

Monday 28th October

Malaysia Pop: 32 million Muslim: 60%

Malaysia is located in Southeast Asia, bordering Thailand in the north and Singapore in the south. Consisting of two main regions separated by the South China Sea; Peninsular (or West) Malaysia and East Malaysia, there are a total of 13 states and three federal territories. The official language is Malay (Bahasa Malaysia), though English and Mandarin are widely spoken in the cities.



Malaysia is shown in light brown

It is a multi-ethnic country of over 32 million people; the Malays are the majority, followed by the Chinese, Indians, indigenous tribes and minorities. In recent years, there has been a growing number of migrant workers and refugees from neighbouring countries, including the Rohingya from Myanmar.

Malaysia has a newly-industrialised market economy, which is one of the fastest growing in the world. However, it

has come with the heavy price of oppressive rule, human rights abuses and social repression. Sex trafficking is prevalent, with an entire black market based on the buying and selling of human lives for sexual exploitation, prostitution and forced labour. Piracy is a problem too.

From 1786 to 1957, the British Empire ruled Malaya (now called Malaysia), until its independence. From 1815, the London Missionary Society sent some workers to reach the Malay people, with varying degree of success. It is interesting to note that in the 1930's the Malay World Prayer Fellowship began; this was the beginning of a prayer movement that still exists today.

- Pray that the government will genuinely seek to uphold the principle of equal rights for all Malaysians, irrespective of race, religion and culture.
- We thank God for the prayer movement that has existed over many decades and still continues today. Let's pray for the spiritual climate of Malaysia and its people so that transformation takes place at every level.
- We thank God for workers who have gone to Malaysia over the years to reach the local people and for those living there today. Let's ask God's blessing and favour upon them in all they seek to do for His kingdom.
- Pray that many Christian professionals and university students studying abroad will return with a clear vision to build both the church and the nation.

Did you know? The Petronas Towers in the capital Kuala Lumpur house the headquarters of the national oil company Petronas and are the tallest twin-towers in the world.

Sources: OMF <https://pray.omf.org>

Global prayer Digest <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/issue/the-long-road-to-a-malay-fellowship/>

Tuesday 29th October

Islam in Malaysia

Many world religions are present in Malaysia. However, Islam is the country's official religion; approximately 60% of people are Muslims.

Islam arrived in Malaysia in the 14th century when Muslim merchants from India and Arabia began to arrive in Southeast Asia. A powerful Hindu prince named Paramaswara fled to Malacca (in what was then called Malaya) and founded his kingdom. He embraced Islam in 1411, and that paved the way for Muslim sultans (regional leaders) to rule Malacca until the Catholic Portuguese arrived in 1511. This 100 year period was very significant for Malaysian spiritual history.

Malacca's sultans ruled the wealthier parts of Southeast Asia, and Islam was gradually embraced by the peoples of the Indo-Malay World of the islands of Southeast Asia. One of the key reasons why Muslim traders could spread their religion more successfully than members of other faiths was that their policies resulted in broader prosperity, so they were viewed as friends, not conquerors. Secondly, the local aristocracy married into Muslim families and non-Muslim spouses embraced Islam, as did their entire family networks. Furthermore, Islam was attractive to people who did not make distinctions between the secular and the spiritual. Trade, wealth and Islam were all intertwined. As leaders became Muslim, so did their followers. This began the movement to Islam. When the Catholic Portuguese took over in 1511 and then the Dutch in 1641, and they tried to introduce their faith, they did not try to understand the mind-set or spiritual needs of the people, so they remained Muslim or became Christian in name only.

In recent years, Malaysia has been known for a high level of inter-religious and inter-cultural tolerance. Today there is growing pressure from Muslims to ensure that Islam remains dominant. Many Islamists are pushing for Sharia law and are seeking to make everyone in their country comply even though Sharia law currently only applies to Muslims.

- Pray against all efforts made at asserting ethnic and religious supremacy which, if unchecked, will damage the nation and its people.
- Thank God for churches praying together for and in Malaysia. Let's pray they are strengthened and encouraged to persevere in prayer.
- Pray that as Christian leaders, local churches and whole denominations learn to live in unity through forgiveness, they will powerfully model reconciliation in this nation.

Source: <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/issue/the-long-road-to-a-malay-fellowship/>

Wednesday 30th October

Malay people Pop: 13 million Muslim: 99%

In Malaysia, people are classified as Malay if they speak their national language, Bahasa Malaysia, practice Malay customs and are followers of Islam. They are a large unreached people and another of Frontiers' priority people groups.

The Malay are found in many levels of society. Some live in cities and are well educated and hold white collar or government positions, while rural Malay typically have jobs such as farming, trading and fishing. While rural Malay men often wear traditional dress such as cloth wrap-around skirts, urban Malay men tend to blend into a western setting with their jeans, mobile phones and Polo shirts.

Although the Malay society has undergone a number of social and political changes, community is still very important to them. Often families will live within close proximity to one another.

Ethnic Malays are expected to be Muslim and are not allowed to leave Islam. In spite of a fairly open multi-religious society, there is very little freedom of religion for Malay Muslims. There are small gatherings of Malay believers in homes but few if any apparent movements to Christ among Malay Muslims.

