



Lutheran Theological Seminary News

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Making a difference : for the Kingdom of God in South-east Asia

*Walk-a-Thon for Faculty Development
Partnership in Mission in the Mekong Region*

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Making a difference for the Kingdom of God in South-east Asia

According to a famous Hasidic story, every person should carry two pieces of paper, one in each pocket. On the one piece it should read, "I am but dust and ashes," and on the other, "For my sake the world was created." The key to living a successful life is to be guided by both of these statements and keep the two opposing truths in balance.

Another story is told about an old man who walks along a beach at dawn and notices a youth ahead of him picking up starfish that had been deposited on the sand by a high tide. One by one, the youth flings the starfish back into the sea. As the old man catches up with the youth, he asks him why he is doing this. The answer is that the stranded starfish would die if left in the morning sun. "But the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish," counters the old man. "How can your effort make any difference?" The young man looks at the starfish in his hand, throws it to the safety of the waves, and says, "It makes a difference to that one."

In this issue of LTS News we share with you the vision and ambition of LTS to make a difference for the Kingdom of God in South-east Asia. During the last twenty years the purpose of LTS has expanded. While the primary focus remains on meeting the needs of churches in Hong Kong, an ever-growing effort is put into training theologians and church workers from other countries in South-east

Asia and in mainland China. With its beginnings back in the mid 1990's, the Mekong Region partnership has led to the establishment in 2000 of the Mekong Mission Partner Consultation (MMPC). A report from the 10th anniversary of the consultation, and also a short introduction to the Lao Evangelical Church, are included in this issue.

The challenge is enormous and there is no beating about the bush, that in many ways our efforts are like a drop of water in a vast ocean, or on a hot plate. Yet, there also is a palpable impact that encourages us to press on and believe in making a difference. At the end of May this year, our faculty visited Myanmar in order to get acquainted with the local contexts from which many of our students have been coming to LTS for the last 12 years. It was a great pleasure to meet several of our alumni that now serve in positions of responsibility both in churches, social service organizations and seminaries in Myanmar. You can read about impressions from the trip by one of our faculty.

Bringing students together from different countries poses many challenges, culturally, economically and in many other ways. In order to ease the transition, LTS started a Summer Orientation Program for interna-

tional students three years ago. In this issue, students and teachers will share about their experiences and impressions in this year's program.

Finally, one of the efforts to improve our resource situation is the arrangement on October 31st this year of a Walk-a-Thon, for the purpose of raising funds for our faculty development program. Churches and seminaries ask for our support, but our resources are limited. Our staff and teachers are pressed to their limits and don't know, at times, how to bridge the gap between what can be done and what should be done. If you wish to participate in the Walk-a-Thon from a distance, you will find all the details in this issue.

At LTS we want to make a difference for the kingdom of God in South-east Asia. We are aware of the possibilities, needs, and limitations. Like the youth at the beach, we are determined to contribute and be thankful for each small step forward. Knowing both, that we are "but dust and ashes" and that God has called us to share his love to the world and to humankind, bestows on our efforts purpose and meaning. **DM**



Walk-a-Thon

Oct. 31, 2010

"It takes ten years to grow a tree, but a hundred years to cultivate a people."

Join in!

On Sunday, Oct. 31, 2010 Lutheran Theological Seminary arranges a Walk-a-Thon as part of our effort to gather support for the training of faculty candidates. This is part of our Faculty Development Plan for 2010. Should any of our international readers be in Hong Kong and would like to join in, here are the details of the Walk-a-Thon:

Start at: Shatin Tsung Tsin Secondary School

Opening Ceremony: 3:00 p.m.

Destination: Lutheran Theological Seminary (50 To Fung Shan Road, Shatin)

Thanksgiving Service: 4:30 p.m. (Free shuttle bus service will be available for all walkers after the thanksgiving service)

Join from a distance!

We also want to invite you to contribute to the Walk-a-Thon fund raising from a distance, wherever you are in the world. These are the alternatives and details:

- 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, the Deposit Slip, the Autopay Form or your Pledge into the donation envelope (enclosed in LTS News) and send it to the following address: Development Department of LTS, 50 To Fung

Shan Road, Shatin, NT, Hong Kong. Please state Faculty Development on the envelope.

For US tax deduction on payments made to Friends of LTS – USA, please contact Dr. Jerry SCHMALEBERGER, 162 Pelican Loop, Pittsburg, CA 94565, USA, email: jschmalen@aol.com.

For any other enquiries, please call (852) 2691-1520 or send an email to ltsdeve@lts.edu.

Why we need your support for our 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 includes 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 but a hundred years to cultivate a people", this means that to build up the reserve of prospective local faculty members, as one of the most pressing tasks, the process 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 God-given mission.

