



Attuned

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

INTO the DEEP

As a child, one day I unwittingly stepped into the deep waters of the sea during a family excursion. The result was almost disastrous but obviously I survived. I will never forget the sense of rising panic, being out of depth, out of control, and out of air. And yet within this strange timelessness in deep waters, there was a peculiar quiet as all other voices fade. The deep holds mixed and differing associations for each of us: fear, terror, danger, mystery, wonder, the undiscovered, and the new.

Put out into deep water: In Luke 5: 1-11, Jesus invites Simon and his fishing partners to depart beyond the shores, to go to the deep waters, to let down their nets and to experience the miraculous gift of an overflowing catch. This encounter was so transforming that thereafter Simon, James and John left everything and followed Jesus. Perhaps this is Jesus' invitation to us as our hearts constantly long, thirst and are restless for "the more" in God. For example, in our research journey, we are drilled to first master the "masters" in our field of interest. We scour all related literature, wrestle with and digest the wisdom and insights of these masters. We also do due diligence with our field research and now have a skillful grasp of the resources on the shores and in the shallows. So, what is next? There must be more. Let me suggest that "the next" lies in a realm away (metaphorically) from the safety of the shores and into a risky but rich deep-water experience with God. Two insights inform us here.

Against natural rhythms: In this passage, the fishermen were already winding down for the day. After a not-so-successful night of fishing where they caught nothing, they were cleaning their nets and getting ready to head home for a good meal. It is against this natural rhythm and natural reasoning that Jesus issues the invitation to put out into the deep water, the very place that reminded them of the day's fruitless fishing endeavor. Yet, the promise of discovery at Jesus' invitation was too tantalizing to disobey.

To stay: The disciples also stayed with Jesus long enough to capture not only the full implications of Jesus' call and plans, but to metabolize this into life transforming action. Following this, Peter, Simon and John "got it" and left everything to be disciples of Jesus. Similarly, we are reminded that all creative and deep work needs patience, protection and loving attention in order to bear fruit. It requires us to stay for long uninterrupted periods of time, sometimes letting go of sight of land. It lodges us in an immersive encounter with the Infinite God, the Grandmaster of all knowledge and wisdom. As we converse with, wrestle with and seek God, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of revelation peels the blinders and enlightens the eyes of our hearts. We are drawn into the "aha" moment.

This may be a season where God is inviting you to the deep. It may be unsettling and against your natural rhythms. But as we accept the invitation and stay, what ensues is something fresh, original and life transforming.

