



GLEANINGS AND STORIES FROM CONVERSATIONS ON EQUIPPING FOR INTEGRAL MISSION IN ASIA

From November 20 until the 22nd, 40 delegates from different theological institutions in Southeast and East Asia gathered in Mode Sathorn Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand for Conversations on Equipping for Integral Mission in Asia. During the course of those three days, countless stories were exchanged over round table discussions and even over meals- conversations filled with stories on what it means to practice, teach, and live out an integral mission in each represented context. These conversations were all rich, relevant, meaningful, and of course, enjoyable!

Drs. Theresa Lua and Raymond Kwong with Pastor Rei Lemuel Crizaldo facilitated several of those conversations; while Drs. Sooi Ling Tan, Joy Pring, Wingyan Wok, along with Mrs. Mila Bunker and Pastor Emil Jon Soriano shared stories of their experience of putting Integral Mission into practice along with the fruit that they have seen from doing so.

We hope to give you a glimpse into those conversations and for you to benefit from all that had been gleaned from them. So we are happy to share with you, in the next page, a summary and overview of what had transpired in those three days. Written and compiled by Pastor Rei Crizaldo of Tearfund, we

hope that this run through of the three day conversation will help you better put integral mission into practice in your institutions and churches.

Continued on page 2

What's inside:

Page 2

[Conversations on Integral Mission](#)

Page 3

[Once Again, Equipping the Equippers: the GATE Workshops Resume](#)

Page 5

[The Pen is Mightier than the Sword](#)

Page 7

[PASTI BOOK REVIEW WEBINAR](#)

Page 8

[Merry Christmas From ATA](#)



Conversations on Integral Mission

Asia Theological Association | Bangkok 2023

Kindly click on [this link](https://atadigital.asia/2023/12/22/conversations-on-integral-mission/) to access the following content:

<https://atadigital.asia/2023/12/22/conversations-on-integral-mission/>

- ▶ Integral Mission: an overview (Dr. Hudson Taylor IV)
- ▶ Integral Mission: historical background (Dr. Ruth Padilla-deBorst)
- ▶ Integral Mission in Asia: How is IM understood in your context?
- ▶ Integral Mission in the Local Church (Dr. Wingyan Mok)
- ▶ Perspectives on Integral Mission: what has been made clear in the conversations
- ▶ What are key challenges you are facing in teaching Integral Mission?
- ▶ Planning Session



Once again, Equipping the Equippers: the GATE workshops resume

It was 2017 when ATA first launched the GATE workshops as part of its “Equipping the equippers project”. The GATE workshops are held once a year for four consecutive years in select countries and its aim is for faculty to be able to equip transformational leaders for church and society. From the moment the “Equipping the equippers project” has taken flight, the GATE workshop has been held in South and North India, Mongolia, and Nepal each year- until the COVID global pandemic hit, closing all border and locking people down. Because of that, all workshops were put on halt.

Fortunately, borders slowly began opening and people slowly began moving out of their isolation and gathering in person once again. So, beginning last year, the GATE workshops have resumed, beginning with Mongolia. Then this year, the GATE workshops

have resumed in both South and North India while Mongolia had its culminating workshops.

Culminating the GATE workshop in Mongolia: Developing Curriculum for Transformational Education

Last September 2022, 52 participants from 7 schools participated in the resumption of the GATE workshop in Mongolia. The workshop was hosted by Mongolia Assemblies of God Bible School in Ulaanbatar and had Drs. Gary Griffith and Doreen Benavidez serve as the facilitators.

This year saw the culmination of the GATE workshops in Mongolia and for this, River of Life Bible School, Ulaanbatar was host; with Drs. Gary Griffith and Doreen Benavidez serving as facilitators. Fifty- six faculty and leaders from 7 schools participated in this year’s workshop- with each school having its principal present. For each year that the workshop was held, it is noticeable that the number of participants and participating schools have grown in number- from only 4 schools to 7 and from 20 participants to 56! We praise God for how He has brought and grown all these participants all throughout the four years.

Each participant expressed gratitude for each year that they participated in the workshop and were resolute about organizing annual events that would enable them to gather for fellowship, collaboration, and training. In fact, during the final session of this year’s workshop, the participants agreed on a date to gather once again to work out a plan for them to implement what they had learned through the training.

Regardless of the challenges in carrying out the training, it was successful and, according to a participant, “exceeded expectations”. We look forward to seeing the participants and their respective schools implement all that they have learned in and through the four years of going through the GATE workshops.

Moving towards completion: The Year 3 GATE workshops in North and South India

The GATE workshops have begun moving towards culmination in both North and South India as both locations just recently had their year 3 workshops. Both workshops were facilitated by Drs. Gary Griffith and Edwardneil Benavidez.

