

# PRAY FOR BURMA

Global Day of Prayer for Burma

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March 9, 2003



# GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR BURMA

## MARCH 9, 2003

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Dear Friends,

You are all invited to join in prayer with the people of Burma and others around the world on March 9, 2003. The country of Burma has been engulfed in civil war for the past 53 years. You can stand with the people of Burma by praying for their physical and spiritual freedom, informing others about the situation, and asking God to lead you to do something more.

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Thank you for working with us to show God's love to our neighbors in the world who are suffering. We all need God's help and guidance. Thank you for your support and prayers in this effort.

Blessings,  
Christians Concerned for Burma

### PRAYER POINTS

*Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.*

*-Psalm 61:1,2*

Lord, we lift up these prayers to you for Burma. Please hear our cries. We ask you to...

- ♦ act unilaterally, and through us, for Burma;
- ♦ free the prisoners in Burma spiritually and physically;
- ♦ strengthen the refugees for the present and prepare them to return to their own land;
- ♦ protect and shelter the Internally Displaced People (IDPs);
- ♦ multiply the efforts to bring relief and hope to the IDPs;
- ♦ help the mothers and fathers to be strong and wise in caring for their families and in the roles they are called to for their country;
- ♦ bless and protect the children and keep them close to their families;
- ♦ inspire and invigorate those who are called to be peacebuilders;
- ♦ guide the exiles and those separated from their loved ones;
- ♦ unite the leaders and members of all the ethnic groups;
- ♦ bring religious freedom to Burma;
- ♦ strengthen the churches inside Burma;
- ♦ go alongside pastors and evangelists who care for the suffering in the midst of persecution;
- ♦ prepare righteous and wise leadership for Burma;
- ♦ open the hearts of the regime to your love and compassion;
- ♦ make UNITY and RECONCILIATION a reality among all the peoples of Burma.

Cover Photo: These people are fleeing a forced relocation site and are trying to find safety.

# DAY 1 WAR OF TERROR

The Burma Army has a particular and regular strategy for destabilizing and terrorizing the ethnic populations. First they mortar and machine gun the villages. Then they assault the village, looting the homes and setting them on fire. Next, they scatter landmines throughout the area to terrorize any villagers who might try to return.



This 15 year-old Shan girl's legs are peppered with large pieces of shrapnel from a landmine. The pieces of metal left in her leg made walking nearly impossible. A Christian relief team found her and took her to a clinic where her injuries were repaired.

*I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth.*

*- Job 19:25*



Naw Pi Lay, 45 years old and the mother of five, was pregnant with her sixth child when she was murdered in June 2002 by the Burma Army. This happened during a massacre they carried out in Doooplaya District, Karen State, Burma. Twelve other people were killed, including children aged 12, 7, 5 and 2 years old.



One way of instilling fear in the ethnic people of Burma and senselessly hurting them is through the use of landmines. The landmines pictured are approximately four inches wide and are usually buried underground.



# DAY 2 BURMA'S POLITICAL TURMOIL

In November 2002, the Ethnic Nationalities Consultation representing 10 ethnic groups of Burma, joined together to actively work on the problems of narcotics, internally displaced people and human rights violations by the Burma dictators.

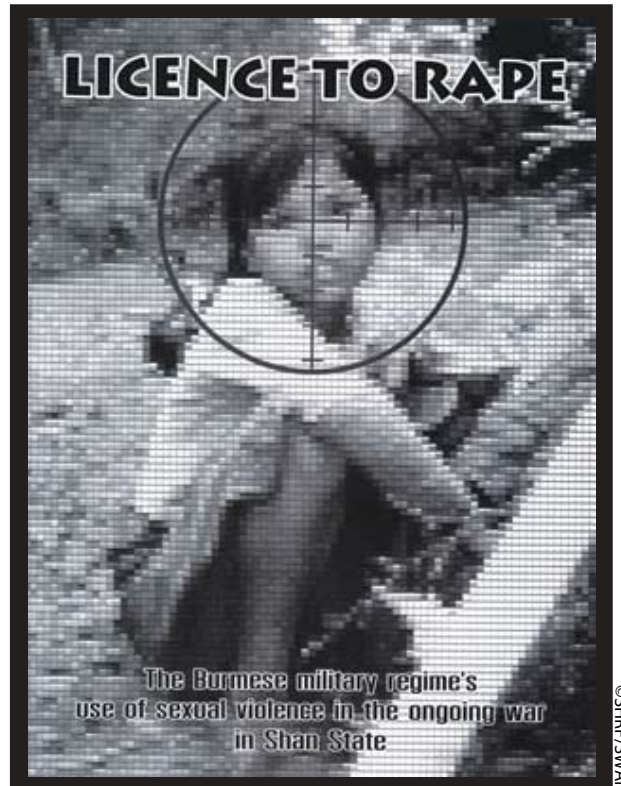
Please pray for political change in Burma, a restoration of democracy, civil society, justice, and rulers who are righteous and kind. Pray that all people will be represented and that each person of every ethnic group and faith will have equal rights and representation.