Please continue to pray for LTS and the Faculty Development Plan, 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)

Joining hands for the Christian community in the Mekong Region:

The Mekong Mission Forum Partner Consultation celebrates its 10th Anniversary in Hong Kong



Joining hands for Cambodia

Ten years ago the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) invited its member churches from Asia, Europe and northern America to a consultation in Bangkok under the theme "Partnership in Mission in the Mekong Region". The purpose of this initiative was a stronger engagement of Lutheran Churches in the region, e.g. in Thailand and later in Cambodia. It was also a reflection of a change within the region which offered opportunities for Christian engagement in mission and development work. The three main objectives of the consultation were therefore: "to gather information about mission activities, to discuss and to consider the possibilities of joint-mission activities, and to consider ways for better coordination of mission activities in the Mekong region."

This first Mekong Mission Partner Consultation (MMPC) can be

seen as the starting point of a joint Lutheran movement within the Mekong region. Today 16 Lutheran churches and mission related agencies (9 from Asia and Australia; 6 from Europe and northern America) are members of the Mekong Mission Forum. In cooperation with its Network Implementation Committee (NIC) the forum is the working arm of the MMPC. It plans, coordinates, facilitates and carries out the different programs. The programs can be divided into three main areas:

1. Programs initiated and carried out by single MMF members
2. Programs initiated and carried out in partnership with other MMF members
3. Programs initiated and carried out by the Mekong Mission Forum Network Implementation Committee (MMF/NIC).

By taking up the all over coordi-

by **Hanns HOERSCHELMANN**

nating role of the programs initiated by MMF the Lutheran Theological Seminary Hong Kong (LTS) has from the very beginning been especially involved in the third program area, as it is closely linked to theological education. Former LTS President, Dr. Lam Tak HO, and now his successor, Dr. Simon CHOW, serve as Coordinators of the Mekong Mission Forum Network Implementation Committee. In order to fulfill this task they have been supported first by Rev Nicolaj Jensen and now Rev Hanns HOERSCHELMANN, acting as assistant coordinators of the MMF/NIC.

Over the last 12 years around 80 students from churches from the Mekong region have studied at LTS. During the present academic year 23 students from the region are enrolled at LTS (2 from Cambodia, 4 from Laos, 13 Myanmar, 2 from Thailand, 2 Vietnam). They have all

been part of either faculty or leadership development programs of the churches and theological institutions within the region. This important program was made possible by scholarships provided by MMF members.

A second area of activities has been short term teaching engagements of LTS faculty within the churches and seminaries in the region. For example, in Myanmar as part of the annual Ministers Institute of the Association of Theological Education on Myanmar (an in service training for Pastors) and in Cambodia as part of the newly established Continuing Education Program for Alumni of different bible schools in Cambodia. This program itself is developed and carried out by the MMF/NIC in partnership with the MMF member Danmission.

A third area of engagement has been joint consultations and workshops. These consultations try to take up issues affecting the Christian community in the Mekong region as a whole. Subjects covered were for example Mission and Ethnicity, Mission and Identity, Mission and

Development or in June this year the question of a Contextual Theological Education. Besides being an important event to share views and experiences related to the themes covered, these gatherings have served as an opportunity to foster further networking of the churches and theological institutions within the region. The proceedings of these gatherings have been published as Mekong Mission Forum Publications.

Due to this important engagement of LTS within the work of the forum it was seen as an encouraging sign that the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the MMPC took place at the neighbouring Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre from April 29-30 this year. It was an opportunity to welcome all MMF members at LTS at a joined dinner with students and faculty, as well as to introduce them to the work of the seminary. As an authentic expression of this work students from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam studying in Hong Kong shared their experiences at LTS as well as their dreams and hopes for their home churches.

They expressed their deep appreciation for the work of the MMF within the region and its financial support for scholarships and other programs related to theological education.

The MMPC gathering in Hong Kong also opened up a new chapter of a joined engagement in Cambodia related to the second program area of the MMF. Five members signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a Lutheran Cooperation in Cambodia. Partners in this Mekong Mission Forum Cambodia Cooperation are: The Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong (ELCHK), Lutheran Church in Singapore (LCS), Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria and Lutheran Church of Australia. They are joining hands to eventually establish ONE local Lutheran church in Cambodia with a holistic approach – Christian ministry and diaconal work, incorporating education, health services, livelihood projects and other community-based activities; Christian institutions and the development of other potential ministries.

Currently, two projects related to this newly established cooperation are in progress. In the Kampong Chnang province, LCS has started an outreach programme by offering church gatherings as well as conducting English language classes. They also initiated several medical and health care programmes in cooperation with the local authorities. The ELCHK has established education and mission work in Phnom Penh for the city people.

