

THE IBAN OF MALAYSIA

HOMELAND: Sarawak in East Malaysia

POPULATION: 674,000 (est. 2015)

LANGUAGE: Iban

RELIGION: Catholicism, Protestantism, Anglican, Animism, Baha'i

EVANGELICAL BELIEVERS: 14% (est. 2015)

SCRIPTURE: Available

CHRISTIAN RADIO: None

GENERAL: A people with a warrior past, the Iban are Sarawak's main ethnic group. Rapid urbanisation and the rising number of Iban white-collar professionals have drastically altered their tribal social structure. Age-old folk beliefs centring on appeasing spirits and the souls of the departed are still practiced. Although predominantly Christian, many Iban are also increasingly drawn into other religious faiths.

“Lift up your heads, O you gates of the IBAN nation; be lifted you ancient doors, that the King of Glory may come in. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.”

Psalm 24:7-8 (NIV - personalised)

Father God, we speak Your blessings of eternal life and enduring hope upon the IBAN. We pray for the many IBAN who have yet to encounter the reality of Christ in their lives. Open the doors of their hearts towards the Gospel.

Grant the IBAN wisdom and discernment to tackle the various social issues in their midst. Preserve their rights over their ancestral land.

Strengthen and unite the IBAN believers. Let Your Word be their daily guide and their shield against any teaching that is not Yours. May they allow the Holy Spirit to renew, transform and empower them to be active witnesses for You.

Sustain Your servants serving the IBAN. Expand all ministries to reach and disciple the children and the youth, particularly in the urban areas.

Father, may the IBAN find breakthroughs and victories, as they enthrone Christ as King. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.