

The Official AIAS Magazine
April 2015

Flags



CHANGING LANDSCAPES,
TRANSFORMING LIVES



Graduate School and Seminary

Volume 10, Number 1

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Flags is the semi-annual international magazine for alumni and friends of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIIAS), a graduate-level educational institution of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

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CHANGING LANDSCAPES, TRANSFORMING LIVES

INGRID OBERHOLSTER

CHANGING LANDSCAPES, TRANSFORMING LIVES.

The people of AIIAS change the world across various landscapes—whether they are physical, virtual, spiritual, or academic. This issue of *Flags* showcases just how some of these landscapes have changed.

Perhaps the most obvious is the academic landscape with the annual theological forum and international conference on business, education, and public health. In addition, new academic programs are developed and accredited, which helps students to grow intellectually.

Students are encouraged to change their personal spiritual landscape by growing and developing in their personal relationship with God. This happens in many ways, most notably through week of prayer programs and other forms of regular gatherings for worship. A first this year is AIIAS held the first-ever virtual week of prayer, thanks to AIIAS Online. It created an opportunity for students from around the world to grow in their faith journey.

Ultimately, the sense of the divine mission to proclaim the gospel to the world relates to this spiritual landscape. One outreach program—the jail ministry program—takes students and employees to nearby prisons to hold worship services and offer Bible studies with inmates each week. This issue highlights the story of lives impacted through this ministry. Other outreach opportunities include mission trips, most notably the mission trip to India and the rebuilding of the Buena Vista church in Palawan.

For friends and alumni who come back for a visit to the campus will quickly notice that the physical landscape of AIIAS is rapidly changing. New buildings such as Tower P and the Pavilion are highlighted in this issue, along with the Seminary extension under construction and the soon-to-begin scholarship tower.

Life is a journey as we each have the opportunity to change our own landscape, and most importantly to share God’s love and thereby transform those around us for God’s honor and glory. 🙏

INGRID OBERHOLSTER is the Editor of *Flags* Magazine



ABOUT THE COVER

A behind-the-scenes look at a message being recorded for the first virtual week of prayer AIIAS Online hosted earlier this year. Pastor Youssry Guirguis from Egypt was one of the speakers who shared on “Abraham: A Faith Journey.”

Cover photo & concept by Ingrid Oberholster

SEMINARY EXPANSION CREATES NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING

MICHAEL W. CAMPBELL



On January 19 AIIAS leaders, students, and friends gathered to break ground on a significant expansion of the AIIAS Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. The new facility cost an estimated \$85,000 that was raised over the past two years. Construction is slated to be completed by mid 2015.

The expansion will allow for four new Seminary faculty offices, administrative and storage space, and a large classroom that can accommodate up to 100 students. This classroom will also be used as a worship chapel. The Seminary offers a variety of graduate degree programs including the Master of Divinity degree that many pastors seek in order to become more effective in their service for the Lord.

The origins of Adventist theological training stem back from 1957 when the first graduate programs were offered on the campus of Philippine Union College. A theological seminary began in 1978. In 1991 a distinct graduate school, AIIAS, began on its present campus in Silang, Cavite. At that time, the Seminary had 11 faculty with 40 students. Presently, there are 15 faculty with over 100 students in residence.

The AIIAS Seminary is strategically located within what missiologists call the “10/40 window,” which is a geographic area of land in the northern hemisphere that stems across the northern half of Africa across much of Asia. Missiologists describe it as one

of the most challenging areas of the world to proclaim the gospel message. There are more unreached people groups in this region of the world than on any other place on earth. As a consequence graduate education, and specifically the training of pastors and leaders, is vitally important as Seventh-day Adventists share a message of hope in anticipation of Christ’s soon return.

Students come to train at AIIAS from every division of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church. In addition to training pastors and teachers, many educational institutions send their future religion teachers here to pursue their doctoral studies. Thus, many of these students in turn expand the influence and ripple effect of what takes place on campus each and every day. The contributions of many individuals and organizations who have helped to make this possible will ultimately have a lasting impact that can only be measured in terms of individuals led to Jesus Christ for all eternity. The new classroom and office space will help facilitate learning that equips students to reach this goal as we together proclaim the good news of Christ’s soon return. 

SHARING THE GIFT OF PROPHECY ACROSS ASIA

DEDICATION OF NEWLY MINTED ELLEN G. WHITE ESTATE BRANCH OFFICE

MICHAEL W. CAMPBELL

The director of the Ellen G. White Estate, James R. Nix, along with associate director, Alberto R. Timm, celebrated with the faculty, students, administration, and friends of AIIAS the dedication of the newly minted Ellen G. White Estate Branch Office. This particular branch is one of five selected Branch Offices around the world, in addition to the main office at the General Conference headquarters. Up until now, it has been one of a series of White Estate research centers that are set up across the world divisions of the church.

“The importance of having a Branch Office here on the AIIAS campus,” explained AIIAS president Stephen R. Guptill, “is because this is the place where pastors and teachers are trained.” Students come from every division of the world church, including some who obtain doctoral degrees and return to teach at their respective educational institutions.