Dr Tan Sooi Ling
Dean, AGST Alliance

AROUND OUR PROGRAMS

Society and Public Theology

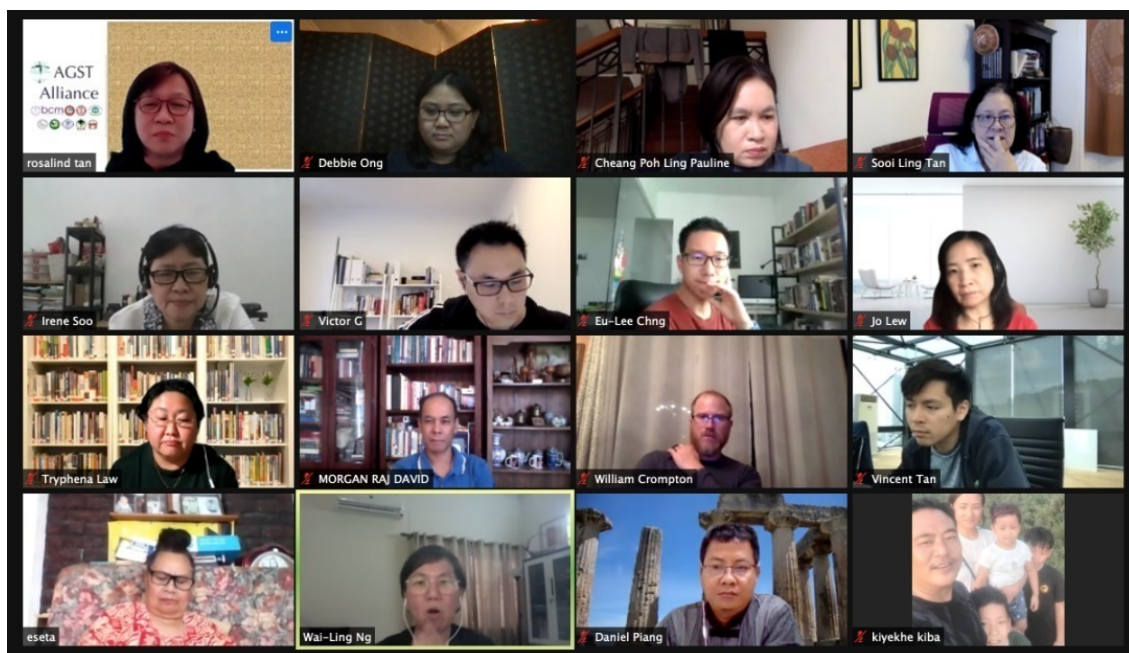


"I truly enjoyed this module with Dr Peter Rowan. The module is distinctively relevant as it enlarged my perspective over doctrine, church and society. It explored the territories which the church normally consider sensitive such as the issues of racism, racial reconciliation, corruption, poverty, and suffering. I'm especially intrigued by being enlightened with subjects such as lamentations and the theology of disability. The module also helped us to look at 'mission' from a fresh angle. This module is not only missional, it's prophetic!"

Samuel Low, MTh program

"Good introduction to the concepts of Public Theology which I knew nothing about. There was sufficient depth and breadth of reading material and lecturing input for the number of sessions. The fact that the lecturer had written a book on the matter concerning Malaysia was a great help to see how this worked in a local context. I still stand by my opinion that this be a core module for DMin as Public Theology is all about ministry!" **Lawrence Teoh, DMin program**

Curriculum Design for Faith Education



"This module is both relevant to my ministry context and theologically based. I enjoyed working on the participatory action research project; an avenue for me to apply what I learned in class with much reflexivity and reflectivity."

Josephine Lew , EdD program

"The module was indeed an eye-opener. It is a practical subject for those involved in church ministries to have a sound understanding of the underlying principles in designing, developing and implementing faith-based programs."

