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flags

The Official AIAS Magazine



Graduate School and Seminary



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

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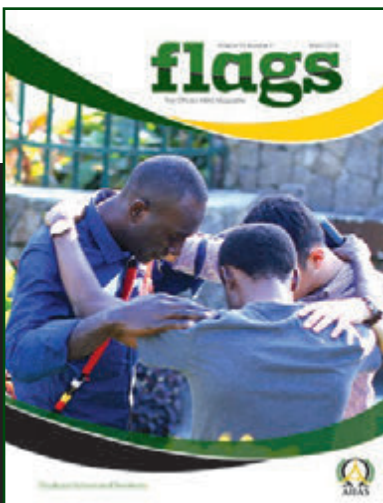
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ABOUT THE COVER

The AIAS Prayer Garden is where people come to seek a quiet place to pray, study the Bible, and rest from the busy nature of life. The photo depicts AIAS students communing with God, one way faith is expressed on campus.

Cover Design by *Miriam Carlos Pamula*

Vector graphics and some of the photos are designed by Freepik.

ERRATA:

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Page 6, photo caption: For "Gonzales" read "González"



Walking in FAITH

BY SHARNIE LOVE ZAMORA

Every person that walks through the journey of life makes big decisions in choosing which path to take. Many of these paths are accompanied by overwhelming responsibilities that pull us down. We are so easily filled with doubt that we tend to forget about the One who has given us life, and more importantly, we forget the life of eternity with the Lord.

In spite of this, God is always seeking and waiting for us to come to Him. Just like how children look up to their parents to provide for everything they need, Christ is also there waiting for us despite having little faith.

Faith is something that is invisible. It can be felt, but it cannot be seen. To believe in God takes great faith. We may stumble and fall through circumstances, but we must strive hard to reach excellence. When you believe and when you do your best, you will be amazed that it was faith in God that pulled you through once you have achieved your goals.

As you read this issue of *Flags*, you will explore stories about faith, adventure, and ministry. You will find out how AIIAS molds each person to excel in spirituality, scholarship, and service; the importance of fostering social responsibility that will inspire you to step out into the world and live like Jesus; and the faith of those who stood firm enough to change history as seen through the commemoration of the 500-year anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

Such impacts of change are tangible evidences of what having faith in God can do. We just need to believe in Him and take a step, and then even more steps. Whether they be tiny steps, large steps, or perhaps even huge leaps, it is important to know that as we walk through this life, we should always remember to walk in faith with the Lord.

May this issue bless you in your walk of faith.

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The urgent need for additional student housing at AIIAS has led the board to approve the construction of an additional student tower, Tower R. This will be the fourth student housing tower to be built in the last four years. The most recent tower constructed at AIIAS was the "Scholarship Tower," Tower Q, that not only provided urgently needed student housing, but also provided 16 student tuition scholarships for AIIAS students. We are happy that we already have students enjoying these scholarships.

The growth in on-campus cohort programs has led to the need for this additional housing. The cohort programs are where students come as a group to the campus for six weeks or so each year to take classes leading to their degree. This year, we have nine cohorts scheduled.

The new tower will provide additional housing to make room for all these students. Tower R will provide 16 units with four units on each floor. The housing units will each have three bedrooms and two baths.

The Tower R units will meet the urgent need for AIIAS student families with children and it will free up other smaller units on campus that will be used

for the cohort students that usually don't bring their families with them.

Primary funding for Tower R has come from a very generous anonymous donor facilitated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters officers. The Northern and Southern Asia-Pacific Divisions also made generous gifts. Alumni and friends have also played an important supportive role with their generous gifts, some of which have been significant. AIIAS will contribute the remaining portion needed for the project from its capital funds.

AIIAS is very thankful to the donors and institutions who have made this project a reality.

The construction of the tower is currently underway with a new floor being poured each month. It is expected that the project will be completed and the units furnished by August 2018.

By STEPHEN GUPTILL

AIIAS CONSTRUCTS Tower R

Mr. Augie de la Paz is the architect and contractor for the construction. He has built several other AIIAS campus buildings including the Siew Huy auditorium/church.

At this time, the administration and board are exploring future capital needs at AIIAS. Projects being considered include elementary/academy school buildings, additional student housing, and other campus facilities.

AIIAS campus housing is vital to the institution's mission as it prepares graduates for lives of leadership and service.

AIIAS has gained a reputation for being the best value in quality international-level graduate Adventist education. AIIAS was the first private institution in the Philippines to offer an MBA degree. It was the first Adventist institution to offer a PhD in Business. AIIAS has become the leader in Adventist online education offering the first Adventist online week of prayer. AIIAS faculty have distinguished themselves as the regional leaders in qualitative research, forming an association with more than 1,000 members with annual conferences.

But most important of all, AIIAS graduates have blessed the Church with dedicated and well equipped leaders, committed to the mission of the church.

Tower R development as of
January 31, 2018.



AIIAS is committed in helping each student complete their study based on the academic requirements of their program within the normal duration of the program.

AIAS is pleased with the report presented to the October board showing the statistics for students completing their degrees at AIAS.

The report showed the completion rates of AIAS full-time students for the past four years. Ultimately, the result showed that the majority of AIAS students completed their program within the estimated time to complete it.

One of the greatest concern for pursuing a graduate education is how much time will it actually take for a student to complete his or her degree program. Over time, students become anxious to complete their studies as quickly as possible and return to their careers or pursue a new one. Sponsoring organizations want to ensure that their resources

are maximized in the duration of the study. In short, completing a program within the normal duration of the program is most desirable to all parties.

AIAS Students Complete On Time

By BRUCE SUMENDAP

Certain programs do have prerequisite classes and competencies that are expected to be completed before entering a program. That should not be confused with the time it takes to complete the actual program.

The report covers the duration from the first time a student registers for a course in a program until the last requirement for that program is completed.

"This report refers to the full-time students, so those who leave for some time or are working would not be included in the list," says AIAS Vice President for Academic Administration, Dr. Dolf Oberholster. "It also does not include the time that the students may have spent in the English Center."

In Table 1, please note the following figures:

The mean number of months to complete a PhD in Education is 38 months in a program designed for 39 months. PhD in Religion, a program designed for 60 months, has a mean completion of 50 months. The DMin program takes an average of 40 months instead of the estimated 42 months.

Looking into the master-level programs, the average mean of completion is generally the same with the program design or even lower.

AIAS recognizes that there are times when students take longer to complete than expected for a variety of reasons, but it is good to see that the majority of students complete their programs in a timely way.

Table 1: Completion Time of Full-Time Students Graduating in 2013-2017 (in Months)

	RANGE	MEAN
Doctoral Degree Programs		
PhD in Education	23 - 44	38
PhD in Business	40 - 56	47
PhD in Religion	32 - 77	50
DMin	23 - 58	40
Masters Degree Programs		
MA in Education (thesis)	42 - 44	43
MA in Education (no thesis)	21 - 32	25
MBA (no thesis)	18 - 28	21
MPH (no thesis)	16 - 40	26
MA in Religion (thesis)	21 - 40	30
MA in Religion (no thesis)	16 - 40	24
MDiv (72 credits)	19 - 35	24
MMin	9 - 40	18

The jail ministry of AIIAS Church has been going on for many years. It has covered several jails around the Cavite area. One of the jails that has received regular visits from AIIAS is the Dasmariñas City Jail.

In September 2017, a group from the Education Department with the AIIAS Church Women's Ministries Department, joined the jail ministry team, focusing on women inmates. They wanted to discover what strategies worked best in promoting a sense of community among women inmates and also between women inmates and volunteers. Among the strategies that they have found effective are "feed me," "celebrate with me," "affirm me," "worship with me," "teach me," "pray with me and for me," "clothe me," "visit me," "call me by my name," "listen to me," "do not judge me," "sing with me," and "cry with me." One of the regular programs that the group does is worship which includes singing, thanksgiving testimonies, prayer requests, quizzes, and Bible study. While the worship is going on, a counseling session with pregnant inmates is done in another room. The group has learned many lessons. Among them are deepened appreciation of freedom and little things in life that before were taken for granted; spiritual

Sowing the Seed, Reaping the Fruit Rewards of the AIIAS Jail Ministry

BY ARCELI ROSARIO

healing and developing a more positive outlook in life; becoming more human—more capacity to care, understand, be kind, empathize, and love; heightened sense of life's purpose and meaning; and discovery of talents. Providing the weekly provisions to the inmates has been a journey of faith. While this group focuses on the women inmates, several students from both the Seminary and the Graduate School have regularly taken care of the men inmates in this same jail.

