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flags

The Official AIAS Magazine



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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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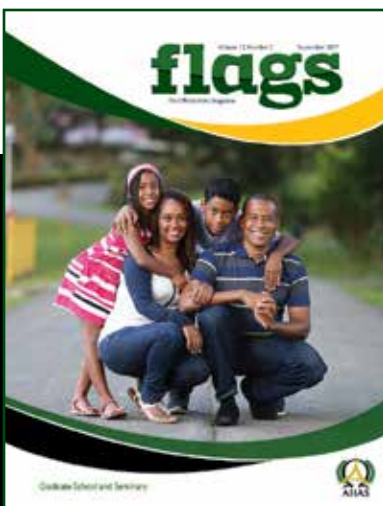
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About the Cover

The Vargas family is one of many families in AIIAS that belong to a campus where family well-being matters. While students prepare to be global leaders, AIIAS provides a comfortable and memorable campus experience for each family member.

Cover Design by
Miriam Carlos Pamula

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

Family Matters

BY SHARNIE LOVE ZAMORA, RN

AIIAS is a large community and a family in and of itself. Students of AIIAS come from both near and far, a majority of which are represented from countries on all continents except Antarctica. The diversity is one of a kind here at AIIAS. Students from any race, nation, or creed are welcome to experience studying in this wonderful institution located in the beautiful country called the Philippines.

The majority of our students are professionals who come to live at AIIAS. Many are either single, newly married, or are already parents to children from infancy to young adults. AIIAS is a home for these budding families.

If you walk around our lovely campus, you will see children of different nationalities and various ages mingling, playing, and understanding each other in their own special way. AIIAS serves as a place where being exposed to other cultures plays a major role in the early stages of their development. AIIAS is where families are encouraged to grow in an environment that nurtures with tender loving care.

Life at AIIAS is not solely about academics. Instead, it aims to enrich the physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual well-being of each member of the family. AIIAS is where Christ is the center and the foundation of all things.

In this issue, you will read about the development happening at AIIAS; the experiences of those who left their homeland to pursue their studies here; engaging lessons for the family; dealing with reverse culture shock; recent campus events; and much more.



Come and receive a unique experience that will equip you to be an accomplished leader with a heart for Christ's mission from AIIAS to the world.

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AIIAS continues its campus development in a variety of ways. At the May 2017 board meeting, a new student housing tower was approved for construction. The student housing



Tower R Construction Groundbreaking

also leveled an area behind the AIIAS Elementary School that will provide an ideal spot for future school development projects.

The bulldozers also cleared and leveled the area behind the two

and IT staff have done a great job to address these challenges while building our campus.

We are already beginning to see the need for additional housing beyond Tower R. If the cohort and



Kingfisher Park

committee has been under pressure because of the housing shortage resulting in some students not being able to live on campus.



Area behind AIIAS Academy

campus enrollment trends continue, we may need to consider yet another tower beyond Tower R.

AIIAS Continues Its CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

BY STEPHEN GUPTILL

Construction of the new tower officially started on June 13, with the bulldozers preparing the site for construction. Funding for the 16 3-bedroom units in Tower R was made possible through a very generous anonymous donor, by significant gifts from the Southern and Northern Asia-Pacific Divisions, along with gifts from alumni and friends. It is expected that the construction will be completed by the end of August 2018.

While the bulldozers were on campus preparing for Tower R, they

new faculty duplexes which will be landscaped and used as a park. This area will be known as Kingfisher Park.

With campus development comes the need to grow the utilities support system on campus. This includes new electrical cables and transformers, new campus lighting, upgrading water supplies and mains, managing storm drains and sewer, and supporting the campus networks for campus phones, TV, and internet. Our physical plant

Former students, faculty, and friends are important to the success of these campus development plans. Your contributions are a vital part of the success of AIIAS. For more information about how you can be a part of this “ministry of education,” please contact the AIIAS president at president@aaias.edu.

All these efforts are intended to help support the AIIAS Mission to develop leaders through distinctively Seventh-day Adventist graduate education, excelling in spirituality, scholarship, and service. AIIAS is grateful for your prayers and support to achieve this mission.

AIIAS enrollment is increasingly putting pressure on student housing. Aside from any felt needs, the trends in campus and cohort enrollments are indicating that there is a greater and greater need for student housing on campus.

During the 2016-2017 academic year, a total of 796 students were enrolled in AIIAS graduate programs. They came from 73 different countries representing all 13 world divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, as well as from the Middle East and North Africa region. While many students studied full-time on campus, there were approximately 60% who enrolled in modalities that supported part-time studies, i.e., Distance Learning Centers (DLCs), online learning, and campus cohorts. Altogether, there were 11 DLCs situated in eight different countries as well as eight different campus cohorts. The newest programs to start this year are the PhD in Education DLC in Ghana and a second DMiss cohort on the AIIAS campus.

Since 2010, certain graduate degree programs have been offered via the cohort modality. Students studying through this modality are typically full-time working professionals. They come onto the campus for several weeks every year to attend intensive face-to-face class sessions and then complete assignments and projects over some months during the remainder of the year. It is in this modality where the highest growth in enrollment has taken place (see Figure).

