Beauty For Ashes

GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE ROHINGYA



The story of the Rohingya is one of ashes, mourning and despair. Having been rendered stateless, most fled from Myanmar because of the genocide. Now they live in countries like Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Thailand where they continue to face rejection, persecution and imprisonment. Life is a daily struggle - they lack access to healthcare, education, and security.

On the surface, there appears to be little hope for the Rohingya, but God has not forgotten them; He has never stopped loving them. Now, the Rohingya live in places where they can hear of His great love from messengers of the Good News. God transforms ashes into beauty, sorrow into blessing, and despair into praise. Suffering is finite, but God's great love is not.

Nur's Story...

Tap one domino in a run and the whole line falls over. That's how trauma works – the horror of genocide leaves a lasting mark on the hearts and minds of those who endure it. A single sweep of atrocities can change the path of generations to come.

When Nur arrived in the United States, she had already endured a significant amount of suffering and carried a heavy burden of past traumas. The line of dominoes had kept falling: fleeing for her life from a burning village; being trafficked to Malaysia for an arranged marriage; and giving birth in a hospital where the doctors and nurses were hostile. All this knowing she was forever separated from the family she loved.

Within a year of being resettled in America, Nur's husband died, her son was hospitalized, and her house burned down. Darkness enveloped her world. However, Nur managed to get a job in a social enterprise specializing in trauma-informed care. The organization stood by her, despite her past traumas hindering her job performance, providing invaluable support from doctors and volunteers who could address her practical needs.

We met Nur just before the fire and stood with her, helping to dig through the ashes to rescue any belongings. Through this tragedy, a deep friendship was forged. In the following years, we sat together through the grief of losing loved ones, celebrated the birth of babies, and rejoiced when "To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the LORD has planted for his own glory."

[Isaiah 61:3 NLT]

"Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

[Luke 21:28 NKJV]





citizenship was obtained. Each of these experiences set in motion a chain of interconnected dominoes, strengthening our relationship. As time passed, Nur's eyes began to glow with light. Over time, she began to take on new challenges, and nurture new connections. She seeks out those who need help and finds ways to be part of their story. Little by little, she's rebuilding her life.

Tap one domino and the whole line falls over. Connect to one heart and a whole house can be rebuilt. What the enemy of our souls intended for evil, Almighty God can turn into good. It happens one connection at a time. And the best is yet to come.

Pray with us...

MORE PRAYER

- To stand in the gap for the Rohingya and fight their spiritual battle
- For 10% of Rohingya to come into the Kingdom by 2028

MORE PEOPLE TO GO

 To places where there is no messenger of the Good News, like Pakistan and Saudi Arabia

FOR THE BROKENHEARTED AND THOSE WHO MOURN

- For their wounds to be bound up and comforted
- · For their trauma to be healed

FOR THE CAPTIVES AND PRISONERS TO BE FREED

- Those who are detained physically
- Those who are traumatized emotionally and mentally
- Those in chains spiritually

FOR THOSE WITH A FAINT SPIRIT

- To be encouraged, find meaning, and hope for their future
- To find eternal hope, security, and citizenship in God's Kingdom

FOR GOD TO BE GLORIFIED IN THE ROHINGYA

- That they may be called oaks of righteousness, planted by the Lord for His glory
- That those who follow Jesus will remain strong in their relationship with Him
- That the first fruits would multiply and there would be a movement of Rohingya worshiping Jesus

Praise...

- That suffering will come to an end! Declare that instead of dishonour, the Rohingya shall rejoice and have everlasting joy as their redemption draws near.
- For the Rohingya who already have been clothed with the garment of salvation, the robe of righteousness!
- "For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations." Isaiah 61:11 NIV



