



Prayer Points:

- Take authority over spiritual powers that are keeping the Malay bound.
- Ask the Lord to call people to share Christ with the Malay.
- Pray that the Malaysian government will give the freedom to share the Gospel with their countrymen.
- Pray for effectiveness of the Jesus film among the Malay.
- Pray that God will reveal Himself to them through dreams and visions.
- Pray that the doors of Malaysia will be opened to missionaries.
- Ask God to give us creative ways to train Christians to reach the Malays.
- Ask God to strengthen and encourage the believers among the Malays.
- Ask God to raise up people to produce written materials and tools in Malay to reach the people.
- Pray for God to raise up a strong local churches among the Malay.



Sources:

World Missions, Joshua Project Profiles
Operation World, Internet Malay Websites

MALASIA

The Malay

The People:

The largest ethnic group in Malaysia, accounting for more than half of the total population today, is the Malays. Its origins can be traced back to Yun-nan China through the Proto-Malays and Deutero-Malays, which belong to the broader-based Malayo-Polynesian group of races. Although found throughout Southeast Asia, the majority of ethnic Malays live in Malaysia.

Malaysia has one of the fastest growing economies in the world, but most of the Malay still live in rural villages called kampungs. They work as farmers and fisherman who struggle to earn a living. Health care, clean water, electricity, education, transportation, and communication are all inadequate. Even in Kuala Lumpur, the capital, many Malays live in reserved sections which maintain much of the traditional characteristics of the kampung. The houses in traditional villages are built on pilings four to eight feet off the ground and have thatched roofs. The more wealthy rural Malay have houses with tiled roofs and wooden planks for floors.

A growing percentage of the Malays of Malaysia live in attached urban and suburban housing. Since their arrival, the cultures of the Malays have been shaped and reshaped through the many influences due largely to the strategic position for trade, resulting in variations in customs and social identities.

What World Missions is doing...

World Missions is committed to reach this group with the assistance of local Churches of God which are already established in the area. We are also open to develop strategic partnerships with other organizations that are working among the Malay.

What you can do...

- Adopt the Malay people.
- Learn as much as possible about this group
- Organize strategic prayer
- Provide financial resources to train local leaders
- Arrange short missions trips

...until there is a strong church established among the Malay people.



Religion and Beliefs:

Perhaps the most significant influence that has served as a unifying and binding factor among the Malays is the religion of Islam. Today, almost all Malays in Malaysia are Muslims. However, though Islam has long been associated with the Malays, other beliefs, customs and rituals manifest in the arts, festivals and important ceremonies.

“To be Malay is to be Muslim”

Although Malaysia itself is home to many other religions, including Buddhism and Hinduism, it is against the law to evangelize a Muslim. And more than 99% of the ethnic Malay of Malaysia are Muslim. In fact, the Malaysian constitution states that to be a Malay, one must be Muslim. So religion is a major source of ethnic identity. The tight community life also makes it difficult for a Malay to become a Christian, because he or she would probably be forced to leave the village and family. Significant persecution is a reality for the handful of Malays who have entrusted their lives to Christ. A tiny number of Malays have become Christians, yet there is a small but strong and growing Chinese and Indian church. To this point, the church has not impacted the Malays with the Gospel. The Bible in the Bahasa Malaysia language is under revision, but it is available in Bahasa Indonesia, which is very similar to Malaysian.

