

# Reflection on Spirituality & Ministry

Dr. Patrick Chan

hat is ministry? Ministry is service carried out by the church to the people who are in time of need. It is done in the name of the triune God. I think what has been fulfilled upon our Lord Jesus is the best description of what ministry is about. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (see Lk 4: 14-21) What Jesus did for his ministry is also what the church should do for hers. So the church is to follow the good example of our Lord Jesus to



serve the poor, the blind and the captives by means of proclamation, education and healing.

Then what is spirituality? Henrie Nouwen has a precise good definition, he says, "Spirituality is

attention to the life of the Holy Spirit in us." St. Gregory of Saini in the 12th century tried to link spirituality with the holy sacrament of baptism, and said, " Prayer is the manifestation of the holy baptism." What he means is in baptism we have attained the Holy Spirit, but we have to be conscious of His presence within us. Both Nouwen and Gregory emphasize the importance of the experience of the presence of the Holy Spirit in Christian spirituality. So spirituality is to follow Jesus who went out to the wilderness or withdrew to the mountain to pray; it is to be like the tax collector who stood before God with his mind descended into the heart, and ceaselessly cried out, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Finally, it is like what Nouwen has said: "Spirituality is contemplating the unspeakable beauty of our loving God."

However, we often time try to separate ministry from spirituality, service from prayer. We always find excuses not to pray, for instance, we so easily say to ourselves we are too busy to pray. But are we really that busy? Perhaps we are busy because we are lazy to set priorities to our work. We are busy perhaps because we are too ambitious, or too eager to be successful. Therefore according to many of us prayer or retreat is a luxurious thing which is reserved only

for a few contemplatives. They concentrate their entire life on contemplation and leave Christian service to others.

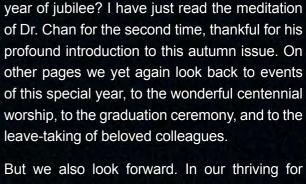
Ministry and spirituality, service and prayer can never be separated. It is important to remember that Jesus blended successfully these two things together. He never tried separating service from prayer, and vice versa. □see Mk 1:35; 6:31 □ It is interesting to see that Henrei Nowen has used the symbol of Yin and Yang of the Chinese Circle to express the inseparability of ministry and spirituality.

We need to work, but we need to pray as well. This is true Spirituality & Ministry.

## Editorial

Where it all began... our cover shows a detail of a chapel on the Ji Gung Shan (the "Lutheran Hill") near Xinyang, which one could call the first chapel of LTS even though it was in use a few years before the seminary was officially founded in the nearby Hubei province. For all of the faculty that journeyed there, it was a wonderful experience to encounter the thriving church in Henan, seeing their contemporary challenges and needs, and hearing about their Lutheran roots. You will learn more about that in the account written by Dr. Borchardt in this issue.

What else is there in this second issue in the



But we also look forward. In our thriving for excellence and being of use in our God's kingdom, we keep asking how we can help to equip servants. One example is the Mekong region, where LTS is blessed to having been able to serve many nations since 1970. Christa von Zychlin gives a wonderful summary of the past and the present of this work with a clear mission-statement for the future. We are similarly glad to see that we keep playing a key role in theological education, as Dr Gabi Hoerschelmann confirms in her report. And of course it is a step into the future whenever we have the privilege to welcome new members of our staff.

Finally, we have extended the photo-competition from the last issue, as we have too few contributions at the moment and are anticipating more. Please send in your photos of LTS. And now enjoy this edition of LTS News.



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## LTS and students from the Mekong Regions By Christa von 2 yehlin



n the Fall 2013 semester, the LTS community welcomed nineteen new international students into its programs, including eleven new students from the Mekong, bringing our total number of international students to 35 including 22 from the Mekong. LTS community has a special relationship with churches and mission organizations serving the countries of the Mekong River, specifically Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Mekong Students in LTS Academic Programs LTS has welcomed Mekong area students alongside of its Chinese student body since the late 1970s, with the matriculation of LTS' first theology students from Thailand. The first students from Myanmar graduated in the mid 1990s, followed by Cambodian (1999), Vietnamese (2003) and Lao students (2006). From 1978 to 2012 the LTS community has been enriched by the following number of graduates from the Mekong region:

Cambodia 8 Laos 13 Myanmar 55 26 Thailand Vietnam 12

Whereas Hong Kong is a world city where East meets West, LTS is a world seminary where East meets West, and East meets East as well!

