

THE PERSECUTED

MYANMAR (Burma): CRACKDOWN ON ETHNIC MINORITIES

There are an estimated four million Christians, most of them in the non-Burman ethnic minorities who live around the periphery of the country. They are being severely persecuted by the ruling military junta, both for their ethnicity and for their faith.

The army, with assistance in some places from Buddhist monks, is cutting off such people from food, education or any means to support themselves. But converts to Buddhism can get food for their families and education for their children, and will be exempted from the forced labour which literally kills so many.

One minister said "It increases our faith, we are Christians, we know God will help us, but please remember us in your prayers, please do not forget us."

UZBEKISTAN: YOUNG CHURCHES PERSECUTED

Police burst into the morning service of a large church in Tashkent and arrested the minister and other leaders. This church began in 1996 with 20 members and has grown to have over 700 people from a Muslim background, and other members as well. They have been trying to get the church registered, but the authorities always find a pretext to refuse.

Please pray for this church, remembering in particular the health of the minister who has had a stroke and now has problems with blood pressure.

The wave of persecution against Christians continues. A Christian head-teacher received a letter ordering her to gather information about her pupil's church attendance, how often they went, who their parents were, where their parents worked, what kind of Christian literature they had at home. This is part of a government initiative to get details of all Christian pupils and Christian teachers. Cell groups meeting in homes have been banned. Pray for courage and wisdom for Christians faced with this kind of demand.

INDIA: PERSECUTION IN MANY PLACES

Please pray especially for the interior villages as life is very primitive. Persecution is breaking out in various places in India. Churches are being closed and Christians are not permitted to visit the villages. Kathuwa, Jammu and Kashmir Districts are under great threat by anti- Christian groups.

Our brothers and sister are hurting; pray for them and their children that the Lord would bring peace to their land and that many will come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.