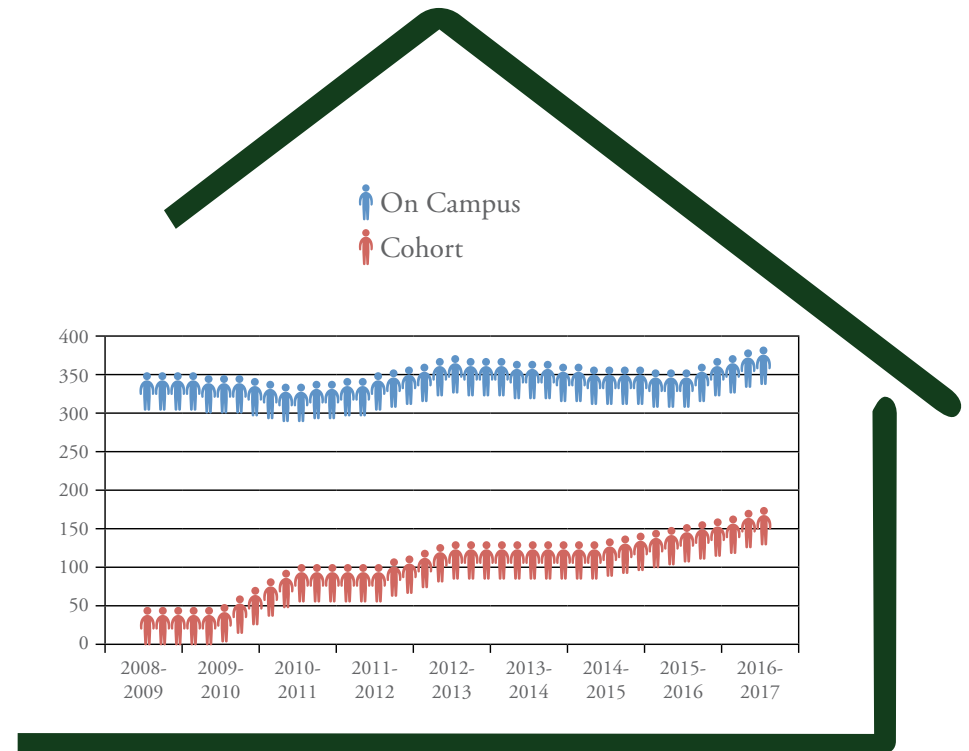


Figure. AIIAS Campus and Cohort Enrollment by Academic Year 2008-2017.

STUDENT HOUSING AND ENROLLMENT

BY DOLF OBERHOLSTER

In the same 7-year period that cohorts have come to AIIAS, the regular campus enrollment has increased by 17% and three dormitory towers (O, P, and Q) have been constructed. Based on enrollment figures, as many as an additional of 50 full-time students and 120 part-time students need accommodation on campus today compared to 2010. Since most of our students are foreigners, it is important that they be housed on campus. The 42 units in the three new towers are clearly not meeting the

entire need. Currently, every unit is filled and the administration has had to make plans to construct an additional dormitory, Tower R.

This upward trend in enrollment and the associated demand for housing on campus is a nice challenge to have. It is unlikely to change soon since two or three additional cohorts will be starting this current academic year while only one cohort is due to finish. Construction on Tower R will start in August 2017.



Seminary Dean, Dr. Gonzales, an AIIAS alumnus, queues up with other alumni in the buffet table.



Dr. Lisa Beardsley-Hardy, an AIIAS alumna, pose with other alumni (L-R) Khennjo and Gay Deles and Evelyn Cesar.

BY BRUCE SUMENDAP **AIIAS Alumni** *Reconnects* **to EXPAND Its Role**



Dr. Saw Samuel, SSD President, also an alumnus of AIIAS, urges alumni to engage with their alma mater.

Seventy alumni gathered on the AIIAS campus once again for Homecoming 2017 to reconnect with one another and convene for a business meeting.

Speaking on the theme of *Reconnect, Relive, and Respond*, the president of Southern Asia-Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventists, Dr. Saw Samuel, talked about the value of being an AIIAS alumni and the increasing role of the alumni in the church's mission.

Samuel completed his Doctor of Ministry from AIIAS in 2016 prior to his election as the top executive in the denomination's regional headquarters.

The AIIAS president, Dr. Stephen Guptill, shared a video on the early days of the development of AIIAS from its inauguration day to clearing the site and construction of the earliest buildings. Guptill invited alumni to participate in the ongoing campus development projects such as faculty housing and student towers.

During the business meeting session, Sung Hyun Yoon was elected as the alumni association president; Evelyn Cesar as secretary; Gimilyn Wa-Mbaleka as treasurer; and



Dr. Khin Maung Kyi and Grace Kyi, alumni from Myanmar.



Dr. Stephen Guptill presents a flash back of AIIAS developments.



Dr. Richard Sabuin mingling with other alumni while waiting for their turn at the buffet table.



Student, faculty, and division leaders are part of the alumni family.

Joshua Sagala as historian. One agenda item was to ratify the alumni constitution and bylaws to accommodate the use of electronic voting.

With the new association officers in place, AIIAS hopes to see a strong alumni base to provide feedback for curriculum development and a supportive voice in the AIIAS Board.

Later, on the evening of May 2, 2017, AIIAS board members, church leaders, and new graduates were seen talking and exchanging smiles during dinner at the AIIAS Function Hall where the homecoming was held.

AIIAS alumni presently numbers 3,500 around the world serving in different areas and organizations but especially in the Adventist Church organization.

Alumni Connection

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

email us at flags@aaias.edu

or write to
Flags, AIIAS, 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 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 e-mail address, along with any news notes (along with a recent picture) for publication in *Flags*.

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

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

AIIAS, c/o Treasury
General Conference of Seventh-day
Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike,
Silver Spring, MD 20904, U.S.A.

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BY IKECHUKWU MICHAEL OLUIKPE

What You Live is What They Get

CHILDREN AND CHARACTER FORMATION AT HOME

The home is the foundation of society. Everything begins at home for children. The family plays a vital role in determining how children turn out as adults in the long run. It is the desire of every true Christian parent to bring up their children to become godly and Christ-like. But how does this happen?

The words of God through Moses in *Deuteronomy 6:4-9* (NLT) have an important lesson for Christian adults who care for children at home:

“Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and

“There is a need for Christian parents to be intentional in living out a Christ-like life.”

again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

The basic principle here is since children learn by imitation, they will follow whatever lifestyle is displayed by those who care for them. Children learn from the influence of the adults around them. They imitate the words

kids below 7. But at every stage of human growth and development, these words are of great value to parents and guardians at any level.

