

Spring
2025

AIGS Alumni NEWSLETTER

ACTS Greetings

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

It is with deep joy and gratitude that we present this edition of the AIGS Alumni Newsletter. In these pages, we celebrate the faithfulness of God as seen in the lives and ministries of our alumni across the globe. From Uganda to the Philippines, from India to Indonesia, we are witnessing how the seeds planted at ACTS continue to grow and bear lasting fruit for God's Kingdom.

Each story reminds us of the core vision of ACTS: to equip servant leaders for the evangelization of Asia and beyond. Whether through teaching, church planting, writing, or youth discipleship, our alumni are living testimonies of God's mission in motion.

As Jesus said in John 15:16, ***"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last."*** May this newsletter encourage you to persevere in your calling and inspire fresh passion for your ministry.

Let us continue to labor together—faithfully, prayerfully, and boldly—until the nations rejoice in the name of Christ.

Blessings to you and your ministry!

With warm regards,

Prof. Han Young Lee
Dean, AIGS
Vice-President, ACTS University

Prof. Jeevan Vemagiri
AIGS Coordinator,
Editor, AIGS Alumni Newsletter

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A Sacred Awakening AIGS Spring Spiritual Retreat

The AIGS Spring Spiritual Retreat marked a powerful beginning to the new semester, held from March 5th to 7th, 2025, at the serene and prayerful setting of The Upper Room. It was a time of spiritual renewal, communal worship, and deep reflection on the Christian journey.

We were deeply honored to welcome **Rev. Dr. Kim Dou Il**, emeritus professor of Presbyterian University and Theological Seminary, as our distinguished speaker. With prophetic clarity and pastoral warmth, Dr. Kim unfolded the retreat's central theme: **“Basic Christianity and the Radical Christian.”**





Across five rich and challenging sessions, Dr. Kim guided us through a deeper understanding of authentic discipleship: The first session on ***“Authentic Christian Success”*** from Psalm 40:16; Colossians 3:5; Philippians 3:13–4, Dr. Kim reminded us that true success is found not in worldly gain, but in knowing Christ and pressing forward in faith and purity. The second session was on ***“Laugh at Impossibilities: Identity and Autonomy”*** from Daniel 12:2–3. We were encouraged to embrace our identity in Christ with boldness, trusting in God’s resurrection power even in the face of what seems impossible. The third session was on ***“Genuine Conversion and Holy Piety”*** from John 3:16; Ephesians 1:23. Dr. Kim challenged us to move beyond superficial faith to a life marked by heartfelt conversion and holy living. The fourth session focused on ***“From Homo Sapiens to Homo Symbiosis: You Are Being Built Together”*** from Ephesians 2:21–22. Dr. Kim pointed out the church as a symbiotic body, built together in Christ, living not for self but in interdependence through the Spirit. The final session was on ***“According to One’s Ability”*** from Matthew 25:14–15. Dr. Kim reminded us that every believer is entrusted with divine gifts and responsibilities—called to serve faithfully according to the measure given.





Throughout the retreat, the presence of the Holy Spirit was tangibly felt. Times of worship, led by the AIGS Worship Team, brought hearts into deep communion with God. It was more than a retreat; it was a revival of spirit and calling. In addition, the retreat was enriched by the presence of several ACTS professors, and it was held in conjunction with the ACTS Undergraduate Spiritual Retreat. This allowed both international and Korean students to come together in unity, beginning with a shared opening service and concluding with a powerful joint session. Furthermore, the opening and closing sermons were delivered by **Rev. Lee Jong Hun**, who passionately proclaimed, ***"The latter glory will be greater than the former glory."*** His message stirred us to hope and look forward with faith for the greater things God has in store for our lives and ministries.



This Spring Spiritual Retreat will be remembered as a moment of fresh awakening, calling every participant to live out a radical, Christ-centered life grounded in Scripture and empowered by the Holy Spirit.



아신대학교 개교 51주년 기념예배

The 51st Anniversary Worship of ACTS

일시 2025년 5월 8일(목) 11:30

장소 아신대학교 강당

설교 이장호 이사장

Celebrating God's Faithfulness: ACTS 51st Anniversary Service

On May 8, 2025, ACTS University held a Thanksgiving Worship Service to commemorate its 51st anniversary. It was a time of deep gratitude to God and reflection on the university's spiritual journey and vision for the future.

The service was led by **ACTS President Dr. Chung Hong Yul**, and the sermon was delivered by **Rev. Lee Jang-ho, the Chairman of ACTS University**. Preaching on the theme **"Review the Past to Learn the New,"** based on Acts 15:12–21, Rev. Lee called the ACTS community to return to the spiritual foundation on which the university was built—God's mission and His Word. He emphasized the need for ACTS to rediscover its original identity and renew its calling in this new season of ministry.



