

# OTAN

OUTREACH TO ASIA NATIONALS



Crossing Jade Stream  
on bamboo bridge  
Kachin State, Myanmar

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When thou passest through the waters,  
I WILL BE WITH THEE;  
And through the rivers,  
they shall not overflow thee;

Isaiah 43:2

**TRAINING AND RESOURCING  
PERSECUTED ASIAN PASTORS  
TO REACH THEIR PEOPLE**

## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS IN JAPAN

### Preschool and English classes open doors

In 2022, Sayuri\* was invited to an Easter outreach at Shimonoseki Christ Bible Church by the mother of a student at the New Beginning international preschool. Later, Sayuri enrolled her two children in the church's English conversation classes where Josh and Janae Hofer taught the children and developed a friendship with the family.

Last year, Marjorie, an assistant teacher at the preschool, also began spending time with Sayuri, who had many questions about the Bible. One day she asked Marjorie, "How can I know for sure that I can go to Heaven?" Marjorie shared God's plan of salvation with her and asked, "Would you like to pray to accept Christ as your Savior?" Sayuri said, "Yes!"

Sayuri began meeting with Pastor Tony for Bible studies. She told Tony, "I want my children to believe in Jesus too, but I don't know how to explain it." Tony helped her understand how to simply share the plan of salvation with her children. Over the next few weeks, she led both of her teenage children to the Lord. But her evangelistic efforts haven't stopped there!

She shared what was happening in her life with her mother, and that led to a meeting with Pastor Tony where Tony shared the gospel. The following Sunday, Sayuri and her mother attended church together, and Sayuri's mother accepted Jesus as her Savior. Now Sayuri's aunt has become curious about the changes in her family and wants to know more.

Recently, Sayuri became ill and was hospitalized. Would you pray for her, as well as for the new believers in her family? Pray that this trial will not discourage them but will draw them closer to Jesus.

*Want to help our Japan ministry team impact their community for Christ? Support funds are needed for 1 Japanese pastor and for building maintenance. Give securely online by choosing "Japan" support on the "Give" page at OTAN.org.*

\* Name is a representation only



Shimonoseki Christian Center

## LAHU GRADUATION CELEBRATION

### Bible lessons and pastor training in Thailand



Lahu correspondence lessons graduates

In January, OTAN director Al Doomy traveled to Thailand to participate in a graduation ceremony for the Lahu Living Word correspondence course.

Joshua Chan, our Thailand ministry manager, has developed a Bible correspondence course in the Lahu language. His wife, Samollay, is fluent in six languages and is a key ministry helper, translating much of the curriculum that is used.

"The course helps people of all walks of life to gain a clear understanding of the gospel and receive a solid foundation of basic Bible knowledge. Our traveling team meets regularly with students to answer questions and provide mentoring," Joshua says. "Seventy students completed the entire 10-book course in 2024, and 43 of those 70 were able to join us for the graduation ceremony!"

Joshua also runs the Biblical Leadership Training Center where pastors and leaders can gather to learn. He says, "Not only was Al Doomy able to come to the correspondence graduation, but he and OTAN's China ministry managers were able to join us for a week-long training of pastors and leaders."

"I taught an extensive course on the book of Luke," Al says, "and Dale gave an overview of the other gospels. Then we co-taught the book of Romans. The students had a lot of questions, and we paused often to address them. Their interest was clearly evident, and their singing literally echoed throughout the valley."

Joshua adds, "Several students gave thanks to the Lord that they were able to grow in Bible knowledge, to see God transform their lives, and to be equipped to serve the Lord better. Our goal is to develop leaders for churches and communities who will live as disciples of Jesus and will help others do the same."

*The Biblical Leadership Training Center is a critical part of training pastors from Thailand and from neighboring nations. Access to the facility is treacherous and almost impossible during the rainy season. About \$10,000 is needed to make the road passable. To help, send a check with "Thailand Ministry" in the memo line or click the "Give" tab to give securely online at OTAN.org, then choose "Thailand Ministry" from the menu.*

# PASTORING IN CIVIL WAR

## Support is needed for 3 Myanmar pastors

While the world is fixated on much-publicized wars in the Middle East and in Ukraine, most people remain unaware of the political situation in Myanmar. Formerly known as Burma, Myanmar was rocked by a military coup that took over the government in 2021. A *Time* magazine article from October of 2024 estimated that 50,000 people have lost their lives and that as many as 3 million have been displaced.

