

The background is a collage. It features a teal-green map of the United States with city names and street grids. Overlaid on this is a large, detailed image of two hands shaking in a firm grip. The hands are rendered in a textured, almost wood-like or stone-like appearance. The overall color palette is dominated by teal, green, and brown tones.

 EAST
30
Years

**OF DEVELOPING
SERVANT LEADERS FOR
THE GREAT COMMISSION**

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SERVANT LEADERS FOR
THE GREAT COMMISSION**



Head



Heart



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FOREWORD

BY EAST PRESIDENT

Until now you have not asked anything in my name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete. - John 16:24

We praise God for His amazing grace and faithfulness towards EAST in the last 30 years. Today, EAST remains steadfastly committed to His calling to equip and raise Christlike leaders for the Great Commission.

At EAST, we adopt a holistic approach to our training by focusing on the 4H's - the Heart, Head, Hands, and a dependence on the Holy Spirit. This pedagogical approach has helped EAST equip ministry practitioners with a servant leader's heart, who are effective on diverse mission frontiers. To date, out of the 484 who have graduated from EAST, we know of at least 461 alumni serving in 28 countries who are engaged in various areas of ministry.

In 2020 when EAST moved into our new location at 118 Joo Chiat Road, we were able to capitalize on the new facility to meet the needs from fields afar in Asia and beyond. When the Covid-19 pandemic caused a global disruption, EAST responded quickly by moving our classes online so that learning could continue. Looking forward, EAST hopes to establish new EAST Extension Centers (EECs) to help train local pastors in the region. EAST will soon embark on Competency-Based Theological Education (CBTE) to cater to the needs of seasoned ministry workers as well as Christians in the marketplace who desire a formal theological education while still serving actively in their respective fields.

We are grateful to the Lord for providing a faithful team of academic and administrative staff who have served sacrificially with EAST through the years. In addition, our journey of faith would not have been possible without the core of faithful friends and supporters who gave generously to our school.

All praise and thanks to our Almighty God for His enabling so that EAST can remain faithful and fruitful all these wonderful years. As we envision the future, let us set our eyes to trust the Lord for greater works in Christ and His supernatural fruit.

Rev Dr Chan Chong Hiok

President & Principal
East Asia School of Theology



OUR MISSION

*Developing Christlike Leaders for
the Great Commission*

OUR VISION

As part of the EAST Vision 2030,
EAST is trusting God for the following
faith goals:

1. To raise and equip **10,000** servant leaders through formal and non-formal training to help fulfill the Great Commission.
2. To establish **20** EAST Extension Centres and partnerships across Asia.
3. To have a fully-paid home for EAST as a Mission Hub to fulfill the EAST vision.

ACADEMIC

The student enrolment consists of programme students at the EAST campus in Singapore and three EAST Extension Centres (EECs) in Asia.

EAST's low student-teacher ratio fosters a conducive learning environment and facilitates community formation.

2022 STUDENT ENROLMENT

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY	18
DOCTOR OF EDUCATION	16
MASTER OF DIVINITY	9
MASTER OF ARTS	30
GRADUATE DIPLOMA	9
BACHELOR OF ARTS	5
PARTNERS IN MINISTRY	11
TOTAL:	98

FACULTY AND STAFF

25

RESIDENT FACULTY

10

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

8

MINISTRY STAFF

ALUMNI

Out of the **484** who have graduated from EAST, we know of **461** alumni who are actively serving in various ministries in **28** countries.

MALAYSIA	8	PHILIPPINES	6	NEW ZEALAND	1
MONGOLIA	14	BRUNEI	1	SPAIN	1
INDIA	6	MAURITIUS	1	SRI LANKA	2
JAPAN	7	THAILAND	7	UK	3
INDONESIA	14	AFRICA	2	EAST ASIA & CENTRAL ASIA	42
SINGAPORE	181	TAIWAN	3	GHANA	1
SOUTH KOREA	103	NIGERIA	1	AUSTRALIA	4
MYANMAR	12	CAMBODIA	4	CANADA	4
USA	22	PAKISTAN	6	GERMANY	1
TOTAL:					461



Dr Bill and Vonette Bright founded Campus Crusade for Christ (CCC) ministry on the UCLA campus and expanded the ministry throughout the United States of America.



EAST moved to Parish of Christ Church, 1 Dorset Road.



Principal – Dr Rick Langston (1998 to 2002)
EAST received accreditation from Asia Theological Association (ATA) for the Master of Divinity (MDiv) and Master of Arts (MA) programs.

2002

Principal – Dr Ho Chiao Ek (2002 to 2012)



EAST received accreditation from ATA for the Bachelor of Arts (BA) program.



2016

President/Principal – Rev Dr Chan Chong Hiok (to present)

Classes held at Grace SCC Church (until end-2020). Classes moved online during the Covid-19 pandemic.

EAST
30
Years
OF DEVELOPING
SERVANT LEADERS FOR
THE GREAT COMMISSION

To date, **484** students have graduated from EAST. We have **98 students** enrolled in our various programs, **25 full-time faculty members**, and **25 adjunct faculty** who teach at our main campus and our 3 EAST Extension Centres (EEC).

1951

1978

The CCC ministry established the International School of Theology (ISOT) in the US to provide CCC staff with theological training.

1993

1998

2005

2019

2022

1972

Singapore Campus Crusade for Christ (SCCC) was established, later renamed Cru Singapore in 2012.

1992

East Asia School of Theology (EAST) was established by Campus Crusade for Christ International (CCCI) at the SCCC Great Commission Training Centre, 15 South Buona Vista Road. EAST began with 6 students, 4 full-time faculty members, 1 certified librarian and only 1 classroom that doubled up as the office and library!

1981

International School of Theology-Asia (ISOT-Asia) was founded in the Philippines to provide theological development for Asians.



