

OPEN DOORS

MAGAZINE



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Persecuted and displaced in Myanmar

No Safe Place

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What happens when persecution meets violent conflict?

Persecuted Christians are forced to flee, sometimes repeatedly.



**NO
PLACE
IS
SAFE.**

What bible verse helps when you feel afraid?



Alex's Corner



**“FOXES HAVE
DENS AND
BIRDS HAVE
NESTS, BUT
THE SON OF
MAN HAS NO
PLACE TO LAY
HIS HEAD.”**

Matthew 8:20

Alex Kan
Church Relations
Officer
Open Doors
Hong Kong

More than 2,000 years ago, this was what our Lord Jesus replied to a man who claimed he would follow Jesus wherever He went.

Today, more than 180,000 Christians around the world find themselves in the very situation that Jesus described – because of their faith in Him. In Myanmar, Nigeria, Colombia, and many other countries, believers are kicked out of their homes or driven away by violent persecution.

“If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.”
(John 15:20)

Yet, displaced Christians continue to follow Jesus wherever they flee to, just like Pastor Yang* (pg. 4) in Myanmar. While on the run for safety and survival, Pastor Yang and his young family remember their faithful God who is always with them.

As you read through the following pages of this magazine, you will learn of many other followers of Jesus who have lost any sense of stability and peace in their lives. But as their brothers and sisters, we can be with them in their fight for survival, helping them to turn to Christ for peace that only He can give.

The earthquake that struck Myanmar in late March seriously exacerbated the situation of Christians and other vulnerable minorities in the country. Even communities that were not directly affected are further strained by the drastic increase in prices of necessities.

Would you join us in praying and supporting our displaced family?

**name changed for security reasons*

NOWHERE



Pastor Yang, in Myanmar, must keep moving to keep his family safe from bullets and bombs. He urgently needs your help.

RE

Civil war in Myanmar is being used as a tool of persecution. Christian communities have been destroyed and believers driven from their homes. Nowhere is safe – and displaced Christians urgently need help..

Branches tear at Pastor Yang's* clothes and arms as he runs through the forest, clutching the hand of his young child. His wife dashes ahead, stumbling over roots. But they can't stop...

"We are running and sometimes we are crawling, because they are shooting. Sometimes we run the whole week searching for safety and survival. Behind, there is bombing still going on."

"We feel we can be killed at any moment."

Deep within the trees, Pastor Yang stretches out a tarpaulin and the family hides under it. "If they see where we stay, they will bomb it again," he says. "But there's no water or food, and the children are crying. There's nothing."

It's a terrifying, desperate struggle to stay alive. But for Pastor Yang, it's not a one-off.

Since 2021, as Myanmar's civil war intensified, this family has been repeatedly forced to flee every time they tried



War has raged for five years in Myanmar, and persecution of believers has intensified.

to settle in a new location. Their money stolen, their belongings looted, their churches targeted. For followers of Jesus in Myanmar, nowhere is safe.

"I feel helpless that I cannot make my own family safe," Pastor Yang admits. "You know, sometimes we feel God is not with us."

BRUTAL WAR

Believers have long been persecuted in Myanmar, but the 2021 coup intensified their suffering. Military airstrikes destroyed Christian communities and churches, killing thousands of people. We estimate that around 40,000 Christians have been displaced or forced into hiding.

When believers flee, they are left without food, shelter or security – and their faith is tested like never before. The church is weakened as people disperse, and its

SAFE

very existence is threatened. With conflict dragging on, there's a risk Myanmar's displaced Christians become forgotten...

"We feel very lonely because we are away from people," says Pastor Yang sadly. "My church members are scattering everywhere. It's very difficult to visit them because if we go outside, at any time, at any place, bombing and shooting can happen."

RELENTLESS PERSECUTION

Pastor Yang remembers all too clearly the first time he was forced from home. Back then, he was a youth pastor, newly married and shopping in the market, when police officers questioned him about a protest.

Following Jesus in Myanmar has never been easy. But for the young pastor and his wife, this interrogation felt different. "We felt unsafe and decided to leave," said Pastor Yang.

