

The Important Role and Ministry of Academic Leadership



The ATA-ICETE Leadership seminar this year was held on August 6-9 at the Bangkok Christian Guest House, Thailand with the theme, "The Important Role and Ministry of Academic Leadership." The four-day seminar was designed to help and support the leaders of ATA member schools to deal with the important and challenging role in fulfilling their institutions' vision and mission.

There were 49 participants from 27 institutions. The delegates represented 17 countries such as Australia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Singapore, and

USA. This seminar discussed the many facets of academic leadership focusing on Theological Education (TE). The event started with the welcoming of the delegates and writing of their expectations.

The topics presented during the next three days of the event were *TE: Its Mission and its Leadership* (Dr. Steve Chang, Torch Trinity Graduate University, Dean of Planning); *Excellence in TE* (Dr. Theresa Lua, ATA Accreditation Secretary and AGST Philippines Dean); *Characteristics and Competencies for Academic Leadership* (Dr. Takanori Kobayashi, ATA Chairman and President of Tokyo Christian University); *The President and Dean as*

Partners in TE (Dr. Fritz Deininger, ICETE Programme Coordinator for Academic Leadership); *Academic Leaders as Change Agents* (Dr. Clive S. L. Chin, Singapore Bible College, Academic Dean); *Building a Leadership Team* (Dr. Fritz Deininger), *Leadership in TE in Asia: Challenges and Opportunities* (Dr. Joseph Shao, ATA General Secretary and President of Biblical Seminary of the Philippines); *Academic Leaders as Peacemakers* (Dr. Karl Dortzbach, AGST Ph.D. Director in Peace Studies).

Every presentation was followed by interesting group discussions guided with the prepared questions of the facilitators. In the afternoon of each day, the participants gathered in small



Dr. Fritz Deininger, ICETE Programme Coordinator, leading a panel discussion

groups for active interaction and sharing of best practices. There were also panel discussions relating various experiences of leaders from selected ATA members from which the participants learned practical insights.

During this seminar the participants also spent time praying for the victims of earthquake in Nepal and drought in Malaysia. The message in the worship service about obeying the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) delivered by Dr. Johan Ferreira (Director/ Academic Dean of Eric Liddell Institute,

Australia) challenged the academic leaders to continue on serving the Lord in whatever situation and capacity they may be. Appreciation for the speakers and the work of ATA was expressed by the participants in the closing session. Representative of each school was also grateful to receive a free copy of ICETE book on Academic Leadership. As the seminar ended a must-have experience in Bangkok happened when some participants joined a special treat to a delicious dinner in a cruise along the legendary Chao Phraya River.



Question and answer after a presentation on "Excellence in TE"



Learning on the topic "Challenges and Opportunities in Leadership"



Group discussions



Interaction and sharing of best practices



A time for prayer



A time for worship

AGST Philippines Hosts a Consultation on Christian Revitalization



Dr. Jim Miller, Director of the Asbury Center for the Study of World Christian Revitalization Movements, at the opening night



Public event with Dr. Timothy Tennent, Asbury President, as the main speaker

revitalization of one church would actually contribute to the building up of another church and the wider Body of Christ. However, one commented that though there are clever attempts by human beings to design the revitalization of the church, it is the Holy Spirit that ultimately gives “life” to the Body of Christ.



One of the in-depth discussions during the Consultation



Signing of MOU between Asbury and AGST Philippines

A public event held at the Greenhills Christian Fellowship (GCF) attended by 79 participants coming from different Christian denominations, bible institutes and other Christian traditions concluded the Consultation. A lively sharing of broad learnings about Christian revitalization led by Dr. Tennent gave a remarkable impact to the audience.

The event was made more memorable with the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Asbury Theological Seminary and AGST Philippines. The partnership facilitates travel courses, professor exchanges, student exchanges, joint publication, and exchange of resources. What a blessed tool of advancing the Kingdom of God worldwide through theological education!

Asia Graduate School of Theology (AGST) Philippines was honored to host a “Consultation on Christian Revitalization,” as part of a significant research project on renewal movements around the globe of the Center for Study of World Christian Revitalization Movements based at Asbury Theological Seminary, Kentucky, USA. Asbury undertakes this research project in collaboration with its partner institutions in East Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Latin America.

world Christian movement today. One notable truth pointed out by Dr. Timothy Tennent, President of Asbury Theological Seminary, was “God does not necessarily work by renewing old movements but also by making new ones.” It was mentioned that from 1,600 denominations growing to 34,000, we now have 43,000 Christian denominations in the world. The presentation of the case studies of growing churches led to one of the participant’s reflection whether the

The Consultation held at the International Graduate School of Leadership (IGSL), Manila, Philippines on July 14-18, 2015 was attended by 43 carefully selected thinkers and practitioners from various disciplines such as theology, sociology, anthropology, media, etc. The participants also included several faculty from Asbury Theological Seminary and its partner institution in Nairobi and India. During the five-day consultation, the participants had an in-depth study of the five case studies on Christian Revitalization in the Philippines. These five stories from Evangelical, mainline Protestant, and Roman Catholic traditions are important illustrative cases that will help further understand the great opportunities to which God is calling the



Get on Board!