- Pray for a softening of the hearts of Malay Muslims to the blessings of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for an unstoppable church planting movement among Malay Muslims.
- Pray that the Lord would raise up a new generation from among the churches of Malaysia to reach out to the Malay people.

Sources: <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/issue/the-long-road-to-a-malay-fellowship/>
https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/13437/MY

Thursday 31st October

Bukit Bajau people Pop: 2,000 Islam: 96%

Jesus spoke to His disciples about the shepherd who left the 99 sheep to search after 1 that was lost. (Matt 18:12-14).

With all the groups of unreached people throughout the world, it is easy to overlook the Bajau Bukit people. Numbering about 2,000, they are only known to live in the Sabah Province of Malaysia on the northern part of the island of Borneo.

They were once a sea dwelling people who have gradually migrated onshore and inland to become rice growers and livestock herders. Their main language is Papar, but some also speak the national language.

In this predominantly Muslim culture, the Bukit Bajau take part in annual feasts such as *kenduri awah*, a feast practiced in honour of deceased family members. They give alms to a local prayer

leader called the *pakir*, in the hope of gaining greater benefits in the afterlife. Today the Bukit Bajau people have a greater interest in education and they have more opportunities to travel. This has resulted in greater job opportunities. Unfortunately however, most of the youth do not complete their education. The Bukit Bajau people need help with both medical and educational needs.

Ethnicity is a key element of identity to all peoples. Whilst small tribal groups like the Bukit Bajau have to adjust to becoming assimilated into larger groups, they do not want to lose the remaining part of their identity passed down through their ancestors. When followers of Christ take the gospel to them, it is important for them to leave room for Bukit Bajau to worship the Lord in a way that fits their culture. There are, however, as yet no known followers of Christ among the Bukit Bajaus

- Pray that believers will choose to carry the message of the cross and the resurrection to the Bukit Bajau people in a culturally relevant way.
- Pray for them to have spiritually hungry hearts that will be open to putting their faith in Christ and discipling others to do the same.
- Pray that God would send believers to help them with their health and education needs.

Source: <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/issue/day/bukit-bajau-people/>

Friday 1st November

Rohingya

"I will say to those called 'Not my people,' 'You are my people'; and they will say, 'You are my God.'"
Hosea 2:23



Since the crisis in Myanmar in 2016-2017, over 1.1 million Rohingya people have fled. They have been displaced to many countries, but especially to Bangladesh, Indonesia and Malaysia. There are Frontiers workers in Malaysia who reach out to the Rohingya there. They joined in the Global Day of Prayer for the Rohingya on the 6th October, to remember the "most friendless people in the world" who may be forgotten by many, but who are not forgotten by God.

Let's join in their prayer and declare that the Rohingya people have a calling as children of the living God:

Gracious God, you are abundant in mercy and truth.
We thank you for your compassion.
We stand in unity and hope for the Rohingya.
Reveal your love to these people.

Merciful Jesus, you alone are worthy.
We praise you for the truth and freedom you bring.

We stand in unity and hope for the Rohingya.
Redeem these people.

Lord and giver of life, your Spirit guides us into truth.
We welcome your presence, guidance and comfort.
We stand in unity and hope for the Rohingya.
Release your peace and comfort to these people.

To pray further for the Rohingya, there is a 30 day prayer guide [here](#)

Source: <https://www.pray4rohingya.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/2019-Global-Day-of-Prayer--FINAL.pdf>

Saturday 2nd November

Deep fall – the story of a Rohingya refugee

“From the corner of my eye I catch a glimpse of a figure through an open doorway. A man, bent over, is shuffling uncomfortably forwards, leaning heavily on a woman as he moves slowly towards his room.

My friend sitting beside me leans in and confides in a quiet voice: “That’s my neighbour. Her husband fell from the worksite a few days ago. Now he cannot walk and cannot work.”



I met the couple later and learned that the man, just 20 years old, had fallen three floors on a worksite, breaking his knee. His leg is in a full plaster cast and he has numerous other aches and pains. They are Rohingya refugees. As such they don’t have the right to work in Malaysia, so they are poorly treated and are often exploited at work. There is no insurance or state welfare for health issues or accidents, leaving people to rely on the goodwill of the community. Without work he cannot send money to

support his family in Bangladesh; one of the reasons he made the journey to Malaysia in the first place.

It is hard not to feel anger about the many injustices this couple face. The construction companies enjoy increased profits from cheap labour, but offer little in return. Health and safety is often seen as an unnecessary expense. There will be no police enquiry into the accident or financial support for this man as his leg slowly heals.

Before I left, I had the opportunity to pray with the couple, asking God to bless the husband’s body and his family. In place of despair we choose to believe that our God is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. (Ps 34:18)

Please pray for:

- A full recovery for this man and that he knows the healing and provision of Father God.
- Other families in Malaysia suffering injustice and sickness; that they can call out in prayer and hear God's merciful response.
- Employers to love mercy and act justly.
- Changes to the law to make unfair practices unacceptable.

For more stories and to join the Global Rohingya Prayer Team, you can go to the Pray 4 Rohingya website [here](#)

Source: <https://www.pray4rohingya.org/deep-fall/>