

Pray for the world in 2012!

The following pages of maps and flags and other information were compiled in December 2011 and January 2012. The information was accurate at the time of compilation, but details (names of presidents, kings, etc.) may change during the course of the year.

Sources include www.worldatlas.com, <http://education.nationalgeographic.com>, www.persecution.com, and www.kidsofcourage.com.

The prayer requests are from the 2012 VOM Prayer Calendar. You can use this information to pray for the world with or without the calendar.

WILL YOU PRAY?

The 2012 VOM Prayer Calendar

The Voice of the Martyrs' 2012 Prayer Calendar will help you fellowship with and pray for these persecuted believers, sharing in their trials and being encouraged by their tremendous faith. The calendar features photos and brief stories of persecuted Christians, many of them youths, who exhibit an unwavering trust in Christ despite persecution.

The prayer calendar makes an excellent gift for family and friends, serving as a daily reminder to pray for the persecuted church. For as little as \$4, you can give the gift of prayer to the persecuted church while giving family and friends the opportunity to fellowship with those persecuted for their faith.

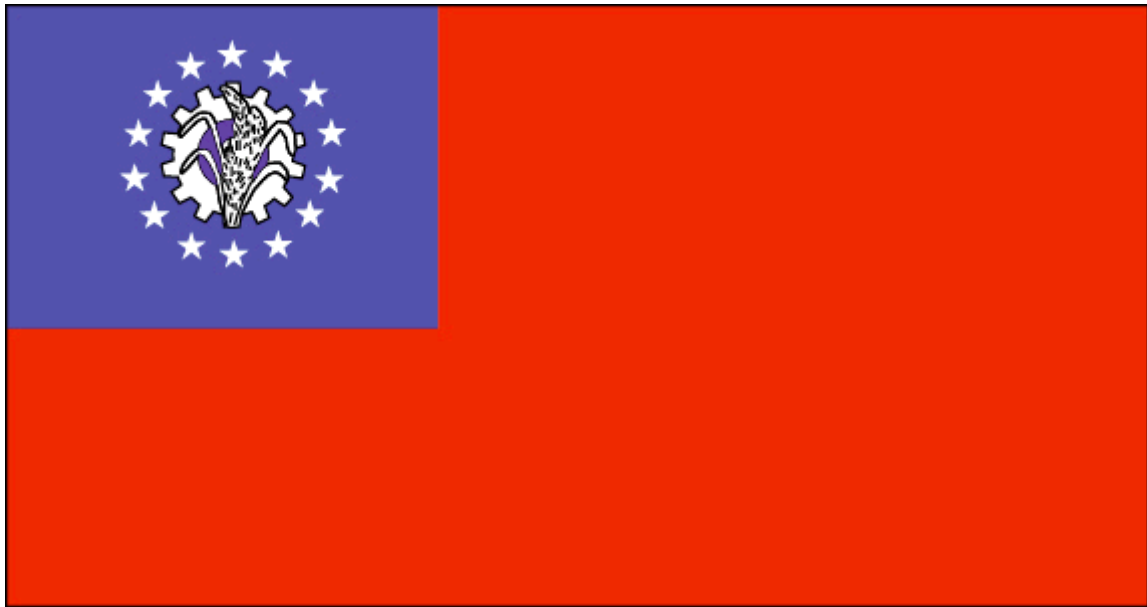
But Jesus called them unto Him, and said,
"Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not:
for of such is the kingdom of God." Luke 18:16 (KJV)

Visit

http://etools.vomusa.org/a/vomso/bg_vomso_wdbm-20111205-PrayerCalendar_443.html

to request your 2012 Voice of the Martyrs Prayer Calendar.

www.scripturemelodies.com



The Burma (Myanmar) flag was officially adopted on January 4, 1974.

Red, blue and white symbolize courage, peace and purity, in that order. The flag features a socialist style symbol on the blue field.

Burma (from www.kidsofcourage.com)

Capital

Rangoon (also called “Yangon”) has been the capital. The government has moved many of its offices to Nay Pyi Taw, making that city the “administrative capital.”

Size

Burma is a little smaller than Texas.

Main Languages

Bangla (also known as Bengali), English

Time

At 6 a.m. U.S. Central Standard Time, it is 6:30 p.m. in Rangoon.

Interesting Fact

Thanaka is a paste or powder made from tree bark. Many women and children in Burma wear thanaka on their faces to prevent sunburn and to keep their skin cool. It is also used as makeup. Some people apply it on their faces in pretty patterns.

History

Myanmar was part of India until 1947. Then it became East Pakistan. Myanmar became an independent country in 1971. Natural disasters are common in Myanmar. The government has not had a history of treating people fairly. Human rights and freedoms are often not respected.

Religion

“The government would like all the people to speak the same language, Burmese, and to follow the same religion, Buddhism,” a Christian worker said. Most Christian missionaries were kicked out of the country in the 1960s.

The government persecutes minority groups. Christianity is strong among some of the groups. This gives the government two reasons to persecute members of the groups.

Persecution

Christians have a hard time getting permission to build new churches or repair old ones. Sometimes government officials destroy places of worship. The government limits the number of Bibles that can be brought into the country. Sometimes they have even listed certain words that cannot be printed in the Bibles! Most Christian missions and missionaries were kicked out of the country in the 1960s. In general, no new permanent Christian missions are allowed to come into the country.

Burma: Jail, a New Place to Preach (from www.kidsofcourage.com)

March 1, 2011



A Burmese monk

Luke grew up in a Buddhist family in Burma. He and his family are part of the Rakhine tribe. Few Rakhine people know about Jesus. Only about one-tenth of 1 percent are Christians. That means if there were 1,000 Rakhine people, maybe only one would be a Christian. (There are actually more than a million Rakhine people in Burma.)

Many Rakhine boys spend a few months living as monks in a monastery. A monastery is a place where monks live together, separate from others and from their families. Monks spend their time studying their religion and following its rules. Some Buddhist boys decide to become monks for the rest of their lives.

But Luke heard about Jesus and decided to give his life to him! He wanted to share his new faith with other Rakhine people, so he walked from village to village, talking to people about the good news of Jesus.

The police did not want Luke to help more Buddhists become Christians. First they burned his Bible to try to stop him from spreading Christianity. Then they put him in jail for nine months. "At first I was afraid ... because I knew the people inside the jail are very cruel and they would beat me and treat me bad," Luke said after he got out of jail.

Luke was right. The police hit him and fed him terrible food. He received only one cup of water a day to drink. But Luke noticed that the criminals in the jail were worse off than he was, because they did not know Jesus. "When I was inside, I worried about them more than myself. I always had concern for them," said Luke.

Luke saw his time in prison as another opportunity to tell people about God and Jesus. He led six prisoners to Christ. Thank God for persecuted Christians who continue to share his love, even in harsh places. Pray that more Rakhine people and other Buddhists will give their lives to his Son, Jesus.

(To protect their identities, the names of some of the people on this site and some identifying details have been changed.)

Pray for Burma (Myanmar).

1 – Pray for Karen and Chin ethnic Christians, who are singled out for abuse.

2 – Pray for Christians among the Naga, Kachin, Shan and Karenni people.

3 – Pray for VOM's efforts to provide Bibles and assistance to pastors and believers.

4 – Pray for "Luke," "Peter" and "Paul," who share the gospel in this hostile environment.

5 – Pray for a strong church among the Rakhine tribe, Burma's most unreached people group.

6 – Pray for Stephen, a Christian teacher severely beaten for sharing Christ with his students.

7 – Pray for President Thein Sein.

Link to map:

http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/mapping/outline-map/?map=Myanmar&ar_a=1