

# The Sixth Annual “International Day of Prayer for the Maltese Islands” August 8th, 2007– [www.august8.info](http://www.august8.info)



When the Apostle Paul shipwrecked in Malta, he found that the “islanders showed us unusual kindness” (Acts 28:1). Today the 410,000 Maltese (pronounced MAHL-teez) welcome over a million visitors a year to enjoy the warm weather and the sparkling waters of the Mediterranean. This small nation (only 122 square miles) became a member of the European Union in 2004 and also maintains close ties with its North African neighbors. The people speak English and Maltese, an Arabic-based language. Over 50 percent of the Maltese regularly attend Mass, and the islands are filled with beautiful church buildings, chapels, and statues of Mary and Jesus. Although many Maltese know who Jesus is, very few have made Him their personal Savior.

This year’s focus is on **Maltese young people**. Most still attend Mass regularly as part of their family and cultural tradition, but there is an increasing dissatisfaction with religion as they embrace secularism, materialism, and universalism. Once youth reach the age of 15 they are no longer required to attend school. A little less than half of them do not further their formal education. About 89,000 students are currently enrolled in formal full or part-time education, including the University of Malta with over 9,000 Maltese students. They receive a small stipend to attend the University. Consequently this causes immense stress and competition to gain entrance. Generally most young people live at home with their parents until they marry, with the average age of marriage rising to the upper 20s. Real estate is very expensive and most couples try to buy and furnish a flat or house and finance their elaborate wedding before they marry, so they are engaged for several years. When surveyed, students gave priority to the following needs:



School pressures, exams, finding work, money, better body image, more liberty from their parents, and relationships with each other and the opposite sex.



A new wind of change is blowing so pray that this next year many students will be introduced to a personal relationship with Christ, promoting a cultural shift across the entire nation. Lift up **Cam and Shanna Doughty** ([www.shipwrecked.typepad.com](http://www.shipwrecked.typepad.com)) with *Greater Europe Mission* ([www.gemission.org](http://www.gemission.org)) and their two children, **Acacia** (6) and **Judah** (4). They arrived in Malta in September 2006 and have already begun learning the Maltese language and doing student ministry amongst the few Evangelical believers (less than 0.01%). The *International Federation of Evangelical Students* is also looking at sending workers in the next year or two.

Primarily lift up this **first generation** of young people who have been raised in Evangelical Christian homes as they reach University age. Ask that they would have a boldness and strength from the Lord that would be evident in all they say and do. Pray for **mature believers** that can disciple others and bring in the harvest! Request that soon Maltese youth will be worshipping a God with whom they have a **personal, daily walk** in a setting where they can use their creativity and energy to worship Him and reach out to others around them. Ask that they not only have a large group worship experience but also regular time in fellowship and the **study of God’s Word**. Ask the Lord to **sanctify** the Maltese youth, **bless** them, **convict** them of sin and **illuminate** their minds to the Truth. Pray that they will be **unhindered** and that God’s Word will be glorified, multiplied, and prevail so that unbelief will be vanquished and He will truly be **Lord** in Malta!

Psalm 67:5-7- May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. Then the land will yield its harvest and God, our God, will bless us. God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