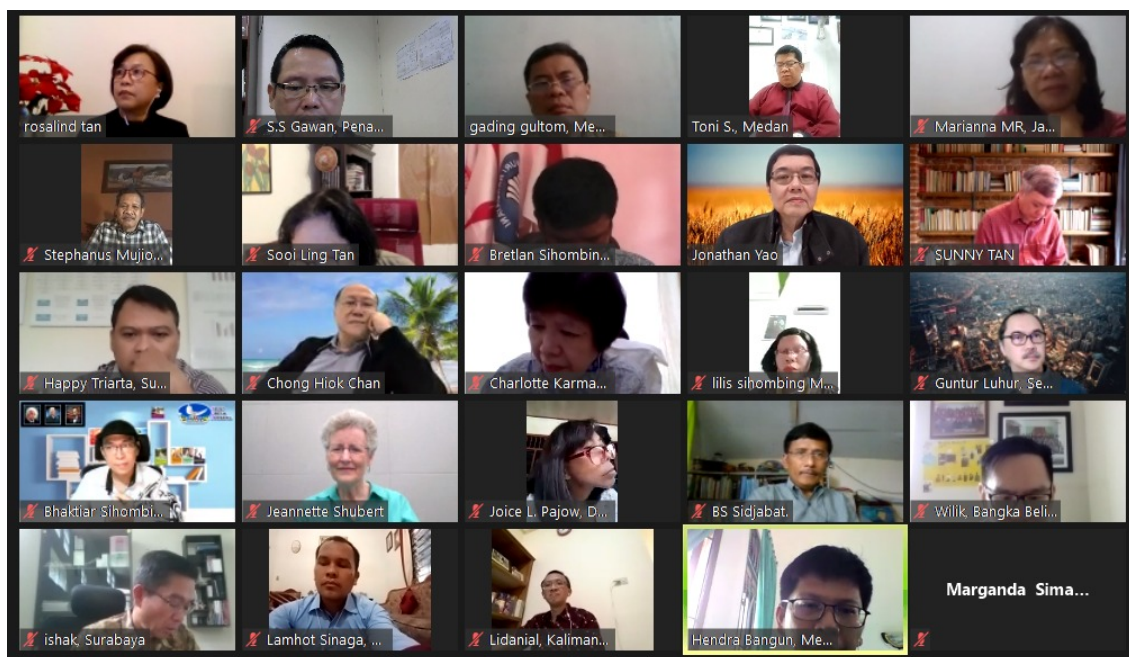
Morgan Raj David, DMin program

"The learning was applicable to my work and inspired me to reflect and restructure my personal ministry's curriculum. I was reminded not to be fearful of the truth and be willing to accept change." **Tryphena Law, DMin program**

AGST Alliance - EAST EDD Indonesian Program



AGST ALLIANCE



EAST's partnership with AGST Alliance in offering a doctorate in education programs to Indonesian mature students who are leaders and faculty of Christian educational institutions has been a special blessing even through the initial modules offered. The partnership allows the two institutions to complement each other's strengths in the Asian context. AGST's holistic formation in advanced education is coupled with EAST's mentored approach in developing transformative servant leaders. Pastor Hendra Bangun, the President of Bethsaida Evangelical School of Theology, Medan, who initiated the request for such a doctorate program in Indonesia, is grateful for the quality equipping of his seminary faculty who are in the program even at this early stage of the studies.



The Indonesian EdD program cohort is in their second module entitled “*Teori Pendidikan dan Desain Instruksional*.” As part of their assignment, the students collaborated to research and analyze the educational theories of several historical figures like John Calvin, Ignatius of Loyola, Montessori, and KiHadjar Dewantara.

Companions *in* Research



A refreshing time of reflection, sharing and listening in a community of Companions *in* Research happened last month (May 2021). Wai-Ling, a fellow DMin student, created a thoughtful program for these two hours and gently led us through this process together with three instructors, Dr Tan Sooi Ling, Dr Rosalind Lim-Tan, and Dr Sunny Tan. Companions *in* Research is birthed from the conviction that although our research journeys are usually solo, they don't have to be lonely. Solo research travellers may be able to draw support from their fellow travellers and they often face similar detours, delays and

discoveries. If you would like to join our next Companions *in* Research session for a time of respite, to share life, with and to support each other in your research journey, block this date: November 29th (Monday), 10am-12pm! More information will be sent nearer to date.

Asia New Scholars Resources Webinars 2021



Asia Theological Association
Asia Graduate School of Theology

ASIA NEW SCHOLARS RESOURCES WEBINAR

March 30, 2021
4pm-5:45pm
Philippine Time



<https://www.facebook.com/AsiaTheologicalAssociation>
<https://www.youtube.com/AsiaTheologicalAssociation>



PRESENTER 1

**Dr Jimmy Jiamah V. Adil Jr, D Intercultural Studies
(AGST Phippines, Asian Theological Seminary)**
**Worldview, Aspirations, Folkways, and Perceptions of The
Maguindanaoans : Promising Pathways for the Christian Mission**

Dr. Jimmy V. Adil, Jr. is currently the Adventist Mission Director of the South Philippine Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists. He is an ordained pastor, and is a Registered Guidance Counselor.



PRESENTER 2

Dr Lau Ying Kheng, EdD (AGST Alliance)
**Encouraging Singaporean Seminary Students to Use Reflexivity
in their Ministry Practice**

Dr Lau Ying Kheng serves at the East Asia School of Theology (EAST), Singapore where she teaches "Research and Writing" and "Soul Care", and guides students in ministry practicum as Field Education Director. She is active in teaching lay people as well as mission workers in East Asia, India, and Indo China on topics like "Margin", "Soul Care", and "Inner Life."



