

PRAYER FOCUS

A Prayer Guide on Access-Restricted Nations in Asia produced by Ethnos Asia Ministries

Karen Border Communities

UNWAVERING HOPE

Sister Nyaw Nyaw was ten years old when her father decided to leave their home in Yangon, Myanmar, and brought his family to the refugee camp at the Thai border. Here's an excerpt of her testimony:

“In the camp there was no freedom of movement. We were surrounded by barbed wire fences so we could not leave the camp. Growing up in the refugee camp, it felt like we were in a big prison. It's like a zoo where people come and visit.

Every summer we have Bible Summer Camp. I grew up going to the summer camps. We looked forward to it so much. The teachers are the Ethnos Asia guys! They came and made our boring refugee life exciting! We learned new songs and games, and we learned to share our stories. Above all, we learned to know and love Jesus.

The Bible school in the camp, pioneered by my late father, Dr. Simon, (who died in 2013) started with four teachers and six students. Now we have 472 students and 44 teachers and staff. We're very grateful to God.



A LIVING TESTIMONY

They call us a displaced people
But thank God we are not misplaced
They said they see no hope for our future
But praise God our future is as bright as
the promises of God
They said they see the life of our people
is a misery
But praise God our life is a mystery
For what they say is what they see
For what they see is temporal
But ours is eternal
All because we put ourselves
In the hands of God we trust

A poem by the late, Dr. Simon, who never stopped hoping. His trust in God never wavered.

Since 2004, many Karen refugees resettled in developed countries like the US, Australia and some European countries. I was one of them. I went to Canada in 2006. After I finished school I decided to return to my people in the refugee camp.”

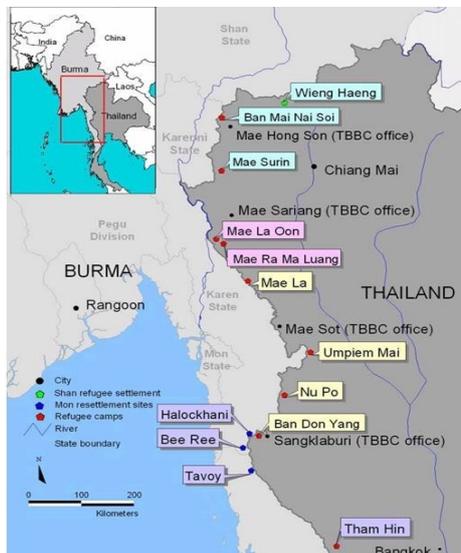
Life in the camp is uncertain. Sister Nyaw Nyaw chose to be with and help educate her people, and currently she is teaching at the

Maela Bible School in the refugee camp. They are holding on to the hope that one day they will attain the freedom they long for.

“We heard about the repatriation to Myanmar. We're supposed to go home. Some of us feel like the Thailand Refugee camp is our home, but we don't know how long we can stay. Some of us want to go 'home', but the camp has been home for 30 years, many were born here so we don't know where home is. If we go home, what about school, jobs, health care? There are so many questions. That's the anxiety in the camp.

“We also have a new war to fight; drugs. So many young people in our camps are addicted to drugs. Please pray for us.”

Let us continue to pray for our Karen brethren.



**“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord.”
Jeremiah 17:7 (NIV)**

Prayer Calendar June 2018

1 (FRI) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES Pray as the peace deal between the Karen people and Myanmar is collapsing. Pray for the Internally Displaced People (IDP) in Myanmar and the Karen refugees in Thailand.

2/3 (SAT/SUN) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES Pray for favor and wisdom upon camp leaders in their endeavors to maintain a good relationship with the Thai government.

4 (MON) CHINA Recently, officials raided a church in the south and arrested pastors and church members. Later they were released. Pray that they will not be discouraged.

5 (TUE) CHINA The Communist Party is translating a Communist-'friendly' version of the Chinese Bible. Pray that this project will be abandoned.

6 (WED) CHINA Security cameras have been installed in many places especially in churches to monitor believers' movements. Pray for safety.

7 (THU) NORTH KOREA A former guard from a concentration camp has testified that prisoners live in bunkhouses with 100 people per room and some 30% bear the marks of torture. Pray for positive changes in this nation.

8 (FRI) NORTH KOREA Pray that Kim Jong-Un will fulfill his promise to denuclearise North Korea.

9/10 (SAT/SUN) LAOS Persecution is still severe in many provinces, including Huaphan and Namtha. Pray for local authorities to allow Christians to freely exercise their faith.

11 (MON) LAOS Pray against false teachings being spread in Laos, confusing the church.

12 (TUE) MALDIVES Pray for Maldives, one of the least evangelized countries in the world.

13 (WED) MALDIVES Owning a Bible can result in a prison sentence in this strict Islamic nation. Pray that the Gospel will penetrate this land even when it is under strict religious laws.

14 (THU) NEPAL Pray that, despite the lack of freedom to share the hope of faith in Christ, the Lord will give Christians opportunities to evangelize.

15 (FRI) NE INDIA Hindu extremists are spreading lies and propaganda against Christians. Ask God to stop this evil work of the enemy.

16/17 (SAT/SUN) NE INDIA Persecution of Christians is rising in India. The growth of radical Hinduism is fueling violent attacks, with even greater impunity for attackers as the government sides with radical groups. Pray for God's protection upon our brethren.

18 (MON) BHUTAN Ask God for a miracle upon the wife of our main co-worker in Bhutan. She cannot be operated now due to some complications.

19 (TUE) BHUTAN Pray for the leaders who recently attended the Bhutan Evangelical Alliance Leadership Conference. May they have a deep passion for lost souls amidst restrictions.

20 (WED) Today has been designated **WORLD REFUGEE DAY** by the UN. Pray for respite for refugees all over the world. May they come to a saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus.

21 (THU) BANGLADESH With the rainy season approaching, pray for the Dhaka School as it is often flooded. We have not yet found a suitable place to transfer.

22 (FRI) BANGLADESH Pray for the Rohingyas in the crowded camps in Cox's Bazar, with fears of cholera and other water-borne diseases as heavy rains come.

23/24 (SAT/SUN) BANGLADESH Pray for the Rohingya ministries in Bangladesh. Ask God to give wisdom and direction to work among them.

25 (MON) VIETNAM Pray that God will build up the faith of new believers from ethnic minorities.

26 (TUE) VIETNAM Pray that churches in Vietnam will unite in prayer in order to effect radical changes in their nation.

27 (WED) PAKISTAN Ask the Lord to strengthen the Pakistani church, which faces severe opposition and violence.

28 (THU) CAMBODIA Pray for a peaceful National Election which will be held on July 29, 2018.

29 (FRI) CAMBODIA Today is the second Parents' Meeting at our Functional English Center. Pray for guidance upon our teachers.

30 (SAT) MYANMAR Pray for those who have received the Myanmar English New Testaments. May they be encouraged to faithfully read the Word and use this as a tool to share the Gospel.

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