

# The military stages a coup in Myanmar

The header photo shows the Mandalay Regional Government office being blocked off by the military after the coup. (Kantabon, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons)

By Kevin Zeller

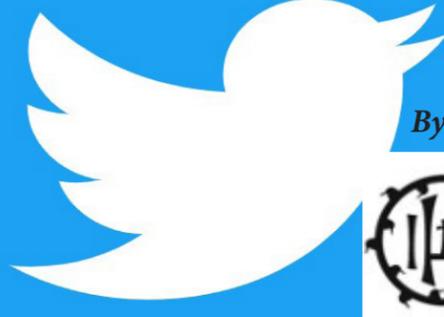
**Myanmar (MNN)** — The military of Myanmar has staged a coup, detaining several senior politicians. Internet, phone, and television access were blocked around the capital of Naypyitaw. The military party suffered badly in last years' elections but claim fraud cost them votes. However, no evidence of voter fraud has been offered, and Myanmar officials have unanimously rejected these claims. The move stalls progress towards democracy that Myanmar has made in recent years. The U.S. and many other countries have demanded the military release all political officials and respect the election results. The military threatened a

takeover last week and deployed large numbers of armored cars in several cities. The new parliamentary session was scheduled to begin on Monday. The response of the Church Joe Handley of Asian Access details what Christians are saying inside the country. "The national church in Myanmar is declaring this the 'Days of Queen Esther's prayer.' The church of Myanmar is wanting to rise up, not in terms of a political stance, but in terms of an Esther-like moment. How do we diplomatically, wisely, assertively, but not aggressively, present something that is going to be good for Myanmar? In addition, others have said this is a tragedy for their nation. They're call-

ing for repentance." Pray the Church will be an agent of peace, stability, and hope in a devastating time for Myanmar. Handley says the Church wants to speak truth into the political situation while providing comfort for anxious citizens. And this hope and comfort come only from Jesus. "One of [the Christians] said, 'Only the darkest night brings the brightest day.'" You can help by supporting Asian Access as they train strong Christian leaders. Handley says, "Leadership matters. As we invest in key Christian leaders in Myanmar, it helps them rise to the occasion. We come alongside and equip them. This is the key thing that Asian Access does." [www.mnnonline.org](http://www.mnnonline.org)

# Twitter Locks Catholic Publication's Account for 'Hateful Conduct'

By: Carmel Communications



**SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 29, 2021 /Christian Newswire/** -- On Sunday, Jan. 24, Catholic World Report received a notice from Twitter, alerting it that its account had been suspended for hateful conduct, and unless it removed the offending tweet, its account would remain suspended. The tweet in question was a link to this Catholic News Agency news brief, written by Matt Hadro, and posted on CWR on Jan. 19, 2021. The tweet stated: "Biden plans to nominate Dr. Rachel Levine, a biological man identifying as a transgender woman who has served as Pennsylvania's health secretary since 2017, to be HHS Assistant Secretary for Health. Levine is also a supporter of the contraceptive mandate."

Catholic World Report appealed the decision and Twitter has denied their appeal. Twitter considers the tweet hate speech, and unless Catholic World Report removes the tweet, its account will be suspended. Carl Olson, editor of Catholic World Report, said: "It seems evident that Twitter's focus is the description of Levine as 'a biological man identifying as a transgender woman.' Since Levine is 'transgendered,' it's curious as to why Twitter would think it harmful or hateful to note what Levine is 'trans-gendering' from or to. Twitter is clearly indicating that unless CWR and other outlets jump through arbitrary and constantly-changing rhetorical and ideological hoops,

they cannot use Twitter. Just as bad, Twitter is implicitly making CWR admit to hateful or bigoted language, even though such was never the case. Not only is such an approach subjective in nature, it is an overtly biased, unfair and discriminatory approach that both stifles free speech and undermines CWR's right to report on current events." To read the entire account and view the exchange between Twitter and Catholic World Report, visit [www.catholicworldreport.com/2021/01/28/twitter-freezes-cwrs-account-over-news-story-on-transgendered-dr-rachel-levine/](http://www.catholicworldreport.com/2021/01/28/twitter-freezes-cwrs-account-over-news-story-on-transgendered-dr-rachel-levine/). Catholic World Report is a publication of Ignatius Press, founded by Fr. Joseph Fessio, S.J., thirty years ago.

# HOW THANKFUL ARE WE REALLY?



By: Georgia Yost

We can look at the times, which is not a surprise to anyone that we are in the last days. Some say we were created for a time as this. The Word tells us that those times would be hard to bear. They were not wrong describing these times. How much popcorn and soda do we need to watch the greatest show on earth unfolding before our eyes. But let's go deeper, would if your great, great, great grandmother did not meet your great, great, great grandfather? You wouldn't be here.

As we look back at the many times in life that our chances to be here would be a big question mark if we made it or not. This can only add to how thankful we should be to God that we can say we do know Him... He gave us that privilege to be called one of His. Can we ever thank Him enough that we are not a non-believer, or living in another country being martyred for our belief in Him, or mixed up in another religion that knows nothing about Truth? My gratitude can't go

deep enough to my Father God above for giving me the blessing to be called a Child of the Living God and all He has done to keep me on a path that led to Him. For the many prayers from many that helped me not to stray too far away so I couldn't have found a way back. Yes, I am more than thankful as all should be that Jesus Christ made a way for us to live our lives forever with Him. Once again my many thanks. +++ **JESUS IS LORD!**

# Transforming Communities with Churches

By: ICM | [www.ICM.org](http://www.ICM.org)



**HAMPTON, Va., Jan. 13, 2021 /Christian Newswire/** -- For more than three decades, ICM has partnered with indigenous ministries in developing countries to make disciples and build churches, orphanages, and Hope Centers. They empower local churches to be the catalyst for community transformation by providing bible study materials that equip pastors and help new believers grow in their faith. CEO Janice Rosser Allen states, "Our mission is to nurture believers and assist church growth worldwide. Our partnerships equip local churches with two vital resources: a permanent church building and practical discipleship tools for oral learners." ICM has planted over 35,000 churches in 100 nations. The bible teaching is available in various delivery formats and equips local pastors to share God's word. Almost 2 million believers

have been trained using this bible teaching. 3 Billion people live in a community without a church. Some may have heard the Gospel and given their lives to Christ, but they have no place to worship and no way to understand the Bible. Without tools to grow their faith, new Christians become discouraged and may fall away—never reaching their community with the Gospel. ICM is committed to solving this problem by equipping believers around the world. More than providing buildings, ICM developed an oral learning curriculum for the Bible and discipleship. Allen, daughter of founder Dois Rosser Jr., worked alongside her father in the ministry for years. In 2006, she became CEO. Under Allen's leadership, ICM made a significant shift to put content in the user's physical hands. Created in multiple digital learning platforms enables

study in 59 languages. Partnering with other ministries, they also deliver additional content, such as The Jesus film. "The church is God's distribution system; at ICM, we help develop healthy churches. That is our vision. The annual goal for 2020 was to build 1,000 new churches. Despite the pandemic, we met our goal, and I am happy to say we have built 10,000 churches since ICM began," states Allen. ICM's strategy is to reach the world for Christ. When local churches invest their effort and resources into each project, the result is a sense of ownership, long-term sustainability, and a more significant impact. "You can't imagine the joy, the gladness that comes with building churches in communities that will never be able to do it. Every church building is a miracle to the people." Rev. Pastor Kenneth Wafula, Uganda For more info: [ICM.org](http://www.ICM.org)