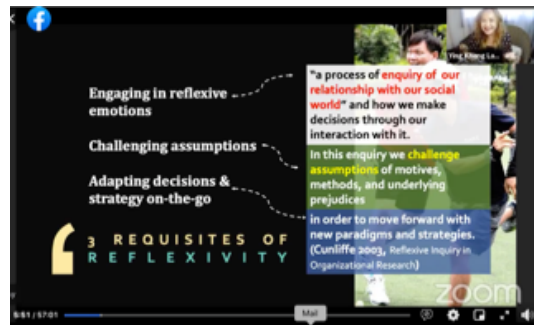
PRESENTER 3

Dr Villo Naleo (PHD in Peace Studies)
(AGST Philippines, International Graduate School of Leadership)
**From Humiliation to Christlike Humility:
A Phenomenological-Theological Study on the Naga Experiences
of British Colonialism, American Western Christianity, and Indian
Political Statehood**

Dr. Villo Naleo is an Assistant Professor at Shalom Bible Seminary, Kohima, Nagaland where he teaches Peacemaking, Theology and Ethics.

AGST Alliance is part of the network of Asia Graduate School of Theology (AGST) consortia. The AGST council (currently chaired by Dr Tan Sooi Ling) is hosting a series of three webinars in 2021 aimed at giving new Asian scholars an opportunity to present their vital research, to encourage academic dialogue in a supportive environment, and to be aware of current research done in the Asian context.

The first webinar was held last March 30 and featured scholars from AGST Philippines and AGST Alliance. Dr Lau Ying Kheng (EdD) presented most prolifically on the topic “Encouraging Singaporean Seminary Students to use Reflexivity in their Ministry Practice.”



Join us for the second webinar at 4pm, July 27 2021

Asia New Scholars Resources Webinar 2

July 27, 2021 | 4:00 - 5:40 pm
Hong Kong Time

LIVE [/AsiaTheologicalAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/AsiaTheologicalAssociation)

Replay: youtube.com/AsiaTheologicalAssociation



Presenter 1:
DR EVELYN RAMOS-PAJARON, PhD (Holistic Child Development)
AGST Philippines, APNTS
A Mixed-Methods Filipino Parenting Education Towards Evidence-Based Practice.

Evelyn and her husband are missionaries with Cru and pioneered FamilyLife Philippines in 1996, conducting marriage and parenting seminars throughout the country and abroad. She co-authored "Parenting Teens: A Parent's Practical Guide for Raising Today's Teens," and has a weekly column at Mindanao Times.



Presenter 2:
PASTOR BARBARA SUZUKI, MTH, AGST Japan
The First Things Jesus Chose to Say and Do in the Gospel of Matthew

Barbara Suzuki is co-pastor of Mizuba Community Church in Tokyo, with her husband. To receive the Degree of Master of Theology, she studied how to analyze the Greek text of the New Testament and applied this method to Matthew 3.15 to understand the meaning of Jesus' words in their literary co-text and their socio-cultural context.



Presenter 3:
DR CHRISSE HANDY, PhD Peace Studies,
AGST Philippines, IGSL
Proclivity Of Selected Communities Of Sri Lanka To Reconciliation

Rev Dr Chrisso Handy is a minister of the AG in Sri Lanka who has been personally affected by the conflict in Sri Lanka. His research investigates: "The current understanding towards reconciliation of Sri Lanka in light of unchanging actions. The outcome hoped to elucidate requirements that could catalyze reconciliation. A model derived using principles from Hosea 1-3 is its theoretical framework. Contextualised to Sri Lanka it is called the 'Jasmin Model for Reconciliation in Sri Lanka.'"

UPCOMING MODULES

2021 DOCTORAL COLLOQUIUM

23-25 August 2021
Web-colloquium via Zoom

THEOLOGIZING IN CHURCH AND MINISTRY

Facilitator: Dr Sunny Tan
(Theology Program Director, AGST Alliance)

15 July to 30 November 2021
On-campus: Web-based instruction via Zoom
(Thursday Oct 14 to Tuesday Oct 19)
Combined Module for the following programs: MTh(Theology),
MTh(Education), DMin

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING POINTS



Featuring our recent graduate:

Justin Peter
Doctor of Education

About his dissertation:

SNFT Debrief: A personality-informed strategy for debriefing Christian experiential learning activities in a young adult ministry based on Jungian psychological type theory

Debrief is a crucial component of experiential learning, and a well-executed debrief enables learners to make sense of the experience, conceptualise learning and transfer the learning to real life situations. This study examined how a debrief strategy informed by Carl Jung's psychological type theory – that peoples' innate personalities influence the way they process information – might contribute to the effectiveness of debriefing Christian experiential learning activities in a young adult ministry in Singapore. Comprising of frontloads, reflection questions and probes designed to engage the Sensing (S), Intuition (N), Feeling (F) and Thinking (T) mental processes in learners, the SNFT Debrief was developed and implemented across two action research cycles with seven participants.

