



ARTICLE

FBC BURMESE EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAMME 2024 (UPDATE)

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO PREACH AND TEACH GOD'S WORD

FBC Today

UNLEASHING THE GOSPEL



FBC BURMESE EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAMME 2024 (UPDATE)

Since 2021, one of FBC's major outreach programs under the Community Care ministry has been to support the Burmese refugee community living in Subang Jaya. A key focus

of the outreach has been to provide educational support for Zo refugee children who are not able to attend public or international schools due to their refugee status.

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON
12 January 2025
Good News for the Poor
Isaiah 58:6-10

Preacher **William Ngeow**



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SHEPHERD LEARNING CENTER

THE ZO REFUGEE CHILDREN NOW HAVE A SCHOOL OF THEIR OWN!

It was through FBC's support that the Zo Community Resource Center (ZCRC) was established in 2022 by Pastor Thang Khup Khai, a pastor from the Zo community living in Subang Jaya. The school - whose tagline is "Reaching by Educating" - began with just 7 students, ranging from the ages of 7 to 12. The school was officially launched and dedicated in Jan 2023 after completing a period of initial training for the school's administrator and teaching supervisors, facilitated by FBC's Covenant Christian Center (CCC).

The school, now renamed the The Shepherd Learning Centre (SLC), currently serves 25 students with an enrollment of 17 boys and 8 girls, between the ages of 5 and 13. More students are set to join in 2025. With a curriculum based on the Accelerated Christian Education (ACE School of Tomorrow) system from the United States, the SLC offers a Christian-based and self-paced approach to learning, from kindergarten through to primary and secondary grades. To date, at least 8 of SLC's students have moved to the United States (via UNCHR, the UN Refugee Agency), where they have successfully transitioned into local schools, facilitated by their prior exposure to the American curriculum.

Pastor Khai, who serves as the Administrator and Supervisor in the SLC, is extremely passionate about education and firmly believes that

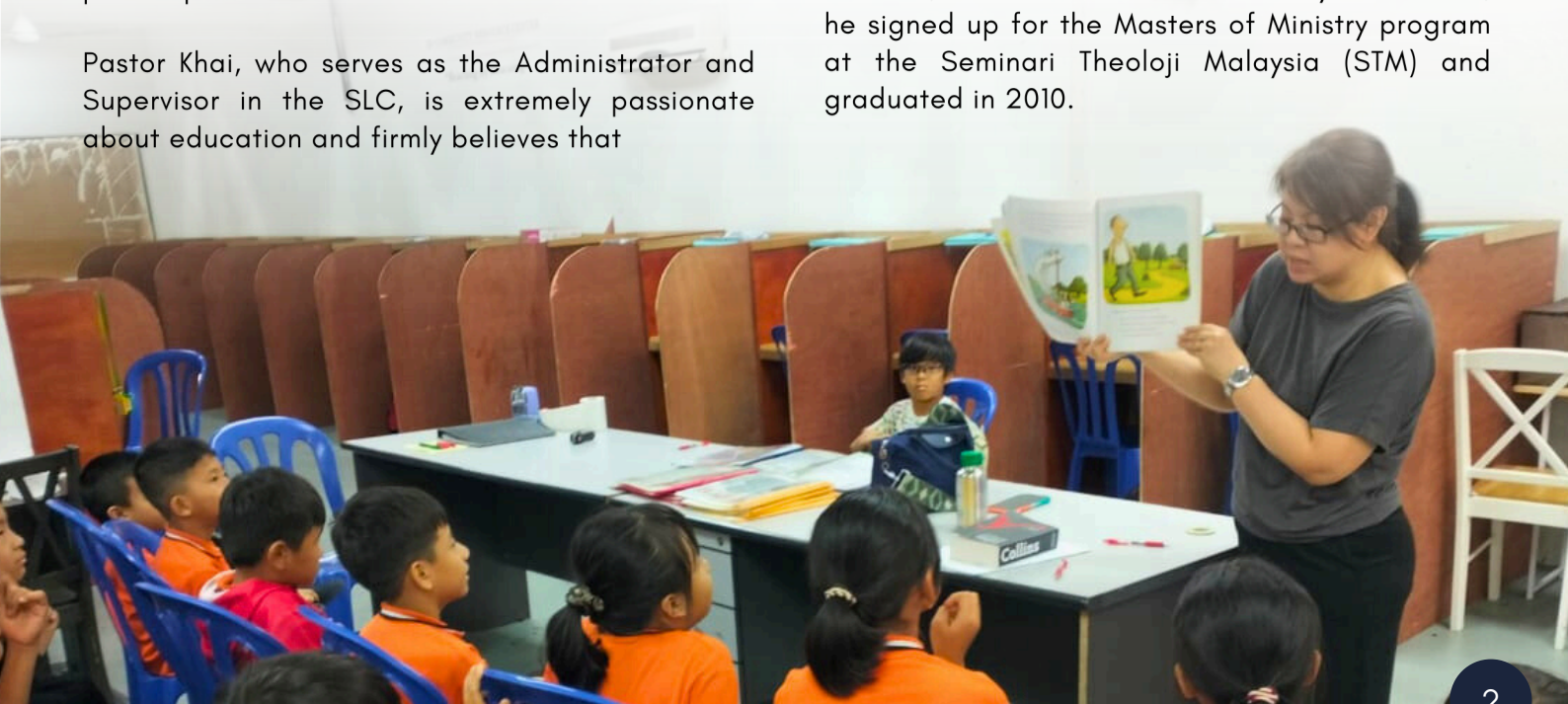


education is a lifeline to break the cycle of poverty and hardship for the Zo children, and the community as a whole.

