



Get to Know Jed and Family

Jedidiah Thangthat — Our New Children’s Ministry Director!

Where were you born and what circumstances brought you to the United States?

I was born in a small, rural village called Tlangzaar in Chin state in Myanmar (Burma), where my family and I were part of a close-knit Christian community in a mostly Buddhist country. Growing up, we faced increasing pressure and fear due to religious persecution under the military regime. In 2007, when I was still young, my family made the difficult decision to flee to Malaysia in search of safety. Although we hoped to start a new life there, the Malaysian government did not recognize us as refugees and instead treated us as illegal immigrants.

Tell us about your family and where you spent your growing up years, where you lived, schools attended, college, church, etc.

I have two brothers and four sisters—yes, we’re a big family! That’s something I’ve found I have in common with a lot of the older folks here at BPC as I’ve gotten to know more people. I had just finished seventh grade in Myanmar, I couldn’t and didn’t go to school in Malaysia. In 2011, thanks to the help of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), my family was able to come to the U.S. here in SeaTac. Just two weeks after arriving, my siblings and I were all placed straight into ninth grade at Tye High School—even though we barely spoke English at the time! I graduated in 2015. In 2016, I started college at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, but I ended up taking some time off to figure things out. In 2018, I started studying online at Grand Canyon University to get a degree in Christian Studies, and I just finished that in February of this year—right before I applied for the Director of Children’s Ministry position at BPC.



Photo Courtesy of Thangthat family

The Thangthat family, Jedidiah and Rebekah, with children Isaac and Grace.

What helped you to integrate into a new culture?

My parents are very devoted Christians, especially my father. Their strong faith and trust in God have been what helped our family to adapt and find peace no matter where we were. Living as Christians in Buddhist and Muslim-majority countries wasn’t easy. In Myanmar, we lived in constant fear of the military which favored Buddhism and often persecuted religious minorities. In Malaysia, we were afraid of being arrested by the police simply because we didn’t have legal documents. Indeed, my father was arrested and spent nine months in prison for that very reason. But even in that dark time, God showed us His faithfulness. While my dad was in prison, the UNHCR granted him refugee status—and soon after, the rest of our family received it as well. The fact that we’re now here in the United States is proof to us that God

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This monthly PAGE 2 column reminds us that a partnership takes two. We should all be active, on-going SENDERS partnering with the SENT.

Compiled and edited by Ellyn Roe

*Because the Press is published online, some of our global workers must guard their identities. If you need email addresses, contact ellynroe@comcast.net



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Photo credit page 1: (banner)
Dave Huck from All-Church Yard
Clean Up on April 12

PAGE 2: YOU AND YOUR GLOBAL WORKERS Twosomes Partnering with God around the World

RHYTHM RETURNS

By C.H.*

We are finally settling into a pretty good routine, and it is helping us feel more sane and productive. Even being back in America on our home assignments, it can be hard to find a good rhythm because we are constantly moving around the country to visit and update friends and fellowships. This feeling of finally feeling in a healthy rhythm is a praise.

Please pray for our various ministry responsibilities:

- Our personal walk with Jesus
- Our marriage reflecting Jesus and his Church
- Raising our children in the fear and instruction of Lord
- Being involved in our local church (soon we plan to start hosting a home-group)
- Teaching students at the Bible college (currently we are in week 6 of 16 in the semester)
- A weekly bible-study outreach group with Afghan refugees (about 14 men)

Recently a missions conference was held at the Bible college. I led one of the



My Afghan Bible study outreach group.

seminars on Foundational Bible Teaching, a style of discipleship which teaches the Bible story the way that God gave it to us—from creation, to Christ, to re-creation. Please pray that the teaching has lasting usefulness for the seminar attendees.

With the Afghan group, where I also use the Creation-to-Christ-to-re-creation model, we study the Bible, then we share a meal together. Your support allows

us to rent this room and provide food. Hallelujah!

