

NEWSLETTER

June—September 2017 Issue

Asia Baptist Graduate Theological Seminary

“Equipping Leaders for Church and Society”

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WELCOMING THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!



The ABGTS-Philippines welcomed the new school year 2017-2018 with an Acquaintance and Thanksgiving Fellowship last August 5th. Two hired vehicles packed with faculty members and students drove down the mountains of Baguio to Pugad, La Union. It is a swimming resort, an hour drive from the City of Baguio. The fun time, swimming, zip lines, the eating fellowship, and especially the nature walk was a wonderful time before the students will face the academic rigors of ABGTS study. For those students in the research and writing stage this was the moment to relax. While for the new students, mostly international, have nothing yet to worry except for words of mouth how tough it is to be an ABGTS student! They are in the “wait and see” mode.

ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATIONS

Currently the ABGTS-Thailand Learning Center has also a total of 7 students in their Master of Theology degree program. The continues growth and development of the Learning Center is under the magnificent leadership and efforts of Associate Dean Dr. Stephen Tam and the faithful partnership support of Thailand BTS administration and faculty members.



ABGTS-Thailand Learning Center

The ABGTS-Philippines has the following enrollment:

	New Students	Current Students	Total
First Term, 2017 (June 13 –August 4)	9	6	15
Second term, 2017 (Aug 15 – Oct 6)	2	12	14
Students enrolled in STP, prospectus, thesis and dissertation writing			16

Surprisingly for the past three consecutive years the total enrollment was composed largely of international students—Myanmar, India, and Korea. This year there are only three part-time Filipinos enrolled as they are also faculty members of the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary.

During the March 17, 2017 graduation of the local seminary, the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary, Baguio City, there were three ABGTS students who graduated: Saw Lu Doe (Doctor of Theology, Myanmar), Joemar Cabading (Doctor of Theology, Philippines), and Merlita Montecastro (Doctor of Theology, Philippines). Also, last October 6, 2016, Associate Dean Dr. Nori Lacquian flew to Myanmar to confer and award the Master of Theology degree diploma to Zakhung Kaw Mi.

ABGTS TRIENNIAL BOARD MEETING



ABGTS Board Meeting, Korea BTS, February 2015

The Board members of the ABGTS, comprising the presidents and academic officers of the local Baptist seminaries in Asia, will convene together for their triennial meeting on February 5-10, 2018, to be hosted by the Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Leipzig Evangelische Koreanische Church, Germany, through Dr. Soon Tae Kwon, has been a long time partner and supporter of the ABGTS-Philippines as well as the Philippine Baptist Theology Seminary where he graduated his Doctor of Theology and the Master of Divinity degrees. Almost annually he comes to Baguio City to fellowship with students and faculty. His trip in March 2017 has to do with his role as the new ABGTS Vice President for Institutional Development. He had a conference with the ABGTS Office Manager and the former Dean Dr. Nori Lacquian regarding matters in ABGTS. One of his goals is to establish more partners for students' scholarships and faculty support.



Another guest on Philippine campus was Dr. Ed Landers of Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama, USA. His seminar and workshop last August 7-8, 2017, on Media for Global Ministry for faculty and students provided more creativity in classroom presentations. The ABGTS Research and Design students also benefited from this training. Associate Dean Dr. Nori Lacquian hosted a meal for Dr. Landers as Samford University and the Mountain Brook Baptist Church where he is connected hold partnership with the ABGTS.



TIDBITS NEWS.....

◆ Congratulations to Dr. Rachael Tan who received her Doctor of Philosophy degree on May 19, 2017, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, USA. Dr. Tan is currently an Assistant Professor at Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary. She was also a Doctor of Theology graduate of ABGTS.

◆ The Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary celebrated its 65th Foundation Day last July 14, 2017.

◆ ABGTS also rejoices with the following partner seminaries for electing their new leadership: Dr. Daniel Wu Tao-Chung, President, Baptist Theological Seminary, Singapore and Dr. Hyoung Won Lee, Acting President, Korea Baptist Theological University/Seminary, Daejeon, Korea.

◆ Congratulations to Dr. Vee Tetseo for his

election as the new General Secretary of the Asia Pacific Baptist Federation. Dr. Vee received his Master of Divinity from Philippine BTS and his Doctor of Theology from the ABGTS-Philippines.

◆ An ABGTS project—The “George Wilson Theological Education Development Fund” was created under the initiative of Dr. Stephen Tam, Associate Dean for ABGTS-Thailand. The project aims to develop the facilities and the faculty of the ABGTS partner schools. The initial launching will be in October 2017 in Hong Kong on the occasion of Dr. Wilson's birthday.

PRAISE AND PRAYER ITEMS:

◆ ABGTS gives due thanks and praises to all its partner seminaries, ministry collaborators, and students' scholarship supporters.

Equipped To Finish: A Testimony of ABGTS Journey”

(Tu Ring, Doctor of Theology Student, Myanmar)

I enrolled in ABGTS-Philippine Branch to pursue a doctoral degree. My student life at ABGTS is an amazing journey replete with challenges and opportunities. I thank God for the improvements He has been working in many areas of my life through theological education at ABGTS. Academically, I am exposed to biblical and theological scholarships, as well as in research skills, practical ministry, and effective teaching. Worship related activities enriched my spiritual life and faith in God. Friendship among multi-ethnic classmates and professors and a warm, caring community improved my relational and social skills. Heavy seminar schedules and reading assignments are stressful but it strengthened me emotionally. The challenging supervised teaching program showed me how to become a better professional teacher in a seminary setting. The conducive physical fitness facilities such as gym and tennis court are places I often go to free my stress and maintain physical wellness. I have also learned that His calling always guarantees His presence and provision amid trials as He prepares me. Financial problems taught me to kneel down humbly before the Lord.

As I write my dissertation, I would say I have received an excellent academic training that has served me well for denominational impact and leadership. The Great Commission is so clearly reflected and contextual theology is heavily emphasized in this seminary. For me, ABGTS is a graduate seminary which fosters holistic wellness for God-called men and women for advanced theological studies. It globally provides a relevant training in one's area (and denomination's) of interest. It is a significant part of my life in preparing for what I was called to do. I am holistically equipped to finish my studies with excellence, I believe. With this quality education, I am ready and confident to continue my teaching ministry back in my home country. I remain a grateful and proud student of ABGTS.



Tu Ring, Doctor of Theology cand., Supervised Teaching Program requirement at Philippine BTS, Baguio City

◆ Lat Sar Yin Htang and Jaw Naw will be defending their Master of Theology thesis proposal in October 2017.

◆ Graduating students from the different ABGTS learning centers.

◆ ABGTS triennial board meeting on February 5-10, 2018, Taiwan BTS, Taipei, Taiwan.

◆ For more church leaders to study and be equipped in ABGTS.

◆ The fund raising campaign for various scholarships and operational support.