

***"Though thy candle be put out,
yet God will light it again, and
make it burn more light than ever."***

~ Thomas Brooks

ETHIOPIA: Two Injured in Arson Church Attacks

Sources: Steadfast Global, VOMC Contacts

The town of Alaba Kulito in southern Ethiopia was the scene of a horrific attack against Christians on February 9th. According to a VOMC source, at least 13 churches were burned – some completely destroyed – along with other church-owned property. While there were no fatalities, two church workers were admitted to hospital. Both have since been released after receiving needed medical treatment. For more photos of the devastation resulting from the attack, go to [this report](#).

The trouble flared after a false rumour was spread that one or more mosques in the area had been burned. The area is predominantly Muslim, with constant tension between Christians and Muslims in this community. Last week, the Meserete Kristos Church was vandalized and local Christians have faced intimidation and threats.



Photos: Steadfast Global / VOMC

The violence does not appear to be related to evangelistic work in the area, which has been very fruitful. VOMC, together with Steadfast Global, participated in various projects within the region, along with local partners. As a result of the devastation, emergency funds have been sent to provide needed assistance for the churches directly affected. A representative from Steadfast Global will be assessing the damage and presenting ways in which VOMC's Canadian ministry partners can join in to help.

Please prayerfully uphold the two ministry workers who were injured. Pray also for all the members of the attacked churches who presently have no place to meet for worship. Ask the Lord to oversee the fruitful ministry that has been accomplished within the region, so that it will continue to flourish despite opposition. May those responsible for the attacks come to understand the Gospel message and turn in faith to Christ. Additionally, we appreciate you lifting up the partnering ministries involved in this united endeavour to assist every one of the recently attacked Ethiopian churches.

BURMA (MYANMAR): Kidnapped Pastor and Others Assassinated

Sources: Gospel for Asia, International Christian Concern, Christian Post



Photo: Flickr/Staffan Scherz (c)

Pastor Tun Nu, who served with Gospel for Asia in Rakhine State, was kidnapped by five gunmen on January 19th. Despite searches conducted by church members, police and military, there was no trace of his whereabouts. Regrettably, he was found shot to death on February 1st, along with others who had also been kidnapped. Members of a rebel army in the area are believed to be responsible.

Pastor Tun, 41, leaves a wife and three children, plus a church of more than 50 members. Christians in the area have joined together to provide an offering to help meet some of the family's financial needs. Gospel for Asia reports that the pastor's assassination is the first incident of this kind faced by their workers in Burma. Further information on the country, in addition to other ways you can specifically pray, is available at [Burma Country Report](#).

Please remember Pastor Tun's wife and children in their time of grief. Pray that God will provide for their every need, including the provision of His reassuring peace, comfort and strength in the days ahead. May this family, and other Christians serving in Burma, be greatly encouraged by the presence of God's Holy Spirit working in and through them. While Pastor Tun has already gone on to receive his eternal reward, ask that his family and church members will be empowered to take up the mantle and carry on in faithful ministry.

PERSECUTION UPDATE

TURKEY: Verdict Upheld in Malatya Murder Case

Sources: Middle East Concern, Mission Network News

On April 18th, 2007, three Christian workers at a publishing house in Malatya, Turkey, were tortured and murdered (see [this report](#)). Ultimately five men were convicted and given three consecutive life sentences. Although an appeal was heard on January 23rd, the sentences were upheld.

The Association of Protestant Churches in Turkey had also filed an appeal requesting further investigation, believing there was a wider network involved in the crime. The courts have denied the request, including upholding an acquittal of two military officers accused of participating. Unless taken to the Constitutional Court, these decisions are final.

While it's a relief for many that the case is finally over after almost 12 years, questions still remain about suspected involvement of other organizations and perhaps political ties. To view a previous video report on the attack, [click here](#).

May those who continue to be affected by this case find needed comfort and peace, especially the loved ones and friends of the three slain Christian men. In addition, please pray for all the followers of Christ represented throughout Turkey, asking the Lord to grant them strength when facing opposition for their faith and courage to boldly stand for Him.

If you would like to post a prayer of praise or petition on behalf of our persecuted family around the globe, visit [VOMC's prayer wall](#).



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