The GATE workshops in North India was held from November 29 up until December 1 in Farukhnagar and was hosted by the Caleb Institute. It was attended



GATE Workshop, Mongolia

Continued on page 4

From page 3

by 25 participants. On the other hand, the GATE workshops in South India was held from December 4 to 6 in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. It was hosted by the South Asia Institute of Leadership and Cultural Studies and was attended by 58 participants from 6 schools.

As these schools in both North and South India move towards completing the GATE workshops next year, please remember them in prayer- that the Lord will continue to keep their passion for Kingdom transformation burning and that He will provide for all that they need to be part of the culminating workshops.

We praise God that despite the hiatus caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic, our GATE workshop participants have not lost their zeal to better equip themselves for their calling. We are excited to see our participants put all that they have learned into practice and be instruments of transformation in their respective contexts! ◆



GATE Workshop, North India



GATE Workshop, South India

PRAYER CORNER



2023 has been a difficult year for countless people the world over. There has been so much bloodshed and tears.

So, as we enter 2024, let us do so prayerfully.

Let us continue to pray for peace.

Let us continue to pray for comfort for those who grieve.

Let us continue to pray that the Lord will grant world leaders wisdom and compassion.

Let us continue to pray that the church will embrace its calling to be a blessing, especially in the midst of suffering and pain.

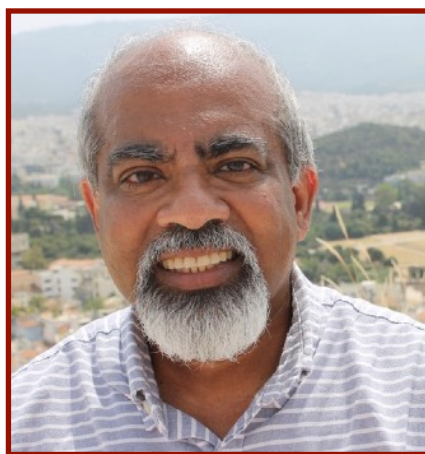
THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD

By Dr. Andrew B. Spurgeon
Publications Secretary

The above phrase first appeared in the English author Edward Bulwer-Lytton's work, *Richelieu; Or the Conspiracy*, in 1839. Since then, it has been used to express non-violent protest through one's writings.

ATA has been actively publishing journals, articles, consultation summaries, commentaries, and books since its inception and fighting its wars to keep the purity of the gospel. Dr. Bruce Nicholls, one of the founding scholars of ATA and the grandfather of publications, wrote in detail about it in the book *New Era New Visions: Celebrating 40 Years of the Asia Theological Association*. The first writing was called *Asia Theological News* and went to hundreds of Asian seminaries. By reading it, the seminaries expressed the need for an accrediting agency, which gave birth to ATA, which has grown to be the largest theological accrediting agency in the world!

When Dr. Nicholls stepped down, the board appointed Dr. Rico Villanueva as the Publications Secretary and General Editor of the *Asia Bible Commentary Series*. I was the Publications Chairman. In the following years, Dr. Villanueva stepped down from ATA to serve as the Regional Commissioning Editor for Langham Publishing and Scholar Care Coordinator of current Asian Langham scholars, and the responsibility of leading the publications fell on my lap. The ATA Executive Committee appointed me as the Publications Chairman and Dr. Steve T. Pardue as the Associate Publications Chairman. Together, we've led the publications for the past several years.

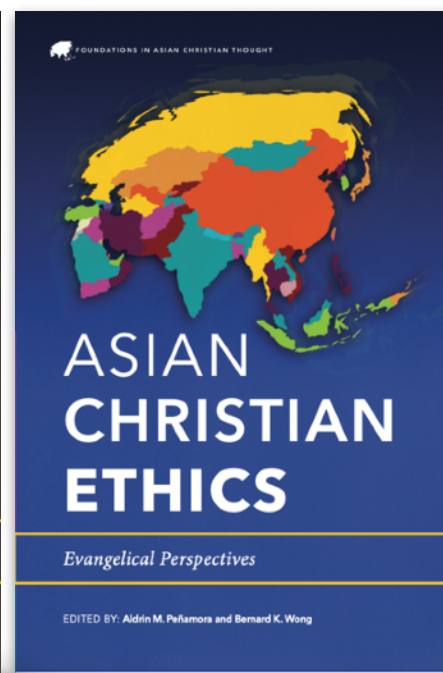
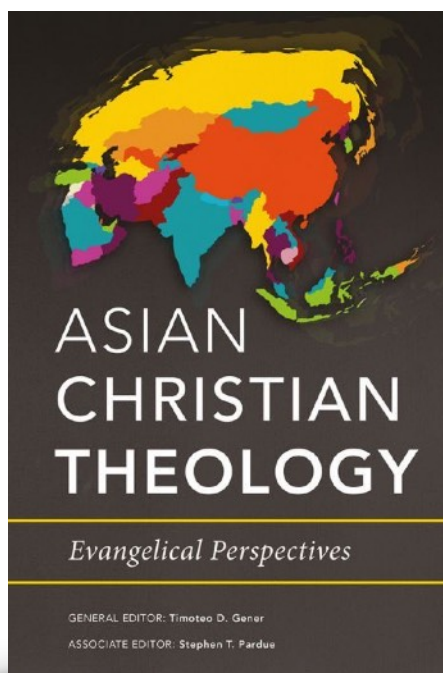


