



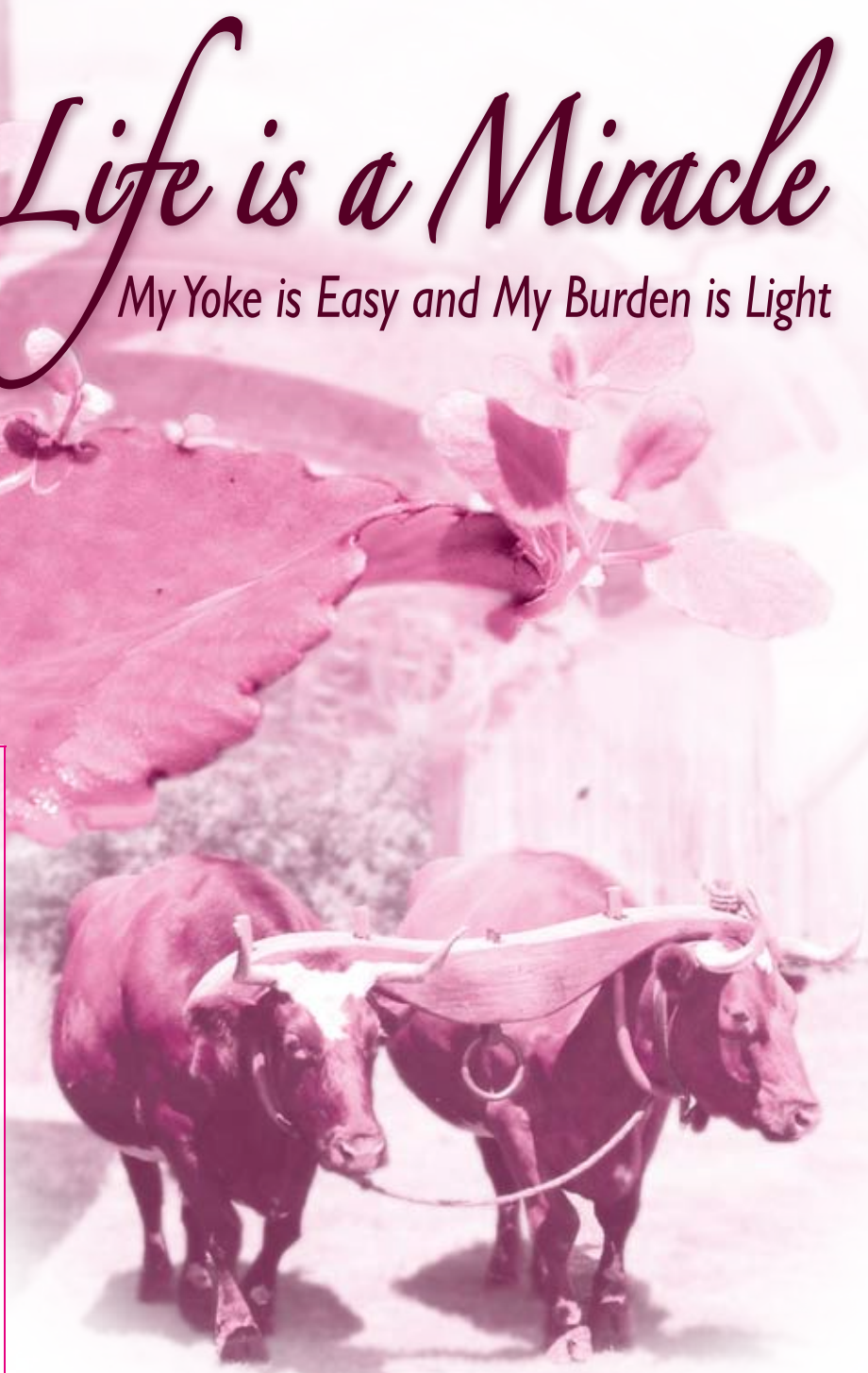
Lutheran Theological Seminary News

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Life is a Miracle *My Yoke is Easy and My Burden is Light*

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Editorial

Another semester at LTS has come to its close with the traditional graduation service at Shamshuipo Tsung Tsin Church, the graduation dinner, celebrations of academic success and many farewells. Countless hours of diligent work, days and nights of reading and learning, teaching and writing, have been rewarded with degrees, honors and promotions (see page 3).

Among the various extracurricular activities, this year's art exhibition (page 10) stands out as a happy and joyful memory. With its theme "Life is a Miracle" and the various displays and performances, the exhibition has imprinted on our hearts and minds the beauty of God's creation and the privilege and joy of being part of a creative and vibrant seminary community. As we enjoyed the various performances in the seminary courtyard, the banner across the courtyard wall with this year's seminary motto "Remember Our Calling: Carry His Yoke Together" spoke to us about sincerity and commitment, the challenge to press on, to overcome obstacles, and not to give in.

I picture myself standing in the courtyard, facing the motto and watching a student skillfully perform a Chinese clapper talk. In this moment of fun and entertainment, I remember the rest of the verse from which the motto is taken: "...for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Then the words of the reformer pop up in my mind about the *blessed exchange* by which Christ "not only

takes upon himself another's sin, that is, my sin and guilt, but also clothes and adorns me, who am nothing but sin, with his own innocence and purity... and grants to me his righteousness, in order that I may live with him eternally in glorious and unspeakable joy."

By now the clapper talker hurls his words and sounds like fireworks into the courtyard. Everybody is amazed at the speed with which he twists his tongue and claps his bamboo blocks. I feel challenged by the performance to solve the apparent paradox. 'Carry my yoke and you will not really have to pull, share my burden and you will barely notice it.' Is it irony, or is there some hidden secret? Why I am called to carry his yoke, if my efforts are not really needed? Then I recall the reason supplied by the text: "...and learn from me." The call to share his yoke is not a call for help, but a call to receive help. It is a call to be close and receive the life power that HE wants to share with all who dare to share HIS yoke.