The Ethnic Nationalities Consultation

*This is what the Lord Almighty says, 'Administer true justice, show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.'*

*- Zechariah 7:9-10*



"Evidence collected for this report shows clearly that the troops of the Burmese military regime are systematically using rape as a weapon in their anti-insurgency campaigns against civilian populations in Shan State." - Quoted from *Licence to Rape* (the report can be found at [www.shanland.org](http://www.shanland.org), in the 'SHRF' section).



"Aung San Suu Kyi has again been officially released from house arrest. Pray for strength and wisdom for her. Despite her release, the human rights situation in Burma has not changed for the better. In fact, the attacks in most areas of Burma increased during 2002."

# DAY 3

## INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

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The war in Burma is one of genocide and ethnic cleansing. The Burma Army aim their attacks at the ethnic minorities in Burma as well as anyone else who opposes them.

There is no stability or tranquility for those living in the war zones of Burma. At any moment villagers can be uprooted and forced to flee their homes with only what is on their backs - mothers, fathers, daughters, sons, grandparents, the sick, the pregnant - and no one is given a choice.

Many of the IDPs try to continue education and religious practices on the road, but it is difficult not having supplies or knowing when the next move will be.

Pray for their health, security, livelihood, education, and hope. We want them to know God loves them and that others around the world care.

*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*  
- Romans 12:21



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These people have been forced out of their homes and are trying to find their way to safety.



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This boy is being chased by the Burma Army, who burned his village in Karen State. When this picture was taken, the Burma Army was en route to the village where he and others were hiding.



# DAY 4

## FAMILIES

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The families of Burma have experienced separation and disruption due to persecution by the Burma Army. There are many single-parent families, orphans, and parents who have lost their children to the war. Many children have not had the opportunity to go to school because survival comes before education. The people of Burma highly value education, but when on the run, school is impossible sometimes. In spite of this, families are still a key social structure in Burma, providing love and care in the midst of terror.

*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light..*  
- Matthew 11:28



Although in hiding, this father and son in Shan State have not given up.



This Karen mother and father told one relief team how the Burma Army burned their two infant children alive. Weeping, they said they didn't understand how anyone could do something like that and that their young children didn't even know their right hand from their left.

# DAY 5

## REFUGEES

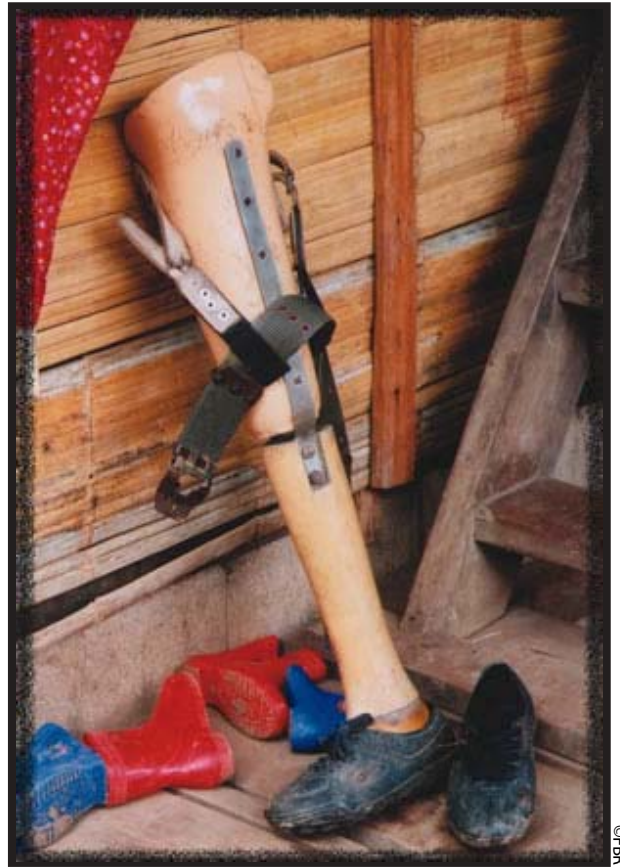
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Over one million refugees from Burma have fled to neighboring countries. 150,000 are in refugee camps in Thailand and Bangladesh, but the rest are scattered.

