

PRAYER FOCUS

Published by Ethnos Asia Ministries (EAM) as a Prayer Guide on Access-Restricted Nations in Asia (ARNA).

MYANMAR

HEAL MYANMAR

It has been almost a year since the Myanmar military junta took over the nation on 1st February 2021. The lives of the people were drastically interrupted when the military refused to recognize the result of the election which gave power to a civilian government. Peaceful protests started within days, but these were met with guns and weapons. Almost 1,300 protesters have since died and over 10,000 arrested.

As outside observers, we wonder how people are coping with their daily lives as they hear gunshots, explosions, and bombings almost every day? Can they buy or sell food? Where do they get their daily sustenance? How do they even move around the city or even their neighborhood? How are the Christians? No one ever imagined that Myanmar would go through such an ordeal!

One church leader shared her experience: "We are very careful with our movements. We can still go to the market, but we only buy what we need and hurry back home. There are many thieves; it is not safe. We dare not bring our handphones also because the soldiers check. If they see that we post anything negative about the military, they will take away our phones. If they know that we are supporting the People's Defense Force (PDF), they will arrest and put us in jail for 20 years. We also hear bombings and explosions here and there!



Building temporary houses in the forest for the internally displaced people of Myanmar

In Chin State, my hometown, a total of 550 houses were burned. A miracle happened the first time the military tried to burn the city. The whole night the Christians prayed. As they did, heavy rain fell and put out the fire and it was not the rainy season. Still, 172 houses were burned but they were thankful. It could have been much worse. The military tried to burn the city twelve times. My relative was among the victims of military atrocities. They tied him to the pillar of their tent and burned him alive. Now, 50,000 Chin people are living in the

forest; 15,000 of them were allowed by the Indian government to cross over their border. We try our best to help the IDPs (Internally Displaced People). We raise funds and build them temporary houses. This Christmas, churches in Myanmar have agreed not to have a big celebration. We saved the money instead to help our people. Even the ones living in America have decided to do the same and send help.

Since the start of the coup, we have not stopped praying every day. We have our prayer group called, 'Heal Myanmar.' We do not blame God for what has happened. We trust our God to see us through this. Even though we are crying every day, we put our hope in God. We have heard of prophecies for Myanmar. After this revolution, Myanmar will change. In Chin State, there will be more blessings. Now there is persecution, but blessing will come. Now people are crying, but one day people will be dancing on the streets!"

Let us not stop contending for the nation of Myanmar. Pray without ceasing.



"I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. " Ps. 121:1-2 (NIV)

Prayer Calendar January 2022

1/2 (SAT/SUN) A Blessed New Year to all of you who are faithfully interceding with us. May you experience more of God's abounding love and grace throughout the year.

3 (MON) MYANMAR Pray for God's sustaining grace upon the people of Myanmar as they are plunged into never-ending uncertainties.

4 (TUE) BANGLADESH There are reports of camp officials and government security agencies coercing Rohingya refugees to relocate and of confiscating their identity documents. Pray for the safety of the Rohingya.

5 (WED) BANGLADESH Pray as our country working team works on video production of Sow for the Harvest Basic teachings for the Rohingya.

6 (THU) NEPAL Politicians are now preparing for the 2023 election. Pray for a stable and strong government that will competently lead the nation.

7 (FRI) NEPAL Pray for a mighty move of God especially in the remote areas where the tribes have less access to the gospel.

8/9 (SAT/SUN) VIETNAM Pray for wisdom upon church leaders as they plan for the training of the next generation of leaders.

10 (MON) VIETNAM Pray for strength for church leaders and to not be emotionally-drained as they face the needs of their congregation because of the pandemic.

11 (TUE) NORTH KOREA The law carries a maximum sentence of the death penalty for watching, keeping or distributing media from capitalist countries, particularly from South Korea

and the U.S. Pray for Christians who possess and access Christian media and literature amid great persecution.

12 (WED) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES Pray for unity among the different groups working for the Karen refugees along the Thai borders.

13 (THU) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES More Karen people have been displaced because of the fighting that erupted between the Burmese military and the Karen National Union last month. Pray for peace in this region.

14 (FRI) LAOS As Laos heads towards national development, pray that the whole nation will also become more open to the Gospel.

15/16 (SAT/SUN) LAOS Preparations are being made for Bru pastors and leaders' training in the next months. Pray that there will be no travel restrictions.

17 (MON) PAKISTAN Pray for the government to act swiftly on the food-price inflation problem that is affecting the poor.

18 (TUE) PAKISTAN The kidnapping of girls from religious minorities is commonplace in Pakistan. Pray for the protection of women and young girls.

19 (WED) PAKISTAN Pray for the safety of our field team as they continue to coordinate relief activities among the Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

20 (THU) AFGHANISTAN Pray for the security situation in Afghanistan, which has also further deteriorated. Pray for people facing danger and violence daily.

21 (FRI) AFGHANISTAN Pray for Afghan believers to trust God's promises and believe that He is in control as they face many difficulties under Taliban rule.

22/23 (SAT/SUN) BHUTAN Pray for Bhutan, living through the pandemic. According to an impact assessment, the spread and mortality of Covid-19 has been minimal, but the effect on the economy has been huge.

24 (MON) BHUTAN All Bhutanese citizens are expected to be Buddhists. Pray for strength upon new Christian converts who are often disowned by their families.

25 (TUE) SRI LANKA Pray for provisions as the country is experiencing an economic crisis. Basic food prices have gone up by 300%.

26 (WED) NE INDIA At least eight major insurgent groups are active in Manipur. Pray for the safety of residents affected by these armed conflicts.

27 (THU) NE INDIA Pray for new converts who have responded to the Gospel during the pandemic. May they be strengthened in faith amid persecution.

28 (FRI) CAMBODIA Four Thai-Cambodia border points were opened on 16th December. Pray for effective management of the Covid-19 virus as health experts raised their concerns.

29/30 (SAT/SUN) CAMBODIA Young people in our English center discipleship group recently had a wonderful encounter with the Holy Spirit. Pray for these young ones to grow deep in the Word and be used to bring more souls to God's Kingdom.

31 (MON) CAMBODIA Pray for struggling businesses and thousands of unemployed staff due to the business closures in Siem Reap.