



Photo courtesy of L. Yang

Joseph Lee & Lilian Yang
 Canadian Baptist Ministries
 National Field Staff, Thailand

How do Lilian Yang and her husband Joseph Lee as Canadian Baptist Ministries national field staff respond to the various obstacles of the ongoing civil unrest in Myanmar, the natural disasters affecting Thailand and Myanmar, and the medical challenges? They believe that God transforms lives and communities as they work together with the local church partners. “Resist him [the devil], standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings” (1 Peter 5:9, NIV).

The Jireh Church was already active in Northern Thailand when the recent typhoon caused flooding



and landslides in both Myanmar and Northern Thailand. Located in Chiang Rai, this church, aided by CBM relief funds, stepped up to provide food and daily necessities for those who suffered the trauma of the death of loved ones and loss of property. The existing project in the tribal community of Mae Mee in Northern Thailand, though put on pause in the flood recovery, does continue. The villagers have undergone land rights awareness training, allowing them to learn about laws and policies to understand the actions of government authorities. They are now advocates to protect their housing and farmland by restoring

Photo: CBM

and maintaining their land. Green space is being increased by planting trees and they are working to preserve the forest that they rely on for their livelihood.

Resiliency has a place in every project operating in Myanmar as the conflicts escalate and the military conscription law threatens young people’s access to education. Suraj Komaravalli, CBM’s Asia team leader, reports the success of 11 recent graduates from the Thread of Hope sewing project in the country, and Joseph mentions youths who graduated from the Yangon nursing aid training project. He is happy to report that five of these 14 students accepted Jesus and were baptized. The second four-month training class began this fall.

Two ongoing projects are the Lord Love Center and the Morning Light Center in Myanmar and Thailand. Aided by CBM, these centres support underprivileged children with food, salaries for the cooks, school tuition support, medical services, and training in farming



Lilian Yang and Joseph Lee with CBM Asia Team Leader Suraj Komaravalli

Photo courtesy of L. Yang

activities. Joseph asks for continued prayer for the men and women who are building purpose and hope into their lives at the Operation Dawn addiction recovery project in Thailand.

The churches are strengthened by the education of future pastors and mission workers at Thailand Bethel Theological Institute (TBTI). The scholarship program provided 40 per cent of the tuition to 10 students this school year. Also, new Thai reference books benefit the faculty and the 40 students. Joseph and Lilian, who both teach at TBTI, are strongly invested in the school’s outreach program. The teachers guide and mentor the students in their theological education while the students put their studies into practise by sharing their testimonies and campus experience with the local churches.

On a personal note, Joseph asks for prayer for the family. Both he and Lilian continue to pursue further studies. This has meant late night studying to accomplish their goals. Their daughter Sophia is adapting to secondary school this year. The parents’ desire is that “God would guide her and bless her in her path of following Jesus.”

by Ruth Anna Dana

Sources: CBM Prayerline (Sept. and Oct. 2024), Yang July 2024 CBM ministry update, Lee May 2024 CBM ministry update, Komaravalli Sept. 2024 CBM ministry update.