



# Lutheran Theological Seminary News

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## Goodbye



by Jeaneth Harris Faller

*We could not imagine how time flies  
You had just arrived with that big smile  
Now you are packed and ready to say goodbye  
So we feel like just sitting and cry*

*Saying goodbye is now we do for you  
Though it's hard for us not to show  
How we will be sad when you go*

*To say goodbye for us is hard  
for in our lives you have been part  
and, in your special way, our lives were touched*

*Goodbye we say with a broken mood  
A pain is felt within our heart  
But what can we do, for you must go  
Where you are needed and have work to do*

*Goodbye, goodbye, my dearest friend  
What else can we say?  
You weren't meant to stay  
We only pray, you to be strong  
for every endeavor so you do no wrong  
For in Christ we know you belong*

*My friend it is indeed true  
We cannot stand and pretend  
That part of us wants you to remain  
But then we are great believers  
Goodbye is not forever  
In fall, spring, winter and summer  
One day, one day, we will see you again*

*Goodbye to you friend !*

*Jeaneth Harris Faller from the Philippines is a second year*

*Th. D. student at LTS*



# Rekindle the Passion of Christ's Calling

## Students and Faculty gather for Spring Semester Retreat at HKBTS

Under the theme "Rekindling the Passion of Christ's Calling" students and faculty of LTS gathered for their spring semester retreat at the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary (HKBTS) on 9th January 2009. The preparation committee had carefully chosen the theme as a reflection of their own spiritual experience and related to their studies. The members hoped to remind all participants of their own calling from God and rekindle their passion towards God. LTS News asked student and committee member Teresa Leung Yin Yee to share her experiences of this day.

We started the day with a worship at the HKBTS chapel where we heard a sermon from Dr. Joshua W. T. Cho, President of HKBTS. He chose 2 Corinthians 4: 7-18 as the text for his preaching and my heart was deeply moved by the image about God's servants as common clay. We could be precious and useful only when Jesus Christ was inside our hearts. Crucified with Jesus Christ, we needed to carry the cross of Christ. We could not rekindle the passion for Christ's calling until our lives had been transformed by God.

After this sharing, we gathered in our family groups to share our insights from the sermon and our news till noon. The family groups really achieved the goal of strengthening teacher-student relationship. Photographs were taken and they became part of our beautiful memories of LTS.

We launched various workshops in the afternoon such as "Spirituality and Calligraphy", "Spiritual Dancing", "Alexander Technique", "Bibliodrama" and "Personal Silence & Solitude". We were free to attend any workshops. I learned how to get closer to God through the "Spiritual Dancing". My dance partner and I prayed for each other. In this exercise, we could learn how to have a 'closer touch' with different individuals both physically

and spiritually. During the Holy Communion, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ lit up the flame in our hearts, letting us remember and think about his great love for us again. We recalled how Jesus had forgiven Peter and placed the mission of the church on him. We also asked ourselves: Being a "servant of God in the future", can we accomplish the calling to which God assigned us?

Poon Wing Kwong, our dear classmate, passed away just a day before the camp. All of us were extremely sad about losing a good brother. The LTS Chaplain, Rev. Patrick Chan led us in a prayer for Kwong's family. Many professors and students cried. Although we didn't know why God let this incident happened, we realized life is short and fragile. Without the grace of God we are weak. We knew Kwong had tried his very best in studies and serving God and the people at his church. He had accomplished his God given mission. Kwong, you are resting in peace and we will continue God's mission, remembering witness in our hearts.

As there were only 4 in the preparation committee, we were thankful that we received a lot of help from professors, students and guest tutors.



Since the retreat took place some months ago participants might have forgotten what they have learned and the fire inside their heart has cooled down. But I hope when they feel depressed, they are able to remember the once lit little flame in their hearts. May the love of Jesus rekindle it. Firmly stick to the calling from God since "His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires." (2 Peter 1:3-4)

Teresa Leung Yin Yee is a third year B.Th. student at LTS



## Who is God's witness? LTS celebrates annual music worship

by Vanessa Ming Sze Kei

Who is God's witness? Throughout history Christians often have developed models and formalized different answers to this question. On the evening of 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2009, the congregation gathered in the Tsung Tsin Mission Sham Shui Po Church and gave their own answer by responding to this question with music and actions and singing 'Hallelujah' as the annual music worship of the Lutheran Theological Seminary came to an end.

