

# PRAYER FOCUS

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## MYANMAR

### REVIVAL IN CHAOS

Two years have passed since the military coup in 2021, and the armed conflict has displaced many people in different parts of Myanmar. 2022 was a year of struggle. Over a million people have fled their homes to take refuge in the jungle, without basic facilities but a place which they deem safe. Military army defectors have confessed the atrocities committed against civilians on the orders of their superiors. War crimes were reported. Some survivors lived to tell of their ordeals at the hands of the government soldiers.

Throughout all this, free countries have tried but have not successfully convinced Myanmar's military junta to stop attacking their people and go through a peace process.

We continue to hear reports from our team inside Myanmar. Here are some updates:

**Arakan, Chin, and Kayah States:** Fighting continues every day. People are not allowed to carry basic food, e.g. rice, salt, oil, or even medicines because the military thinks these will be used to support the People's Defense Force (PDF). Farmers are not allowed to harvest their rice fields due to the war. If they do not harvest it, the military armies gather them. They expect the price of rice to increase this year. Many people are jobless, which leads to increased robbery and theft. This has been happening every day since June last year. The military has also confiscated all cars and motorbikes without a license, affecting people's mobility.



*Displaced villages built temporary shelters in the jungle.*

Besides the above situation, people had to deal with the spread of the Covid virus, which mainly affected children.

**Mandalay:** 39 houses were burned two weeks ago as the military tried to find members of the PDF who they thought were hiding there. One of our country team's nephew, a Chin Baptist pastor from Mandalay, was accused of supporting the PDF and sentenced to 23 years in prison. He has been in prison for over a year now.

**Karen State:** The military continues to carry out airstrikes against villagers, the latest of which killed five civilians two weeks ago. Attack helicopters and jet fighters hover over the region, targeting key places like schools and churches.

Despite the chaos in many parts of Myanmar, our Bible delivery coordinator reported the clamor for more copies of the Myanmar-English New Testament (MENT). He has had over 27,000 requests for copies. Pray for the printing and distribution of 100,000 copies of the MENT this year.

Another interesting report he gave was about the Wa tribe, which is currently experiencing revival amidst the chaos. Many have become Christians and have also asked for copies of the MENT. They said they were very grateful to escape their religion and be released from the evil spirits which they used to worship.

Let us pray for Myanmar. We may never understand everything that is happening to this nation, but we can trust God, knowing that He is still at work. His glory will be revealed.



**“I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from my enemies.” 2 Samuel 22:4 (NKJV)**

# Prayer Calendar February 2023

**1 (WED) MYANMAR** Pray for God's provision upon refugees who have fled to Malaysia, Thailand, and India because of the ongoing conflict.

**2 (THU) MYANMAR** Pray that the military junta will comply with the recent resolution of the UN Security Council, demanding an end to violence and the release of all political prisoners.

**3 (FRI) MYANMAR** Firms from thirteen countries reportedly supplied Myanmar's military with raw materials, training and machinery. Pray they will stop this trade, which is used by the military against the people.

**4/5 (SAT/SUN) LAOS** Pray for Christian leaders to remain zealous in discipling believers amid economic uncertainties and religious persecution.

**6 (MON) LAOS** All travel restrictions were lifted after 28th December. Pray that everyone remains vigilant over the COVID situation.

**7 (TUE) CAMBODIA** Pray that the Church in Cambodia will become stronger in faith and witness for Jesus until the whole nation is won for Christ.

**8 (WED) CAMBODIA** Poipet, a Thai-Cambodian border town, is known for trafficking, prostitution and gambling. Pray that the government will act to curb these crimes and that the church help to solve this problem.

**9 (THU) SRI LANKA** Pray for the newly formed Harvest Teams in several provinces. Pray for God's favor as they share the gospel.

**10 (FRI) SRI LANKA** Pray for God's guidance and provision upon the six lay people who decided to serve full-time in the ministry last September.

**11/12 (SAT/SUN) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES** Pray for KT4C core leaders to share their vision for the harvest among their members.

**13 (MON) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES** Pray as our main KT4C coordinator scouts for ten potential KT4C core member teams for each of the seven refugee camps.

**14 (TUE) NE INDIA** Praise God for leaders from Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Judaism and the Bahá'á faiths who prayed with lit candles, pleading with the government to stop violence against Christians who refuse to recant their faith. Pray for the government's response.

**15 (WED) BHUTAN** Pray for Christians in Bhutan to remain steadfast and eager to share the Gospel despite restrictions.

**16 (THU) NEPAL** Pray for Nepal's growing number of believers. May they be properly disciplined to grow strong in faith.

**17 (FRI) PAKISTAN** Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif assured that Pakistan's government would protect people's rights for all religious minorities, including Christians. Pray that he will keep his promise to provide a safe environment for all.

**18/19 (SAT/SUN) PAKISTAN** Pray for the health of people in Pakistan. They have the world's second highest neonatal mortality rate; transmission of wild poliovirus has not been completely

disrupted and tuberculosis infection is rife.

**20 (MON) BANGLADESH** Pray as a team of translators work on the Rohingya SOW for the Harvest manual in audio form.

**21 (TUE) BANGLADESH** Pray for the Bangladesh Prayer Movement to remain strong and relevant as the organizers spread the movement to other Divisions.

**22 (WED) AFGHANISTAN** Pray for God's protection upon our co-workers in Afghanistan as they help provide for people's needs.

**23 (THU) AFGHANISTAN** Since the Taliban took power, Afghanistan has been rocked by dozens of explosions, mainly by Isis-K. Pray for peace to reign.

**24 (FRI) CHINA** Pray against the surge of the coronavirus since the government relaxed its zero-COVID policy.

**25/26 (SAT/SUN) CHINA** Pray for Christian brethren from Wenzhou who use their resources to help the tribal people (believers and unbelievers) in SW China.

**27 (MON) NORTH KOREA** The temperature has dropped below freezing point. Pray for those at risk in these severe conditions.

**28 (TUE) NORTH KOREA** The authorities have not relented from their plans to further strengthen their defense power. Pray that any plan of destruction against other