The service included heartfelt intercessory prayer by **Rev. Park Jang-hyuk, Senior Pastor of Dream Church**, and a **special song presentation by AIGS students**. Their song, "Preaching the Cross," stirred the congregation with a spirit of unity and praise.

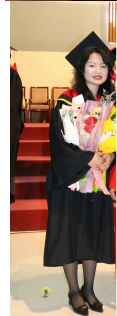
A commemorative video chronicled ACTS's 51-year journey, highlighting testimonies of faith, stories of transformation, and its contribution to global missions. In this moment of remembrance, the university president reaffirmed ACTS's mission: **"To equip leaders for the next generation who will carry the light of the gospel to the ends of the earth."** The service concluded with a blessing prayer and benediction by **Rev. Lee Jae Hoon, Senior Pastor of Onnuri Church**.



A Celebration of Calling and Global Mission: ACTS 51st Commencement Service

ACTS University held its 51st Commencement Service for the academic year 2024 on February 11, 2025, at the ACTS Auditorium. The service was presided by **Prof. Ahn Kyung Seung**, Dean of the Graduate School, and opened with prayer by **Prof. Jung Sung Kook**. A powerful and convicting sermon was delivered by **Dr. Chong Hong Yul**, President of ACTS University, based on Mark 8:34 under the theme “**The Cross Which I Take Up.**”

A total of 135 diplomas were awarded in the Korean Graduate School, 84 diplomas in the Korean Undergraduate School, and 11 diplomas in the AIGS (ACTS International Graduate School). Among the AIGS graduates, **Dr. Aldo Sheeba Lella** (India) was awarded a Ph.D. in New Testament for her dissertation titled “Jesus as the Eschatological Adam (the Son of God as the Son of Man/Adam) in Luke-Acts: Implications to the Concept of Salvation as Restoration Against the Power of Disobedience.” Her work, a profound exploration of salvation as restoration, was supervised by **Prof. Hur Ju.**





Several AIGS graduates have returned to serve in their home countries and churches: **Dr. Sheeba** and her husband, **Dr. Krupavaram** (Ph.D. Graduate, 2023), are now ministering with Christ Mission Organization in Andhra Pradesh, India. **Aheina Liegise** and **K Ajonliu** returned to Nagaland, India, actively serving their home churches. **Arpan Sunuwar, Pemila Horam, and Sujin Cho** are engaged in Korean church ministries, with Arpan preparing for further studies abroad.



Three of the graduates have continued at AIGS for advanced degrees: **Tohupeto V Chishi** and James **Mwangi Gateri** are pursuing doctoral studies in Historical Theology and Old Testament respectively. **Syam Kancherla** has begun a Th.M. in Old Testament.



A photograph of two men in academic regalia. The man on the left is of East Asian descent, wearing glasses and a black cap with a gold tassel. The man on the right is Black, also wearing glasses and a black cap with a red tassel. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera. They are wearing black gowns with red and gold stoles. In the background, another person in a blue stole is partially visible, sitting and holding papers. The setting appears to be a graduation ceremony on a stage with a red carpet.

“Ministry is Hectic but Joyful”:

Absolom Gumoshabe’s Mission Work in Uganda

Among the graduates, Absolom Gumoshabe (Uganda), a Master of Divinity recipient, shared an emotional and inspiring testimony of his ministry after returning home. Now serving in the Anglican Church (Church of Uganda) under the South Ankole Diocese, Absolom is fully immersed in both pastoral ministry and youth education.

His weekly schedule is packed: from door-to-door pastoral visits, Sunday responsibilities, and high school teaching, to leading youth fellowship, Bible studies, and organizing Scripture Union events. He currently teaches at Muntuyera High School-Kitunga, a government-aided boys’ school founded by the church, with over 1,250 students.

“ACTS shaped me not only theologically but socially,” he says. “Interacting with different races helped prepare me to minister to students with diverse personalities, backgrounds, and challenges.”



He leads a vibrant youth ministry, ministering to boys aged 12–23 through: Daily evening fellowships; Morning parade prayers; Saturday Bible studies; Sunday dawn intercession; and Choir ministry with 70 active members.



With only 25% of the students professing faith, Absolom and his team prayerfully conducted the Scripture Union Conference from June 27–29 to reach the remaining 75% with the gospel.

“Ministry is good and fulfilling, though exhausting. I counsel many boys dealing with rejection, absentee parents, or financial struggles. Please pray that I will fulfill God’s purpose and raise true disciples among these young men.”



