

Monday 29th October

Pop: 32 million

Islam: > 62%

Malaysia consists of two regions; West Malaysia on the Kra peninsula of mainland Asia which is separated by 240 miles of the South China sea from East Malaysia consisting of the territories of Sarawak and Sabah on the northern third of the island of Borneo.



Today it has one of Southeast Asia's most vibrant economies, following decades of industrial growth and political stability. Despite this, piracy remains a problem within Malaysia. Even more prevalent is sex trafficking, with an entire black market based on the buying and selling of human lives for sexual exploitation, prostitution and forced labour. Malaysia is situated close to the 'Golden Triangle,' where Burma, Thailand and Laos produce and ship

some of the world's largest amounts of opium.

Though several peace accords have been signed and the majority of violence subsided in the 1990s, bitterness between the various ethnic groups of Malaysia still incites discrimination and mistreatment towards minority groups, particularly toward the indigenous Indians.

The majority Muslim ethnic Malay are dominant politically and benefit from positive discrimination in business, education and the civil service, but a large ethnic Chinese minority holds economic power.

Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Christianity are the main faiths followed in this country, although Islam is the majority religion, practised by over 62% of the population.

Though freedom to practise one's religion is permitted, Christians are forbidden by the state from proselytising Muslims. Due to the diverse languages and dialects, there is a real need for Bible translation.

- Let's pray for an end to human rights abuses. God has bought Malaysians at the highest price and they are precious in His sight.
- Pray for religious freedom that would facilitate a loving and persistent witness to Muslims.
- Pray for the Malay people, one of the world's largest unreached people groups, to be evangelised both at home and abroad.
- Pray for an end to the ever-increasing pressure on Malaysians to adopt shari'a law. Let's pray they will know the freedom they have in Christ.

Source: <https://prayercast.com/malaysia.html>

Tuesday 30th October

Malay

Pop: >16 million

Islam :> 99%

While the Malay are spread throughout southeastern Asia, the majority live in Malaysia where they make up about half of the population, the rest being made up of Chinese and Indian minorities.

In Malaysia, people are classified as Malay if they speak their national language, Bahasa Malaysia, practise Malay customs and are followers of Islam.



Generally, the Malay tend to be a rural people. They are found living together in villages known as kampungs. Traditional homes are large in order to have enough space for the extended family as custom allows for many generations to live under one roof. The Malay are a very social people and dependence upon community is considered normal and healthy. Often families will live within close proximity to help one another.

Most of the Malay are wet rice farmers. They may also work on small rubber tree plantations. Others work as labourers on large agricultural estates. Many urban Malay have found employment as government clerks, technicians, factory workers, sales people or small businessmen; very few have professional occupations. The urban Malay who do are well educated and hold white collar or government positions.

While rural Malay men often wear traditional dress such as a cloth wrap-around skirt, urban Malay men tend to blend into a western setting with their blue jeans and mobile phones. The strongest characteristic of Malay identity is their adherence to the Islamic faith. Even though the Malay identify strongly with Islam, they continue to practise many aspects of their pre-Islamic religions of Buddhism, Hinduism and ethnic religions. It is common for Malay who live in rural areas to believe in ghosts and spirits. Also, if medicine is unavailable, a shaman (priest or priestess who communicates with the spirits) will often be brought in to treat an illness.

Although the Bible, evangelistic literature, the Jesus film and Christian broadcasts are available to the Malay, it is thought less than 1% of their population has accepted Jesus as Saviour. It is also illegal to proselytise Muslims.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to grant wisdom and favour to Frontiers and other missions agencies reaching out to the Malay.
- Let's pray for amazing movements to Christ among the Malay.
- Ask the Lord to bring forth many triumphant Malay churches for the glory of His name! We want to see revival here.

Sources of material: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/13437/MY
<http://en.etnopedia.org/wiki/index.php?title=Malay>

Wednesday 31st October

The following story (both today's and tomorrow's) is from a worker in Malaysia.

A local pastor told us about a Muslim man who came to see him. He was seeking God and had been told to visit this pastor. The pastor told him, "I could tell you about Jesus, but then you could go to your religious leader and he would tell you something else, and to a Buddhist and he would give you another view. It would be just one opinion against another. So instead I will pray for you, that tonight God will speak to you in a dream and reveal the truth to you." The pastor prayed but then forgot about the incident.

Several weeks later the man came back to him and said; "God did speak to me that night, just as you prayed. He revealed to me that Jesus is the truth, so now I would like to follow him."

The pastor gave him a Bible but has not seen him since that day.

