



## Attuned

AN E-NEWSLETTER OF THE AGST ALLIANCE FOR INFORMED PRAYER AND ACTION

### Finishing *what you start*

I stare at my guitar woefully. Having being mesmerized by fingerstyle guitar music lately, I started out in 2016 determined to learn two new fingerstyle guitar pieces. I ended the year with very little accomplished. Starting something new -



a carpentry, remodeling or craft project, a new degree, a new exercise routine, reading a new book - inevitably delivers a rush to our brains. We feel energized. Sadly, more often than not, this rush dissipates and most of us struggle to finish the project that we had started. We tell ourselves stories as to why we are unable to carry through, why we don't get beyond the first chapter of the new book, and why we don't have enough time.

Interestingly, the writer of Ecclesiastes wisely muses, "Better is the end of a thing than its beginning, and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit." (Eccles 7:8) There is much to be said about the journey of completing what we start, as it is in this inner discipline of perseverance that we mature in patience and understanding. But we know that it is easier said than done.

I remember those dark days when I was wandering in the maze of writing a PhD dissertation, overwhelmed by the enormity of the task. A good friend pointed out the wisdom of breaking this task into little steps, and to write consistently even if I did not feel like it. And so I did. In my imperfect way, I worked to complete one little step at a time, and even rewarded myself with a nice little treat after one small accomplishment.

Perhaps my only resolution this year should be to finish the projects I started.

Which means it's down to mastering one musical phrase at a time on my guitar!

And so, here's wishing everyone a "Happy New Year!"

*May God's strength go with you as we set out to complete the projects and tasks He has given us. And may your year be filled with immeasurable blessings and joy!*

## Celebrating Dr. Lau Ying Kheng's Achievement



In November 2016, students, colleagues, family and friends gathered during the chapel service at East Asia School of Theology (EAST) in Singapore, to recognize and endorse Dr. Lau Ying Kheng's achievement for completing her EdD(Education) successfully. As I reflect on AGST Alliance's mission statement: "to prepare scholars and leaders for the church in society in Asia", I can say that Ying Kheng well exemplifies the type of "scholar and leader" that we aspire for. Let me highlight three qualities:

1. **Her love for God expressed in committed service:** Ying Kheng has served as a full time missionary since 1976 with Operation Mobilization in Africa and India. She later joined Campus Crusade and lived in Korea, the Philippines and Hong Kong as a missionary, with her husband Roland.
2. **Her perseverance and persistence.** The Doctor of Education journey is not an easy one. Ying Kheng started in April 2012 and had to complete six modules, a critical engagement project and a dissertation. She stayed the course to finish in June 2016.
3. **A life-long learner.** Ying Kheng's heart is to encourage, "Singapore seminary students to use reflexivity in their ministry practice." Her dissertation explores this further as she explains:

"I wanted to find out how to teach reflexivity to seminary students so that they will always connect with their audience, and be life-long learners themselves. Reflexivity is to reflect on-the-go, to think on my feet while I am teaching or ministering; to be able to challenge old - and perhaps even proven - assumptions as soon as I sense that my method or approach or content is not connecting; and then to have the courage to make immediate changes right there and then. Very key to the reflexivity posture is the assumption that my audience has something valuable to contribute to the lesson."

When asked about one thing that she has learned in this program, she shares: "I learned that education is not about writing a syllabus, or designing programs, or getting people to learn the way I want them to. It is about changing minds, and finding new ways to change their minds if my methods are not suitable. I saw this through the articles and resources I was forced to read during the program; and also in some of my teachers like Dr. Allan Harkness."

*Congratulations Dr. Lau Ying Kheng!*

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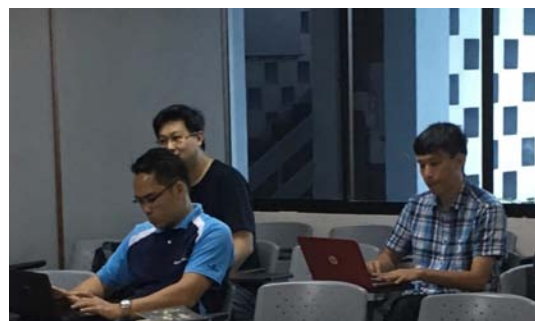
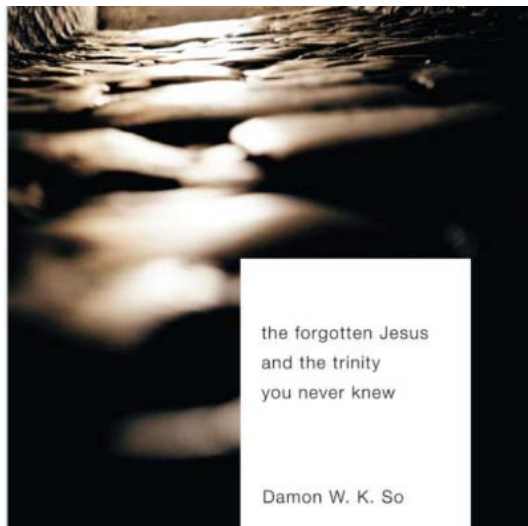
AROUND OUR PROGRAMS

