



The Baptist Herald

Pray for the Persecuted Church: Burma

According to Patrick Klein, who recently returned from Burma and Thailand, more than 500,000 people have been killed in Burma in the last 30 years. More than 3,300 villages have been burned to the ground by the Burmese military, and thousands of children have lost parents from brutal attacks by Burmese soldiers. About 1 million Burmese refugees have fled across the border to Thailand, where they wait in uncertainty. At any moment they might be sent back to Burma to face certain death.

Even refugee camps in Thailand are not safe from Burmese soldiers. They frequently cross the shallow river separating Thailand and Burma to poison water supplies and kill or kidnap refugees, whom they sometimes use as human mine sweepers. The Thai generals who rule the area work hand in hand with Burma's ruling military junta regime and grow rich through the illegal drug trade that profits them both.

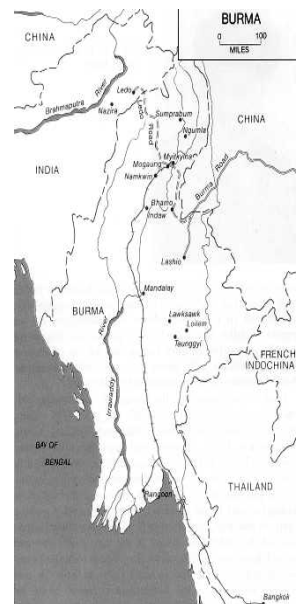
The genocide is both an ethnic cleansing and a reaction against pro-democracy movements in Burma, but it also has a specifically anti-Christian agenda. When the head of a monastery asked soldiers if he should warn Buddhist monks to leave a conflict area, the soldier replied, "No, we are not going to harm the Buddhists. We are only against the Christians."

One heavily targeted Burmese minority group is the Karen people. Historically Christian, today about 40 percent of the Karen people are Christians. A Burmese official boldly stated recently, "Soon there will be no Christians in this nation. You will only be able to see a Karen person in a picture in a museum."

In the midst of this horror, God is at work in Burma. Many people are trusting their lives to God. One of the believers went so far as to tell Patrick, "Without this genocide, maybe this worship would not be happening, and people would not be com-

ing to Christ."

Patrick said he was saddened and horrified by conditions in the Burmese refugee camps he visited. He heard many stories of suffering, but what affected him most was an enthusiastic worship service by a group of 86 orphans who are cared for by a Baptist pastor. "We had a worship service from 4 p.m. until 9 p.m. Then at 10 p.m., the kids came back and asked if we could go on worshipping! They have little happiness in their lives, but what they do have is the joy of the Lord," Patrick said.



The first toys were not toys at all, but lies disguised as toys. Before toys were invented children spent their days in blissful ignorance. They were generally hard-working and happy, helping around the house or farm, knowing no other alternative to industry. Kids would be handed a toy (resembling a hoe) and told to go play in the garden until lunch. After the morning play session a new toy would be given to the eager and thankful child (the size, shape, and weight of a posthole digger), a new playground would be assigned and the child would race off to see how many holes could be dug before sundown. If ever a child complained about the toys and games that their parents offered a new game would begin, called starvation. This game was easy to play, required no equipment, and was a good activity to remind the child how fun digging postholes could be. These were the days before boredom was invented (actually they had it but it was called "resting" and everyone loved it) and so there was no need to invent toys or games to play with while kids were bored. Real toys were unknown and abstract ideas and the lines between tools and toys, difficult to maintain.

For the sake of clarity and for the continuity of the rest of my article; I humbly submit the following definition. *A toy is any item or object specifically designed to cause destruction, chaos, and*

death; whereas, a tool is used to help man-kind. The first toys were just tools used as toys; "Stop hitting your brother with the same spoon you are using to stir the cake batter!" No one knows for sure when the first real toy was invented (although many argue that the evolution of two new animals called "spare-time" and "spare-money" had a lot to do with it) but even in the beginning toys were a disaster. Items that had no practical value suddenly became sought after commodities, "For my birthday I want a rusty piece of jagged metal, just like Timmy has!" The marketing gurus saw a goldmine and pounced on it. Kids everywhere began to covet; "Wow, your folks got you a new rusty piece of jagged metal *with racing stripes*, you're so lucky!" As toy production increased so did envy, greed and destruction, all of which were great for business. A previously unexplored market "totally useless items" was proving to be an unlimited source of fortune. Some of the toy manufactures were scared, afraid that the bottom might fall out; afraid that people would stop for one second and realized how worthless all this junk was. But no one ever did and toy train continues to accelerate.