Churches and seminaries from the Mekong (and their scholarship supporters), choose to send students to LTS for the following reasons:

Local and international professors and students who are committed to intercultural community in Christ

Academic strength (most faculty hold D.Th. or Ph.D.)

Professors and staff rich in pastoral experience and Christian witness

Confessionally Lutheran, emphasizing the centrality of the cross, while honoring ecumenical diversity

Diverse range of theological disciplines, including specialized programs such as Theological Librarianship and Diakonia

A number and variety of English-taught classes; Two English teachers on staff provide additional language support; Regional English Language Institute at LTS

Increasing opportunities for benefitting from LTS' partnerships with the University of Erlangen, Goettingen, Muenster (all in Germany); China Lutheran Seminary (Taiwan); Norwegian School of Mission and Theology (Stavanger, Norway); Swedish Theological Institute (in Jerusalem);

Various colleges/universities/seminaries in the USA and Canada.

The integrity and vibrancy of LTS' mission statement: "On the Foundation of the Bible. Training Faithful Servants of God."

In turn, Students from the Mekong region integrate LTS programs with a three-fold pattern of mission:

- i) Missionaries in the Home Context: Mekong students are chosen for LTS studies on the basis of their demonstrated mission commitment in their home context. They are chosen for further education by their home church or Christian institution, and bring those unique experiences, challenges and insights with them into the LTS Hong Kong community.
- ii) Missionaries in Hong Kong: While at LTS, students contribute their friendship, music, spiritual strengths, academic interests and practical service in the classroom, in the LTS community, and in the wider Hong Kong church communities and programs.
- iii) Missionaries Who Return Home to Serve: LTS is proud of its record of sending graduates back to their home context, LTS alumni serve as seminary teachers, pastors, bishops, and leaders in Christian Formation and Diakonia throughout the Mekong region. In many cases, the relationships formed while at seminary also broaden the base of Christian hospitality and networking between former classmates, faculty/ students, and sponsoring mission partners.

LTS anticipates future growth and service in the area of its International Alumni Association and providing increased opportunities for networking and continuing education for alumni and their theologically engaged co-workers.

## Let the children sing His Might

Centennial sacred music worship on April 20, 2013

Felix Choi Sze Lok



"Bring to the Lord a glad new song, children of grace extol your king..."

The sacred music worship is indeed a regular annual event that everyone in LTS is involved in. Nevertheless, the sacred music worship this year was remarkable, since this time the counting of blessing from our gracious Lord extended to the day our seminary was established a hundred years ago.

When everyone in LTS - students and faculty members, alumni and staff - gathered and celebrated in the centennial sacred music worship service, we were the children of His grace.

When the actors retold the story of our beloved seminary, we were being reminded once again that even at times when the teachers and students faced political turmoil in Mainland China, when the seminary seemed to have tripped into limbo, while the development of our alma mater apparently entered a hiatus, our almighty Lord inspired and brought the seminary to another new height.

When the scripture was read and the sermon was delivered, we were shown once again that we have got myriad of late and living witnesses when we look back, and we will join this witness crowd along the blessed footsteps of LTS.

When the congregation sang praise, we once again delivered our thankfulness to our gracious Lord not just for ourselves, but our ancestors and forthcomers as well. The choirs, the orchestra and the fellow attendants formed a fellowship of acclamation as all of our individual experiences unified and amplified through the celebration and worship. As a response of the steadfast blessing received, the children of grace sang out His Might:

"... all living things with breath and voice; let every creature praise the Lord!"



## LTS News Report on Henan Faculty Retreat

By Francis Borchardt Photos: Jan Depner

took place in May of this year. As its destination the faculty chose Henan province, China. The reason for which this location was selected was twofold: first, Henan is one of the centers of Christianity in China. It has a large and old Christian population full of a diversity of beliefs and practices. Second, because



this year the school celebrates the centennial anniversary of LTS, the faculty wanted to visit a place important to the history of the seminary. The former campus of LTS in Shekou, Hubei province, is inaccessible to civilians nowadays, so it would not have been an ideal choice. However, Henan province contains sites that go even further back into LTS' history.