The miracle leaf, the central im-

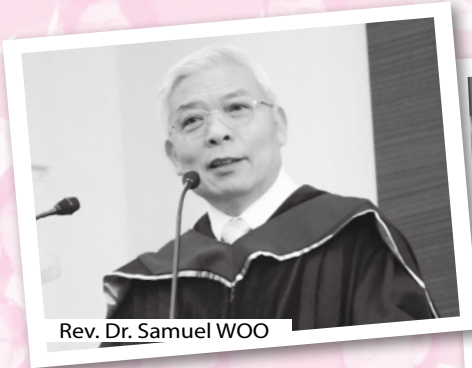
age of this year's art exhibition, teaches us a similar lesson. As the leaf falls to the ground and slowly deteriorates, it pumps its life power into roots and sprouts that will become new miracle leaves, who in good time will pass on their lives to the next generation.

At our graduation service this year we have commissioned and blessed students for ministry in Hong Kong, China, Korea, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Samoa, Nepal, the Philippines, Germany and the USA. I pray and hope that they, besides receiving a good education, also have learned about the paradox of God's grace, that "power is made perfect in weakness" (2Cor. 12:9). May their continued walk with Jesus assure them and those who learn from them that they do not serve a master who holds the reins and commands obedience, but a master who is pulling the weight of the yoke that they share as they pass His love on to others. **DM**



Congratulations!

Ninety-three Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates at the Thirty-third Graduation Service



Rev. Dr. Samuel WOO



Praising to our Lord



Cheerful moment



Congratulations



Degree Awarding

June 6, 2010, a day of joy and thanks! 93 degrees, diplomas and certificates were handed out during the Thirty-third Graduation Service of LTS at Shamshuipo Tsung Tsin Church: 72 Day School graduates and 21 graduates of the Theological Education by Extension Program (TEE, evening school) celebrated this special event with their families, friends and teachers. We were honored to have Rev. Dr. Samuel WOO, alumnus and consultant of the D.Min. program of LTS, and the chairperson of Hong Kong Chinese Christian Churches Union, to be the preacher. Dr. Woo encouraged the graduates to be responsible to our Lord. Congratulations to all of them!

President Greetings

Dear graduates,

For these past several years you have been preparing yourselves for ministry up on the mountain of To Fung Shan; now is the time to go down the mountain. It is my prayer for you that the faith, hope and love that you had when you went up the mountain has grown greater, lovelier and deeper. May you continue to learn from Jesus and remember His Words: "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people."

Dr. Simon CHOW



Day School Graduates, Faculty and Board Members



TEE Graduates, Faculty and Board Members

Names of Graduates

Day School graduates **Doctor of Theology**: Daniel CHOI Kam To, Jeaneth Harris FALLER (Philippines), Man Hau Cing (Myanmar), Nathan Perng (Myanmar), Z. Latt Naung (Myanmar). **Doctor of Ministry**: LETan (Vietnam), TRINH Chien (Vietnam). **Master of Theology**: Ginny MAN Lai Fong, Salai Yaw Ba (Myanmar), Van Neih Kham (Myanmar). **Master of Sacred Theology**: Vivian CHIH Wan Wan, Lyon CHU Pak Fai, FU Cheong Kuen, Janan

HUNG Lai Yan, LAI Suk Mee, Selina LO Sin Ngan, Mesa TAI Chun Wah, TING Shui Heung. **Master of Divinity**: AU YEUNG Wing Chun, CHAN Wai Hung, Edwina CHAN Wui Kuan, CHOW Lap Kwan, FONG Sing Fong, LAU Cheuk Fai, LAU Kei Shing, Anita LEE Ka Yin, Maria MAK Mi Wah, NGUYEN Duc Vinh Loc (Vietnam), OH KIM Hyoe Ran (Korea), SIN Yau Ki, Olak Bahadur SUNUWAR (Nepal), WONG Wing Keung, WONG Yat Keung, WU Yuk Fan.

Master of Arts in Spirituality: Ada HONG Shiu Ching. **Master of Arts (Theology)**: Sarah CHANG Yasson, CHEN Xin (China), Cung Lian Thawng (Myanmar), Iosefa LEFAOSEU (Samoa), KWOK Ching Yung, LIU Ling Wei (China), Pan Mon Khaing (Myanmar), SAN Sros (Cambodia), Saw Taylor (Myanmar), TSANG Wai Hung, YIU Pui Ling. **Bachelor of Theology**: Aza CHAN Wai Fun, Kelvin CHAN Ying Kwok, CHEUNG Suet Wah,

Equipped for Service in Laos

Graduates Sharing

FONG Sin Man, LEUNG Yin Yee, NG Wai Lung, Vongdeuane SENGONE (Laos), Sompheng THIEMPAVAT (Laos), WONG Hing Cheong, WONG Tin Yau, YEUNG Chi Sim. **Bachelor of Christian Education:** Windy LAI Kar Po. **Graduate Diploma:** CHAN Kam Kuen. **Diploma in Theological Studies:** KAMI Jamuna Cleji (Nepal), KO Yiu Tak, TAM Sau Ngor, WAN To Ip. **Diploma of Theological Librarianship:** LAI Hiu Yan, May Sandar Hlaing (Myanmar). **English Diploma:** Preeda HONGSAKAEW (Thailand), Sengbhandith SOUPHAB (Laos), Sengphet SAECHAO (Laos), Yiamoua SAICHOU (Laos). **Non-Degree (Exchange Student):** Faith Elizabeth FRETAM (USA), Jochen HAAS (Germany), Sonja Maria SKORUPA (Germany).

Recipients of Theological Education by Extension degrees: **Master of Christian Studies:** LAU Chi Wing, NG Lai Han, PAU Ka Wai, WONG Ho Yan, YU Cheuk Mei. **Diploma in Theology for Lay Leadership:** CHIU Woon Lun, TSO Suk Ling. **Certificate in Theology for Lay Leadership:** David CHAN Man Sang, FAN Wai Lup, LUI Chun Yu, NG Chun Ting, Eve WONG Yee Fan, YUEN Mei Lam. **Certificate (Biblical Studies) in Theology for Lay Leadership:** Halina CHAN Ngar Ling, Philip CHAN Shiu Shun, CHEUNG Tsz Yin, LAU Yi Man, Dorcas LAW Siu Bik, LUK Sau Fong, WONG Ka On. **Certificate for Leadership in Market Place Ministry:** LAM Wai Shing.

