

The Tii of Indonesia



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Traders introduced the people of Rote Island to the Gospel in the 1700s. Impressed by the Christian religion, three rulers went to the larger, more populated island of Java a few years later to investigate it further. There they became Christians, were baptized and went to Bible school for three years. They returned to their island with a copy of the Bible written in their local trade language.

After starting schools, they taught people to read, and Christianity quickly spread throughout the island. Though proud of their faith and their churches, the Tii speakers still do not have God’s Word in their own mother tongue. Pastors use the national Indonesian language Bible in services, but it is inadequate. Without Scriptures they can understand deeply, believers here lack access to foundational truths, which can lead them to practical applications for Christian living.

Tii speakers live on Rote Island in Indonesia. Several other people groups live there also, in separate areas established by historic kings.

All Rotenese eat what their land produces. One of their basic foods comes from sap of the lontar palm, harvested during the annual dry season. It yields sweet syrup that they also make into sugar. Gardens yield vegetables during the intense but short, wet season. The Tii also fish and raise pigs, goats, sheep and water buffalo. Horses provide transportation.

Primary Religion:

Christian

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

Most

Churches:

Many

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

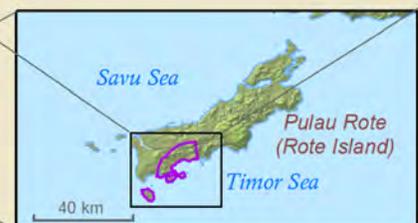
NT and Genesis

Population (date):

20,000 (2002)



TII HOMELAND



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Have They Heard The Gospel?

Response to the Gospel	Very responsive
Is the Word of God Translated?	Yes with other related languages on Rote Island: New Testament and Genesis; Dictionary & Orthography
Comment	When Tii believers heard Bible translations were planned for other nearby languages, they formed a committee and went to the regional capital of Kupang to talk with church leaders and administrators at the Christian university. They requested assistance to translate their mother tongue.
Other Forms of Gospel Presentations	
Recordings/videos:	Drama; Good News (Bible Overview and Christian life); Mark
Literature	Tii believers are being trained to produce literature and hymns
Hindrances to Scripture Use	War erupted shortly after Tii translation began; lasted 2 years
Bilingualism	Most Tii speakers are literate in Indonesian as well as Tii
Language of Wider Communication or Trade Language	Indonesian [ind]; Kupang Malay [mkn]

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Group Description

Population all countries

World Population	20,000
World Population (Date)	2002

Geography & Environment

Location	Nusa Tenggara Timur Province; Rote island, southwest. East of Dela-Oenale [row], west of Lole [llg], and south of Dengka [dnk] language areas.
Climate	Monsoon

Language

Alternate Names	Rote, Rote Barat, Roti, Rotinese, Thie, Ti, Western Rote
Dialects	Minor variation, third singular verb prefix, na-fa'da, varies with, i-fa'da.
Other Mother Tongues	Indonesian (ind); Kupang Malay (mkn)
Comment	Present translation is being based on Kupang Malay
Linguistically Related	Dela-Oenale [row], Dengka [dnk], Lole [llg], Rikou [rgu], Termanu [twu]
Neighboring Languages	Dela-Oenale; Dengka; Lole

Literacy

Adult Literacy	Transitional literacy activities will enable Tii people who can already read the national language to use these translated materials more quickly and effectively.
Active Literacy Program	Yes

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Economics

Subsistence Type	Agricultural; fishing
Products/Crafts	Garden vegetables; livestock (pigs, goats, sheep, water buffalo); fish

Community Development

Diet (Quality)	Good; all Rotenese eat what their land produces.
Comment	One of their basic foods comes from sap of the lontar palm, harvested during the annual dry season. It yields sweet syrup that they also make into sugar.
Transportation	Horses

Education--Group Description

% Eligible Enrolled:	Most people on Rote Island are well educated in Indonesian
Language Of Instruction	Indonesian

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Status of Christianity

History of Christianity

Year Began	1700s
By Whom	Traders
Significant Events	Three rulers went to Java to investigate Christianity and became Christians, were baptized and went to Bible school for three years. They returned to their island with a copy of the Bible written in their local trade language (Kupang Malay). They started schools and taught people to read. Christianity quickly spread throughout the island.

Religion and Response

Translation status	Bible portions: 2004–2011.
Spiritual Climate and Openness:	Tii speakers are eager to have Scriptures in their mother tongue
Attitude toward Christianity	Most Tii people are Christians.