How is that possible? Well,

even before LTS was founded, the decision to establish a Lutheran seminary in China was reached at Ji Gung Shan, a hill camp for Lutheran missionaries established by Daniel O. Nelson in the far south of Henan. It was on this mountaintop that Norwegian, American, and Finnish missionaries laid the groundwork for what became LTS. The rest is history!

Beyond visiting the historic location outside of Xinyang, the faculty also visited with various church and school leaders throughout Henan. In



Xinyang itself, members of the CCC and TSPM treated the faculty to a warm welcome in a church community with strong Lutheran ties. At Zhengzhou the local seminary and church led the faculty on a tour of their campus and even introduced members of the faculty to some



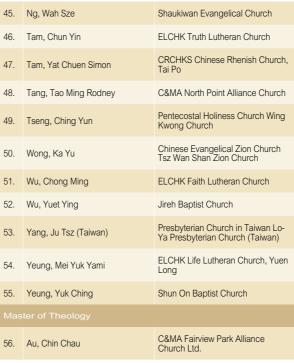
of the students. In Kaifeng the church leaders brought the faculty to the amazing sites, such as the walled city and the former palace, which their town contains, while also providing time for the faculty to visit a bible school and CCC headquarters. The church leadership in Luoyang were also gracious hosts, bringing the faculty to important Buddhist grottoes and the White Horse temple in between visits to churches and theological training centers. Even on the last day, in Xinzheng, the church leaders were able to squeeze in a visit to a church as well as the newly created shrine of the Yellow emperor.

In the end, the faculty was able to connect with aspects of the history of LTS while also learning about the progress of the church in Henan province. It was a successful retreat.

### Graduates in the Centennial Year 36th Day School Program Graduates

	Jili Day St	illool i logit	
	Name	Congregation	
English Diploma			
1.	Do Khan Tuang (Myanmar)	Tedim Baptist Church (Myanmar)	
2.	Inthileuth, Souliphon (Laos)	Lao Evangelical Church (Laos)	
3.	Ounkham Vonepasith (Laos)	Lao Evangelical Church (Laos)	
4.	Phasavat, Khounkeo (Laos)	Lao Evangelical Church (Laos)	
5.	Siamphay Kounthapanya (Laos)	Lao Evangelical Church (Laos)	
Dipl			
6.	Liu, Hoi Yan	CRCHKS Chinese Rhenish Church, Kowloon	
Bach	elor of Theology		
7.	Chan, Lai Wa Vivien	The Vine Church	
8.	Chan, Wing Han	ELCHK Lord 's Love Lutheran Church	
9.	Cheang, Ka Wai	ELCHK Tin Yiu Life Lutheran Church	
10.	Chenyi Roy Njuabe (Cameroon)	Kowloon Union Church	
11.	Fung, Koon Tung Anthony	TMCHK Chinese Methodist Church, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	
12.	Lai, Yiu Wah	ELCHK Aberdeen Lutheran Church	
13.	Lam, Shuk Ying	ELCHK Abundant Grace Lutheran Church	
14.	Leung, Wing Hong	ELCHK Ling Hong Lutheran Church	
15.	Ling, Fuk Pun	City Gospel Church	
16.	Ma, Wai Nok	Pentecostal Holiness Church Rousseau Memorial Assembly	
17.	Ng, Kai Shing David	TTMHK Kau Yan Church	
18.	Tam, Choi Fung	The Church of Christ in China Chi Tao Church	
19.	Tse, Yuk Sau Carmen	HK&MLC Grace Church	
20.	Wong, Chi Tung	ELCHK Yuen Long Light Lutheran Church	
21.	Wong, Sau Ching	HKSKH St. Peter's Church (C.P.)	
Master of Arts in Theology			
22.	Chau, Siu Lung Leon	CRCHKS Chinese Rhenish Church, Kowloon	
23.	Chu, Man Fai Jimmy	LCHKS Sharon Lutheran Church	
24.	Dethsacda Aphayamath (Laos)	Lao Evangelical Church (Laos)	
25.	Hung, Roderick	ELCHK Hung En Lutheran Church	
26.	Lai, Shuk Yee	Lock Tao Christian Association Tsuen Wan Church	