Founding President: Dr Victor Koh (1992 to 2000)



Director: Dr Harold Robers (1992 to 1993)

1997

Principal – Rev Dr Park Sung Min (1997 to 1998)
EAST began the accreditation process.



1994

Principal – Dr Rick Langston (1994 to 1996)
First Commencement ceremony for the inaugural cohort of graduates.



2001

Second President – Rev Jeong In Soo (2001 to 2011)



2004

EAST received accreditation from Association for Theological Education in Southeast Asia (ATESEA) for the Master of Divinity (MDiv) program.

2011

Third President – Rev Dr Chan Chong Hiok (2011 to present)



2012

Principal – Rev Dr Keith Shubert (2012 to 2016)

Classes began for the inaugural EAST Extension Centre (EEC) in East Asia. The first 13 students graduated from the EEC in 2016.



2018

Rev Jeong Insoo appointed EAST President Emeritus at EAST 24th Commencement Service.

Classes began for the inaugural Doctor of Ministry (DMin) program in partnership with Asia Graduate School of Theology Alliance (AGST Alliance).

EAST moved out of Dorset Road, to a temporary office at 110 Middle Road.

2020

EAST moved to 118 Joo Chiat Road.

Classes began for the inaugural Doctor of Education (EdD) program in partnership with AGST Alliance.



PREFACE

"I will remember the deeds of the Lord: yes, I will remember your wonders of old." - Psalm 77:11 (ESV)

The Bible tells us to remember who God is, what He has done and recount them to the generations.

In your hand is a collection of personal stories, reflections and interviews of our students, alumni, faculty members and ministry staff. We asked these ones to recall a memory they treasured of their time at EAST. Some shared about the lessons they have learned while others shared about people they have met. Some came to EAST by choice while others came by chance. Whatever the circumstances that brought them here, we are grateful to God for the opportunity to learn and discover God's plans together.

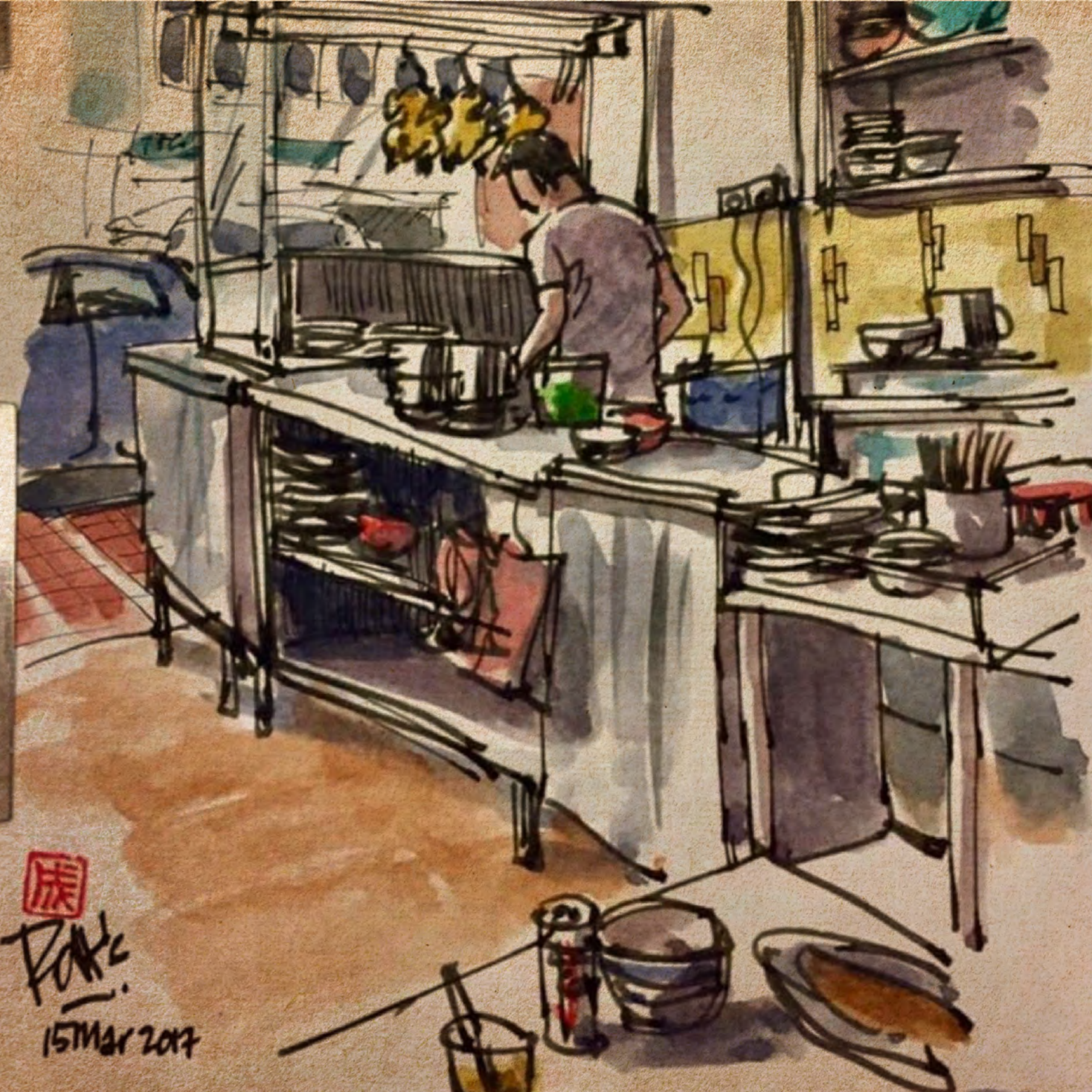
It is our hope that as you read each account, your heart will be warmly touched by the Lord, for He has indeed taken EAST from our small beginnings to the different places where our students and alumni are making an impact today. There are many more stories we wished we could tell, if not for the constraints in this book, and our prayer is that EAST will continue to write new stories in the years to come.

