



PRAY FOR EAST ASIA

Pray for Malaysia

See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.

— Isaiah 65:17

Country Profile

About Malaysia

Malaysia is a multi-ethnic country located in Southeast Asia, bordering Thailand at 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 urban areas.

In a population of about 32 million people, the Malays are the majority, followed by the Chinese, Indians, indigenous tribes and minorities. In recent years, the country has received a growing multitude of migrant workers and diasporas of refugees from neighbouring countries.

Malaysia has a newly industrialised market economy, which is relatively open and state-oriented. The fourth largest in Southeast Asia, the economy is heavily influenced by the Malaysian government though five-year development plans since independence. Malaysia's GDP growth averages around 5% annually. The headline unemployment rate is at 3.3% (as of 2018), however, youth unemployment rate is at a concerning 10.8%. Many religions in the world are present in the country. However, Islam is the dominant religion in Malaysia. Many national holidays are Muslim holy days.

OMF in Malaysia

The first China Inland Mission missionaries came to Malaya, Batu Annam in Johor, in July 1951. Workers then went to the unreached peoples in the New Villages and small towns such as Chaah, Raub, Bentong, and Triang. Although they were not the first to bring the gospel to Malayan shores, the footprints they left behind had a momentous impact on Malaya. Notable contributions of the OMF missionaries in Malaya were church planting, theological training, and literature ministries. The Pusat Kristian Latihan Melaka was set up. Today it is known as the Malaysia Bible Seminary, English and Chinese Department, training pastors and lay leaders.

The fruits of their labour continue to multiply to this day. OMF Malaysia is now entirely Asian-run, staffed and funded. It sends Malaysian workers to countries across Asia to live and work in a variety of capacities.



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Population estimates

- **Total:** 32.4 million (2018)
 - **Malay:** 50.4%
 - **Chinese:** 23.0%
 - **Indigenous:** 18.7%
 - **Indian:** 6.9%
 - **Others:** 1.0%
 - **Non-citizens:** 10.3%

Religions

- **Muslim:** 61.3%
- **Buddhist:** 19.8%
- **Christian:** 9.2%
 - **Evangelical:** 4%
- **Hindu:** 6.3%
- **Chinese folk religion:** 1.3%
- **Others/Unknown:** 2.2%

Lord, thank you for your church and people in Malaysia. We praise you for the ways that Malaysians are sharing your good news with different peoples all over the world. Please grow and strengthen your church, both in their faith and in their generous hearts for peoples of all nations.