Finally, please pray that our children would have some good friends. There are a few neighborhood kids in our area but not the same ages as ours. One of our plans is to put our kids in school when the new school-year begins in July.

Blessings to you!
— Craig, for us

A HUGE LOSS

By K.D.*

We received the very sad news a couple of days ago that the Chadian director of the English center passed away. He was an MBB from a very unreached group here, though that wasn't widely known and there are no other known believers in his family. He's worked for the center and our partner organization for about 20 years, and he was known as a humble and kind man with a heart to serve. He was a blessing to so many people, and it's hard to imagine the impact of this on the center and the partner organization (and potentially even our work there). Please be praying that God will use this in the lives of family members. Please also pray for the MBB community, our partner organization, and the center.

At left: With one of the graduating students at the April graduation — the last time I saw the friendly director.



Photographer: S. H.*

Photo Credit: C.H.*

Speak Life

By Pastor Bud

Have you ever paused to consider the power of your words? Every day, we speak thousands of them—some carefully chosen, others carelessly tossed into conversations. Scripture reminds us that our words are weighty. Proverbs 18:21 tells us, *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”*

Words matter! What we say can either breathe life into someone’s heart or slowly chip away at a person’s spirit. Encouragement can brighten a day, restore confidence, or even help someone “hang in there” when they’re ready to give up. But harsh criticism, careless comments, or gossip can inflict wounds that linger far longer than we realize.

As followers and representatives of Christ, we are called to be different. In Ephesians 4:29, Paul wrote, *“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for building up what is needed, so that it will give grace to those who hear.”* That means we should ask ourselves: *Are my words helpful? Are they building others up?*

Gossip, though often disguised as concern or curiosity, does the opposite. It divides rather than unites. It whispers instead of encourages. And at its core, it places our words in service of self rather than the good of others. As believers, we

must avoid passing along unverified or hurtful information. Instead, let’s commit to being people who use our mouths to heal and restore.

So how do we do this? It starts with intentionality. Make it a daily goal to encourage at least one person. Speak life to your spouse, children, a coworker, or a friend. Write a note, send a kind message, or say something uplifting to a person. You never know how much someone might need a word of hope or encouragement that day.

And when conflicts or frustrations arise, as they inevitably will, choose words that are seasoned with grace. Speak the truth, yes, but speak it in love (Ephesians 4:15). Even correction can be done in a way that builds rather than breaks.

Jesus said in Matthew 12:34, *“For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.”* If our words are consistently negative, critical, or gossipy, that may reveal something about our hearts that needs to change. Ask for the Holy Spirit’s help to cleanse not only our hearts (Mt. 23:26) but our speech so that our words would naturally reflect His goodness.

Imagine the kind of community we can be if we are committed to speaking life daily. A church marked by grace-filled conversations, encouragement, and unity is a powerful witness to the world.

Let’s be known as people who speak life.
For His Glory alone,
Pastor Bud

So long, farewell...

A note from the Kowallis family

“Boulevard Park Church, thank you for letting us serve you these past six years. We’ve learned and grown a lot here, and are grateful you incorporated our family into your lives. May the Lord cause you to abound in love for Him and one another, and may He continue to lavish His grace upon you to do His will in reaching the world for Jesus. You will be in our prayers, and we’ll certainly cherish yours.”

— Nate and Erryn Kowallis
Declan, Fletcher, Callum, and Emrys



Photo taken Fall 2023 by Natalie Malis

Milestones

Deaths

John Gilleland

March 30, 2025

husband of Karen Gilleland

Join Our Worship Team!

We invite musicians within our congregation to consider sharing their talents as part of our worship ministry. Please reach out to our Worship Director, Josh Richins, if you’d like to explore this opportunity. You can contact Josh through his email or in person. Email: josh.richins@bpcburien.org

Donations Needed for Transform Burien

For the month of May, food and clothing donations will be taken for Transform Burien. They can be brought to the church office.

Save the date: Saturday, May 31, 2 p.m.