For the past few years, the jail ministry has been holding an annual party for the inmates. On December 16, 2017, AIIAS held a Christmas party at Dasmariñas City Jail. There was a special treat—dinner for all men and women inmates (about 700) and the jail officers and guards. This program was supported by the AIIAS Church and the AIIAS community.

Three former inmates have joined the jail ministry team. One is Luz, who upon her release received Bible studies

and was baptized. Another is Mel, coordinator of the women inmates for many years and was baptized in the jail. The third is Ben, coordinator of men inmates for many years and was baptized in the jail. These three former inmates underscored the unique significance of the AIIAS team in their lives. They said that when they were still in the jail they always looked forward to the team's visit because "it is a group with a heart. They are there to really help, not just to preach their church teaching." During one of her inspirational talks to the inmates, Mel said, "Life outside the jail is difficult. It is difficult to start a new life. But we praise God because He sends us true friends who are willing to help us stand again."

The jail ministry team would like to extend thanks to those who have given support through donations and prayers. We are doubly blessed to sow the seed and reap the fruit.

Note: Luz, Mel, and Ben are not their real names. Photo Credit: Ebenezer Danquah





A group of AIIAS missionaries join a ministry held at the Cavite Provincial Jail every Saturday morning. AIIAS student and faculty representatives from the fields of pastoral

This ministry is both a work of people and a work for people. Social skills play an important role in the ministry. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the

Changing Lives, Sharing Love

BY KAICHEN LIU

care, education, and public health visit the jail to reach out to the inmates and volunteers on a regular basis.

One AIIAS group, the CPIMI, which stands for Christ Power in Ministry International focuses mainly on the importance of one's health and healing. They believe that people who have faith in God will be renewed and will have strength to serve others (Isaiah 40:31).

God has been working in the people who are involved in the jail ministry. In the beginning, the mission was focused only on preaching in individual cells where around 5-20 inmates joined the activities. Later, the mission added small group and one-on-one Bible studies, thereby allowing them to have deeper conversation and communication.

missionaries are able to mingle with the inmates and get along well with the guards and volunteers who work there. The group was given access to areas where candidates could be baptized. Other areas were also provided wherein the group could give health care and health promotion lectures.

Since the prison's administrators observed the outcomes of the health ministry, the missionaries were given permission to use the chapel for worship services. Worship led by the group starts with health messages aimed at healing hearts. To heal the physical condition, missionaries provide healthy food after basic health screening. Some

missionaries offer consultation while others give Bible studies in individual cells.

There are many people who have a negative attitude towards visiting prisons. This is mainly due to the thought that a prison is the place of unpardonable sins. Instead, these missionaries' experiences showed that this is a place for sharing love. Sharing God's word with the inmates cultivated their hearts, equipped them with a mission-oriented mindset, and helped them put what they learned at AIIAS into practice. Not only can ministry save the prisoners' lives, it also changes missionaries' spiritual lives. In addition, it is a place for sharing cultures. Different forms of worship, which included singing and dancing, were also observed by the missionaries as they carried on with their worship services with the inmates.

Jesus cares for every single life on earth. Even if only one life could be saved through this ministry, the efforts made by the missionaries are meaningful. As His followers, we should have the ambition for mission, leading us to all nations, delivering us to every field, reaching every heart, and helping all people to build up their relationship with God (Matthew 28:19-20).



Above: Worship service in the Cavite Provincial Jail.
Right: One of the health and healing ministries given to inmates by the CPIMI group. *Photo Credit:* Shum Chi Fong and Kaichen Liu

Experiences in ARCHAEOLOGY and Faith in Shiloh

BY TABUA TUIMA AND CARLOS MORA

The AIAS Seminary was represented during the Associates for Biblical Research (ABR) Shiloh Excavations Season One in Israel from May to June 2017. Being an archaeologist and a member of the ABR team, Dr. Carlos Mora, professor and Biblical Studies department chair at AIAS, organized this trip. As a PhD Old Testament student, I was able to attend two weeks of the five-week excavation season.



Shiloh is the biblical place where the Tabernacle was set during the days of Joshua (Joshua 18:1). This place was the center of worship during the period of the Judges (Judges 20:18; 21:12). This was the place where young Samuel was taken when he was 5 years old. Eli was the high priest in those days (1 Samuel 1-4).

Following two previous excavations, ABR is currently digging in the north area of the Tel (a mound or a hill where a city is built multiple times) between the two previous excavations—searching for the gate of the city and more evidences of the biblical times, specifically during the period of the judges.

This was a great experience for students who are pursuing a biblical degree. As a first timer with no archaeological excavation experience, it was a truly amazing time spent with a high-profile group of archaeologists, scholars, professors, university students, and passionate laypeople.

The experience of digging and discovering ancient artifacts of past civilizations particularly related with biblical history is faith affirming. The word of God is trustworthy and archaeology confirms it as a historically-accurate record. Participating in the Shiloh dig last year, the Bible comes alive in my heart as I reflect on the ancient story of Samuel and Eli the priest, spiritual leaders of God's people, and the recorded events that took place while they lived in Shiloh during the 10th century BCE.

AIAS Seminary plans to join more excavations in the future as a growing experience for future professors and scholars of the church. Join us next time for a hands-on experience of discovering the ancient biblical times.

Excavation is hard work but rewarding. The reward far outweighs the labor involved, bringing a sense of satisfaction through:

- #1** One's presence: to be at the sight is an awesome experience as one is transported back in time and is able to feel what it was like when the people of God were occupants of the ancient city.
- #2** The Bible comes alive in our hearts and minds. Looking from the vantage point on top of the Tel and making sense of the land around refreshes our knowledge of the Old Testament text relating to Shiloh. For example, we could imagine the lone marathon-runner from the tribe of Benjamin who ran all the way from Ebenezer when Israel was defeated by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:12-16).
- #3** The discovery of artifacts that were dated to different time periods and civilizations.
- #4** The discovery of ancient structures: i.e. walls, homes, glacis, water cisterns, ancient tools, etc. that establish and affirms Old Testament history.
- #5** The practice of archaeology solidifies what was learned theoretically.
- #6** The matching of the findings of archaeology with Bible history affirms the authenticity of the Bible.



Top: Dr. Carlos Mora at the Shiloh dig site. Above left: Tabua Tuima at the dig site. Background Photo: The entire Shiloh Excavations site. Photo Credit: Tim Velasco, Tabua Tuima, and Carlos Mora



The AIIAS Visayan Sabbath School (SS) Class of the AIIAS Church is composed of students, faculty members, and other church attendees who speak BISAYA—one of the dialects in the Philippines. For many years, the AIIAS Visayan SS Class has been organizing outreach programs around the Philippines.

In 2017, the group reached hundreds of people. One of the group's activities is conducting medical and dental services. In cooperation with the SSD and AIIAS Church Health Ministries Department, the group gave free medical and dental services around Silang and General Trias City, Cavite. Even the inmates in Dasmariñas City prison cells were not forgotten. After they received the free dental service, the glow of thankful smiles on the prisoners' faces lightened up the dark prison cells that separated them from the society.

It is true that genuine happiness comes from giving. The group collected used clothing and school supplies to distribute to the Mangyans in Mindoro last March and November. They also gave out newly-bought school bags for the underprivileged children of San Miguel 2, Cavite, at the beginning of the school year 2017. The sweet words of thanks from the elementary students warmed the hearts of the AIIAS Visayan SS Class.

In July 2017, the Bicol region suffered from the wrath of a tropical storm, locally named *Gorio*. The group also helped by sending out clothing to the victims affected by the storm. The Bicolanos were warmed not only by the donated clothing but also by the genuine love of the AIIAS Visayan SS Class.

In December 2017, the group organized a Christmas program for two underprivileged groups: The Mango Children's Home and Barangay Uno Putting

Kahoy dwellers. The Mango Children's Home is located in Silang, Cavite which houses children who used to live on the streets. The group gave out gifts according to the wish lists of the kids. The dwellers of Putting Kahoy received rice, food items, toiletries, and clothes. The radiant joy of gratefulness received from impoverished communities was the most wonderful gift the AIIAS Visayan SS Class members received that Christmas.

On the last Sabbath of every SS quarter the group visits the Bulihan Detention Center of Silang, which houses about 150 to 250 inmates who are waiting for trial and sentence. Many of them do not have relatives to visit them because they are either migrants or their relatives fail to drop by and see them. The group brought food, especially fruit, for the inmates. They were also happy to receive two ceiling fans which helps to cool them off during the hot summer season.

