

February

7

# Sinhalese in Malaysia



Sinhalese, mainly jewel merchants, began migrating to Malaysia as early as 1890. Many of these early Sinhalese immigrants returned to Sri Lanka after earning enough money. Today, there are less than 800 families bearing Sinhalese names living in Malaysia. With the number of mixed marriages with Indians and other Malaysian communities, the number of Sinhalese continues to decrease in Malaysia. The majority of Sinhalese prefer to use English and Malay despite efforts of the older generation to maintain their mother tongue. With the exception of ceremonial functions, Western clothing is becoming the norm among Sinhalese in Malaysia.

## Ministry Obstacles

The majority of Sinhalese in Malaysia are Theravada Buddhist and the temple is the focal point of their social and religious activities. To turn away from the Buddhist religious system to most of them means turning away from their community.

## Outreach Ideas

There are Sinhalese believers in Malaysia who can reach their Buddhist neighbors. They can use Sinhalese language music and drama as a way to present the life of Christ in a familiar form.

## Pray for the followers of Christ

Pray that Sinhalese believers will be filled with the fruit and the power of the Holy



**POPULATION:** 4,000

**LANGUAGE:** Sinhala

**RELIGION:** Buddhism

**BIBLE:** Complete

**STATUS:** Unreached

Spirit so they can be prepared to share Him with others.

## Pray for the Entire People Group

Pray for spiritual openness to Jesus Christ on the part of Sinhalese Buddhists.

Pray that Malaysia will become a central point for a Sinhalese movement to Christ this decade.

**SCRIPTURE** You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever. Ps 16:11, NLT

**PRAY** that many from today's people group will find joy in the Lord, and the pleasures of being with Him for eternity.