Rev. Hoerschelmann is International Student coordinator and Assistant Coordinator of LTS MMF/NIC

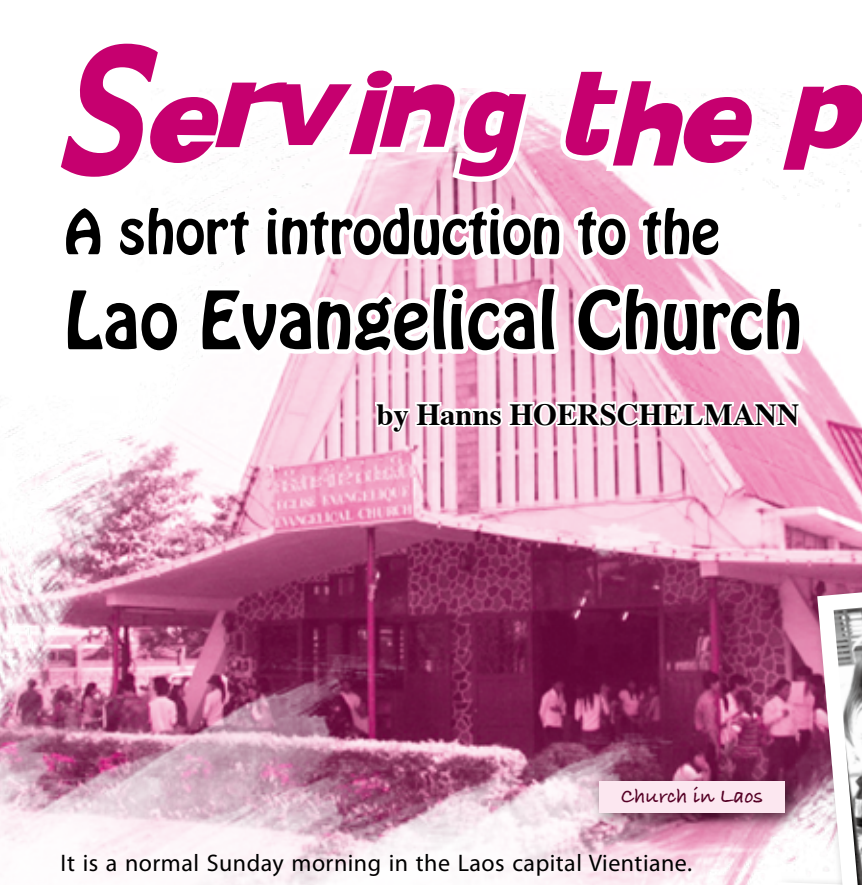


The Mekong mission forum group

Serving the people

A short introduction to the Lao Evangelical Church

by Hanns HOERSCHELMANN



Church in Laos

It is a normal Sunday morning in the Laos capital Vientiane. Around 150, mainly young people, gather before one of the official churches of the Evangelical Church of Laos (LEC) after the service. They talk, laugh and enjoy this time of fellowship. After a while a line forms before a small building beside the church. Three nurses at a long table write down the personal information of the church goers on a list. Behind them one can see a number of people sitting in chairs or lying on simple beds. They all have signed up to participate in the national Blood Donation Day.

For a person coming from a western church background this scene seems to be little strange, but for the Christian community in Laos it is a necessary and visual sign of their engagement for their people. As Christianity is still seen as something foreign, strange and potentially dangerous in this communist country in the Mekong Region, all efforts are taken by the church to show how and that they care for their country. The effects of this strategy seem to pay off. After years of strict control by the government the LEC enjoys more and more freedom. "We still have to be careful in what we do, especially when it comes to foreign engagement, but over the years we have been able to build up a good relationship with our government," explains Dr. Kamphone, the current President of the LEC.

The LEC grew out of the work of Swedish Protestant (1890), Swiss Brethren (1902) and Christian and Missionary Alliance missionaries (1928). The missionaries who worked in three different parts of the country came together and adopted a constitution to establish the LEC in 1956. The newly formed church was granted corporate status by the Royal Lao Government in 1960. The change of government in 1975 impacted the church negatively. Between 1975 and 1990 the church did not have any contacts with the outside world, as the country remained



After the Churchservice in Laos



Blood donation Day



Foreigners are welcome in the Laos Church

a closed-door society where religious freedom was restricted. Since the country opened up in 1990, the membership of the LEC has been growing.