He ends his missional story with a heartfelt invitation to the ACTS family: “If any of you ever find yourselves in Uganda, know you have a brother and fellow worker here, ready to welcome you.”

Absolom’s story is a powerful reminder of ACTS’s global vision: to equip leaders who serve Christ faithfully in every nation. Let us continue to uphold our alumni around the world in prayer as they carry the light of the gospel to the ends of the earth.

A Legacy of Commitment:

Rev. Dr. Moises Gabuyo

During the winter vacation from February 3 to 10, 2025, Prof. Jeevan had the privilege of visiting the Philippines, where he reconnected with one of ACTS University's early international graduates – Rev. Dr. Moises Gabuyo, who completed his Th.M. at ACTS in 1992.

Dr. Moises' life and ministry are a remarkable testament to ACTS's vision: training Asian leaders for the evangelization of Asia and beyond. Upon graduation, he returned to the Philippines with a heart committed to raising young leaders and planting churches among his people. At a time when many Asian countries, due to political and secular pressures, restricted the presence of foreign missionaries, ACTS-trained international students like Moises became the torchbearers of the gospel in their own lands.



Dr. Jeevan & Dr. Moises, WMS



World Mission Church, Cavite



Mr. & Mrs. Gabuyo



Dr. Gabuyo with his students

Upon returning home, Dr. Moises partnered with Korean missionary Kim and her late husband to establish the World Mission Seminary in Cavite, Philippines, where he has faithfully served for decades as Dean, Vice Principal, and full-time faculty. Alongside his academic ministry, he has been a key leader in church planting through World Mission Church, a growing congregation reaching out to local communities.

As part of his visit, Prof. Jeevan also had the opportunity to teach seminary students and pastors at World Mission Seminary and Church, offering a special lecture series on “Exploring the Landscape of Biblical Theology.” His time of teaching was both enriching and warmly received by students and leaders eager to grow in their understanding of Scripture and theology.

What makes Dr. Moises' story even more compelling is his unwavering commitment to his calling. Though he received invitations to pursue further studies abroad, he chose to remain in the Philippines, believing that his people needed him more. His life of sacrifice and perseverance reflects the deep values and training he received at ACTS.

Prof. Jeevan also had the joy of witnessing the fruit of generational ministry. Dr. Moises' son, having graduated from the very seminary his father helped build, is now actively involved in church ministry – continuing the vision of local leadership and indigenous mission.

Dr. Moises Gabuyo stands as a shining example of the ACTS mission: to equip global leaders who will return and faithfully serve in their homelands. His life and legacy remind us that while the world has changed dramatically since the 1990s, the call to faithful service remains the same. The seeds planted at ACTS decades ago have borne much fruit – not only in one man's ministry but now in his next generation.



World Mission Seminary
Students



May Dr. Moises' missional commitment inspire all of us to remain steadfast in our calling and confident in the power of a life wholly dedicated to Christ.

Celebrating Our Alumna:

Dr. Nancy Dinar Releases Two Inspiring Books

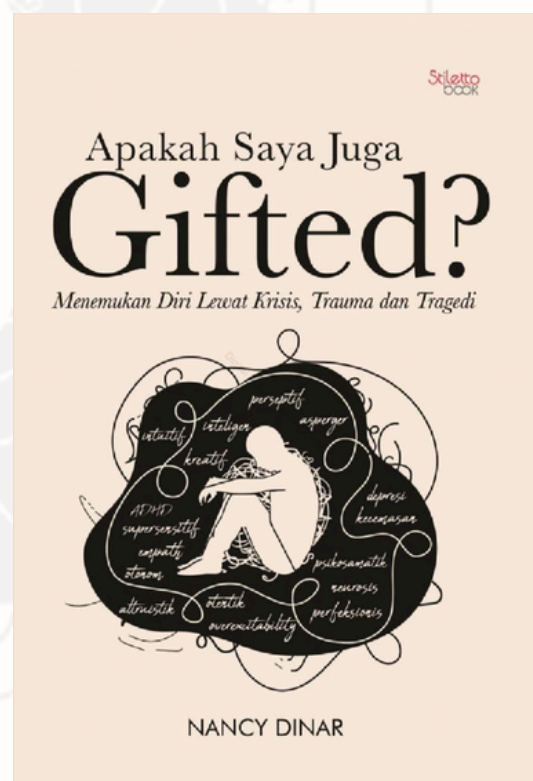
We are proud to share the recent accomplishments of our distinguished alumna from Indonesia, Dr. Nancy Dinar, who has published two thought-provoking books, each offering a unique perspective on identity, healing, and human potential.

