

# **28th COMMENCEMENT** 2022



# Word from the PRESIDENT

Dear Graduands,

What unprecedented changes and new learning Covid-19 has brought in the last two years! Your cohort went online, hybrid, and discovered their advantages. You became flexible to last-minute changes and learned to expect the unexpected.

But the past two-and-a-half years have shown us that blocked goals and changes are not necessarily all bad. They could open new vistas and options of doing things. Indeed, "all things work together for good to those who love God" (Romans 8:28 NIV).

For instance, we used to fly lecturers into our EAST Extension Centres in Cambodia, India, Korea, and East Asia; now going online is the norm. The work does not stop; workers continue to be built.

We at EAST have done all we could to bless you in your journey of learning; but only God, in His Sovereignty, could transform you holistically.

As EAST celebrates 30 years of God's faithfulness, you are part of the fruit we are bearing. Praise God. As you move on from here, may you never lose your passion for winning lost souls for Christ, and may you build spiritual movements everywhere that God sends you.

In the power of the Holy Spirit, I commend you, servant-steward leaders, to go forth and help fulfil the Great Commission, always embracing the Great Commandment for holistic ministry unto the Lord.

On behalf of all the faculty and staff, thank you for the privilege of serving you!

**Congratulations! And well done.**



REV DR CHAN CHONG HIOK  
PRESIDENT



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*Jasmine Lee*



*Ta Eh and faculty mentor Toe Set*



*Daniel Yoncer*



*(from left) Ta Eh, Yoe, Jasmine and Hannah*



*(from left) Zarni and professor Roy Tan*



*(from left) Soon-Young and Rachel*



number of students  
graduating

8 Master of Divinity, 4 Master of Arts,  
3 Graduate Diploma, and 2 Partners in Ministry



nationalities: Korea, China,  
India, Indonesia, Mongolia,  
Myanmar, Malaysia, and  
Singapore



served in full-time ministry as pastor and church-planters, para-  
church workers before they came to EAST;



served as an independent children's  
ministry trainer and evangelist

Within the last year, 4 had Covid, 1 got married,  
1 was engaged, and 1 gave birth to a baby girl



# Meet at the WELL

Jasmine Lee Wan Shan, 36  
MDiv Christian Ministry  
Bethesda (Bedok-Tampines)  
Church

Four years ago, Jasmine Lee and ladies in her cell group started a 'Meet At The Well' ministry, which gathers believers from different churches for friendship and fellowship in the Word.

"The program centers around conversations that concern singles, within an informal setting of food, games, and spiritual encouragement," says Jasmine.

In a way, Jasmine's stop at EAST has also been a 'meet at the well' for her.

In 2015, while going through "a spiritually discouraging patch", she stumbled upon the 'Bible Study Methods and Hermeneutics' (BSMH) class publicity on line. "I'd always wanted to learn to study God's Word in context," says the Mathematics major from National University of Singapore. "Dr Keith proved to be very engaging, and asked questions that forced me to think."

That stop at the EAST well became a seven-year stay, where she met fellow sojourners who quenched her thirst for authenticity. One of them is her faculty mentor Dr Jeannette, "who is loving and hospitable, often inviting our mentoring group\* home."

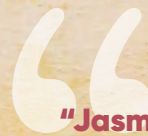
"And if you shared a prayer request with her, she will follow up and ask, 'How did it go?' I talk about her so much at home that one day Philemon (Jasmine's husband) said, "O Dr Jeannette again?"



Jasmine and her husband Philemon

Others at the well are school mates whom God used to bring health and growth to her life. Jasmine remembers Michelle Malm (USA) at the first BSMH class "who invited me to a captain's ball game the same afternoon." Others were Yoe Yoe and Ta Eh (Myanmar), whom she got to know during her Cross-Cultural Team Internship (CCTI)\* in East Asia.

"Yoe's pure heart touches me, and Ta Eh's humility and quiet service showed me that we do not need to be loud or upfront to be effective."



**"Jasmine, it has been a privilege to witness first hand your leadership over 'Meet At The Well' ministry which continues to impact the singles community. May you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, being conformed to His image more and more, ...."**

Elder Ho Tuck Leh,  
Bethesda (Bedok-Tampines) Church

*\*All students are in mentoring groups (MGs), each led by one or two faculty mentors. They also participate in a CCTI for cross-cultural exposure and ministry towards the end of their first year.*

# Renovation of BODY, HEART and SOUL

Wong Choong Voon (Malaysia), 46  
MDiv Intercultural Studies  
Cornerstone (Bahasa Indonesia) Fellowship

Twenty years in full-time ministry, former Cru Malaysia staff, now Chinese Timothy Mission worker who served among slum-dwellers in Semarang, Java, before EAST. Meet Wong Choong Voon, whose vision is to reach the majority unreached peoples in Malaysia and Indonesia.

