

The 4% Reminder

How God provides for Lilian Yang,
CBM National Field Staff

BY KYLAH LOHNES

LILIAN YANG serves as a CBM National Field Staff in the Golden Triangle Region (Burma, Thailand and Laos) working with partners and churches to train pastors, share the gospel, and expand community outreach through support for vulnerable children, recovering addicts and those living in remote villages with no access to social services. Lilian also studies theology, teaches at Thailand Bethel Theological Institute and raises her teenage daughter Sophia alongside her husband Joseph Lee. In all the hustle and bustle of life and ministry, Lilian has experienced God's provision in personal and profound ways.

When Sophia was just four years old, Lilian began experiencing some issues with the nerves in her face. Medical tests revealed that she had abnormal blood vessels in her brain that were pressing on some nerves and an expensive surgery would be required to correct the problem. However, as a full-time student and mother, Lilian could not afford the surgery. After praying and worrying about what to do, Lilian met a Christian doctor who helped her to apply for government support. This support ended up covering 90 per cent of her medical fees. Lilian was blown away by this support and thanked God for providing for her in such an incredible way. Later she found out that the seminary she was attending had also collected funds to support her during this time. When Lilian received the funds, she was amazed to find that there was enough to cover the remaining 10 per cent

of her medical fees. "God is ready to provide for the needs that you have," she says. "When God calls me to serve Him, he also gives me the strength and everything that I need."

While the issues in her brain presented an increased risk of stroke,

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after the surgery, the doctors told Lilian that this risk had decreased to four per cent. For Lilian, this four per cent is a reminder that her life is not in her own hands but is in God's hands. Each annual check up becomes a moment to reflect on God's provision in the past and a reminder to continue trusting God in the future. Lilian says that these appointments remind her that she needs to keep her life, her family and her ministry in God's hands.

Sometimes, though, the busyness of life and ministry gets in the way of remembering God's provision and it can become all too easy to take the burden of provision onto our own shoulders. When faced with the overwhelming needs around us we can become tired and anxious as we try to meet these needs through our own strength and resources. Lilian is not exempt from this temptation to self-sufficiency, but she uses daily and weekly rhythms in her life as reminders to let go and trust God's provision once again.



Lilian with her husband Joseph

Lilian sets aside daily time for prayer and reading Scripture to remind herself of God's work in and around her. She reflects on passages such as Psalm 23, Jesus feeding the 5,000, and raising Lazarus from the dead. These passages remind Lilian that even though her need is big, "God's provision and his shepherding is always comforting and providing for my needs."

Lilian also participates in CBM's weekly online chapel service. This service often comes for her at the end of a long workday when she's tired and sometimes hasn't had the opportunity to finish her work for the day. Yet, by setting aside that time to shift her focus from her work to fellowship with colleagues and to God's work, Lilian is reminded again of God's provision. During these times of being with God, Lilian sometimes wants to laugh at herself saying "What am I thinking? Do I think it's my work that makes things happen? I am reminded that I'm not the one who changes the world."

By setting aside time for reflection and being with God, whether in chapel or on the way to the doctor, Lilian reminds herself that God has always been faithful and will continue to meet every need for herself, her family and her ministry. ①

Kylah works as a program officer with Canadian Baptist Ministries. She's an Uptick Baptist Women alumni.