Special thanks to our alumnus Patrick Ng for contributing his beautiful artwork and Ms Wong Ee Yuing for allowing us to use the articles she had written for our alumni. Our appreciation also to Dr Lau Ying Kheng for sharing her trove of EAST photos and to Ms Woon Lee Tzu for her detailed proof-reading and editorial skills. The design and layout is the effort of the talented Ms Blessed Charity Ong.

May all glory and honor be unto our Lord Jesus Christ!

Agnes Kao & Eliza Yeh

Coordinators
EAST 30th Anniversary Celebration



15 Mar 2017

15 Mar 2017

LEWIS *Winkler*



My first memories as **EAST** *faculty*

When Barbara and I first arrived at EAST in 2006, we had a schoolwide retreat to the Boat Lagoon Resort in Malacca, Malaysia. We were told it would be about a 4-hour bus ride from Singapore. For our bus driver, however, it was a golden opportunity to take us all on a long detour to enjoy lunch at his relative's restaurant. It was there I was first introduced to cendol, something that looked to me like slimy green worms in a sticky white soup with kidney beans on top. Fortunately, it tasted much better than it first appeared!

After a nearly seven-hour journey, we finally arrived at the resort where we were repeatedly and enthusiastically told that we were "going to have a durian party" that night. This was something completely new. Durian? What's durian? One thing was clear; it sure was generating a lot of excitement! Little did I know that when the "king of fruits" was later brought to the table, the smell would just about knock me over. Still, when I got past the odor, and found the taste tolerable, I had decided it would not be something I would seek out in the future. It was just too smelly, strange, and exotic.

Most of all, Barbara and I loved getting to know the EAST students. This was why we came, to teach and train emerging and future leaders for the church in Asia! We never imagined this retreat was the beginning of more than 16 years of service here at EAST. It served as a great introduction to some of the joys and challenges of missionary life, confirming what a veteran missionary had told us: To be a successful missionary, you really only need two things; 1) A good sense of humor, and 2) a poor sense of smell.

Rev Dr Lewis Winkler, Resident Faculty at EAST since 2006. Dr Winkler teaches classes on Worldview, Ethics and Biblical Decision-Making, and is a professor in Systematic Theology. He and his wife, Barbara have three adult children and three grandchildren.

We went EAST and became wiser!

After the birth of Jesus, Matthew reported that the wise men came from the east and brought Him gifts. In our case, we went to EAST and received many gifts!

Aderonke and I graduated from EAST in May 2010. Our time at EAST remains a reference point in our lives. At EAST, we got a reorientation to the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. We experienced first-hand EAST's mission of "developing Christlike leaders for the Great Commission" and were greatly impacted by it.

Prior to EAST, our perception of the Christian life and ministry was coloured by our African culture and what we saw others in ministry did. But at EAST, we saw a different picture. We saw humility and servanthood in the faculty and the administration staff. We saw faculty members serving the students which was different from what we were taught and did in our home culture. That left an indelible mark in our minds.

After our graduation from EAST, we have been doing ministry differently and people around us testify to that. We have served in Kenya, Nigeria and now Canada, planting churches and doing discipleship. At one point, we had the responsibility of overseeing over a hundred churches and pastors. In all these places, we try our best to live out the EAST spirit of servant leadership and impart what we have learned to those we lead.

Some of the relationships we formed at EAST have also remained with us. For example, Dr. Chris Creech was my Faculty Mentor at EAST and still remains one, distance notwithstanding. Today, we have our mentoring session twice a month through Facetime. He continues to impact my life and ministry as he did when I was a student at EAST.

Life has not been the same for us since coming to EAST. We'll forever be grateful!

Tunji & Aderonke Olasunkanmi, graduated in 2010 with MDiv (Teaching & Exposition) and Partner-in-Ministry certificate respectively.



TUNJI
Olasunkanmi

MARK *Suredhran*



When God uses a Teacher

"You are more than a worship leader," said Dr Kwa Kiem Kiok, a faculty member at EAST. Subsequently, she gave me an opportunity to collaborate, create and co-teach a number of modules with her.

It was a pivotal moment of my development and ministry. For a long time I was only known and "used" as a worship leader, often called to lead songs at church, weddings, funerals and other events. Although I was happy and content to be using the musical talents that God has given me for His kingdom work, what Dr Kwa said that day really made me think if there was more that God would want to use in my life. Hence, I took the steps of faith to step up and teach, alongside Dr Kwa. As I did so, my teaching and facilitation skills grew and so did my passion to see my teaching impact lives.

Looking back, EAST has helped me become a better servant in His Kingdom. I am grateful to God for Dr Kwa, who saw my potential as a teacher. I am also thankful for the many opportunities to teach intercultural modules at EAST and in other local seminaries.

Mark Suredhran, graduated with MDiv (General Studies) in 2013. He has been on staff with Cru Singapore for 37 years and is currently the Team Leader of Crea, the creative arm of Cru Singapore.

YAMI Asai

Pass It On



I was introduced to the material "The Steps to Freedom in Christ" in the Spiritual Life Transformation class at EAST. One of the exercises from the workbook was to write down the names of the people whom we need to forgive. I did not realize I had such a long list. I knew I was struggling in secret and my teachers encouraged our class to let go of the unforgiveness through prayer. I also renounced my spiritual pride and felt so liberated after going through the seven steps to freedom. As I had encountered God's love and forgiveness, I prayed and asked God to give me opportunities to share my experience with friends, relatives, and disciples.

During the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, I could not go home during my school break. It was at that time that my best friend, Genny, contacted me to pray for her. I suggested we do a Bible study together through Zoom. She agreed and we went through "The Steps to Freedom in Christ." Through the material, Genny finally understood that we are saved because of God's mercy (Titus 3:5) and she need not fulfill expectations in order to please God.