"When I first arrived at EAST, I was all ready for hard work and discipline," says the Micro-Electronics Engineer by training and EAST Student Council President (2020-21). "But my engine was in very bad shape." Years of late-nights, no exercise, and poor diet, he confides, led to an unhealthy body, heart and soul. "These bad habits carried on in my student life."

The "turning point" came during his second-year school break.

"Dr Lewis was going on a six-month furlough, so I asked to move to his place in the east. It cut travel time to school from the west by two hours," says Choong Voon. "To my surprise, he not only agreed, but offered us the use of everything, including his bicycles."

And so Choong Voon and his wife, Wei Ling, started cycling every day. "At first, it was to explore the neighbourhood for grocery; then the beach and favourite haunts in Bedok and Joo Chiat, where the best *ang gu kueh* ('red tortoise cake') is."

"For the first time in two years, we had regular exercises, and enjoyed our host country."

Around then, 'Soul Care' class started. One of the assignments was "starting the day on the knees or going for a walk without the phone." says Choong Voon. "Who would have thought these have become new habits that God used to change my body, heart and soul?"

Looking on and nodding is Wei Ling. "Now he is more relaxed, healthier, and has time and eyes for me," she laughs.

Choong Voon confesses that his old lifestyle stemmed from worries about not having enough or doing enough. "God reminded me that I came into full-time ministry because I love Him. He is my first Audience and Provider. Now that my engine is overhauled, I'm good to go."

**"Dearest Choong Voon, congratulations! May you always return to your first love for Christ; may His steadfast hands help you to focus on His calling to the unreached people groups in our generation."**

Pastor David Tan,  
Chinese Timothy Mission



Choong Voon and Wei Ling

# Go Back to the Past to Seek God for THE FUTURE

Daniel Yoncer (Indonesia), 40  
Grad Dip Pastoral Counselling

Listening to Daniel Yoncer speak about his past, present and future plans, one gets a peek into a tender heart for people. "Back in uni days, my sis and I invited people to our home a lot, even people we hardly knew," says Daniel, who tells you he can whip up a decent *escargot a' la Bourguignonne* for his guests.

And the self-professed 'introvert' enjoys listening to people. "During the pandemic, God led many with needs to my path, and used them to grow my empathy."

In 2021, when travel continued to be restricted, Daniel decided to study to equip himself to help others. It has only been ten months and already much has happened, he says. "Mostly, it's been a journey of rediscovering my passion," he says.

Ten years ago, when his father passed away, Daniel and his second brother took over his family's "desserts and escargots export" business. "Work, in turn, took over my life; with time, I lived for me and my comforts."

God used "the small school, which is its strength" he adds, to take him back to his first love for God and people. "I learned to care for people again."

The Indonesian national who grew up in Singapore and did Computer Science undergraduate studies in California chuckles as he recalls his first week at EAST. "I was very disturbed when I was told to join a mentoring group," he says. "But the fellowship changed my priorities."



He is also grateful for teachers who sat down with him to offer wisdom, "especially Roy Tan," he says. "When I told him I needed to find my next step, he advised me to go back to the past, reflect on what God had done in my life, and seek Him for the future."

"He showed me how to find God's will for myself. It was what I needed."

*Daniel Yoncer will pursue a Masters in Counselling upon graduation. He hopes to continue to minister to youths in his home church in Jakarta and offer counselling to those in need in the marketplace.*

**"It is with great pleasure, Daniel, that I get to congratulate you upon your graduation from EAST. May the Lord use you in ways beyond what you can imagine as you continue to take steps of faith and walk with him."**

Rev Jarred Jung, faculty mentor



# From BOY to MAN

S. Zarni Pyoe Wai Saing (Myanmar), 35  
MDiv Christian Ministry  
Judson Baptist Church Singapore

Back in Yangon, Zarni was 'king' at home, pampered by his homemaker mother. Dad was a trainer of NGO workers. "But I had three big bully brothers," he adds, laughing.

So when time came for studies in 2015, he was "shy a lot." Compared to older brother Htike, EAST alumnus and outspoken leader, he was a frightened little boy in the Lion City of Singapore. "My greatest fear was people would laugh at my weak English," says Zarni. "That led to problems like procrastination, missing assignment deadlines, and getting into trouble with my professors."

But God patiently worked in his life.