Aside from responding to the physical needs of the people, the group also fed their spiritual needs. AIIAS Visayan SS Class members also sponsored two evangelistic meetings conducted in Bukidnon and Cebu this year.

The year 2017 was a successful and fruitful year for the AIIAS Visayan SS Class members. The group has already laid out outreach program plans for the year 2018.

The group welcomes people who are willing to join and assist their advocacies. They also accept used clothes, books, and other toiletries

ready to be given to underprivileged communities around the Philippines. This May 2018, the group is planning to give out used children's books to the Mangyan schools in Mindoro.

There are many ways that we can show our love to other people. God is our example. Ellen G. White wrote, "Christ's

BY DIANNE PEARL ALMOCERA

AIIAS Visayan Sabbath School Class in Action

method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'" *Ministry of Healing*, p. 43. 1 John 3:18 says, "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." As Christ's followers, we are entitled to do our part. Let us not keep that love hidden within our hearts. Let us give it out freely to others not just in words, but put that love in action.



Top: AIIAS Visayan SS Class ready for outreach program. Above right: Medical and dental mission in Dasmariñas City Jail. Right: Giving out of new bags to elementary children. Photo Credit: Dianne Almocera and AIIAS Visayan SS Class

Alumni Connection

AllIAS is a global community, and we would like to hear from you:

email us at flags@aaias.edu

or write to
Flags, AllIAS, Lalaan 1, Silang,
Cavite 4118 Philippines.

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

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

EVERYONE: Come be a part of AllIAS with the many opportunities to become involved! More information is available at www.aaias.edu and on Facebook: www.facebook.com/aaias.

AllIAS offers services for students including scholarships. Financial support is greatly appreciated. It will help students have an opportunity to experience AllIAS as they prepare to further God's work throughout the world. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to:

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The AllIAS Advantage in the Teaching Field

BY ELLEN JUITA GULTOM

Teaching was a challenging experience for me until I realized that I can apply everything that I have learned from AllIAS to my teaching strategies today.

Traditional methods that are mostly being used in Indonesia include grammar focus teaching, translation method, and passive learning. Through AllIAS, I learned how to incorporate various teaching methods and techniques. These include communicative language with attractive classroom activities such as jigsaw, role play, etc. I start every class with prayer and quotations which my students love.

I can remember the faces of my "gurus" at AllIAS who have made me what I am today. They taught me how to integrate faith and learning. Applying this method in my class, my students' lives are touched. I learned how to care not only about their academic achievements but also by giving them motivation and by sharing some advice.

I find it challenging to find ways to introduce my students to Jesus. Though I integrate Bible lessons in my teaching, I have to strive hard to find ways to reach those who have shown disinterest. I do not merely transfer knowledge, but I also show concern for their character building, revealing truths that they have never heard before. Most of all, I show my students that I love them.

However, of all the teaching skills I got from my classes while at AllIAS, the spirit and courage to be a missionary teacher always inspired me. Praise God, in 2016 one of my students accepted Christ and was baptized in my own local church. I believe God placed me here to be a missionary for Him and He wants me to keep it up. Becoming a leader is great but becoming a missionary is what God really wants me to be.



Ellen Juita Gultom is a graduate of AllIAS in 2014 with a degree of Master of Arts in Education with emphasis in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. She is from Indonesia and is presently working as an English lecturer in one of the private universities in Jakarta, Indonesia.

AIIAS supports community recycling. AllAS has, for many years, had multiple three trash bins on campus so that people could segregate their garbage which facilitated recycling. A couple of recycling centers are built near the housing areas where people can segregate their trash.

Recently, personnel from the AllAS Education Department became acquainted with a school in the community that helps people with their finances through recycling trash.

Community projects can be exciting and adventurous

(inspired by the phrase, Win a scholarship through the collection of recyclables and frequently-generated trash) is a cleverly named recycling venture that CI has maintained actively for more than a decade. Here is how I became part of this project.

During a fieldtrip to the school about a year ago, my students

offices to the backyard storage at my home) of these students.

So, what happens to the recyclables at CI? The items (paper, plastic, used equipment, metal, etc.) brought to the WISHCRAFT depository building are piled and labeled with the donor's name. A receipt is given with the description of the items deposited. Eventually, the materials

are sorted and weighed. Different types of items have specific rates (white

paper is one of the highest rated items). The amount is credited to a worthy

student (typically, a student with special needs). On scheduled days, items are sorted and taken in trucks to various recycling factories.

This trash-for-cash scholarship fund of CI has made quality education accessible to deserving students on a sustainable basis. It has also enhanced school-community partnership as families and well-wishers participate in the project. A long-lasting impact of this project is environmental stewardship. This project is a model that can be adopted by other schools and communities. That is definitely adventurous and exciting!

TRASH FOR CASH

Recycling for Scholarship

By PREMA GAIKWAD

and I were touched by the description of this project. As much as the school was immersed in the recycling program, community members were also invited to join the project. We began by collecting recyclable items from our own homes, friends', and neighbors' at AllAS. My husband and I make weekly visits to CI in our car loaded with the precious "trash."

if it is one like WISHCRAFT, a recycling project of Cavite Institute (CI) which is a Christian private school in Silang. Some unique aspects of the school stand out: (a) inclusion of students with special needs in the general classes, (b) special education facilities for students with severe needs, and (c) WISHCRAFT project that provides scholarships for students.

The opportunity for a community project came through WISHCRAFT. Sounding rather mysterious, WISHCRAFT

Thanks to all those students and colleagues who support the project. Blessing Obaya has been my right hand as she actively collects recyclables from wherever she can. Others such as Dwane Sylvester and Marie Claire Mukamazimpaka have often provided support by helping transfer the materials to my backyard storage from various places in the campus. I appreciate the spirit of service and sacrifice (often loading huge amounts of recyclables from houses and



Above: Dr. Prema Gaikwad and Education students in front of the Cavite Institute. Right: Used equipment ready for recycling. Photo Credit: Blessing Obaya and Prema Gaikwad

"It is the right time for you to upgrade in Adventist Education!" suggested the professors who taught me how to be an Adventist educator years ago. A bell rang in my head to search the internet for Adventist institutions in a closer geographical context. Being an alumnus of Andrews University, Michigan, USA, prioritized my option towards it; however, the financial expectation blew my mind. Then, I recalled my professors suggesting AIIAS, Philippines. Without much prior knowledge of the Philippines, I began exploring the possibilities.

that sponsorship is only for religious studies. Upon receiving such a reply, I was shattered. The following year, with hope, we prayerfully tried again. Guess what? We received the same reply from the committee. In 2011, upon receiving the same reply, we prayed together and concluded that if God wanted us to go ahead by faith, let that be! From a human and logical perspective, we were troubled to think of leaving our comfort zone for a journey of faith.

In faith, we applied to AIIAS for our PhD programs. When we were

God has worked in miraculous ways since then. To list a few—(a) God gave us energy to work extra to save money; (b) He sent an angel in the form of a government officer to renew and make our passports on time; (c) He miraculously delivered our visas in the nick of time as we stepped onto the train; (d) He led our home division to assist in transferring our personal funds; (e) He provided job opportunities for my wife and myself at AIIAS; (f) He gave us odd chores such as cooking meals, tutoring, translating, and editing to raise funds; (g) He impressed friends from India, Germany, China, and other countries to help us out financially; and (h) God sent His angels to keep us going! God Cares!

With humble hearts and lives founded

on faith, we are marching ahead. The Scripture always nourishes us as it says in *Philippians 1:6* (NIV), "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." And *1 Peter 5:7* (NIV) says, "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." Truly, "God Cares"—Sponsored by "GC"!

When Asked, *God Provides*

By RANJITH KINGSTON GLADSTONE

Inquiry after inquiry overwhelmed me with one note—"no sponsorship, no study!"

Being regular Adventist employees, my wife and I prayerfully approached our home division sponsorship committee. It was in 2009 when the committee replied negatively, clarifying

completing our application forms, the business section required details about how we planned to pay. We wrote "GC," explaining the meaning as "GOD cares"—we are putting our complete faith and trust in Him. We were accepted; however, the institution where we worked asked us to complete the academic year, which delayed us until April 2012.



When I arrived at Allias for the very first time in 2016, it struck me that the campus seemed to be a place of hard work and academic rigor. It seemed that everyone was very busy and somewhat anxious about a great deal of tasks that needed to

Only ONE THING Is Needed

be accomplished, some of them quite obvious, like papers to write, exams to prepare for, and bills to pay; while others more subtle, such as appearances to maintain, faces to save, and one's honor to protect. There was a certain drivenness that seemed to permeate the Allias campus, which actually was very close to home, as I found myself increasingly anxious about the multitude of tasks on my plate. Yet, interacting with students in and outside of the classroom, I also sensed a distinct yearning to get out of the rat race and experience deeper spirituality and connectedness with God.

