

PROVIDENCE CHURCH Prayer for the Nations

BURMA (MYANMAR)

- Burma has a population of about 56 million.
- The military regime in Burma is one of the world's most repressive and abusive regimes.
- Since 1948, the country has had civil wars among the country's myriad ethnic groups that remain unresolved. From 1962 to 2011, the country was under military rule.
- The Protestant churches of Burma were begun in the early 19th century by Adoniram Judson, an American Baptist missionary. The Judsons were in Burma six years before their first convert was baptized. Judson completed translation of the scripture after 24 years. Judson began public [evangelism](#) in 1818 sitting in [azayat](#) by the roadside calling out "Ho! Everyone that thirsts for knowledge!" The Judsons suffered greatly as he was imprisoned and tortured. His wife, daughter and son died while he was in prison.
- In 1992, the Baptist Convention created a 32-member AIDS commission, because they see the problem as spiritual, as well as social and medical.
- Burma's ruling military junta has waged war on the country's ethnic minorities for more than half a century, forcing hundreds of thousands of civilians to flee their homes to congested refugee camps along the Burma/Thailand border. Many of those especially marked for persecution are those of Christian faith, including the Karen and Chin.
- The regime does not permit churches to officially register or even to be built. All churches, therefore, are considered illegal and are subject to harassment. The printing and importation of Bibles and other Christian literature is also severely restricted, which has created a great demand for these resources as the church continues to grow.
- A January 2011 report "Life Under the Junta: Evidence of Crimes Against Humanity in Burma's Chin State," documented cases of excessive violence against civilians in the Christian-majority Chin State, which included incidents of rape, torture, and forced labor.

**Prayer focus:**

1. **Believers living among ethnic minorities experiencing severe oppression from military.**
2. **Missionaries who work among the displaced people forced to move.**
3. **Bibles to be distributed to persecuted believers.**
4. **Peace.** Thousands of Burma's ethnic residents have spent most of, if not all, of their lives languishing in refugee camps because of the civil war that has ravished the country for decades. Although persecution continues in many areas, particularly Kachin State, the junta appears to be taking steps towards reform. Pray that these positive changes would be implemented, and that there would one day be peace and security for all in Burma.

See: <http://www.prayforburma.org>