Based on the biblical words above, there is a need for Christian parents to be intentional in living out a Christ-like life, by personally and genuinely loving Jesus Christ first and best daily. Their lives must have the words of this song as their daily goal:

Children learn by imitation.

future. With this vision in mind, we are to daily plan our lives around activities that provide the environment for godly influence. Living a carefree Christian

"What we live is what they get and eventually what they turn out to be."

spoken around them; the songs and music listened to, played, or sung; the visual media watched; and the activities done by the significant others. What we live is what they get and eventually what they turn out to be.

The text in *Deuteronomy* makes a clear point: If we really love the Lord with everything we have, it will show in our actions, even when done unintentionally. Since children form their character by age 7, these words are significant for parents who have

*I must have Jesus
In my whole life
I must have Jesus
In my heart
In my walking
In my talking
In my sleeping
In my waking
I must have Him in my life.*

Every Christian parent is to have a godly vision of what kind of persons they want their children to be in the

life will influence our children to do the same. By doing so, we run the risk of producing children who are wayward or just nominal church goers without a real relationship with God. Christian parents and guardians should make it a priority to find and invest in resources that will enable them first to nurture their personal relationship with God. Those resources will help their children to grow into God's vision for their lives.

How we live is what they will get.

Reference:

Pendergrass, M. (1976). *I Must Have Jesus. On To the Chief Musician. Songs of Worship and Praise by CANDLE* [LP, 8-trk, Album]. Canoga Park, CA: Birdwing Records.

BIO: Ikechukwu Michael Oluikpe is a Nigerian who graduated from the AIIAS Theological Seminary with a Doctor of Philosophy in Religion (emphasis in Biblical Studies) in March 2012. At the time of writing this article, he is an independent research writer living in Manila, Philippines.

After spending almost three years in the Middle East, our plans to serve as long-term missionaries among the Arabs were suddenly altered for reasons beyond our control. We had

Life in AIIAS is full of daily surprises and disguised blessings.

to return to the Dominican Republic, our home country, uncertain of God's purpose for us. We had been working at the Dominican Adventist University for two years when two unexpected doors opened almost simultaneously. First, I was interviewed and received an invitation to pastor a multi-cultural church in a North-American major city. A few days later, our school president offered to send us to AIIAS where my wife and I could pursue our doctoral studies as fully-sponsored students.

After much prayer, reflection, and consultation, we decided to come to AIIAS. One of the main reasons was that here, my wife, Anita, could also study and my 7 and 9 years-old children could grow and learn in a family-friendly environment. When we left the mission field, we had considered doing fund-raising in order to pursue graduate

studies. However, the Lord made our dreams come true when we were offered the opportunity to come to AIIAS. My wife and I often marvel and praise God for His guidance as we walk through this beautiful campus.

Has it been easy?

Not at all. Being full-time doctoral students with two school children struggling with the language and culture shock made it very challenging at the beginning and afterward. We soon discovered that we needed to map out serious plans to make our spiritual and family life a top priority. We also learned very early that taking care of emotional and physical health is a must. Has it been rewarding? Absolutely. Life in AIIAS is full of daily surprises and disguised blessings. We have learned as much out of the classroom as we have grown academically.

Among the many benefits and blessings of our life here is the opportunity to learn from the rich cultural, linguistic, and ethnic diversity of the AIIAS community. We have

also enjoyed the hospitality of the Filipinos. Besides, the Philippines is an inexpensive place for tourism. We have taken advantage of that by visiting five of the most beautiful islands in the country. For the last two years, I have been involved in the AIIAS Prison Ministry. My wife and children sometimes accompany me to use their musical talents to bless the children of God who are behind bars.

In addition to that, we have met here some of our best friends among fellow students and the faculty. Not long ago, my eldest told me not to work on my dissertation too fast because his heart is now divided. He really wants to return to our country, but he will also miss AIIAS. The Pathfinder and Adventurer Clubs, the Sabbath School for children, and the committed teachers at the AIIAS Academy all make this a great place for children. I highly recommend AIIAS to anyone looking for an excellent graduate school full of challenges and opportunities to grow and learn in all dimensions of life.

Moving to AIIAS: A Blessing, Indeed!

By ANEURY VARGAS



WATSON MBIRIRI & REJOICE MAROZVA



OF ROCKETS, AIRPLANES, AND reverse culture shock

Few people, however, think about what the challenges of going back home pose to one or to a family that has been away from home for an extended period of time. This phenomenon is called "reverse culture shock."

The most sensitive phases of space travel are exiting from and re-entry into the earth's atmosphere. Similarly, with airplanes, it is the takeoff and landing that are the most delicate parts of a flight. If not well-managed, disaster can strike. Comparable to these are how people leave their home countries and go abroad for work or some other reasons—in our case, for studies—but will eventually have to go back.

AIIAS is a temporary home of students who have come from various countries around the world. Students are expected to stay in the Philippines for a year or up to five or more years depending on the program they are doing. Sometimes, students can not get to go home for a visit within the span of their study.

Leaving home is accompanied by psychosocial challenges collectively known as "culture shock." Many people seem aware of this. Few people, however, think about what the challenges of going back home pose to one or to a family that has been away from home for an extended period of time. This phenomenon is called "reverse culture shock."

As individuals or families, we all look forward to the time when we will finish our studies and go back home to our countries. However, if this is not carefully managed with awareness

and intentionality, it can prove very challenging and stressful in many respects for those involved. Awareness is one of the most important aspects of managing this situation.

At least four things can be done to help individuals and families with the process of reintegration into their countries. First of all, it is important to, as much as possible, keep in touch with families and significant others in their home countries. This helps them to know what is happening, there as well as helping those back home to know what is happening on the other side. Secondly, wherever children are involved, it is important to keep on sharing with them information about their home country. Of critical importance also is keeping the native language alive for them. This will make it easy for the children when they finally go back. Thirdly, is that once back home, it is important to be aware that people, even family members, have grown and changed over the course of time. Similarly, those coming back have also changed, perhaps more than they realize. This then calls for patience and understanding. The burden of adjusting is with the returnees rather than those who have been home. The ground does not adjust itself to accommodate a plane that is about to land.