When Ms Mabel Wu Chung Yuen with a smile opened the event by raising her hand to conduct the choir, the whole congregation began to be enveloped in this harmonious musical world. People from different churches and countries proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus Christ by singing "He is risen" and "Jesus lives!" which were followed by several local, African and South American hymns. In short, music broke all the boundaries among nations and territories.

Before the sermon, three choir members acting as Methuselah, Samson and Daniel, presented the theme "Who is God's witness?" in an interesting way. The choir echoed these witnesses by singing "My soul is the witness for my Lord". Then, the congregation seriously thought about the question so as to prepare their hearts for Dr. Simon Chow's sermon.

By asking the congregation to take action Dr. Simon Chow helped the congregation

to intensively investigate the theme. Everybody pressed their unique fingerprints on a small piece of paper with musical notes and brought it to the pulpit to once again dedicate their lives to God. Through this simple act, the congregation put into action what they had heard in the sermon into actions about being a witness of God. Afterwards, the congregation sang "I want to walk with Jesus Christ" led by the seminary international students and "Lord, I want to be a witness" to strengthen their will and so laid a foundation stone for our annual concert.

Once again the annual music worship was a demonstration of the various ways in which one can witness to God's love and creation: through systematic musical notes, rhythm and melody; with horns, drums, flutes, trumpets and cymbals in Psalms. Music is power and we cannot worship God without it. The significance of the annual music worship is to experience the harmony and presence of God via music and let the Holy Spirit enter our hearts.

Vanessa Ming Sze Kei is a first year Master of Arts (Theology) student at LTS





# A Hundred and Fourteen Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates handed out during the

# Thirty Second Graduation Service



Dr. Yuen Wai Man Sarah



Dr. Gabriele Hoerschelmann

Faculty Promotion

The first Sunday in June is always a special day in the yearly calendar of Lutheran Theological Seminary as it is the date of the Graduation. On 7th June, 2009 professors, graduates, fellow students, families and friends gathered in the Tsung Tsin Mission Sham Shui Po Church to celebrate this special moment. This year a record number of 114 graduates (85 in the Day School and 29 in Theological Education by Extension program) received their degrees, certificates and diplomas. Among these were the first three students from the newly established Regional English Language Institute who received a diploma for a one year intensive English course combined with basic theological studies.

During the graduation service the Board of directors also acknowledged the work and engagement of two LTS faculty members: Dr. Sarah Wai-Man Yuen was promoted to Professor and Dr. Gabriele Hoerschelmann to Associate Professor.

The following degrees were handed out to Day School students: **Doctor of Theology:** Chan Kwok Kuen, Sinaga Dewi Sri Tapiannauli (Indonesia), Sipayung Jon Riahman (Indonesia). **Doctor of**

**Ministry:** Ip Kim Wah, Khin Thida Nyunt (Myanmar), Thompson Mok Tung Shing, Xiao Anping (China). **Master of Theology:** Kim Duck Hyun (Korea), Mang Dal Khan (Myanmar), Sai Tin Hla (Myanmar), Thaw Blute (Myanmar). **Master of Sacred Theology:** Chow Kam Yau, Allan Chua Chi Yan, Gee Angela, Lau Man Cho, Li Dan (China), Lu Szu Hao (Taiwan), Lu Han Shih Hsin (Taiwan), Tanhasaitong Wipa (Thailand), Jedidah Yu Yim Ching, Zhao Hongjun (China). **Master of Arts (Theology):** Chow Wood Hang, Cui Bo (Canada), Fu Cheong Kuen, Ho Yim Shan, Ip Suet Fung, Kang Tsang Wah, Lal Fak Mawia (Myanmar), Lam Kwai Yan, Leung Kwan Ying, Struckmeyer Astrid (Germany), Szeto Wing Fu, Mesa Tai Chun Wah, Lucy Tan (Sabah/Malaysia), Wang Hong (China), Wong Hahn Anneliese, Wu Wan Ki. **Master of Divinity:** Chan Alan Lai Wah, Chan Wai Ling, Chan Wan Shan, Chan Yuk Ying, Cheung Lai Ying, Fung Ka Keung, Fung Man Kit, Hembrom Ernest Wahab (Bangladesh), Keo Thuy Joseph (Cambodia), Lau Lap Yan, Andrew Law Chi Ki, Ly Gia Trung (Vietnam), Mak Yat Keung, Naw Aung (Myanmar), Ng Wei Sing, Sihombing Tioria