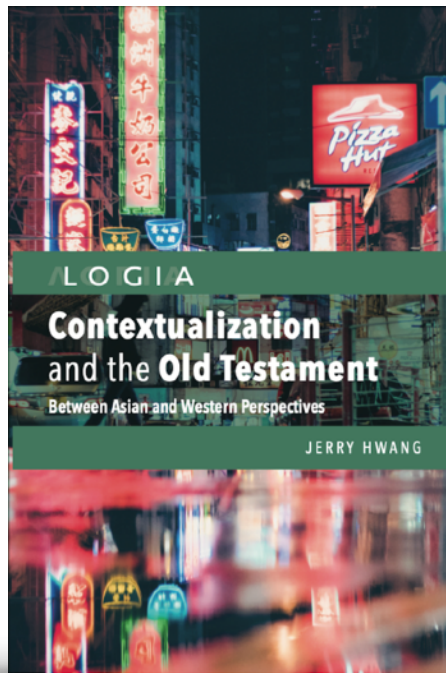
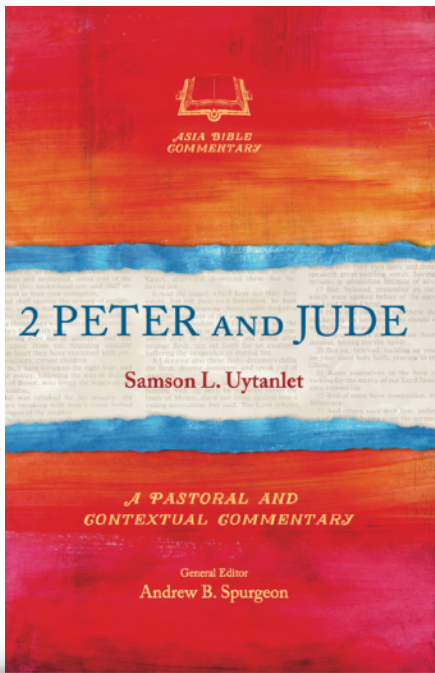
We use the pen (or publications) to promote God's rule and the Lord's lordship through our writings, especially for the benefit of Asian churches and Christians. By Asian, we mean "people who love Asia," regardless of

their ethnicity or citizenship. As such, we have *Asian* editors and authors of books, series, and journals. We try to make the books, journals, and articles relevant to Asian churches and Christians.

So, what do we publish? The flagship of ATA publications has been the *Asia Bible Commentary Series*. Dr. Bruce Nicholls edited the original series. Dr. Rico Villanueva edited the subsequent series until he stepped down, and I took over as the General Editor. We have published 23 commentaries within seven years, starting with Judges in 2016 and 2 Peter & Jude just a month ago. We had hoped that all fifty commentaries would be finished within ten years, but

Continued on page 6





we might have to wait a few more years to complete the project.

A few years ago, the Executive Board appointed Dr. Steve Pardue as the editor of the non-commentary series and stand-alone books. Since then, he has started three non-commentary series: FACTS, Logia, and Missions. The FACT series exposes the audience to topics within a particular field, like a taste of various flavors of ice cream. For example, the first volume was *Asian Christian Theology*. This highly academic and well-received edited work has essays on divine revelation, the doctrine of scripture, the trinity in Asian contexts, Christology, evangelical ecclesiology, and eschatology, to name a few. In contrast, the Logia series takes the readers to a deeper level of understanding in a particular area. For example, Jerry Hwang's *Contextualization and the Old Testament: Between Asian and Western Perspectives* examines various aspects of contextualization. We look forward to several scholarly books coming in this series. The Missions series explores how the mission is carried out in different Asian countries. The first volume was on Southeast Countries. Future volumes will focus on missions in other Asian regions, such as East and South Asia.