THERE ARE FOUR WELL-KNOWN PHASES OF REVERSE CULTURE SHOCK. THESE ARE:

#1 DISENGAGEMENT. Socio-psychological adjustment before one leaves the host country;

#2 INITIAL EUPHORIA. Excitement of going or getting back home may have unrealistic expectations;

#3 IRRITABILITY AND HOSTILITY. Disillusioning realities that may involve unmet expectations, rejection, and disapproval of new habits or customs by family and society in one's country;

#4 RE-ADJUSTMENT AND ADAPTATION. One, or a family, finally reconciles to the new reality of their situation.

We hope this will help you land your rocket or plane safely, when the time finally comes.

Reference:

Werkman, S. L. (1986). Coming Home: Adjustment of Americans to the United States after Living Abroad." In *Cross-Cultural Reentry: A Book of Readings* (P. 5-17). Clyde N. Austin (Ed.), Abilene, TX: Abilene Christian University.



AIIAS

The United Nations of the Seventh-day Adventists

BY SAFARY & GIMYLIN
WA-MBALEKA

It was exactly six years ago that we landed in the Philippines as a missionary family. Coming to AIIAS was a dream come true. On August 10, 2011, we became part of what we prefer to call the United Nations of the Seventh-day Adventists. This place would give us an opportunity to grow tremendously individually and as a family.

At this moment, there is no other Adventist higher educational institution that has more diversity than AIIAS, when it comes to the ratio of national to foreign students and faculty. AIIAS has more foreign faculty and students than local ones. This place is therefore the perfect place for our family, given that we have three major cultural backgrounds in our family.

Our children live in a blended culture. It has a little bit of Filipino, a bit of Congolese, and a lot of American. When we lived in the United States, sometimes they would feel something different from the rest of the American culture. Once we got here at AIIAS, it evidently helped them understand the different cultural backgrounds that they were unintentionally part of. They no longer found either of their parents weird as they sometimes did in the USA. Additionally, over the years, we have all come to understand the importance of accepting the cultural differences and value the positive side of all the three cultural backgrounds. The culture in our home is more of a fruit salad where children know

their right and are taught to stand for what they believe in while they learn to obey the elders and be helpful to anyone in need of assistance. As for us as parents, we have learned to integrate many American values in our parenting skills, while maintaining the best values we each grew up with. In a way, by God's grace, a biracial family is an improved culture of respect for and celebration of diversity. You learn to be united in diversity.

AIIAS is really also a perfect place to raise children. The workplace is very convenient because work, church, children's school, and many other infrastructures are right on campus. The clean, fenced campus of this Christian community makes this place a very safe one for children to grow. When we first came, we can remember how our children were happily surprised when we told them they could go and play anywhere on campus without our supervision. At first, they thought we were simply joking. It amazed us how simple things like this matter so much to the little ones. Of course, whenever we go out of this campus we always have to remember the importance of supervision even if they are teenagers now.

One of the many things that amused us was whenever our daughter would see an interracial couple like us. She would always say, "Dad, Mom,

Prayer is the major key. Without prayer, there is no family, interracial or not, that can survive family challenges.

you started it.” She simply meant we were the pioneers of interracial marriages here at AIIAS. While this is not necessarily true, the phenomenon seems to be on the rise. What used to be more like a taboo a number of decades ago has become normal today. Such a decision should never be taken lightly because both partners will be affected and children will also be affected as they grow up, form their identity, and deal with other children from other racial groups. How in the world can someone be successful in an interracial family?

First, prayer is the major key. Without prayer, there is no family, interracial or not, that can survive family challenges. As the saying goes, “A family that prays together, stays together.”

Second, everyone in the family must learn to respect cultural differences and people from different races. Our family is not bound by color or by country, except for the U.S. passports that we each have. It’s interesting how the four of us are willing to live in different countries, although we still call the USA our home.

Third, the world is our network. We each have friends and relatives in many countries around the world. Some of them are literally “closer than a brother” as the Bible says it.

Fourth, since we are not strongly bound to any specific country, we highly value Adventist education. It’s an asset that can help us survive anywhere in the world. So, it’s not uncommon to find us pushing our children hard to excel in whatever they do or learn.

Lastly, in a multiracial (or international) family, it is really important for all the members of the family to have passports of the same

country. In our early days, it used to be quite interesting whenever we traveled to other countries with passports from three different countries. Visa requirements and immigration interrogations were always quite interesting and at times, frustrating, until we all decided to adopt the U.S. passport. The importance of having the same nationality is that if there is any requirement, it applies to all the family members. It makes travel a lot easier, given that most multiracial families are bound to travel a lot to different countries.

Coming back to AIIAS, because most of what is needed is readily available on campus, it is not too difficult for both of us to work full-time. When we came, Gimylin was working part-time when the children needed a lot more parental involvement. Now that they are older and more responsible, we both work full-time to be able to meet our family needs and also to help different community projects we are all involved in as a family. The convenience AIIAS offers has led us to stay longer than any other place we’ve lived since we got married. We no longer have to deal with commuting to and from work. We can now eat each meal together as a family, something that was a luxury where we lived before.

Life was quite challenging when we started

our family having to study and work full-time. But we can say with certainty today that we are blessed as a family, living together, praying together, working together, and growing together here at AIIAS. God has blessed the children with great mental and physical abilities, a musical gift that blesses people, and love for the Lord. He has opened doors for us to be involved in the community and to touch the lives of people outside the comfortable fence of AIIAS. At this point of our life, we couldn’t ask for more. We praise and thank God for bringing us to AIIAS.