We have been told that over 75% of churches in unreached situations start as a result of miracles such as this, where God reveals himself to Muslims through dreams and visions.

- Please pray that God will continue to reveal Himself to those who desire to know the truth, but struggle with competing claims, so they will be able to discern truth from lies.
- Pray that God will continue to reveal Himself through dreams and visions to the Malay people.
- Sometimes it is hard for believers to know how to disciple Muslims who long to know more Kingdom truths. Please pray that more local and foreign believers will really want to obey Jesus' command to: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you."* Matt 28:19-20

Thursday 1st November

God's hand at work

"All of us have been irritated by circumstances that seem to have been demonically designed to disturb our peace of mind and upset our programme of life. But we must remember that God is sovereign; nothing happens in our lives without his consent. Therefore we should look carefully at annoyances to see if we can discern God's hand at work." – Dennis Kinslaw

My car broke down in a very deserted spot. I waited for two hours on a hot roadside, before being towed behind a lorry for a few miles to a mechanic's workshop. The repairs were going to take some time, so I returned home by public bus and collected the car three days later. This meant I was able to spend time with the mechanic, Taufik. I gave him a set of Bible stories on an SD (memory) card.

Since then, I and my family have visited him and his family and a friendship has begun. Taufik has listened to several of the Bible stories, but we have not had the opportunity yet to sit down and talk about them together.

- Please pray for the seeds that have been planted in Taufik to find good soil that our worker will have the opportunity to water with truth.
- Let's lift these two families to God, and ask for a strong and deepening friendship between them and protection for each one of them.
- Praise God for the way he works and for the opportunity to reach Taufik. Let's pray that this man and his family will be a light in the darkness to their people.

Friday 2nd November

A Frontiers couple in Malaysia works among Rohingya refugees and shared the following story:

Applying for a UNHCR card on behalf of the Rohingya is a practical way of showing our love and care for them. A card offers a level of protection from the police and immigration officers; it also means they can access better jobs. We have been encouraged in recent months by a number of successful UNHCR applications for our Rohingya friends. The process has been quick and has helped deepen relationships with a number of people.

The criteria for eligibility changed at the start of the year, meaning we could apply for a number of people that did not previously qualify. The application process includes listening to and documenting people's story. It is heart-breaking to hear what people have been through to escape persecution in their homeland. Many of the men left Myanmar aged 14 or 15 years old, having to face things no human being should face, let alone a child.

- We thank God for a number of successful UNHCR applications. Please pray for a young man our workers have helped to apply to the UNHCR for a card. His story is tragic and he needs emotional healing. He is currently too frightened to work, so searches through rubbish for recycling to sell.
- There are others who need our prayers. Pray for favour for Rohingya refugees as they seek applications to be able to work.
- Pray for wisdom, discernment and protection for workers as they reach out with the love of God to the suffering and marginalised Rohingya refugees.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'"

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Matt 25:35-40

Saturday 3rd November

Zafira's story reproduced with kind permission of [Pray 4 Rohingya](#)

The fish had been cooked to perfection; succulent with a hint of garlic and ginger. The green leaves accompanying it had a touch of spice, bringing heat to the tongue. Zafira pushed more fish onto the



foreigner's plate, honouring her guest even if she struggled to understand her. Their lives, although very different, were united through being mothers to boisterous young children.

Zafira is not offered the same welcome she so freely gives to the foreigners who visit her. As a refugee in Malaysia she is unwelcome and unprotected. She is vulnerable, liable to arrest and extortionate bribes beyond her small means. In her journey to her new 'home' she spent time in the hands of traffickers, along with her two young boys; held ransom for months until her husband could borrow an extortionate sum of money to free his family. She doesn't speak of those days now, but her face sometimes shows years beyond her age – she is only 22 years old.

Zafira's children are not allowed to attend school here so she teaches them what she knows at home. She is intelligent and a good teacher – her young boys already know their letters in Burmese and English. The kids enjoy showing off what they have learnt to their visitors, reciting the alphabet as well as their mathematics skills.

- Pray for this family and for the many Rohingya women and children like them living in Malaysia. Pray they would come to know the love of God who longs to welcome them into His house with open arms.
- Pray for Rohingya people like Zafira to find safe refuge in Malaysia, where they can build a new life.
- Pray for the Rohingya in Malaysia to be reached by the Lord through dreams, visions and through Christian materials on the internet.

"My Father's house has many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you." John 14:2

Source: <https://www.pray4rohingya.org/the-welcome-zafiras-story/>