In this backdrop of war, critical shortages, and the prolonged closures of schools, OTAN's Myanmar ministry manager Dr. Thuam Khai has been hard at work. Traveling to the country several times a year, Dr. Khai, a Burmese national, is dedicated to providing education for children whose school systems have been shuttered—some for years. He is also training a group of pastors who are holding together a small network of churches in the country, including 3 pastors for which OTAN is hoping to raise support.

Pastor Lian has served in ministry for 12 years. He says, “Our family relocated due to the civil unrest in our area. I firmly believe in the Great Commission as the mandate for all Christians. Since the unrest began in 2021, my congregation and I have been in diaspora, seeking refuge from our village to safer locations amid the turmoil in our area.”

Pastor Ngo led a church in Voklaak village for nearly 10 years, during which time he shared the gospel in nearby villages and led Bible seminars at about 30 small churches. “Since 2016 I have been involved with



Protesters gather during early days of Myanmar coup

another church, currently focusing on church planting missions in Khaikam Myo, Chin State,” he says.

Pastor Noah began serving in ministry in 2009. He says, “In 2021, I returned to my hometown to care for my elderly parents and disabled sister. Currently, I am reaching out to public school teachers and serving over 20+ boarding students, many of whom are opening their hearts to Christ. Despite challenges, I am dedicated to this mission and seek your partnership in this endeavor.”

These 3 men are bi-vocational, holding down full-time jobs while serving the needs of their churches and communities. **Monthly support of \$125 for each of these pastors will allow them to have one day a week to fully dedicate their time to study and to serve their congregations.**

To help support one of these pastors, send a check with the memo “Myanmar Ministry” or give securely at [OTAN.org](http://OTAN.org), choosing “Myanmar Ministry” on the “Give” page.

## IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SERVE?

### We are seeking 2 Ministry Managers



Open air market, Laos

*Training and resourcing persecuted Asian pastors to reach their own people with the gospel. That's what OTAN does.*

Currently, we're looking for 2 Ministry Managers to serve the pastors of Laos and of eastern Russia. OTAN Ministry Managers live in the US, traveling to their country of service up to 3 times a year.

As a Ministry Manager, your duties would include:

- Raising the support needed to conduct ministry and to cover expenses
- Being responsible for the oversight and support of national pastors and leaders
- Managing and supervising training programs for nationals, including women

- Maintaining regular contact with national workers through email, online meetings, etc.

If you feel God may be calling you to train pastors and to serve the people in one of these two regions, and if you have **at least 5 years of experience** as a lead/senior or teaching pastor, we'd like to connect with you. Use the contact form in the “Connect” tab at [www.otan.org](http://www.otan.org) to ask any questions or to set up a time to talk further.



Vladivostok shipyards

**ERRATA:** In a previous communication, we shared a statistic that the Christian population in Nepal has grown to just under 2%. Though exact numbers are difficult to verify, other sources put the number closer to 3 or 4%. We also reported that public baptisms in all regions of Nepal have been outlawed, which is not accurate. It is never our policy to misrepresent religious freedoms in the countries we serve. We apologize for any confusion this caused.



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### Partner By Giving

Give online at [OTAN.org](http://OTAN.org) or send a check to PO Box 2440, Winchester, VA, 22604. Please designate your gift in the memo line.

Want to use the text-to-give option? Text "OTANtraining" and your gift amount to 540-274-5524 (example: OTANtraining 75).



### Partner By Praying

If you feel challenged or inspired by this update, would you consider praying for this ministry? We're so grateful for the prayers of our fellow believers.

Want to learn to effectively pray for missionaries and their outreach? Visit [otan.org/pray](http://otan.org/pray).



### Partner By Going

Not everyone is able to go to foreign fields, but every believer can ask themselves the question, "Am I called to go?"

Is God calling you into the mission field? We'd love to talk to you about it! Connect with us at [otan.org/serve](http://otan.org/serve).

## WHY WE GIVE TO OTAN

"We know OTAN people. We listen to their hearts.

Therefore we know, understand, and appreciate the ministry of OTAN. We stay connected through their emails and personal reports. We've watched them go into hard places because, as they say, "It's about the people."

We know that OTAN has real people doing real ministry for the Lord with all their hearts as they reach Asia through the training of pastors."

~Mark Sasscer, Missions Council Chairperson, Mountain View Church, Marietta, GA