Greetings to all of you!

As you read this, I have returned to Laos after four years of Bachelor studies at LTS. I come from the Lao Evangelical Church and used to work as a full time pastor helper in Youth ministry and evangelism and taking care of the local church in Vientiane where I belong.

I thank the LORD and praise Him that He called me to serve Him and make my life wonderful. I'm so grateful that I could come to LTS and learn about God and theology from all the professors, teachers, staff and friends, not only in the seminary, but also during field education on Sundays.

I learned to take responsibility for my spiritual life, to analyze words and their meanings, historical/literary contexts and various genres. I especially enjoyed the homiletics class. Now I know more about theological, historical and pastoral subjects, about teaching methods, counseling and liturgy.

I also learned about the importance of spiritual friendship. I want to keep in touch with friends from other countries and other students from Laos. Getting to know them has been a great experience and challenge in my life. It is not enough but I keep on learning.

In my country I will continue with my ministry and serve the Lord in the Lao Evangelical Church, but also the people of my country and other countries where LEC has a ministry. I will teach at a seminary, preach the Gospel to the people, and encourage people by training them to be ministers and serve the Kingdom of God.

Thanks a lot to all professors, teachers, and sponsors who supported me through LTS, LEC and my church.

Thank you LTS and God bless you all.



Sompheng attending to his herbal garden at the LTS dormitory

*Sompheng THIEMPAVAT
2010 Bachelor of Theology graduate*

Dear brothers and sisters,

I feel very honored to share with you today about my experience at LTS and my plans as I return to my home country. Please let me introduce myself. My name is Vongdeuane Sengone from Lao PDR. I have been a Christian for over 13 years and have just received a Bachelor of Theology degree after 4 years of studies at LTS.

When I first arrived at LTS in the fall of 2006 on a four years scholarship from LTS, I was very excited. However, the excitement quickly went away when I realized how little English I actually understood as the classes I was taking went far beyond my ability of understanding of what was being said. Many times I would cry in the courtyard of the school, mostly because of my frustration, and also because I missed my home and family very much. However the faculty, staff, and friends became a great encouragement for me. The professors were very helpful and understanding with the language barrier that I first had when I arrived. They worked very hard to help my friends and I to understand what we are learning. I started to learn many new things and also to grow more in my faith. I gained a greater understanding of God and also of the theology that I was taught at LTS.

Over the past few years, I have participated in many different conferences, presentations, and church

events. Sharing about myself and listening to the sharing of other students from various countries in Asia, I learned a lot about their backgrounds and the churches in their home countries. I have also been able to learn, not just about theology, but also about ministry and pastoral work. I treasure the resources that I have gained at LTS. This will be able to support me when I will soon return home to Laos. I have made great friendships that I hope will last for years to come and will build partnerships for cross cultural ministry in Laos and other countries. Comparing my first year at LTS with where I am at now, I am so thankful and so glad for the support I have received from everyone. I am often asked to prepare presentations and activities for new students and also for the school. I have grown stronger, not just in knowledge of theology and faith, but also as a woman that will serve the Kingdom of God.

I am now looking forward to the next stage in my life and my ministry. I know that there have been many changes in Laos since I have left and also that there are many new people I have never met before. I plan to work with the church for whatever projects I will be assigned. When I left, I was the main secretary in the LEC national office. I know that my skills and knowledge will be put to use there. I know that God will have



a plan and I am hoping that I will be able to contribute to the worship and the Youth ministry in the church I come from. I would like to see the ministries grow and become stronger. I know that there are many young people that do not have the experience or knowledge that I have gained over the past four years. Therefore, I want to lead and guide them in ministry, to help give them a strong foundation in the Bible and also a strong heart for the worship of our Lord. I know that there is much to do and I have many goals for my personal life when I arrive home. I know that I will need to trust in God and to be patient and learn how to support the church and help build it up.

I am so thankful to God for the LTS faculty and staff and also the leaders of the LEC that have sent me to come and study here. I am confident that God will lead and guide me like he has been doing since I arrived at LTS. Thank you so much for all I have received. I pray that God will bless you.

*Vongdeuane SENGONE
2010 Bachelor of Theology graduate*

Words from our Faculty...

Jan Martin DEPNER
**Assistant Professor for Systematic
and Pastoral Theology**



The Depner family

Last July I arrived with Jutta my wife, Josefine, my then two and a half year old daughter, and Jacob, my son who turned five just after we landed here in beautiful Southeast Asia.

Now the second semester is already drawing towards its end. It still feels like being on the beginning of a good time for me, but I also already have some experiences to look back to. New experiences, like that it takes much longer to settle in a different part of the world when you do it with small children then it would have been as a student (fortunately the children loved their school and Kindergarten from the first minute).

What concerns teaching Theology, I was blessed with very different experiences. Most of them absolutely delightful, but some showed there is still need for improvement. Still, it has been absolutely rewarding to teach Systematic Theology and Spirituality here at LTS so far. Students are eager, committed, open and in many cases became very dear friends. A truly loving atmosphere made teaching a beneficial exercise for me and hopefully also for the students.

That is what I would love to focus on in my coming years: The teaching itself. Not so much as a means of conveying knowledge in the best way, but teaching how to apply that theological knowledge in every day life as

a leader within the church. Together with the students I want to discover every semester anew, what it means to be a Theologian, how to think theologically, how to honestly question systems, traditions, convictions in the presence of our living Lord. Teaching at a seminary for me means working on my authenticity, my character and accepting my vulnerability, as well as increasing my theological knowledge. So I feel really blessed to be able to do that together with the students.

Back home I was a pastor for 14 years, teacher at a high school and mentor in a training-programme for young pastors. I was trained to be a spiritual director and worked for some years as the district youth pastor of Erlangen. Life here now is excitingly different. I am grateful for the opportunity to share some of my experiences and convictions and to learn from the riches of the lively churches here. Isn't it part of the beauty of God's Kingdom that is so contextual and yet so universal?

Thank you for the overwhelming "welcome" my family and I encountered so far! I am looking forward to the years to come together with you.