Nix observed during the dedication, held June 28, 2014, that “being able to elevate this [research center] to a full Branch Office has been a dream of mine for several years.” The White Estate board voted a request to upgrade the center along with a parallel Branch Office at the Adventist University of Africa



The unveiling of the new “Ellen G. White Estate Branch Office” sign.

located in Kenya. Together, these two Branch Offices are the first to be opened outside of North America.

Branch Office director, Dr. Reuel Almocera, noted that the upgrading to a Branch Office marks a “significant milestone for AIIAS.” In addition to increased resources, it will allow Dr. Almocera to have a significantly increased travel budget provided by the General Conference that will allow him to do more training across Asia. In addition, it will provide archival housing, including a climate-controlled vault, which allows rare early Adventist materials to be preserved. Dr. Almocera has a passion for telling the story of early Adventism, including

rare materials that document the spread of the Adventist message across Asia and around the world.

“A Branch Office like this is for everybody—old people, adults, young people, children,” remarked Alberto R. Timm. “This is not restricted for Adventists but also for those who want to know more about Ellen White, like theologians from other church organizations who intend to do further research.”

“Come, study, read, absorb, and believe,” noted Elder Nix during his remarks during the opening ceremony. “Come and enjoy the fruits from Ellen G. White’s ministry as she points to the Bible and helps us on our way to heaven.” 

MORE THAN A CLASS REQUIREMENT

SARA GIRALDO



The AIIAS Public Health Department held the annual Health Festival Weekend on Nov. 28-30, 2014. Students took ownership of the project as an outgrowth of their class requirements. The class was tasked with planning, marketing, and implementing the event. The various student talents along with a commitment helped them meet their aim. The purpose of the festival is to offer a comprehensive healthy lifestyle that can impact community members. The weekend highlighted various health foci including the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual.

The health screening started on Friday morning and was available to all community members. Students took their blood pressure, height,

weight, and other vital information that were written down. Physicians were available to consult for free about their health concerns. A corner was set up for free massages.

A cooking demonstration focused on how to prepare healthy, nutrient-filled meals that are also appealing. A vegan chef shared practical tips for every member of the family. She suggested alternative ingredients that are much healthier. The kids especially loved to taste samples.

On Sabbath, the various cultural communities presented healthy dishes from their respective cultures and countries. The community was able to taste the world without leaving campus. With all the beautiful displays and mouth-watering tastes, participants could discover eating

healthfully does not mean that the food is boring or bland.

Participants expressed appreciation for this event. Some commented about how thankful they are for their new outlook on health. Instead of a focus on just eating the right food and exercising, it was instead a much more holistic picture. "I would like to change my lifestyle. I have learned many things during this program and now I know how to make the necessary changes," commented one participant.

The health festival is an essential part of life at AIIAS. It helps demonstrate how students and faculty can work together to invite people to live healthier and happier lives. Professors teach theories, examinations measure how well a student understands concepts, and programs like the health festival weekend give a student practical experience to expand what has been taught in the classroom. 



ATESEA ACCREDITS ALL AIIAS SEMINARY PROGRAMS

DOLF OBERHOLSTER

The Association for Theological Education in South East Asia (ATESEA) accredited all the theological degree programs of AIIAS. In their notification they commended AIIAS for its efforts in pursuing quality theological education, stating that "the conscious efforts of your school to maintain and continually improve the quality of your educational programs have been noted by the Board." This achievement provides further evidence of the consistent quality of the AIIAS Seminary degree programs.

ATESEA¹ is an association that provides accreditation of the degree programs of no less than 90 schools including AIIAS. Until this year, the Association had only been accrediting the MDiv program of the Seminary. However, during its general assembly in March 2013, the association broadened its accreditation services, thus, making it possible for the inclusion of all AIIAS Seminary programs – MMin, MA Min, MA-R, MTh, DMin, and PhD.

¹ ATESEA is a full member of the World Conference of Associations of Theological Institutions (WOCATI) by which the association is networked with other regional associations and accreditation agencies for theological education worldwide like the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS), the American Theological Library Association (ATLA) and the Board of Theological Education, in the Senate of Serampore College (BTESS) in India.



The ATESEA accrediting representative with AIIAS Administration, faculty, and staff representatives

An international team from ATESEA visited the AIIAS campus on July 2 to 4, 2014, inspecting documents, activities, and facilities as well as meeting separately with students, staff, faculty, administrators, and even board members. The team was led by Dr. Anthony Loke from Seminary Teologi in Malaysia and included Dr. Lester Ruiz from the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) based in the USA and Canada. He is the director of the Commission on Accrediting and Secretary of the Board of Commissioners and came to Asia especially for the AIIAS evaluation.

