



HOPE

for the HOPELESS

The Global Day of Prayer comes – again – at a time of uncertainty and turmoil for the Rohingya. The continuing Covid pandemic and the brutal aftermath of the military coup in Myanmar have left many Rohingya feeling desperate and hopeless. Let us focus our prayers on Jesus, who is the only Hope for the hopeless!

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."
(Romans 15:13)*

The Rohingya have faced decades of rejection and suffering and their future looks bleak. Let us stand in faith together and pray for Rohingya people around the world to know the love, freedom, and hope that comes from the loving Father. This year we are praying into three specific areas:

The words which Jeremiah said to a depressed Israel in exile are valid for the Rohingya today as well: "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"
(Jeremiah 29:11)

Covid-19: Hope In Hard Times

The Covid pandemic has massively disrupted economic and social life all over the world. Whilst the impact is felt in the wealthy west, how much worse is the reality for those at the bottom of the spectrum – the disenfranchised and uprooted Rohingya.

A deadly third wave of Covid is ravaging Myanmar, where the health system lies in ruins after the military coup. Oxygen is in extremely short supply and experts predict that hundreds of thousands of lives will be lost. The refugees in the camps in Bangladesh are facing even harsher restrictions on their movement, and hardly any opportunity remains to earn much needed cash. Many Rohingya in Malaysia who depend on low-paid jobs under very harsh conditions have been without income for many months. Wherever the Rohingya are, they are amongst those who feel the economic and health impact of the crisis the worst.

"Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God." (Psalm 42:5)

- Pray for healing for those who have contracted the virus
- Pray that God would have mercy on the families who have lost loved ones to Covid
- Pray that God would provide for the daily needs of those without income
- Pray that desperate and hopeless people will find hope in Jesus



Social Media: HOPE FOR A GOOD FUTURE

Many Rohingya people are active on social media. This provides a great opportunity to connect online with people who are spiritually seeking. The Media to Movements team uses advertising on social media platforms in the Rohingya language to engage people in faith conversations. The aim is to show them the hope found in the God of Hope and his son Jesus Christ.

It works like a funnel. At the top you have a wide reach through digital media: praying for the adverts to reach where the Holy Spirit is already at work. These people can respond by initiating a digital audio conversation; this may lead to a face-to-face meeting and opportunity for discipleship. These successive steps would form the bottom of the funnel, connecting and ministering to individuals who are responding to the message.

We pray that many Rohingya people will put their hope in the Lord: "Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."
(Isaiah 40:31)

- Pray that the adverts on social media are seen by Rohingya people who are seeking
- Pray for boldness for Rohingya to respond to the adverts
- Pray for protection for the Rohingya Christians who are the 'first responders'
- Pray for wisdom and creativity for the team in deciding what media to use



Resilience: HOPE ANCHORED IN GOD

Resilience is a quality many Rohingya people seem to have. Adapting to stressful life changes and 'bouncing back' from hardship is part of their everyday life. However, unforgiveness and hurt can be a barrier for Rohingya people to encounter the love and freedom found in Jesus. True resilience does not mean a person is unaffected by situations. It is about having a response that allows a person to move on despite the suffering and grow from it. As Christians we believe this is only possible with the grace and mercy of a loving God. Through faith in Jesus we are upheld by God's power and able to be resilient:

"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." (2 Corinthians 4:8-9)

Declare this verse over the Rohingya. May they come to know the truth that they were created by a God who deeply loves them and cares for them. The current situation is not the end for the Rohingya – the God of Hope will sustain them and help them be resilient .

- Pray for God to strengthen and protect those who are weak and vulnerable
- Pray Rohingya people would come to know the love and peace found in Jesus
- Pray people would see how God is at work through tragedy and loss
- Pray the Rohingya will choose to trust in the Lord rather than rely on their own understanding



Thank you for praying with us!
Visit www.pray4rohingya.com