"The prayers of believers around the world protect us."

They haven't stopped moving since. Yang became a pastor of a small church, but members of his congregation were blindfolded, held at gunpoint, and the community scattered. Another time, Pastor Yang's motorbike and emergency fund, nearly two months' wages, were stolen. The family couldn't stay.

Today, Pastor Yang is exhausted and depleted by years of upheaval, poverty and stress. "The burden of moving with young children weighs heavily on me and my wife," said Pastor Yang. "We live amid the sounds of gunfire and bomb explosions. We feel we can be killed at any moment. Even when I step out to buy groceries, I pray, God help me come back safely."



180,000 DISPLACED

Around the world, more than 180,000 Christians are displaced or in hiding because of violent persecution, according to Open Doors estimates. This is a crisis which rarely makes the headlines.

Our vision is that Christians forced from their homes remain strong in faith, resilient to persecution, and empowered to shine as a light in their communities. With your gifts and prayers, Open Doors can provide urgent relief, leadership training, and practical support like medical aid and legal help.

Above all, your support shows Christians like Pastor Yang they are not forgotten.

"We know the prayers of believers all around the world protect us," says Pastor Yang. "Despite feeling desperate and hopeless at times, we know God is with us. Our family prays together every night, asking God to give us strength."

He added, "There is a God that can do everything. He is sustaining us. Sometimes we want to give up, but we are encouraged to keep on moving and serving the Lord."

**Name changed to keep him safe*

PS. Update on Pastor Yang after earthquake in Myanmar: The place where Pastor Yang and his family reside was not badly affected by the earthquake. However, Pastor Yang and his church community are affected by the drastic price increase of essential commodities.

Will you help faith survive among displaced Christians?

PLEASE GIVE

Every HK\$230 could provide training for a Christian displaced by violence, so they will persevere amid persecution.

Every HK\$350 could provide one month's vital support to three believers forced to flee their homes.

Every HK\$700 could provide a safe place to stay, medicine and legal aid for displaced believers.

Visit donation.
opendoors.org.hk
to give now.



PLEASE PRAY

- Give thanks for Pastor Yang and his incredible resilience. Pray for perseverance and safety for him and his family.
- For the estimated 40,000 displaced believers in Myanmar, that they will be reached with food, shelter and practical help.
- For Christians all over the world who've been forced from their homes by violence and persecution. Pray they will know they are not alone.

“Persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.”

2 CORINTHIANS 4:9



WORLD WATCH NEWS

NORTH KOREA

Secret believer reveals faith to wife

North Korean believer made a beautiful discovery when he took the enormously brave step of telling his wife about his deepest secret: his faith.

After his first wife died, the secret believer remarried but, like many Christians in North Korea, he kept his faith hidden from his new wife. If she disclosed it to the authorities, even by accident, it would have

unthinkable consequences. “It didn’t feel right,” he told an underground Open Doors fieldworker. “I wanted to be transparent with my wife. I contemplated and prayed, prayed and contemplated. Then I decided to gather all my courage and tell her my deepest secret.”

“She started to cry,” he continues. “Because she had been a secret believer all her life. She desperately wanted to tell me she followed Jesus.”

Open Doors fieldworkers outside North Korea are helping this couple practically and spiritually. “They are in need of so much, but they rarely ask for help,” says the fieldworker. “And I know for a fact that they help many, many people around them. Even the ones who have hurt them, even the ones who would lock them up if they knew about their true identity as Christians.”

PRAY For strength, encouragement and protection for the couple.

NEPAL

Kumari discovers her value and beauty

A Nepalese woman says a women’s seminar run by Open Doors local partners has reminded her of her ‘inner beauty’.

After suffering with a severely swollen face that hospitals were unable to treat, Kumari* went along to church after a friend shared the gospel with her. “I accepted Christ as my Saviour, and miraculously, the very next day, I was healed,” says Kumari, who has since suffered persecution from her husband and neighbours for her new faith.