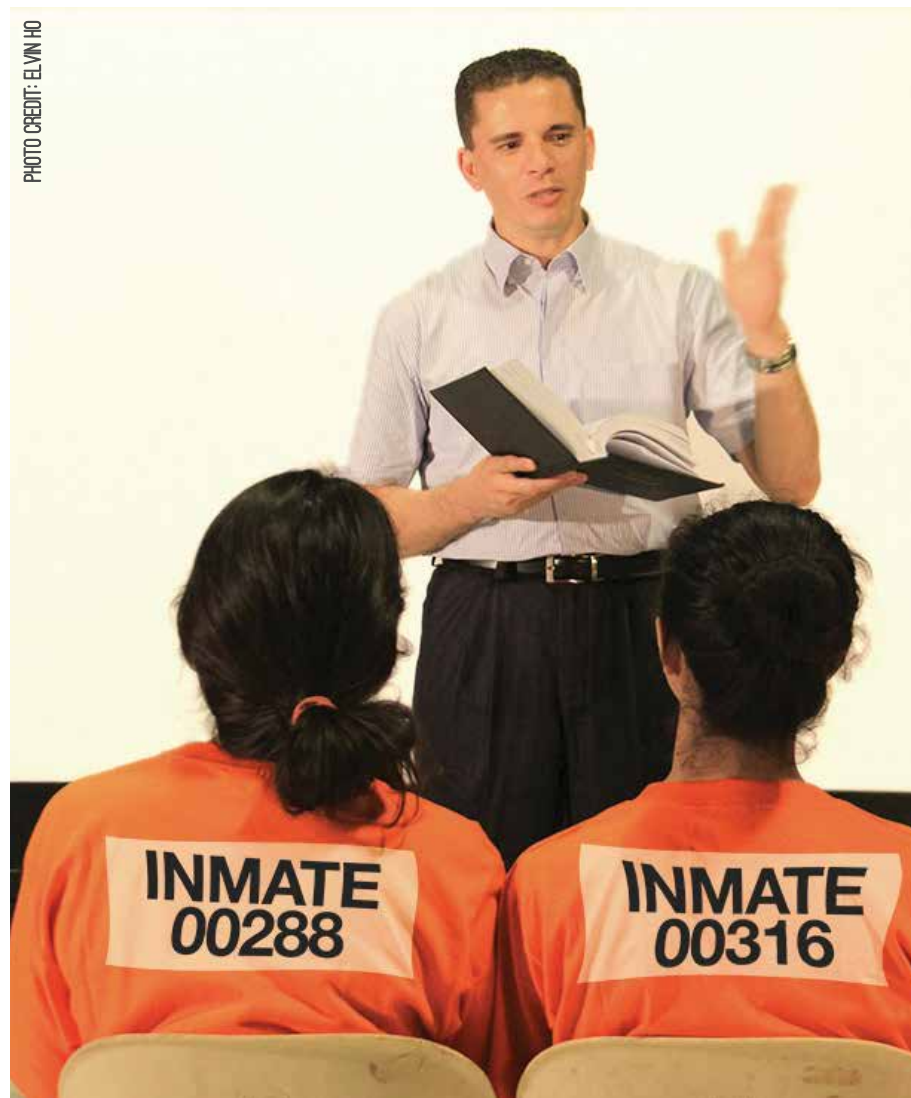
The quality of a degree is often judged by its accreditation status. AIIAS has long enjoyed the highest levels of institutional accreditation

by the Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA) and once more received the highest level of accreditation in 2013—a 5-year accreditation for the 4th consecutive time. With this current achievement from ATESEA, the AIIAS Seminary now has specialized accreditation for all its programs. We give God the glory for this accomplishment.

The success is ascribed to divine guidance as well as the hard work and collaboration of Dr. Ben Mergal and his team who prepared the documents for the visit. We are pleased that all the AIIAS Seminary degree programs are fully accredited by both the AAA and ATESEA. 

DISCOVERING NEW HOPE IN PRISON

PHOTO CREDIT: ELVIN HO



"I was a medical missionary while in jail as an inmate," Angelica* shared about her spiritual journey. Despite being raised in a Christian home, after her mother died, she didn't feel like she fit. She definitely didn't feel comfortable sharing her faith. Soon she found herself adapting to the lifestyle she had shunned during her youth. Although she continued to live a moral life, she stopped attending church.

After college, she discovered new difficulties as she joined the work force. Work consumed all of her time. Now she didn't have any time for spiritual things. Every few months she was reminded about her desire for God, but she continued to resist a relationship with Him. "Despite the things that disconnected me from God, I felt His presence," she reflected. "No matter what I did, He always made me feel like He was with me."

INGRID OBERHOLSTER

She experienced new changes in her life as she made a decision to explore her faith once again. At the same time, she also started a family. Her boyfriend, Kenneth*, helped her to reduce her workaholicism. They soon decided to get married. Local authorities interrupted their wedding reception. The couple were arrested on false accusations. Angelica was deeply hurt. "I couldn't understand why God would allow this bad thing to happen to us when we were trying so hard to live a good life and build our relationship with Him," she explained.

While in jail, family members brought them food and a Bible. She struggled with disappointment and bitter feelings until she realized that such negative emotions would not help her. Now she has time to pray, study the Bible, and pursue a relationship with God. She discovered comfort in God's promises of protection and guidance.

Two days after her arrest, they were both released on bail. They decided to take even more seriously their commitment to rebuild their lives. They found a church where they could obtain spiritual nurture. Angelica returned to work, but made a conscious effort to not let her work consume her spiritual life. Unfortunately they fell back into their old lifestyle. Once again their spiritual lives suffered.