	Graduales	
27.	Soutsakhone Ratsavongsy (Laos)	Lao Evangelical Church (Laos)
Master of Arts in Lutheran Studies		
28.	Lee, Yuk Ngan	ELCHK Grace Lutheran Church (Tsuen Wan)
Master of Arts in Spirituality		
29.	Li, Sau Mui Ester	Evangelical Free Church of China Lok Yan Church
30.	Wong, Tin Yau	Evangelize China Fellowship Kowloon Canaan Church
31.	Yu, Yuen Fat	The Church of Christ in China Hop Yat Church (Ma On Shan)
32.	Pong, Yeuk Tei Shirley	ELCHK Eternal Life Lutheran Church
33.	Anderson, Holly Ann (USA)	Union Church





34.	Chan, Yu Sang	Hong Kong Evangelical Yan Lam Church
35.	Lal Siang Awng (Myanmar)	Agape Presbyterian Church (Myanmar)
36.	Lau, Lai Shan	Fanling Christian Grace Filling Church Ltd
37.	Li, Shan (China)	Kunming Beicheng Christian Church (China)
38.	Sieng Bros (Cambodia)	Chhertil Church of Christ 's Love (Cambodia)
39.	Wu, Hao (China)	Harbin Christian Church (China)
Mas	ster of Divinity	
40.	Ching, Wai Yi Clara	C&MA Fairview Park Alliance Church Ltd.
41.	Choi, Sze Lok	ELCHK Martinson Memorial Lutheran Church
42.	Chung, Wai Kuen Christin	Diamond Hill Baptist Church
43.	Leung, Chi Wah	Christian Saints' Assembly Ltd.
44.	Leung, Ka Yin Caine	LCHKS the Nathan Road(Sung En) Lutheran Church

57.	Chan, Wing Yip	China Peniel Missionary Society, Inc. Aberdeen Peniel Church
58.	Lee, Chun Choi Leo	Chinese Christian Assemblies of God Mong Kok Church
59.	Lee, Tak Yu	CRCHKS Chinese Rhenish Church, Tai Po
60.	Liu, Mui Kwai Rosaline	The Church of Christ in China Wanchai Church
61.	Mak, Wai Wah	TMCHK Chinese Methodist Church, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
62.	Naw Myatt Hsu Mon (Myanmar)	Holy Cross Theological College (Myanmar)
63.	Ng, Kwok Wing	Castle Peak Baptist Church
64.	Sianipar, Frans Iwanda (Indonesia)	Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP) (Indonesia)
65.	Sin, Ka Yan Cathy	Jordan Baptist Church
66.	Sondang Napitupulu (Indonesia)	Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP) (Indonesia)
67.	Tong, Mai Ling	Chai Wan Baptist Church
68.	Wan, Fook Gun	CRCHKS Chinese Rhenish Church, Kowloon

Doctor of Ministry		
69.	Ho, Chi Hung	C&MA North Point Alliance Church
70.	Ip, Ching Wah	The Church of Christ in China Hop Yat Church
71.	Tiwaporn Racharak (Thailand)	Bangkok Institute of Theology (Thailand)
72.	Tong Chan, Siu Hung Claudia	Hong Kong Evangelical Yan Chaak Church
73.	Wong, Kwan Ho	HK&MLC Hsin En Church
Doctor of Theology		
74.	Pang, Shun Keung	Diamond Hill Baptist Church
75.	Van Ro Mawi (Myanmar)	Bethel Theological Seminary (Myanmar)

Nar	ne	Congregation
1.	Law, Nan Heung	ELCHK Tsing Yi Carpenter Luthera Church
2.	Yan, Yuen Yi	ELCHK Tsing Yi Carpenter Luthera Church
3.	Fong, Haau Kan	The Church of Christ in China Shati Church
Dipl	oma in Theology for Lay Lead	dership
4.	Lai, Mei Chu	ELCHK Praise Lutheran Church
5.	Tam, Pui Kan	ELCHK Tsing Yi Carpenter Luthera Church
6.	Wu, Wing Shan	HKMLC Charis Chapel
7.	Choi, Lok Chi	ELCHK Tao Yan Lutheran Church
8.	Lo, Chi Wai	C&MA Ling Yan Church
9.	Wong, Lok Ke Joshua	LLWEM Ma On Shan Ling Liang Church
10.	Ho, Lai Ching	ELCHK Life Lutheran Church, Yuer Long
11.	Leung, Wai Wan	Kowloon Tong Church of the CC&MA Yan Yau Church
12.	Ma, Kam Ling	ELCHK Abundant Grace Lutheran Church
13.	Mak, Sui Han	Kowloon Methodist Church
14.	Wong, Mei Lin	Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong Chuk Yuen Church
15.	Fok, Yan Cheung	Onesiphorus Church
16.	Kwok, Kai Ming	City One Baptist Church
17.	Leung, Fai Kuen Edmond	Loving Heart Lutheran Church
18.	Tang, Lok Man	Kowloon Tong Church of the CC&MA Yan Yau Church