Not long after that, God allowed me to share with a group of 7 women who were students at Trinity Bible College in Sengottai, Tamilnadu. As there was a nationwide lockdown in North India, these women could not return to their city, so they stayed at our home in Delhi since my younger sister was leading the mission trip. Hearing about their situation, I decided to pray with them and encourage them. I suggested we go through "The Steps to Freedom in Christ" workbook during our Bible study. Although these women have accepted Christ, they are still being influenced by our culture. As a result of our study, the women renounced many practices such as reading the Zodiac signs, palm reading, etc.

Then in 2021, I used the same material with my elder sister and brother-in-law via Zoom. In the session, my brother-in-law accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior. Through these experiences, I am convinced that God's Word sets us free from the bondages of sin (John 8:32).

Yami Asai Shimray, graduated with MDiv (Christian Ministry) in 2022. She is currently doing her doctoral studies in family ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Yami is passionate about discipling the next generation.

Changed from the Inside Out

In my time at EAST, I learned to grow inwardly in my relationship with God and outwardly in my relationship with people. It was a transformation from the inside out!

Before I came to EAST, I was serving with Malaysia CCC. The Lord used EAST to deepen my cross-cultural understanding and my perspective of God's work as I studied and lived with school mates from Taiwan, Pakistan, Hong Kong, USA, Indonesia, South Korea, Myanmar, India and Singapore. Almost weekly, the students would hang out after school for movies, to *makan* ('eat' in Malay), or to make Chinese dumplings (饺子) together. We also worked on extra-curricular projects, like refurbishing the Agape Room for students to relax and fellowship in school. I also enjoyed being invited to the homes of students with family, where I learned to eat and make kimchi and bulgogi from my Korean classmates.

This multicultural environment at EAST was a good preparation for my two cross-cultural internships to Kazakhstan and Pakistan. When I was in Kazakhstan, I met Sara, a German language teacher in my school, who spoke some English. One day Sara invited me over to her house for a meal. While Sara was busy in the kitchen, I looked at the pictures she had in her albums. Sara had shared about her failed marriage and how she found little meaning in her work. The more I thought of Sara living a life without a purpose, the more I felt compassion for her. With only a smattering of Russian, I shared with Sara about God's love for her and prayed that she would come to know God personally. After I got home and recalled my day with Theresa, my roommate, more tears flowed when we prayed together for Sara and her people. The next day when I met my supervisor, I was overwhelmed with emotions again when I shared about Sara. *Where did all the tears come from?* Then I decided to walk to school that day. In the 2-hour walk, I talked to God and interceded for Kazakhstan and the people, asking the Lord to show His love and mercy to this place. I realized it was Christ's love that compelled me and this awareness changed my heart from the inside, to love the nations as Jesus did.

Esther Tan, graduated with MDiv in 2002. She is currently EAST's Alumni coordinator. Her husband serves with World Evangelization for Christ (WEC) and they have two teenage children.

ESTHER
Tan



@GARDENS BY THERAM
FLOWER DOME...





GRACE *Wei*

*“I came to **EAST** to learn how to love”*

When God miraculously opened the way for me to come to EAST, He knew what I needed and did what was best for me. God used EAST like a chisel to chip away the old and bring out a new transformed life.

Lee Tzu, the first teacher I met in EAST, showed me unconditional love through her kind and gracious ways. She not only taught me English but also cared about my daily needs. She loved me, whether I was the top student or a mediocre one. With Lee Tzu, I did not need to work hard to prove that I was worthy of love. From her life, I learned to love others with God's love rather than my selfish love. In the past, whenever I was working and serving hard, I would be conscious about whether others were doing the same. I was constantly trying to measure up to others and indirectly, stressing others to measure up to my expectations. This unhealthy comparison brought tension to my relationships and it also burned me out. After I met Lee Tzu in my first semester at EAST, I experienced an acceptance I had never encountered before and God began to bring healing to my old patterns and wounded ways. I once asked God, why did you send me to EAST? The answer was: to learn how to love.

Another valuable thing I gained at EAST was the integration of biblical knowledge with the learners' diverse cultures. Under the lecturers' guidance and teaching, I learned to discuss theological issues with students from different backgrounds and that helped me gain fresh perspectives on the problem from my classmates' cultural context. This was a breakthrough in my thinking! Instead of passively accepting answers, I learned to understand the theological or ministry issues, by applying critical thinking and doing comprehensive research to come up with a conclusion.

Finally, I learned the importance of Christ-centered living from my lecturers' life. I saw their joy in serving God, their humility and their servanthood, which encouraged me to be like them, to live out the Christ-centered life boldly so that I can influence the next generation.

Grace Wei, graduated in 2020 with MA (Biblical Studies). She is currently serving in a creative-access country.

Scripture comes alive on the Holy Land Study Tour

In 2011, my husband Boon, my son Daniel and I joined EAST's first Holy Land study tour conducted by Drs Keith and Jeannette Shubert. Our group was made up of students, faculty and staff members, as well as friends from different churches. After attending the pre-trip classes by Dr Keith, we could not wait to step into the Holy Land.

