



### Joseph Lee and Lilian Yang

Canadian Baptist Ministries  
National Field Staff, Asia's Golden Triangle

by Ruth Anna Dana



# CBM

The country of Myanmar continues to have political unrest since the military seized control in February of 2021. This has caused a high number of refugees, escalating inflation, shortages of food, too few frontline medical resources and workers, and electricity outages. This is the crisis facing Canadian Baptist Ministries' local ministry partners and Christian believers in the country. It brings apprehension for our CBM National Field Staff husband and wife team of Joseph Lee and Lilian Yang, located in Thailand, whose home country is Myanmar, previously known as Burma.

What has been their response to this critical situation? Primarily, they ask us to take on the responsibility to pray. Lilian says, "Pray for the people of Myanmar to hold onto the hope in God and have faith to face this difficult time. Pray for God's mercy and peace to embrace and comfort the people who are desperate." First Corinthians 12:26 (NIV) tells us that "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."

In the Spring 2022 issue of *CBM Responding*, Conrad and Fiona Kwok, team leaders for CBM's Chinese Ministries, rejoice for what God is bringing about in these days. After the 2017 formation of a partnership with Pastor Thaw Thu of Myanmar and his team, God has been leading. In the

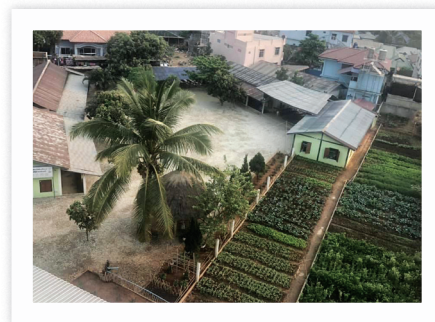
*Pastor Thaw Thu (seen here speaking to villagers) and a team of volunteers visit remote Lahu villages in Myanmar to provide medical aid and tell people about Jesus Christ.*



first five years of Pastor Thaw Thu's 10-year goal, 40 of 100 mountain Lahu villages have been reached with the gospel, and 500 new believers have been baptized.

With funds raised through CBM, the local team has provided Lahu communities with emergency COVID and flood relief, free medical treatment, as well as built some clean water systems, and purchased buffaloes for farming. The funds have also provided for the construction of five multi-functional church buildings and financial support for three village pastors. Pastor Thaw Thu testifies, "Even though the paths are tough and far, but seeing more and more people come to Christ, it encourages me and the team to carry on with this journey."

Joseph Lee calls us to pray for Pastor Thaw Thu and his team who are called to this people group in the high, mountainous regions. Pray for safety in travel, strength, and good health to be able to bless more Lahu people in the region. Pray also for Pastor Zhao Shan Neng, ministering to underprivileged children at the Zheng Zhu student centre in a border town between Thailand and Myanmar.



*During the pandemic, vegetables are being grown on the property at the Zheng Zhu student centre in Myanmar to help with the hardships that the students are facing.*

Pray for students to regain opportunities to learn. Schools in Myanmar have been closed for three years. Pray as well for the safety of teachers and students in Thailand, including at Thailand Bethel Theological Institute which has reopened for in-person classes. Include Lilian in your prayers, as a full-time teacher at TBTI, and Joseph and Lilian's daughter Sophia in middle school. Praise the Lord for the March graduation at TBTI; thirty-five graduates have stepped into various ministries. And, pray that God would grant wisdom to leaders in Asia's Golden Triangle as they deal with ongoing COVID-19 issues.

Pray for Conrad and Fiona Kwok's planned trip from Toronto to Thailand in November. May it be a time of renewing friendships and mutual encouragement.

*Sources: 2021 and 2022 CBM ministry updates of Joseph Lee, Lilian Yang, and Conrad and Fiona Kwok; CBM Prayerline (March and May of 2022); CBM Responding (Issue #6); and, BBC News.*