# MTh4-2: Trinitarian Christology

Dr. Damon So

Research Tutor, Oxford Center for Mission Studies

On-campus: 5–9 December 2016.

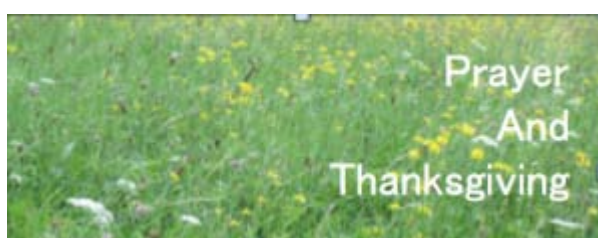




## COMING MODULES

	DMin	MTH(Theo)	EdD(C&FD)
2016-2017	MTH 4-2 <i>Trinitarian Christology</i> Damon So Nov 2016-January 2017 (on campus: Dec 4-9)		CFD1.7 Justice for Child and Family Development Dec 2016 – Mar 2017 <b>(on campus Jan 9-13, 2017)</b>
2017	DML1-4 <i>Approaches and Practices for Ministry-based Research</i> February-June 2017 Tan Sooi Ling/Brainerd Prince <b>(on campus: 18-23 May)</b>	MTH4-3 <i>Theology &amp; Research</i> (Brainerd Prince) February-May 2017 <b>(on campus: 18-23 May)</b>	CFD2.1 <i>Approaches and Practices for Family Based Research</i> April- July 2017 Rosalind Lim-Tan/Brainerd Prince <b>(on campus 18-23 May)</b>
	DML1-5 <i>Pastoral Care: Issues and Challenges</i> Tony Lim Aug-November 2017 <b>(on campus: 5-10 October)</b>	MTH4-4 <i>Theology &amp; Hermeneutics</i> (Vincent Ooi) July –Sep 2017 <b>(on campus: 14-18 August)</b>	CFD2.2 <i>Pastoral Care for Family Wellness</i> Aug - Nov 2017 <b>(on campus: 5-10 October)</b>
		MTH4-5 <i>Historical Theology</i> (Tan Seng Kong & Lai Pak) Oct –Dec 2017 <b>(on campus: 27 Nov – 1 Dec, 2017)</b>	CFD2.3 <i>Relational Ethics and Human Development</i> Dec '17 – March '18 <b>(on campus late Jan 2018)</b>

## PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING POINTS



We are grateful for:

1. A year where God's grace has been evident, and His provisions real.
2. Our graduates: Lau Ying Kheng (EdD) and Wong Siew Cheong, MTh(Edu).
3. Ogle Trust for their continued financial provision enabling our students and faculty to access EBSCO.
4. Brash Trust Fund who has provided scholarships for some of our students.

Please continue to pray for:

1. Students who are working on various stages of their thesis/dissertation writing.
2. Willing supervisors who will help guide these students.
3. The facilitators and the facilitation of upcoming modules in 2017.
4. The resuming of the Education and Biblical Studies programs.

APPLY

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Typical of Asian theological institutions, student fees contribute only a proportion of the total operating cost of AGST Alliance. Further finance is needed for administrative and staff support, program development and to build up our research resource capacity. Financial support is welcome, whether as regular or occasional gifts.

- AGST Alliance bank account details for direct credit and telegraphic transfers are available from [admin@agstalliance.org](mailto:admin@agstalliance.org), or on our website (click [Support us – Financial Support – How to give financial support](#)).
- Please make MYR/SGD/USD cheques payable to 'AGST Alliance Sdn Bhd'; and Thai Baht cheques payable to 'Bangkok Bible Seminary'.

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Since 2004, AGST Alliance has been offering quality post-graduate programs for church leaders and seminary or Bible college faculty in mainland South East Asia, to equip them for more effective Christian ministry and mission. See <http://www.agstalliance.org> for more information.

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