Rebecca LEE
Lecturer for English



Rebecca

I grew up and lived in the Northwest part of the states, Portland, OR and Seattle, WA, from which stems my great love of water, trees and ethnic diversity. I first came in contact with "missions" through my

youth group in an ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) church. I believe that God first called me to mission work during my first mission trip to Obregon, Mexico as a freshman in High School. I was struck by their humbleness, unconditional generosity and love they showed us, even though they had very little to give in a material sense, which for most Americans has a greater value. God continued to put a call for missions on my heard during four more short-term mission trips to Wyoming, Mexico and Tanzania. These experiences greatly impacted and shaped my view of mission work and education, which led me to receive my bachelorette degree in Christian Education from Trinity Lutheran College, Issaquah, WA.

After graduating with my degree in Christian Education, I began to teach Pre-Kindergarten at a Christian elementary school and continued teaching preschool for the next 2 years, but in my third year I also felt a push to start searching for jobs as a Christian Educator in a church so I could utilize my degree more. I worked for three years as the Director of Christian Education at a two different ELCA congregations in the Seattle, WA area, but I kept feeling God nudging me towards missions.

In 2006, I made the decision to apply to Graduate school at Seattle University in their TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) program. I knew that I wanted to combine the field of education and missions together, and this seemed like the perfect way to do it. I loved my two years in grad school and was excited to receive my M.Ed (Masters in Education) and begin teaching ESL (English to Speakers of Other Languages). I taught ESL in different community colleges in Seattle, WA until the 'nudging' from God was becoming a 'push' to go overseas. I

found a position on the ELCA Global Mission website to teach English at a seminary in Hong Kong. This position sounded like a great opportunity to combine my desire to teach English at a higher academic institution, my passion for living in an international community and my love of missions.

This year at LTS has been one of challenges, growth and building relationships. I am so happy to be a part of the community here at LTS and hope to grow and impact the English program and the students here and bring them to new heights. May God continue to bless LTS and all that are involved in the process of continuing to make it a wonderful institution that trains people for His work and service here and around the world.

Joas Bainomugisha KAHESI **Visiting Professor for Mission** **and Culture**



It has been a privilege and an inspiring experience to have been a member of the LTS faculty for the last nine months, and also to be the first African lecturer at LTS. I have been teaching Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations.

I was asked to share with you about myself, my family and my experience. I was born and grew up in a small village in the Kagera region of Tanzania, north to Uganda and northwest to Rwanda and Burundi on the African continent. I am married with four sons aged 29, 24, 22 and 19. My wife works as a teacher in a government primary school. Two of our children are studying architec-

ture at the University, one is studying electronics, and our youngest is in secondary school.

Being from a developing country, I didn't expect to ever be a member of a faculty in a developed country or to be teaching and sharing in that capacity.

Before doing my theological education, I attended a Government Teachers College and was awarded a Certificate for Teacher's "Grade IIIA." After working as a primary school teacher for nine years, I joined Makumira University from 1985-1989 for my theological education.

I was ordained as a pastor in December, 1989 by the North Western Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania and have served in two parishes. I have been a missionary through an exchange program by the Lutheran Church in Germany where I worked in four church districts in the Westphalia Region, learning how to strengthen partnerships between Germany churches and Tanzania. There I had enough time to learn German before starting to work in different parishes, homes for old people, schools and other church institutions.

As I grew up in a community with both Christians and Muslims, I wanted to know more about these two religions, how they differ and what they have in common. So I began to read both the Qur'an and the Bible comparing and learning, though not scholarly.

With time, I decided to apply for higher studies on Islam and my diocese granted me several study periods at different institutes in Pakistan, India and Kenya. At these institutes I studied Islamic studies, interfaith relations and Conflict Resolution Programs and graduated first with a Post Graduate Diploma in Islamic Studies and Interfaith Relations in May, 2004. Then I joined St. Paul's United Theological University in Limuru, Kenya for a two years course on Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations and graduated with a Master of Arts degree in

2006.

After my studies, I have been leading and attending different regional and international seminars, workshops, and lecturing on Islam and Christian Muslim Relations. During this time I have become increasingly aware of the importance of knowing more about Islam worldwide. More and more Christians have Muslims in their neighborhood.

Lack of information and knowledge, misunderstandings and misinterpretation of the scriptures creates conflicts between the two communities. There are different understandings of the sense of inter-religious dialogue and how it should be done. In my opinion, the most important aspect of all dialogue, be it dialogue of life, organized dialogue, theological dialogue or ethical dialogue, is that it should always be aiming at peaceful cohabitation. To that end, Christians and Muslims need:

- a better understanding of each other's beliefs, discourage polemics and encourage creative and non-polemical responses
- to foster constructive dialogue and encounters that replace tensions, isolation and mutual distrust with an atmosphere of mutual understanding, mutual respect and trust
- to learn how to share common responsibilities in society despite differences of faith and understanding.

To put it simply, we need to learn how to live peacefully in pluralistic situations by improving our knowledge about other religions, other faiths and ideologies. Let me conclude with a quote from Hans Küng that has become important for me through the years.

There can be no peace among the nations without peace among the religions; no peace among the religions without dialogue between the religions; no dialogue between the religions without accurate knowledge of one another.

The Garden and the Cross

by Linda L. LUNDBOM



Jack and Linda

I was particularly happy to be included in the Third Annual Student/Faculty Art Exhibition at LTS this year, once I had so thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the First Exhibition when we were first here in 2007-2008. I got busy, and finished my new drawing of *The Veranda* just in time for this show.

In deciding what to draw at LTS, I like to walk around the seminary looking for something that catches my eye in an artistic and meaningful way. For my first drawing of *The 121 Steps*, it was the feeling of entering into the garden stairway leading up to the cross that I found so meaningful. For my drawing of the chapel, *To God Be the Glory*, it was its central position in the daily activities of the seminary that I wanted to emphasize. In my drawing of *The Veranda*, it was the intimate nature of this meeting place as its contrasts so vividly with the wide sweeping vistas seen from its perch on the edge of the steep hillside that appealed to me. This contrast of intimacy and a broad view makes it an ideal place to make friends with others from far away places. It is in this way that I choose particular places and objects to draw. My art portfolio is filled with poignant memories from all the places where we have lived.

