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UNLEASHING THE GOSPEL



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First Baptist Church Subang Jaya

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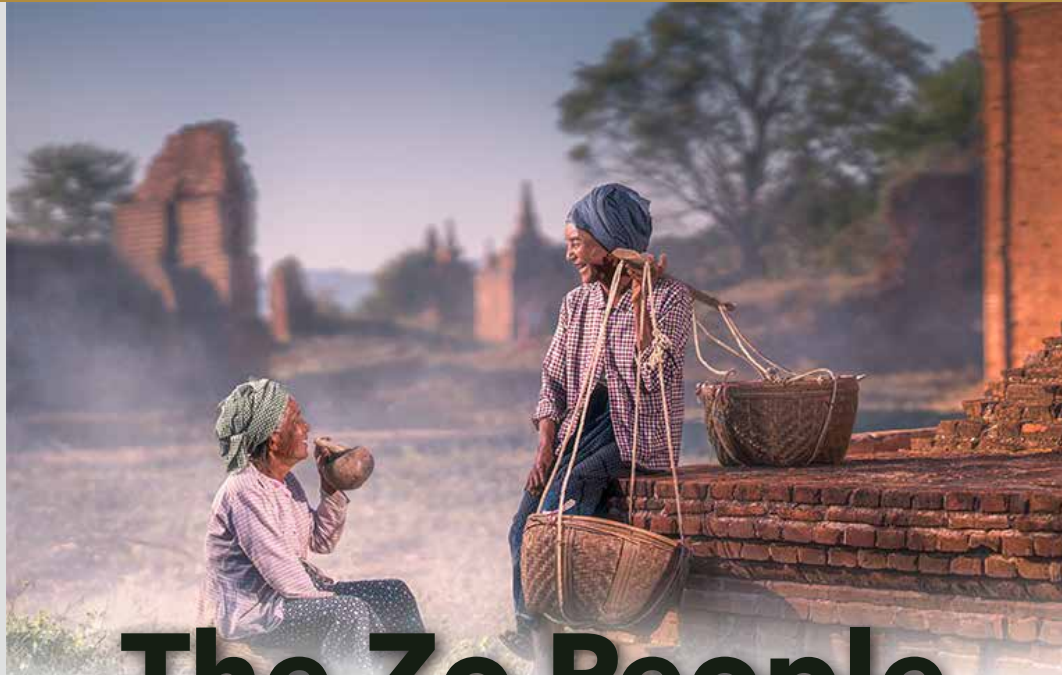
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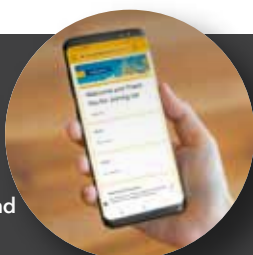
The Zo People of Myanmar

According to the Oxford dictionary, a refugee is defined as "a person who has been forced to leave their country or home, because there is a war or for political, religious or social reasons." Today, there are still Christians who have to flee their homeland because of religious persecution, and it is a reality that is a lot more common than we think.

The most recognized refugee we know is Jesus. He had to flee Egypt when a baby because King Herod was out to kill him. And throughout His days of ministry, Jesus was constantly on the move because many were out to harm Him. As Christians, we are not spared from persecution here on earth because we are not home yet; heaven is our home. The same can be said for the Zo people of the Chin tribe who hail from Myanmar.

NEW?

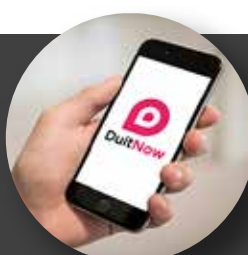
CLICK to send us your details so we can welcome and connect with you!



GIVING

Business ID:
BT76

How To Give?



Need To Talk To Someone?

Whatsapp or Call TalkToUs at

+6011 5788 4805





Did you know that there is a sizeable Zo community living right here in our Subang Jaya neighbourhood? Do you recognize them when you see them?

Myanmar is made up of 8 major native tribal groups, namely the Kachin, the Kayah, the Kayin, the Chin, the Bamar, the Mon, the Rakhine, and the Shan. Among these 8 tribes, there are approximately 135 officially recognized ethnic groups who speak their own dialects. The Zo people are among the Chins from the Chin state which is located in the North-West of Myanmar. Most of them are farmers, and they prefer to hunt for their meals. Although Buddhism is widely practiced in Myanmar, many of the Zo people are Christians. Consequently, they face persecution because of it.

Desiring to escape persecution and seek asylum or find better job opportunities, some of the Zo people have come to Malaysia. They would often escape Myanmar by traveling through Thailand before entering Malaysia through the Thai border (as that is the easiest point of entry). Some of them have been here among us for more than 10 years! However, due to the lack of education and qualifications, the kinds of work they can secure are limited to labour-intensive jobs. Most of the Zo community here in Subang Jaya work in restaurants, while some work in car and bicycle sale and service shops, and some others in beauty salons.