Luke tells a story about two sisters inviting Jesus to their home. Mary and Martha are thrilled to have Jesus come for dinner! Just imagine; not any ordinary guest, but Jesus Himself. How exciting! But there is so much to do—food to cook, floors to sweep, tables to lay, and a million other chores to run. They better hurry.

When Jesus arrives, not everything is ready yet. It's so unnerving! With her apron on, Martha is frantically running around trying to finish everything. As she passes the living room, she catches the sight of Mary, calmly sitting at Jesus' feet, engrossed in deep conversation, her eyes fixed on His face.

Doesn't she know how much work still needs to be done?

That's too much for Martha to bear and in utter frustration she exclaims, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help

me!" (Luke 10:40, NIV). But surprisingly, instead of sending Mary back to the kitchen, Jesus says, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed" (vv. 41-42).

I have been so very busy lately! There is always so much to do. I have courses to prepare,

By AIVARS OZOLINS

classes to teach, papers to grade, important meetings to attend, and always yet another thing to squeeze into my bulging schedule. However, I am not complaining, this is my ministry. I do it gladly and it's all for God! But in the midst of my meetings, papers, and classes, Jesus comes and whispers in my heart, "You are worried and upset about many things."

"Yes, I am, Lord! I have deadlines to meet and work to finish... for you!"

"But only one thing is needed..."

Everything else is optional, subject to negotiation. There is nothing else this important, just one thing. Everything else is secondary to this one thing. If I have this, everything else will fall in its proper place. My life, ministry, service, relationships, dreams, and aspirations—everything will be shaped by this one thing or the lack of it.

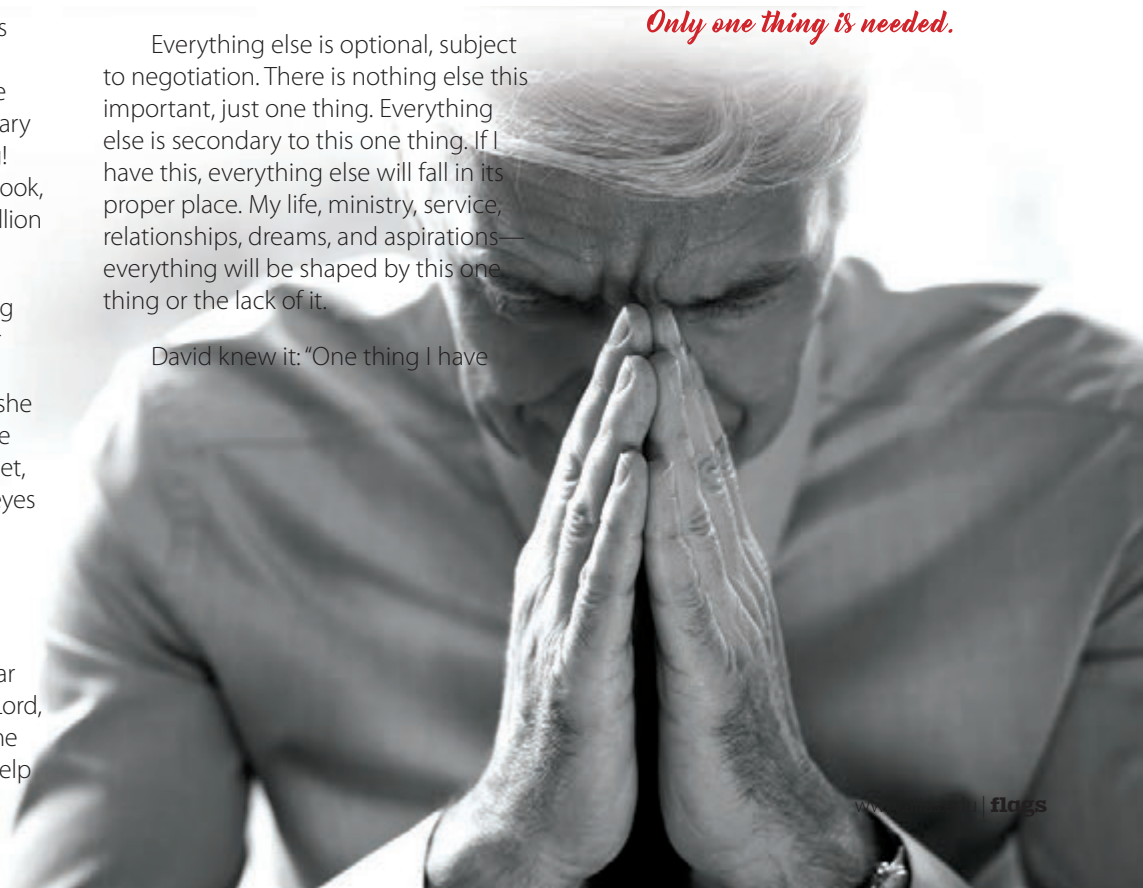
David knew it: "One thing I have

desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple" (Psalms 27:4, NKJV).

David was a very busy man. He had a kingdom to run, plenty of enemies to worry about, and many challenges to face. Yet nothing, absolutely nothing in his life was more important than this one thing. He could not afford to settle for less. He needed it like air to breathe. If he had this one thing, nothing else would bother him, no problem would be too big to address, and no enemy too frightening to face. **Friendship and intimate relationship with his God was the first order of all things—it was the one thing that his heart was constantly yearning for.** It was this one thing that enabled him to take his head knowledge about God and turn it into a heart knowledge of a holy, all-powerful God, yet an incredibly loving Friend. That was the power that animated his whole life.

How do I get that one thing today? By returning daily to the foot of the cross, gazing into His beautiful face, and remembering the gospel.

Only one thing is needed.





It was just the kind of tour every Adventist dreams of, only it surpassed the expectations of the participants. It was as socially engaging as it was academically stimulating and spiritually enriching. This was the AIIAS Reformation Tour, encompassing four countries in twelve days from May 16-28, 2017.

We kicked off the tour in Geneva, Switzerland, visiting sites relating to John

Calvin, before moving to Ulrich Zwingli sites in Zurich. This was also the birthplace of the radical reformers, the Anabaptists. It was a chilling experience to be at the spot, on the river, where many of them paid with their lives their belief in baptism by immersion. Welcoming the Sabbath in one of their hideout caves high in the mountains was a deeply moving experience.

Our first stop in Germany was the city of Constance, where Jan Hus and Jerome, the Bohemian Reformers, were martyred. The exact spot is still marked. A boat cruise on the Rhine river, where Hus' ashes were interred, left me wondering whether the church is still a "battleship," or is it now a "cruise boat."

basic education was gained in Eisenach. In Wartburg Castle, Luther translated the New Testament into German. Next was Erfurt, where Luther had his college and university education. Here, he also joined

the Augustinian monastery, before finally going to Wittenberg where he was bonded for life as a professor. What a thrill it was to be in both Luther's as well as his close associate, Philipp Melancthon's houses, and at the University itself. The Castle Church door, where Luther nailed his 95 theses on the historic date of October 31, 1517, was a favorite spot. It is in this church also that Luther's remains are interred.

A few years after he nailed the 95 theses to the door of the church, Luther made his bold stand before the Diet of Worms on the 18th of April 1521. The very spot is still marked. Adjacent to it is the world's largest Protestant Reformation monument, depicting such figures as Girolamo Savonarola, Peter Waldo, John Wycliffe, Jan Hus, and Martin Luther himself among other significant players.

The tour wound up in the historic and colorful city of Prague, the home of Jan Hus and Jerome. It was a great privilege to be granted permission to have our Sabbath worship in the

The highlight of the tour were the Martin Luther sites. In Eisleben, the house in which Luther was born and the church where he was baptized as an infant still stands. Luther's

reconstructed Bethlehem Chapel, Hus' own church which is now a museum. The curator of the museum gave an informative exclusive lecture to our group.

What I consider a bonus for the participants of the Reformation Tour is that we were also able to visit a historic Adventist monument on this tour, the little church in Tramelan, Switzerland. This was the first Adventist church outside of North America and needless to say, the first in Europe. Ellen White preached the dedicatory sermon for this church. We rattled its old rafters with Advent Hymns. After worship, we

In the **FOOTSTEPS** of the Reformers

By WATSON MBIRIRI

passed by the cemetery in Basel, where J. N. Andrews and other pioneering Adventists are buried. Earlier on, we had seen Andrews' impressive collection of books which is in the Adventist University of France—Collonges library.

