

# Soldiers Frighten Children

April 2023



February 1, 2021 the citizens of Myanmar awoke to the news that the military had taken over the country and they would no longer enjoy a democracy. Unfortunately, during the past two years the political situation has continued to deteriorate causing many challenges and hardships for the people. From internet reports, I found that over 1.1 million people have been displaced, over 28,000 homes destroyed and thousands have been killed. You may recall that one of the children's homes we support has taken in young children two different times to keep them safe from being abducted by the military.



Cyrus with students who won awards at school this year.

Our friends at House of Refuge have endured difficulties such as rapidly increasing food prices and lack of utilities, internet, etc. On one occasion Pastor Cyrus's wife was riding their motorbike when she was apprehended and taken in for questioning. She was later released but their motorbike was confiscated by

the authorities. As disturbing as these events have been, they recently experienced further distress. In Cyrus's words:

*Yesterday night at 10:00 PM, soldiers came suddenly and came into our girls, boys, and our family's rooms and forced us to come out by aiming their guns and rifles at us. They threatened me and the innocent children without any reason. They also required me to report all lists of the children to the community ruler office monthly. We are losing our sense of safety to live here.*

It disturbs us to know our precious friends are suffering so much. The situation also makes it more difficult for us to assist them. They can no longer receive money through their bank accounts so we have to find other ways to send them funds. We were unable to visit them when we were in Asia last year. Yet even with all the challenges, they continue to provide a loving, caring, Christ-centered home to thirty three beautiful young people.



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Another challenge they face is helping the older children transition from the orphanage to adulthood. They currently have eight young adults that have completed secondary school and desire to learn a trade. They have already provided vocational training for Eunice and William, who have opened their own beauty shop and barber shop in town. They each sleep in their own shop and work

during the week. They return home to House of Refuge on the weekends to help with the younger children and participate in worship services.

With this in mind, Global Outreach has developed a Transition Plan designed to provide support in the form of lodging, and access to vocational



training to those who are aging out of care. We hope to be able to implement this program soon on behalf of these children as funds become available. Last year we were able to purchase an acre of land near the city for the purpose of developing this Transition Program in Myanmar. So far we have not been able to begin construction of the needed facilities. We invite you to bless our friends in Myanmar with your prayer and support as they face these challenging times.

Update from Grace Children's Home in Bangladesh



\*Pastor Samuel sent us an update and pictures of the children when they received their new school uniforms. He also said they are all settling in well and are much healthier than when they arrived. They have treated them for worms and lice. The children say the food is delicious! In addition to their studies at school they have evening devotions, they are memorizing scripture and learning to pray. Saturday evenings they have extended times of prayer and he says they pray for all those who provide support for them. They will need monthly support as well as extra things like another change of clothing, towels, and health items. Bless you for helping!

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