Today, the LEC has about 300 congregations with more than 150,000 members 75 full time pastors and more than 200 elders/lay ministers. Most pastors were trained in neighbouring countries or at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong. This engagement of LTS was possible through the Mekong Mission Forum (MMF) and its members who provided scholarships. Four students have successfully finished the Bachelor of Theology program and two more are enrolled in the same program at present. In addition, LTS has started a Regional English Language Institute (RELI) which offers a one year intensive English language course combined with theological studies. For many students it is a preparatory course for future theological studies. Again, this program is part of the overall engagement of LTS in the work of the MMF.

The LEC recently started a Bible school training programme at its headquarters in the state capital, Vientiane. Since 1975, no expatriate missionaries have been permitted to work within Laos. Although public evangelical activities are not encouraged by the socialist government, the churches in the capital city, towns and rural areas are experiencing considerable growth, especially with increasing youth membership.

Besides the spiritual activities, the LEC has social development programmes, such as a medical clinic, vocational training

centre for women, assistance to primary school, clean water supply, etc. The LEC is the largest Christian denomination in the country officially recognized by the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR). The LEC maintains good relations with other churches and the Theravada Buddhists who make up 60% of the total 5 million population of the country.

Rev. Hoerschelmann is International Student coordinator at LTS and Assistant Coordinator of MMF/NIC

Visiting Professors, Fall 2010

Jonas JONSON

Visiting Professor for Missiology and Ecumenical Theology



Back at LTS after two years, I again teach missiology and ecumenical theology. This I really enjoy and hope that sharing some of my own life experience will contribute to broadening the vision of the students.

I come from Sweden and have been a retired bishop of the (Lutheran) Church of Sweden for five years. Before I was elected bishop in 1989, I used to serve as the assistant general secretary for ecumenical affairs in the Lutheran World Federation. I have also held a number of positions in the World Council of Churches, such as being a member of the Central Committee and the co-moderator of the Joint Working Group with the Roman Catholic church. My work with ecumenical organizations has taken me to churches all around the world.

Back in 1972, I defended my doctoral theses on Lutheran missions in China in the 1940's. For some time, I served as professor of missiology at the University of Uppsala. I have also been the director of a well known evangelical academy at Rattvik in Sweden. I am the author of several books and I am also writing poetry and hymns.

My wife Birgitta is teaching international public health and human rights at the Stockholm medical university and our daughter Karin is studying theology at the University at Lund. They will both visit with me for several weeks in October.

I am glad to be back here and encouraged by your commitment and enthusiasm as you prepare yourself for ministry of the Kingdom.

Wolfhart SCHLICHTING

Visiting Professor for Systematic Theology



Twenty eight years ago, in 1982, I interrupted my Pastoral Ministry among students at the University of Regensburg (Germany), in order to teach Systematic Theology at LTS for one semester. I was a 42 years old bachelor at the time. The President of the Seminary, Dr. Andrew Hsiao, transformed my German family name "Schlichting" into Shi Li Ting, which means "establish a family". I was accommodated in an Augsburg flat. Five years later, I got married, and my wife and I are now the grateful parents of four well turned-out children. Eight years later, I was

called to Augsburg where I worked as a pastor in St. Jacob's city-congregation until my retirement (2005). Now, at 70 years of age, I received an unexpected call by some of my former students to teach another semester at LTS. What makes things a bit difficult is that during these 28 years, I had not practiced my English a lot. Nor had taking care of a congregation with more than 1100 members, plus additional responsibilities in the Church and a mission society, given me much time to keep up with recent publications in the field. But as my first stay in HK had been an unforgettable experience for me, and the contacts with former students never broken off, I am very happy to be here again.

I try to understand my contribution here at LTS according to the biblical passage that we meditated on during the opening retreat on Cheung Chau Island: "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But, to each of us grace has been given as the Lord appointed it" (Eph 4, 3-7). In light of this passage, it is my conviction that unity in diversity is not endless. Biblical truth, while pluralistic in expression, is a single truth with manifold manifestations.

Faculty Trip to Myanmar, May 2010

At the end of May this year, the faculty of LTS made its yearly faculty trip to Myanmar. Over the last 12 years, many students from Myanmar have come to study at LTS for longer and shorter periods. Today, many of the LTS alumni serve in positions of responsibility in churches, social service organizations and seminaries in Myanmar. The purpose of the trip was to reconnect with our alumni, get a better understanding from where they come and where they are now serving, and to learn in order to be better equipped to serve and meet the needs of those who continue to come to LTS. In this article, Dr Jan Martin Depner, Professor of Systematic and Pastoral Theology at LTS, shares some of his memories and impressions from the trip.

by Jan Martin DEPNER

On our faculty trip to Myanmar we visited several theological seminaries and here is one of them: A Methodist seminary in Thanlyan, outside Rangoon. Admittedly not a very representative one, but in all its beauty this seminary highlights quite well the differences to what we are used to at LTS: it consisted of a few hats, three shelves sparsely equipped with some theological books, two dormitory rooms, one classroom with open walls and another roofed yard for assemblies. Yet here – like in many other places of Christian study in Myanmar that we visited – I could feel earnestness and devotion.