*Names have been changed.

Later that year Angelica and Kenneth were arrested again, this time in their home. They had an outstanding warrant. Now they left behind four children without anyone to care for them. They believed that the arrest warrant was not active so they hoped that their time in jail would this time be much shorter.

Now Angelica was even more hurt and disappointed. "Why God would allow this to happen to me?" Now she had no one to visit and provide support. She worried about what would happen to their children. Even their relatives did not come to visit. It was an incredibly painful situation. At night, Angelica questioned God with tears. She felt like despondency would overwhelm her.

At this tender moment, Angelica felt God's grace. She remembered her first stint in prison. Now she remembered a verse from Matthew 28: "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." She realized that this was once again a new opportunity to build a relationship with God. She found the story of Job particularly comforting as she compared her plight to that of Job. She felt that just like Job she had lost everything.

Other prison inmates ridiculed her for her faith. She continued to pray and study her Bible. She also began to share her faith. As a trained massage therapist, she tried to help others in pain. A few weeks later the other inmates looked to her as if she were a nurse to take care of any of their maladies. Within a few weeks, any time a fellow inmate wanted help or prayer, they would turn to Angelica. Soon she viewed her



time in jail as spending time in the mission field.

While in jail, she discovered a group of students and faculty from AIIAS who held worship services. The singing and Bible studies encouraged Angelica to grow closer to God. The more she attended, the more she sensed God's spiritual direction in her life. During one such worship service, she asked the pastors to pray for her faith to be strengthened. She discovered new hope for her life. "I realized that as a Christian I had the responsibility to share God and salvation with other people."

Six months later, her husband was released from jail. He disappeared and the other inmates tormented Angelica once again. She was abandoned. Angelica didn't know what to think. She did not understand why he was released early when they had both been accused of the same crime. When he did not return to visit, she became worried. She poured out her heart to God and asked for him to intervene in her situation.

Three months later Angelica was released from jail, too. Relieved, she was also sad because her mission to the other inmates came to an end. She was now worried that she would return to her previous lifestyle. She asked her Adventist friends to help her find a local church family. The pastors made arrangements for her to attend the AIIAS Seventh-day Adventist Church. She found a new spiritual family who treated her as a fellow daughter whom she started living with. Angelica formally joined the church through baptism. A few months later she reconnected with her husband. She shared her faith with him as well. Now back together, they are learning about a new plan for their lives. Through the spiritual guidance of her new "parents" and the support of the community, they are solidifying their faith and integrating it into their lives. All their pain turned into praise. "God is really good. He brought me out of a dark place and a busy life. God always has better plans than we have for ourselves." 📖

CREATING VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

INGRID OBERHOLSTER



One of the challenges AIIAS Online faces is how to create opportunities to strengthen the spiritual journey of their students. In a virtual world, it may be difficult for online students to consult or talk about their struggles. As a consequence, a program was designed to reach out to a broad spectrum of students, regardless of their particular religious background, that was held from March 9-14, 2015, with the theme “Abraham: The Faith Journey.” This event brought students together around for the world to engage in interactive worship activities. Such activities included spending time in personal reflection through online messages, praying together, and sharing

testimonies about God’s goodness in their own spiritual experience. Over 75 participants spanning across 32 countries participated together.

HOW IT BEGAN

AIIAS regularly hosts at least two week-of-prayers each school year, but online students felt left out. In order to share this experience Dr. Leni Casimiro, director of AIIAS Online, cast a vision for this idea for her students. A support committee helped her to expand the idea into a concrete plan. “There is a fine balancing point between a student watching presentations online and a student participating in a virtual week of prayer,” reflected Dr. Casimiro. Together they wanted

to create an interactive program that nourished the spiritual lives of students.

DAILY PROGRAM

Each day had a combination of parts that created an interactive worship experience. The video message focused on an aspect of faith was facilitated online each day. A variety of students and faculty had pre-recorded messages in the AIIAS media center. Afterward, participants engaged in an interactive form of worship as students reflected upon the message and sought to engage with other students in an online forum. Participants shared questions and reflections.

A popular part of the week of prayer was the prayer garden. Students were asked to submit prayer requests prior to the daily session. Well-known spiritual leaders from around the world were asked to record prayers for the students. As additional requests came in, the session became interactive as increasing prayer requests showed that this was resonating with a real felt need by the online students.

Another popular area was a “counseling nook,” which provided a free counseling service. Students unburdened themselves and sought encouragement from trained spiritual counselors in a confidential

environment. Participants could e-mail, chat, phone, or even obtain counsel via a video link at specified times during each day.