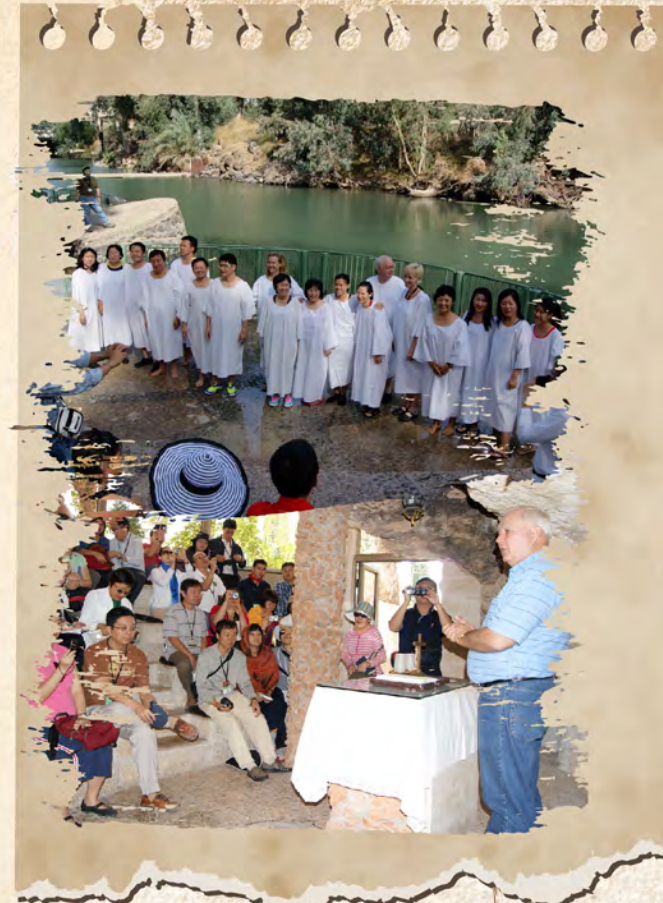
I was thrilled to stand on the hills and valleys which witnessed the many battles that were recorded in the Bible. We relived the experience of David's confrontation with Goliath at the Valley of Elah (1 Sam 21:9) by standing on the very place where it happened. Then we visited the Rock of Escape (1 Sam 23:28) where we felt David's desperation as he ran and hid from Saul who was trying to kill him.

Like all pilgrimages to Israel, we got baptised at the Jordan River where Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist. At the Jordan River, there was Psalms 23 inscribed on the wall in different languages, a reminder of the day of rejoicing with all tribes in heaven.

The climax of the trip for me was the Holy Communion. The Shuberts kept the trip interesting by involving different people at different locations. Dr Keith chose Boon and Daniel, a father and a son, to serve the Holy Communion. Dr Keith reminded us that Jesus knew that He had to follow His Father's will (Matthew 26:39). As Boon and Daniel served the Holy Communion that day, we thought of the Father and Son team, the love of the Father God and His Son Jesus who died for our sin.

The trip helped me recall the different locations, the landscape, the look, the feel and the smell of the various places. Reading the bible has never been the same for me since coming back. I strongly urge all Christians to visit the Holy Land at least once in your lifetime. The trip may have been 11 years ago, but it feels like yesterday that I walked the town of Jerusalem. Thankful for the memorable trip.

Koh Ai Tee has been a ministry staff at EAST for the last 16 years, serving in various roles and is currently helping with International student matters on the Advancement team.



Koh
AI TEE

EAST *Changed my Life's Trajectory*

I attended the first GoForth Missions Conference in 2002, and came upon a booth set up by EAST. To my great delight, I realised the school was located just behind my workplace! It couldn't get better than this, I thought. There were no more excuses not to study, so I started to take a few night classes after work and gradually used most of my leave days to attend day classes. Before I knew it, I was at a crossroad where I had to decide whether or not to go for the 2-month overseas internship as part of my program requirement. After praying about it, the answer was clear: I tendered my resignation from my job and spent the time completing the second half of the MA program.

At EAST, I took a 'World Missions' class under Dr Rick Langston that really made me "upset." I was disturbed by the statistics that showed the resources allocated for global missions, for a particular sub-group, was disproportionate to the resources for the home front. It was a gross misallocation of the resources of the global church.

Then I asked the Lord, "Why is this so?" He replied, "Then go, and add towards the other side." Upon graduation I went to the Middle East with my wife, Christy, and served as a principal of a refugee school. While we faced harsh living conditions, we were also challenged by the sheer number of refugees demanding our attention, and the ministry to believers who faced hardship and persecution. The environment and type of work was beyond what we had ever experienced in Singapore, yet the time spent in the Middle East was the most exciting season of our lives.

After Christy and I returned to Singapore, I completed a Masters in International Relations from the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies in National Technological University (NTU). There I met many foreign friends in my program who were open to coming to church with me. In fact, amongst them was a Vietnamese army captain who told me that it was his first time stepping into a church. During this time, we also experienced God's blessing of two miracle babies, Emmaus and Ekklesia. Indeed, how can we ever out-give God? Are we still counting small change with Him?

Currently, I am an associate lecturer at Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) – Global Education. I teach topics like war crimes, refugees, humanitarian intervention, identity politics, the arms industry, etc. I have received a lot of feedback from my students telling me how much the course has changed them. Many of my students continue to pursue related postgraduate studies or explore service in a humanitarian capacity. I am still in contact with many of my former students and some of them have also visited my church.

As for Christy, she has been serving as the National Director of Interserve (Singapore) which was our mission sending agency. Her job scope includes managing a local team, raising potential partners and partnership with sending churches.

Lim Nan, graduated with MA (Mission & Evangelism) in 2006.



YUTAKA *Gakiya*



Shy Person to Ordained Preacher

Yutaka Gakiya has grown from being someone shy and lacking in confidence to being able to deliver God's Word to a congregation of church members without fear. He attributed his growth and development to his time of equipping at EAST where he preached weekly as part of his field practicum. His Mentoring Group Leader (MGL) Rev Dr Lewis Winkler also encouraged him to hold on to the verse in 2 Timothy 1:7 – "for God did not give us a spirit of timidity." Whenever he is concerned about whether he can preach well, he will remember the training he had at EAST, and meditate on the verse which Dr Lewis gave him.

Yutaka is also grateful for "Logos", the biblical resource which EAST equipped every student with. He still uses Logos in his sermon preparation, to look up the meaning of Bible passages in the original languages. However, when Yutaka recounts the learning of the Biblical languages, Greek and Hebrew, he remembered it was a struggle. "I could go through the difficulty because of the help from classmates and lecturers. We asked questions and learned together," he recalled. "It was tough but I also enjoyed it."