We also visited MIT (Myanmar Institute of Theology), KBTS (Karen Baptist Theological Seminary), MICT (Myanmar Institute of Christian Theology) where the standard of the li-

braries and the level of teaching that we encountered impressed us; just as much as the overwhelming Burmese friendliness and the capacity to cope with a difficult situation.

This is what we had come to learn more about. Having so many students from the Golden Land joining us here at LTS presently and over the years, we wanted to see under which circumstances they live, work and study in their home country. Our yearly faculty-retreat is designed to offer our teaching staff fellowship, time to reflect, communicate and to focus on what we are doing. Our time in Myanmar certainly fulfilled this task. All of us came back to Hong Kong with a multitude of insights and impressions and with many thoughts.

Towards the end of our trip we

visited the office of the Association for Theological Education in Myanmar (ATEM). ATEM is the partner organisation through which the students that come to LTS are tested and selected. The LTS-alumni, Lal Tin Hre, director of ATEM was also our warm and committed guide and helped us to find our way to the different seminaries, from the moment we landed until our takeoff. We so much enjoyed the cordial fellowship with him and his family.

Asked about the highlights of our visit, I am sure each of us would point out different moments and places. Even in retrospect I could not decide for myself. So I will offer ten short hunches from the much longer list of my favorite impressions. A few tiles of a large mosaic...

1 A rainy first day - soccer in a puddle: 30 minutes outside Yangon. The long awaited rain had come to Myanmar. The village soccer-field was one big puddle. Happy boys splashed and frolicked. Suddenly Hong Kong seemed very far away.



2 Immediate fellowship with local sisters, brothers and pastors:

The first meeting was with another faculty (EFCM). Very poor circumstances, yet beaming faces everywhere. It was our first contact with brothers and sisters, some of whom we should meet again at our festive alumni-dinner and become friends with. The dinner itself was a highlight of the trip and a true feast of fellowship.



3 The library of MIT:

Impressive as such, but taken into account how difficult it is to get books in Myanmar, it was even more spectacular. Many volumes of contemporary theological thought particularly surprised me.



4 Three nights at the Swedagon Pagoda:

Some of us didn't go there only once. The atmosphere at night added to the splendour and gave us some ideas about the Burmese sense of beauty and religious practise.



5 Buddhist monks:

They were everywhere. All ages. Often looking quite content. For me a constant reminder of the more recent political events and a challenge to talk and think and learn more about Buddhism.



6 Golden spires seen from the cultural village:

The village was a good place to walk through the ar-

chitecture of this formerly so immensely rich country. The view-tower offered a panorama over the old city of Rangoon: A green Ocean interspersed with golden spires... breathtakingly beautiful.



7 Food: For some of us it was a first encounter with the local curries. A big heap of herbs and leaves in the middle of the table that begged to be explored by our taste-buds and choices of meat from animals we never even heard of. Yummy.



8 Scott Market: Huge. Touristy. Beautiful. At some time this afternoon: partly flooded by a sudden and intense rain-fall. The market was yet another testimony to the wealth of the country: Rich in natural resources and rich in arts and crafts.



9 University buildings: One of the saddest impressions: bus-rides along different vast university campuses. All of them empty and some deteriorating. Dark rooms behind broken windows. Palpable memorials of bad government. Fortunately, the Christians started general-study-programmes in some of their seminaries.



10 Colleagues:

Happy memories for me are connected with the talks and sharing times among us in the faculty. Very different people we are indeed, with extremely different interests! Yet a strong sense of union between us, humour and love and enjoyable fellowship. I look back with a grateful heart to our faculty retreat in the Golden Land 2010.



Jan Martin is an Assistant Professor for Systematic and Pastoral Theology

Summer Orientation Program for new international students at LTS :

- * Learning English
- * Exploring Hong Kong
- * Building relationships



Rebecca LEE
English Lecturer

The Summer English and Orientation Program is a course that has been running for three summers now. The aim of the course is threefold: Orient the international students to life at Lutheran Theological Seminary, life in Hong Kong and help the students to ease into an English

speaking learning environment. The program this summer ran for three weeks, from July 26-August 13, and had 11 participants in the course. The students come from Myanmar, Indonesia, and mainland China. We had a wonderful three weeks together learning English, exploring Hong Kong and being in fellowship with one another. Here are some highlights from our course:

One of the “tasks” the students were given to perform in small groups was to prepare a healthy and creative meal on a budget. Here is the result of their efforts! We had a wonderful time trying their delicious meals together, singing some songs and learning from each other about our different cultures.



