

BEATEN NOT BROKEN

Persecution and the Kingdom of God in Viet Nam

As you prepared for your Easter Sunday worship the possibility of being beaten by an angry mob of those opposed to Christianity probably didn't go through your mind. Unfortunately, the same is not true for many Believers within Viet Nam. A few days ago we posted [the story of Pastor H](#) and some new Believers he is ministering to in a village outside the larger city where he lives. Despite having rocks thrown at them, their houses and property vandalized and their livestock killed or run off – the faith of these new Believers has held strong. They are in the minority in their village. Only two families out of the whole village have turned to trust in Almighty God.



Angrily the villagers shouted, "You're bringing shame and dishonor to us – you've betrayed us. You must denounce this Jesus and we will leave you alone."

But the new Believers faithfully replied, "We believe Jesus is our Lord. We will not turn away from Him."

Last week when Pastor H visited their village, word spread quickly among the other villagers that he was there. Confronting him they told him they would no longer tolerate his disruption of their village. Beating him with fists and sticks, Pastor H was forced to run out of the village to escape serious injury. After getting some distance down the road Pastor H waited and rested, hoping that the Believers in the village would manage to bring his motorcycle out to him. A couple hours passed before he saw the husbands from the believing families coming down the road – but without his motorcycle. "They were still mad that you had gotten away," one man said. "So they took their anger out on your motorcycle next, hitting it with rocks and boards they broke it down into many pieces." The three men huddled together and prayed for one another – for faithfulness and for the salvation of those in the village so opposed to the Savior they desperately need. Pastor H then set off on foot for the long trek back to his city.

There are many reports of this type of persecution and opposition to the Gospel, destruction of church buildings, harassment, beatings and even earlier this month [the report](#) of a pastor killed while in police custody. Most such reports come from the rural areas especially the Central Highlands and the northern mountainous regions both predominately populated by ethnic minorities. Typically the persecution is seen as initiated locally rather than from the central government although there is also little evidence that the central government exerts significant influence to stop such persecution. The tightening of national religious laws which went into effect in January has led many to be concerned that the situation is getting worse.

We would never downplay the seriousness of such opposition, or make light of the pain that many Believers and especially those serving churches face. Nevertheless, persecution and opposition are a reality promised to us from Scripture. What is most critical is how we as Believers respond to such attacks. See our article "[Did the crack in the door close?](#)" for more discussion of this issue. Please do join us in praying for the peoples of Viet Nam and especially the Believers who face persecution as they advance the Kingdom of God.



HOW CAN I PRAY FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS IN VIET NAM?

Pray—that God is glorified in Viet Nam and will work for His good even through the persecution.

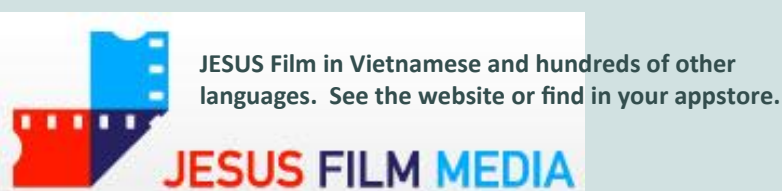
Pray—that those persecuted will see clearly God's guidance in how to respond with every instance of persecution; what words to say, when to flee and when to count the cost and respond with bold proclamation.

Pray—that God will strengthen and sustain those who are in the midst of persecution and comfort them as they faithfully persevere.



"For we don't want you to be unaware!"

When Paul said those words in 2 Corinthians 1:8 he didn't have social media and the internet to help out. Probably a good thing so that he didn't try to fit all of those great spiritual truths into 140 characters or less. But still his thought was the same as ours—"we don't want you to be unaware." So we are trying to keep you connected as best as we can. We don't do this just for the sake of connection or to be fashionable. Rather, we understand that the more aware you are, the more you can pray for the work of reaching the peoples of Viet Nam with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is a spiritual battle and the most important thing you can do is pray. Our newsletters such as this are periodic but if you want to keep informed more immediately, we recommend that you regularly visit the website at reachingvietnam.com or receive the [rss feed](#), or follow us through your preferred social media channel: [twitter](#); [facebook](#); [Google plus](#); or [Vimeo](#). Help us increase the prayers for the work even more by using those same tools to share our updates with your friends.



The iconic Bitexco Financial Tower in Saigon has 68 stories. We have stories too.

We have stories too!

If you've missed some of our recent stories on reachingvietnam.com, stop by and take a look.

Here's a few to start with:

[The cost of infidelity](#)

[Crowds gather to worship a snake](#)

[A difficult mother-in-law](#)

[Did the crack in the door close? That's a good thing.](#)

[What will happen to the seed?](#)

[Open Doors 2013 World Watch List](#)

[Download the 10 Faces of Ho Chi Minh City](#) to guide your prayers for this great city. Use it for your personal prayer time, in small groups or church-wide.



10 Faces

of Ho Chi Minh City

Pray with us for the 10 million faces of this great city where every 10 minutes a lost person dies and goes to Hell.

The Vietnamese family next door

Do you have a Vietnamese family living next door? How about in your city or state? The **2010 U.S. census** showed that the Vietnamese population living in the U.S. had risen 37% over the previous census to a new total of **1,548,449**. Most are concentrated in California and Texas but there are many other smaller groupings of Vietnamese—maybe there is one near you.

If you would like to find out more information about the Vietnamese in your city or state, let us know and we will be happy to help you research this. If you already know of some Vietnamese around you we would be happy to assist in providing you with tools or information to help you reach out to them with the Gospel.

Top 10 States with Largest Vietnamese Population: 2010

1	California	581,946
2	Texas	210,913
3	Washington	66,575
4	Florida	58,470
5	Virginia	53,529
6	Georgia	45,263
7	Massachusetts	42,915
8	Pennsylvania	39,008
9	New York	28,764
10	Louisiana	28,352

Source—United States Census Bureau "[The Vietnamese Population in the United States: 2010](#)"

Let us know!

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