Reflecting on the whole experience, one can clearly see the value of education, teamwork, diplomacy as much as spirituality, and hard work in advancing the cause of God. A word of appreciation is in order to AIIAS Associate Professor, Dr. Michael Campbell, and his dear wife, Heidi, for organizing and coordinating such a great tour. Before this tour, we had only heard with the hearing of ears, but now, we have seen with the seeing of eyes.



Top left: The little church in Tramelan, Switzerland, the oldest Adventist church outside North America, the first in Europe. Below right: Reformation Wall in Geneva, Switzerland. Top: Sabbath welcome inside an Anabaptist cave in Switzerland. Above right: The Reformation Monument in Worms. Photo Credit: Watson Mbiriri

The Reformation era created a great impact upon world history. The way people think changed. It was a turning point in human spirituality, in the Christian's value of the authority of the Scriptures. The Reformation Era gives us the embryonic stage of the thousands of Bible translations, making

Faith Through the Lens of the REFORMATION

BY KLENTH SASIL

the Bible available to every continent in the world. It broke the tradition and society that the church followed, including the separation of church and state that was adopted by most modern nations. Reformers and scholars value justification by faith through grace in Jesus Christ. Reformers such as Martin Luther, Ulrich, Zwingli, Jan Hus, and others proclaimed the sacrifice and grace of Jesus Christ. However, theories and lessons from the books are not enough in order to have a full understanding of history and how it impacts society.

The opportunity to travel and visit the historical sites of the Reformation was priceless. It was also a spiritual awakening for every individual to see and experience the lives and contributions of the Church Fathers. In May 2017, I was privileged to be a part of the AIIAS Reformation Tour that

visited the Reformation Wall and John Calvin's church in Geneva, Switzerland. The faith of the Reformers in Switzerland was absolutely amazing. The only reason why people throughout the world are able to read the Bible in their own languages today is because of these Reformers. I cannot underestimate having the Bible in my own hands for there are a lot of martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of preserving it.

During the Medieval period, the common people did not have easy access to the Bible, but today, thousands of Bible translations have been circulated worldwide. The big words inscribed on the Reformation Wall, "After Darkness, Light" is the motto of Geneva. After the darkness of Roman Catholicism, light broke forth. This light shone forth throughout Europe from Geneva as they sent out missionaries to spread the truth in the Bible. In our spiritual life, maybe we experience spiritual darkness and weakness. Know therefore that there is light, a hope for us to grasp, and an assurance in the word and in the presence of Jesus Christ.

Another site that we visited is the cave where the Anabaptists sought refuge from persecution near Zurich, Switzerland. It took our group an hour to climb and reach the Anabaptist cave where a picturesque view welcomed us. The place felt dramatic as we could imagine the struggles of the Anabaptists while they hid themselves both from the Roman and Protestant armies. The cave was extremely cold although we visited during springtime. I can only imagine how the Anabaptists survived the winter season as they chose to stay in that place. They had to choose either life or faith, but they chose faith in Christ rather than life because they knew that Jesus Christ is the source of life and the assurance of salvation. They never gave up their faith for the sake of comfort for they looked forward to the heavenly comfort that awaits them at the throne of God.

For us, it may be difficult to choose between life or faith, but as God's children, we need to choose. As Joshua exclaimed in the Bible, "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15) We should not compromise our faith for the comforts and distractions of this world for our eyes are fixed on the face of Jesus. We look forward not on the things on the earth but in the soon coming of Jesus Christ. May the faith of the Reformers be a living testimony for us today to walk by faith and not by sight.



On Giving, Ministry, and Going Home

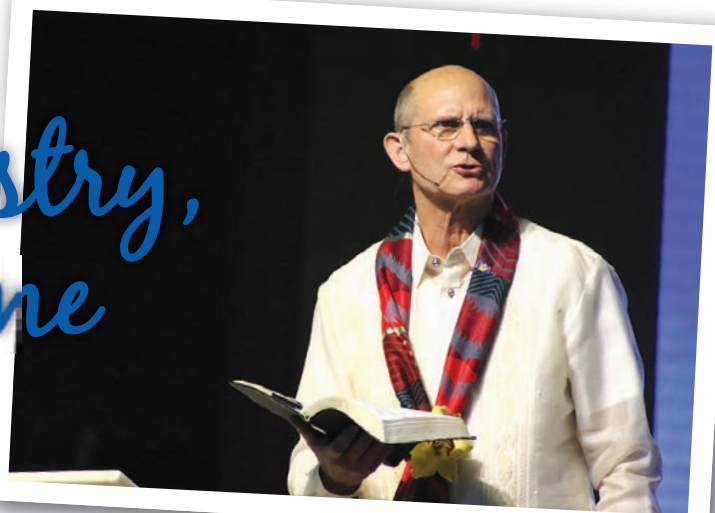
By SHARNIE LOVE ZAMORA

During a special service at the AIIAS Church, guest speaker, Elder Ted N.C. Wilson—Seventh-day Adventist world church president, graced the occasion through a timely message about pressing forward in the great Advent movement and the Gospel Commission in preparation for our journey to heaven with the Lord Jesus Christ. This service was in conjunction with the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) year-end meetings.

SSD featured the work of two missionary organizations, the 1000 Missionary Movement and the SULADS

(Socio-Economic Uplift, Literacy, Anthropological, and Developmental Services) during the Sabbath worship held at the AIIAS Auditorium on November 4, 2017.

The offerings taken at the AIIAS Church on Sabbath were given to support the ministries of the 1000 Missionary Movement and the SULADS as these young missionaries dedicate their lives for the work of the Lord among the unreached people groups of the world.



Wilson reinforced the importance of outreach in his message. He also emphasized that “Christ has already won the victory. Christ has delivered us from many challenges and the church itself will appear as the Spirit of Prophecy says, ‘about to fall, but will not.’ It will go on to glory and to victory. Don’t be afraid of what you may face in the future. Jesus is leading the way and we are going home.”

Photo Credit: Gande Gandhi



Thoughts on LIVING LIKE JESUS

By JODY FRANSCH

The AIIAS community of students, faculty, and staff joined together to refocus their hearts and minds on God. The first Week of Prayer for the school year was held on August 28 to September 2, 2017.

Guest speaker Dr. Philip Baptiste—special assistant to the president of the East-Central Africa Division—talked about the spiritual emphases and practical

examples on how to “Live Like Jesus” in today’s world.

Baptiste’s messages were presented simple enough that even the little children also understood the content. This was because of the practical nature of the topics and Baptiste’s ability to communicate content effectively by using illustrations and getting the congregation involved with dynamic interactions.

There was a spectacular feature in the foyer called “Prayer Stones” where each person got to pick a small smooth stone. There, the participants wrote down the

name of someone that they would like to keep in their thoughts for the entire week. The stone was placed inside one’s pocket or handbag, and each time it was seen or felt, it served as a reminder to keep that special person in prayer.

What was different about this event as opposed to the previous ones was the special emphasis on prayer. Each evening session had a slot dedicated to prayer where the community would pray about something specific based on the theme for that evening.

BY MEL BURGOS

As an international institution, AIAS encourages cultural immersion to students. AIAS students indulge in the multicultural campus as well as from the adventurous experiences in the Philippines. Within the Philippines itself, there are many cultural differences based on the different areas of the islands. The AIAS Business Club (ABC) takes the initiative in bringing these adventures to students with a package full of excitement, nature observance, and fellowship.

During the semester break, October 16-19, 2017, the ABC took a trip to Sagada, a town in the Benguet Province, located in Northern Luzon's mountainous environment. It takes about 10 hours drive from the AIAS campus. On the first stop the group visited Banaue, the town just before Sagada, and had breakfast and devotional with the beautiful Banaue Rice Terraces in view. This mesmerizing stop allowed the group to capture the spectacular views through photographs.

The group arrived in Sagada by noon. The first adventure was hiking through some of the historical caves in the province: Lumiang Cave and Sumaguig Cave. The group was challenged physically during this first adventure—slipping and sliding as

they climbed along the walls of the caves. Nevertheless, the challenge brought a lot of fun and excitement.

