

AMP 8-23-15 | 9:00 - 9:30am

Today's Service

- That God would draw unsaved people to our service, and into his kingdom.
- That Danny Olinger, OPC Minister from Willow Grove, PA would preach in God's power as he is filling the Reformation Pulpit while Pastor Jon and his family are away.
- That God's presence would be palpable and that all in attendance would be changed by the goodness, power, and love of God.

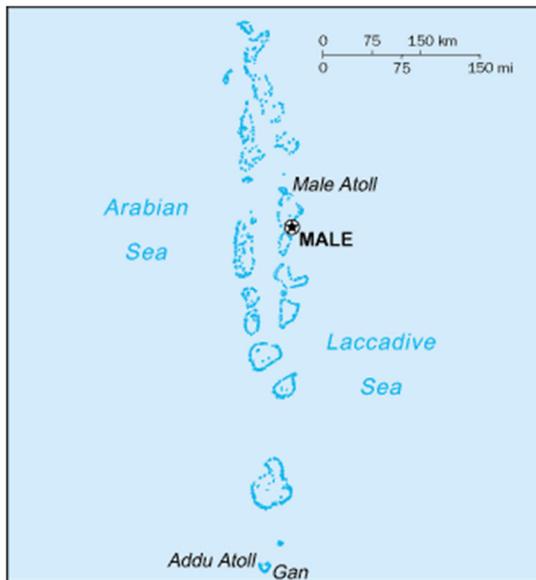
RPC Outreach

- That we the people of RPC would desire to be a word and deed church.
- That God would open up great and lasting opportunities of community service for RPC.
- That the congregational meeting on September 13th will be well attended. We will be voting to ordain Tom Harmon as an elder, voting to install a pastor, and voting to petition Presbytery to become a particular church of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Pray also for the Session meeting on September 10th and the Presbytery meeting on the 19th.
- BBQ&A will be held at Cunningham Park on September 13 & 20. Pray that it would be well attended and that it would be a time of good fellowship, service, and edification for all involved. Pray for Pastor Jon's preparations for the message he gives and for his answers to the questions he receives.

Regional Church

- Pray for the other churches of our presbytery: Westminster Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Jonathan Holst (Hamden, CT); Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Bohemia, Meindert Ploegman (Bohemia, NY); Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Franklin Square, William Shishko (Franklin Square, NY), Trinity Church, Ben Miller (Syosset, NY), Westchester Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Dan Osborne (Mt. Vernon, NY).

Maldives | Basic Country Facts:



Operation World Denomination Statistics

Christians	Denoms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	1	0.06	<200	4.6%
Independent	1	0.02	<100	3.7%
Catholic	1	0.09	<300	3.9%

Ethnic Breakdown: South Indians, Sinhalese, Arabs

Major Languages: Dhivehi (official, dialect of Sinhala, script derived from Arabic), English (spoken by most government officials)

Religion: Sunni Muslim (official)

Population: 393,253 (July 2015 est.)

Life Expectancy: male: 79.73 years female: 84.76 years (2015 est.)

Government: republic

Economic Conditions: Tourism, Maldives' largest economic activity, accounts for nearly 30% of GDP and more than 60% of foreign exchange receipts. Fishing is the second leading sector, but the fish catch has dropped sharply in recent years. Agriculture and manufacturing continue to play a lesser role in the economy, constrained by the limited availability of cultivable land and the shortage of domestic labor. Diversifying the economy beyond tourism and fishing, reforming public finance, increasing employment opportunities, and combating corruption, cronyism, and a growing drug problem

AMP 8-23-15 | 9:00 - 9:30am

are other near-term challenges facing the government. Over the longer term Maldivian authorities worry about the impact of erosion and possible global warming on their low-lying country; 80% of the area is 1 meter or less above sea level.

GDP Per Capita: \$14,400 (2014 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin: agriculture: 4% industry: 23% services: 73% (2012 est.)

Education: The Maldives National University was inaugurated on February 15, 2011. Previously known as the Maldives College of Higher Education, it was established on January 1, 1999, as part of a restructuring and rationalization of all government-run post-secondary education in Maldives. It is the only public degree-granting institution on the nation and offers a range of degrees, diplomas, and certificates, with particular emphasis on engineering, health science, education, tourism, and management. (wikipedia) Literacy 97.2%. (OW)

State of the Church: Islam is the only recognized religion. The open practice of all other religions is forbidden. Sunni Islam is strongly promoted for national unity and preservation of the government's power, but a more fundamentalist brand of Islam has rapidly grown in size and influence in recent years. Almost all adherents of other religions are foreigners. (OW)

Prayer Points:

- The fragile ecosystem of the Maldives is threatened by rising sea levels that could flood and destroy. Coral mining and rises in sea temperatures have killed much of the coral that is the foundation of these islands. The 2004 tsunami and the 2008-2009 economic downturn demonstrated how fleeting life on these islands could be; pray that this would cause many to seek eternal assurance obtainable only through Christ. (OW 1)
- Behind the facade of island paradise lies a darker reality. Freedom of expression and belief is strongly curtailed by powerful societal and regulatory forces. One of the highest divorce rates in the world, rising crime and gang activity, abuse of children and endemic drug use among teens (possibly up to 70%) indicate that all is not well. Beyond Islamic beliefs lies a widespread adherence to pre-Islamic occult practices called fanditha. Pray for the light of the gospel to shine into the lives of Maldivians. Pray against strongholds of pride, fear, duplicity and sensuality. (OW 2)
- The desire to honour human rights and increase freedoms has been expressed by the current government, but freedom of religion is highly unpopular and violent opposition to it has been promised. Grassroots religion has shifted in a decidedly Islamist and Arabized direction, losing its indigenous Maldivian roots. Pray for the future of the people of the Maldives, torn between oppressive religion and empty freedoms. (OW 3)
- The Maldivians are still among the least evangelized on earth. Neither mission work nor Christian literature has ever been allowed. Paradoxically, the government denies the existence of Christianity among Maldivians while arresting those who do believe. The perception of Christianity is so bad (largely due to Western media and tourist immorality) that political opponents use the term "Christian" to slander one another. Pray for the true name and nature of Jesus to be made known in this nation. Pray that the state's contradictions and heavy-handedness toward Christianity would generate great curiosity. (OW 4)
- Persecution of believers is intense. Any Maldivian practicing Christianity can expect mockery, ostracism, incarceration and even torture. Pray for those who believe – for their protection, their courage in the face of great trials and for opportunities to grow in and spread their faith. On numerous occasions expatriate believers have been expelled, especially for sharing their faith. (OW 5)
- Other means of witness – pray for lasting fruit through:
 - a) Witness to Maldivians in other lands. Many travel outside the Maldives as sailors or students, some to seek medical care or for other reasons. Also, there are Maldivian communities in Sri Lankan, Indian and Malaysian cities.
 - b) The Scriptures being translated into Dhivehi. Remarkably, a translation of the Gospels was completed and subsequently lost or destroyed in 1811! Only the Gospel of Luke and Acts are currently available. Pray for the progress of translation efforts and for ways people can freely access the Word in their heart language. Pray also for ways to import Scriptures and Christian literature – totally illegal at the moment.
 - c) Christian video and audio messages and web pages in Dhivehi are available on the Internet – for those clever or persistent enough to find their way past the government's blockages. (OW 6)