In the camps the refugees have opportunity for education beyond high school and freedom from religious and other persecution. The camps have many churches, bible schools and passionate Christians. Many people in Thailand have come to know the Lord through the witness of the refugees. As one Christian refugee pastor said, "We will be a bright light wherever we are."

*'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'*

*- Matthew 25:40*



In the refugee camps many non-government organizations (NGOs) are taking care of the health, food, and other needs of the refugees. Some organizations make prostheses for people who have been victims of landmines and other tragedies.



These girls have found a way to be productive in spite of their situation in the refugee camps.



# DAY 6

## THE GOOD LIFE CLUB

### Take Action for the Children of Burma

Relief teams have regularly gone to IDP hiding sites to deliver needed supplies, medicine, bibles/hymnals, educational materials, emergency cash, clothes, food and other donated goods. Most importantly the teams bring hope and love to remind these people that they are not forgotten or cast aside, but that God and the people around the world know and care about their situation.

The 'Good Life Club' comes from John 10:10 where Jesus promises abundant life, and is especially for children who are on the run, hiding with their families in the jungles of Burma. Sharing some basic necessities for good healthy living and some concrete expressions of love in the packs will hopefully help contribute to the abundant life God has planned for the children of Burma. Many people around the world have lovingly put together these packs and blessed their 'neighbors' with their love and actions.

Pray for change, hope, love, and unity in the lives of the internally displaced children of Burma.



One Karen boy who was encouraged by his Good Life Club pack. The postcards with scriptures inspire and impart love to the IDP children.

*I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*

*- John 10:10-11*



Children who have benefitted from the Good Life Club program. The relief teams would like to have enough packs to give one to each child they meet.

### Contents of the Packs

(Please place all items in a heavy duty Ziplock freezer bag before sending.)

#### 1. Kids Packs

- Small comb and mirror
- 1 box children's chewable vitamins
- 2 children's toothbrushes (with caps)
- Fingernail clippers
- 1 small toy
- A drawing or photograph of you or your group
- A postcard from your city or state with a verse of scripture

#### 2. Mom and Baby Packs

- Small fingernail clippers
- Multi-vitamins (for mom)
- Pediatric vitamins (e.g. Gerber Vitamin Drops)
- 2 sets for baby: cap, hand mitts, shirt (not a onesie), and socks
- One teether
- A drawing or photograph of you or your group
- A postcard from your city or state with a verse of scripture

#### 3. Hats for Unity

You can also send a youth size, tan-colored hat or cap of any style. Add a smiley face of any style (pin, patch, paint, etc.).

Please write on the customs declaration form, "gift, school needs, no commercial value" and post them by regular airmail or surface mail to:

CCB  
P.O. Box 14  
Mae Jo P.O.  
Chiang Mai 50290  
THAILAND

Thank you for your generosity!



# DAY 7

## GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR BURMA

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Pray for the light of the gospel to shine throughout Burma. This light brings truth, hope and love. This light also exposes the evil being done. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers" (Ephesians 6:12). Prayer is needed for the country of Burma, the dictators, the resistance and all the oppressed people. The Holy Spirit not only inspires people to pray and help, but also changes their lives at the same time. For example, as teams of relief workers go into Burma and help people in the war zones, their own lives have been changed.

