

Faithful Ministry Through Constant Change

BY JESSICA BANNINGA



Pastor Xiaodan Gang Fröhlich
Serving in Marburg, Germany

PASTOR XIAODAN serves with Canadian Baptist Ministries Chinese Ministries Team, ministering to Chinese students in Marburg, a university town. Many students encounter the gospel there for the first time, joining a church, getting involved in ministry groups, and even serving the church and community. In partnership with a local organization called Forum of Mission to Chinese in Germany (FMCD) and local churches, Xiaodan helps lead fellowship groups, Bible studies, services, and training programs for new leaders.

In August, five members from the team in Marburg attended a camp for the volunteers of Chinese churches from all over Germany. Pastor Gang shared: “The theme of the camp was unity in the church, which is a topic that is on the mind of people from our church as well. We are thankful that our staff team had time to think deeply about how we can treat each other lovingly despite differing opinions and how we can work together to build God’s kingdom.” During the camp, two staff members responded to the speaker’s call to come forward to be prayed for if they felt called to full-time ministry.

It is encouraging that young Chinese people come to faith and want to serve God here in Germany. Some of the staff that work with Xiaodan came to faith in the past two to three years and have become actively engaged members, leading worship, Bible studies and planning evangelism projects. While they face many challenges, God’s love is reshaping their hearts and they remain committed to their faith. Pray that Xiaodan will have wisdom in leading the staff team. Pray that team members will continue to grow in their faith and ministry skills, and experience Jesus in their life and ministry.

At the end of September, an evangelism outreach event took place during the traditional Chinese Moon Festival. In addition, Xiaodan and her team planned for an event that would welcome new students arriving in October. Pray that God will lead new students into the faith community.



Lilian Yang
Serving in the Golden Triangle Region
(Myanmar, Thailand, Laos)

Serving in Thailand, Canadian Baptist Ministries National Field Staff Lilian Yang is originally from Myanmar. Her role is to help equip pastors and laypeople through Christian theological training at Thailand Bethel Theological Institute (TBTI). Different areas of ministry are addressed, such as church planting, integral mission, and support for churches and their leaders.

Thailand

This year, Thailand has re-opened the country to welcome visitors and tourists. Airports have become busy, hotels have more guests, and



Lilian leading
Bible study
at MBC

many shops and restaurants have resumed their businesses. Schools are full of students, and churches are holding in-person services. At the same time, the pandemic still threatens to disrupt regular life. September usually means the end of the rainy season in Thailand, but at the time of writing this many areas of the country have faced heavy rain and floods in the past month with schools, churches and business affected by flooding.

At TBTI, 35 students have graduated, and 13 new students have enrolled. The new semester started in May, and the students who live in Thailand could take courses on campus. However, around half of the students still attend online because the border remains closed. In the first semester, Lilian taught a two-week intensive course for 51 students. Pray for protection for the students and teachers at TBTI, as some of them have contracted COVID-19 recently.

Myanmar

Myanmar continues to be locked down as it struggles with COVID-19, conflict, and poverty. The number of internally displaced people continues to rise, and many children struggle to get to school safely. Inflation has made life even more challenging. Unemployment has continued to rise over the past few years and women have less opportunities to find work. Canadian Baptist Ministries is beginning a new project that will teach women how to sew, and empower them to earn and income and support their families. We look forward to seeing how God will work through this project to bless them.

Thank you for your generous ongoing partnership. We continue to witness God's faithfulness at work through your support. ①

2023 Great Canadian Bible Study

Deborah and Jael: Women of Courage

Dr. Melody Maxwell has authored 2023's Great Canadian Bible Study. Read her invitation to join her in exploring Deborah and Jael's actions.

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, I had the privilege of spending a month with Baptist women in Nigeria. I learned so much from their faith and determination. I still remember the beautiful sounds of their acapella singing. One song went something like this: "Make me like Deborah, make me like Esther, make me like Mary, to be used in your house, O Lord." Hundreds of voices joined together in harmony to ask God to help them to follow the examples of biblical women. But who exactly was Deborah, and why should we want to be like her?

2023's study features two notable women from the book of Judges. Deborah was a judge and prophetess—a significant leader known as "a mother in Israel." Jael, though not an Israelite, used her wiles to kill an enemy of the Israelites. (Join in the study to discuss whether we should consider her a role model or not!) Both women courageously took action, despite living in a culture where men normally led. I look forward to learning together with you from their fascinating stories as part of the 2023 Great Canadian Bible Study. ①

How the study works

Gather women from your church, pick a date in January (or a date that works for you and your group) and do the study.

This study raises funds to support a project endorsed by Canadian Baptist Women. Go to baptistwomen.com/resources to download your study and watch a video update from CBM global field staff in Bolivia on Eagles Wings, the project your donations will support.

Please remember to make your cheques out to Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec. Our bank will not accept them otherwise. You may note GCBS 2023 in the memo line.

Dr. Melody Maxwell is the associate professor of Canadian History at Acadia Divinity College and the director of its Centre for Baptist and Anabaptist Studies.