Awarded by: Dr. Lam Tak Ho (President)



Assisted by: Dr. Simon Chow (Dean of Studies)

(Indonesia), Song Qiang (Canada), Tam Ka Lun, Tsui Chin Ming, Wong Ka Wai, Wong Yim Hung, Wu Iok Ka, Xia Yun (China), Alan Yan Ho Yip. **Bachelor of Theology:** Joyce Chan Ching Wan, Chan Wai Ling, Chan Yu Ho, Fong Tai Wai, Lam Kwok Wing, Law Kwok Keung, Leung Yat Man, Leung Yuk Yin, Benson Ma Man Hin, Mak Sze Yuen, Moong Kai Yan, Tam Wai Ling, Tsui Li Ling, Lily Wong Lei Lei, Hatty Wong Pik Fong, Yau Sheung Chu, Yim Kam Tong. **Bachelor of Christian**

**Education:** Chan Kwai Mui, Szeto Yee Wan. **Graduate Diploma:** Luk Mi Fung. **Diploma in Theological Studies:** Xina Ma Sze Hang. **Diploma in English Studies:** Bounta Phommabouth(Laos), Pachee Thao (Laos), Latsamy Vongxada (Laos).

Recipients of Theological Education by Extension degrees were: **Master of Christian Studies:** Solomon Au Yeung Tsz Man, Chan Chun Chau, Cheung Man Wai, Nelson Choi Kai Shun, Michelle Hui Lan Heung, David Hung Kwok Kwan, Miranda Hung Sing Moon, Simon Lam Ken Chung, Li Chun Hung, Liu Mei Ping, Ivan Tong Wing Man, Tse Wai King, Wong Hung Kei. **Associate Degree of Christian Studies:** Or Wai Ling. **Diploma in Theology for Lay Leadership:** Li Lai Ching, Li Man Pik. **Certificate in Theology for Lay Leadership:** Cheung Ming Kwan, Lau Chi Wai, Wong Sau Ching, Wong Wai Chong. **Certificate (Biblical Studies) in Theology for Lay Leadership:** Fung Yee Wah, Ho Chi Hang, Lam Yat Kwan, Ngai Mui Fong,



TEE Graduates

Wong Ching Sze, Wong Chor Wan. **Certificate for Leadership in Market Place Ministry:** Au Yeung Yick Cheung, Chan Wing Hong, Gloria Li Mei Yin.

Besides all these joyful moments it was also a time to say goodbye to our LTS President and Professor for Religious Education, Dr. Lam Tak Ho. After 15 years of service he had decided to resign from this position and to take up a new task. The Chairperson of the LTS Board, Rev. Dr. Bob Lo, thanked Dr. Lam for his humble, wise and engaged leadership. He especially pointed out that during Dr. Lam's presidency LTS has developed from a local Hong Kong Seminary into one of the leading theological institutions in the whole of Asia with a profound ecumenical reputation. His warm words of thanks and acknowledgement were echoed by the congregation with a long lasting standing ovation.



# Opening the Door to *Asia and the World*

Dr. Lam Tak Ho hands over the leadership of  
LTS after 15 years of service



Gift from Faculty



Dr. Lam and Rev. Patrick Chan

After 21 years of service for the Lutheran Theological Seminary, from which 15 were in the position of the presidency, Dr. Lam Tak Ho has decided to resign from this position. Being only the second Chinese president in the 95 years of the seminary's existence, it was one of his main tasks and accomplishment to have transformed LTS from a local Hong Kong Lutheran Seminary into an ecumenical theological institute with a regional outreach for and standing in Asia as a whole. A visible sign of this work is the high number of international students from more than 15 countries in Asia and from all over the world - 40 during the academic year 2008-2009. But also on a local level LTS has been able to enlarge and reinforce its position as a leading seminary in Hong Kong with one of the highest academic standards.

As it is always hard to find the right words when saying goodbye and also it being the nature of Dr. Lam not to put himself into the spotlight, LTS News asked one of his close faculty members

and LTS Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Patrick Chan to share some words of appreciation and thanks with the worldwide international family of LTS.