“I am blessed through this

seminar and learned so many things which I never knew,” she continues. “I realised that women are valuable and can do a lot for the family, society and church. I learned that God created man and woman in His own image, and I learned about my inner beauty. I often feel ugly; however, this seminar has reminded me that

God created me, and I am beautiful.

“I cannot read the Bible as I am illiterate. But I love a Nepali song, which says, ‘Surrender my life on the holy altar of the Lord.’ Hopefully, I can read the Bible someday.”

PRAISE God for Kumari’s salvation and healing.



KYRGYZSTAN

Bible torn to pieces by brother

A new believer from Kyrgyzstan is recovering from an awful attack by her own brother, during which her Bible was torn to pieces.

After becoming a Christian, Leyla* was given a Bible by a friend and she read it secretly in her room. But her brother found it. He destroyed the Bible, kicked Leyla out of their home and threatened her, accusing her of bringing shame to their Muslim family.

Leyla is now staying with a friend and remains determined to hold on to her faith, but she is afraid.

Kyrgyzstan rose more places in the latest World Watch List than any other country (jumping from 61 to 47).

PRAY For Leyla's healing and for her family to embrace Jesus.



**Name changed to protect their safety*

BURKINA FASO

50 children given educational support

Senou* and Combarly* are amongst around 50 students in Burkina Faso who've been given educational support this year, thanks to your gifts.

By September last year, an estimated 13,200 schools in central and west Africa had been closed because of violence and conflict, affecting the education of more than 2.5 million children. Amongst them are Senou (below) and Combarly, both aged 13, who were forced to flee their homes when militants attacked their villages. Since being uprooted, Senou has also lost her father.

Unable to go to school, Open Doors local partners paid for the girls' school fees, uniforms and other school supplies. "We are very grateful to you," says Senou's grandmother. "We thank you for your good action. Truly speaking, we received the aid. May God reward you."

PRAY That all children helped will grow in faith, character and skills, and that more children will be able to return to school.



MORE STORIES ONLINE



Head to www.opendoors.org.hk
or follow us @opendoorshk for more news and updates



STILL SERVING, THANKS TO YOU

Myanmar's military coup put Christians like Pastor Myint* in immediate danger. Your support arrived just when it was needed most.

Pastor Myint can continue serving persecuted and displaced believers in Myanmar – because of your care and support. Image is representative.



Drunk young men burst into Pastor Myint's home. They'd heard about a Christian leader who belonged to a 'foreign' religion and had been sharing his faith around the village.

Their mission? To kill him.

It didn't matter that for years Pastor Myint and his family had lived peacefully in this Buddhist-majority area. They were respected and liked. But since the military coup on 1 February 2021, new village leaders were in charge – and Christians were in danger.

“We are so thankful to you for listening.”

Tears roll down Pastor Myint's face as he remembers that terrible day...

“One of the leaders instigated the richest man in the village against me. He gathered some young men, offered them alcohol and instructed them to kill me and my sons,” said Pastor Myint.

“Thankfully some villagers notified me so I took my sons and hurried away. But my wife and daughter were home when the men barged into the house. They were very scared. When I did not return home, the attackers killed two Burmese villagers who had shown interest in the Christian faith.”

It was too risky for Pastor Myint to return, so his wife May* and their daughter escaped – and the whole family fled to safety.

“When the attackers learned all of us had left the village, they looted our house and took our possessions. Then they burned down our home.”

The family had nothing. No income, no home, no hope. But then you stepped in – with support, compassion and care for your persecuted brothers and sisters.

Your gifts helped to provide emergency food and encouragement to Pastor Myint.

May said, “After we were displaced, no one else even bothered to ask us about our welfare. We are so thankful to you for listening to our story and helping us.”

“We have seen many come to Christ.”

Because of your support, Pastor Myint continues to serve Christians in Myanmar – but he needs your prayers. “I still worry about the spiritual wellbeing of believers who are displaced because of conflict and oppression,” he said.

“We have been in ministry for years and have seen many come to Christ. But we have lost connection with people because of war and persecution. Please pray God will be with them and they will remain faithful to Jesus.”