Next, the group hiked to Bomod-Ok Falls, which took about an hour and a half hike down the mountains. Then spent about two hours swimming, bonding, and taking photos in this beautiful cascade. After which, the group then hiked back to have lunch in the traditional Philippine “boodle fight” way—a meal where food, which is to be eaten by bare hands, is piled on top of banana leaves laid in the middle of a long table. This was an activity that many of the trip's participants had not yet experienced. It was an absolute cultural immersion for them. After lunch, the group was able to visit an orange farm, where oranges were picked and enjoyed.

On the last day, the group set out early to catch the sunrise and a sea of clouds from the viewpoint, Kiltapan View. The group was inspired by the

picturesque view that they were blessed to see during their morning devotional. The group then proceeded to endure a long drive through the mountain ranges, farms, and winding roads of Benguet Province which was on the way to their final tour destination, Baguio City—the summer capital of the Philippines.

Through this trip, the ABC members learned many things about themselves. Many had disbelief in taking on the adventure, yet they accomplished it and felt satisfied in the end. Many pushed themselves when they thought they couldn't anymore. Some of the parents even wondered how they could do such an adventure with their little children. The group prayed, remained faithful, cared for each other, and kept God in their hearts—this is what made the trip successful, safe, and enjoyable. Most of all, in everything they did and saw, they thanked God, for they know only through His power can come such beauty in this world.

TERRACES, CAVES, and Waterfalls



Photo Credit: Akiko Sinaga

Note: Mel Burgos is the 2017-2018 ABC Vice President for Social



Seven international guest speakers graced the forum with different presentations on various topics of the Protestant Reformation. Guest lecturers included Dr. Alberto R. Timm, currently serving as an associate director of the Ellen G. White Estate; Dr. Clinton Wahlen, an associate director of the Biblical Research Institute; Dr. Lisa Diller, a history lecturer at Southern Adventist University; Dr. Martin Lohrmann, a pastor of the

They included: Luther's beginnings, meeting the needs of the poor, *Sola Scriptura*, priesthood of all believers, education, the proclamation of the Gospel, Luther's view on the antichrist, Adventism, and the State.

Most presentations in the breakout sessions were presented by AIIAS faculty and students. The topics in these sessions included studies related to salvation, justification, sin, role of biblical languages, historiography, state of the dead, baptism, politics, governance, and economy.

The 235 attendees who registered for the forum were made up of students, faculty, church pastors, teachers, and leaders.

The 3-day conference was organized by the AIIAS Theological Seminary under the leadership of Dr. Michael Campbell,

Dr. Teofilo Correa, Dr. Aivars Ozolins, and Dr. Remwil Tornalejo, faculty of AIIAS Theological Seminary. It was comprised of a variety of keynote speeches, plenary sessions, and breakout sessions.

The upcoming 21st Annual Theological Forum that will be hosted on November 8-10, 2018 under the headship of the Applied Theology Department. It will focus on "Making Disciples For Jesus." Visit www.aaias.edu for further announcements.

BY DAN NAMANYA

The Protestant Reformation in GLOBAL CONTEXT

The year 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation since Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses on the Castle Church door. The 20th AIIAS Annual Theological Forum with the theme, "The Protestant Reformation in Global Context" held on November 9-11, 2017, focused on recounting what happened 500 years ago and the implications of the Reformation today.

In a recorded video, the Seventh-day Adventist world church president, Elder Ted Wilson, articulated his warm greetings to all forum attendants. He shared the impact of the Protestant Reformation and its connection to the Seventh-day Adventist church. Reflecting on the writings of Ellen White, Wilson emphasized that "the Reformation was not to end with Martin Luther but to continue to the end of time." He challenged the participants to focus on the word of God as the foundation of the Reformation seeking to carry on the spirit of the Reformers in warning the world and preparing for the soon return of Jesus.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and assistant professor of Lutheran Confessions and Heritage at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa; Dr. Michael Sokupa, an associate director of the White Estate; Dr. Dennis Pettibone, professor emeritus of History at Southern Adventist University; and Dr. Nikolaus Satelmajer, former editor of Ministry Magazine and associate ministerial secretary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters.

The topics presented by these distinguished scholars depicted the contributions of Martin Luther during the Protestant Reformation.



Top: Dr. Alberto Timm, one of the guest presenters. Right: Some of the attendees of the Seminary forum

Those who know AIAS also know that the Graduate School seems to be composed of three parallel worlds that rarely intersect. Nonetheless, this apparent irreconcilable dissimilarity among business, education, and public health disappear each year during the traditional International Conference. In fact, on November 14-16, 2017, these three sciences found much in common. More than 300 attendees from diverse universities of the Philippines and from abroad gathered at AIAS under the theme: "Social Responsibility."

The tone of the 18th International Conference of AIAS was clearly set from the opening ceremony when it was expressed that the opposite of love is not hatred, but indifference. An indifference of global proportions, which seems alien to the pain or the need of others in a planet that suffers exploitation by egotistic desires. The business, education, and public health scholars joined in response through 46 concurrent presentations and five plenary sessions highlighting valuable research and practical proposals to promote, educate, and practice social responsibility.

of Success" and "Are You a Multiplier?", defining the characteristics of categories of leaders and the exploration of the cognitive thinking process in making decisions based on worldviews.

In this context, community presenters also gave practical examples of ingenious inclusion and care for the environment. One entrepreneur showed how his production increased in quality and sales by employing workers with disabilities. Another presenter shared how a school set up a system of collection and sale of garbage to convert it into scholarships for poor children. Attendees saw how inmates of a prison manufactured intricate ornaments designed entirely from small pieces of recycled paper.



Three Worlds and One Responsibility

BY EDGAR BESKOW

character who do research, not to obtain incentives or certificates but to provide theoretical tools, explanatory models, and concrete proposals to alleviate pain, combat poverty, and educate values.

The conviction that it is possible to make positive and real changes in the society was instilled by those who participated in this unforgettable conference. From multiple approaches, researchers left evidence that the social responsibility is not an isolated act that is summarized in a picture to get

more "likes" on a social network. On the contrary, social responsibility of a Christian is derived from a biblical worldview practiced as a lifestyle. "Others first" is the motto of scholars with a humble

The presentations went quickly and soon it was time for the closing plenary session. And again, if you know AIAS, you can picture the scene of those 300 scholars of business, education, and public health gathered in the amphitheater. Those three different worlds of the Graduate School of AIAS were more united than ever in the conviction that there is a mission to fulfill; that there is a call to social responsibility for this community of leaders; a community composed of those who are still serving or studying at AIAS and for the great family of alumni around the world. Yes, we are all called to take the torch that Jesus left us to light this world until His return.



Keynote speaker, Dr. Elissa Kiddo, director for the Center of Research for Adventist Education in La Sierra University, California, graced the occasion by sharing two topics, "The Science

Top right: Dr. Elissa Kiddo. Above: Some of the attendees and presenters during the Graduate School forum.

Do we really need to change everything?

Is my costume okay?

The auditorium is so big!



These were just some of the many questions and statements I heard while I was getting ready together with the other students for the Cultural Night. What I felt was a mixture of thrill and anxiousness. With all the community meetings, and scheduled practices on top of assignments and requirements that were due, who wouldn't be thrilled and anxious at the same time?

celebration of ethnicity. It was two years ago when I saw a friend's post about AIIAS Cultural Night. I wasn't a student here back then. After I looked at most of the presentations and pictures, I thought to myself that it was such an amazing way to express the diversity of each community.

When the big night came, I couldn't help but be in awe

dances, songs, and music, but it also displayed each of the nations' tribes, tradition, history, and unity.

This annual event reminds me that even with our differences, we can still be united. It makes me think of heaven and how beautiful it must be when all of us, God's created beings, will gather in praise and worship, despite our different

skin colors and geographical locations from which we come from.

Surely, AIIAS will always hold a special place

in my heart, not only because it is a remarkable institution that has a beautiful campus but because it respects, honors, and celebrates the diversity of each community member.

YOUR HUE. OUR COLOR:

Unity Amidst Differences

By SEPTEMBER JANE RANAREZ

The evening of November 19, 2017 was considered as the BIG NIGHT of the year for AIIAS, or at least for me. While I was thinking of what might happen during all the presentations, I couldn't help but think of how much I have longed to witness and perhaps even join this wondrous

of how astoundingly each community presented the given theme, "Your Hue, Our Color." It didn't only show how each of the communities' colors are beautifully different from each other through several portrayals of their colorful costumes,

The AIIAS Cultural Night is an annual program that helps to increase one's knowledge and to have an enhanced understanding about the diverse regions, places, languages, religions, practices, and cultures that exist around the world.



Above: Filipino Community presentation. Below left: European Community presentation. Below right: African Community presentation.

