

AIGS ALUMNI NEWS LETTER

CELEBRATING LIVES, MINISTERIES, AND GLOBAL IMPACT
FALL – 2024

Greetings

Dear Alumni,
Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As we reflect on the remarkable journeys of our alumni, the faithful service of our faculty, and the global impact of ACTS, we are reminded of God's unchanging faithfulness. This edition celebrates lives transformed for His glory—from the Lausanne Congress to the vibrant ministries of our alumni in India, Korea, Sri Lanka, and beyond.

We also honor the life of Rev. Dr. Lalthlanhlua, whose legacy continues to inspire. May these stories challenge and encourage us all to declare and display Christ together in our unique callings.

In Christ
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Celebrating the Achievements of AIGS Graduates

In 2024 August, five AIGS graduates stepped into new chapters of ministry and academic pursuit. We rejoice in their accomplishments and God's grace evident in their lives. Especially, Dr. Sam's Reflection on his academics and ministry.

A Momentous Event: The Fourth Lausanne Congress

From September 22-28, 2024, the Korean Church hosted the 4th Lausanne Congress, marking the 50th anniversary of this global movement. ACTS faculty and students participated in this historic gathering.

Alumni Spotlight

Reconnecting with Our Alumni: Rev. Sukrit Roy (India) and Rev. Juian Vincent Devadason (Sri Lanka).

Alumni Ministry Updates

Advent Christmas at Sangdang Church – Rev. Dr. Katoshe
Celebrating Rev. Dr. Lalthlanhlua's life and ministry in Myanmar.

Celebrating the Achievements of AIGS Graduates

We are thrilled to announce the remarkable academic and ministry achievements of five of our distinguished AIGS graduates, who graduated in August 2024. Their dedication and accomplishments are a testament to God's grace and their faithful pursuit of His calling.



ACTS Faculty and Graduating Class of Fall-2024

Rowena Jastine Duero Cubillan (Philippines, Th.M. in NT) and **Rorngamla Karay** (India, Th.M. in HT) have returned to their home countries after graduation. Both graduates are actively involved in ministry, contributing to their local churches and communities. They will rejoin AIGS for Ph.D. programs in their respective departments starting Spring 2025. Their commitment to deepening their theological knowledge and serving the church inspires us all.

Meanwhile, **Dr. Kepfoh Chepuzo** (India, Ph.D. in OT) is actively engaged in teaching ministry, sharing his wisdom and insights with the next generation of Christian leaders. Dr. Chepuzo completed his studies under the guidance of Prof. Cho Hwi, whose mentorship has been instrumental in his theological growth.



Prof. Jung Sungkook, ACTS President, Prof. Chung Hong Yul, AIGS Dean
Prof. Lee Han Young, Dr. Chepuzo and his supervisor Prof. Cho Hwi

Celebrating the Achievements of AIGS Graduates

Dr. Zulhoupe-u Koza (India, Ph.D. in MI) continues to serve faithfully in mission work, impacting lives and spreading the gospel. Dr. Koza's academic journey was nurtured by his mentor, Prof. Kim Hansung, who provided invaluable support and direction throughout her research.



Prof. Jeevan Vemagiri, Prof. Kim Hansung, ACTS President Prof. Chung Hong Yul, AIGS Dean Prof. Lee Han Young, Dr. Zulhoupe-U Koza, and Prof. Daniel Kim

Dr. Eourn Um Sam (Cambodia, Ph.D. in NT) is pastoring his home church while also overseeing three provincial churches. His studies were guided by Prof. Kim, Kyu Seop, whose expertise and encouragement played a significant role in shaping Sam's academic and ministry journey. Sam's story of faith and ministry reflects God's transformative work in his life and calling.

As we celebrate these graduates, we are particularly blessed to hear from Dr. Sam, whose academic journey and research have profound implications for understanding Paul's teachings in the letter to the Colossians. Dr. Sam's doctoral thesis, titled "In Search of God's Knowledge: Moral Progress in Paul and the Colossians," explores the transformative concept of ἐπίγνωσις (true knowledge) in the life of believers.



Prof. Cho Hwi, ACTS President, Prof. Chung Hong Yul, Prof. Lee Han Young, Dr. Eourn Um Sam and Prof. Jung Sungkook

Dr. Sam's Academic and Ministry Reflections

In his thesis, Dr. Sam highlights how Paul emphasizes union with Christ as the foundation of moral transformation. Rejecting Jewish mystical asceticism and strict legal observance, Paul teaches that true moral progress is rooted in Christ, who embodies the fullness of God's presence (Col. 2:9, 19). For Paul, ἐπίγνωσις is more than intellectual understanding; it is a knowledge that renews believers in Christ's image, leading to sanctification, unity, and love within the community of faith (Col. 3:10). Dr. Sam situates Paul's teachings within the broader religio-social context, contrasting them with prevailing Jewish and Greco-Roman philosophies. His research explores how living out Christ's story results in epistemological sanctification—a transformation that reflects God's revealed knowledge in Christ and fosters moral progress.

