## **ABCUSA Call to Prayer for Myanmar 2021**



## A Corporate Prayer for Burma

ALL: "Hear our prayer, O Lord."

Child: I'm Moo Tar, and I'm in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. I am good in art and in reading. My parents came as refugees from Burma, but I was born here. My mom and my uncle worry a lot about my cousins who live in a village in the countryside in Burma. My grandmother takes care of my 3 cousins, who are all girls. Their parents died because there isn't always good medical care in rural areas. My uncle worries that the military will do something bad to my cousins. Hear my prayer, God, and keep my grandmother and cousins safe.

Elderly man: Before I was old enough to leave home, the military destroyed my village 5 times. Each time, they would come and point a gun at us and say, "You set fire to your house, or I will shoot you." What choice did my parents have? We would run into the jungle—"internally displaced" until we felt it was safe to return to our little piece of land. Hear my prayer, God, for those who have been internally displaced in recent military action in Burma.

Mother: I worry about my son and daughter. They left the village to study in the city. They are participating in the peaceful protests against the coup. God, hear my prayer for their protection. Bless their efforts to promote justice and peace in our country.

Student: I come from a long line of Baptist pastors. I am studying for the ministry myself. We weren't allowed to study Karen, my mother tongue, in our school, but I learned Karen at home and at church. The unrest in Burma is making it hard to continue my studies. Hear my prayer, God, that I would be able to finish my degree and serve my people.

Pastor: Half a world away, God, our hearts are turned to Burma. Those on the run from military attacks in the jungle are our sisters and brothers, aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins and friends. Those protesting peacefully and struggling to study are your young adults following their conscience. Change the hearts of military leaders and restore democracy to Burma. Make Burma a place where all people, no matter their ethnicity would be free to live and work and study in their heart language and free to use the land you have given them for generations for the good of their families and to your glory.

ALL: "Hear our prayer, O Lord. Amen"

Rev. Debbie Kelsey

Tabernacle Baptist Church of Utica, NY—An intercultural congregation of ethnic Karen and other people