Promote Health, TAKE CONTROL!

BY MOMOI SAUSAU

The AIIAS Health Festival Weekend (HFW) reminded us of the dire need of the world at large to promote health. In AIIAS, protected as we are and well versed with much knowledge, we are not immune to lifestyle practices that contribute to non-communicable diseases (NCD). NCDs have become the number one pandemic killer in all groups. Although NCDs are silent and progressive diseases, they eventually lead to early death.

The initiation of the HFW was the presentation of the Foundations of the Adventist Health Message. This was conducted through eight interactive small group discussions. "Communities—Let's Celebrate!" revealed those who were part of the ten-week Take Control initiative and their improvement from the old to the new. The message titled, "For the Sake of Your Soul—How to Overcome New Addictions," addressed specific needs that were seen in the

Korea, Myanmar, South America, South Pacific, and the United States were arrayed beautifully with unique designs. Contributions of healthful dishes from each community was the highlight of this activity. The dishes—which reflected food preparation from their own countries—consisted of raw salads, fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as whole grains. Judges assessed each community's tables, dishes, and presentation. Results revealed that eight out of ten communities needed to make certain changes in their food preparations. Canada, Europe, Korea, U.S., and South Pacific scored the highest in food with the most nutritional value, prepared in its simplest form.

The last HFW core activity was the Family Fun Night. A smorgasbord of games in ten stations were organized for the youth, singles, and married alike. A variety of dynamic games and races were the exciting activities of the evening. It was a night filled with laughter and exercise for all who came.

To herald new lifestyle practices and to culminate the weekend activities, HFW promoted the Pathfinder Fun Run organized by the AIIAS Pathfinder Club and their team of counselors and teachers.

With that thought in mind within a span of four weeks, a team of eight ladies from Canada, China, Ethiopia, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, and Samoa were made to realize the gravity of the situation and to herald the warning before it is too late. The main focus was to address the urgency of the silent killers to unsuspecting individuals, and to "take control" within the family and community. The initiative offered five core activities promoting the way to continue daily in these practices as it is a lifestyle and not just an event that is celebrated yearly.

community. Parents and guardians alike were spellbound as Dr. Cesar Galvez, chair of the AIIAS Public Health department, revealed modern day addictions faced by teens, children, and families.

Following the first three HFW core activities was the Wholesome "Take Control" International Potluck where communities representing all the major regions of the world participated. Colorful displays by the communities of Canada, China, Europe, India, Indonesia,



Above: Dr. Cesar Galvez with Public Health students. Right: Food served during the HFW potluck. Photo Credit: Dianne Almocera and Kahii Kastomman. Note: Momoi Sausau is an MPH Student and the 2017-2018 HFW Class President.

The year 2018 opened on a very positive note for the Asian Qualitative Research Association (AQRA), a research organization of Allias based in the Graduate School.

After just its first two international conferences, it has already managed to mentor scholars from Allias and other universities to publish seven qualitative research articles in *The Qualitative Report* journal of Nova Southeastern University based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA. This is a great blessing from God showing that high quality work is being produced in AQRA, given the journal's competitiveness.

in Asia! AQRA's recently published articles can be accessed free of charge at <http://nsuworks.nova.edu/tqr/vol22/iss13/>

In his recent visit to Nova Southeastern University on January 5, 2018, the AQRA president met with the founding editor (currently editor-in-chief) of *The Qualitative Report*, Dr. Ronald Chenail. In their two-hour meeting, both qualitative



AQRA Publishes in a Top International Qualitative Research Journal

By SAFARY WA-MBALEKA



This peer-reviewed international journal is known to be the oldest multidisciplinary qualitative research journal in the world. From the journal's website, it is clear that it is indexed in some of the leading databases such as Scopus, EBSCO Open Access Journals, All Academic, Ulrich's Periodicals Computer Library Center, Directory of Open Access Journals, Google Scholar, ERIC, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, Gales' Academic OneFile, and many more.

This is great news in the history of AQRA, given that this journal is highly reputed as the first and also still leading in scholarly publications on qualitative research. Praise God for making Allias a leading institution on qualitative research

research leaders agreed to strengthen the partnership between the two organizations in order to help empower more scholars in Asia in qualitative research. They agreed to continue their partnership for AQRA publication until AQRA could run its own qualitative research journal for Asia. They also discussed the possibility of hosting a joint international conference on qualitative research in the near future. The AQRA president was invited to join the editorial board of *The Qualitative Report*, effective once the paperwork is done.

AQRA is growing. In just two years and two months of its existence, it now has about 1,100 registered members, and the number continues to rise. AQRA continues to empower

Allias faculty, staff, and students as well as many scholars from different educational institutions around the Philippines through monthly seminars on different qualitative research methods and topics. In the second half of 2017 alone, AQRA ran five seminars at Allias. AQRA has scheduled 11 seminars and workshops for 2018, in addition to its 3rd International Conference on Qualitative Research to be held in Subic Bay on April 24-26, 2018. More opportunities for collaboration are also expected with other higher education institutions around the Philippines. Among them, the first one was held at the Adventist University of the Philippines at the end of January 2018 focusing on Action Research as a qualitative research design.

Above: Dr. Safary Wa-Mbaleka, founding president of AQRA with Dr. Ronald Chenail, founding editor and current editor-in-chief of *The Qualitative Report*.

Focus on "The Sermon Journey" Offers Practical Advice

By MICHAEL W. CAMPBELL

On January 11-12, 2018, the third annual AIAS preaching lectureship took place featuring Dr. Randy L. Roberts, the senior pastor of the Loma Linda University Church, who is widely recognized as a leading homiletician in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Among his many responsibilities, he also teaches in the Loma Linda University School of Religion and serves on the Loma Linda University Health administration as a senior vice-president for spirituality and mission. He became the senior pastor of the Loma Linda University Church in 2000. Prior to that, he served as a chaplain and served in pastoral ministry in several places in California and Texas.

The theme for this year was, "The Sermon Journey." Roberts explained how to develop a sermon from Bible study right on through to delivery. This also means bringing along the listener to develop interest in their hearts for what is being said. Thus, both the preacher and listener eventually will take a journey. Some preachers, noted Roberts, suggest that as long as they surrender their life to God they don't really need to spend a lot of time in preparation or that God

will suddenly give them the words to say. "Nothing could be further from the truth," stated Roberts. "The spirit who meets you in the study will meet you again in the pulpit. You need to be in the study to deepen, enrich, and to prepare."

Roberts suggested that each sermon begins by asking two basic questions: What am I going to say? And then: How am I going to say it? He stated that "the whole sermon process should be bathed in prayer." This means beginning with an attitude of humility and asking the Lord to lead and guide at all the various stages in the sermon preparation process. After you have done this, the essential part is that each sermon should be derived from the Scripture: "What I am going to say arises out of the text." Roberts said, "This is why it is so important to spend time in the text."

About 200 people participated in this third annual preaching conference, double the attendance from last year, which indicates a growing appreciation among pastors across the Southern Asia-Pacific Division for this annual resource. This year's lectureship was made possible thanks to the support from the



Division ministerial department, along with additional support from the North Philippine Union and Central Luzon Conferences. Each year, a book is offered to the participants to help build pastoral libraries and to provide a practical resource that pastors can take with them. This year's book was Fred Craddock's classic, "As One Without Authority."

Planning for this event began two years ago and was spearheaded by Aivars Ozolins, chair of the Applied Theology department, and Michael Campbell. Next year's conference will feature Karl Haffner, senior pastor of the Kettering Seventh-day Adventist Church, which will take place on January 17-18, 2019.



Above: Dr. Randy Roberts
Below: Attendees from all-over Philippines.

A Journey to Know More About God

By BRUCE SUMENDAP



The AllAS Week of Prayer highlighted the importance of recognizing God's love and His character in an academic setting where people can be overwhelmed by different needs and priorities.

"If you put

God in the center of your lives, He will provide what you need," said Dr. Artur Stele, a general vice president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters. Stele further explained how the love of God in the context of the

sanctuary and investigative judgement is all about God's intention to restore one's fellowship with Him.

"Dr. Stele offered some fresh perspectives of God's character," said Bryan Sumendap, AllAS vice president for student services. "He shared how the father of the prodigal son of Luke 15 ran a long distance, out of the city, through the gates, and past the fields to meet his lost son even though dignified men in those days never ran but always walked slowly and stately."

Echoing the same theme of discovering how God will reveal himself to those who seek Him, Dr. Galina Stele—the research and program evaluation manager at the Seventh-day Adventist

Church world headquarters Office of Archives, Statistics and Research—shared insights from the story of the woman who was healed after touching Jesus' garment. Stele further shared her own seemingly impossible love story as a testimony of God's abiding love.