Another task was exploring Hong Kong and getting to know the transportation system here, especially the MTR. In small groups, each had to get us to a specific site in Hong Kong (Hong Kong Park, Victoria Peak, Temple Street Night Market) using more than one mode of transportation. This exercise really helped to boost the students’ confidence in travelling around Hong Kong and using various public transportation systems...and even getting a little lost along the way!

Every Wednesday was our day out and about in Hong Kong. In the last week of the course, we had the privilege to visit some Taoist monasteries with one of our professors, Dr. Patrick CHAN. Even though it was raining heavily, we experienced some of how the native people of Hong Kong worship. Patrick explained the history of the worship styles and even had us participate a bit in the “lucky stick” ritual. This experience was very eye-opening and gave us all a broader perspective of the lives of the local people here in Hong Kong.

In the evenings, the students and I would often gather for some fellowship activities: movie nights, arts and craft projects, and cultural sharing. One of the best evenings was when we had a cultural visual arts and crafts show. The students wore their native dress, shared with us about their country and tribe, and also performed some songs and dance for us – it was a wonderful eve-



ning and gave me new insight to where the students come from and some of their traditions.

We were blessed to have some other faculty, staff and current students in-

involved throughout the summer course and I would like to extend a very large thank you for all their help, for without it the program would not have been so rich and fruitful for the students. This is a wonderful program that was a joy to lead and I hope that it will continue to ease the transition of our international students as they come from all over to study here at LTS.



Naw Ray Mu
M.Th. student, Myanmar

The summer program was fantastic and very valuable for me. I did not only study English, but also learn about LTS and Hong Kong. It was like a road map for living at LTS. As an overseas student, Hong Kong is a strange place, I need

to make a lot of adjustments. There are three impressions for sharing.

First, every morning we had “devotion”, led by teachers and current students from LTS. To me, this was the heart of the program. I received spiritual strength from inspiring messages and sharing. Secondly, I want to mention “teaching.” Many teachers taught us in their respective fields, such as English, survival Cantonese, a brief history of LTS, adaptation, spiritual gifts inventory, computers, HK Chinese festivals, Western festivals, registration, and much more. All the teachers were very kind and very patient with us. Thirdly, I want to share about our “touring.” We visited Chinese Religious Institutions (Buddhist, Taoist, and Confucian), toured Tai Wai, Shatin, and Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre. This opened my eyes to many new aspects of Hong Kong.

On weekends, we had fellowship programs, such as Fashion, Craft and Visual Arts Show and Creative and

Healthy cooking, which was much fun and a lovable experience for all of us.

I can honestly say that the Program really focused on “excellence and unity”, which is our school motto for this year. I do hope that the program will bring blessings to new students every year.



Mar Lar Myint
M.Th. student, Myanmar

I come from MYANMAR, as a newcomer I have attended the summer orientation program which lasted for three weeks. Besides learning English, we did many other things, such as cooking, dining, touring, , watching movies and worshipping together. I made many new friends and it really helped me to feel at home in LTS and Hong Kong. I had no time to feel homesick or lonely. It was a good lesson for my life.

At the closing celebration, I and my friends showed our cultural dance and dress. This was really fun and an exciting experience for me. All of this will remain vivid in my mind for the rest of my life.

May almighty God bless all the supporters of LTS.



Tonggo Sitompul
M.Th. student, Indonesia

When I first came to LTS, I felt a little bit afraid. I did not know what to do to know LTS and Hong Kong. But the Summer English and Orientation Program (SEOP) gave me the answer. This was a wonderful time for me. I could get information about LTS and Hong Kong in such a short time. Besides that, it was a good opportunity for all of us to practice and improve our English. We did all the activities with English. We also had a warm, friendly, lovely situation together in gatherings and fellowship which made us close to one another, like a family. I miss my SEOP .

Welcome to our Friday Feast!

The Friday Feast is an important educational program for all students at LTS. It divides into three monthly events: *the Academic Feast* (Public Lecture), *the Spiritual Feast* (Holy Communion) and *the Fellowship Feast* (LTS Family Gathering). Church members, and professors and students from other seminaries are welcome to join the Academic and the Spiritual Friday Feast, and so are all the readers of LTS News, should you happen to be in town. The Fellowship Feast is for the LTS community only.

Day and Time: Fridays, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Venue: The Ming Chieh Chapel at LTS (50, Tao Fung Shan Road, Shatin).