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## LTS Welcome ENG 05 Sep 13

Abraham Peterson

## "Prepared for this task..."

Rev Dr Bambang Ruseno Utomo.



t is such an unimaginable fact that I came to Hong Kong to serve LTS as a teacher. My name is Bambang Ruseno Utomo. I came here with my wife Sri Suharti. We have three children. Our first daughter and second son have got married. From our first daughter we have got a grand daughter, she is 4 years old. Our third son has finish from University and now starting to get work. We are from Indonesia, Malang in East Java. Three years ago I retired as a pastor of East Java Christian Church however, I still taught in some Theological Seminaries. It is wonderful, that because of our partnership: East Java Christian Church (GKJW) and Chinese Rhenish Church Hongkong (CRC HK) under the United Evangelical Mission (UEM) - Communion of Churches in three continents there is a possibility for me to come and serve here.

Next to Christianity Islam is the second largest religion in the world. It is the majority of Indonesia population, and now it is more than 250 000 are Muslims in Hongkong, and the amount is still increasing, especially through the coming of migrant worker from Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan and India. Similar to Christianity, Islam is a living and very dynamic and missionary religion.

So when Lutheran Theological Seminary and Church here needed a professor on Islam and especially Christian Muslim relationship, I applied for this position. Besides, since our very childhood we have been living among them, I feel I also have been prepared for this task by God Himself through my academic education on that subject.

We hope we can fulfill the LTS expectation. We could share our knowledge and experience with students and Churches here, so we could live together with our Muslim friends and witness God's justice, love and peace.

God bless us,



Hailing from the cornfields of rural Minnesota, USA, Abraham J. Peterson arrived at the end of August 2013 to teach English for (at least) the next two years at Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Abraham grew up in a Lutheran home, attending Lutheran church, using Lutheran homeschooling curricula, and participating in Lutheran summer camps. With many friends from various local churches, Abraham also spent time with Pentecostals and Youth For Christ, as well as the Christian Reformed Church and secondary school of the same ilk.

Abraham obtained admittance to a summer institute at Calvin College (Grand Rapids, Michigan) before attending Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois. Because he knew he would eventually attend seminary, he chose rhetoric and sociology for his university academics and Christian camp ministries as his summer employment. He was active in theatre and in Campus Ministry as a founding member of the Student Chaplain team, acting as liaison with Student Association, faculty, and administration.

Following graduation, he took a year to work with a Christian mission organization in Michigan (taking him to Mexico and Cuba) and a Christian ministry at Acadia National Park in Maine.

Seminary was the next step for Abraham, taking place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at a Presbyterian Seminary. There, he was active in the Peace and Justice Fellowship, World Mission Initiative, Evangelical Student Fellowship, Preaching Association, Metro Urban Institute, and multiple churches. His crowning achievement, he feels, was being awarded the Valentour World Travel Fellowship, which took him on a Spartan journey through the eastern Mediterranean (Egypt, Israel/Palestine, Turkey, Greece, and Italy), studying the roots of monastic life.

Though seminary was a good experience, Abraham also wanted professional/business experience as well. He joined an historic fashion specialty retailer and learned much, gaining valuable experience, but the season came to an end and Abraham resigned in hopes of an academic future. Little did he know he would be unemployed for the following six months. In a whirlwind of activity however, he heard about Hong Kong, interviewed, and signed paperwork within eight days at the end of June.

Abraham has found Hong Kong to be a place to call home since arriving. The kindness and friendliness of the people have certainly made the transition easy and the welcome hearty. He will strive to learn the language and share the joyous life of the seminary for the next two years, and he hopes beyond.

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## We miss you



RebeccaLee

How do I begin to say goodbye to a place that has so deeply and profoundly impacted my life over the past four years? The truth is, I can't, and I don't want to!