Equipping Ourselves to Minister in a Changing Asia

By Bruce Nicholls, ATA Senior Advisor

Asia is changing, driven by the environmental crisis, the intensifying of religious violence, especially against minorities, and by secular human greed. We must respond both prophetically and pastorally as we prepare students for discipleship in our changing world. The African proverb speaks to our situation:

*If you want to go fast, go alone
If you want to go far, go together.*

I saw an example of going together during my recent visit to Sri Lanka. On August 14 the principals and deans, or their representatives, of the four ATA-accredited schools met at the Colombo Theological Seminary (CTS). They discussed how they could work together to offer a quality M.Div./BD and an M.Th. in order to train the needed faculty for their theological institutions and for leaders in church ministries. The Bishop of Colombo sent two delegates—a sign of the strengthening relationships between the churches and

theological schools. These leaders had already met twice as part of the Forum for Theological Education, Sri Lanka, to begin the process of working together with common goals. The principals of the CTS and the Colombo Graduate School of Lanka Bible College have Ph.D.'s in New Testament and are seeking a way to develop a joint M.Th. course in that discipline.

The tragedy is that the ruthless extreme sects of each of the traditional Asian religions are progressively closing and destroying churches and killing their leaders. Perhaps their next move will be to turn against our theological institutions with the same tragic consequences. We must prepare for alternative ways to train leaders.

Theological Education by Extension (TEE) is one answer. It is estimated about 100,000 students have taken or are taking TEE courses which are offered in several countries in Asia, and by the Program for Theological

Education by Extension (PTEE) in the Middle East. Courses are for one, two or three years with the appropriate certificates, diplomas or degrees. All TEE students are expected to meet regularly with each other at convenient locations for mutual sharing and spiritual fellowship. Several countries have weak or no TEE programs. This is a challenge for ATA.

A second alternative is to develop online distance education courses designed for church leaders or for Christians witnessing in the public workplace. Last January in Bandung, Indonesia, five modules—each with two weeks work—were prepared and filmed on *Our Christian Worldview in the Context of Indonesian Culture*. Volunteers are now needed to edit and market this course. Other Asian colleges are urged to take up the challenge and produce similar courses, either for personal enrichment or for credit.

Change is coming! Be encouraged. The Lord says, "Get on board."

TTGU Installs the Fifth President at the Torch Mission Center



The Board of Trustees of Torch Trinity Graduate University (TTGU) installed Dr. Jung Sook Lee, as the fifth President of their university last August 27, 2015 at the Torch Mission Center. Her presidency began on September 1, 2015. Dr. Jung Sook Lee joined TTGU in 2002 and served as Academic Dean from 2005-2011. For four years Dr. Lee was the Vice President of Academic Development of the university. She was also the first woman president of Korea Society of Church History in 2012-2013. Currently, she is serving as a presidium member for International Congress for Calvin Research, Board Secretary for Asia Theological Association, and a co-moderator for Doctoral Initiative Steering Committee for International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE). During the installation ceremony Dr. Lee received prayers from Dr. Sangbok David Kim, pastors, and leaders of TTGU community. Dr. Sangbok Kim, the outgoing President of TTGU, served for two terms (2001-2007) as Chairman of ATA.

ATA Board Members Plan for 2016 Triennial General Assembly in Bangkok, Thailand

Some members of ATA International Board met on August 10-13, 2015 at Bangkok Bible Seminary (BBS) to plan for the next General Assembly to be held in Chongshin University and Seminary, South Korea on July 25-29, 2016. ATA is grateful to Dr. Jangmook Manoch, BBS President, for his generous support in hosting this meeting. In addition to this planning meeting, revision of the ATA Constitution and By-laws was also discussed and finalized.



Visit to Asia Pacific Theological Seminary, Philippines



The Asia Pacific Theological Seminary (APTS) was visited by Visiting Evaluation Team (VET) consisting of Dr. Ng, Peh Cheng, Associate Secretary of Accreditation and Educational Development, ATA; Dr. Madeline Vega, Faculty, Asian Theological Seminary, Philippines; and Dr. Augustine Pagolu, Faculty, Sekolah Tinggi Teologi, Bandung, Indonesia on July 28-30, 2015.

APTS in the Philippines was established by the Assemblies of God World Missions, USA (AGWM/USA) in 1964. It is now jointly owned and operated by AGWM/USA and the Asia

Pacific Region. It began as an Assemblies of God (AOG) seminary for countries in the Pacific Region but it has since developed into an International seminary drawing in students from non-AOG backgrounds and from countries such as Europe, Africa, Fiji, Asia, and others. Rev. Yee Tham Wan is the current President. He is the first Asian President and now serving his second term of office at APTS. Under his spiritual and capable leadership, APTS has achieved a debt-free status and the campus has added a "Prayer Mountain and Garden" into the school curriculum for

the equipping of God's people for effective Christian living and service.