Chinese, Mandarin & English translation will be provided. For details, please call 26911520 or visit www.lts.edu.

Spiritual Feast ~ Holy Communion:

Date	Theme	Leader	Preacher
24/9/2010 (Fri)	Mid-Autumn	Dr. Pilgrim LO	Dr. Patrick CHAN
22/10/2010 (Fri)	Social Justice	Dr. Jan Martin DEPNER	Dr. Wayne NIEMINEN
1/11/2010 (Mon) 7:30 pm	All Saint's Day	Dr. John LEMOND	Dr. John LEMOND
5/11/2010 (Fri)	/	Dr. Simon CHOW	Arch Bishop, Anders WEJRYD
26/11/2010 (Fri)	Founder's Day	Dr. Gabriele HOERSCHELMANN	Dr. Jonas JONSON
17/12/2010 (Fri)	Advent /Christmas	Introduction to Worship & Liturgy (Class)	Dr. Wolfhart SCHLICHTING

Academic Feast ~ Public Lectures:

Date: 10/9/2010 (Fri)

Topic: The Construction, Deconstruction and Reconstruction of Biblical Parallelism

Speaker: Dr. TSOI, Ting-Pong Jonathan (Associate Professor)

Date: 8/10/2010 (Fri)

Topic: Theology in Language, Rhetoric, and Beyond

Speaker: Dr. Jack LUNDBOM (Visiting Professor at LTS)

Date: 3/12/2010 (Fri)

Topic: To Have or To Be? Reflecting on a basic anthropological dilemma in the perspective of spiritual guidance

Speaker: Dr. Jan Martin DEPNER (Assistant Professor, LTS)

Fellowship Feast ~ Family Gathering:

Students and lecturers meet every month for prayer, sharing and social activities, for the purpose of building relationships and mutual care. This event is for the LTS community only.

Founder's Day

*Thanksgiving Service &
Parents' Day Celebration
on the*

*Occasion of the 97th Anniversary of
Lutheran Theological Seminary*

Date: Friday, November 26, 2010

Thanksgiving Service: 10:30 am

Parents' Day Celebration: 6:00 pm (Visit to Dormitory, Dinner and Worship)

Venue: Lutheran Theological Seminary

Families and friends of LTS students, and all brothers and sisters in Christ, are welcome.

For enquiries, please call 2691 1520

A NOTE FOR READERS

Dear Reader of LTS News

Please share your thoughts and ideas about LTS News with us.

Are we providing the information you are looking for?

What do you want to read more about?

Do you have any suggestions on how to spread the News Letter better?

Please send any suggestions to Lutheran Theological Seminary,
assistant editor, Grace Luk, 50 To Fung Shan, Shatin, NT, Hong Kong,
or email to publication@lts.edu.

Thank you!

LTS is celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2013

Share your memories!



1913-2013

Dear Friends of Lutheran Theological Seminary !

In 2013, Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. An Essay Collection tentatively entitled "Lutheran Theological Seminary 100 years – Personal Memories and Experiences" is scheduled for publication.

Looking back at a hundred years of seminary history, we are made grateful aware of all the LTS coworkers, students, alumni, and financial and spiritual supporters. Without your faithful partnership, the continuous development and growth of LTS, in times of success and difficulties, would not have been possible. Thank you very much!

At this time of celebration, we want your voices to be heard and your personal memories and experiences to be made available to the LTS community at large. We invite you, therefore, to contribute to a collection of essays that will reflect your individual recollections of the history of LTS, as you are part of that history.

Whether you are a teacher, a student, a staff member, a member of the Board of Directors or a coworker from a supporting Mission, we trust that you want to share about the role and function of LTS for your spiritual, academic and professional life, in days of sorrow and in days of happiness. This, we believe, can be an encouragement and a source of wisdom for generations to come.

In terms of themes, titles and contents we welcome your suggestions in the areas of campus life, life as a non-resident student, experiences from Daytime or Evening Program studies, memories of relationships between teachers and students, and between colleagues. We welcome reflections on your calling and academic learning, experiences of pastoral ministry, memories of incidents and events concerning the history and life at LTS from the perspective of the Board of Directors and of co-workers in supporting Mission organizations.

The length of contributions can be up to 1000 words, either in English or Chinese. Photographs are welcome.

Thank you!

Cut Off Date: April 30, 2011

Contributions should be sent to: Editorial Committee of the "LTS 100 years – Personal Memories and Experiences", c/o, No. 50, Tao Fung Shan Road, Shatin, Hong Kong.

