

ABGTS NEWSLETTER

April 2013

ASIA BAPTIST GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

P.O. Box 7, Baguio City, 2600 Philippines

www.abgts.net



ABGTS-Philippines is hosted at the campus of the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary located at 19 Tacay Road, Guisad, Baguio City 2600, Philippines

PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE DEAN

The Dean announces its regrets for not being able to pursue going to Jamaica on June 28-30, 2013 to respond to the paper of Dr. Burchell Taylor on "the Holy Spirit and Social Justice." After counting the cost of travel and visa processing needs, she decided not to go. She realized the importance of representing ABGTS in this Baptist World Alliance, 8th Baptist International Conference on Theological Education (BICTE VIII), but cost impels her to contemplate what she can do and not do at the moment.

ALUMNI VISITS AT ABGTS

ABGTS has many partners to whom we owe gratitude and appreciation. We will introduce them in our Newsletter two at a time. For this season we include our own alumni.



Dr. Kwon Soon Tae

is a missionary-pastor, presently based in Germany. He is one alumnus who never forgets ABGTS and who never tires in finding ways to be an instrument

and channel of blessing for ABGTS and its students.

He regularly gives for the needs of the seminary.

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CBF, USA & ABGTS

Dr. Allen and Ver Williams (CBF-USA representatives) visited the Philippines--the PBTS-ABGTS campus, Baguio City in November, 2012 and sponsored a special dinner for ABGTS. One of their purposes was to offer partnership and assistance in any way that CBF can. Dr. Williams offered help to the Dean through his office to coordinate with people, resources, and possible partnerships. (The Dean is tasked to make the ABGTS needs known so that others will also be aware of how they can help and be a blessing both to the institution, to the students, and to the entire Asian theological work being accomplished for the glory of God through ABGTS.)



Dr. Allen Williams and Mrs. Verr Dan Collier Williams of CBF, USA with ABGTS Office Manager, Beth Agwayaway.

THAILAND-ALC

At the Thailand-ALC, there are three candidates out of their four Th. D. students who are working on their supervise teaching and dissertation proposal now. This would be the last group under their national development program.

Alumni Visits at ABGTS , cont'n page 1



Dr. Jason Lee visited his Alma Mater in December, 2012 and discovered ways on how he can be a blessing to ABGTS. Currently, he is coordinating with the office in sponsoring a

Filipino student in the academic program of the seminary. Dr. Jason and his wife pay a regular visit to ABGTS-Philippines as an expression of their gratitude.

NEEDS OF ABGTS-PHILIPPINES

ABGTS has many activities all around Asia. Our Newsletter will try to feature some of our concerns as they are submitted to the office. We will present them as they come.

ABGTS-Philippines is the branch where the language of instruction is purely in English. This is the reason why this is a seminary that can open possibilities for exchange of resources with other seminaries and individuals from English speaking countries.

Currently, ABGTS-Philippines have works in progress in the Doctor of Theology program in the areas of Historical-Systematic Theology, Pastoral Care, Biblical Studies, and Missions. The ABGTS can accept academic assistance through visiting faculty and experts who can serve as second readers for dissertation writers.

The candidates who are working on their third draft on supervisory level are Saw Alwyn and Czarina Lynn Sarmiento.

Thra Saw Alwyn dissertation title is, "The Implications of Gustavo Gutierrez's Liberation Theology Towards Political Transformation Among the Leaders of Kowthelei Karen Baptist Churches." Thra Alwyn is back to teaching and doing administrative work in the Bible School that was burnt in March 2012 in the border of Thailand and Myanmar.



Saw Alwyn teaching at Kowthelei Karen Bible School and Colleges

Czarina Lynn Sarmiento's dissertation is titled, "The Significance of Sallie McFague's Model of God as Mother for the One Hope Ministry Philippines Inc.: Ministerial Leaders' Understanding of the Maternal Motifs of God the Creator." Czarina is currently working among the Ilokanos in North Luzon, Philippines.



Czarina poses with her students at OHMPI Leadership Training and Bible School. She is in the middle with the purple jacket on her shoulder.

Needs for Scholarship Assistance

The Philippine Branch of ABGTS has a regular scholarship established among Filipinos but not for International students. Since the ABGTS-Philippines uses English as a medium of Instruction, students from different countries come for their theological education. Many of them begin their program without regular financial support. Here are just but a few of them:

LUKE & LILY



This couple is from mainland China. Both of them graduated with the Master of Divinity and Master in Christian Education degree respectively from PBTS

and are currently working on their ThM in ABGTS. Luke is qualified for Doctor of Theology in Historical-Systematic Theology but decided to downgrade for ThM because of lack of financial support. Lily is in Christian Education and is finishing the remaining academic units. Both of them work as they study. Luke is doing translations while Lily does Mandarin tutorials. Luke had served Baguio Chinese Baptist Church as Assistant Pastor in 2011-2012 while Lily served in many capacities in Children's Ministry, Mandarin Learning Ministry, and Sunday School.

The Lis look forward to doing church ministry, translation, and itinerary preaching as the Lord gives them opportunity when they get back to China.

NALEO & THEJA



This couple already completed their academic studies and they both have an approved prospectus. They went back to Nagaland in order to do their survey, but along the way they began ministry and had a child. Last March they wrote to the Dean that they want to come back and finish their dissertations. They are also requesting financial assistance as the three of them are coming and they are going to leave their current employment to concentrate on writing.

ESCKINDER TADESE WOLDEGEBRIAL

Eskinder is from Ethiopia. He is married and has two daughters. He came to the Philippines in October 2011. He has completed on campus academic training and is starting to work on his prospectus. His main interest is in exploring "The Role of Religious Language Games in the Formation of Spirituality within the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewhado Church (EOTC): In Search for Hermeneutical Tool." Eskinder has a long list of ministry service and administrative roles. In fact, he is currently serving as the principal of Ethiopian Full Gospel Theological College.

