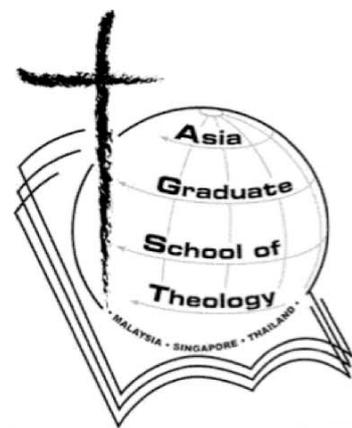


AGST-MST Update

For informed
prayer

www.agst-mst.org

September
2008



"It is remarkable to think that God has given us a partnership with him in directing the course of human events. It is extraordinary to realize that our prayer can change events and circumstances in the world around us."
(John Guest, Only a Prayer Away)

A growing entity ...

The governing body of AGST-MST is the Management Committee, comprising a representative of each of the institutions in the consortium. This year the annual meeting of the ManCom was hosted by Bangkok Bible Seminary (BBS).



We had a most worthwhile meeting, with the delightful bonus of attending the annual BBS graduation dinner.

Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (MEGST) was welcomed into the AGST-MST consortium. This brings the number of full member institutions to seven. Phnom Penh Bible School joined as an associate member.

► Encouragements were reported at the annual meeting. Join us in thanking God for the developments in AGST-MST since we commenced in mid-2004.

... needing a name!

A challenge ahead is to decide on a name which reflects our membership, spanning five countries – it is proving difficult to get unanimity among our stakeholders.

First AGST-MST graduates

Awards have been made to the first graduates from AGST-MST programs – although not quite what the four students had originally planned to receive. For completing the modules of the MTh(Education) program but not fulfilling other requirements, four participants have been awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Education.

► Pray for four participants in the 2004 cohort of the MTh(Ed) program who are working hard to complete their thesis research and writing in the next few months. Pray they will finish well, as they juggle their home and ministry responsibilities with their study.

Please email admin@agst-mst.org to request to receive this quarterly AGST-MST update regularly. We will appreciate your partnership!

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MTh (Theology) commences...

The first module of the AGST-MST MTh (Theology) commenced in August, with nine participants. The on-campus week-long intensive course at MBTS in Penang (Malaysia) was on the theology of prayer and spirituality, facilitated by Dr Glen Scorgie. There was time for relaxation and informal interaction – with durian, naturally!



The next module is in mid-November, also at MBTS: *Theology and pastoral care*, facilitated by Dr Sunny Tan.

... and the MTh(Education) continues

The seven participants from four countries are commencing their 6th (and final) module on educational leadership (with Dr Pieter Theron), with an 8-day on-campus time in mid-November in Bangkok.

► *The MTh(Ed) students are also trying to complete their practicum requirements this year. Pray for good interaction between them and their mentor-coaches.*

► *Pray for discipline for students in all AGST-MST's programs, to be able to complete assignments and adequately prepare for their modules.*

AGST-MST registered...

We are delighted that we now have a legal identity, with the registration of *AGST Alliance Sdn Bhd* (= 'Company Limited') as a company in Malaysia in July.

... and bank accounts opened

We have been grateful for the use of a third party bank account up until now. Company registration has enabled us to open our own bank accounts in Malaysia and Singapore. This is also a most welcome development, as it greatly facilitates our financial management.

► *We thank God for a competent company secretary who has guided us carefully through the company registration process.*

► *Pray for us as we set up an administrative/financial management structure which will best fulfil our legal requirements and serve our ministry needs.*

First PhD dissertation with examiners

Our first AGST-MST doctoral dissertation (in education) has been submitted, and is now with international examiners. Rosalind Tan is anxiously awaiting the outcome. Meanwhile, we need to decide on the style and colour of the AGST-MST academic regalia – gowns, hoods and headgear. An interesting challenge.

► *Pray for focus for the five other AGST-MST PhD(Ed) candidates and one PhD(Theology) candidate, l at different stages of their research process.*

People power

AGST-MST is a small venture in theological education, but has special dynamics because of its regional coverage. Thus we appreciate the assistance of willing people to assist us in our development – like Michelle (updating our centralised database) and Soo San and Sarah (helping with our financial management).

► *Thank God for these people – and also the members of the AGST-MST ManCom, busy with commitments in their own theological colleges as well as AGST-MST.*

We are praying for two specific personnel needs:

1. **An accountant** with IT experience, to help us design and implement our financial systems.
2. **A website developer**, who can work with us on upgrading our AGST-MST website, especially with an interactive student space.

If you know anyone we may be able to speak to about these, please contact Dr Allan Harkness (dean@agst-mst.org; tel. 65-6778-5141.)

Money matters

Student fees cover basic course expenses, and the gifts of friends cover AGST-MST's wider administrative expenses. A major area of expense: AGST-MST expresses its partnership with OMF International for the secondment of our Dean, Dr Allan Harkness, by seeking to cover the rental cost of Dr Harkness' apartment in Singapore. A major rental increase means we are praying for an extra \$500 per month in gift income to cover this.

► *Join us in thanking God for his provision of AGST-MST's financial needs to date, and trusting him for our financial needs ahead.*

For donors:

- AGST-MST bank account details for direct credit are available from admin@agst-mst.org.
- Please make the payee on RM/SG\$/US\$ cheques: 'AGST Alliance Sdn Bhd'.
- Payee on Baht cheques: 'Bangkok Bible Seminary'.
- AGST-MST postal address: VBox 886642, Singapore 919191.