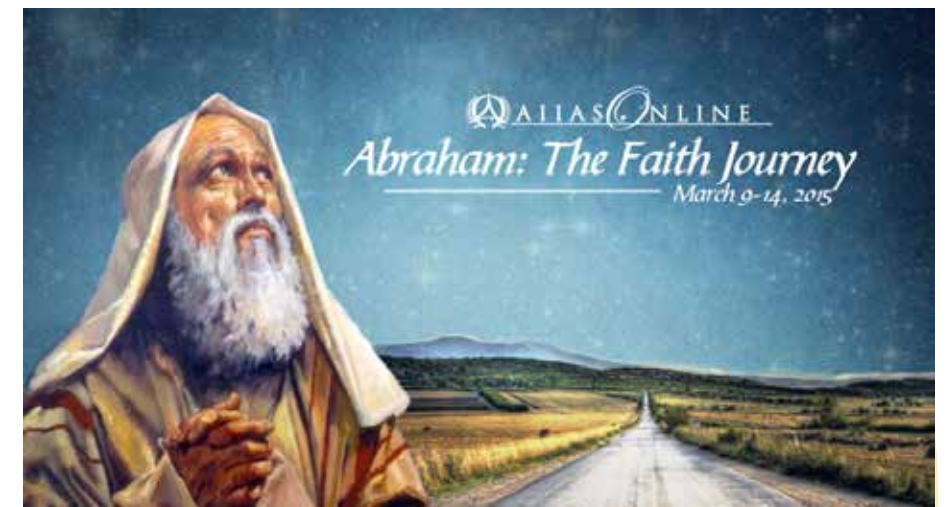
Finally, an open board was provided for students to share their testimonies. Students expressed passionate feelings about how God had led in their own lives.

SUMMING IT UP

Students affirmed that the virtual week-of-prayer was a positive experience. This pioneering program brought spiritual blessings to the students. Some asked for new opportunities to pray together as a regular part of the curriculum. “I’ve been tremendously blessed by this week of prayer,” observed Randy Manuel, one such student. “It is truly a refreshing spiritual journey with the Lord.”

This week of prayer created a virtual spiritual community. By listening to the speakers each morning they were able to connect faces with names. “The spiritual experience for our students exceeded our expectations,” stated AIIAS Online director Leni Casimiro. “Not only did they participate in the week of prayer but they took ownership of it. Despite their busy schedules, they wanted more.”

This virtual week-of-prayer was a first, and even if it was an experiment, AIIAS hopes to cultivate this as a regular event that fosters spiritual growth. Such a virtual community helps students to connect with one another as they deepen their faith in a new and refreshing way. 📖



PARTICIPANT REACTIONS:

“... not everybody could have the chance to experience this holy interaction with people around the GLOBE, in a modern time technology, but we are using it to PRAISE and GLORIFY the LORD. For me I can say i am very much blessed to have been part of this very holy interaction. GOD BLESS YOU.” – **Dr. Zolina Baydid Cruz, Philippines**

“I have been very blessed by this Week of Prayer. I’ve gotten new insights into Abraham’s journey of faith and also appreciate the posts and interactions with fellow classmates. It’s a blessing to be a part of this online community of faith.” – **Patricia Humphrey, USA**

“I want to praise God for this week of prayer’s blessings. It didn’t only bless me but also my husband who studied the Bible verses with me as well. Through this, we have time to explore and discuss Bible verses together amidst our hectic schedule at work. This not only strengthened our relationship, but most importantly our faith as we both tread our Spiritual journey as a new couple.” – **Marjorie Egoy, Thailand**

“This will be one of the most memorable experience in my Christian journey, since it is the first time to participate in an online week of prayer.” – **Pastor Luke Narabe, Fiji**

“I feel blessed and privileged to be with you beloved brothers and sisters. Thank you so much for every single effort that was put for this week of prayer and for sharing our spiritual journey together.” – **Maral Al-Mimar, Jordan**

NEW DORMITORY WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL HOUSING AND SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

STEPHEN GUPTILL



The scholarship tower will look similar to this student tower.

Perhaps the most difficult experience for a student is having to wait for an interview with the AIIAS scholarship committee. For some, this may be their last opportunity to continue their studies. Those who request funds come for a variety of reasons. For some, the need may have been precipitated by a health crisis. At other times, a sponsor was unable to continue their funding. At other times, the student may be required to take more classes than they had planned. Whatever the reason, they now wait hoping for another chance to continue their studies. Some pray, others ask those exiting the interview room for tips on what to expect.

Thanks to a few generous donors, some students this year are

able to obtain a grant that will help them cover a portion of their tuition. Yet still, for other students this may not always be the case. Many worthy students apply for financial help, and even those who have a strong work ethic but for whatever reason, are unable to find the resources to help them continue their studies. AIIAS urgently needs more student aid that is available on a long-term, sustainable basis.

After one scholarship committee meeting, I met a student at a water fountain. I greeted him and asked him how he is doing. "This is not a good day for me," he replied. He shared that he lives off campus due to the unavailability of campus housing. He had his laptop stolen a few months earlier, and once again earlier that day his laptop was stolen again. He pleaded with me

to provide more campus housing that would be much safer for him to live in. Such a request reflects an urgent need among AIIAS students, which is why a new dormitory was recently completed, Tower P, this past January. However, the units are already full and additional housing is needed to supply the demand. In addition, new cohort groups for intensive programs mean that on a regular basis groups with 35 or more students arrive on campus for a few weeks each year.

In light of these needs, AIIAS administration tried to find a way to balance the needs of students for scholarship funds combined with the urgent need for housing. As a consequence, a plan was made for a new "scholarship tower." The idea is for donors to contribute to build a new student-housing tower with all proceeds used for student scholarships.

