

ASKING POINT

Network

*He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just.
A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He. Deut. 32:4*

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ASKing points for Bible-less people

"You are worthy...for You were slain, and redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth." Revelation 5:9-10

About 193 million people don't know that God speaks their language. Scattered throughout the nations, people wait to hear God's Word in their own heart language. In fact, there are over 6,800 languages spoken in the world yet only 457 have a complete Bible and 1,211 have only the New Testament. More than 2,000 language groups are still waiting for the translation process to begin. (Source: Wycliffe Bible Translators, 10/11)

Knowing God speaks their language opens their heart to receive His love. Some ethnic groups only have the Bible in the national language of the oppressor. They may understand the words, but it does not speak to their heart. Muslim peoples have received Bible portions because it is one of the few books written in their native language, and use it to teach their children.

Bible translation is a slow and costly process. It requires skilled workers dedicated to the longevity of the task. It might necessitate living in primitive and sometimes hostile environments; working undercover or awaiting favour with government officials. Native speakers are needed to participate. Unwritten languages need alphabets and literacy training developed. Prayer, therefore, is a vital component. As the director of one Bible translation agency declared, "Even if we had all the money in the world, if we do not have those who will pray the work will not happen."

Ask for:

- **The Bible to be translated into every language, so that,** "...He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord." Deuteronomy 8:3; "The good news of His salvation will be proclaimed from day to day. His glory declared among the nations, His wonders among the peoples." I Chronicles 16: 23-24
- **The desire of Bible-less believers to be fulfilled, so that,** as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed, you have tasted that the Lord is gracious." 1 Peter 2: 2-3; Psalm 119:105; Colossians 4:12
- **Skilled workers to be prepared and sent out, so that, the plentiful harvest will be brought in.** "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Matthew 9:38
- **Believers willing to support the work with prayer and finances so that the task will be completed.** Philippians 4:19
- **Wisdom and unity for all involved in Bible translation so that God will be glorified in the clear and accurate translations completed for every tribe and tongue.** 1 Peter 4:11

...receive from Him
anything we ask, because we obey
His commands and do what pleases Him...

1 John 3:22



Hope of the nations: ASKing for Malaysia

"In His name the nations will put their hope." Matthew 12:21



FAST FACTS ABOUT MALAYSIA

Area: 127,355 sq. mi. **Peoples:** 185 (86 unreached) **Capital:** Kuala Lumpur
Religion: 61.8% Islam 8.8% Christian
Official language: Malay (162 languages and dialects)
Population: 28,782,000

Until recently Malaysia has had one of Southeast Asia's most vital economies. Presently yearly deficits are escalating causing great financial stress.

This multi-ethnic and religious society is over 62% Muslim with Christians making up about 10% of the population. Even though the constitution guarantees religious freedom for all faiths there is a current threat to lessen freedom for Christians to practice, profess and propagate their faith.

Citizens of all races are unhappy with the majority ruling leadership for their seeming lack of just practices, and little integrity or accountability. The Global Bersih rally in late April holding demonstrations in the capital of Kuala Lumpur is a coalition of 84 non-governmental organizations united by the belief that Malaysia's voting system is "rotten to the core." They are asking for a clean-up of the electoral roll, reform of the postal ballot system, and a longer election campaign than the 2008 election campaign of just 8 days duration. These protests are in anticipation of the elections projected to take place in June or September of this year. The present electoral system is structured in a way that the present government can win a majority with just 15-20% of the votes cast. Unless reforms are made there is concern that the unrest might escalate into civil war between the Armed Forces and the civilians during the elections.

ASK for:

- **God to intervene and place God-fearing leaders into governmental positions.** *"The Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of men."* Daniel 4:17; 2:21-22
- **Integrity in leadership and peaceful and just election to avoid bloodshed.** *"When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers."* Proverbs 21:15
- **Safety of citizens as violent thefts are increasing.** *"Rescue.. from evil men, protect from men of violence, who devise evil plans in their hearts... and from the hands of the wicked."* Psalm 140:1,2,4, 6-8
- **Unity among Christians as they face social stigmas, injustice and growing discrimination.** *"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify our Jesus Christ."* Romans 15:5
- **The mentality and the desire to withdraw from being good witnesses to be removed from the church and a holy boldness to replace the anxiety.** *"Now Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness."* Acts 4:29; Ephesians 6:19-20