

The Pura of Indonesia



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The Pura (also known as Blagar) live in the far southwestern islands of Indonesia known as Nusa Tenggara. Most people who speak Pura are fishermen and small farmers, growing or catching enough on their island to provide for their families. Aid organizations are active in the region, but the primary focus of those offering aid is on common diseases and other issues of poverty and health.

Missionaries brought Christianity to the Pura people decades ago, establishing both Protestant and Catholic traditions in the area. Approximately 80% of all Pura attend church and consider themselves Christians. However, because they have had very little Scripture in their language, they do not readily connect faith with their daily problems.

Translation of Scripture is planned and scripture in their mother-tongue will help pastors connect people's daily struggles with real answers found in the Gospel. It will foster personal spiritual growth and challenge remaining animistic beliefs that are still a problem for some people in this group. Scripture in their language will also encourage evangelistic outreach by the Pura church.

It is possible that this initial translation will be the catalyst for projects in eight additional area languages where Scripture is needed.

Primary Religion:

Christian

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

Yes

Churches:

Yes

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

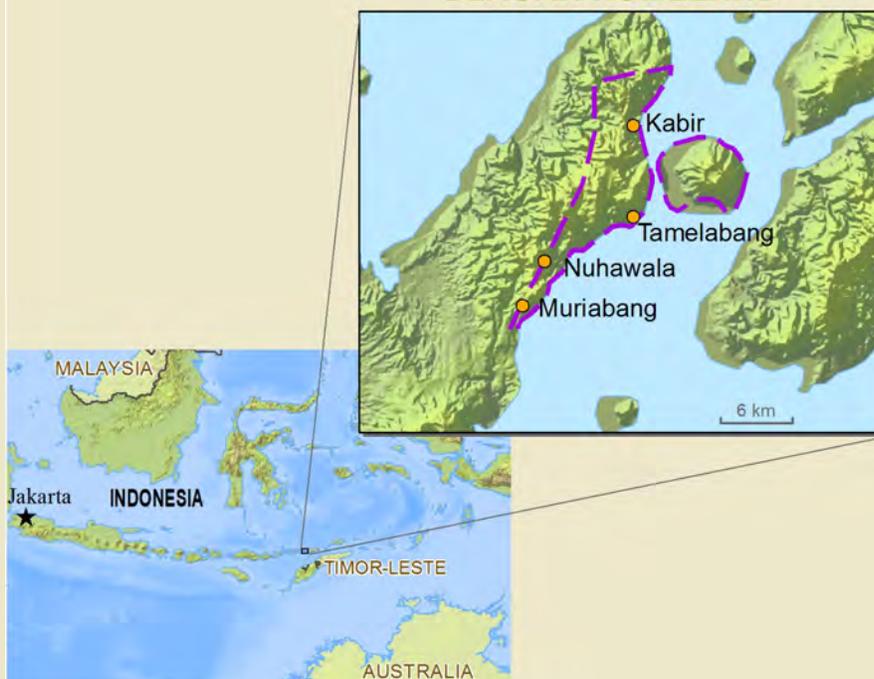
Portions

Population (date):

11,000 (1981)



BLAGAR HOMELAND



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Have They Heard The Gospel?

History of Christianity	Missionaries brought Christianity to the Pura people decades ago, establishing both Protestant and Catholic traditions in the area.
Religious Practices and Ceremonies	Approximately 80% of all Pura attend church and consider themselves Christians.
Is the Word of God Translated?	The gospel of Mark in writing as well as recordings.
Other Forms of Gospel Presentations	
Recordings:	Easter Story, gospel of Mark 1-16
Literature:	unknown
Films/videos:	“Good News” in 40 pictures
Radio:	No
Bible Stories:	“Good News” in pictures with Indonesian songs

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Group Description

Population all countries

World Population 11,000

World Population (Date) 1981

Geography & Environment

Location Nusa Tenggara Timur Province, East Pantar, north Pura and south Ternate islands. Nusa Tenggara Timur in Indonesian means “eastern of the southeastern islands.”
The Blagar live on two islands in the Savu Sea and share the larger of the two islands with speakers of several other languages.

Climate The climate of Indonesia is almost entirely tropical. The uniformly warm waters that make up 81% of Indonesia's area ensure that temperatures on land remain fairly constant, with the coastal plains averaging 28 °C, the inland and mountain areas averaging 26 °C, and the higher mountain regions, 23 °C.

The main variable of Indonesia's climate is not temperature or air pressure, but rainfall.

Alternate Language Names

Belagar, Kaera, Pura, Tarang

Religion

East Nusa Tenggara is the only province in Indonesia where Roman Catholicism is the predominant religion.

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Status of Christianity

Religion and Response

Translation status

Three people are currently working as the translation team for Pura: two mother-tongue translators and a local church leader.

They have received on-the-job training as they worked through the Gospel of Mark. An expatriate couple has been serving as trainers and project facilitators. Consultants will assist periodically with checking in workshop settings.

Spiritual Climate and Openness

The local church requested the project and is involved in an administrative capacity in partnership with the help of Wycliffe personnel. The translation team initiated the request for help with the project, and the entire group is highly motivated to move it forward.

Attitude toward Christianity

80% of the Pura people would call themselves Christians