



The Bernard Family

MYANMAR JULY - AUGUST 2025

Greetings fellow laborers for Christ

Sending Church

New Horizon Baptist
Church

Pastor Kevin Bernard

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Support Agency

Baptist Missions to

Forgotten People

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Quotes

"We are not necessarily doubting that God will do the best for us; we are wondering how painful the best will turn out to be."

C.S. Lewis

Praying brothers and sisters, this has been a season of attack on our church. Just after finishing the new building, the church and orphanage our trusted friend and native pastor, whom we have supported and worked together with for many years, was overcome with the love of money and prestige. In time his motive for service was revealed and his desire was to move his family and extended family into the building and take possession of it forever. When I made it clear that the building is for the orphans and it is a church, not one man's home he lost his mind. There is no other way to explain the betrayal and chain of events that afterward took place. Firstly, he refused to work as staff with the 11 children in the home. As it was, the children were under his legal guardianship and family registry. He refused to release the contact information for the children so that we could change it legally. Instead, he called the aunts, uncles and guardians that placed the children in our care and told them many lies against us and the church. Then he sent all the children away. Some were sent back to their village and some to other homes around just to keep them from us. I can't begin to tell you the heartbreak that we felt losing these children that we've invested in for three years. But he didn't stop there. Next, he attempted to persuade all of the church members to quit coming to the church. Many lies and accusations were thrown out against me and my family. But praise be to God, all of our core members told him that they would remain faithful to God. One lady said "I don't follow a man. I have made a vow to follow God and God only. I will stay true to God's church."

Being foreigners, we do not have any rights. In order to own property we must have a national sign for it. After working with him for many years and never having a financial discrepancy, our national pastor was naturally who we trusted. To his great shame, his next move was to try and shut down the church building. He visited the ward office and presented to the leader a false story of our misappropriating funds, unjust treatment of nationals, and illegal business done in the building. The ward leader reacted in anger at first and gave him permission to cut our locks off of the building and replace it with his own, thus seizing it by the ward until the conflict was resolved. We had fully paid for the property and had all of the deeds and the contracts but his name was on the buyers contact. This gave him the right to contest everything so the property was in limbo until an agreement could be reached or end up in court. He refused to sign off unless he was given a ransom sum of 100,000 dollars. We gave the matter fully to God. We called upon everyone we could to pray and ask God for favor in the situation citing that the testimony of Christ's church was at stake. We began meeting in our home for prayer and services on Sundays but the worst was yet to come. During the third week of all these events, on August 17th, we had just finished services in our home and I had loaded 20 people in our truck and left to return them to their homes. Not 10 seconds after I had gone three immigration officers showed up at the house and demanded of my wife to see all of our passports and company information for our visas. Sara told them they would have to wait until I returned.



As head of the household they can only do something to me, so I told her I could not come home and she would have to continue to stall them. She had to entertain them in our home for over an hour while they asked questions and made demands. Finally by God's grace, I was able to call on a friend who is higher up in immigration, and he called the officers off. We knew that the situation was serious to have the officers invade our home like that but we didn't find out until a few days later what had happened and how bad that it could have been. Daniel had gone to our immigration officer and betrayed us. He told them the worst possible things he could. He said we are here under a false business visa and that we are working to convert Buddhist to Christianity, which to a Buddhist nationalist is the worst crime possible. He had offered them money to raid our home on Sunday morning to catch us having church. Had God not intervened and timed everything perfectly surely the intentions of this malicious report could've had me arrested and/or deported. Praise God that the weapons formed against us did not prosper!

God has also provided many contacts and friends within the system over the years that really served to defuse the situation. After our agent and other people of consequence spoke on our behalf, all settled down but we still have to deal with the fallout. Our visas are due and now we are under severe scrutiny. I'm thankful that we are dependent on the mercies of God and not man.

This series of trials would have been very difficult to endure if not for the abiding consciousness of the presence and power of our dear Saviour. During the darkest times and throughout each attack we have seen the nearest glimpses of His face. The promises of God like "Lo I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" has never been more real and has given us the strength to endure "as seeing Him who is invisible."

Please help us pray that God would overrule all of this evil for good. Already He has turned this seemingly hopeless situation around. After meeting as an underground church for a few more weeks and with many prayers going up, we were able to secure the building again! I would not give in to his financial demand. Even the ward leader scolded Daniel for his greed. We were however forced to pay a much smaller sum. I did not want to pay him anything but it was the only way to safely secure the property and building and to protect me, my family, and ministry from future attacks. We had him sign a contract to fully turn over the property and a contract that he will not attack us in any way in the future. Praise the Lord, may His name be magnified in this place! I'll spare you the details of our agony in waiting, discussing, meeting and negotiating over a period of a month and a half. By hiring a lawyer, we were able to make sure all is completely legal. In the end Daniel was put to shame in this whole township because of his greed and false claims with no evidence. Even the ward leader chose to give us favor and offer guarantee that he would keep anything from happening like this again. So the issue with the new building was finally finished but we will still have great battle ahead of us for our visas situation. Please pray for us.

As only our Lord can do, He took a terrible situation and brought much good. Our church people are closer than ever and have been made stronger by uniting as one in prayer. Seeing God answer those prayers has strengthened their resolve to live by faith. Through every situation, every hardship, our prayer remains the same; that our Lord will permit us to stay living in Myanmar to continue serving Him and others in this place and to bless His ministry here.

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Revelation 4:11