5 STEPS

TO A HAPPY, HEALTHY, AND SPIRITUAL FAMILY

By DIÓI & SILVIA CRUZ

A few months ago, the Family Ministries Department of the AIIAS Seventh-day Adventist Church conducted a survey to determine the needs of our families. The result from approximately 100 respondents, according to the order of importance, is the following:

1. Growing together as a couple (*marriage enrichment, communication, separated by distance*)
2. Mission, faith, and family witness (*worship, in-reach, outreach*)
3. Surviving parenthood (*issues about parenting, discipline, becoming a better parent*)
4. Sexuality (*for couples, teenagers, children*)
5. Being single (*a blessing or a curse*)
6. Intercultural marriage (*overcoming prejudice*)
7. Getting ready for marriage (*pre-marital seminars*)
8. Abuse (*domestic abuse, verbal abuse, sexual abuse, substance abuse, pornography*)
9. Divorce, recovery, and re-marriage
10. Marriage and celebration (*golden age, retreats*)
11. Death and the family (*grief*)
12. Other topics:
 - a. How to face your in-laws who are not of your faith
 - b. Finances and family

This outcome tells us that we all want to be part of a happy, healthy, and spiritual family. A family that when we get home after work or school, we all look at each other with joy. This is possible and we would like to encourage you to follow these five simple steps, whether you are single or married:



#1 BUILD AND LIVE A HAPPY MARRIAGE.

As parents, we must be aware that the first example of love we give to our children is ourselves. That is why it is very important for singles and married couples to form a healthy relationship based on respect, interest in each other's activities, and love.



#2 SHARE MORE TIME TOGETHER.

Lately, we have forgotten the great art of family coexistence. Time to talk about how it was during the day is scarce. Play a board game or just share more time with family while telling stories.



#4 FAMILIES THAT EAT TOGETHER, STAY TOGETHER.

Sharing food at the same table is an extinct tradition. Encourage your family to eat together at least twice a week. It can be breakfast, lunch, or dinner.



#5 WORSHIP FAITHFULLY, EVERY MORNING AND EVENING.

Praying together brings unity as family members pray for and hear others' concerns. "Family worship should not be governed by circumstances. You are not to pray occasionally and, when you have a large day's work to do, neglect it. In thus doing, you lead your children to look upon prayer as of no special consequence. Prayer means very much to the children of God, and thank offerings should come up before God morning and evening." *To Be Like Jesus*, p. 326, EGW.



#3 TURN OFF THE TV AND THE INTERNET.

These two means of communication cause separation and disinterest in families. If we devote to our family the time we devote to TV and internet, our family life would be different. Teach your children to maintain at least an hour of family conversation, without interruption of cellphones, computers, or television.

BY JAY-ILEEN LINGANAY ENGALLA

AIAS STUDENT PREACHES 'GOOD NEWS' TO LOCAL COMMUNITY

While taking the Master of Public Health (MPH) through the AIAS distance learning modality, Pastor Ricardo “Bong” de Asis Jr. has been able to preach the word of God through health seminars in his local community. The AIAS MPH program provides not only the practical and scientific base for public health education, but also encourages students to practice presenting health training in their local communities.

As the district pastor of three towns of Leyte—Isabel, Merida, and Palompon—de Asis is committed to spreading the word of God in his assigned areas. It was a blessing for him to have the opportunity to be the resource speaker at the annual health seminar of the Local Government Unit of Palompon, Leyte.

De Asis lectured about topics in stress management, nutrition, and exercise. He also included some lectures about family, relating how problems in the household can greatly affect their productivity at work.

According to the town mayor of Palompon, the lectures helped change his employees’ perception of a healthy lifestyle. The local government employees themselves commend the Seventh-day Adventist faith and healthy lifestyle programs which focuses not only on diet and exercise, but also proper food intake and maintaining good relationships with family and colleagues.

De Asis has also been requested to lead out in a physical exercise program that will meet at least



PHOTO CREDIT: PALOMPON LGU

three times a week. Officially, he is a member of the Rural Health Unit’s health advocacy team. He will be one of the resource speakers for many more upcoming seminars and activities which will be conducted in various barrios or barangays of Palompon.

For almost eight years, de Asis has been conducting family and health seminars around the territory of Palompon without asking for any financial aid from the Rural Health Unit or local government. It is one of the initiatives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to do something for the health and family concerns of the communities. “The Adventist church is not an exclusive church, but is a church that has a desire to do something for the community,” remarked de Asis.

By applying his knowledge and wisdom that is based solidly on the word of God and the Spirit of Prophecy, de Asis is contributing to the development of the mental, physical, social, and spiritual needs of the citizens.

To the local government employees and residents of Palompon, de Asis has been able to leave a Christ-like mark as he showed genuine concern for their health and faith. As de Asis continues his MPH degree, he is enthusiastic to apply everything that he has learned, and will learn, in his field of work. The AIAS MPH program will enable him to better present healthful living while sharing spiritual truths in his community.

BIO: Jay-Ileen Linganay Engalla is a Bachelor of Arts in Communication graduate and an member of the Seventh-day Adventist Simangan Church in Isabel, Leyte.



AIIAS is proud of Pastor Petronio M. Genebago, a PhD in Old Testament student, who won the Grand Prize for the *Ministry* 5th Ministerial Student Writing Contest in 2015-17.

Ministry Magazine first opened the contest in February 2007 where “all students enrolled in a full-time ministerial preparation program on the undergraduate or graduate level” could send their manuscripts in any of these categories: biblical studies, historical studies, theological studies, applied religion, and world missions, in order to increase their pool of writers.

AIIAS enables students to write and present papers in forums, publish book reviews, and contribute articles to the *Journal of Asia Adventist Seminary* and other publications over the course of their studies. This provides the students an opportunity to demonstrate high level of academic writing nurtured at AIIAS.

A number of AIIAS students have also joined and won recognition for their manuscripts in the past. Genebago first learned about the writing contest when he received an email about those students who previously won the grand and third prizes. Reading more

about the experiences of those students created a desire in his heart to submit a manuscript. Although the prize is not Genebago’s motivation, he proceeded to write his paper with the mentorship of his Seminary professors.