After spending months fundraising, enough money has been donated to begin the construction of this new "scholarship tower." Construction is scheduled to begin this coming August. We invite you to support this long-term scholarship and housing project, or to consider contributing to the worthy-student scholarship fund. In order to support this initiative, please e-mail advancement@aiias.edu or find more information at www.aiias.edu/givetoaiias. 🙏

One of the ways that AIIAS students and faculty are making a difference was through the building and dedication of a new Seventh-day Adventist Church in Buenavista Village, Palawan Province, Philippines. This new church facility was an initiative of the AIIAS Business Club. Students and faculty traveled to Buenavista to give Bible studies and hold meetings. They demolished the old "nipa" (straw) structure and laid the foundation for a church building. It took 20 months to raise funds to build the new church facility.

The project began in October 2012 after AIIAS students and faculty traveled to Buenavista for a mission trip. Led by Mr. Raimond Luntungan, club sponsor, seven members of the AIIAS Business Club participated in the dedication service, with another approximately 120 representatives from the local church and surrounding community. Local district pastor, Rudy Fajutagana, along with local church elder Roger Giganto, foreman of the construction, shared the story of their church. Carlos Biaggi, project coordinator, shared their story from the perspective of AIIAS participants and donors. Pastor Daniel Malabad, president of Palawan Adventist Mission, offered the dedicatory sermon, litany, and prayer of dedication.

A particularly poignant moment occurred when Pastors Malabad and Fajutagana gave a plaque of appreciation to Msafiri Senguo,

CARLOS BIAGGI, PhD alumnus in Business, has a more complete report with pictures and video at <http://PalawanMissionTrip.wordpress.com>

BUENAVISTA CHURCH INAUGURATION

CARLOS BIAGGI



AIIAS Business Club president, along with fellow representatives to thank the 138 donors (127 from the Philippines) who sacrificed to make this church structure possible.

After the dedicatory service, four people expressed their commitment to Jesus Christ through baptism in the waters of the China Sea—in addition to the previous 12 souls who were baptized from the initial mission trip. This new church facility is a testimony to the Lord as hundreds of tourists travel nearby to see the Underground River, described as one of the "New" Seven Wonders of the World.

Of course the AIIAS Business Club recognized that it took many people to make this project possible, and each person through their contributions and prayers helped to make a difference. Sharing the message of the gospel is a vital part of what it means to be a part of AIIAS as students for opportunities to serve the Lord until Jesus Christ comes again. 🙏

NOTE: The total amount fundraised and invested in the church building was USD \$36,762.43.

YEAR IN HIGHLIGHTS



APRIL 2014
IASSC



The 1st International Adventist Student Services Conference brought professionals working with students together from within the Philippines as well as from other Asian countries. The event created an opportunity for dialogue about student services challenges facing Adventist schools.



MAY 2014
TED WILSON VISITS AIIAS

Seventh-day Adventist world church president, Elder Ted Wilson delivered a special devotional and prayer with faculty, staff, and students. Elder Wilson challenged AIIAS to maintain their identity as a prophetic movement with a prophetic message.



PHOTO CREDIT: JAN SANTIAGO

APRIL 2014
INDIA MISSION TRIP

A 16-member team spearheaded a series of evangelistic meetings in South Garo Hills, Meghalaya, India. They focused on the meetings, personal visitation, health education, and music ministry. Participants deepened their cultural experience with tours of various historical and religious landmarks.



PHOTO CREDIT: DONG JIN



PHOTO CREDIT: DONG JIN



PHOTOS BY AMEE TAPECERIA

MAY 2014
RUSSIA STUDY TOUR

A group of 32 students and faculty went on a study tour to Russia. Features included cultural sites in Moscow and St. Petersburg, with spiritual reflections on the meaning of the art from the framework of a Christian perspective. Participants also visited Zaoksky Adventist University.



YEAR IN HIGHLIGHTS



AUGUST 2014 WEEK OF PRAYER

Each semester, a week of prayer program is held to enrich students' spiritual lives and reinvigorate their personal relationship with God. In August 2014, Joshua Shin, President of 1000 Missionary Movement, shared about "Followership". In February 2015, students and faculty shared about various giants in a week of prayer program themed "Facing the Giants."



OCTOBER 2014 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Over 200 professionals gathered for the 15th AIIAS International Conference on Business, Education, and Public Health themed "Connectedness: Human Relations, Learning, and Wellness." The presenters included internationally-known scholars, faculty members from AIIAS, and graduate students.



NOVEMBER 2014 THEOLOGICAL FORUM

The three-day 17th AIIAS Annual Theological Forum was themed "Asian Faces of Adventist Mission." It allowed for a multi-cultural dialogue about the opportunities and challenges that the Seventh-day Adventist Church faces across Asia. The various perspectives of what characterizes Adventist mission in an Asian setting were discussed and acknowledged. Each year, the forum brings scholars as well as church workers from national and international destinations to discuss relevant topics.