It continually encourages me to think of the work that is going on at LTS – how students are growing every day in their knowledge that they will then turn around and impart to others in their ministries, how colleagues are also learning daily through conversations with each other, their classes and leadership of chapel.

LTS truly is a unique place to study and work and it is so uplifting to hear through emails, newsletters and, of course, Facebook, all the continued activities and growth of my former colleagues and students. It makes it seem like I am still there with them, which I most definitely am in spirit.

While I may not physically be at LTS anymore, everyone there will always be in my thoughts and prayers, every day. So, may the Lord continue to bless all of you at LTS and may you never forget or take for granted what an amazing blessing it is to be part of a wonderful, ecumenical place.

RebeccaLee





In 2012/2013 we also had the great joy and the privilege to have Dr. Robin Mattison from Vanderbilt University U.S.A. teaching New Testament to us.



Henny and Bas Plaisier Rijswijk/The Hague

Although we are far away from each other, you are still in our hearts!

Warm greetings from the Netherlands.

We continue to enjoy the wonderful memories of you in Hong Kong. Almost three years we joined our lives with you: so full of activities and wonderful meetings. I was probably one of the most extraordinary 'visiting' professors in the history of the LTS with a 'visit' of three years... Especially the encounters with the students will remain in our memories: your faith and enthusiasm, your willingness to study and to become a servant of the Lord. It inspired us during these years and gives us hope for the future.

On Friday July 19 we left Hong Kong. It

was a gift of our Lord that before returning to our country we could meet with many brothers and sisters in Bhutan, Indonesia and China. The travel to their countries helped us to bridge the different situations. In Holland the keyword is now 'retirement'!

Receive our greetings and our love! We already discovered that in the Netherlands we also can meet LTS alumni: Jenny Bai started last month in Utrecht/Tilburg with her PhD study about Augustine. Wonderful to meet her here!

Have a fruitful and joyful year at one of the most beautiful seminaries in Asia! May God bless you with perseverance, wisdom and joy!

Bas Plaisier

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## Lutheran Theological Seminary (Day School) 2014-2015 Enrollment

**Full-time & Part-time Programs** 

#### **Becoming a Useful Servant of God**

#### 1) Ministerial Leadership Programs

	Requirement for admission
Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.)	secondary school Form 6
Bachelor of Christian Education (B.C.E.)	secondary school Form 6
Three-year Master of Divinity (M.Div.3-yr)	a baccalaureate degree or equivalent
Two-year Master of Divinity (M.Div.2-yr)	a B.Th. or B.C.E. degree or their equivalent
Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.)	a M.Div. degree or equivalent; and three years of ministerial experience
One-Year Master of Arts (M.A.1-yr)	
Master of Arts in Lutheran Studies (M.A.1-yr)	
Master of Arts in Spirituality (M.A.1-yr)	
Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling (M.A.1-yr)	a B.Th. or B.C.E. degree or their equivalent
Master of Arts in Mission (M.A.1-yr)	
Master of Arts in Diakonia (M.A.1-yr)	
Master of Arts in Theological Librarianship (M.A.1-yr)	

#### 2) Academic Theological Leadership Programs

	Requirement for admission
Master of Theology (M.Th.)	a M.Div. degree or equivalent
Doctor of Theology (D.Th.)	a M.Th. or S.T.M. degree or equivalent

#### 3) Lay and Special Ministry Leadership Programs

	Requirement for admission:
Diploma in Theological Studies (Dip.T.S.)	secondary school Form 6
Diploma in Theological Librarianship (Dip.T.L.)	secondary school Form 6
Graduate Diploma (Grad.Dip.)	a baccalaureate degree or equivalent
Two-Year Master of Arts in Theology (M.A.2-yr)	a baccalaureate degree or equivalent
One-Year Master of Arts in Diakonia (M.A.1-yr)	a degree related to diakonia (for instance, healthcare, social work, education) or a degree related to administration and management or equivalent

For overseas application; enrollment of 2014 Fall semester (September):

Application Deadline: February 15, 2014

Any enquiry, please contact the Registrar by email to registrar@lts.edu

## Mapping the Theological Landscape for Seminary Education in Asia

LTS representatives at the 2013 ATESEA General Assembly

Dr. Gabriele Hoerschelmann

"Mapping the Theological Landscape for Seminary Education in Asia" was the theme

of the ATESEA General Assembly in Silang Cavite, Philippines in March, 2013. More than 70 principals and deans from theological seminaries in Asia were meeting for three days to discuss goals for a profound theological education in Asia and future steps of the association.