BY SHARNIE LOVE ZAMORA

GENEBAGO WINS MINISTERIAL STUDENT Writing Contest

The winning article that garnered the grand prize of \$750 is entitled, “The Benefits of Studying Biblical Languages for Pastors.” It talked about the fundamental reasons of why such knowledge of Biblical languages can enhance ministry, equipping one to become better in his/her chosen field of work.

Genebago said he was inspired to learn and love the original languages of the Bible with the assistance of his mentors, professors, and colleagues in the AIIAS Theological Seminary.

“The article is a symbol of a collaborative effort of the students, professors, and administrators of AIIAS doing all for the glory of God to offer a quality graduate education with a heart for mission,” Genebago noted.

Genebago hopes that his article can encourage students of biblical languages to do their best, have a positive learning attitude, and love these languages because they are the vehicles

for communicating God’s love and truth to all people.

“We need to love what we do, listen, and learn from our professors, and be willing to be mentored. Let us honor and give glory to God who brought us here in AIIAS to serve Him, His church, and communities,” added Genebago.

Genebago is currently working on a paper entitled “Messenger of the Covenant: Identification, Meaning, and Implications” to be presented in Asia-Pacific International University, Thailand and another entitled “Reformation and Revitalization of Biblical Languages” to be presented in Providence, Rhode Island, USA. He is also writing a special project called the *SADFREE Movement Handbook* which will equip churches to conduct smoking, alcohol, and drug-free seminar workshops in schools and communities.

Petronio M. Genebago comes from the Philippines and is currently a faculty of the College of Theology in the Adventist University of the Philippines while working on his PhD at AIIAS. He has previously served as a district pastor, communication and youth director in Central Luzon Conference, and youth/AMiCUS director in the North Philippine Union Conference. He is married to Jeneva Dalida and is blessed with two sons, Konstantin Von (17) and Harold Jon (14).

Ministry has been published monthly by the Seventh-day Adventist Church since 1928 and currently reaches approximately 80,000 pastors from different denominations. Learn more about the writing contest through <https://www.ministrymagazine.org/swc>.

AQRA

Exploring the Depths of Qualitative Research

BY SHARNIE LOVE ZAMORA

About 250 scholars from all over the world gathered in Tagaytay City, Philippines to attend the 2nd International Conference of Qualitative Research organized by the Asian Qualitative Research Association (AQRA) from April 25 to 27, 2017.

"The 2nd International Conference on Qualitative Research gave me the best experience I've ever had at any conference because of its holistic nature. It effectively covered the spiritual, mental, social, and even physical aspects of learning. The spirit of camaraderie, mutual respect, and professionalism made it the best that anyone can expect," expressed Dr. Safary Wa-Mbaleka, AQRA president.

The conference consisted of more than 120 concurrent sessions, 1 keynote session, and 4 plenary sessions. Dr. John Wesley Taylor V, associate director of education, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Maryland, USA, graced the occasion by delivering a keynote session entitled, "The Shifting Future of Qualitative Research" and a plenary session entitled, "Deconstructing Myths in Qualitative Research."

"I want to congratulate you for making a wise selection to come here and join others with the kind of desire to have quality education, quality research in a qualitative way," said AIIAS president, Dr. Stephen Guptill, as he graced the occasion with his presence.

Topics related to art, business, culture, education, health, language, literature, and other various issues on a global scale were discussed and explored in depth. The theme *Exploring the Depths* gave the scholars a richer perspective required in qualitative research.

Attendees of the conference included representatives from higher education institutions and a majority of professors and university students who have published their research in various journals and other types of scholarly venues.

"AQRA is providing us with a great opportunity to learn about qualitative research. The atmosphere is so encouraging. The comments that are given to us make us feel that we can improve and that together we will be able to take the steps toward learning more in qualitative research," said

Dr. Maricel Gomez, associate professor at Leyte Normal University and an associate member of the National Research Council of the Philippines.

Some senior high school students from AIIAS and Manila were also allowed to present their novice research as the Philippines now has qualitative research as a subject in senior high school. This was to help them start growing as scholars at a very young age.

"It is a great experience that we are exposed to this kind of environment and we are able to mingle with professionals at an early age," commented a 17-year old student from Manila Science High School.

AQRA presently has close to 1,000 members from over 60 higher education institutions in the Philippines and abroad. The leadership of AQRA consists of AIIAS faculty members, Dr. Safary Wa-Mbaleka, founding president and Dr. Arceli Rosario, founding executive secretary. At the conference, Dr. Sunia Fukofuka was replaced by David Lumowa as chief financial officer. The vision of AQRA is to empower scholars in touching lives through research.

AIIAS Asian Theological Forum Examines the Role of the Holy Spirit in the Last Days

BY JOSE MANUEL ESPERO

The sixth annual forum of the AIIAS Asian Theological Society (AATS) focused on "The Role of the Holy Spirit in the Last Days." Presenters discussed various topics on how the Holy Spirit works in every individual of the church in order to accomplish the tasks entrusted by Christ.

Many of the presentations held during the meetings on June 9-10, 2017 focused on spiritual gifts, conversion of souls, and miracles performed through the Holy Spirit. There is a great need for the Holy Spirit at this time in reaching out to souls for their salvation. A deeper understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit in each individual

would result from additional studies in this area.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Ron Clouzet, Northern Asia-Pacific Division ministerial secretary, emphasized that Christ waits patiently for His church to let Him in. By faith, refined by love, the righteousness of Christ and by the discernment of the spirit, the loud cry of the latter rain will finish His work with His power and His glory.

Some points that are worth noting: spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit to every believer so that each collaborates to fulfill the unfinished work of the church



Scholars Discusses National Politics and Governance in Africa

By HENRY TEMBO

The 12th AIIAS African Theological Association (ATA) focused on the theme, "National Politics and Governance In Africa." It was held at the AIIAS Amphitheater in Silang, Cavite, Philippines on April 20-22, 2017.

Several topics were presented by scholars. Oswell Dzairo presented the topic, "The Theocratic Backdrop of Political Neutrality: A Biblical Inquiry;" David Odhiambo, from a New Testament perspective, shared a paper entitled, "The Term 'Κοσμος' in the Gospel of John Exploring Its Implication for a Political Philosophy of the Adventist Church in Africa."