Jack and I have lived outside of the USA for about 17 of the past 22 years. We have spent many years in Cambridge, England and in Jerusalem, Israel and have also enjoyed years in Marburg and Tübingen, Germany; Uppsala, Sweden, and Durham, England. It is the libraries that have drawn Jack to these places. While he has been researching and writing, I have been exploring each area and making them my own. There are different ways of relating to each place, and each has some outstanding strengths. Here at LTS, I especially enjoy living in the seminary community with the students and the faculty. The setting is tropical and exotic, and still convenient to all of Hong Kong. It is a rich experience!



The Veranda



To God Be the Glory



The 121 Steps

Linda is a Visiting Artist and the wife of Visiting Professor Dr. Jack LUNDBOM.

Life is a Miracle

Art Exhibition of Professors and Students at LTS



The idea to stage an art exhibition of teachers and students came about two years ago, when a few professors and students felt that the time had come to share the gift of artistic expression within LTS with the rest of the community. We wanted it to be an opportunity of joy and love and sharing.

Although the first exhibition occupied only a corner of the library downstairs, there were a variety of works of art with many different styles, but all sharing the common theme, "Show My Passion." Clearly the exhibition appealed to a variety

of expectations and the response was beyond all our expectations.

The following year, the arts exhibition returned with the theme, "Show More of My Passion." The location was expanded to include the prominent window area in the library. The participants exhibited a wider variety of artwork than in the previous year, and the length of the exhibition was extended by popular request.

"Life Is a Miracle," was this year's theme. The idea came from the "miracle leaf" that grows at our seminary. This is a unique and extremely

strong leaf. For us it symbolizes the uniqueness of the life that God creates, and the unique and valuable life stories that we can share with each other. In this way we find a connection between art, the daily growth of the miracle leaf, and, for instance, the piano playing of our music director Mabel WU.

At the exhibition, there were works of art by professors and students, including Chinese paintings by Dr. Patrick CHAN, water-colour painting by Dorcas CHAN (wife of Head-librarian TANG), sketches by lecturers and students, oil painting, Chinese



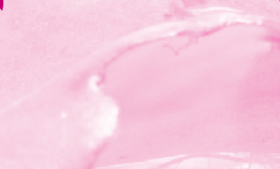
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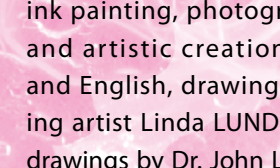
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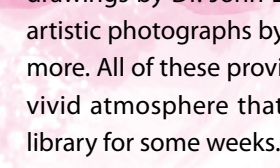
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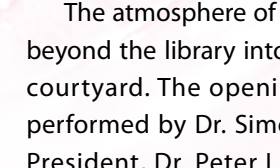
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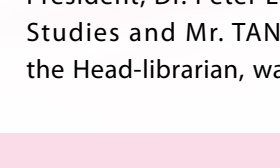
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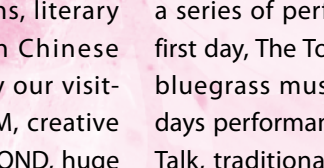
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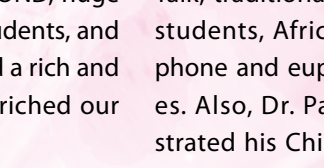
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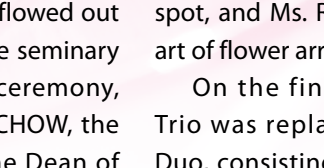
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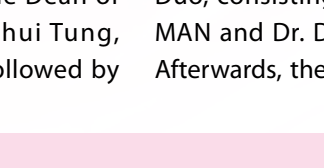
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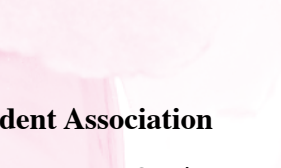
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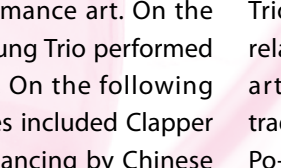
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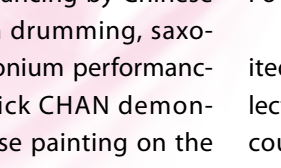
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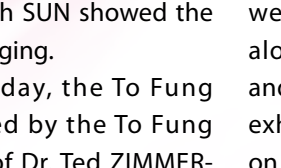
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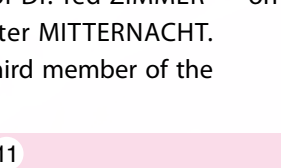
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Captions:

- 1 Exhibition opening by Dean LI, President CHOW and Head-librarian TANG
- 2 African drumming by Maggie MATHIESEN, Roy NJUABE and Iosefa LEFAOEU
- 3 Who can remain seated? Definitely not Mabel WU
- 4 Clapper talker William WANG Qimian
- 5 SA serving coffee during performances
- 6 Crowd cheering the performers on
- 7 Guitar and song by Saechao SENGPHET
- 8 Drawings by Jenny TAM Choi Fung
- 9 Dancing performance by Karen KANG Di
- 10 Section of art exhibition in the lower library
- 11 "Show my passion" by John LEMOND
- 12 Peter LI and Po Chu GROENVOLD singing traditional Chinese folk songs
- 13 Play-Magic performed by John LEMOND
- 14 The "Miracle leaf"
- 15 Love Africa. Drawings and photos by Olivia CHEUNG Chun Yung
- 16 Chinese Drawing by Patrick CHAN
- 17 Art exhibition, section in the library staircase
- 18 Photo art by Billy MA Fun Chiu
- 19 "Hakuna Matata" performed by Faith FRETHERM, Jochen HAAS and Maggie MATHIESEN
- 20 Rodion Posmen TAMPUBOLON playing tunes on the Saxophone
- 21 Flower arrangement by Ruth SUN
- 22 The To Fung Trio playing bluegrass music

by LTS Student Association

ink painting, photographs, literary and artistic creations in Chinese and English, drawings by our visiting artist Linda LUNDBOM, creative drawings by Dr. John LEMOND, huge artistic photographs by students, and more. All of these provided a rich and vivid atmosphere that enriched our library for some weeks.