First, He gave him a friend named Boh (Park Boh Hyun who graduated in 2018), who was "just as shy." "We'd sit behind, hoping the lecturers wouldn't call us. But they always did (laughs); they also made us go for outreach." The most memorable of which was a Cross-Cultural Team Internship to East Asia. "Imagine my horror when we were sent to minister in an English college! But my English turned out to be better than that of students I met."

Another confidence booster for the talented musician-singer was being forced to go on stage. "One day, my pastor told me to join the worship ministry. I'd never sung or played the guitar publicly but I couldn't say no," he says. Later, he was roped into his church's musical-drama team as lead actor. "I literally shook before the thousands who came to watch us here and in Yangon; but when people received Christ, my courage grew."

Zarni is grateful for the EAST community who played a big part in his growth. "My lecturers, the chapel team, and fellow Student Council members I could joke around with in English!" He is especially thankful for his faculty mentors Rev Jonathan and Victor. "I confided in them about my insecurities, which led to anger issues; their prayers and love built me up."

God also used many classes to address his fears, a most recent one being a 'Shepherd's Care' counselling session. "Teacher Roy Tan showed me that my procrastination and even shame in speaking English were idols that I must confess at the cross."

"Only through full surrender every day will I grow up and be the man God uses."

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**"Zarni, by God's grace you did it! I always appreciate your heart that is genuinely generous, flexible, and ever willing to serve others. Your strength in music is complemented by your commitment to preaching the Word of God. Well done!"**

Rev Jonathan Yao,  
Dean of Advancement,  
faculty mentor

# When I am WEAK

Yami Asai Shimray (India), 32  
MDiv Christian Ministry  
New Horizon Church



Growing up in Manipur, India, 'fear' was not in Yami Shimray's dictionary.

At six, she fell into a river during a riot but climbed back up "to everyone's amazement"; at seven Dad passed away and she became Mummy's helper at home while she worked; all through university and Masters degree in Tourism Management, she worked to support herself.

Yami's foray into full-time ministry started with a four-month child evangelism training in New Zealand. Upon returning home, she travelled to different villages for three years to conduct children's ministry training and camps. Even when her savings were depleted, she did not give up.

It was around then that EAST alumnus Vashum Vareingam encouraged her to come to EAST. "From day one, I enjoyed everything – the classes, community, even the assignments," says Yami.

Then, in early 2020, Covid-19 knocked on her doors. "My room-mate fell very ill," recalls Yami. "And for the first time in my life, I felt intense fear." This fear escalated when Delta devastated India by December 2020. "Back home, many among my youth group, church leaders, family and friends were struck by Covid-19; some died from it. It paralysed me."

In her darkest hour, Yami's church in Singapore and the EAST community rallied around her. "My faculty mentor Amy Lau took me aside and prayed over me for one hour," she shares. "Another teacher raised funds to buy food, medicine, and protective garments for healthcare volunteers."

And just as things started to feel 'normal' again in March 2022, Yami tested positive for Covid-19. "I was down with body aches and cough for a month," she adds. But God poured out His great love on her "through His Word, and through my dormmate and teachers who took care of me. One professor prayed over me at the gate."

"My instinct of dealing with crises was to climb out of the river by myself," says Yami. "But God showed me that courage is also waiting for His rescue. I learned that I don't need to always be strong or brave to serve God; but I must acknowledge my weakness every day and draw on His strength."

**"Yami, I am so proud of you! Not only for your academic achievement, but for who you are! Praise God for bringing you all the way from Nagaland to bless us. May you be a vessel fit for the Master's use to impact lives."**

Pastor Lawrence Koo, New Horizon Church

# LEADERSHIP 101

Bae Jaeseong (S Korea), 43  
MA Leadership  
Korean Mission Dream Church in Singapore



*Jaeseong and Jihye*

Bae Jaeseong came to EAST to learn how to be a better leader.

The former Cru Korea missionary to Japan and HR Administrator says he was attracted to the school's leadership professors who are backed by a proven track record. "For example, our President, Rev Dr Chan, directed a fruitful ministry in East Asia for years; and Dr Roland was the national leader of Cru Singapore."

As he looks back to his three years at EAST, Jaeseong is grateful for the many classes that developed his thinking as a leader. "I'm impressed by Dr Lewis' class on denominations and theological views – what are the core and what are opinions; and Dr Samuel's 'Cultural Maps' for cross-cultural understanding. So helpful."

But his education did not happen in a vacuum, adds the former campus staff in Osaka, where he met his wife Jihye, also a Cru Korea staff worker.

