

How Christian Women in Myanmar are Responding to God in the Midst of Troubles



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It has been more than two years of crisis in Myanmar stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic and political turmoil. We have never had to experience such twin troubles before and could never have imagined it to happen. Many people have lost their jobs and this condition is destroying their dreams and hopes. The waves of pandemic and unstable politics have not been favorable to Christian women in Myanmar. We are severely affected on all fronts socially, financially, mentally and spiritually. However, we cling to the incomparable blessing of having Jesus in our lives, our real Hope for deliverance and salvation. Our Emmanuel God has not abandoned us in the midst of these tragedies. He has been faithful to those who call upon His name.

Our women's responses to God in these challenging times are simple but very encouraging. The first and foremost is prayer which has been very powerful indeed. We are petitioning God not just as a responsibility, but with hearts of compassion and brokenness. Many women are coming in unity to the presence of the Lord. Since June 2020, as the leader of the Myanmar Evangelical Women group, we have held regular Tuesday zoom prayer meetings. It has been a wonderful place of encouragement and support as we walk through the valleys of sadness, hardship and hopelessness. Though Myanmar women are by nature shy and slow to respond, they do not hesitate to come before God to seek Him and ask Him for deliverance and mercy. The prayer and intercession times among the women have been such a beautiful experience!!

Secondly, as most Myanmar women are housewives at home, they initially felt helpless and thought there was nothing they could contribute to alleviate sufferings in their midst. It turned out this was not true. One of the cleverest ideas that came forth was using their skills in cooking.

Seeing so many people in desperate need even for a meal in Myanmar right now, the housewives now cook very delicious simple meals for hundreds of people and then distribute them in their neighborhoods. They give them to the ordinary people like trishaw drivers, hawkers, and even to the poor sex workers. They do not only give a meal box but also share the gospel by giving tracts. It is such a wonderful opportunity to spread the good news in Myanmar. People receive the meals with tears of joy. A meal does not cost too much but it conveys powerfully the love of God to these people.

Thirdly, for some Christian women, they do not just pray but they show their faith in action. They raise funds from their friends to support the displaced people, especially the children. This has made a great impact on these people.

The final way of response is the intercessors' immediate prayer for the needy. They do not wait for the next prayer meeting but have developed a habit to pray immediately when they hear or read posts of injustice and suffering on social media in Myanmar. It might seem like a small easy contribution but its effect is immeasurable.

The Myanmar people are in pain and brokenhearted to see the sorrowful things occurring around them. We want to end this suffering right away, and we will continue to call upon the Lord, and wait for His mighty hand of love to move in our land.

Let me conclude with these verses in Habakkuk 2:17-18 - "Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be in the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls. Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation." ■