The atmosphere of art flowed out beyond the library into the seminary courtyard. The opening ceremony, performed by Dr. Simon CHOW, the President, Dr. Peter LI, the Dean of Studies and Mr. TANG Shui Tung, the Head-librarian, was followed by

a series of performance art. On the first day, The To Fung Trio performed bluegrass music. On the following days performances included Clapper Talk, traditional dancing by Chinese students, African drumming, saxophone and euphonium performances. Also, Dr. Patrick CHAN demonstrated his Chinese painting on the spot, and Ms. Ruth SUN showed the art of flower arranging.

On the final day, the To Fung Trio was replaced by the To Fung Duo, consisting of Dr. Ted ZIMMERMAN and Dr. Dieter MITTERNACHT. Afterwards, the third member of the

Trio, Dr. John LEMOND, gave a very relaxed and funny magic show. The arts exhibition concluded with a traditional Chinese folk songs by Ms. Po-Chu GROENVOLD and Dr. Peter LI.

The fantastic works of art exhibited in the library brought together lecturers and students from different countries in the bond of love. They were able to enjoy tea and coffee along with the works of arts. Love and sharing was the reason for this exhibition, displayed so beautifully on this lovely campus!

The Library: A Crucial Resource for Theological Training in Asia

Reflections on the Theological Librarianship Program at LTS

On a recent study trip to Myanmar, the members of the LTS faculty were made keenly aware of the great hunger for good books and libraries and the many obstacles faced by the different theological seminaries that they visited. As we browsed through the shelves of MIT or MICT seminary libraries in Yangon, many worn and torn backs of books stared at us and spoke more than a thousand words. Yet it is the words that these students are so eager to get their hands and their eyes on. As of yet, electronic and digital resources or access to the internet, even electricity, are limited and availability is often unpredictable. Thus, in the countries in South Asia, the written resource, preserved and organized in well kept libraries, marks an essential cornerstone even

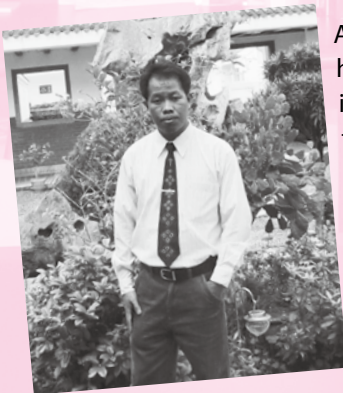
at the most basic level of theological and other education.

In the past 30 years great progress has been made for faculty development in Asian seminaries. Many churches, missions and foundations have contributed by sending qualified teachers from abroad and training local faculty. This must still continue for quite some time. But next to faculty development, maybe the most important development is that of library resources, not the least the training of Asian theological librarians. In order to respond to this urgent need, LTS established a Theological Librarianship Program in 1998. Thanks to the Lord, we have now more than 30 graduates who serve in different theological librar-

ies such as: **Hong Kong & Mainland China:** Concordia Theological Seminary, China Bible Seminary, Ecclesia Bible College, Studium Biblicum O.F.M., Nanjing Union Theological Seminary, and Guangdong Union Theological Seminary. **Indonesia:** Jakarta Theological Seminary. **Malaysia:** Sabah Theological Seminary. **Vietnam:** Institute of Bible and Theology. **Myanmar:** Myanmar Institute of Theology, Karen Baptist Theological Seminary, and Chin Christian College. **Samoa (South Pacific):** Piula Theological College.

The “Theological” Library – a Much Needed Focus

by **Cung Lian Thawng**



As a student from Myanmar, I am grateful to have had the chance to study theological librarianship courses here at LTS. I humbly accept that God calls me and wants me to serve Him and my people in this particular way.

LTS is the only seminary which provides a theological librarianship program around Asia today. The program itself is unique and effective for its combination of theological studies with library science because theological education reaffirms my role as the one responsible for a library in a Christian College to see the needs and challenges of Asian Theological Seminaries and Colleges. It reminds me that any librarian who works in a theological seminary should have at least a Bachelor or Masters level of theological knowledge as his or her duties go beyond the traditional job description of collecting, keeping, organizing and lending books. Theological librarians also have a duty to serve the Lord and our people through

the library as best as they can and to see the library as one of the ways to carry out the Christian mission.

LTS has been helping theological institutions in Myanmar for years, not the least in theological librarianship training. There are more than 32 theological seminaries under ATEM (Association for Theological Education in Myanmar) and the librarians who graduated from LTS are resource persons for seminary libraries in Myanmar today. There are universities and colleges in our country that offer library science but they are locally based and with a main emphasis on secular institutes. Therefore, these

courses are not completely suitable for theological librarians. At LTS, the program focuses especially on the theological library, the context of Asian theological library and also compares it with the public library through visiting some public libraries here in Hong Kong. Through visiting public libraries, the students learn the difference between a theological library and a public library, and at the same time get to know how each respective library has their own spe-

cial collection in accordance with the needs of its users.

Since the program itself is a combination of two fields, theological studies and library science, learning all the required information within a short and limited period of time can be difficult. One year is not actually enough for theological studies plus library science. If the duration were two years the students would be able to study each field more effectively. In short, I have very much benefited

from the theological librarianship program and I hope that what I learned at LTS will help me solve many of the needs and challenges at my college library. Thanks be to God!

Cung is a Master of Arts (Theology) in Theological Librarianship graduate. He also is a Librarian at Chin Christian College, Myanmar.

The Labyrinth

by Iosefa LEFAOSEU



A friend of mine and I went for a walk down to the Tao Fung Shan Christian Centre and came across a circle of paths. "What is this?" I asked. It is a Labyrinth," he replied. "What is it for?" I asked. The reply was, "You have to follow the pathway until you reach the circle in the middle." So I followed the path and noticed that it did almost take me to the centre, but then, all of a sudden, it took me away from it again. Then it brought me near the centre again, and so on. This happened repeatedly until I finally reached the centre.

As I reflected on this I came to realize that my relationship with God can be compared to the paths of a labyrinth. Sometimes I tend to move

away from God. I tend to forget my purpose and the reason why I came here. My desires and selfishness tend to distort my view of God and move me away from Him. It is, however, when I face the enemy, that I turn back and seek God for answers.