## **His Leadership**

I was asked to share some of my past experiences with President Dr. Lam. I joined LTS in 1995 and have been a chaplain for 14 years. I had witnessed great developments and advancements within the seminary throughout my time here: with expansion of academic disciplines, and increments of incoming students and academic colleagues, and more importantly, a wider recognition from the Christian community. It would now be impossible not to mention LTS when discussing theological education. The success of LTS, apart from the endeavours and hardwork of the whole academic teams and students, the leadership of Dr. Lam, the indispensable factor for our achievement. Actually Dr. Lam's leadership and capabilities have been

shown long before in his youthful years. When I joined Grace Lutheran Church in the 70s, Dr. Lam was the president of the Youth Fellowship, and the group was flourishing with a lot of members. One of my deepest impression of the time was during Christmas, where the young Dr. Lam was already capable of directing, writing, producing and acting in the Christmas drama, and of course, the drama was so popular among the audience and so full of success. I was also very honoured to participate in his drama, although just playing a little role.

## **His Sense of Humor**

Apart from his leadership, what would be remembered would be his sense of humor. It is not an easy job to lead the whole seminary, sharing visions, setting goals and planning. As every faculty member is intelligent and witty in its own unique fashion, tense arguments within discussion would sometimes be unavoidable .

And it was Dr. Lam's calm personality and humorous articulation that eased the tension. Many of us were able to experience his humor in our everyday engagement. Humor is a mediation for contradiction. I think his gift in humor is because he still has his childhood innocence and genuineness. His down to earth manner has resulted in such a joyful relationship with the faculty and students.

## **His Acceptance**

Dr. Lam is able to work with different people and groups from various backgrounds and mind sets, and he is able to build a rapport with students and staff members from all around the world. Off campus, he is also able to establish a working network not only within China and Southeast Asia, but towards Europe and North America. To establish LTS within the region, besides diligence, it is also important to possess an accepting and pluralistic mentality,

and to embrace a multi-cultural mindset, which is an integral attribute of Dr. Lam

## **His Vision**

Last I would like to mention a little bit about a characteristic of LTS. To establish spirituality within a seminary with a Lutheran background is not an easy task. However, LTS has succeeded in establishing spirituality as a distinct feature of our seminary. There are two factors for this achievement:

a. The trust Dr. Lam has for us spirituality teaching staff in promoting the discipline, and the freedom and support he provided so we are able to perform at will.

b. From the M.A. course and the inclusion of spirituality as a core subject, to the founding of Tao Fung Spiritual Formation Center, and the incorporation with Tao Fung Shan Christian Center and the Institute of Spirituality in Chinese Christianity, all illustrated Dr. Lam's ability in

acquiring resources, his vision and effectiveness in resource allocation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Lam for his long trust and support.

Dr. Lam will be soon leaving us and LTS, but I truly believe that our friendship will not. May God bless him and his family, and I look forward to hearing of his future dedication for Asian theological development. Once again I would like to thank Dr. Lam for giving me an opportunity to work in LTS. It is my greatest honour to be able to work alongside him.

*Rev. Dr. Patrick Chan is Chaplain at LTS and Professor for Spirituality and Worship and Pastoral Theology and Counselling*



# New Faces in the Faculty

*As already reported in the last issue of LTS-News, three new faculty members took up their service at the Lutheran Theological Seminary with the beginning of the academic year 2008-2009 or the spring semester 2009. We would like to take the opportunity to introduce them to our readers by publishing some information or personal notes from all of them. To provide you with a visual impression you will also find a photo of them and their families. The LTS community welcomes them and has already wildly enjoyed their presence at our campus.*

## **Ms. Rose Chue, Director of the Regional English Language Institute**



During Fall Semester you may have noticed the rotund little figure at the back of the chapel during Morning Prayers, the woman that limps away to the Lower Offices afterwards, and not emerging again until late in the afternoon. This is Rose Chue, a retired language teacher, who has come initially to join Katrina Vigen and Ryan Smart as a member of the LTS English teaching team, and then, to her astonishment, finding herself designated as the RELI Director. Her principal duties

this academic year are to draw up a course outline for the English Diploma that will be offered under the auspices of the Regional English Language Institute recently set up at LTS, and to help tutor the first group of students, all from Laos, who have come to study under this scheme. She has also been assisting both local and international students with the English language aspects of their assignments, presentations, proposals and dissertations. She is a member of Samson Tang's Development group, proofreading materials for the LTS website and other publications. Soon, building on the expertise of Katrina's and Ryan's work of last summer, she will start preparing for the Summer Orientation and English Program. Then she will be more visible as she will be actively recruiting helpers, both from the Faculty, the Administrative Staff, the Ground Staff and the student body.