Reflecting on this journey, Dr. Sam shares how his studies have shaped both his personal faith and his ministry: "Firstly, I want to give all glory and honor to God and express my deep gratitude to ACTS for providing me the opportunity to pursue my studies, culminating in the completion of my doctorate. This significant achievement has strengthened my ability to serve the churches with even greater responsibility. In particular, I have been able to focus on teaching, training Christian leaders, and faithfully preaching the word of truth. The knowledge and insights I gained during my studies have equipped me to contribute meaningfully to the spiritual growth of our congregation and the broader Christian community. With this academic foundation, I now feel more confident in my ability to write books that are both scholarly and spiritually enriching. My hope is that these works will inspire readers and provide guidance for their faith journeys."

"Currently, I serve as the senior pastor of a small church, while overseeing three provincial churches. This role allows me to reach out to communities across regions, offering pastoral care, biblical teaching, and support to strengthen faith and unity among believers. I remain deeply committed to advancing God's kingdom and making a lasting impact in the lives of the people I serve."

The above stories of academic and ministry of our graduates are a clear reminder of God's faithfulness and the fruit of theological training. We celebrate their achievements and look forward to witnessing the ways they will continue to impact the church and the world for God's glory.



A Momentous Event: Fourth Lausanne Congress

The Korean Church had the distinct honor of hosting the fourth Lausanne Congress in Incheon from September 22-28, 2024. This year's congress marked the 50th anniversary of the Lausanne Movement, held under the theme "Let the Church Declare and Display Christ Together." It was an extraordinary event that brought together 5,000 Christian leaders from around the world. It was a transformative moment where the global Church united in worship, fostering collaboration, and renewing a shared vision to advance Christ's mission across the world.



ACTS Faculty, AIGS Students along with ACTS President, Prof. Chung Hong Yul, and ACTS Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Lee Jang Ho at the Fourth Lausanne Congress.

We are proud to share that several ACTS faculty members participated in this historic gathering, including School President **Dr. Chung, Hong Yul**, Vice-President **Prof. Lee, Han Young**, and ACTS Chairman of Board of Trustees, **Dr. Lee, Jang Ho**, alongside professors **Dr. Hur Ju**, **Dr. Jung, Sung Kook**, **Dr. Lee, Myeong Seok**, **Dr. Jeevan Vemagiri**, and **Dr. Daniel Kim**. Their involvement underscored ACTS' commitment to global mission and theological leadership.

A Momentous Event: 4th Lausanne Congress

In addition, about 40 AIGS students volunteered in various capacities, including ushering participants, managing logistics, assisting with registration, and providing translation support. Their joyful and sacrificial service played a crucial role in the smooth operation of the congress, leaving a positive impression and inspiring all who attended. For our students, it was a profound opportunity to connect with Christian leaders, make new friendships, and deepen their commitment to God's mission.



AIGS Volunteers at the Fourth Lausanne Congress

The congress also provided a meaningful opportunity to witness the kind of preparation ACTS imparts to its students. Through rigorous theological education, spiritual formation, and practical ministry experience, ACTS equips its graduates to serve effectively in diverse contexts around the globe. Many ACTS alumni are now leading churches, engaging in missions, and shaping communities through faithful gospel ministry.

Alumni Spotlight: Rev. Sukrit Roy

The Lausanne Congress also became a special occasion to reconnect with some of our esteemed alumni. Among them was **Rev. Sukrit Roy (India, M.Div. 1983)**, one of ACTS' most senior alumni. Rev. Roy currently serves as the Senior Pastor of Kolkata Love Presbyterian Church and as the Principal of India Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He has been faithfully married for 38 years and his ministry spans over 40 years, during which he has also been engaged in church planting in North India and neighboring countries.



Rev. Sukrit Roy and His Family



Rev. Roy and His Ministry



Rev. Roy is the Founder and President of Christ Mission Ashram, a ministry that continues to impact countless lives. He and his wife have been blessed with three sons, two daughters, and one grandson. Rev. Roy's life and work over the past four decades serve as a powerful testament to God's faithfulness. As the founder of Christ Mission Ashram, he has established churches, trained leaders, and ministered in some of the most challenging regions of North India and neighboring countries. His legacy of faith, perseverance, and impact inspires and challenges us all to serve with unwavering dedication and purpose.

Alumni Spotlight: Rev. Julian Vincent Devadason

Another significant alumni encounter was with **Rev. Julian Vincent Devadason** (Sri Lanka, M.Div., 2008), who is currently the Assistant Academic Dean at CTS. Rev. Julian is also pursuing his M.Th. from the South African Theological Seminary and serves as a Ministry Associate for Ambassadors for Christ International and a Pro-Life Speaker for the Abortion Survivors Network. A dedicated servant of God, he is a member of St. James Church in Chilaw, Sri Lanka.



