

PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

WEEK 34, AUGUST 21-27

Creative Access Mission

Creative Access Mission is the simple idea of Christians taking employment among people of a different culture for the gospel's sake. It is mostly replacing the model of a Christian worker sponsored from outside. Both models have been present since the book of Acts: the apostle Paul worked sometimes in his manual trade of tentmaking, and sometimes was supported by others.

Creative Access Mission can be as simple as seeking a job in a new cultural setting, or as ambitious as creating whole new businesses for God's glory, the gospel and the common good. What are the advantages of Creative Access Missions?

1. *Access:* ever-fewer countries receive overseas workers on a religious worker visa, yet almost every nation is open to people of suitable talent or economic promise.

2. *Integrity:* Rather than being paid mysteriously from overseas, the local worker has a clearly defined role.

3. *Nation-building:* Christians can contribute honesty, peaceableness and hard work as well as expertise or entrepreneurship - all valuable assets in any culture.


The pressures and challenges, though, are many:


1. *Time.* It is hard to hold down a job or run a business in our own culture; harder still cross-culturally; and harder yet while attempting missional work.



2. *Language.* It's difficult to acquire good language skills without devoting some months or years exclusively to language learning. Yet life can be frustrating and unfruitful without language fluency.

3. *Isolation.* Some expatriates are kept in expatriate housing, away from local people. Others struggle to sustain the team life that ideally sustains creative access ministry.

 Pray for all those serving in Creative Access Mission. Pray for their integrity, perseverance, wisdom and grace. Pray that they will be good friends to local people and have a healthy partnership with local Christians. Pray that God will lead them to people who are genuinely seeking to meet him.

 Pray that teams of workers for Creative Access Mission will be formed and sustained.

THE NATIONS


MALAYSIA





Malaysia is a peninsula of the Asian continent plus two states in the island of Borneo. The economy has prospered thanks to political stability and industrialization, though at great cost to the nation's rainforest and rivers. Malaysia's 32 million people, mostly Malays and ethnic Chinese, delivered a political shock in 2018 by voting out the ruling party after six decades in power.

The Church, at around 9% of the population, is strongest among the Chinese and the tribal peoples of Borneo. The majority Malays are almost all Muslim. No Malay Christian churches exist and conversion is illegal in most states, even though the constitution promises religious freedom. Under the former government, people suspected of evangelizing Malays mysteriously disappeared.

The Muslim community itself is troubled by conflicts between stricter and looser versions of political Islam.

 Praise God for the stability and peace that Malaysia has enjoyed despite many divisions and injustices across society. Pray for the new government to rule wisely and establish religious freedom.

 Pray for God to work among Malaysia's majority people, the Malay. They are one of the world's largest groups still unreached by the gospel.

 Pray that the Holy Spirit will strengthen the Church. Pray for unity, good leadership and increasing freedom for Christians.


MALDIVES



These tiny islands in the Indian Ocean are known to many as holiday destinations, but its half-million people are among the least-evangelised on earth.

Islam is the only permitted faith; indigenous Christians are solitary and secret. The nation is troubled by political repression and upheaval, and abuse, drug abuse, and divorce are sadly very common.

No place in the Maldives rises more than two metres above sea-level and most of its people work in the fishing industry. Few if any countries are more exposed to the danger of a warming and expanding ocean.

 Though the Maldives are relatively prosperous, the statistics suggest much pain and trauma in society. Pray for the light and healing of Christ to be known in the Maldives!

Praying for the World is a free weekly prayer guide to inspire and inform the whole church to pray for the whole world. Visit www.lausanne.org/pray to start any week. Created through the partnership of Operation World and the Lausanne Movement.

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