

ABGTS NEWSLETTER

COUNTING GOD'S AMAZING BLESSINGS AMIDST CHALLENGES

DR. SAW SIMON BADE TEMPORARY GOODBYE



ABGTS honors one of its alumni who had done a meaningful contribution to theological education amidst difficult challenges. Dr. Saw Simon began his theological education with Asia Baptist Graduate Theological Seminary in September 2, 1985 and received his Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa) on March 1998.

Reading through his academic file, it can be gleaned how Dr. Simon struggled and strive hard to finish his studies. He was supposed to do his supervised teaching in Myanmar Institute of Theology and do his interview among pastors in the area of Yangon to complete his dissertation, but because of the 1989 political upheavals that beset his country, he and his family moved to Kowtholei and in 1990 they moved to the Thai Border and lived as refugees in Mae La Camp. He juggled his work from being one of the convention leaders, principal of the Kowthelei Karen Baptist Bible School, pastor, a husband, and a father to his three girls. Being a refugee meant that he can not leave the refugee area to even consult his supervisor. There were times that his ABGTS supervisor and other professors would visit him and bring materials pertinent to his dissertation writing.

Dr. Simon's will always remain to be an encouragement for his commitment in serving the Lord through KKBBS in the midst of difficult times, military threats, and various limitations since 1990 until the Lord took him home on August 1, 2015 at 4:30 in the morning. Glory to God in the highest for the gift of life to one of his servant leaders.

ABGTS Thailand ALC had successfully graduated Kowtholei Wado, a leader from Mae La Camp, He is one of the scholars of the late Dr. Lilian Lim 's project called *Theology from the Mountains*.

Wado received his degree on a ceremony held on 22 November 2015 at Maitrichit Chinese Baptist Church, Bangkok Thailand. Dr. Wado is currently serving as Assistant Principal of the Karen Kowtholei Baptist Bible School and College.

Dr. Wado is the second leader of KKBBS who received a Th. D. degree from ABGTS. Dr. Saw Alwyn graduated in 23 March 2014. He is now serving as the Academic Dean.

These two leaders had been assisting Dr. Simon and have been trained for leadership under his mentoring. They are part of the living legacy left behind by Dr. Saw Simon

ABGTS Philippine ALC awarded the Doctor of Theology degree to Mr. Ariston Bacaoco, from the Philippines, and Mr. Zaw Gun from Myanmar. Their major academic concentration are on Biblical Studies –Old Testament and Historical-Systematic Theology respectively. The graduation ceremony was held on October 22, 2015.

Aris served as a local missionary in the province of Ifugao for 17 years, ten years of teaching in 3 different Bible schools in Ifugao and Nueva Vizcaya, and 6 years of pastoral experience. He is currently serving as interim pastor for Evangelical Bible Church in Baguio City. He is also serving as facilitator of PBTS-Seminary Education by Extension from 2013 to the present, and as an adjunct faculty of the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary from 20-14-2015.

Zaw Gun has been a fulltime lecturer at Kachin Theological College and Seminary from 2005-2010, the time when he enrolled to ABGTS. He came back into teaching there in 2014 up to the present.

Expected 2016 Graduating Students

Tanin Voravijitraphan (Th. D.) Thailand	Barry WK Wai (Th. D.) Thailand
W. Weevanuch (Th. D.) Thailand	Merlita Montecastro (ThD) Phils.
Yindee Jang (Th. D.) Thailand	Felicitas Panizales, (DMin). Phils.