The keynote speaker, Dr. Obert Mudzengi, president of the North Zimbabwe Conference, made a presentation on "Biblical Principles to Guide Adventists on Political Involvement."

Dr. Mudzengi emphasized the point, "You were created to dominate the earth, not people." This statement was given to

remind us of our given right as human beings to rule the earth (Gen 1:26). Additionally, he commented that the problems we face in the world today

are the result of human beings' desire to dominate others. If only human beings would focus on dominating the earth, then the problems we have today would disappear. In fact, this is at the core of political problems.

ATA president, Pr. Watson Mbiriri commented, "Although ATA is sponsored by the African community, it is for all people amenable to its goals and ideals." This statement shows that ATA is an inclusive organization. Even though the topic is focused on Africa, its relevance is for all places around the world. In fact, there was a scholar from Fiji who also presented.

Additionally, Dr. Dolf Oberholster, AIIAS vice president for academic administration remarked, "I particularly appreciate the present theme for it leads us to make our religion relevant in facing head on some of

the major issues confronting Africa and the world." The point of this statement was to highlight the importance of understanding the church's relevance in the world. We can opine that a religion lived outside of society is useless.

One recommendation that came from the forum was that the church should continue the dialogue on how its impact can be felt within the society. This recommendation was based on the fact that many times, the church is silent on issues that affect society. The church needs to voice out on some of the issues and not remain silent. The church, at times, must take actions that cause change.



and miracles through the power of the Holy Spirit may be needed today as a tool for evangelism in order to satisfy the felt-needs of every erring soul.

Dr. Stephen Gupitill, AIIAS president, challenged the Asian presenters and attendees to contribute to Asian voices in matters of theology. He said, "It is forums like this that help the Adventist Church in Asia grow in its theological understandings. They also inspire our leaders."

Dr. Remwil Tornalejo, the AATS advisor, echoes the challenge of Dr. Gupitill, "All AIIAS Asian theologians

should contribute papers for theological forums like this to enhance the theological understanding in the Asian context."

AATS forum meets once a year on the second weekend of June every school year. This year, there were 11 presenters out of the 76 registered scholars who attended the forum. The papers of these presenters are still in the process of publication.



Dr. Ron Clouzet, the keynote speaker.

AIAS DATE LINE

SEPTEMBER 2016

AQUARIA BEACH OUTING

Students and their families, faculty, and staff joined together for a day of fun in the water and under the sun. Organized by the AIAS Student Association, the AIAS community went to Aquaria Beach Resort in Batangas to spend some time away from the books and enjoy the beach.



PHOTO CREDIT: AIAS YEARBOOK STAFF

NOVEMBER 2016

SEMINARY FORUM: DIGGING THE SCRIPTURES

The 19th AIAS Annual Theological Forum focused on using archaeological study and biblical interpretation to rediscover ancient history. In addition to local presenters were international presenters who shared their findings through the lens of archaeology. Keynote speaker, Michael Hasel—professor of Ancient Near Eastern Studies (ANE), director of the Institute of Archaeology, and co-director of the fourth expedition to Lachish field project at Southern Adventist University—was joined by other archaeology experts; Dr. Constance Clark Gane—associate professor of Archaeology and Old Testament, associate director of the Institute of Archaeology, and curator of the Siegfried H. Horn Archaeological Museum at Andrews University; Dr. Adolfo Roitman—author of several books, curator of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and head of the Shrine of the Book at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem; and Dr. Scott Stripling, director of the Khirbet el-Maqatir Excavation.



OCTOBER 2016

HOPE CHANNEL

AIIAS and Hope Channel joined together for TV outreach as celebrated during the Hope Channel Philippines Convention held on October 15, 2016 at AIIAS. Earlier in the year, AIIAS approved Hope Channel Philippines' use of the AIIAS Media Center as their main production studio. The programs that are being aired are broadcast throughout Asia via a new GSAT satellite often livestreamed on AIIAS campus.

Dr. Derek Morris, president of Hope Channel International, shared with those who attended the event that the Lord is preparing a way for the gospel message to be heard by the entire world by means of sharing Christ's message through the use of media.

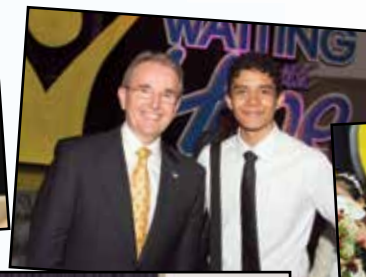


PHOTO CREDIT: BENJAMIN CHAY



NOVEMBER 2016

CONFERENCE:
EMBRACING DISRUPTIVE
INNOVATIONS

The 17th Graduate International Conference was on November 16-17, 2016. This gathering challenged the scholars to direct their study towards new ideas, much needed changes, and innovative improvements. Keynote speaker, Dr. Michael Cafferky, the Ruth McKee chair for Entrepreneurship and Business Ethics at Southern Adventist University, Tennessee, emphasized biblical themes that have caused a transformation in our daily interactions. The other presenters were AIIAS faculty from the Business, Education, and Public Health Departments, and scholars from other higher education institutions within the Philippines.

The 254 participants who attended the conference represented more than 28 universities and colleges from 21 different countries.

PHOTO CREDIT: AIIAS YEARBOOK STAFF



NOVEMBER 2016 CULTURAL NIGHT: A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE

One of the most looked-forward-to events in the school year at AIIAS is the cultural program where students from 80 countries are given the opportunity to express the beauty of their homeland, culture, and ethnicity. Performed through an evening of music, skit presentations, and food tasting, the audience captured new knowledge of other cultures and history. It is an event that one should never miss!



JANUARY 2017 MINI OLYMPICS

Another one of the most awaited events of the year, the Mini Olympics, is an activity-packed weekend where students can drop the books for awhile and enjoy some adrenaline-pumping sports together with faculty and staff. Everyone anticipated the thrill brought about by games and a break from class work.



