



Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

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"Princes, kings, and other rulers of the world have used all their strength and cunning against the church, yet it continues to endure and hold its own."

~ John Foxe

VIETNAM: Christian Woman Slain by Husband

Source: The Voice of the Martyrs Australia

After hearing the "Good News" of the Gospel about a month ago from missionaries visiting her local village, Nga, a 42-year-old Vietnamese woman, turned in faith to Christ. She was the first in her village to respond to God's message of salvation, which had been presented to her by the evangelizing Christians. However, unlike Nga, her husband Vu was not open to hearing the missionaries' message.

When local authorities discovered that Nga had left their traditional religion of Buddhism and ancestor worship, they approached Vu and demanded that he convince his wife to renounce her new faith. When Nga refused, the authorities notified Vu that if his wife persisted in her adherence to Christianity, he and his family would be cut off from any future governmental aid. Angered by this news, Vu beat his wife so severely that she was admitted to the hospital. Soon after, Nga died of her injuries.

Following the incident, Vu fled the area leaving behind the couple's four children, who are between the ages of eight and 14 years old. Although Vu has not been charged with his wife's death, there appears to be little interest in filing any charges against him.

At the funeral held for Nga, Vu sent word that the children were to be taken to a government-run orphanage. Instead, a Christian worker affiliated with The Voice of the Martyrs offered to adopt the two youngest children, and has been providing assistance in search of good homes for the others. For additional reports addressing persecution in Vietnam, and/or to learn of ways you can pray for believers in this Southeast Asian country, go to www.vomcanada.com/vietnam.htm.

Prayerfully remember these four hurting children as they deal with the sudden loss of their mother, and now also the rejection of their father. Ask God to minister comfort, emotional healing, and provision for their practical and spiritual needs. As you think of the situation surrounding Nga's death, please uphold the many other believers whose lives are likewise targeted, threatened and endangered for following Jesus – not only by authorities in the land, but also by their own family members. Specifically, pray that the Spirit of God will bring needed conviction and accountability to Vu, bearing witness to the truth and leading him to sincere repentance. All the while, may the Gospel message continue to spread in Nga's village and throughout the country so that many lives will be transformed by the power of God's Word.

MYANMAR: Pre-Registration Required to Attend Services

Sources: Myanmar Now, Barnabas Fund

Military authorities in Chin State, Myanmar, announced on February 13th that Christians residing within areas governed under martial law will be forced to register with township administrators seven days in advance of attending any church services. No information about the form of punishment that will be administered to those failing to comply had been provided at that time.

Concerned about the fear and distress this new requirement will cause among his predominantly Christian community, a pastor from one of the affected areas explained: "This is yet another act of terrorism by the military council. It's been very distressing for the public, regardless of race or religion, since they declared martial law." Another Christian resident declared: "The military not only bombed, burned and destroyed our churches, they're now also restricting our rights to go to church."

Under the pretence of fighting separatist forces, the military has frequently targeted Christians and church buildings. To learn more about the challenges being encountered by followers of Jesus in Myanmar, go to www.vomcanada.com/myanmar.htm.

Although we can praise God for the wonderful work that He has accomplished in Myanmar over the years through the transformation of many lives, please join us in praying for the continued outreach of the Gospel throughout this war-torn nation. Be mindful to pray for the protection of Christians in the affected areas who are at risk of persecution by those opposing them. Also ask God to grant these believers wisdom, peace and direction as they contend with these new requirements and discern how to best respond in the situation.

CHINA: Officials Raid Another Church Service

Source: ChinaAid

Since 1990, Yuhuan Church's Chengguang Branch has carried on with its ministry in this coastal city of Zhejiang province. In 1997, four buildings were constructed to host church functions.

Even though gathering together was banned in 2020, many believers continued to assemble for smaller scale meetings.

On Sunday, February 12th, the church was raided by governmental workers. During the raid, three church leaders were taken away for questioning before being released later that day. However, their congregational meeting space was permanently sealed, and all the Bibles and hymn books found on the premises were confiscated. For more information on the ongoing oppression of Christians by the Chinese Communist Party, or to review previously published reports, go to www.vomcanada.com/china.htm.

While the members of this church contend with the forceful closure of their worship facility, may they find new ways to gather together for needed ministry and fellowship. Pray that they will receive guidance, strength and encouragement from the Lord, as well as the replacement of confiscated Bibles and other Christian resources. In the meantime, may the materials that were seized during the raid be mightily used to touch the hearts of the authorities involved. Overall, please continue to pray for believers throughout China who are facing renewed oppression from governing officials, asking that our Chinese brothers and sisters in Christ will grow even stronger in their faith as they navigate the challenges imposed on them.

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