Questions have been raised

about her background. Regarding her ethnicity, she is approximately 6% Scot, 12% Hawaiian and the rest Chinese! She is a 4th generation Christian, born in Hong Kong, educated in England, and, in 1970, first under the Council for World Mission and then the United Reformed Church, worked as a missionary teacher and teacher educator for the United Church of Papua New Guinea. She came back to Hong Kong and in 1989 started teaching English in local secondary schools. She retired last year and was asked to offer for the position at the seminary through LTS people attending her home church.

She welcomes all to Room 103 in the Lower Offices - there is a wide range of language resource books and materials plus DVD's (The Vicar of Dibley is the most popular at present) and CD's - or to Room 113 in the Lower Dorms.

## **Dr. Dieter Mitternacht, Professor for early Church History and New Testament**



Let impressions from my first semester at LTS flashed through my mind and heart. Five month ago I knew barely anything about Hong Kong and LTS, and now there are dear memories of people, places, feelings, aromas and tastes. Thank you all for making these first months such a pleasant and inspiring experience.

I was asked to share with you about myself and my family. I grew up in a small town in the upper Rhine valley in southern Germany. As a child I used to accompany my mother as she collected contributions for the "Basler Mission" on Sunday afternoons. I had no idea then, that one day I would be moving to a part of the world for which those funds may have been collected.

In the late 1970's I met a beautiful girl from Sweden whose name is Gun. We married and got three wonderful children. Gun has been a remedial teacher for a number of years and knows all about how to make kids that lack behind in school catch up.

My professional career can be summarized as follows: After my graduate studies in theology I received a two year scholarship for

post-graduate studies in Biblical studies at Bethel University, so our family moved to St Paul, USA. On our return to Sweden in 1988 I served as a pastor for a couple of years. In 1994 I went into fulltime doctoral studies and defended my thesis on Paul's letter to the Galatians in 1999. After some years of postdoctoral research on the Jesus movement, the ancient synagogue and early communities of Christ-believers, Lund University awarded me the post-doc degree of Docent in New Testament Exegesis in 2007. Since 1992 I have been teaching New Testament, Biblical Studies, Hermeneutics and German at different universities and seminaries in Sweden. For those interested in my publications, check out the following address: <http://www.diatheke.org/DM>.

Let me add a few words about my experiences as a believer. As a teenager, I asked many questions about the meaning of being a Christian and was quite frustrated with the answers I was given. So I stopped going to the Lutheran Church of which I was part on account of my child baptism. I was put off by the exclusive and defensive mentality of the Christians I met. It seemed as though being a Christian was all about delivery from eternal damnation, being saved in order not to go to hell, and coming to terms with a basically frightening God, as he turns his bright side towards those human beings who turn to Christ.

As I grew older I learned that commitment to Christ does not have to exclude tolerance towards and respect for others. If God is good and

faith in God not a condition but a gift, then Christianity must be good news for all who want to do what is good and right simply because it is good and right. I found faith again and became fascinated with Jesus' radical and uncompromising concern for the marginalized and his determination to do good even when he realized that it would lead to his own destruction. I also learned that Christianity has many faces and that there is no need to impose one denomination's faith on that of others. Instead we can learn from one another. Thus, as I was called to be the pastor of a Baptist Church, I accepted and discovered together with my congregation that the most important aspect of baptism is not how it is applied but that it is a completely unmerited gift from God to which we can cling in times of doubts and despair. In short, I tend to search for the vital rather than the denominational in my own Christian identity. We all know, of course, that all religious expression is culturally and historically determined. But the fact of variety within the same culture and time frame also indicates that particular expressions share something that transcends the particular. Besides my academic contributions, I will be supporting an atmosphere of tolerance and respect towards all people of sincere faith, whoever and from wherever they are, in order for vital or mere Christianity to flourish at LTS. *When the evening of this life comes we shall be judged on Love. John of the Cross.*



**Dr. Wayne Nieminen, Professor for Counselling**



My wife Christa, my son Eric and I arrived at Hong Kong late in the evening on December 31st 2008 to a New Year's fireworks display. Dr. Ted Zimmerman and Dr. Lam greeted us and were our kind chauffeurs giving up their night's sleep to retrieve us from the airport. We arrived not knowing what to expect...for our 15 year old son and his new high school...for Christa - how could her many talents be used? We have never been to Hong Kong and I had, honestly, quite hesitantly and in "fear and trembling" accepted this new call to teach at LTS. I had not spent much time studying Asian history or culture.

