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Marlene A. Po

**SOUTHEAST ASIA & JAPAN**

**LANGUAGES**

English  
Burmese  
Karen

**MINISTRY PRIORITIES**

From Everywhere  
to Everyone,  
Theological Education

**BIRTHDAY**

10/3



**LOCATION**

Southeast Asia & Japan



**ABOUT**

In association with Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Shawnee, Kansas, Marlene serves as the director of the Foundation of Judson Communities (FJC) program in the U.S. This program provides training for pastors and leaders of churches serving recently resettled communities of people who have

immigrated to the United States from Myanmar (formerly Burma). Through this course of study, pastors and church leaders from Karen, Chin, Kachin, Karenni, and other ethnic groups can earn a Certificate of Ministry Studies to help them better serve the unique needs of their churches.

As director, Marlene, a graduate of the Myanmar Institute of Theology in Yangon, Myanmar, and a member of Calvary Burmese Church in Washington DC, will be organizing meetings in various locations in the U.S. as well as teaching classes on Christian education.



Saw Htoo Wah's FJC graduation 2014



**MINISTRY STORY**

I met Saw Htoo Wah in Nashville, Tennessee, in 2014 when I was teaching Christian education for the FJC program. I met him again in 2017 while teaching at the Karen Theological Study Center USA (KTSC) in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Through our time at KTSC, I got to know him and his story better.

He came to America as a refugee and started off working odd jobs. He was not very interested in religion, although he identified as a Christian. He became interested in theology after attending his first FJC classes, and he was very excited when he heard about KTSC, where classes were offered in his native Karen

language. He graduated with a Certificate of Theological Studies in March 2019.

After graduating, he returned to Georgia, where the East-Coast South region of Karen Baptist Churches USA appointed him as an evangelism director. He is now serving God joyfully in this role, traveling to meet with Karen churches every week.

He and his wife decided to commit their lives to God's ministry by serving the Karen in the U.S. together, and she also began attending FJC classes. It has been amazing to see their journey, from coming to America with little education, to attending FJC classes, to serving God together.

If God has a purpose for someone to serve in his ministry, then it will come true in spite of any the obstacles. A person can do great things through the education they receive at FJC, and Saw Htoo Wah is the epitome of the impact that FJC can have on individuals and refugee communities in America.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Pray for the current travel ban of Burmese immigrants to the U.S.

Pray for FJC classes.

Pray for Burmese immigrants currently living in the U.S. and that they would live with God.

**SCRIPTURE**

*"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."*

1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)