Besides books, ATA also publishes three journals. These peer-reviewed scholarly journals address the area of theology, missions, education, and spiritual

formation. The first is the *Journal of Asian Evangelical Theology* (JAET), co-edited by Drs. Steve Pardue and Beatrice Ang. It aims to advance biblical and theological reflection in the Asian evangelical contexts. The second is the *Journal of Asia Missions* (JAM), co-edited by Drs. Cameron Armstrong and Jojo Manzano. It provides a forum to assess theories and practices of mission applied in the past or proposed for the future. The third journal is in progress: *Journal of Asian Theological Education and Spiritual Formation* (JATES), co-edited by Drs. Sooi Ling Tan and Justin Peter. This journal seeks to enhance the practice of theological education and spiritual formation in Asian theological institutions through

stimulating reflective thinking, integration, and application. These journals collectively address a wide range of fields – areas where Asian Christians and churches have questions.

In addition to these above publications, ATA also regularly puts out ATA News, Webinars, and online debates and discussions. Nearly 70 leaders work behind the scenes as project editors, English editors, board members, consulting editors, and advisors. God has richly blessed ATA with women and men who often volunteer their time and energy for publications.

None of us do these publications for our glory (God forbid if we do). We have two goals: glorifying God through the Lord Jesus and making materials available for the Asian churches and Christians. To that end, we work diligently in our respective fields.

You can do us one favor: read and promote our works in your churches, schools, and among fellow Christians. Further, if you have some beautiful ideas or relevant research, contact me or the editors. The journals will have their emails, and my email is ataeditorialteam@gmail.com.

May the Lord richly bless you in this season of remembering our Lord's birth. He came not to be served but to serve and lay down his life for others. May that be our motto: "Live to serve others," as with the ATA Publications. ♦

PASTI BOOK REVIEW WEBINAR

Bandung, Indonesia

Dr. Samuel Sidjabat

The webinar of PASTI, namely *The Fellowship of Evangelical Theological Schools in Indonesia*, took place last 16 September 2023 from 09.00 am to noon 12.00 (Jakarta time). More than 130 participants participated in the webinar to review the book *Asian Christian Theology: Evangelical Perspective* (2019). The book has been translated into Bahasa Indonesia, entitled *Teologi Kristen Asia: Sudut Pandang Injili* in 2023, by the publication department of The Southeast Asia Theological Seminary (SAAT) in Malang, East Java. Hence, in the webinar the Bahasa version was used.

New Book!

DAPATKAN SEGERA

TEOLOGI KRISTEN ASIA
Sudut Pandang Injili

EDITOR UMUM
Timoteo D. Gener
Stephen T. Pardue

Dapatkan keterangan lebih lanjut di:
www.literatursaat.com
IG. @literatursaat

Info pemesanan:
(0341) 490750
081233938288 (WA)

serta di marketplace kami
@Literatur SAAT

LIMITED STOCK

Rp. 150,000,-
(belum termasuk Diskon & Ongkos Kirim)*

As you plan faculty development for 2024...

The **Faculty Enrichment Initiative (FEI)** of AGST Alliance partners with faculty members of Asian seminaries to help you become competent...



- Responsive communicators
- Proficient educators
- Reflective colleagues
- Transformational leaders
- Innovative teachers



Contact us for more information about FEI's customised, collaborative, and bite-sized approach to your vocational equipping.



Faculty
Enrichment
AGST ALLIANCE

✉ fei@agstalliance.org

🌐 www.agstalliance.org/fei



Four reviewers from Indonesia lead the activities, namely: Dr. Gunaryo Sudarmanto, Dr. Noor Anggraito, Dr. Sperry Velmer Terok, and Dr. Nasokhili Giawa. Each reviewer represented their own theological schools. The webinar was moderated by Dr. Timotius Haryono, and Dr. Soleman Kawangmani.

Dr. Timoteo Gener was supposed to participate in the event and talk about his articles in the first chapter of the book. However, because his health was in need of serious medical attention, he had to decline. Dr. Gener was substituted by myself. I then shared on several of the publications of ATA on Evangelical Asian Theology.

After listening to the book review, most of the participants were encouraged to purchase a copy of the Bahasa translation, hoping to use it in teaching contextual theology. One theologian said that he was thankful for the book, as he also has used several chapters in his theology lectures. ♦

Merry Christmas!

Have a meaningful Christmas and a blessed New year 2024!

From,



Asia Theological Association

Build your school with us...

Advertise your programs/events at affordable rate.
Text Box type, 1/6 page for \$50 only!

ATA News invites you to buy an ad space now!

ADVERTISEMENT RATE

Size	Group A	Group B
Full page	\$500	\$250
½ page	\$250	\$125
¼ page	\$125	\$65

Please send a camera-ready layout by email attachment to the ATA News editor.



ATA News is a bi-monthly
publication of the
Asia Theological Association

www.ataasia.com

Address all correspondence to the editor:
Angelica De Vera
ataasia.research@gmail.com