We will be celebrating **Dick Frederick’s 80th Birthday!** No gifts please; your presence will be present enough. We are hoping that you will share the story of how you met Dick or how he impacted your life. The party will be in Room 151 at BPC. RSVP to Peg at 206-304-7811 or call if you have questions. Hope to see you there!

Jed, continued from page 1

is always faithful to those who trust in Him. We could never have made it here on our own—not financially, not by our own strength or ability. And yet, here we are, living in the Land of the Free and full of opportunity. For us, that's nothing short of a miracle.

Where did you meet Rebekah? Tell us about your children. Where do you currently live? What hobbies or activities do you enjoy yourself or with Rebekah.

I met my wife at my church, Seattle Falam Baptist Church, in 2016 in Renton. We started dating a while after we met and got married in 2020. God has since blessed us with two wonderful children—Isaac 3, and Grace 1. Before I met my wife, my hobbies included playing soccer, running, hiking, and hanging out with friends. Now that we're one, I've found joy in simpler things—singing, spending time with our kids, and watching movies at home together. On a more serious note, I've come to realize just how quickly children grow. I want to make the most of these early years—while they still want to be around me and while they're still so cute.

What job(s) have you held prior to becoming our Director of CM?

For the past three years, I ran a small business as a sushi franchise owner inside the Fred Meyer grocery store in Gig Harbor, while pursuing my bachelor's degree in Christian Studies at GCU. Balancing the demands of family, church, business, and school was challenging and still is, but it taught me valuable lessons in time management, leadership, and perseverance. That experience reinforced my belief that faith is essential in guiding every aspect of life, and that with God's help, we can overcome any obstacle.

Were you involved as a child in Sunday School/Children's Ministry activities and did those experiences influence how you will approach your job as CM Director here at BPC?

Although the official religion of my country is Buddhism, I was born and raised in a Christian family and

community. Yes, from a young age, I attended Sunday school, where I learned many important lessons about the Christian faith, the Bible, and the principles that guide us as believers. Even in Malaysia, we didn't have a church building, but we gathered in homes or apartments for Sunday school each week, keeping our faith alive despite the challenges.

Sunday school played a significant role in shaping my understanding of God's Word and character. It had a profound impact on my life and continues to influence the way I approach my role as Director of the Children's Ministry. I firmly believe that teaching children about God, His Word, and His wisdom is crucial. By providing them with a strong spiritual foundation, we help them build a lasting relationship with God that they can actively grow from throughout their lives.

Do you have ideas about how Children's Ministries can play a role in outreach to the community?

Absolutely, I do. Washington is one of the most liberal and unchurched states in the U.S., which means we must pray harder and work harder because there is so much to be done. I am deeply inspired by the members of BPC and their willingness to help, volunteer, and actively engage in the Children's Ministry. I am truly in awe of their dedication. I am both excited and grateful for the opportunity to learn, lead, and be a part of this incredible ministry. Together, I believe we can make a lasting impact on the children and families in our community.

Are there things going on in our program at BPC which you are eager to build upon? What excites you about the future of CM at BPC?

Absolutely! I wasn't aware of the weekday programs we offer here. In my previous churches, Sunday school was the main, if not the only, program for the children's ministry. So, discovering the KidChurch, KidLife, and Wednesday night programs here have been both inspiring and encouraging. These

programs are not only a wonderful tool to engage children throughout the week, but they also help build a deeper, more consistent spiritual foundation.

What excites me most is how these programs allow children to connect with God in meaningful ways on a regular basis. It's one thing to teach kids on Sundays, but it's another to provide them with opportunities throughout the week to grow and apply what they're learning. I'm truly grateful for the foundation that has already been laid here, and I am incredibly excited to be part of a team that's dedicated to raising up the next generation of faithful, loving believers. With the continued support of the church community, we can help our children grow into strong, active members of the body of Christ for years to come. I have a strong conviction that Christianity is making a comeback in the U.S.

How can we be in prayer for you and your family and the Children's Ministry?

