

## The Biritai of Indonesia

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There are at least 250 speakers of the Biritai language. They live in the province of Papua, Indonesia.

They are primarily hunters in their homeland on the flat lakes plains. At an elevation of 0-500 meters above sea level the Biritai people can best be reached by airplane into the airstrip at Biri. They migrated from what is now the Kaiy language area because of a flood some time ago. The Biritai folks are descendents of the Usai, Kusai, and Matemtai clans. Intermarriage is common among the Welemo, Papasena, Eri, Iri, War and Biritai peoples.

The people eat sago, bananas, and fish. House walls are made from palm bark and poles, while the roofs are thatched. Malaria, elephantitis, and tropical ulcers are common diseases.

The Biritai are sometimes known as the Ati, Alik, or Biri people. Some prefer to be called Obogwi-Tai. The Biritai language is part of the East Tariki language family.

About sixty-four percent of the people practice Christianity, while thirty-six percent adhere to the tribal religion. The Biritai people have no gospel cassettes, film, or videos in their language.

**Primary Religion:**

Christian

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

64%

**Churches:**

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

No Scripture

**Population (date):**

250 (2002)



# The Biritai of Indonesia

## Item Name

## Item Note

### Have They Heard The Gospel?

|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Call Themselves Christian (%)                 | 64%                                |
| Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)     | 64%                                |
| Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%) | 36%                                |
| Is The Word Of God Translated?                | The Word of God is not translated. |

## Profile Summary

### Population All Countries

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| World Population For This People | 250 |
|----------------------------------|-----|

## Group Description

### Countries Where People Group Lives

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| Country Name | Indonesia |
|--------------|-----------|

## Group Description

### Geography & Environment

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Location                           | This people group is located in the province of Papua Indonesia. |
| Country                            | Indonesia  |
| Geological Type                    | Plains   |
| Elevation                          | 0-500m   |
| Longitude                          | 138E   |
| Latitude                           | 3S   |
| Comments (Geography & Environment) | They can best be accessed by airplane into the airstrip at Biri. |

## Group Description

### Language & Linguistics

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Primary Language         | Biritai  |
| Comment (Language)       | The Biritai language is part of the East Tarike language family. |
| Alternate Language Names | ALIKI  |
| Alternate Language Names | OBOGWITAI  |
| Alternate Language Names | ATI  |
| Alternate Language Names | BIRI   |

## Group Description

### Economics

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Subsistence Type | Agriculturalists |
| Subsistence Type | Fishers          |

## Group Description

### Community Development

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Health Care (Quality) | Fair   |
| Comment (Health Care) | Malaria, elephantitis, and tropical ulcers are common diseases.              |
| Diet (Quality)        | Fair   |
| Comment (Diet)        | The people eat sago, bananas, and fish.                                      |
| Shelter Description   | House walls are made from palm bark and poles, while the roofs are thatched. |

## Group Description

### Society & Culture

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| History Of People Group | They migrated from what is now the Kaiy language area because of a flood some time ago. The Biritai folks are descendents of the Usai, Kusai, and Matemtai clans. Inter-marriage is common among the Welemo, Papasena, Eri, Iri, War and Biritai peoples. |
|-------------------------|---|

## Group Description

### Scripture

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Available Scripture                          | None |
| Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature  | No   |
| Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings  | No   |
| Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos | No   |

## Status of Christianity