Dr. Simon Chow, President of LTS

In Memoriam

WU Ming Chieh

On September 9, LTS commemorated the 20th anniversary of the death of Rev. Wu Ming Chieh with a memorial service. Around 100 teachers and students and other friends of Rev. Wu attended. The service began with offering flowers at the tomb of Rev. Wu and speaking about his more than 40 years of service in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong. Rev. Wu is the founder of the Yuen Long Lutheran Church, has devoted himself to theological education for more than 27 years, and has contributed immensely to the development of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong, the Lutheran Theological Seminary, the Chinese Lutheran Churches and Chinese World Evangelism.



News and Dates

- The total number of students this semester is 490. The figure divides between 323 daytime students and 167 evening students. Among the 323 students enrolled in our Daytime Programs, there are 92 new students including 31 overseas students.
- The total number of overseas students presently enrolled at LTS is 68. Their countries of origin are Macau, Taiwan, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Korea, Nepal, Malaysia, Indonesia, Germany, Sweden, USA, the United Kingdom, Pakistan and Cameroon.
- The number of new students registered with the Evening Theological Education by Extension (TEE) Program is 39. We ask the Lord to bless these believers who are willing to equip themselves to work for Christ, while having to strike a difficult balance between employment and studies.
- This semester there are ten students from Mainland China, with two enrolled in Master programs, four pursuing studies under the Advanced Studies Program, and four doctoral students in exchange program from Beijing University, the People's University of China, Nanjing University, and Nankai University. In addition, there are 23 students from the Mekong River region receiving church leader training.
- This year's Retreat Camp for Faculty and students was held at the Salesian Retreat House in Cheung Chau from August 25 to 27. A total of 125 participants from the Faculty and students attended the retreat. The theme for the current academic year is "Seeking Excellence and Unity", with the intention of reminding students and staff to grow in Christ and to be united in our calling. Dr Peter LI gave an interesting and lively sermon that encouraged teachers and students.
- On September 1, the Opening Ceremony of the Main Campus Academic Year was held. Elder Mr WONG Fuk Yee, President of the Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong preached on the theme "Who is the most senior? Who wishes to be the head?" Elder WONG's advised all present to humble themselves and to follow the example of Jesus Christ. Teachers and students wish to express their deepest gratitude for the sermon.
- On September 4, the Opening Ceremony & Spiritual Development Meeting of the TEE Program was held. Dr. Peter LI preached on the theme "Someone who knows Jesus Christ". He spoke on the Apostle Paul and encouraged teachers and students to lived live their

lives, like Paul, in accordance with their calling, and with joy and thankfulness.

- On October 11, the Scholarship Award Ceremony of the Hong Kong Chinese Christian Churches Union was held at the Tsim Sha Tsui Baptist Church. Ms MA Man long, an M.Div student of LTS, was awarded a scholarship for her outstanding academic achievements by the Hong Kong Chinese Christian Churches Union. LTS congratulates Ms MA and thanks the Hong Kong Chinese Christian Churches Union for again awarding the scholarship to a student of this Seminary.
- On October 13, a dialogue session was held between the management of LTS and students on various administrative and miscellaneous matters. Like the previous years students have been given an opportunity to voice their opinions on academic and campus life concerns. The President, the Dean and the heads of various departments attended the meeting.
- Our two faculty candidates have commenced their doctoral studies, Ms LAM Suet Man in Clinical Psychology at Alliance International University, USA/HK, and Ms LAI Shuk Mei in Christian Education at Durham University, U.K. May they be blessed in their studies and campus life, and be equipped for future service.

News Feed on Professors

- On July 23, Dr Ted Zimmerman broke his leg and had an operation during a vacation in the US. He is recovering well and has resumed his normal teaching program. On August 23, Dr CHAN Kam Kuen twisted his ankle badly chasing public transport. He is now recovering well. Please remember our colleagues in your prayers.
- From September 14 to 17, President Simon CHOW and the managerial staff of the Hong Kong Christian Council visited Shanghai to meet Chinese church leaders, discussing various matters on theological education.
- On October 15 and 17, President Simon CHOW attended a two-day Biblical Studies Seminar at the Theological Department of the Chung Chi College, Chinese University of Hong Kong, responding to emeritus Professor Richard Bauckham of St. Andrew University, Scotland.

- Dr. Pilgrim LO's latest article "Problems of Homosexuality in the Context of Hong Kong Chinese Christian Community" is now published in *Glauben und Denken – Mission, Dialog und friedliche Koexistenz*, Jahrbuch der Karl-Heim-Gesellschaft, Sonderband (Frankfurt a. M: Peter Lang, 2010). Pp. 275-283.
- Dr. Eric AU is on his sabbatical year and is visiting Professor at the Institute for Ecumenical Theology, University of Münster, Germany, doing research on Theology and Ecology.

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".

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.