Needless to say, Covid-19 has impacted us all, mostly in a negative way, and it has had a profound impact

on the Zo people who are here as refugees. For the Zo community, the men/ fathers are the sole breadwinners, and unemployment due to lockdowns has hit them hard. They have been struggling to put food on the table and pay rent for more than a year. Basic necessities have been hard to come by. This is because job opportunities are few and far between at the moment. For those who have jobs, it is a daily risk to show up at work because of the increasing number of Covid cases. However, they still put themselves out there for the sake of their families. Education for the children has been put on hold for these families too as most education platforms have shifted online. These families are not able to afford electronic devices, internet service, or even school fees – especially not when they are struggling to have their basic needs met.

1 Peter 4:9 instructs us to offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

How are we responding to the needs of the Zo community – our Christian brothers and sisters and our neighbours? Are we meeting their physical and spiritual needs? As we focus on the Zo people this month, may we be spurred to pray for them and help them. Let us also continually ask ourselves this: **“How are we reflecting Christ to those around us?”**



If you find yourself asking, “But what can I do?” I have a suggestion for you. Partner with FBC and Love Subang Jaya. Here are 6 easy ways you can join us in caring for 16 Zo families in our Subang Jaya neighbourhood!

1. **Pray** for a Zo family on a regular basis, pray for our FBC volunteers on delivery day, and pray about contributing financially towards this outreach.
2. **Connect** with a family! “Adopt” a Zo family and send hand-written notes, cards and gifts as a way to share God’s love with them. These gifts will be collected once a month in church and sent to the families along with some groceries.
3. **Purchase** fixed grocery sets for the families. These will be collected in church a day before delivery day.
4. **Pack** grocery items for delivery. This happens once a month, in church, on delivery day.
5. **Deliver** the gifts and groceries to the families in Goodyear Court 3, 4, and 5. You can also offer your vehicle for use on delivery day. N95 masks, face shields, and gloves will be provided for each volunteer.
6. **Oversee** and coordinate the organization of each of the teams above.

Join a team and encourage your Life Group to do this together! Contact Johnson (016-305 9027) for more information.

Conversation Catalyst

- Do our cultural biases hinder us from loving our refugee brothers and sisters?
- How have we been showing love and respect to those working in the service industry?
- Do we intentionally create job opportunities for refugees? How can we support their livelihoods and make education accessible for their children?
- Do we endeavour to reach out to refugees and disciple our Christian brothers and sisters that God has brought to our doorsteps? Are we intentionally seeking them out and connecting with them?



How did the Chins become refugees?

The Chin state is a mountainous region in west Myanmar, bordering India and Bangladesh. It is where the Zo people are from. Why are most of them now refugees?

In the late 19th century, the British invaded and annexed their territory into Burma, which was a British colony. Missionaries then arrived and introduced the Chins to Christianity. Burma eventually received independence from the British in 1948, and the Chins adopted a democratic government. They even celebrate 20th February as "Chin State Day". However, the military coup by General Ne Win in 1962 led to the totalitarian rule and political dominance of the army. The Chins suffered years of armed conflict and violence, as well as ethnic and religious persecution by Buddhist nationalist movements.

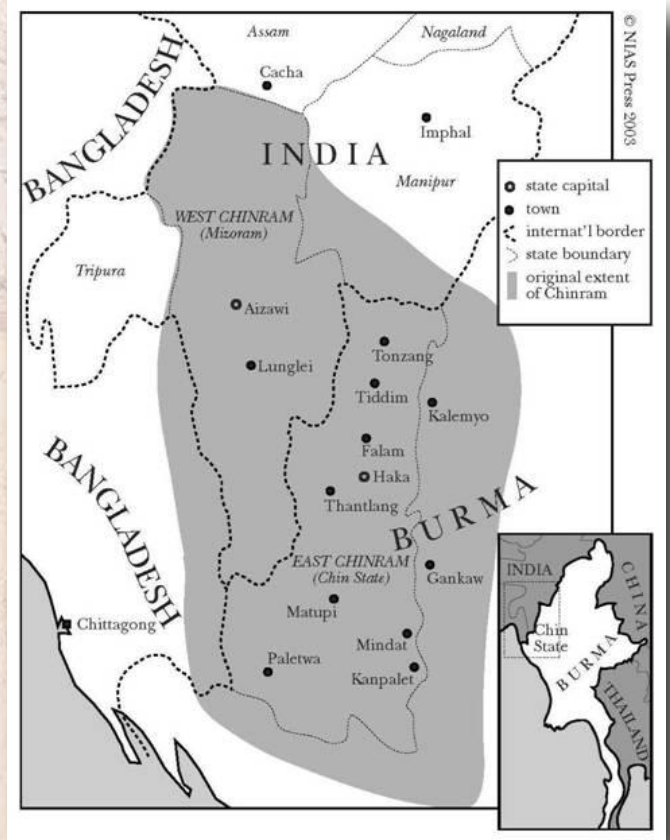
Today, the Chins are targeted in Myanmar because most of them are Christians. Since 1990, the military regime has become increasingly forceful in their attempts to coerce the Chins to convert to Buddhism. In their effort to prevent the spread of Christianity, they have been destroying churches and harassing, arresting, and abusing pastors, among many things. Children of Christian families are also being sent to monasteries to receive Buddhist teachings against their will, done under the guise of being registered to receive formal education in the city.

