

Joseph Lee



**National Field Staff
Canadian Baptist Ministries
The Golden Triangle, Asia**

On April 1 of this year, Joseph Lee was appointed as national field staff in the Golden Triangle region of Asia. He and Lilian Yang, his wife and a fellow field staff member, serve alongside the others on Canadian Baptist Ministries' Chinese Ministries team.

Much like Lilian, Joseph was born into a Christian Chinese family in Myanmar. In his late teens he made a commitment to Christ and soon after responded to God's calling to study at Thailand Bethel Theological Institute (TBTI), then known as Bethel Bible Institute. Since 1999 Joseph has pastored several small churches in Myanmar and Thailand, taught Bible courses at TBTI, and mentored young Christians as the former director of the Maekong River Mission Fellowship in Thailand. Fulfilling his passion for missions, he led training sessions and organized short-term mission trips to remote regions. Joseph received a master of divinity degree at Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary and, at present, is studying by extension to receive a doctorate in missiology.

In the midst of the ongoing challenges of the pandemic and

the military coup in Myanmar in February, Joseph and Lilian have the goals of continuing their local pastoral ministries in Thailand and seeking to respond to the current needs in their own country of origin. Weekly, they hold an online prayer meeting to connect pastors and also TBTI students and alumni in different cities of the Golden Triangle.

There is good news of the mission project spearheaded by Pastor Doudu and his team.

They purpose to overcome the dangers and difficulties of travel to visit the isolated Lahu villages in Myanmar. In a spring trip, 17 villagers accepted Christ as their Saviour. A multifunctional church building in Babao, one of the remote villages, was projected to be completed in April.

CBM's mission partner, the Zheng Zhu student centre in a border town between Thailand and Myanmar, has adapted to the closure of schools and the increased cost of living due of the pandemic. The director, Pastor



Joseph Lee and Lilian Yang with Pastor Li Jiang, an alumni of Thailand Bethel Theological Institute who is pastoring a Lahu church in Northern Thailand.

Zhao Shan Neng, and his coworkers took on the responsibility to educate 76 children themselves. The children and staff faced the challenge of food shortages by learning new gardening skills to provide good, nutritious vegetables.

Praise the Lord for the completion of the school year at TBTI. Not all the graduates were able to attend their graduation due to the challenges of the pandemic, but several were able to be present for the ceremony on March 19. Internet service in Myanmar was cut off in the February coup, however teachers managed to send handouts and class audio notes to Myanmar to help the students complete their courses.

Pray for the logistical and financial needs of the Christian believers in Myanmar. Some donations have gone to help those in greatest need, such as those who have lost their homes or were wounded in the civil unrest.

The third wave of COVID-19 reached Thailand during the school's summer break and cases continue to rise. TBTI has not been able to reopen to students on campus. All teaching is an online challenge for teachers and students whether they are in Thailand or Myanmar. Pray that the school will be able to overcome all obstacles to reopen for in-person learning. In a prayer by Lilian found on the June 15 CBM Prayerline entry, she asks for prayer for the teachers preparing the courses, that they will be ready to carry out synchronized online and in-person courses when on-campus studies are possible. Joseph will assist in the planning and budgeting of ministries in the region. Together, they are standing in the gap (Ezekiel 22:30) to be a presence in dark days. Let us join with them by prayer.

by Ruth Anna Dana

Sources: www.cbmin.org; Yang CBM ministry updates; CBM Prayerline, personal emails