

ABGTS NEWSLETTER

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August 2016 Issue

WHERE'S ABGTS NOW?

Current students:

Thailand ALC	4
Taiwan ALC	10
Philippines ALC	<u>29</u>
Total	43

Graduation Held: 2013-2015

Thailand	1
Taiwan	3
Philippines	<u>11</u>
Total	15

Total graduates: 237

Majority of the alumni are holding key leadership positions in their respective church, theological institution, and organization across Asia, USA, and the continents of Europe.

The Thailand, Taiwan, and the Philippines are the present learning centers of the ABGTS graduate programs. These three seminaries and the other six Baptist Seminaries in Asia and their administrators constitute the Board members of ABGTS. The local seminaries provide the faculty, facilities, and direction of the center.

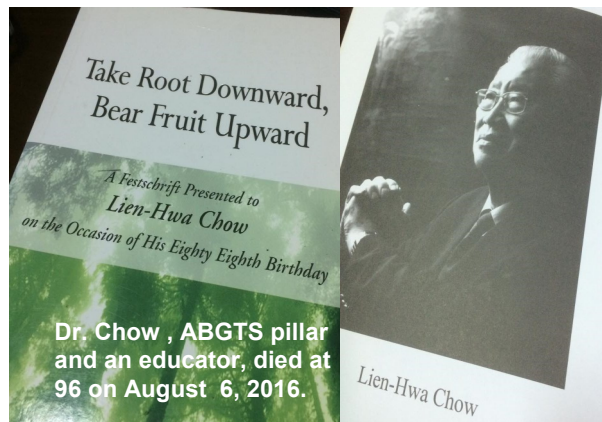
ABGTS receives continues support from the Mountain Brook Baptist Church, Birmingham, USA. Other organizations like the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Mercer University, and other churches and institutions in the US are in partnership with ABGTS.

The Board during its triennial meeting in February 2015, Korea, created the position VP for Institutional Development whose main task is to raise funds. ABGTS alumnus, Dr. Soon Tae Kwon was elected. Dr. Kwon is a missionary serving in Germany.

REMEMBERING DR. CHOW, LIEN HWA

It is with deep regret and simultaneously with fullness of heart that we celebrate the memory of the Reverend Dr. Chow, Lien-Hwa. He lived a life that has grounded our faith in Christ from the rising of the sun in the East to its setting in the West. We the board members, administration, faculty, staff, graduates and students of the Asia Baptist Graduate Theological Seminary extend our condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of the Reverend Dr. Chow Lien-Hwa.

Born in Shanghai in 1920 he has been our forefather and mentor in the Christian faith across the Pacific Rim. Even as a young man in his twenties Dr. Chow's leadership was evident when as a YMCA representative in Kwaeling at the Kwangsei University he helped mobilize the faculty and students to evade the approaching Japanese Imperial army. He formally marked his conversion to Christ in 1947 and he married Marie Yuan that same year. In 1949 he left central China for Louisville, Kentucky where he finished both the Bachelor of Divinity (today the Master of Divinity) and the Doctorate of Theology before moving to Taipei, Taiwan in 1954 where he taught and served at the Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary in many capacities throughout his remaining days. Not only was he known as a Christian scholar



and speaker across the region, he also pastored Grace Baptist Church in Taipei. Dr. Chow served as the chaplain to the Taiwan national leadership including Generalissimo and Madame Chiang Kai-Shek. He was an ecumenical Christian statesman serving with the World Council of Churches and became a leading translator of the Chinese Bible.

For those of us in the Asia Baptist Graduate Theological Seminary, Dr. Chow was there at our founding in 1959. As our first Dean, he brought his creative wisdom, persuasive leadership, scholarship, and contextual theology to the forefront of all that we do today. As President of ABGTS from 1993-2006

and 2009 he led the consortium of eight seminaries to further Asianize the leadership, board membership and scholarship of the school with his innovative and inspiring spirit. He was a leader by example, publishing over eighty texts in Chinese always reminding his readers that to be a Christian is to be fully indigenous wherever the Christian message takes root while working with Christians from around the world in an ecumenical manner.

May the Lord of Heaven and Earth continue to bless the memory and ministry of the Reverend Dr. Chow, Lien-Hwa even as we take up the mantle of leadership he has set before us.

*Graham B. Walker, Jr., Ph.D.
President, ABGTS*

ABGTS-PHILIPPINES

Enrolled students:
2nd Term (Aug 2016): 10
ThD = 2
ThM = 8

(Myanmar=5; Thailand=1;
India = 2; Philippines = 1;
Samoa = 1)

Writing students: 19
Total: 29 students

This school year, the administration of the Philippine BTS assigned Dr. Nori Lacquian again as the Associate Dean for ABGTS-Philippines for 3-year term.

Dr. Lacquian has a scheduled visit to Myanmar in October to award the degree of one ABGTS candidate for graduation.





A farewell to his heavenly home. . . .

Long-time Chairman of Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary, long-time President and first Dean of ABGTS Dr. Chow Lien-Hwa passed away at 6:10PM on August 6, 2016, at the age of 96 in Taipei, Taiwan. Dr. Chow Lien-Hwa had a myocardial infarction while driving in the afternoon of August 6. After 50 minutes of emergency treatment, he rested in peace. He is with the Lord now after spending his life in fulfilling his purpose doing God's work. But he still speaks to us as his contribution and his influence continues to grow in our hearts.

The Memorial Service of Dr. Chow Lien-Hwa was held at 10:00AM on August 19, 2016 in Grace Baptist Church of Taipei. Dr. George R. Wilson, Jr. and Dr. Stephen Tam representing ABGTS attended the Memorial Service. Dr. Tsai Rei-Yi, President of Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary, delivered a message in the Memorial Service.

Dr. Chow Lien-Hwa has been a towering figure in the Chinese/Asian Christian and Baptist population. Yet he was a truly humble pastor, teacher, father, carer, leader, servant, translator, author and scholar who always called himself "Jesus's Colt". He was an energetic man who liked to encourage seminary students to never stop learning and growing with the rabbit and the turtle story.

To honor and to remember the great man's long term dedication to theological education, especially to Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary, a committee has been established to work on the historic preservation of Dr. Chow Lien-Hwa's Study Room in Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary's Library. Documents and materials showing lifetime efforts of Dr. Chow Lien-Hwa will also be preserved and exhibited in the coming future.

May our Lord and Savior comfort Dr. Chow Lien-Hwa's family and each one who loves the dear man of God.

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Dr. Tsai Rei-Yi
President, Taiwan BTS