

## **An Urgent Call to Prayer for Burma**

Today September 26, 2007, the media is reporting on massive demonstrations of 100,000 people or more in Rangoon and tens of thousands in other cities around Burma (the traditional name for Myanmar). Our historical links with the churches and people of Burma call for us as Baptists to take the lead in caring for and advocating for the people of Burma.

As the protests against the government continue, citizen participation is swelling. Being led by Buddhist monks, the initial protests were about a large jump in fuel and other commodity prices. But the demonstrators quickly added demands for more freedom and democracy as the numbers of demonstrators have grown with each new day. The scale of these demonstrations is being compared to the student uprisings of 1988. The fear is that the demonstrations today will end as they did in 1988 when thousands upon thousands of unarmed demonstrators were gunned down by military troops. Already, there are reports of army troops in position and the first shots being fired.

### **What You Can Do Today**

Right now, the immediate need is to pray for the demonstrations going on throughout Burma. The most powerful bomb cannot change the hearts of people, but through our prayers, God can change even the hardest heart.

- Pray for a change of heart in the government of Burma.
- Pray that the order to fire on the demonstrators will not be given.
- Pray for a change of heart in each soldier so that even if the order to shoot is given that each soldier will see the protestor as a brother and not as a target.
- Pray for a change of heart in Burma government policies so that ethnic people like the Karen and Chin will have the freedom to live in their own land and be accepted as people of value and dignity.
- Pray for peace in the land of Burma.
- Pray now and pray without ceasing.