

## The Lam Family



Lewis and Felain Lam and son, Caleb

**Who?** The Lams grew up in Hong Kong in Buddhist families, but both attended Christian public schools. They came to Canada as students and encountered Jesus through friends and relatives. Lewis served at Wesner Baptist Church as the Cantonese pastor. Felain has a background in social work, and was a therapist and educational program developer.

**When?** Lewis and Felain were appointed as Canadian Baptist Ministries Strategic Associates in 2012 and left for Germany in 2014 with their son, Caleb.

**Where?** The Lams joined the work of John and Ruth Chan and the Friends of Mission, ministering to Chinese university students in Germany.

**What?** The team ministers to the large number of students from mainland China studying in German universities, bringing the gospel and love of Jesus Christ to these future professionals who return to China upon graduation. The Lams also travel out of town, preaching in the area churches.

**Why?** The Lams desire to disciple these young university students and provide training so that they, in turn, may disciple their peers. When these youth return to China, they will have the desire and training to disciple and mentor the Chinese people.

The Lams began their ministry with the traditional discipleship approach, believing establishing theological knowledge would support stable spiritual growth.

However, the results were not ideal. Lewis and Felain share, "We had set the expectation too high and too fast. A true understanding of the Bible and its values certainly requires time to digest and experience. We cannot expect to make disciples like we 'micro-wave' meals in a second. . . . We began to identify individuals at the end of training for additional mentorship. We have changed the approach to teach and mentor

at the same time, which has yielded a more apparent and solid result. We arranged [for] a mother believer [to be] walking with a mother seeker, both . . . participating in a weekly EBS (Evangelical Bible Study). After 17 sessions of study, the seeker is committed to Christ!" The Lams share that the believer had been a Christian for six years but began to grow in God's Word and also learned to walk with a seeker—caring, sharing, and building a trust relationship. Due to her positive changes, she has led her 10-year-old daughter to Christ.

The Lams clearly understand the need for leadership formation. Many of the people they meet and influence will one day return to their country of origin. ". . . We have been teaching leaders to prepare themselves for God's use any-time, anywhere, to carry with them the heart of a missionary. Wherever they go, they will become a blessing to the city and the local church."

### Prayer Requests

- May the believers and the Bible study groups be a blessing to the Chinese in Germany.
- May the Lord bless the various new small groups in Göttingen and Kassel: evangelical Bible studies, follow-up, and discipleship.
- Continue to pray for the foundation of spiritual growth among believers.
- There is a need for a way to travel more easily between two cities. (It can take three to four hours away from a day.) The Lams plan to purchase a used vehicle; may the Lord provide for their need.
- Remember those who carry a heavy cross from their original families (broken relationships and other issues). May the Holy Spirit bless them with faith to overcome the challenges and to experience God's presence in the midst of hardship.
- Pray for a spiritual friend for Caleb. Teenagers are a lost group in both churches where Caleb attends worship. May the Lord strengthen the evangelical work to the next generation.

Helen Hopper

UBWMU/ABW Corresponding Secretary

Sources: Lam Family Updates, February 2016, July 2016