Teachers and Deaconesses lead worship and perform most other pastoral duties except administering the sacraments and performing marriages.

The HKBP operates a **School for the Preacher-Teachers** close to Tarutung. The HKBP **Deaconess School** is located in Balige adjacent to the HKBP Hospital.

The HKBP has a **Youth Service Organization**, the Pelaksana Pelayan Naposobulung, which is roughly equivalent to our Lutheran Student Movement. The church operates a number of parochial schools throughout their various districts. These schools have once again become important after the economic crises of 1998 in Indonesia, which diminished the budgets for state operated schools.

Elim **Orphanage** is another agency operated by the HKBP. While the closely intertwined family relationships of the Batak people tend to reduce the occurrence of orphans, the church provides this safety net. This is an important ministry in a country that lacks an effective foster care system run by the state. Elim is now receiving orphans from the tsunami in Aceh.

Two **Hospitals** are operated by the HKBP, one 150-bed facility in Balige and another on Samosir Island in Lake Toba, the heart of Batak culture. The Balige facility is a teaching hospital for nurses.

The HKBP **Theological Seminary**, located in Pematangsiantar, also serves other Lutheran churches in North Sumatra. A Theological Education by Extension program based in Pematangsiantar provides theological education for congregational leaders.

The HKBP **Nommensen University**, is the largest Lutheran university in Asia. In the academic year 2001-2002, it had an enrollment of 7550 students. It has schools of education, agriculture, economics, engineering, business administration, languages and the arts.

Connections:

- IK Synod delegate visits
- HKBP leadership received at IK Synod assemblies.
- \$140,000+ for ongoing tsunami relief.
- Counseling services funded through Nias Crisis Center
- English as a second language (ESL) partnership opportunities.

3 significant challenges faced by the HKBP in the 21st century:

1. *How to do mission and ministry faithfully and peacefully in a radically heterogeneous culture?*
2. *How to faithfully address social and economic disparity among the people of the HKBP and in surrounding society?*
3. *How to faithfully relate to socio-economic developments (such as globalization, industrialization, asianization, and sophisticated information technology) so that they become blessing for all people?*

For a presentation in your congregation, contact the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Global Mission Committee.

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