Another aspect of EAST he enjoyed was the Mentoring Group (MG). Ministering together as an MG was a highlight of his time at EAST. Yutaka remembered his MG went to Myanmar for the MG Ministry Weekend and taught 30 students at a Bible Training School near Yangon.

Yutaka, who graduated in 2021, is now serving in his home church, Sakai Evangelical Church in Osaka, Japan. He was ordained as a Pastor in October 2021. It was a significant milestone for Yutaka as the ordination denotes the official start of his duties and responsibilities as a minister of God's Word. It was also a proud moment for his father, Rev Akira Gakiya, who is the Senior Pastor of the church, to witness Yutaka following in his footsteps.

This article by Wong Ee Yuing was first published on EAST website www.east.edu.sg on 30 January 2022 and is reprinted with permission.

1001 Turabian Nights

(A tale not from the Middle East, but the middle of EAST...)

Once upon a time
almost three years to be exact
a young man enters a Bible School
not quite sure of what to expect.

Attracted by the warmth and bond
of lecturer and student
eager to explore God's Word
he trusts his choice is prudent.

He does not search for knowledge dry
or mere intellectual prowess
he's glad to find in each one there
a love for God and nothing less.

Then suddenly, he hits a snag
a cruel snare – *Turabian
a harsh and unyielding burden, he feels
for the already heavy-laden.

He presses on, slow but sure
one footnote to another
through comma, period, indent,
thinking, "this is really such a bother."

The days wear on, the nights are long
Greek parsing, vocab, exegesis
his only consolation being
he need not write a thesis.

Context is king, one teacher drills
as through the Testaments they sail.
The -ologies come one by one
what will become of this man's tale?

Choo LENG JAN

Assignments pile up, deadlines loom
at times he begins to wonder
if he can make it through this course
did he perhaps make a blunder?

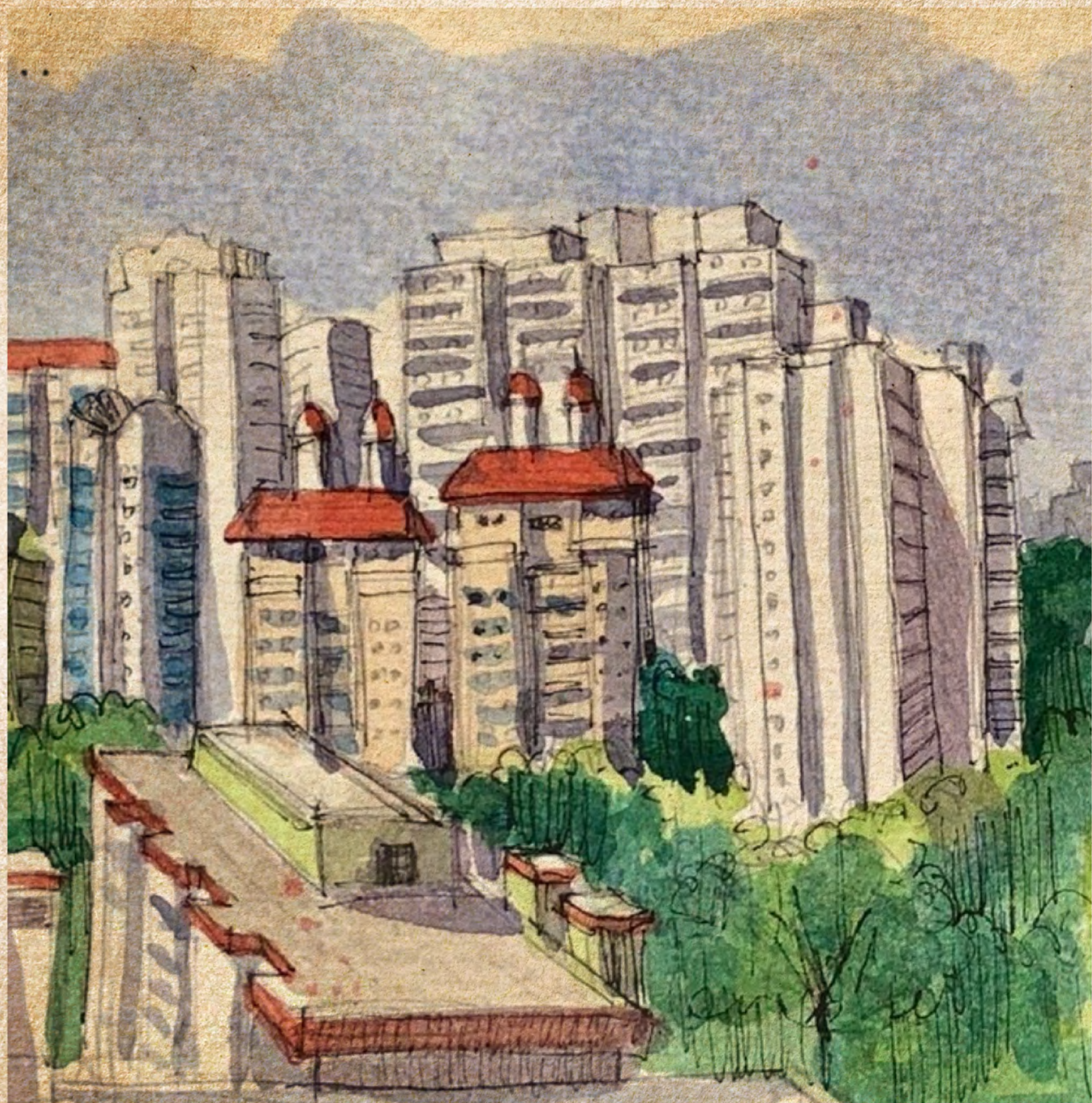
But here and there, he feels God work
through prayer, and warm friendship
a reassurance that, through it all
by God's grace he will not slip.

Through brothers and sisters from around the world
he learns about Christlikeness
and sees what God's Word really means
by 'go forth and be a witness'.

