



June 2018

Greetings from the Golden Triangle!

As we have mentioned in our last newsletter, we would like to give you some more details about our trip in Myanmar during the month of April.

(1) We attended our students' wedding in the city of Lashio, Northern Myanmar. The bride and groom just graduated from BBI in March. We enjoyed the traditional cultural dance the night before the wedding. The couple will stay in their hometown and start a new church. Glory to God!



(2) We travelled into a special territory, Kokang, at the border of China and Myanmar. Conrad and Rev. Du were invited to speak at a 3 day joint revival meeting hosted by 4 churches.



Some facts about this territory.

- In the last few years, many civil wars have broken out in this territory. (As we write this

summary, we were told war has started again)

- This city is just like Sodom and Gomorrah in the Old Testament. The city is filled with casinos, sex trade workers and drug traders and abusers.
- A lot of local and young people from the nearby cities come to work in the casino because of the higher income
- A lot of refugees from civil wars have flooded into the city from the mountainous region. We visited a refugee camp in the city.



- An extension of Operation Dawn drug rehabilitation centre operates in the city.

(3) Back to the city of Lashio, we attended Man Gao Rong Church 50th anniversary. An important point about this church is that in the last 50 years, over 100 pastors who are serving in the Golden Triangle Region are originally members who grew up in and were equipped at this church. What a great model, glory to God! During the celebration ceremony, there were over 2000 people who attended. Every household in the village opened up their homes for all the guests to stay.

(4) We also visited a region called "LOI MAW", Northern Shan State, this is the home town of drug king Kun Sha. Our alumni, Pastor Yu, guided us there; it took about 6 hours by car from the city of Lashio. It was not an easy ride at all, it was even worse than the one we mentioned on our last



newsletter. Pastor Yu is of the minority Lishu tribe; his grandfather started to bring the Gospel to this region about 50 years ago, his father continued and now it is his turn to carry the torch. The Gospel has reached out to almost all the villages and many people have been converted. Praise the Lord! However, poppy fields are still everywhere. Christians are still growing poppy because they do not know what else they can grow. It is because they lack the knowledge about the market needs. The purchaser has monopolized them. We would like to partner with Pastor Yu and find a way to help these villages.



(5) We visited the capital of Myanmar Naypyidaw. After we arrived in Naypyidaw, we saw a totally different impression of Myanmar. We usually see the poor side of Myanmar such as mountains and villages but Naypyidaw is such a huge and modernized city but with a very little population. We visited one of our alumni who just moved to the city last year and planted a church there. There is a great opportunity to bring Gospel to the community by teaching Chinese language.

(6) We moved on to the former capital of Myanmar, Yangon. We attended an ordination service, both husband and wife were ordained and they are both alumni of BBI. Praise the Lord!



Here is the observation we have about Yangon:

- A lot of people moved to Yangon from the mountainous regions because of work opportunities.
- We also found out that in such a big city, there is only a very limited number of churches and Christians. The Christian percentage is less than 0.5%.

(7) During the whole trip, we were so happy to see a lot of the BBI alumni that we have taught before, they now have families of their own, and they serve faithfully in their communities. May God continue to bless them and use them and through them God's name be glorified!



(8) We have also come across the Water Festival that is the New Year for Myanmar. You have to be prepared to get wet when you are on the road.





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Please pray for Myanmar:

(1) There is a great opportunity in Myanmar as they have started to open up their doors to the world. Pray that more of God's people will respond to the situations and opportunities to bring Gospel to the country.

(2) Pray that more and more churches overseas will notice and understand the needs in Myanmar.

(3) Pray that God's servants in Myanmar will continue to be faithful and stand firm in the Gospel.

Addition:

You may have heard the news about the twelve soccer team members (age 11-16) and their coach (age 25) who are trapped in a cave in Mae Sai. The cave is not too far behind our school. Passing by BBI is one of the routes to visit the cave. For the last 20 days, the area around our school has been very busy with a lot of cars passing by and helicopters flying around. We have opened up our parking lot for the rescue team to park. It is amazing to see how volunteers come together to help; some bring food, while others help wash the rescue team's dirty clothing. As of right now, 4 students have been rescued from the cave and sent to Chiang Rai hospital for medical care. The official said they expect 2-3 days to complete the evacuation. Praise the Lord! Please continue to pray for these young people and for their recovery.



If you would like to become a Partner in Mission with us, please contact Barb Keys bkeys@cbmin.org or call 905.821.3522 to make a donation to our team support, or mail cheques to Canadian Baptist Ministries at 7185 Millcreek Drive, Mississauga, ON L5N 5R4 Canada. Please make cheques payable to "CBM" and indicate on the memo line for "Kwok Team Support". www.cbmin.org/donate_online and select Conrad and Fiona Kwok from the drop down box of Field Staff.

In Christ,
Conrad and Fiona Kwok
The Golden Triangle
Northern Thailand