This Week of Prayer was held on January 6-11, 2018. AllAS was privileged to have the Steles, a husband-wife team of speakers.



Left: Dr. Galina Stele. Right: Dr. Artur Stele.

The Mini Olympics is an annual event which takes place in the beginning of the year at AllAS. The AllAS community geared up with excitement for the occasion that was held on January 25-28, 2018. It's a time when students, faculty, and staff come together to have fun.

Dr. Bryan Sumendap, vice president for student services, and social chair, Huayi Liu brought greetings and welcomed the excited participants respectively. The teams warmly encouraged each other before the lighting of the torch which was carried out by the AllAS president, Dr. Stephen Guptill. As the Olympic flame was lit, the bell tower was also lit up by lights from top to bottom which added a special touch to the occasion. Though the rain fell on most days, it did not wash away the fun and excitement of the events.

The Green team emerged victorious champions followed by Grey, Red, and Blue teams. We look forward to see you in our next Mini Olympics to be held on January 31 to February 3, 2019.

Fostering Sportsmanship and Team Spirit

By DWANE BRENT SYLVESTER

The games were well organized. — **Phanuel Manizabayo, Rwanda**

I enjoyed playing team sport events like basketball and volleyball. This AllAS Mini Olympics reduced some of my stress. Thank you so much to everyone who made this program a success. — **Naw Gracie, Myanmar**

I enjoyed the great attitude of the groups. The food as a whole was great. There were encouraging words offered by each opposing player and team spirit was felt. — **Dr. Rita Henriquez-Green, Costa Rica**

I enjoyed the spirit of cooperation, rather than competition. It felt like one big family playing together exhibiting the true spirit of sportsmanship. I was amazed to see all the teams awarded equally at the end of the games. — **Dan Namanya, Uganda**

Here are what some of the participants had to say:

I really enjoyed seeing everyone participating in the activities. I enjoyed watching the groups working together and creating strategies to win. I can't wait for the next Mini Olympics. — **Yeison Gonzalez, Colombia**

The thing that I enjoyed the most was to see many people of different ages, families, positions, and backgrounds come together to take part in the event. It was also nice to see staff join and support their respective team colors. — **Christian Cardona, Colombia**

AIIAS POLL

How has your stay in AIIAS helped you in your walk of faith?

Through chapel periods and weeks of prayer.

EDIVALDO, Angola

By starting a class with devotional.

DIM SAN NIANG, Myanmar

You can find God-fearing people and God's presence here.

PUKAR, Nepal

I have seen the way God answers prayers and works in the life of people. It made my faith stronger. Even when I worry, I get calmed by the assurance that God will make a way.

BLESSING OBAYA, Nigeria

The stress brought about by the tons of materials to be studied sent me to my knees and I relied on God for wisdom and understanding. Through this experience, I have known better that God walks with me during trying times providing strength, guidance, and success.

JOSE MANUEL S. ESPERO, Philippines

*Real world! Tough life!!
Strong faith!!!*

RANJITH KINSTON GLADSTONE, India

Though I am far away from my family, I found in AIIAS a broader family who supports and nourishes me with encouragement to grow in Christ and to his service. The activities of the ministries of AIIAS Church and the continuous reports from missionaries who are working all over the world increase the desire in me of being more and more engaged with the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in preparation for the soon return of Christ.

RAFAEL BAMPI DE OLIVEIRA, Brazil

Seeing how God has been taking care of my academic, financial, and physical challenges have brought me closer to him. In addition, the presence of a prayer garden where someone can pour his all before the Lord has improved my faith in the love of God.

GEORGES M. KISUMANO, Congo

March 11-17, 2018

AIIAS ONLINE WEEK OF PRAYER

Engaged to MissionsCan be accessed at <https://online.aiias.edu>**March 28-31, 2018**

AIIAS AFRICAN THEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Health and Wholeness in Africa: A Biblical Foundation**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mxolisi Michael Sokupa***Associate Director, Ellen G. White Estate**Seventh-day Adventist Church World Headquarters***Venue: AIIAS Amphitheater**For more information, contact: aata@aiias.edu**April 12-14, 2018**ASIAN QUALITATIVE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION:
3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON QUALITATIVE
RESEARCH**Honing the Craft****Keynote Speaker: Dr. René D. Drumm***Associate Dean, College of Health**Gulf Park Campus, University of Southern Mississippi***Venue: Subic Bay Travelers Hotel, Olongapo, Philippines**For more information, contact: aqra@aiias.edu**July 13-14, 2018**

AIIAS ASIAN THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FORUM

Encountering Religious Pluralism in Asia**Venue: AIIAS Amphitheater**For more information, contact: genebagop@aiias.edu

ABOUT AIIAS

The Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIIAS) is a graduate-level Adventist educational institution that offers quality education while keeping the tuition at a great value. AIIAS has 3 modalities: online learning, distance learning centers (DLCs), and on-campus full-time programs.

AIIAS is located on a beautiful tropical campus 45.5 kilometers outside of Manila, the capital city of the Philippines. This location offers easy access to opportunities for mission trips and community outreach both locally and internationally, especially within the 10/40 window.

The AIIAS community consists of over 200 graduate students from more than 80 countries all over the world. The faculty members come from 16 different countries, a majority of which are expatriates. The teacher-student ratio is low, giving students the opportunity to work closely with their teachers. Typically, a class of 10 students will represent many nationalities that create access to a variety of insights and global perspectives.

The AIIAS alumni hold prestigious positions throughout Asia and the world. They serve as teachers, pastors, world church leaders, university presidents, administrators, business executives, and health professionals. Many of the students come to AIIAS to have a strong foundation as a benefit from world-class graduate training.

RECOGNITION & ACCREDITATION

AIIAS is recognized as a graduate educational institution of international character by the government of the Republic of the Philippines, as certified by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 2021. The institution and all its programs are accredited by the AAA.¹ In addition, the Graduate School programs are accredited by PAASCU² and those from the Seminary by ATESEA.³

¹ The Adventist Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities of Maryland, USA.

² The Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities which is a full member of APQN.

³ The Association for Theological Education in South East Asia which is a full member of WOCATI thereby networked with other regional associations like the ATS.

THE AIIAS ADVANTAGE

Aside from education, there are various benefits of living on a campus filled with students and their families.

“AIIAS provides a wholesome experience by developing each person academically, spiritually, mentally, and physically.”

Living on campus gives you opportunities to experience a rich cultural diversity of friends, thoughts, and activities. Here, you will be able to meet fellow students from every continent except Antarctica. The diversity allows students to unite and gain knowledge from other cultures.

AIIAS has a family-friendly environment where you will be able to see children of different age groups from various countries interacting and freely playing together. This develops cultural awareness and appreciation at an early age. Parents maintain a peaceful mind while focusing on studying as the walled campus has a secure entrance.

AIIAS has an abundance of opportunities for one to grow spiritually, whether it's through prayer meetings, Sabbath worship programs, or church ministries off-campus. There are many other opportunities that will allow you to both receive a blessing and be a blessing.

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The AIIAS Theological Seminary exists to equip mission-driven professional teachers and other church leaders in a holistic, multicultural, and collaborative approach to learning.



The AIIAS Theological Seminary promotes biblically-informed scholarship, spirituality, and a meaningful field experience.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

The AIIAS Graduate School develops service-oriented professionals known for integrity and scholarship in the fields of Business, Education, and Public Health, within an international context.

ENGLISH CENTER

The AIIAS English Center gives students intensive and personalized instruction in the English language in an English-speaking environment. The English Center helps students to learn English in line with well-recognized English language programs.

ONLINE

AIIAS Online delivers quality graduate Christian education that is accessible and affordable through student-centered and contextualized learning experiences for better service to the church and society.

ADMISSION DEADLINES

May 4, 2018 for First Sem. 2018 Term A

July 5, 2018 for First Sem. 2018 Term B

Sept 10, 2018 for Second Sem. 2018 Term A

Dec 6, 2018 for Second Sem. 2018 Term B

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Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Business

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Education Specialist (EdS)
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Education

Public Health

Master of Public Health (MPH)*

SEMINARY

Professional Programs

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Master of Divinity (MDiv)*
Master of Arts in Ministry
Doctor of Ministry (DMin)
Doctor of Missiology (DMiss)

Academic Programs

Master of Arts in Religion (MA-R)
Master of Theology (MTh)
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**also offered Online*

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