PHOTOS BY EKE MUELLER

With such an array of cultures, AIIAS Student Association organizes an annual cultural night. It was themed "Hospitality Beyond Borders." The student body represents over 80 countries. Different communities demonstrated their culture through song, dance, and/or short plays. The audience experienced a taste of each culture. The program was streamed live on the web for alumni and friends to share in the experience.

The Chinese community showed their hospitality with their Chinese New Year traditions and it ended with the Filipino community hosting some tourists through food, local transportation, and dancing. This year's cultural night was an adventure!



NOVEMBER 2014 CULTURAL NIGHT

YEAR IN HIGHLIGHTS



PHOTOS BY YEARBOOK



JANUARY 2015 SA MINI OLYMPICS

The mini olympics is one of the most anticipated events of the school year that features badminton, soccer, basketball, and volleyball. The entire campus is divided equally into four teams. Over three days a fun time is had by all, especially the "blue team" that won this year.



MARCH 2015 99TH GRADUATION

AIAS celebrated its 99th graduation ceremony with 95 graduates from 35 countries across 12 divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The class of 2015 gave the institution a new logo at the campus' main entrance. Guest speakers included Elie Henry, executive secretary of Inter-American Division; Alberto Gulfan Jr., president of Southern Asia-Pacific Division; and Doug Batchelor, president of Amazing Facts Ministries.

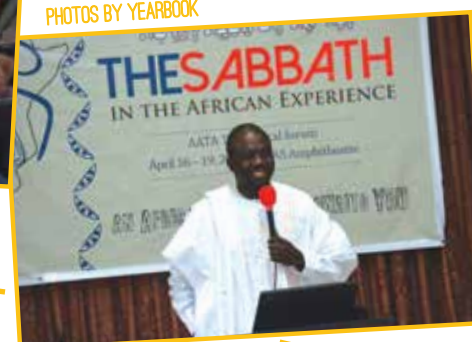


SEPTEMBER 2014 - MAY 2015 SACRED CONCERTS

The first Saturday of each month features different talented musicians. From a capella to instrumental, musicians have an opportunity to share their talents. The concerts are an opportunity to foster spirituality through reflection and prayer.



PHOTOS BY YEARBOOK



APRIL 2015 AATA FORUM

The theme for the 11th AIAS African Theological Association (AATA) Theological Forum was "The Sabbath in the African Experience." Scholars presented on the Sabbath—what it means, how people perceive it, what challenges are associated with it, and what perspectives people have about it. This association was started by students from Africa who saw the need to discuss relevant issues from an African perspective.

"BIG 4" PROGRAM PREPARES STUDENTS FOR SERVICE

JAMES PARK

A long-term dream of AIIAS faculty is to create an opportunity to train more pastors in the field. In order to do this, a special proposal was given to request an appropriation for \$700,000 with the goal of educating 60 pastors through the Master of Arts in Ministry (MMin) program. Each of the unions in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) and the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) were asked to recommend a group of students.

The first class began with exactly 60 students on September 20, 2010. Students participated in three classes each year in 2010, 2012, and 2014. In 2011 students who specialized in Buddhist studies were sent to Bangkok, students focused on mission in China were sent to Hong Kong, and Muslim-focused students were sent to Jakarta in order to receive specialized training for each context. Each student was

required to develop contextualized materials for their particular ministry situation either as an individual or as a group. In 2013, AIIAS professors visited each of the students in the field to ascertain the challenges and help guide in the selection and development of an appropriate project. On March 6, 2014, The Big 4 students held a ministry fair, which displayed all of the projects, for the AIIAS community. Details about the projects are kept in the seminary and AIIAS library.

On March 9, 2014, 44 students graduated from the MA program: 10 with the Buddhist emphasis, 13 with the Chinese emphasis, and 21 with the Muslim emphasis. Three additional students graduated with a Graduate Certificate and seven more are nearing completion, which means that 54 students will successfully complete the program.

Remaining funds are being strategically used to help further Adventist mission training. In 2014, the Metro Manila outreach was strongly supported by providing training modules. This year, the focus is on understanding and ministering at Buddhist funerals in Thailand. The Big 4 program and the SSD have developed a cost-sharing plan to enhance the effectiveness of the funds. Future programs are envisioned for Myanmar and the Chinese work in Asia. The work for Muslims will be supported in the future through teaching Muslim ministry to pastors in the East Indonesian Union Conference as well as through a practicum for students and lay leaders in Bangladesh.

The Big 4 program recognizes that in order to be effective and to facilitate the maximum impact in order to share the Adventist message across the 10/40 window, wisdom, patience, and energy over a long period of time is required. 📖

JAMES PARK is the Director of the Big 4 Program, Professor of Discipleship and Mission

16th AIIAS International Conference on Business, Education and Public Health

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November 18 & 19, 2015
AIIAS, Silang, Cavite
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Samuel Saget, PhD, MPH
Renowned expert in Environmental Sciences and Geographic Information Systems applications
Loma Linda University (LLU), California, USA

GUEST SPEAKER
Gary Frazer, MS, ChB, PhD, MPH
Dipl. Stats. FACC, FRACP
Renowned scientist and principal researcher
Adventist Health Study 2, USA

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CENTENNIAL REFLECTIONS ON
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A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

18TH AIIAS ANNUAL THEOLOGICAL FORUM

GEORGE R. KNIGHT
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
NOVEMBER 12-14
AIIAS AMPHITHEATER



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AIIAS is a global community, and we would like to hear from you!