**Name changed to protect his safety*



A displacement camp for Christians in Myanmar.

PLEASE PRAY

- Pray for Pastor Myint and his wife May, who both suffer from poor health.
- Ask God to be with Pastor Myint's children, who feel the pain of persecution.
- Pray for Christians in Myanmar who are displaced and who feel alone.

ARISE AFRICA CAMPAIGN UPDATE

You're helping start the healing in sub-Saharan Africa



In September last year, you were introduced to Pastor Barnabas from Nigeria – one of over 16.2 million Christians displaced across sub-Saharan Africa due to conflict and violence. Thanks to your prayers, gifts and actions through the ongoing Arise Africa campaign, thousands of displaced believers are already seeing a huge difference. “On behalf of the IDP camps and especially in my ministry, in this way, we are grateful,” says Pastor Barnabas. “We are saying thank you, thank you, thank you, God bless you.”

FEDALIA'S STORY: “THESE THINGS HAVE MADE US SO HAPPY”

Fedalia's life completely changed the day Fulani militants invaded her village and forced her to flee. “We heard gunshots all round,” she says. “Houses were being burned and seized. The churches in Kantoma were burned down.”

“You treated us well.”

Mercifully, she and her family made it to a displacement camp and safety, but these camps are ill-equipped to deal with the number of refugees they receive. Thanks to your prayers and support, local Open Doors partners are providing Fedalia, her family and many other believers with their daily needs.



Fedalia shares her thanks for life-changing support.

“You took us as your children and worked together with us peacefully,” Fedalia says.

“A lot of people, more than 2,000 of us, you treated us well and didn't want anything bad to happen to us. We are really happy, and our mind is now at rest.”

Open Doors partners are able to provide lots of different food and practical supplies to make life easier. “Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we are grateful for what you have done for us,” says Fedalia. “We are happy for the rice, beans, maize, palm oil, salt, blanket, mosquito net, Bible, bathing bucket, soap, pots, bath to wash my children’s clothes and even pads for women. All these things have made us so happy.



Pastor Barnabas is already seeing the impact of your prayers and gifts.

“Our prayer is that God will continue to open doors for you where there seems to be no way. We weren’t the only ones who were helped, but others too, so our prayer is that may God open more doors, so you can help those in need.”

MERCY’S STORY: “YOU HAVE BROUGHT US THIS GREAT HELP”

Mercy lives in the same displacement camp as Pastor Barnabas. “Before the unrest, we didn’t think the attacks would

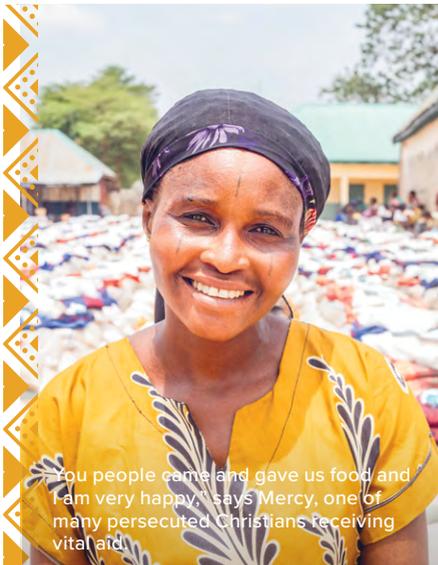
reach us,” she explains. “We went to sleep but woke up due to a gunshot sound. It sounded very close to us.” Fulani militants were attacking her village in Mbagwen district.

Tragically, in that attack and the ones that ensued, Mercy’s mother and sister were killed – her sister was nine months pregnant at the time. Mercy’s father was also abducted by the militants, who have taken over and occupied their village.

Mercy’s been in this camp for four years, but she is incredibly grateful for all the ways you are supporting her. “We, the occupants of this camp, are really suffering– you people came and gave us food and I am very happy,” she says. “We didn’t used to have anything to eat, but since you gave us food, we’ve been eating. Before, we would wake up and ask ourselves, ‘What do we eat?’ but today it was different. I thank God.”