"For example, 'developing Christlike leaders for the global harvest.' This is more than just the 'mission statement' of EAST; it is being practised conscientiously through outreach, practicum and internships. And professors do not only talk about 'Christlikeness'; they model love for God and students; this is what we need to see in my country, at home, in school, at church."

The Maritime Electronic Engineering graduate shares that his family "made many wonderful memories from small things" in Singapore.

"Memories such as hanging out with my mentoring group members and mentors Dr Benson and Dr Lewis, or playing ball with my kids," adds the avid tennis player and baker. "Jihye will miss the greenery and beaches here when we leave," he continues. "Me? I will miss many things including the warm weather, and *char siew* (bar-b-q pork) rice."

"Here's another important principle I learned about leadership," concludes Jaeseong. "I need to first be a happy and authentic human being, husband, father, and friend. Then I can be an effective and confident leader."

**"Congratulations, Jaeseong and Jihye! May the face of our God always turn toward your life and ministry; may your life and ministry be filled with the fragrance of Jesus."**

Pastor Jang Sungwon, Korean Mission Dream Church in Singapore

# A RICH Man

Enkhmunkh Purevdavaa  
(Mongolia), 41  
MA Christian Ministry  
Hope Church

As Enkh surveys all that he has gathered over the last three-and-a-half years, he feels like a rich man. "We came to Singapore with only the first month's rental," he says, "but God has blessed us with much – books, clothes, schooling needs, and treasures that money cannot buy."

Such treasures included practical knowledge he could bring back to his three congregations of "first-generation believers" in and outside of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia's capital city. "I have already started

teaching my leaders back home what I learned here, e.g., Bible Study Methods by Rev Jacob Li, spiritual disciplines by Dr Lewis, and Theology by Dr Raymond Go."

"I really like Dr Raymond; he would entertain my many questions – even disagreements – in class."

Another treasure is learning about humility. "I thought I knew a lot from my Bible school training and fourteen years of experience as pastor," Enkh continues. "God showed me how shallow my knowledge was."

"In my first semester, under the Christian Leadership module, Dr Roland told us to seek God for a vision and share it in class; immediately I told myself, 'Easy. I already knew that!'" But when he sat down to work on his assignment, Enkh realized his vision was "just a vague idea." To date, he has shared that presentation of church-planting in Mongolia with prayer partners "so many times that I cannot count."

He also learned humility from watching the faculty, adds Enkh. "They, including our President, would join students in outreach projects or share the gospel on the streets; this is great role-modelling to me, very humbling."

Of all his treasures, Enkh cherishes most his renewed bond with his children. "I used to travel a lot for ministry," he confesses, "and missed many of their milestones." "But here, I learned to swim from my eldest daughter, another of Dr Roland's assignments; hung out regularly with my first son for 'kopi'; heard my un-expressive and cool teenagers telling me, 'Daddy I love you'; and seen them grow in faith."

"I am a rich man."

**"Dear Enkh and Jiguur, what fond memories we have had together! Our ministry weekends in Batam, serving together during Mission Month, and dinner with your family eating *khuushuur*. As you have witnessed how God provided for you through the three years here, I believe He will continue to do so as you serve Him faithfully. Shalom! "**

Pastor Jeremy Chew, Glory Presbyterian Church



Enkh and sons  
Niguun (20) and  
Urnuun (7).  
Enkh and Jiguur have  
two more daughters:  
Eneruun (17) and  
Saraana (15).

# HEAD, HEART, HAND



"I like EAST's educational philosophy of 'Head, Heart, and Hand.' I learned that knowledge is only the beginning of education, not the end. For example, the mentoring group outreach allowed me to put into practice what I received in knowledge by reaching out to others."

Joshua Jong Song-Young (Korea)  
MA Christian Ministry

"My favorite class is Rev Jacob's Expository Preaching, where I learned to prepare sermons. I also learned from him how to love my wife and son, and how to be a kind teacher and friend. I am grateful for the EAST community, especially my mentoring group. Recently my wife contracted Covid-19; I had to deal with so many things that I'd forgotten it was my birthday. But they remembered and sent me a cake to wish me. Thanks guys!"

Saw Ta Eh Gay (Myanmar)  
MDiv Christian Ministry



"God used my time at EAST to grow my character; I learned about faith, surrender, giving up of my rights, and trusting God for joy and physical strength to handle all my challenges as a student, wife and mother."

Rachel Kim Eun-Young (Korea)  
MDiv Christian Ministry



"I remember my first semester at EAST. It was a difficult time of adjustment for me, trying to keep up as a new student. Then I came to the Christian Leadership Foundations class. Immediately I had rest. I will not forget how the lecturer took time to speak to us kindly, and served us refreshments. That became a class I looked forward to every week."

