

**Review: Michelle Waters, *Indonesia: Called to the Cross, Living Sacrifice* Book Co., Bartlesville, OK, 2013**

Pages: 108

**Indonesia: the Sad Outcome of False Religions**

Indonesia is a depressing case; a product of Islam initially taking over by proselytism; then introduction of false Christianity (Catholicism) by the Jesuits in the 16<sup>th</sup>C; followed by money-hungry Dutch Protestants (the Dutch East India Company) in the 17<sup>th</sup>C. The result today being the largest Islamic country in the world with extreme persecution of Christian minority.

Select cases of imprisonment and terror attacks (especially machete and bombing victims' scarring) are quite moving.

The sense of the Christian reader, is what might have been if the gospel was able to take hold prior to Islam? Now all is an 'uphill battle' in a place of spiritual darkness.

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The Indonesian archipelago has over 17,500 islands of 6,000 are inhabited.

It gained independence from Portugal and Holland in 1945.

Arab traders brought Islam there in the 12<sup>th</sup>C, into a mix of Animism and Buddhism. Christianity (Catholicism) only arrived in the 16<sup>th</sup>C.

The Portuguese came for trade and profit, settling in the port at Malacca.

Jesuit Francis Xavier arrived in 1546.

The Dutch arrived in the 17<sup>th</sup>C through the Dutch East India Company, however, in Muslim-majority areas, the Company strongly discouraged or forbade evangelism.

In 1733, the Dutch published a Malay Bible.

In 1942, the Japanese banned all Western influence including the Dutch language.

In the late 1960s, President Sukarno created a “New Order” to combat Christianity, which continued with his successor Suharto until 1998.

Laskar Jihad (“Holy War troops”) was formed in 2000 and called for jihad against Christians. On Ambon island, they offered a USD10,000 reward for killing any pastor. They were also responsible for the 2002 Bali bombings.

In 2002, the Malino Peace Accord was signed in Moluccas between Muslims and Christians.

The maximum blasphemy sentence is five years’ jail in Indonesia; in February 2011, Antonius Bawengan received this for distributing “insulting” leaflets about Islam.

Many Muslims send their children to Christian schools as they feel the education quality is higher!