Apakah Saya Juga Gifted? (Translation: Am I Also Gifted?) Published in the Indonesian language, this book explores a profound question: what does it truly mean to be "gifted"? Many people, especially those facing crisis or trauma, may never realize that their struggles are tied to a unique giftedness misunderstood by society. Dr. Nancy argues that giftedness is not just about high IQ or academic excellence but is often a psychological reality that includes emotional intensity, spiritual sensitivity, and creative potential.

In this work, Dr. Nancy discusses how individuals who are gifted often face psychological misdiagnoses, social misunderstanding, and internal crises. She highlights how trauma or tragedy can become a turning point in discovering one's true identity. The book sheds light on important questions:

- What are the signs of giftedness in both children and adults?
- Why do many creative and spiritually sensitive people suffer from mental health struggles?
- How can personal crises lead to healing and the discovery of purpose?

Through real-life reflections and clinical insights, Dr. Nancy offers a message of hope and affirmation to those who may have felt out of place in the world – helping them reframe their suffering as part of their unique calling.



Dr. Nancy's second book, **Fall, Winter & Spring**, in this beautifully illustrated book, written in English, she articulates the emotional and spiritual seasons of life – portraying the journey of a soul through hardship (fall and winter) into healing and renewal (spring). The book metaphorically weaves nature's rhythms with the human experience, inviting readers to reflect on how God works through every season to shape our character and hope. With lyrical prose and stunning visuals, Fall, Winter & Spring is perfect for readers who enjoy devotional reflections on life's transitions, suffering, and God's faithfulness.



Dr. Nancy continues to impact many lives not only through her writing but also through her ministry among the specially-gifted community in Indonesia. She leads a school that nurtures individuals often labeled as disabled but whom she rightly identifies as uniquely gifted. Her advocacy has gained national and international recognition, and she is an active voice in global forums for inclusive education and talent development.

We celebrate Dr. Nancy's faithful service and creative contributions to both church and society. Her books remind us of the ACTS vision – to raise up leaders who bring healing, wisdom, and the love of Christ into the broken places of the world.

Dr. Martin's ACTS Campus Visit

We were happy to welcome back our esteemed alumnus, Dr. Aaron Martin Thomas, who earned his Ph.D. in Old Testament from ACTS in 2020. Since returning to Tamil Nadu, India, Dr. Martin has been actively engaged in ministry and theological education. He currently serves with the Evangelical Church of India, Chennai Diocese, where he pastors St. Thomas Church in Gummidipoondi, Chennai. In addition, he is a faculty member in Old Testament and a student counselor at Madras Theological Seminary & College.

Dr. Martin visited ACTS on June 23, 2025, during his brief trip to Korea for an Asian Leaders Conference. During his visit, he took time to reconnect with students and professors, sharing heartfelt reflections on how ACTS shaped his spiritual and academic journey. His testimony highlighted the enduring influence of ACTS in preparing leaders for global ministry.



Dr. Martin with Prof. Lee, President Chung, & Rev. Nam

We are always delighted to receive our alumni back on campus. If you are visiting Korea, we warmly invite you to stop by ACTS. Your stories, fellowship, and ongoing witness continue to inspire our community and affirm the fruit of ACTS' vision across Asia and beyond.

The visit included warm fellowship over coffee with Prof. Jeevan, alumna Weiwei (currently a Ph.D. candidate), and several AIGS students. Later, he enjoyed a lunch gathering with Prof. Han Young Lee, Dean of AIGS and Vice President of ACTS, where they reminisced about meaningful moments on campus and discussed future visions and plans for ministry and theological education.



Dr. Martin with Dr. Jeevan and Weiwei



Announcements

AIGS Spring 2026 Online Admissions

Admissions for the Spring 2026 semester at AIGS will be open from August 15 to September 15, 2025. The entire application process is conducted online. For detailed information, please visit: www.acts.ac.kr/aigs

English Undergraduate Program (B.A. in Religions)

ACTS University is excited to announce that preparations are underway to launch a new English-medium undergraduate program: Bachelor of Arts in Religions. More information will be shared soon.

Alumni Visits to Korea

We are always glad to welcome our alumni visiting Korea for ministry or personal purposes. If you plan to visit the ACTS campus, we would love to meet you, hear your story, and arrange a time of fellowship. If you notify us in advance, we can schedule time with faculty and students, and even arrange a student forum or small group session to listen to your ministry testimony and encourage the enrolled students.

God Bless You!

Contact Us:

aigsalumni@acts.ac.kr