First and foremost, give thanks to God for His abundant blessings and goodness toward my family. We are grateful for His constant faithfulness and provision. It is only through His grace and guidance that we have come this far. Please pray that God continues to lead and guide us as we serve His children here at BPC, that all we have is a result of His divine plan. I pray that He would empower me to teach His Word truthfully and lead our children in a manner that reflects His love and the teachings of Scripture. My prayer is to help the children not only gain knowledge of God but also develop a deep understanding of His love and how they can live according to His will.

SPORTS CAMP 2025

July 14-18, 8:45am-Noon

Boulevard Park Church

1st-5th Graders: Soccer,
Cheer, or Art

4-5 Year-Olds: Kickstart

(a variety of age-appropriate games & sports/
must be 4 by July 14 to participate)



Register through the QR code or
at www.bpcburien.org, beginning May 4.



THEME: TEAM UP Knowing God is our ultimate purpose in life! God has the best plan for our lives and with God's help we can face our fears, defeat our doubts and live for Jesus and others.

MEMORY VERSE: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10a

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow.

4 and 5 year-olds are only offered the Kickstart Program. They will begin the morning with the older kids, break off for a sampler of sports and age-appropriate lessons, and then finish the morning with the older kids.

Kids who are entering Grades 1-5 in the fall can choose from Soccer, Cheer, or Art.

Kids entering 6th grade in the fall have the option to participate as a camper or volunteer.

Volunteers Needed! Sign up here!

Lead a group of 8-12 kids, no sports skills needed...just a love for Jesus and the kids He brings to your group. Youth, please have your parent's approval when you sign up.

Already signed up? Save these dates & times!

- Volunteer Training with Base Sports, June 27-28, Fri pm & Sat am
- Volunteer Training & Lunch: July 13, after church/12:00-2:00pm
- Volunteer Schedule During Camp Week:
 - Volunteer Check-In & Devotions: 8:00am
 - Camp: 8:45-12:00
 - Volunteer Debrief: 12:15-12:30pm



Contact Katie at katieteeler@gmail.com or 253-266-8608 for more info.

Calendar Events

MAY 2025

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 4

9:00A Prayer Meeting
9:15A KIDS Sunday School
Youth Sunday School
10:30A KIDS Church
10:30A Worship In Person &
Live Stream/Communion
12:00P Potluck Salad & Pizza/
Say goodbye to the
Kowallis Family

Sunday, May 11, 18, 25

9:00A Adult Sunday School
9:15A KIDS Sunday School
Youth Sunday School
10:30A KIDS Church
10:30A Worship In Person &
Live Stream

Monday, May 5, 12, 19

6:00P Men's Bible Study
7:00P GriefShare

Tuesday, May 6 & 20

6:30P Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday, May 7, 14, 21, 28

6:00P Wednesday Night Dinner
6:30P Youth Group
6:40P Adult Bible Study

Thursday, May 8

1:00P Memorial Reception
for Gene Deda

Monday, May 12

11:00A Ladies Circle

Tuesday, May 13

9:30A MOMLife (last one
until fall)

Thursday, May 15

3:30P Care Partners

Friday, May 23

Church Office Closed

Monday, May 26

Church Office Closed

Mission Team Heads to Thailand

By Thailand Girls' Team

Our Girls' Mission Team to Thailand is preparing for our upcoming trip this summer. As we support Makin Yee in her various ministries, here are some of the things we will be doing:

- **Local elementary school Field & Sports Day.** We'll spend two days playing some games, doing some crafts and sharing the Gospel/Bible stories with about 60-70 boys and girls.
- **Zion Home Renovation & Fellowship.** Project Justice International has a home for children at risk. They've asked us to come a couple of days and do some painting and help with minor repairs. We'll work in the morning while the kids are in school and spend the afternoon/evening hanging out with the girls doing some crafts and getting to know them. You can learn more about Project Justice at <https://projectjusticeinternational.org>
- **Village Day.** We'll visit another village and do some games and crafts, and share a Bible story with 20-40 boys and girls.
- **2-Day Sports Camp** at the BIFA Center. We'll do a smaller version of our church's sports camp with 40-50 girls from the community. You can learn more about the

BIFA Center at <https://www.ywamthai.org/serving-without-borders>

There are eleven of us going (3 high school girls, 3 college girls, 4 moms and a dad). We have a full schedule of ministry planned with one day of touring toward the end of the trip. We would so appreciate your prayers! Here are some ideas for prayer...
...that the girls who are going would grow in their faith and ability to share about Jesus with the kids.