Three years fly by, and the young man knows
despite sleepless nights, at the very least
he will look back upon his time
and fondly miss his days at EAST.

Choo Leng Jan, graduated with MDiv (Missions & Evangelism) in 2006. He is the assistant pastor of Yio Chu Kang Chapel.

***Editor's note: The Turabian style, is a referencing and source citation system based on Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Paper, Theses, and Dissertations*.**



JESSIE *Suciati*



EAST, a Family-Oriented Seminary!

Alumna Jessie Suciati recently relocated back to Singapore with her three children, daughter Shannah (14), and twin boys Reuel (10) which means "friend of God" in Hebrew, and Leeron (10) which means "my song", after being away in Jakarta for the past four years. Her husband Gene Tan serves as a Colonel in the Singapore Armed Forces and since their early days of marriage, they have moved from place to place due to Gene's different military assignments.

Jessie started her journey with EAST back in 2006 when she was still a Cru Singapore staff, serving in the Human Resource department. She had signed up for the Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (MABS) program as a part-time student. When her first child Shannah was born in 2008, she had to juggle between caring for a newborn and the demands of graduate studies. According to her, "EAST is a very family-oriented seminary! I could not have completed my program without all the support." Her husband was also very supportive in her roles as a mother and student.

She recalled with gratitude the baby-sitting help provided by EAST lecturers, Dr Mah Yeow Beng and Dr Roland Tan, while she sat for exams. Other lecturers like Dr Keith Shubert and Dr Lewis Winkler graciously allowed her to bring baby Shannah to class as she had no other available caregivers at that time. It was EAST's family-oriented environment that enabled her to complete her MABS degree in 2011.

When her husband's assignment took their family to Jakarta, she took the opportunity to volunteer at the ACS International School there. She was able to start a ministry to teenagers with a core group of mums and dads. Besides their ministry to teenagers, these parents also cared for and reached out to the younger children, who are often the younger siblings of the teenagers. Jessie was also actively involved in an outreach to mothers where she conducts workshops and seminars over Zoom. Now that her family is back in Singapore, Jessie also preaches at her home church, the Church of Malaya, whenever she is given the opportunity.

This article by Wong Ee Yuing was first published on EAST website www.east.edu.sg on 18 March 2022 and is reprinted with permission.



PATRICK
Ng

From **ADD to VP**

A few months prior to entering EAST in 2010, alumnus Patrick Ng's beloved mother passed away. Then while adjusting to seminary studies, Pat who was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), also had to juggle his home renovation with caring for his two school-going children, Kyrie and Ryan. The overwhelming load of responsibilities led to a season of depression.

Thankfully, Pat had a very supportive wife Jacqueline who journeyed with him. The opportunity to join a sketch walk introduced by his care group mates ultimately led him on a healing journey which involved the Urban Sketchers Singapore (USKSG). Pat discovered that when he was sketching, he was not easily distracted and he could focus on doing what he loved for a few hours at a stretch.

The teachers at EAST accommodated Pat's learning challenges and allowed him to supplement his written papers with his artwork. As doodling also helped Pat focus on the lectures better, EAST teachers would allow Pat to sketch during class time.

Over the last decade that Pat has been involved with the Urban Sketchers community, he has helped to organise symposiums in Singapore, managed conflicts as a Membership Director, and brought the sketching community together by organising online meetings during the Covid-19 pandemic. Recently, Pat was invited to apply for and was eventually elected to the position of Vice President for the Executive Board of Urban Sketchers (Global).

Pat sketches the urban scenes as well as life moments, such as his trip to the dentist with his son. Pat also sketches faith moments like the time when God ministered to him through the presence of a rainbow. When Pat uploads and shares his sketches on his social media, his social media followers would eventually come to know him as an urban sketcher who is a Christian family man.

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Here are some of Pat's artwork, each with a story to tell.



Lau YING KHENG



Simplicity and purity of devotion

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul prayed that they would not “be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ” (2 Cor 11:3-4 NASV). This verse warmed my heart the first time I read it. What does this marvellous love look like? I had wondered.

Then I met our student Shirley Zhang, a Shenyang native, in 2009. She was the first person who modelled simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

Firstly, it is a hungry love for God.

When I shared in class about leading people to the Lord, she asked me after everyone had left, “Can you show me how to share the gospel on campus?” When I told our mentoring group how I had prayed for years for my dad’s salvation, she said, “Please teach me to pray.”

It is a love that says, “Lord, no matter what I obey you.”

Towards the end of her first year, I asked if she was going home for a break. She shocked me with her response, “I can’t; I ran away from home when I came.” The story was when she told her parents about coming to prepare for full-time ministry, they were furious and locked her up in her room for days.

“One day I asked Mum to go out for a haircut,” continued Shirley. “Thankfully, she agreed but sent my brother Yan along. Halfway, I slipped out through the back door, and took the next flight to Singapore.”

That summer, my husband and I flew with Shirley to her city. She was afraid, but went out of simple and pure love for Jesus. Her parents were too shy to meet us but sent Yan instead to eat with us. In 2017, Shirley baptized Yan upon the confession of his faith; she led her father to Christ on his deathbed two years ago.

Over the last ten years, I had visited Shirley in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, several times where she taught in a Bible school, and now ministers among Khmer Chinese. She, too, came for visits. Each time, she would ask me, “Can you teach me something?”

I am still learning from this student.



One day, Baatarsuren (or Baatar) told a story in class about nomads in his country of Mongolia.

"If you are traveling in the desert and need to stop for rest or food," he said, to everyone's rapt attention, "you could stop at any ger (nomad's tent) and they would welcome you. In the past, when people rode on horses, they would also care for your horses.

"And when it's time to move on, they fill your back packs with food and water even though they did not have a lot. And if the horses are not ready to go, they lend you theirs."

Baatar's stop at EAST was a necessary pause along a difficult journey. By the time he arrived in 2013, his hands were travel-weary from ten years of campus ministry; his heart was reeling from the recent death of his four-year-old son.