Growing up in Myanmar, he completed only up to Grade 5 in schooling due to poverty, even having to travel to a neighbouring village to attend school. At 10 years old, he worked as a farmer for the next five years, enduring physical strain that made him yearn for a different life.

"Every day, my feet ached and blistered, because I spent the whole day stepping on earth, rocks and stones. I told myself - this cannot be what the rest of my life is like," Pastor Khai shared.

In 1995, he discovered an English grammar book at his uncle's house and taught himself the language, which opened doors to new opportunities. His passion for learning never dimmed, and after he came to Malaysia in 2008, he signed up for the Masters of Ministry program at the Seminari Teoloji Malaysia (STM) and graduated in 2010.





Drawing from his own experience as a young child in Myanmar, he strives to provide his students with the education he himself never had. At the Shepherd Learning Centre, the children are given a chance to learn, grow, and dream of a brighter future.

Despite the growth and progress, the school still faces significant challenges. One of the main hurdles is the cost of education, which is a barrier for many families. Currently, the SLC charges a fee of RM200 per month for Grade 1 students, with an additional RM20 increase for each subsequent grade. However, for many refugee families struggling with incomes below the subsistence level, even this can be unaffordable. Pastor Khai expressed his hope that, with continued financial support, they could provide more subsidies to those who need it and enrol more students.

The school currently has Pastor Khai and two teachers – Miss Kim Kim and Mr Joseph Sut – in its academic team. This year also saw volunteers from FBC’s CIA (Christians in Action) Life Group members who help with Enrichment Programmes. Miss Lisa Goh reads and does storytelling sessions with the children weekly, while Miss Rhalyn and Mr. Matthias Morgenroth teach them practical life skills twice a week, along with outreach activities like gardening, park and museum visits, and team-building events.

In this recent interview, Pastor Khai shared that he was thankful for the support from FBC and the CCC for the successful establishment of the school, as well as for all the enrichment classes and events the CIA Life Group has organised and participated in.



ACTIVITIES ORGANISED FOR THE ZO CHILDREN INCLUDE:

- November 2023: CIA members volunteered as guides during a field trip to Aquaria KLCC
- December 2023: Organised a Book Donation Drive for the school
- August 2024: Field trip to the National Museum on Merdeka Day
- September 2024: Batik painting session in school
- Other events in 2024: Gardening at USJ 2 Community Park, Outing to Kota Kemuning Community Park, swimming exposure, and mentoring sessions with the children through lunch, dinners, and small birthday celebrations.





HOW FBC CAN CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE SLC

1. **Financial sponsors** who are able to support the running cost of the school. If there is enough support, the school program can be expanded to make education even more accessible to the Zo children.
2. **Foster a child** - financial support by sponsoring a child's education fees.
3. **Volunteer** with the school and spend time with the Zo children. This will provide the children invaluable opportunities to interact with people outside of their Zo community and sharpen their language and social skills.
4. **Commit to pray:**
 - For the SLC: For the school to be able to hire more suitable staff. Currently, the school is in discussions with prospective teaching supervisors to join the team in 2025.
 - For the Zo community to be more invested in their children's education.

If you would like to contribute financially, or if you are interested in volunteering your time, expertise, or resources for the Zo children, please contact Johnson Lee (016 305 9027) or Lisa Goh (019 351 1956).

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

LIFE AS A ZO REFUGEE CHILD IN MALAYSIA

Cing Sien San Kim, a 10-year-old Zo refugee child, is curious, confident, and incredibly bubbly, once you get to know her. Her typical day begins with waking up at 7 am, attending school at SLC from 8 am to 1 pm, and spending her afternoons playing with friends, rollerblading, or playing dodge ball.

School is an important part of her life, and she enjoys learning new things, especially history.

San Kim dreams of becoming a doctor one day to help others, but is keenly aware that her goal can be challenging.

"I want to be a doctor, but I don't know if I will be able to do it. Many things are hard," she says, hinting at her family's financial challenges.

San Kim also loves dancing, painting, and playing the guitar, and she recently took part in the Zo National Day celebrations and cultural activities, which she was very proud of.

"Pray for me to be able to work hard," she says, her voice full of quiet determination.



By Lisa Goh

Lisa attends the CIA Life Group and is a mom of two very energetic and bubbly boys.





PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO PREACH AND TEACH GOD'S WORD

Pray that God would meet them in their study of the Scriptures.

Pray that the study will go beyond exegetical accuracy, so as to be a matter of reading and receiving the Word as if God were present with them, speaking his Word to them fresh.

Pray that they would be open to God's teaching and correction in their own lives.

Pray that your teachers will learn and grow from study of the Scripture, for from this will flow deeper teaching.

Pray that God would help them understand the circumstances and needs of those they teach. To give them understanding which aspects of the Scripture will be most important to understand, where hope needs to be offered, where correction or rebuke is needed, where encouragement in the light of hard truths is critical. Pray that your teachers will grow to know those they teach well, so God can use them more effectively.

Pray that the Holy Spirit would empower them to teach and speak with boldness and humility. Pray that your teachers would teach with the boldness God gives, and model a humble spirit.

Pray that the Holy Spirit would take their teaching and move in the hearts and lives of those they teach. Nothing is more satisfying to the preacher or Bible teacher than to see how God takes his Word and moves in the hearts and lives of God's people. Pray that your teachers will have that blessing, that joy of seeing the fruit of the work God has called them to, and glorify God for it.