Ka Yoe Paw Naw (Myanmar)  
MDiv Christian Ministry



"Dr Roland showed me what is servant leadership and humility. Dr Ying Kheng's spiritual discernment encouraged me to continuously learn how to get along with God and people around me. Jacob Li motivates us to achieve our goals."

Chung Soon-Young (Korea)  
MA Biblical Studies



"I learned from Josie Li how to study God's Word for myself; ladies in the PIM program modelled for me godliness as wife and partner in ministry, and mother. And the *Significant Woman* series showed me that my confidence in life comes from my identity in Christ, and not from how I compare with other women."

Orkhonjiguur Dashdavaa (Mongolia)  
Partners in Ministry (PIM) Certificate



"I was challenged by the dedication and passion of the professors at EAST. And very touched by my MG leader, Agnes Lim, who is committed to God's calling to disciple others. She is always seeking to help me and pray for me - even checking if the prayer requests I shared with answered."

Park Jihye (Korea)  
Partners in Ministry Certificate

"Rachel, you have finished well! Our MG is inspired by your resilience, faithfulness and patience amidst the challenges you encountered in your learning journey. We will miss your presence and the special fun you added to our MG's birthday celebrations!"

Josephine Goh, faculty mentor



"Dear Yoe, it is a joy to witness your transformation through the different seasons of your life as a woman, a young learner, a newly married, and now a mother. I want to be your prayer partner for the building of God's kingdom wherever you go!"

Dr Justine Han, faculty mentor



"Yami, you have applied training in head knowledge and practical hands ministry in many God-given opportunities. May your time in Singapore always be an inspiration to live worthy of God's calling, and fulfill by His power every desire for goodness and work of faith with power to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thes 1:11-12)."

Amy Lau, faculty mentor



"Dear Joshua, what a joy it is to have you at EAST. I still remember our first mentoring group outreach in Batam. You suggested a parenting session, which was well received. Your gifting in leading worship has also been a blessing to the community. Congratulations!"

Rev Victor Kwok, faculty mentor





"Hannah, may your light never go dim.  
May the wisdom of God remain in you,  
and mighty doors be opened up for you.  
Congratulations!"

Pastor Thomas Lim, Agape Baptist Church



"Soon-Young, may God be with  
you wherever you go; may you  
courageously walk the path of  
the cross with the power of God.  
Congratulations!"

Pastor Lim Nam Gyu,  
Korean Mission Church,  
Singapore



"Congratulations, Ta Eh! It's been a long journey with  
many challenges; yet you did not give up but rested  
in the lovingkindness of the Lord. 'But as for me the  
nearness of God is my good, I have made the Lord my  
refuge, that I may tell of all your works' (Ps 73:28)."

Toe Set, faculty mentor

**30**  
*on*  
**30**

**This is a special promotion for EAST regular courses as part of our 30th Anniversary celebrations!**

Each regular course will only cost \$30 taken for audit and enrolled from July 2022 to June 2023. Savings of up to \$220 or 88% off per course!

Registration deadline: Friday, 8 July 2022

For details on the classes and to register, visit [east.ac/30th](http://east.ac/30th)

## **SEMESTER COURSES**

**18 JULY TO 18 NOVEMBER 2022**

### **EVENING CLASSES**

#### ONLINE

- A Life of Prayer: A Biblical Portrait & Spiritual Practices
- Church History 1

#### ONSITE

- Physical Settings of the Bible

### **DAY CLASSES**

#### ONLINE

- Christian Leadership Foundations
- Introduction to Educational Ministry & Leadership
- Missions Foundations
- Old Testament Poetry, Wisdom, & Prophets
- Religious Movements in Asia

#### ONSITE

- Bible Study Methods & Hermeneutics
- New Testament Narratives
- Teaching & Learning 1
- Theological Methods
- Theology 1

#### CONCURRENT ONSITE & ONLINE

- Building Spiritual Movements
- Contextualisation
- Worldview & Biblical Decision Making

### **PARTNERS IN MINISTRY (FOR WIVES ONLY)**

#### ONLINE

- The Significant Woman, 18 July - 5 September
- Christian Marriage, 12 September - 7 November

## **INTENSIVE COURSES**

**23 NOVEMBER TO 2 DECEMBER 2022**

Registration deadline: Tuesday, 15 November 2022

#### ONSITE

- Adolescent Psychology & Counseling
- Defending the Faith in Asia



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