The world of toys today continues to grow creepier and more destructive. In the place of sticks, rocks and rusty pieces of jagged metal, bizarre new materials have begun to slip into our homes (what is nerf and can it be trusted?) Fears about tetanus and someone "losing

an eye" are replaced by darker and more ominous fears, (How did that doll "Susie-Creeps-Me-Out" crawl all the way from the toy-box into our bed and then wet it's diaper and begin to cry? If I put her back in the toy-box will her feelings be hurt and will she seek revenge?) Sharp edges and poisonous paint have been replaced by demon-possessed teddy bears that awaken parents in the dead of night with eerie songs from deep in the closet. While these new toys break immediately after purchase they are also totally indestructible, thus dooming the universe to an eternally growing mound of plastic carcasses, grimly surviving fires, floods and dogs. Even worse, all these lumps of plastic have families; mom's and grandpa's, cousins and uncles all desperate to be reunited with their long lost relatives. Buying just one toy commits you to years of future purchases so that all the dolls/cars/ponies/ninjas can live together in joyful harmony; they also just keep getting worse, "Daddy, Daddy, good news! Susie-Creeps-Me-Out's long-lost-great-uncle Biff was just released from prison and is available for purchase." Finally, my set will be complete! Plus, he comes with a real Butcher Knife!" This reality requires parents to carefully research and monitor all Birthday/Christmas/Easter/Valentine's/Virgin of Guadalupe/Halloween/New Year/Ground Hog/Cinco de Mayo gifts their children receive. One well-intentioned, selfishly, original birth-

day guest can begin the terrifying cycle all over again, "Look Mommy, I don't have any of these. . . it comes with a catalog, and a website filled with wonderful games and a virtual world for my new Sassy-Roller-Ninja-Pony (patent pending) to inhabit!"

I wish there were verses telling us not to own cheap plastic junk; but unfortunately the Bible is much harder and higher than that. *Yet when I surveyed **all** that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, **everything** was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; **nothing** was gained under the sun.* (Ecclesiastes 2:11) Material possessions do not satisfy, both the cheap and expensive, the lavish and the ludicrous. All that we

toil to achieve, without Christ, is meaningless. All that we possess has divine potential. Maybe your blessings and possessions are to be used to bless others, teach you about contentment, to focus your heart on eternity, or to challenge you to move from selfishness to stewardship. Think bigger, how could your house be used as a tool for kingdom work? What would God have you do with your car to bring him glory? How could you turn your fishing tackle and bass boat into an opportunity for evangelism? The prophet Zechariah describes a day when the bells on the horses and every cooking pot is inscribed with the inscription "Holy to the Lord". So how can your pots and pans be set apart for the work of the Lord? Can

God even use a bunch of plastic baby dolls to grow your daughters closer to Christ? What could God have planned for your phone or computer or television to teach your family or reach the world? What sin will God expose in your own heart as you begin to think about your stuff? Do not be like the rich young man who allowed God to have every part of his life except his possessions. All you have is God's; maybe it is time to stop pretending and start using His stuff for Him, His way. While you do that I am going to learn about patience, humility, anger as I try to turn off the midnight alarm on the pink plastic texting gadget my girls got for Christmas; praise God!

Pastor Isaac

Attention Ladies of First Baptist Church

As we start this new Year there are many plans for our Spiritual growth and fellowship with your Sisters-in-Christ at First Baptist Church. Please mark your calendars with these dates and more information will follow:

- May 7-8 Over night retreat at Camp Rotary –registration fee \$10—*form below*
- June 4-6 American Baptist Women's Summer Conference at Franklin College.

