

**The Eighth Annual “International Day of Prayer for the Maltese Islands”**  
 August 8th, 2009– [www.august8.info](http://www.august8.info)



Located in the geographic center of the Mediterranean Sea, Malta consists of three inhabited islands. **Malta**, the largest island, is 9 x 17 miles with 360,000 Maltese and a million+ tourists a year. **Comino** is a mile square and has just a handful of residents. **Gozo** is 9 x 5 miles, with 40,000 Gozitans (Maltese from Gozo).

Malta was the site of Paul’s shipwreck in AD 60. In Acts 28:1-2 the Maltese are recorded as being “unusually kind,” a trait that continues today. They are historic survivors as knights fought to save Malta from invaders and as brave citizens held out against numerous bombings during WWII.

Although Gozo is only a short ferry ride away from Malta, there is a significant gap in cultural and spiritual climate. Gozitans speak a different dialect of Maltese and seem to have a slower pace of life. Many Gozitans leave their keys hanging in their doors, evidencing the small town atmosphere of trust and community. It is known as the “Island of Three Hills” and is greener with a more rural feel to it. It is also said to be the legendary Isle of Calypso. Gozo is home to the megalithic Ggantija temples, now recognized as the oldest free-standing structures in the world. It is also the site of the Ta’ Pinu Basilica, which began in 1883 when a woman reported hearing the voice of the Virgin Mary, and has now become a popular pilgrimage destination.

Now let’s **BLESS** Malta and Gozo. (Acrostic written by HOPE ministries– [www.bopeministries.org](http://www.bopeministries.org))

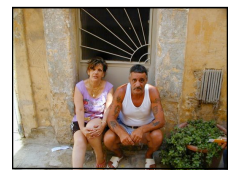
**BODY.** We rejoice that there are a growing number of Maltese believers and a few that make their home in Gozo. We ask that you will strengthen them with your might and power (*Col. 1:11*) and that they will resist the devil (*James 4:7*).



**LABOR.** Grant favor to the believers with God and man (*Luke 2:52*). Help them grow in wisdom and natural abilities so that they might advance in their work and have opportunity for greater influence for Christ. Ask that their walk will match their talk for His glory (*Eph. 5:1-2*).

**EMOTIONS.** We pray for healthy emotional strength and for the understanding that comes from a regular study of the Bible (*Psalms 19*). Ask that small group Bible studies will be offered in each of the 68 Localities of Malta and particularly in Gozo, where there are currently very few opportunities.

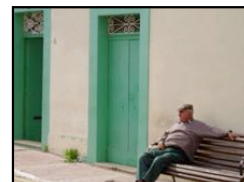
**SOCIAL.** Lord, we lift up Christian youth and adults and ask that they would guard their relationships with others. We ask that husbands and wives would use good judgment as they relate to members of the opposite sex and for the youth of Malta to choose to stay pure and not follow the ways of the world. We ask for growing Christian families that will live a life of integrity amongst their neighbors and friends in their everyday lives so that others may see their good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven (*Matt. 5:13-16*).



**SPIRITUAL.** Father, we ask that your Holy Spirit work in miraculous ways to draw Maltese and Gozitans to you so that they may be saved (*Romans 10:1-2*). We beg for your spiritual protection from the evil one (*John 17:15*). We pray that believers will be faithful to study God’s Word, pray regularly, witness, and serve Christ through and in the local church (*Acts 2:42*). We ask that the number of disciples will increase rapidly and will include a large number of priests (*Acts 6:7*).

Finally we petition that you would send Maltese and Gozitans out into the world around them, particularly the North Africa / Middle East region.

Lord we thank you for this opportunity to BLESS Malta and Gozo. Make us increasingly aware of the opportunities you give us on a daily basis wherever we live to make a difference for Your kingdom and glory.



To join us in prayer throughout the year, write [pray@praymalta.info](mailto:pray@praymalta.info) for a monthly email update.