From this multi-talented student, I saw that "simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ" is a commitment to God that refuses to give up. There may be a loss of momentum and temporary slowdown, but like the desert traveler, he trusted completely in his hosts' hospitality while he waited.

Among these men and women of peace were his church's (Bethesda Bedok-Tampines Church) worship team – where he did his field practicum; and a field supervisor, Mrs Jessie Tan, who loved and prayed for him.

I also saw that a simple and pure love for God is one that gives us courage. Not courage that is free from pain, but courage that frees one to face pain with honesty and hope.

Today Baatar and his wife, Zula, and teenage son Okto travel widely to bring the gospel to the remotest areas of his country. The last I heard, he and Zula conduct training – from Bible Study methods to evangelism and leadership -- regularly for 20 churches in cities and the countryside, among tech-savvy city dwellers and desert nomads.

His backpacks are full and his horses ready.

Dr Lau Ying Kheng, Resident Faculty at EAST since 2006. Dr Ying Kheng teaches Research Writing as well as classes on Soul Care and Spiritual Formation. She is EAST's Field Practicum Director.

Lim **AIK GHEE**

Chicken is Duck



Seminary studies at East Asia School of Theology (EAST) came with real life cross-cultural experience. In addition to fellow Singaporeans, my schoolmates came from Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, South Korea, the Philippines and other countries. Friendships were forged as we studied and worked on projects together.

I was fascinated with cultures and foreign languages. At EAST with so many students from different nationalities studying together, we were definitely in for a fun time of "crossing-cultures."

One day, I was amused to learn from my Korean classmate that in the Korean language 'chicken' is 'dalg' (pronounced like 'duck'). So, just for the fun of it, whenever we passed by a chicken rice stall, I would point and say, "Is that chicken or dalg (duck)?" knowing well that both will be correct.

During our overseas ministry weekend, while resting between activities, I sat with my Korean team mate at a quiet corner, and I decided to learn how to say "duck" in Korean. I consulted him in this way, "I know that 'Chicken' is 'Dalg' but please tell me what 'Duck' is."

He responded flatly, "Dalg is chicken."

I replied, "I know that. But I want to know what 'duck' is."

"Chicken is dalg and dalg is chicken," he said, slightly annoyed.

I was getting upset too. "Yes, I already know that. But what IS 'duck'?"

Our conversation in the quiet corner was getting loud. "I told you, chicken is dalg and dalg is chicken."

"Yes yes, but I want to know what IS 'duck'!" Soon, it became a shouting match.

I am glad we became the entertainment for our ministry weekend, in an otherwise quiet afternoon. Never a dull moment learning at EAST.

Servant Leaders

An important aspect and a distinctive feature of studying at East Asia School of Theology (EAST) was being a part of a peer Mentoring Group (MG) led by faculty members. One memorable aspect was the way roles and responsibilities were distributed in my MG.

Normally in a work team, when plans were laid out and jobs had to be distributed, in typical Singaporean fashion, people's first reaction is to duck when the "arrows" are flying (i.e. dodge to avoid being 'hit' or 'targeted' with work). I saw a different response from my MG leader.

I remember the first time my Mentoring Group faculty leader talked about the week our group was rostered for cleaning and clearing the waste bins in school, he surprised me when he said, "And I will take Monday and Thursday."

There were eight men in our group and only five days of school that week! After we heard our leader's reply, everyone else started volunteering, "grabbing" their days to serve.

What a beautiful lesson on servanthood for me. I saw and experienced this spirit of servanthood as the student leader for the ministry weekend. Each member of our MG "grabbed" at the various roles to make the project work.

This servant leadership that was exemplified by my MG leaders, was caught on by the MG members, and hopefully we will pass this valuable trait on to those we serve.

Lim Aik Ghee, graduated with MDiv (Teaching and Exposition) in 2017. After graduation, Aik Ghee served a term as Chaplain for Alumni Matters at EAST. He currently pioneers a ministry among faculty members in Singapore's universities.

LINCOLN *Wee*



Becoming a Worker Approved by God

I came to EAST in 2007 primarily because of 2 Timothy 2:15, to ensure that I would handle the Word of God accurately. Yet, the biggest impact that EAST had on me was not so much the learned experience (i.e. attending structured learning programmes and learning from books) but the *lived* experience, which refers to the reflections and lessons derived from decisions and experiences lived through, both for self and from others.

In my first month at EAST, a classmate from Korea had shared with me that the most meaningful experience he had was to travel back to East Asia, where he was a missionary, to witness the launch and opening of a new church planted by his disciple's disciple. This classmate was really young, yet his ministry had already multiplied significantly. He shared that seeing the fruit of his labor affirmed the decision he made to enter full-time ministry right after graduating from the university. His lived experience changed my view of what my own dreams and hopes should be, and caused me to want to disciple and multiply for God. It also caused me to desire to know my other classmates better, to journey with others in the struggles and hardships we face.

As I recall my most memorable time with my classmates, it was really in the fellowship and food moments. We had a wonderful classmate from India who was a housemate with the cashier from Gandhi Restaurant, which was near EAST at that time, and also a favourite location for the school's cross-cultural activities. This classmate would often be sent to Gandhi and he would return with bags and bags of food, generous servings of meat, vegetables and mountains of rice. We would sit on the floor in the common room, stuff our faces, talk and share. I don't remember all the stories, except the dreams we shared of what we would want to do for God when we graduated. Twelve years later, by God's grace, we have all been granted our dreams and it has been an incredible journey for us, the curry guys.

As EAST celebrates her 30th year, may the school through generations of teachers and students continue to live for the glory of our amazing God.

Lincoln Wee, graduated with MA (Intercultural Studies) in 2010. He and his family served in Kyoto, Japan from 2011-2017, planting faith communities and were involved in community-based projects with young families, children and students.



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