Information and registrations soon.

- July Day Trip to the Flower Barn
- August 19 Beef and boards "Church Basement Ladies" a new musical comedy about a group of "Church ladies" who do their part by working in the church basement kitchen. This play is funny, touching and down to earth. Cost for dinner, play and transportation is \$43.

We only have 40 seats available, so make your reservations as soon as possible. Deadline for reservations and payments (non refundable) is June 27th.

- September 11 one day retreat at the church

Camp Rotary Retreat Registration—Friday, May 7—Saturday, May 8

Linda Harris will be our guest speaker. Linda has been a "camper" since she attended Camp Tippy as a Child. She met her husband, Ted, while serving as a Camp Counselor. In recent years she has volunteered at the American Baptist Camps. Many of you will remember Linda helping us with retreats here in the past. Her love for the Lord is a joy to see.

May plans to join us for this time of "camping" and wonderful fellowship, with each other and more importantly, with the Lord. Deadline is Sunday, May 2nd - Fee \$10.00. Please return to Linda Graham or the registration table.

Name _____ Phone number _____

Address _____

O Lord of Grace,
The world is before me this day,
and I am weak and fearful,
but I look to thee for strength;
If I venture forth alone I stumble and fall,
but on the beloved's arms I am firm as the eternal hills;
If left to the treachery of my heart I shall shame thy name,
but if enlightened, guided, upheld by thy Spirit,
I shall bring thee glory.
Be thou my arm to support,
my strength to stand, my light to see,
my feet to run, my shield to protect,
my sword to repel, my sun to warm.
To enrich me will not diminish thy fullness;
All thy loving kindness is in thy Son,
I bring him to thee in the arms of faith,
I urge his saving name as the one who died for me.
I plead his blood to pay my debts of wrong.
Accept his worthiness for my unworthiness,
his sinlessness for my transgressions,
his purity for my uncleanness,
his sincerity for my guile,
his truth for my deceits,

his meekness for my pride,
his constancy for my backslidings,
his love for my enmity,
his fullness for my emptiness,
his faithfulness for my treachery,
his obedience for my lawlessness,
his glory for my shame,
his devotedness for my waywardness,
his holy life for my unchaste way,
his righteousness for my dead works,
his death for my life.

(From The Valley of Vision, 157)

I think this prayer is an incredible reminder of the grace of God in Jesus Christ. The final section powerfully describes the Good News of the cross that *"for our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* (2 Cor. 5:21) I encourage you to think deeply on our all-sufficient Savior and the life that is available to us only in Him.

(Note: Book Club is reading *"The Cross of Christ"* this month—reading this book with us would be an excellent way to prepare to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ at Easter!)

Youth Conference—March 19-21

Give Me An Answer 2010 will challenge students to search deep within their hearts and call out their idols. The Give Me An Answer speakers will teach students to put on armor strong enough to battle the temptations of their world and create within them a Christian worldview of devotion to the Lord and a desire for a pure heart. Dynamic worship and biblical preaching from Boyce College and Southern Seminary professors will inspire students to put to death idols in their lives and pursue

the Lord with single-hearted devotion.

The group will stay Saturday night and attend Sojourn which is the church Pastor Jeff formerly attended.

Please keep these young men and women in your prayers as they learn how to become men and women of God.



March 14th

Waiting For Spring

Dear church Family,

We at the daycare are getting ready for spring. We are very excited to go outside and enjoy our nice playground equipment. In March, we are learning about how God made plants and animals. In bible time, we are learning about how Jesus loved the little children. We continue to have chapel time and Kids Club.

Thank you to those that have brought in Clorox wipes for us. If you could continue to donate Clorox wipes and Lysol spray through the end of these winter months that would help tremendously. The tub for donations is still on the Welcome Center.

Please pray about how you can get involved during the spring and summer months. When the kids are out for summer, we always need extra hands.