“I can’t even thank you enough.”

She adds, “I can’t even thank you enough – may God keep you all and may your days be long. I thank my brothers and sisters that have brought us this great help. I thank you all. And God should bless whatever your hands do; let it be good.”



You people came and gave us food and I am very happy,” says Mercy, one of many persecuted Christians receiving vital aid.

PRAY FOR MYANMAR'S DISPLACED CHRISTIANS

War in Myanmar is being used as a tool for persecution – with churches under attack and Christians driven from their homes. Violent conflict is in its fifth year and shows no sign of ending. Displaced believers are exhausted and vulnerable.

Right now, both the military and extremist Buddhist groups are using the crisis in Myanmar to target Christian communities.

When believers flee to camps or the jungle, they are in a perilous position. Women have died giving birth in Myanmar's forests. Pastors face imprisonment. And Christians are often last in line for government aid.

This desperate situation needs your urgent prayers...

PRAY FOR PEOPLE* LIKE...

Pastor Mun, who's been forced to leave his hometown in Chin State. "We can no longer go to our churches," he said.

Moe Moe, from Kayah State, who has been displaced several times. "It is challenging to be on the run. Every day we must strive for survival," she said.

Dan, a young Christian man, who's been called up for military service – and is now in hiding. "I am praying for my safety and living a quiet life," he said.

Mei Mei, a former Buddhist, who lost her job and home when people discovered she'd become a Christian. Pray she will remain strong in faith.

A PRAYER FOR MYANMAR

Dear Father,

We uphold the country of Myanmar in prayer. We long for your peace to reign in this nation. We long for the day our brothers and sisters there can gather freely to worship and praise you. We celebrate their strength and bravery in persevering in faith today.

Father, heal the broken hearts of Christians in Myanmar. Restore wounded spirits. Renew in them your Holy Spirit. Give daily bread to our persecuted family, and protect them from evil. Help them to lead lives according to your will and in joy. Father, be with them. Amen.





WORLD WATCH LIST 2025 TOP 50

Pray for Christians in the top 50 countries where following Jesus costs the most.

Get your free World Watch List 2025 Top 50 booklet and pray for our courageous brothers and sisters around the world. You'll find inspiring testimonies, expert information and the latest prayer requests.

Get yours: opendoors.org.hk/resources

THE FAITH OF "Even If Not"

September 19 to 30, 2025

Special Meetings

In this present age, we seem to be amidst raging storms, with the waves of life threatening to swallow us at any moment. Yet, for Christians persecuted for their faith, challenges and threats are a daily reality. The growth of the Church and their scars stand as testimonies, teaching us to hold fast to our faith and press forward courageously in this turbulent era.

In celebration of Open Doors' 70-year journey of grace, we are honoured to welcome Rev. Paul Estabrooks, who has served the persecuted Church for 38 years, and Brother Gideon (pseudonym) from Africa to Hong Kong and Taiwan, where they will share the victorious secrets of the persecuted Church. Stay tuned for further details.

MAKE YOUR WILL FOR FREE

You can give your persecuted family hope of a brighter future by including Open Doors as one of the beneficiaries in your Will. It won't cost you anything right away but it will mean a lifetime of support for those who will suffer for following Jesus.

You can make a FREE Will with ForeverGift, if you donate HK\$10,000 to Open Doors Hong Kong. Find out more at www.opendoors.org.hk/getinvolved/leavelegacy or www.forevergift.hk/opendoorshk.





THERE'S NO PLACE THAT'S SAFE

Imagine having to flee your home. Not just once. But again, and again, and again.

Running from bullets. Hiding in the forest. All because you follow Jesus...

That's reality for Pastor Yang* and his family. They are victims of Myanmar's violent civil war. Persecution has intensified and at least 40,000 Christians are displaced.

They're exhausted. Sometimes they feel God has abandoned them. They need your support.

Will you help faith survive in unsafe places?

Every HK\$350 could provide one month's vital support to three believers forced to flee their homes.

Visit donation.opendoors.org.hk to give now.

Thank you

**Name changed for security reasons*

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