...for health and energy and quick recovery from jet lag, so we can be ready for action.

...for funding for the renovation project at the Zion Home.

...that the gospel would be clearly shared with each group of kids and the Lord would call kids to follow Him.

...that the Lord would be glorified in and through us.

Other ways to support us...

- Buy some baked goods on May 18 after church.
- Check out our Amazon wish list with supplies/equipment for the different groups we will be working with. https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/LHJNEKT8VPPL?ref=wl_share



Salad Potluck Plus Pizza

Sunday ♦ May 4th

in the MPR after the worship service

Volunteers needed for setup at 10:15 a.m. and cleanup afterward.

If you can help, please contact the office.

Bring a salad or dessert ♦ Pizza provided by BPC

Important Details:

- All items ready to serve and labeled
- Salads on north and south walls of MPR
- Desserts on the tables near the kitchen

Immediately after worship service:

- Put your name on a nametag and wear it.
- Find a seat in the Multipurpose Room.
- Pastor Nate will pray before the meal.



The Provision of God

By Jon Recker, Elder

So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

– Genesis 22:14

Recently I read an article about the discovery of an ancient Mayan altar in modern-day Guatemala. According to archaeologists the site was likely used for religious sacrifices, including humans. Many readers had commented on the story, but one remark that caught my eye said, essentially, “Well, Christians are no better since their own Bible records Abraham sacrificing Isaac.”

I don’t know whether the commenter was being sincere or just provocative, but let’s consider how we could help a good-faith questioner understand the significance of Abraham offering Isaac on Mount Moriah (Gen. 22:1-19). This will provide some useful practice in interpreting the Bible (*hermeneutics*) and defending our beliefs (*apologetics*).

The first thing we observe is that **Abraham did not actually kill Isaac**. This may seem obvious, but biblical literacy continues to erode among Christians and unbelievers alike. Many people operate based on hazy memories from long-ago Sunday School lessons, so we must always confirm what scripture actually says.

Clearly God had no intention of letting Abraham harm Isaac. We are told that God was testing Abraham (v. 1) and that the angel of the Lord was poised to intervene at the critical moment: “*Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him*” (v. 12). Abraham identified that the ram (v. 13) was God’s provision in place of Isaac (vv. 8, 14).

Further, we note that **scripture specifically forbids such practices**. Throughout the Old Testament God condemns in the strongest terms any type of religious murder. For example, see Deut. 12:31, Deut. 18:10, Lev. 18:21, II Kings 21:6, and Jer. 7:31. A key hermeneutic principle is that scripture never contradicts itself (*analogia scriptura*). Thus we cannot conclude from the Isaac narrative that God approves of child sacrifice, because that would be inconsistent with His clear teaching elsewhere.

Next, we see in the text that **Abraham trusted God’s promises**. God had assured Abraham that his descendants would come through Isaac (Gen. 21:12). So while the command to offer him as a burnt offering seemed to invalidate that expectation, Abraham demonstrated faith that God would somehow fulfill His promise (Gen. 22:5).

We gain additional insight into Abraham’s thinking from Hebrews 11:19: “*He [Abraham] considered that God was able even to raise him [Isaac] from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.*” So unlike in pagan rituals where death was the whole point, Abraham’s confidence was based on a belief that Isaac would *live*.