Secondly, the Labyrinth walk also symbolizes my struggles with my studies at LTS. Sometimes I felt very lonely and home was the only place I could think about. Sometimes I was short of funds and did not know what to do. Sometimes several assignments had to be turned in at the same time and I did not know what to do first or where to start. In times like these, it seems that God is far away and cannot be reached. Sometimes I would ask myself, God, where are You and forget that God is always in the centre of everything, cheering me on.

When I arrived in Hong Kong I felt uncertain, because I did not know what was waiting for me. Without relatives or anyone else that I knew, it was like entering into an unknown world. Nevertheless, I found LTS surprisingly warm. When I was hungry, a friend invited me for dinner. When I was cold, a friend was there to give me a sweater. When I was lonely, a friend was there to keep me compa-

ny. The Lutheran Theological Seminary is a labyrinth with God in the midst of it. It is a community of the people of God where love is shared. We may all have our problems, but living together as the people of God enables us to walk together on the difficult paths of the labyrinth.

Thirdly, the Labyrinth reflects the presence of God in our midst. No matter where we go or what we do, God is always present with and within us. He watches and protects, and He guides us through each day. It was God who helped the professors and the people here lead me in my studies, and I have learned many new things, not only in Theological Librarianship, but also about the ways of life in Hong Kong.

Finally, life itself, our journey through this world, is a labyrinth. The paths of life can be complex and complicated; however, with God at the centre of our journey, all is possible. If we let God take control, if we let Jesus be the centre of our lives, He will take us all the way.

Iosefa is a Master of Arts (Theology) in Theological Librarianship graduate. He also is a Librarian at Piula Theological College, Methodist Church of Samoa (South Pacific).

News and Dates

In Memoriam

Anna TANG CHANG Chuen Ying, May 27, 1913 - April 17, 2010



After graduating from Jing Ling Woman's University in 1934, Anna Tang served as the executive secretary of YWCA in Chong Ching for more than ten years. In 1946 she married Dr. Christopher Tang (LTS alumnus), then a professor in Jing Ling seminary in Nan-jing. After their emigration to the United States Mrs. Tang graduated from Drew seminary with a B.D. degree in 1954. Subsequently she worked as a librarian and a translator of Christian classics into Chinese.

In 1979 Anna and Christopher established the Christopher Tang Christian Literature Fund. The fund has been a constant encouragement to many Chinese Christian writers and up till now 69 people have been awarded. At LTS we treasure the memory of Mrs. Tang and will gratefully continue to administrate the Christopher Tang Christian Literature Fund. May her lifelong service, sacrifice and love be remembered forever.

Condolences from President Simon Chow, faculty, staff and students
Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong

Commissioning Service 2010

A commissioning service for 24 students who received their first theological degrees was held on May 7, in the Ming Chieh Chapel at LTS. They were commissioned to serve the Lord faithfully.

Graduation Service 2010

The 33rd Graduation Service was held on June 6, at Shamshuipo Tsung Tsin Church. President Dr. Simon CHOW and Dean of Studies Dr. Peter LI awarded 93 degrees of which 7 were doctoral degrees, 44 master degrees, 12 bachelor degrees, 1 higher diploma, 12 diplomas and 14 certificates. In addition, 3 exchange students completed their studies at LTS. May the Lord bless all the graduates.

Faculty Promotions and Awards

● The Board of Directors agreed on the promotion of Dr. Peter LI Kwong Sang to Professor and Dr. Patrick CHAN Kwok Kuen to Associate Professor. The promotion ceremony was held



during the graduation service on June 6. LTS wishes to express gratitude for the contribution to education made by the two professors.

- Assistant Professor Ms. Mabel WU Chung Yuen has served at LTS for 30 years since 1980 as choir director and teacher in spirituality and worship. For her dedication and contribution to LTS, she was awarded the Long-term Service Medal.



Public Lectures and Seminary Activities

- On March 15, a public seminar for church workers entitled "**Devotion to Evangelism**" was held at ELCHK Grace Lutheran Church.
- On April 21, a mission lecture entitled "**Chances in Bread**" was held in the Main Lecture Room. Ms. Flora LAU, the Director of Development of HKIEF shared about the Food-Bank mission.
- On April 21, Rev. Dr. K.C. ABRAHAM, theologian, writer, and President of the Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians gave a lecture on "**The Challenge of Third World Theology**" in the Main Lecture Room.
- April 27-29, LTS and Institute of Sino-Christian Studies arranged the "**Othodox Icon Exhibition**" in the Ming Chieh Chapel. Ms. la CHUNG, an expert on Iconogra-

phy, gave a lecture on “Sacred Art: An Introduction to the Orthodox Icon”.

- On April 30, Dr Dieter MITTERNACHT gave a public lecture entitled “Peace with God or peace with man? Struggle and conflict in Galatia.”
- On May 17, the Rev. Daniel Wong Lectures on Pastoralia with the theme “Pastoral Care in 21st Century” were held in the Ming Chieh Chapel. Dr. CHAN Hiu Tung, Associate Director of Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre, gave the main address. In addition there were eight workshops in different topics.
- On May 24, the theme of LTS Mission Day 2010 was “A Visit to Wong Tai Sin Temple: Living as a Christian in a World of Chinese Religion”. Dr. John LEMOND led students to reflect on Christian life in a multi-religious society.
- From May 25-29, the LTS Faculty visited seminaries, churches and alumni in Myanmar. The visit was a great learning experience.
- On May 31, the LTS Alumni Association organized a **Alumni Day** at To Fung Shan campus. More than 100 alumnae and faculty gathered for sharing and reunion.

Request an LTS Professor for a Sunday Service or a Lecture

In keeping with our mission of nurturing believers and building up relations with the churches in Hong Kong, LTS invites you to arrange a “Theological Education/ Mission Sunday Service” and “Sunday Lecture” for your congregation.

Theological Education/ Mission Sunday

We offer one of our faculty members to preach during your worship service and a current student to share his or her testimony.