On one team alone, a medic who had lost direction found a new life in relationship with God, a nurse whose husband was killed by the Burma Army was freed from her bitterness and could smile again, a refugee who did not believe in God found relationship with Jesus and became the team's pastor, a resistance soldier who ruthlessly killed found love, and a human rights reporter who was not a Christian gave his life to the Lord. These are real people whose lives have been transformed and are a testimony to God's power in all of our lives.

As each of us open our hearts to ask God how to pray, what to think and where to act, the Holy Spirit will not only lead us in these things, but we too will be transformed. God's saving power inspires people to act on behalf of others. It also convicts, purifies, and redirects us in our own lives, binding us together in love.

As we pray for Burma and others in need around the world, God will take action in the lives of all in need, the people of Burma, those who try to help them, and all of us who pray.

Thank you for your prayer support and God bless you.



A grandmother and her grandchild in Shan State with little access to medical care.



Young women in Shan State enjoy friendships despite their difficult situation.

*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*- Romans 8:38-39*



# THE RESOURCE PAGE

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## WEBSITES

Amnesty International

[www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)

AP News

[www.apnews.com](http://www.apnews.com)

Bangkok Post

[www.bangkokpost.com](http://www.bangkokpost.com)

British Broadcasting Company World Service  
(radio/Burmese)

[www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice)

Burma Campaign

[www.burmacampaign.org.uk](http://www.burmacampaign.org.uk)

Burma Forum of Los Angeles

[www.burmaforumla.org](http://www.burmaforumla.org)

Burma Issues

[durham@mozart.inet.co.th](mailto:durham@mozart.inet.co.th)

Burma Relief Center (BRC)

[brccm@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:brccm@loxinfo.co.th)

BurmaNet (news service)

[www.burmanet.org](http://www.burmanet.org)

Christians Concerned for Burma

[www.prayforburma.org](http://www.prayforburma.org)

Christian Solidarity Australasia

[www.cs.org.au](http://www.cs.org.au), [canberra@cs.org.au](mailto:canberra@cs.org.au)

Christian Solidarity Worldwide

[www.csw.org.uk](http://www.csw.org.uk)

Democratic Voice of Burma (radio)

[www.communique.no.dvb](http://www.communique.no.dvb)

Free Burma Coalition

[www.freeburmacoalition.org](http://www.freeburmacoalition.org)

Human Rights Watch

[www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)

Jubilee Campaign

[www.jubileecampaign.org](http://www.jubileecampaign.org)

Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG)

[www.khrg.org](http://www.khrg.org)

Karen National League (USA)

[www.karen.org](http://www.karen.org)

The National Coalition Government of  
the Union of Burma

[www.ncgub.net](http://www.ncgub.net)

Open Society Institute Burma Project  
Partners

[www.soros.org/burma](http://www.soros.org/burma)

Radio Free Asia

[www.partnersworld.org](http://www.partnersworld.org)

Shan Herald Agency for News (SHAN)

[www.rfa.org](http://www.rfa.org)

The Nation (Thai newspaper)

[www.shanland.org](http://www.shanland.org)

Walk For Burma

[www.nationmultimedia.com](http://www.nationmultimedia.com)

[www.geocities.com/walkforburma](http://www.geocities.com/walkforburma)

## BOOKS/REPORTS

*Licence to Rape; The Burmese military regime's use of sexual violence in the ongoing war in Shan State.*

Fink, Christina. *Living Silence; Burma Under Military Rule*. Zed Books 2001.

Lintner, Bertil. *Burma in Revolt*. Silkworm Books. Revised Edition 2000.

Lintner, Bertil. *Outrage: Burma's Struggle for Democracy*. White Lotus Co.

Smith, Martin. *Burma: Insurgency and the Politics of Ethnicity*. ZedBooks Ltd.

## VIDEOS

*Love in Action*. 12 minute video about the war in Burma and relief teams in action.

(Please contact CCB for a free copy).

*Beyond Rangoon*. 1995 Castle Rock Entertainment. Stars Patricia Arquette.

*No Peace, No Mercy*. 14 minute video on the Internally Displaced People of Burma.

*Forgotten Allies*. 1994 BBC Timewatch.





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This booklet has been produced by Christians Concerned for Burma.

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Scripture portions quoted in this booklet are taken from the NIV; the verse on page 9 is NKJV.

Not by might nor by power but by  
**MY SPIRIT** says the Lord.  
- Zechariah 4:6