The findings indicate that the SNFT Debrief has potential to enhance deeper learning and Christian faith formation for young adults in four key ways: 1) Type-informed debrief questions engage the various psychological types; 2) Type-distinct frontloads enable participants to process the debrief questions using their preferred and non-preferred psychological functions; 3) Type-based probes for S-questions and N-questions help participants to re-focus on using appropriate psychological functions; and 4) Type-diverse grouping contributes towards mutual learning.

This research has been published in the *Journal of Beliefs and Values*, and is available at the following links:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/DT2RN93YJVKIRNBYNJ5S/full?target=10.1080/13617672.2021.1928977>
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13617672.2021.1928977>

For more information about the SNFT Debrief or speaking/training engagements, you may email me at approach.justin@gmail.com.

Reflections on his EdD journey

Many fond memories were made during the years of study at AGST Alliance. While it was indeed challenging to juggle studies with family, work and ministry commitments, it has also been most enriching. The way in which the modules were carried out encouraged critical thinking, theological reflection and contextualisation. To me, AGST Alliance was a community of learning and mutual edification – the learners, teachers and supervisors became an important source of support, inspiration and feedback in my academic journey. I'd like to think that "it takes a village to write a thesis"!

To all students who are currently doing your program, I encourage you to persevere on. Pace yourself well, and don't take too long. I pray you will experience, through this journey, not just cognitive knowledge but also the joy of seeing how God can work through your study and research to bless the people around you.

APPLY

AGST ALLIANCE THEOLOGY PROGRAMS

To effectively root the Gospel of Christ in Asia, God's people need Christian truth that is well thought through, and processed right in the Asian context. Christian leaders who are trained to think theologically and contextually while immersed in Asian societies are strategic to meet these needs. It's here that they will grow in their understanding of Asian thinking, Asian perspectives, and theologies that work for Asia. AGST Alliance's post-graduate theology programs are designed to equip such people. Our programs provide tools to enhance leadership for the ministry and mission of the Asian Church.

Doctor of Philosophy in Theology (PhD-Theol)

Master of Theology (MTh-Theol)

AGST ALLIANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

God's people in Asia are challenged to confront the personal, social and religious pressures of their world with the Good News of the Kingdom of God and creative and cutting-edge strategies are needed for them to be effective. So informed equippers within the Church are strategic especially those who sense the heartbeat of Asia. AGST Alliance's post-graduate education programs are designed to equip Christian leaders with tools to enhance effective Christian discipleship and spiritual formation in their people.

Doctor of Philosophy in Education (PhD-Edu)

Doctor of Education in Spiritual Formation and Discipleship (EdD-SFD)

Doctor of Education in Child and Family Development (EdD-CFD)

Master of Theology (MTh-Edu)

AGST ALLIANCE DMIN PROGRAMS

Our DMin integrates structured theological reflection and critical thinking on ministerial practice, to provide a formative space for participants to learn, dialogue, challenge, discern and shape their ministry philosophy and practices. This program is offered by AGST Alliance, Bible College of Malaysia and Malaysia Bible Seminary to enhance the professional development of pastors and leaders in Christian ministries.

TRANSFORMATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The Master of Transformational Development and Graduate Diploma in Transformational Development was developed with a keen awareness of the complexities of addressing issues of poverty and injustice, while also recognizing that somewhere in the dialogue between rigorous academia, theological reflection and the lived experiences of those serving the vulnerable lies the greatest possibility of people being equipped in a way that is appropriate, sustainable and a bold declaration of the Good News. The MTD/GDTD creates a 'safe space' for this three-fold interaction to take place.

[Download MTD's Flyer](#)

Master of Transformational Development (MTD)

Graduate Diploma in Transformational Development (GDTD)

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.

FOR DONORS

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, or on our website [here](#).
- Please make MYR/SGD/USD cheques payable to 'AGST Alliance Sdn Bhd'.

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