We left behind two of our older sons (Soren and Torsten) at the University of Wisconsin and Marquette University (in the United States) wondering how they would survive without their parents! We also said goodbye to a parish (Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Hartland Wisconsin) we had served for seven years - a ministry which had grown to have various "styles" of contemporary and formal worship, service opportunities (to coal-mining region of Appalachia,

the inner city of Milwaukee, a partner parish in Tanzania, Afghan refugee sponsorships, a "Faith and Light" ministry to the disabled (or "specially-abled"! ) and their families), a vibrant youth ministry, small group ministries and choirs galore. Oh, how we missed our sons and the people of our parish!

Because I was asked to tell you a little bit about myself and my family I will do so briefly. My wife, Christa von Zychlin, and I met at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. We both said that we would never marry a pastor and God must have laughed at us because we did exactly that! We married during our second year in seminary and then flew to Germany - Christa interned with the Evangelische Kirche in Germany and I as a chaplain with NATO forces. We then went to Yale Divinity School to enhance our Lutheran education, believing that there is such a thing as a generous orthodoxy which welcomes the best of Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox Christian traditions. The mid-western state of Ohio was our next juncture - country churches with town populations of 300 and 900 people. These were separate parishes where kindly country people taught us how to be pastors and leaders. Within 5 years, we received a call through the Division of Global Mission of the ELCA to serve at the seminary of the Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic. After a year of intensive French training in Le Chambon sur Lignon and St. Martin's Church in Montbeliard we traveled with our two oldest sons (2 and 3 years old respectively) to Baboua of C.A.R - a small town way out in the African bush. ...teaching Biblical

and pastoral courses. We know a little bit of what it is like to live in a failed state, where political leaders embezzle public funds and civil and religious institutions (schools, hospitals, courts, law enforcement, and churches) barely function... but keep carrying out their work through the effort of courageous individuals. I know what it is like to be overwhelmed by a culture steeped in an animist-Christian mélange, to wrestle with my faith, the people and church I was called to serve, as well as a sense of cultural superiority. Four years later, I was accepted to a Ph.D. program at Iowa State University in marriage and family therapy and we both received a call to serve at a large university congregation with 700 people worshipping on Sundays. I managed to do my dissertation field research at Makumira University in Tanzania - investigating African marriage and family life. We remember very full days and a steep learning curve during those amazing six years!

Since arriving in January, we have been most warmly welcomed and received by the faculty, student body and the various churches we have visited. I am honored to be called to teach at Lutheran Theological Seminary! I hope to bring a variety of very practical experiences from some very diverse settings into the classroom. I especially look forward to enhancing and strengthening students' counseling skills to the varied individuals and families they will be ministering to as instruments and mirrors of the great love of Lord Jesus Christ.

# Faculty News

## New LTS President elected

The LTS Board of directors has elected Dr. Simon Chow to be the new LTS President. Dr. Chow has been a long time faculty member, Professor for New Testament and Dean of Studies at LTS. He will take up his new position with the beginning of the new academic year 2009-2010.



## Until next time...

English Teachers leave LTS after two years



Dear LTS friends, it is with deep love and great sadness that I compose this final letter to you. Ryan and I have been teaching English at LTS for the past two academic years, and throughout these semesters have enjoyed the wonderful community on To Fung Shan, a Christian family we will now miss as we return to the United States for our own further studies.

You have all touched us both in so many ways that I cannot even begin to express the transformation we have undergone during our

time here. I know that we look pretty much the same (my hair is longer!) but on the inside we are different. We have learned from your examples, from the strong Christian values you embrace and live by, such as the love you have for each other, the trust you have in God and in humanity, and the hospitality you share with new faculty and students, as well as visitors, to our LTS campus. Your prayers and support have touched me and Ryan over the past two years, especially when tragedy or pain struck our families, and we felt very sad and very far from home, but your kindness and your generosity always comforted our mourning or wounded hearts, and you gave us strength. We will never forget this. Thank you.

We have grown to love all the faces we meet in this beautiful mountain seminary, and know that you will always be in our thoughts and prayers, just as, I hope, we will remain in yours.