There have been consistent reports of recruitment of the Chins as forced labour, taking farmers away from their fields. As a result, families are unable to afford food, healthcare, and education, forcing many to take out loans just to pay for basic services. The Chin state remains as one of the poorest and most underdeveloped territories in Myanmar.

In 2015, the Chin National Army signed a National Ceasefire Agreement with the government of Myanmar to end all hostilities. However, discrimination and persecution by the government persist to this day. There are continual forced evictions, threats of arson, bans on religious gatherings, and assaults.

Here in Malaysia, asylum seekers receive protection solely from being granted refugee status by the UNHCR. However, the Chin refugees now risk losing their refugee status (UNHCR card) and protection because they are no longer considered an "at risk" group by the UN. While their safety from being repatriated to Myanmar is continually being monitored and assessed by the UN, the Chins live in

constant fear of deportation. Let us keep them in our prayers.



Map of the Original Territory of Ethnic Chin Tribes

© 2003 Lian H. Sakhong, *In Search of Chin Identity: A Study in Religion, Politics and Ethnic Identity in Burma* (Denmark: Nordic Institute of Asian Studies).

Learn more about the Chins

- Read: ["We Are Like Forgotten People" The Chin People of Burma: Unsafe in Burma, Unprotected in India](#) (Human Rights Watch, 2009)
- Read: [Zo History](#) (Vumson, 2011)
- Watch: [Christians Oppressed in Myanmar's Chin State](#) (Al Jazeera, 2017)

Sources:

<https://minorityrights.org/minorities/chin/>
<https://www.rage.com.my/refugeesnomore-chin/>
https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18358/BM
https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/16110/BM
<https://www.hrw.org/report/2009/01/27/we-are-forgotten-people/chin-people-burma-unsafe-burma-unprotected-india>



By Dickson Kam

Dickson is a member of FBC's Missions Team.

| Pulpit Program

September 5, 2021
The Divisiveness of Jesus
(Matthew 10:16-42)



PREACHER
Lee Yee Dian

September 12, 2021
The Church and the tree of life
(Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17, 3:1-7, 22)



PREACHER
Arnold Lim

September 19, 2021
The Anatomy of Unbelief
(Matthew 11:1-24)



PREACHER
Alex Tan

September 26, 2021
The Yoke of Jesus
(Matthew 11:25-29)



PREACHER
John Lee

| Worship with Us



MAIN SERVICE
| ZOOM |
Sundays 8:45am & 11:15am



YOUTH SERVICE
| ZOOM |
Sundays 9:00am



SUNDAY SCHOOL
for Ages 0-12yrs
| ZOOM |
Sundays



Call office to know more:
03-5621 2623

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT



Pray for the Refugees

1. Pray for Christians facing and fleeing persecution. Pray that God will keep them steadfast in their faith, and that they will hold fast to God in the midst of trials.
2. Pray for supernatural protection and healing from Covid-19. Many refugees are undocumented in their host country, and are afraid to or have no means to get tested, get vaccinated, or seek medical help.
3. Pray that God will use us to love the people around us. Pray that we will step up and use our context and influence to create opportunities for refugees to have a livelihood and education.
4. Pray that God will transform us and use us to extend His hospitality to the greater community He has placed us in.

| Upcoming Events



Romans
From Wretchedness To Righteousness
A new Gamma series starting 22 September 2021.
Every Wednesday
For more information, contact Church Office at 03-5621 2623



Sermon on The Mount
Explore the Teachings of Jesus on the Beatitudes
Every Tuesday
8:00pm - 9:45pm
To register/ for more information, contact **Lammy Tan** at **012-386 8460**.



Is There More to Life Than This?
Every Thursday
8:00pm
CLICK HERE to register for the next Alpha program starting January 2022.



DAILY
oZoom PRAYER MEETING
Daily Prayer Meeting
Every Saturday to Thursday
9:00pm
Zoom ID: **929 735 694**
Password: **pray**



MONTHLY
oZoom PRAYER MEETING
Monthly Prayer Meeting
25 September 2021 (Saturday)
2:00pm to 3:30pm
Zoom ID: **869 8003 5137**
Password: **pray**

More Information on Upcoming Events