Continuing to service,

Julie and the Guiding Light Staff



Women's Lenten Breakfast



March 2nd

Edna Martin Circle

Will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 am, weather permitting, to roll bandages for Haiti. No sewing expertise is required! If you can rip a strip of fabric, roll it around a pencil, tie it with another strip of fabric, and slide it off the pencil – you qualify for the project! At the request of the White Cross chairman there is a need for bandages to assist in the crisis in Haiti and, as well, there is still a need for bandages in the Congo. Please bring your scissors. You are welcome to come for an hour or stay until noon.

We are also in need of used sheets to use in making the bandages. The sheets may be white, patterned, or colored – they may have small holes, tears, or stains. Please be sure they have been washed. Place the sheets in the shelf under the welcome center in the narthex of our church. Please mark them for Edna Martin Circle.

Please come share in fellowship with other women as we help others. If you have any questions, you may phone Mary Jane Porter, 362-6687.

Hands & Hearts

Dinner at 5:30

We will be mailing boxes to our overseas military personnel. Please bring bar cookies from the recipes previously provided. Other food items you may bring are jerky, nuts, trail mix, gum, and cracker products. All ladies are invited to attend for supper and fellowship. For further information you may call Georgia Phelps at 866-0734

Prayer Quilt

“CAN YOU TOUCH A PRAYER? “ “CAN YOU PULL IT CLOSE & FEEL ITS COMFORT?”

A ministry that combines the gift of prayer with the gift of a hand-tied quilt. Quilts are made with love and tied together with prayer for someone in special need. These comforters are a statement of faith and a testimony to our belief in God and in the power of prayer. Quilts are a tangible sign of God's ever present grace and His power to comfort, strengthen and heal.

PRAYERS ARE TIED INTO EACH KNOT

A heavy thread is used to take stitches through the quilt layers, and the ends are left free to be tied with a square knot. Individuals may use the prayer request card, say a silent prayer and tie a knot. Prayer is symbolically tied into each one, a tangible reminder of the many prayers said on their behalf.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO NEEDS TO BE COVERED IN PRAYER BECAUSE OF A LIFE CRISIS?

You may request a Prayer Quilt for someone in a personal crisis by becoming their Sponsor. The sponsor should attend our fellowship but the recipient can be anyone in need of prayer.

You will need to:

1. Ask the quilt recipient if they would like a Prayer Quilt and our gift of prayer.
2. Ask the quilt recipient for their specific prayer request. Requests are tied to quilt so we may agree with them in prayer.
3. Fill out a Prayer Quilt Request Form and give to the church office, attention Nancy Carpenter.
4. You are responsible to pick up and deliver the quilt to the recipient.

PRAYER QUILT REQUEST FORM

Date _____ Name of Recipient _____

Reason for a Prayer Quilt: _____

Prayer Requests: (Prayer Request Card will be displayed with quilt) _____

Requested by:

Sponsor's Name _____ Phone _____

My relationship to Recipient _____

Sponsor's Checklist:

_____ Contact the potential recipient in person or by phone. Explain how the Prayer Quilt Ministry works and ask what can be shared about their situation.

_____ Ask if they would accept the quilt as well as our prayers tied into it. We must have their permission as surprises are inappropriate.

_____ Ask them for their specific prayer requests, not what you think they may want or need.

_____ Pick up and deliver the quilt after it has been tied.

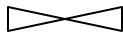
_____ Accept no payment. It is a gift of love and prayer that cannot be bought or sold.

_____ If you have any questions, contact Nancy Carpenter, Prayer Quilt Ministry Coordinator 362-2303

Thank You from the Congregation

I would like to thank my church family, Pastor Isaac, and the Alpha Chi Class for the condolences, visitation, cards, and flowers in honor of my brother and husband, Robert A Greve's death. Your kindness and generosity are much appreciated.

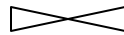
In Christ's love,
Juanita McCauley, Helen Greve
and families



Hello First Baptist Family!!

I would just like to say thank you sooo much for our college care package! We both really appreciate it and are so blessed to have an amazing church family!!

Thanks again Nathaniel & Bethany
Overpeck



First Baptist Family

Thank you for the cookie packages we received. We loved them! It is nice to have a church that loves and takes care of us since we are so far from home.