But please, do not think of this as 'goodbye.' That is such a sad word, filled with finality. That is an end word, like 'The End' composed as the last words in a story or fairy tale. This is not the end for us, for our relationships, because I feel in my heart that we will see one another again in the future. For some of you, I hope to see you again in Hong Kong - maybe we will come visit one day! I also hope and pray to visit the seminaries and churches of our International Students - one day... it may take me a while, but God willing we will get there sooner or later! If all the above does not materialize, then I rejoice in Jesus Christ, because we will share

fellowship together in God's great banquet in heaven!

Until next time...(we will miss you until then!) Peace be with you all my Christian brothers and sisters, and blessings in all your ministries,

Katrina Vigen and Ryan Smart

## LTS Faculty and Director visited Sabah



Dr. Thu En Yu  
(President of Sabah Theological Seminary)

The LTS faculty and one director, altogether 18 persons, visited the seminary and church organization in Sabah of East Malaysia from May 26-29, 2009. The trip was guided by Rev. Bob Lo, the Chairperson of the LTS Board, who is also very familiar with the region. The first stop was the Sabah Theological Seminary (STS) in Kota Kinabalu. We received an enthusiastic reception from the president of STS, Dr. Thu



En Yu, together with their faculty. President Thu introduced to us their development plan, as well as their campus and their expanding auditorium. Later we went to the head quarter of the Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (BCCM), exchanging views with their pastors and leaders, listening to their God blessed development in Sabah. After the visits, the faculty and the director went to the beaches of the surrounding islands to swim, as well as climbing up to the first peak of South East Asia, Mount Kinabalu. The trip enhanced our understanding of East Malaysia, and we appreciate having the chance to communicate with the people there. We could also have some rest at the end of the academic year, in order to continue our service ahead.

### **Other news**

- Long time affiliate Professor Dr. Jerry Schmalenberger took the time to teach a course during J-term in June on “Collegiality” and at the same time attended the graduation ceremony at the end of the academic year. The latter was especially moving for him as two graduating Indonesian students had been supported by him in their studies at LTS.
- Dr. Eric Kin-Ming Au, Professor for Systematic Theology and Mission and Culture, presented a paper during a consultation organized by the Mekong Mission Forum and the Association of Theological Education in Myanmar (ATEM) in Yangon, Myanmar under the theme “Mission and Development”. His paper was entitled: Rethinking Mission. After the consultation, which took place from 15-16 June, he stayed on and taught a one week course for the ATEM Ministers Institute under the theme Theology and Mission of the Church.
- LTS student Jackie Cheung Suet Wah attended the “Doing Theology Under the Bo Tree” program organized by the Myanmar Institute of Theology in Yangon, Myanmar. Her studies were sponsored by the Mekong Mission Forum.
- Dr. Sarah Wai Man Yuen took a group of students on an annual Mission exploration trip to Pakistan. Returning from this trip she will head of to Japan and spend her sabbatical at Doshisha University in Kyoto.
- For the second time LTS will offer an Intensive English and Orientation Course for new international students. The course will be held from 20 July to 14 August and conducted by Ms. Rose Chue. She will be assisted by a volunteer English teacher from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Dr. Marjorie Raess, Ms. Michelle Chan from Hong Kong and other international students.
- Former LTS Professor Dr. Jochen Teuffel has taken up a position as a parish pastor in Voehringen, Germany, which is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria. He has also just published a book entitled “*Mission als Namenszeugnis. Eine Ideologiekritik in Sachen Religion*” which can be seen as fruit and a summary of his working and living experience in Hong Kong and Asia.

### **Start of Academic Year 2009-2010**

The academic year 2009-2010 will start with registration on 24-25 August and the faculty and student retreat in Cheung Chau Island on 26-28 August.

### **Come and Visit LTS**

You are always welcome on the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary. Please accept this as an invitation to visit the campus, meet students and faculty, and participate in campus life. If you or a group from your congregation wishes to see LTS, please contact us. We especially welcome friends to come to our daily chapel at 10:00am. We would like you to stay for a tour of the campus and then lunch at 12:30pm. Let us know what date works best for you.

### **Scholarship Support Needed**

LTS will be able to welcome more students, as financial resources become available. If interested in supporting a student, contact Rev. Hanns Hoerschelmann at LTS (intlstuco@lts.edu) or LTS, 50 To Fung Shan Road, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong (info@lts.edu). You may also contribute through “Friends of LTS - USA and Canada” by contacting Dr. Jerry Schmalenberger (JLSchmalen@aol.com) 162 Pelican Loop, Pittsburgh, CA 94565 USA.