Sunday Lecture

- Dr. Jan Martin DEPNER: *To Have or To Be? Counselling a General Problem of Mankind*
- Dr. Gabriele HOERSCHELMANN: *Discovering the Bible with Bibliodrama*
- Dr. John LEMOND: 1) *Who is a Christian and Who is a Sinner? (Augustine and 4th Century Heresies); 2) What is Religious Dialogue? 3) Cults and New Religious Movements: Who Are They?*
- Dr. Theodore Irl ZIMMERMAN: 1) *The Holy Spirit in the New Testament; 2) Paul as a Theologian; 3) Some Ways the New Testament Uses the Old Testament*
- Dr. Wayne NIEMINEN: 1) *Don't Lose your Marriage*

to your Kids; 2) *A Reformation Marriage: Martin and Katey Luther*

- Rev. Hanns HOERSCHELMANN: *The Ministry of Mekong River*
- Please visit our website for registration (www.lts.edu/downloads/sunday_service_reply_form_english.pdf). Enquiries to Mr. Samson TANG, tel. (852) 2684-3207.

Register for E-News

LTS News is available at www.lts.edu. If you prefer to receive an electronic instead of a printed version of our quarterly newsletter, please email your NAME, CONTACT and EMAIL ADDRESS to development@lts.edu with the heading: “Register for E-News”.

Equipment Donations Urgently Needed!

LTS is in urgent need of 6 Projectors (5 with 3000 lumens and 1 with 6000 lumens) and 83 Window Type Air-Conditioners (79 with 1TR and 4 with 2TR). We kindly ask you to donate either the equipment or funds to cover the estimated cost of HK\$60,000 for the projectors, and HK\$230,000 for the air-conditioners. Please call (852) 2691-1520 / (852) 2684-3207 for details. Thank you!

Scholarship Support Needed

LTS will be able to welcome more students as financial resources become available. If you are 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.

Come and Visit LTS

You are always welcome to visit us at Lutheran Theological Seminary, see the campus, meet students and faculty, and participate in campus life. If you or a group from your congregation would like to come, please contact us. Why not join our daily chapel service at 10:00am, stay on for a tour of the campus and then have lunch with us at 12:30pm. Let us know what date works best for you.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2010

With a Goal of HK\$1,200,000

This is the amount needed for training one faculty candidate for a period of four to five years.

What is the *Faculty Development Plan*?

Our plan is to select and gather support for appropriate candidates that can be sent to study at a local or overseas seminary/university. The purpose is to prepare new local faculty for teaching at the seminary and also to benefit the long-term development of local theological education. LTS or member churches can suggest candidates.

Why we need to support the *Faculty Development Plan*?

In the last decade, LTS has invested many resources in training theological teachers in Mainland China and countries along the Mekong River Region, which include seminary presidents, academic deans and professors. Now the time has come to focus on the needs of LTS. Today, the seminary has only ten local faculty members with doctoral degrees and half of those will retire within the coming decade. As the Chinese saying goes, "It takes ten years to grow a tree; it takes a hundred years to grow a person", this means that to build up the reserve of prospective local faculty members, as one of the most pressing tasks, it has to begin right now.

The *Faculty Development Plan* is a part of our ministry for the Kingdom of Heaven and we pray that our seminary will continue to participate in the theological education under God's Grace. We hope that every church leader, brother and sister will work with us in order to achieve this heavenly mission.

Current candidates for *Faculty Development*

Angel LAM Suet Man (Counseling and Psychology)

Master of Divinity, 2004; *Master of Sacred Theology*, 2006, LTS; *Master of Social Science in Youth Counseling*, Hong Kong Baptist University, 2008; Candidate for the Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology program, Alliant International University, USA, 2010-.



All is grace! Being able to be trained at LTS and become a candidate in its *Faculty development*, I once again reckon that this is God's calling and he is making a way for me. Such a blessing strengthens my eagerness to serve and nurture others. Here, I would also like to give my heartfelt thanks to my teachers at LTS for their constant support and understanding when I face difficulties in my studies and ministerial work. Their dedication to nurturing us is highly appreciated. In response to God's calling, I will devote to integrate the Words of God, counseling and psychology for a holistic care ministry and hope all these can be served as a dedication to God.

Shermain LAI Suk Mee (Christian Education)

Master of Divinity, 2004; *Master of Sacred Theology*, 2010, LTS; Candidate for the Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Religious Education program at the University of Durham, UK, 2010-.

Ever since I was a child, I longed to become a teacher. My dream had been fulfilled for more than 10 years before I was called to receive theological training at LTS. However, a new calling came upon me to commit myself to Christian Education. This leads me to become part of the *Faculty Development Plan*, a new vision of LTS. Such a plan demands tremendous effort and support. Your prayers and contributions will serve a remarkable role in supporting us to respond to this calling and vision from our Lord.



How to support the *Faculty Development Plan*?

A) Make a Generous Donation

You can make your donation through one of the following means:

1. **Check** (payable to "Lutheran Theological Seminary")
2. **Bank Deposit** (Dah Sing Bank, Shatin Branch, Shop No. 9, Level 1, Lucky Plaza, Shatin New Town, Shatin, Hong Kong. Account no: 040-645-701-23889, SWIFT CODE: DSBHKHH)
3. **Autopay** (download the Autopay Form at http://www.lts.edu/support/LTS_Partner.pdf)
4. **A Pledge**. Faithfully make a pledge to give a certain amount to the *Faculty Development* at a future date.

Please put the Check/ Deposit Slip/ Autopay Form/ or Pledge into the donation envelope (enclosed in *LTS News*) and send it to the Development Department of LTS, 50 To Fung Shan Road, Shatin, NT, Hong Kong. Please state *Faculty Development* on the envelope.

For U.S. Tax deduction payable to "Friends of LTS - USA" and send to Dr. Jerry SCHMALENBERGER, 162 Pelican Loop, Pittsburg, CA 94565, USA, or email to jlschmalen@aol.com for details.

B) Participate in Our Walk-a-Thon

Reserve your time for our Walk-a-Thon on October 31, 2010. Details will be announced later.

C) Support Us with Your Prayer

Please continue to pray for the *Faculty Development Plan* and be encouraged by Paul's words to the church in Philippi, "I am confident that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6)

May God bless your work!

**Enquiry: (852) 2684-3207 / (852) 2691-1520
Mr. Samson TANG**