Rev. Julian with Prof. Hur Ju at the Fourth Lausanne Congress



Rev. Julian with Prof. Jeevan at ACTS Campus

We were especially honored to welcome Rev. Julian to our school on October 3rd, where he met with some professors and friends to recollect cherished memories and friendships. During his visit, Rev. Julian shared his testimony and ministry experiences with professors and friends, offering personal reflections on his journey and the challenges of ministry in Sri Lanka. His work in Sri Lanka, particularly his advocacy for life and gospel ministry, touched our hearts and reminded us of the vast impact ACTS alumni are making worldwide.

Alumni Ministry Updates: Rev. Dr. Katoshe

Rev. Dr. Shiwoto Katoshe (India, Ph.D. in Systematic Theology, 2023) is serving as the English Lead Pastor at Sangdang Church in Chungcheongbuk-do, South Korea. After graduating from AIGS, Dr. Katoshe was appointed as a full-time pastor for the church's growing English ministry, where he and his wife faithfully serve both international students and Korean congregants.

Recently, Dr. Katoshe invited Prof. Jeevan Vemagiri as a guest speaker for the church's Advent Christmas celebration on December 15th. It was a blessed occasion where Prof. Vemagiri shared a meaningful message under the title "Christmas: A Story of Submission" based on Luke 1:26-38. The service was a beautiful display of worship and fellowship, with the English Ministry Team Leaders Elder Lee, Cheolung and Deacon James Choi Wonkug graciously supporting the event.



Dr. Katoshe and his English Congress at Advent Christmas Service



Deacon James, Dr. Jeevan, and Dr. Katoshe

Dr. Katoshe's ministry reflects a significant and growing trend within Korean churches, as Korea is on the cusp of transforming into a multicultural society. His work highlights how ACTS alumni are making vital contributions, engaging cross-culturally, and building bridges within the Korean church after their graduation.

Honoring the Life of Rev. Dr. Lal Thlan Hlua

It is with great sadness but also hope in Christ that we share the news of the passing of **Rev. Dr. Lalthlanhlua** (Myanmar, Th.M. in MI, 2013), who was called into the glory of the Lord on December 13, 2024, at his home in Tahan-Kalaymyo, Myanmar, at the age of 55. His life was a testimony of faithful service, impactful leadership, and unwavering devotion to God.

Family Background

Rev. Dr. Lalthlanhlua came from a spiritual heritage deeply rooted in the Church of Jesus Christ. His father, Lal Chung Nunga, was one of the founding leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ in Tahan-Kalaymyo, Myanmar, and was known for his deep spirituality and devotion to the Lord. Rev. Dr. Lalthlanhlua married Miss Zonunhlimi, a Christian musical band leader whose ministry in music complemented his pastoral calling. Together, they were blessed with three children, two born early in their marriage and a son born after completing his theological studies in Korea.



Rev. Dr. Hlua and his family

Theological Journey and Ministry

Rev. Dr. Lalthlanhlua's theological journey began in Bangalore, India, where he earned his B.Th. and B.Div. degrees during the 1990s. He was a gifted preacher whose leadership saw the multiplication of the congregation at the Church of Jesus Christ. His dedication to the ministry was evident as he consistently led his congregation with vision and passion.

Honoring the Life of Rev. Dr. Lal Thlan Hlua

In 2011, he pursued a Th.M. program at AIGS (ACTS) in Korea, which he completed in 2013. His time at AIGS not only enriched his theological understanding but also deepened his commitment to God's work. After returning from Korea, he and his wife were blessed with their third child, a sign of God's continued faithfulness in their lives.



Rev. Dr. Hlua at AIGS Graduation Day, 2013



Rev. Dr. Hlua with Roomates at ACTS Dorm, 2013

Upon his return, Rev. Dr. Lalthlanhlua continued leading the Church of Jesus Christ and furthered his academic journey by earning a Doctor of Divinity from Wellspring International Christian University in India. His missional rigor and pastoral heart made him a leader who inspired many within his church and community.

Honoring the Life of Rev. Dr. Lal Thlan Hlua

A Life of Faith Amid Challenges

Rev. Dr. Lalthlanhlua faced health challenges, including heart disease and high blood pressure, for which he sought treatment over the years. Despite these difficulties, he remained steadfast in his ministry, serving the Lord and His people with unwavering dedication. On December 13, 2024, he received his heavenly call, leaving behind a legacy of faith and service that will continue to inspire those who knew him.



Rev. Dr. Hlua with Rev. Sagam and Rev. Lalrawna



Rev. Dr. Hlua on ACTS Campus, 2013

Celebrating His Legacy

Rev. Dr. Lalthlanhlua's life was a shining example of what it means to be a faithful servant of God. From his leadership in growing the congregation of the Church of Jesus Christ to his academic achievements and personal devotion, he left an indelible mark on the lives of many. His love for God, his family, and the church was evident in all that he did.

As we mourn his passing, we also celebrate his life and ministry, knowing that he is now in the presence of the Lord he served so faithfully. Our prayers and heartfelt condolences go out to his family, church, and all those who were touched by his ministry. May his legacy continue to inspire future generations to live lives of faith, service, and devotion to Christ.

Best Wishes from ACTS to all our Dear Alumni

**Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year 2025**