APTS exists to prepare ministerial leaders for the Pentecostal and Charismatic churches of the Asia Pacific region, and to serve as a resource center for assisting these churches to fulfill their biblical mandate. To this end, APTS provides advanced leadership training within the Pentecostal/Charismatic tradition and a variety of theological, educational, and ministry services that seek to develop and enhance the effectiveness of the churches and students it serves. Specialized training is offered in theology, Bible, pastoral ministry, Christian education, Bible school ministry, evangelism, and missions. The school offers Master of Arts in Ministry (English), Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies with Islamic Concentration, Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies, Master of Arts in Theology, Master of Divinity (Concentrations: Theology, Biblical Studies, Ministry, Missions), Master of Theology in Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies (M.Th., Specializations: Bible, Theology, History, Ministry, Mission), Doctor of Ministry in Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies (D.Min.), Bachelor of Arts in Bible and Theology (Chinese Programme), and Master of Arts in Ministry (Chinese Programme).

Visit to Canadian Chinese School of Theology

The Visiting Evaluation Team (VET) consisting of Dr. Joseph Shao, ATA General Secretary; Dr. Theresa Lua, ATA CAED Secretary; and Dr. Lee Wanak, former Dean of Asia Graduate School of Theology and Asian Theological Seminary in the Philippines visited Canadian Chinese School of Theology (CCST) in Toronto and Vancouver, Canada on August 24-27, 2015.

The population of new immigrants from China is growing every year. It grows from 30,000 to 50,000 annually. Currently, there are 1.2 million Chinese in Canada. CCST sees it as an opportunity to use theological education to address the increasing need for trained Mandarin speaking pastors. There are 150 Chinese churches in Toronto, 130 in Vancouver, and a total of over 400 in whole of Canada.

The mission of CCST is "to educate and equip Chinese believers who are called by God to serve our Lord Jesus Christ effectively at home and around the world to fulfil His great commission." The origins of CCST began in 2002 with the Chinese Coordination Centre of World Evangelism (CCCOWE) forum on Chinese Theological Education in Toronto, Canada. Participants of the forum confirmed the need for developing a Chinese School of Theology to better serve the Chinese churches in Canada. After almost two years of discussions and preparations, the Association of Canadian Chinese Theological Education (ACCTE) was finally registered with the Ontario government in March 2004 followed by the formation of CCST at Tyndale Seminary in 2005 (now known as CCST Toronto), CCST Calgary in 2009, and CCST Vancouver in 2015.

Canadian Chinese School of Theology offers Bachelor of Religious Education, Master of Theological Studies, and Master of Divinity.



ATA and Langham Sponsor ABC Writers' Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand

By Rico Villanueva, Asia Bible Commentary, General Editor

Ten writers of the Asia Bible Commentary (ABC) series met for a writers' workshop last August 10-13, 2015. These writers have been actively writing their commentaries and the workshop was meant to guide and encourage them further to complete their manuscripts. Prior to the workshop, each writer submitted a manuscript from the commentary they are writing. During the three-day workshop there was time to write, to reflect, and to listen to presentations on topics related to commentary writing especially in the Asian context.



2. Asians do not separate between exegesis and application. The dichotomy between "what the text meant" and "what the text means" reflected in the division between biblical theology and systematic theology will not work in an Asian evangelical setting. There are two reasons for this. First, because the goal of interpretation for Christians is to apply the text to the lives of the believers. The purpose of the Bible is clear: It is given for the edification of the body of Christ (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Secondly, because Asians think holistically. Confronted by life

We are privileged to have Isobel Stevenson, the senior editor from Langham Partnership as our facilitator. She discussed important topics like "Who is our audience?" and "Problems specific to commentary writing." With her experience of working with the Africa Bible Commentary as well as the soon-to-be-launched South Asia Bible Commentary (SABC) Isobel provided the writers with valuable insights and practical guide on how to write a commentary which speaks to our target audience. One of our writers, Havilah Dharamraj, also contributed through a session she led on "How to write contextually." We had a lively discussion of the topic.

biblical faith the Western biblical writer has to address the academy. But in the majority world where the churches are growing, there is a need for a commentary which addresses the needs of the churches in their particular contexts. At the same time, we also want to be a witness to the academy. So our commentary will be scholarly but also pastoral. The ABC commentary is unique in this sense because it targets pastors and Christian leaders in Asia while maintain academic standard. There are already many commentaries written on each book of the Bible, but very few written by Asians for the Asian church. We hope to fill this gap.

issues, Asian evangelical scholars wrestle with engaging the text with our lived realities.

3. There is a need to address the issue of hermeneutics. How do we do biblical interpretation in the Asian context? What are the principles we use in the writing of the Asia Bible Commentary? Some of the writers felt a need to come up with a monograph or series of articles to address these questions.

4. Asians write as a community and not as individuals. That is why a writers' workshop such as this one greatly enhances their writing. We hope to do another one next year.

Here are some reflections from the workshop:

1. The challenge of writing for the churches in Asia is great. One of the writers who attended the workshop commented this was something his Ph.D. education did not prepare him for. Here lies the challenge: we try to understand the exegesis of the text and apply it to our own context. Many of the commentaries written in the West are addressed not to the church but to the academy. So they just focus on the exegesis. This is because of their particular situation. With the shrinking number of those who go to church and the need to defend the



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