Thanks, Dawit, Win & Tuan

Lilies for the Sanctuary

Easter is approaching and it is time to start planning for decorating the sanctuary. If you would like to donate a lily in memory/honor of a loved one you may purchase one on your own. Flowers N Things have them available for \$12.50 & \$20.50 and will deliver them to the church if you would like.

Please have the flowers at the church before 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 1st, the church will be closed on April 2nd in observance of Good Friday.



CONGRATULATIONS

Brian & Katie Oliver

on the arrival of:

Adelaide Elizabeth

Born: January 27th at 7.1
pounds, 19.25 inches

Grandparents:

John & Marcie Sands;

Aunts: Laura & Rachel

Great-Grandmothers: Fairy
Chism and Janice Sands

MARCH CALENDAR

- 1 Financial Peace 6:00
(Every Monday thru March)
- 2 Edna Martin Circle 9:30
Hands & Hearts 5:30
- 6 Men's Lenten Breakfast
- 9 Board of CE 6:30
- 12 CACHE 6:00
- 13 Book Club 9am
- 15 Newsletter Deadline
- 18 Keenagers Lunch
Passion Group - N Kline 7:00
- 19 Youth Conference
- 21 Cabinet Meeting 6:00
- 23 Women's Fellowship Meeting 6:30
- 25 GLCCM Meeting 5:45
CACHE 6:00
- 29 Assemble Newsletters 9:00

Our Sincere Sympathy and Prayers are
Expressed to the Families in the lost of :

Avis Cooke
Dorothy Ritter Carroll
Robert Greve
Joan Garrard



- Connie England—hip replacement
- John Thompson—throat cancer
- Judy Covert—Surgery
- Mike Funk—bone marrow transplant
- Bill Kidwell—bypass surgery
- Jim Conger—Cancer

March Birthdays

Anniversaries

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Wayne Clouse Donald Gobel Gerald Thacker Dixon Channing 2 Sandy Meade Mike Myers 3 Dee Ratcliff Joshua Fry 4 Howard Record Emily Clore 5 Peter Zull James Brann Sean Spencer 7 James Shahan Austin Day Jaden Day 8 Kyle Light 9 Brandon Hoffman 11 Janet Allen Betty Dickerson Martie Akers Kim Ames Stephanie Ross Emily Jones | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 Clay Williams 13 Rosalyn Tate Matt Maxwell 14 Joyce Fry 15 Joyce Berry John Heiger Erica Furr Alexis Hart 16 Beth Clore Brian Ward 17 Carla Earl 18 Ethel Cotton Nancy Fry Janet Smiley 19 Eleanor Pitcock Brittany Heide Bethany Lee 20 Mike Cox Emily Thompson 21 Robert Streetman 22 Nancy Teague Aaron Hinckley Daniele Jewell 23 Libbie Blickenstaff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23 Kristi Thornburg Cindy Thompson Corey Hoffman Ellen Gable 24 Bill Boone Rita Arthur Debbie Coffing Lauren Gobel 25 Kristen Kinkead 26 Jeremy Weliever Wanda Harshbarger Vicki Ratcliff Jennifer Hutson Tommy Mitchell 27 Edith Clouse 29 Laurie Rosi Sarah Williams 30 Howard Holt Ethan Pearman 31 Shirley Pyle Rachel Parker Shane Hobson |
|--|---|---|

- 3 Robert & Jeri Wilson
- 7 James & Marti Shahan
- 9 David & Betty Carver
- 10 Jim & Mary Deckard
- 11 Schuyler & Cozetta Haines
Jim & Nancy Fry
- 14 Shane & Shannon Harrison
- 17 Jeremy & Pam Weliever
- 18 Roger & Phyllis Kenny
- 20 CJ & Joan Brooks
- 21 Steve & Kay Sowder
- 21 John & Chris Gable
- 22 Phil & Lisa Bray
- 27 Ronald & Dianna Waye
- 28 Roger & Darcie Rockenbaugh
- 29 Larry & Dee Ratcliff