Email us at flags@aiias.edu or write to

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ALUMNI: Send news about yourself that can be shared in upcoming issues of *Flags*. Please include your picture, full name (indicate if it has changed since you were at AIIAS), degree completed at AIIAS and year of graduation.

FORMER FACULTY AND STAFF: Send us the dates that you were at AIIAS, your position, your current mailing address, and email address, along with any news notes (with a recent picture) about yourself for future publication in *Flags*.

EVERYONE: If you would like to be a part of the good things that are happening at AIIAS, there are many opportunities to become involved! More information is available on our website (www.aiias.edu) and facebook page (www.facebook.com/aiias).

As a developing institution, AIIAS is constantly bettering the services provided for students such as student scholarships and building projects. Any financial support you can offer will be greatly appreciated. It will help to give more students the opportunity to experience AIIAS as they prepare to help further God's work throughout the world. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to:

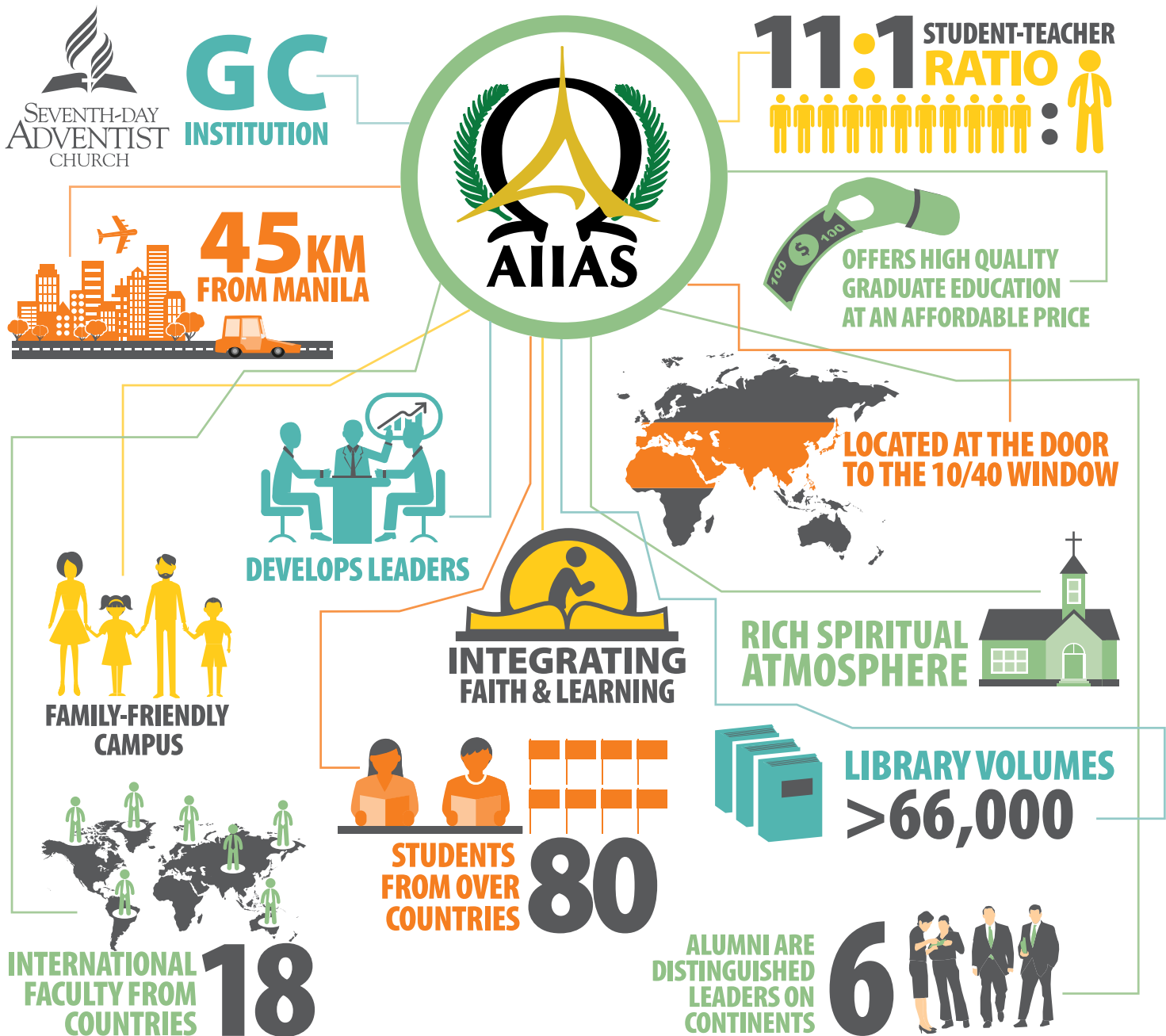
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The graduating class of 2014 of which the BIG 4 graduates are a part.

QUICK FACTS



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