Finally, we understand from scripture that **the testing of Abraham served God’s purposes**. This dramatic event advanced God’s plan to bless the world through Abraham’s descendants (Gen. 22:18) and introduced to Israel the concept of substitutionary atonement. This principle was later made explicit in the Mosaic law (Lev. 16:15-16) and ultimately in the work of Christ (Heb. 9:28).

Ironically, many heathen religions have identified a truth which secular man cannot acknowledge—that there is a God with whom we must be reconciled. Yet taking the life of another person in an attempt to satisfy God’s wrath is both barbaric and ineffective. Because “*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*” (Rom. 3:23), we can never atone even for our own sins, let alone for others’.

Only a perfect sacrifice is sufficient—one which is holy and unblemished, completely without sin (Heb. 9:23). No mere human meets these criteria, but in His mercy God provided a suitable offering: His own Son, Jesus Christ (I Peter 1:19). What was hinted at by the provision of the ram as a substitute for Isaac is completed in the sacrifice of Jesus, our Passover lamb (I Cor. 5:7), who has reconciled us to God once for all (Heb. 9:26).

Celebrations!

May Birthdays

- 1 Noah Harder
William McCreary
- 6 Karen Doerr
- 7 Don Whalen
- 12 Rachel Drast
Don Hartley
- 14 Hillary Hightower
Joe Hightower
- 15 Ellyn Roe
Pete Wagner
- 16 Fred Volkers
- 17 Lisa Bowen
Josh Burt
- 19 Jim Lindberg
Wyatt Wagner
- 20 Jim Shoe
- 21 Jon Recker
- 25 Eva Lee Henderson
- 27 Brenda Partridge
- 28 Judy Maier
- 29 Larry Gray
- 31 Dick Frederick
Rae Weller

Early June Birthdays

- 1 Noe Martinez
- 2 Lisa Siedenburt
- 3 Judy Mattson
- 4 Farouq Hammo
- 5 Kian Conroy
- 6 Ian Faulkner
- 7 Larry Rice
Gary Stariha
Lisa (Stampalia) Jones
- 8 Cora Miller
Nathan Recker

If your birthday is not listed, and you would like it to be, please contact the church office.



BOULEVARD
PARK CHURCH

1822 S 128th Street
Burien WA 98168-2903

*Reaching Our
World for Christ*



The Care Net Annual Baby Bottle Fundraiser

Sunday, May 11—Sunday, June 15, 2025
(Mother's Day to Father's Day)

By Steve and Ellyn Roe, Care Net Volunteers

Last month the Press treated you to a follow-up and photo of Ella, the young woman whose video you saw on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday in January, and who has kind of become the “poster mom” for the life-changing work being done at Care Net of Puget Sound. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9hgNZZuv5GY>

Ella represents many other Seattle area women who receive from Care Net compassionate and practical help equipping them to choose life for their babies, even when their pregnancies are unplanned or under-supported. And often, these women are open to hearing the Gospel or rededicating their lives to Christ!

YOUR HELP enables Care Net to provide what these women need. Don't miss out! Plan to get your empty Care Net Baby

Bottle bank from Steve and Ellyn Roe at church on ONE DAY ONLY: **Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11**. Put it in a prominent place* in your home and each time you see it, PRAY for Care Net and the moms and babies Care Net serves. And, yes, do fill your bottle with coins, bills and checks (Care Net of Puget Sound) and return your bottle (filled or not) on Father's Day, June 15. (For the security of your donation, please do not return bottles early.)

BPC has a history of enthusiastic support for this event; last year you gave the highest amount ever: over \$4,000 in coins, bills and checks. **Remarkable!!** It would be wonderful if you could respond again with such generosity, so that all of the Ella's in our area will be generously loved on and supported by YOU through Care Net of Puget Sound.

*Suggestion: Place the baby bottle on or near your dining table as a reminder to pray together at mealtimes for Care Net. Maybe doing this will be part of your training your children about the sanctity of human life. You don't have to explain abortion, you can simply pray together that God would help Care Net take care of babies and moms who need help.