Representatives came from a wide range of theological and geographical backgrounds: From Myanmar and Hong Kong, from Indonesia and Singapore, from Taiwan and the Philippines member institutions were present.

For LTS this meant a meeting with many friends - old and new. Since many year the seminary has been actively involved in faculty development for a large number of seminaries in the region. Today we find LTS alumni in many leading positions as presidents, deans and chaplains serving their seminaries in their countries.

The fact that LTS has been playing a key role when it comes to theological education in Asia for many years was acknowledged as the seminary was chosen to be one of the twelve

"Centers of Theological Excellence (CTE)" in the region. Its strong programs, competent faculty

and relevant library resources were strong criteria for its selection. These twelve schools together form the so-called ATESEA Theological Union (ATU), which is a successor of SEAGST (South East Asia Graduate School of Theology). ATU's core values are to focus on quality theological education and professional development of teachers for the faculties as well as leaders for the ministry in the church. But it is also aware of its Asian context by encouraging contextual and Asiaoriented theology. Lastly it is aiming for opportunities of interchange from graduate students and faculty



LTS leading role in the theological landscape for seminary Education in Asia is also reflected in the compilation of the newly elected Executive Committee of ATESA, in which Dr. Simon Chow has been chosen as the Vice-Chairperson. This gives LTS the

members among its members.

opportunity and chance to be highly involved in landscaping theological education and to share its gifts and blessings with seminaries and churches in Asia.

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#### Coming Up...

Nov 11-15 Reading Week

Nov 24 Centennial Thanksgiving Worship

Dec 9 Early Registration ; Dec 16-20 Final Examination

#### Looking Back



11 September Signature Ceremony of the new book "Apocalypse" by President Dr. Simon Chow was held for readers.



13 September
Guest speaker Prof. Hans
Schwarz received a gift from
President Dr. Simon Chow after he
spoke as a guest-speaker at the
Friday Seminar.



28 October Representatives of Church of Mission from Sweden visited LTS

#### LTS

President Dr. Simon Chow attended executive committee meeting of ATSEA 24-27 June.

Representative of Aeropagos Raag Rolfsen had a meeting with President Chow on 16 September concerning ministry development.

Information & technology Director of Norwegian Missionary Society Mr. Sigurd Egeland was greeted by President Chow on 18 September.

Rev. Thomas Paulsteiner of Mission One World was greeted by President Chow on 18 October.

New library system will start operation on 23 December, while the old one will be suspended from 21 December.

#### Alumni

Wedding ceremony of Alumnus Chan Yu-ho (2009 B.Th) and Mandy Tang to be held on 23 November. May God bless the new-born family.

Wedding ceremony of LTS's Secretary of Development Department Olivia Cheung Chun-yung (Alumna, 2011 B.Th.) and Ngai Tsz-yan to be held on 1 December. May God guide the new-born family.

#### **Students**

Thomas Na (B. Th.) married Ms. Kathy Hung Suet-ying on 26 May. Praise the Lord!

Chan Wai-yin was ordained as a Pastor on 9 June by The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong. Hallelujah!

Songpong got married on 15 June in Cambodia. Praise the Lord!

#### Let us pray for...

Alumnus Yeung Ki-fai (M.A. 2008), whose father's funeral service was held on 29 April. May God comfort him and his family.

Student Tan Guiyun (M.Div.2-yr), who broke her ankle as the result of a car accident in summer. May God heal her.

Director of Chaplaincy Rev. Dr. Patrick Chan, whose mother's funeral was held on 24 June. May God comfort him and his family.

Director of Administration Paul Lau Man-Kam, whose mother was passed away on 29 Jul. May God wipe away tears of him and his family.

Alumnus Dr. Samuel Chiu Man-Jim (2002 D. Th.), who was treated in the hospital after suffering from a stroke on 31 August. May God heal him.

Alumna Lau Ying-lo (2012 Certificate Program in Theology for Lay Leadership), who underwent a surgery removing a tumor on 17 October. May God's healing power shine upon her.

Alumna Ching Siu-fun, who had her fibromas removed in a surgery on 18 October. May God strengthen her.

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