PHOTO CREDIT: AIIAS YEARBOOK STAFF

JANUARY 2017

AIIAS ACADEMY SCIENCE FAIR

Students from the AIIAS Academy gathered to showcase what they have learned in class through simple to elaborate projects, diagrams, and experiments. This year's fair themed *Creator, Creation, and Creativity* was a successful creative learning experience for the young and young at heart.



FEBRUARY 2017

WEEK OF PRAYER: BETTER THAN GOLD

The AIIAS community was drawn to biblical passages about embracing values, transmitting wisdom, encouraging close relationships, and obtaining spiritual values and revival in a week of prayer. The speaker, Dr. Zdravko Stefanovic, professor of Theology at the Department of Health and Biological Sciences, Adventist University of Health Sciences (ADU), Orlando, Florida, encouraged the audience to study the Bible thoroughly for life applications.





MARCH 2017

101ST GRADUATION CEREMONY

The class of 2017, in full regalia, marched down the aisle to mark the completion of their years of study at AIIAS. There were 136 graduates from 37 countries—from all 13 world divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Guest speakers included Dr. Don Leo Garilva, former president of Mountain View College; Dr. Robert Folkenberg Jr., president of the Chinese Union Mission; and Dr. Danny Rantung, president of the Asia-Pacific International University, Thailand.



JUNE 2017

THE BEGINNING OF TOWER R CONSTRUCTION

AIIAS is a continuously growing community. In order to accommodate a growing student body, a new tower is needed. The new student Tower R is expected to be erected by mid-2018. Tower R is the 18th tower on campus.

The administrators and students of AIIAS extend their gratitude to a generous anonymous donor, the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, and the Southern Asia-Pacific Division for their support that made the project possible.



MAY 2017

**CELEBRATING NEW
FACULTY DUPLEX
CONSTRUCTION**

The AIIAS Board and Constituency members visited the new faculty duplexes that will provide four additional housing units for incoming faculty. Due to increasing student enrollment and the opening of new academic programs and emphases at AIIAS, the need for new faculty housing increased.

The construction of the duplexes was voted by the AIIAS Administration and Board in order to provide housing for the incoming faculty. The two duplexes were funded by donations from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, AIIAS alumni and friends, and from the capital funds of AIIAS.



JULY 2017

MISSION EMPHASIS WEEK

Reconnected to the purpose of mission, AIIAS was inspired by the testimonies and experiences of guest speaker, Dr. Petras Bahadur, director, AMR of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He also advised on how to reach out to others effectively by communicating the gospel, building bridges, and forming genuine relationships.

Supporting ministry groups were invited to present their mission-driven presentations throughout the daily meetings. These groups showed the difference they made in the lives of others through various types of ministry—providing aid to calamity and poverty stricken areas; helping the city with smoking cessation; training the youth to be effective leaders in evangelism; visiting prison cells and holding prayer and Bible study sessions among the prisoners; church planting in local communities; and equipping missionaries for the world.

PHOTO CREDIT: GANDHI GANDEES



AIIAS POLL

What is the best thing that happened to your family when you came to AIIAS?

*One of the best things that has happened to me and my family when we came to AIIAS is the comfortability AIIAS gives you that makes you feel like you are at home and the opportunity to get to learn the diversity in cultures from different places around the world. —***NADINE RUTAGANZWA, Rwanda**

*We were served with utmost efficiency in every aspect, from being welcomed to apartment assignment, orientation, and registration. —***SANNED LUBANI, Malawi**

*The AIIAS environment is perfect to the children. —***KAREN FLORES, Argentina**

*Our family, especially our small child, gets to grow up in a diverse community. The natural surroundings, friendly people, and safety of the AIIAS campus is an ideal place for family life. —***NATASHA SINAGA-NANGOY, Indonesia**

*Meeting students and faculty from all over the world. —***DIOI CRUZ, Brazil**

*We get to have more family time together. —***WATSON MBIRIRI, Zimbabwe**

*I learned to communicate in English so my personal and academic goals are being achieved. I also made new friends from all over the world. How different people can think or act, that's amazing. The greetings, way of singing, praying, and worshiping for ones are in one way to others in another way. This environment is conducive to train leaders to work in any place of the world. Since AIIAS has representatives from all over the world, the variety of food that I was able to taste here is impressive. The fact that I am belonging to one of the communities on campus protected me of loneliness and provided the support I needed for being away from home. As an appreciation, being in AIIAS is a multiple blessing of God. —***RAFAEL BAMPI DE OLIVEIRA, Brazil**

*To receive the blessing and challenge of having more time together as a family. —***CRISTINA, Argentina**

*Our faith in God's promises, most especially, "There is nothing impossible with Him," grew much stronger. —***DAN AND SHERI NAMANYA, Uganda and Philippines**

*The best thing that happened to me when I came here was that it wasn't hard to get friends even though I was really shy. —***HISKIA SUMENDAP (12), Indonesia**

*The spirit of unity in diversity. —***JUSUF KALENGKONGAN, Indonesia**

*Unforgettable arrival, and an inevitable leave. I was able to see so many Adventists in one place, something extremely close to impossible in Georgia. The best part was making friends from all over the world and being able to bring a little bit of my share into the AIIAS international culture. —***DODONA NAMORADZE, Georgia**

*We were reunited with our Daddy and meet new friends. —***JOY (11) AND LOVE (8), USA**

*Meeting my wife. —***ANDREW MOHAN, Pakistan**

*The musical talent of our family is greatly developed that leads to serving the Lord in the music ministry. —***JOSE MANUEL S. ESPERO, Philippines**

18TH AIIAS INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON BUSINESS,
EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC HEALTH



Social Responsibility

NOVEMBER 14-16, 2017

AIIAS, LALAN 1, SILANG, CAVITE, PHILIPPINES



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ELISSA KIDO, EDD

DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR RESEARCH
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Students:	Regular conference fee	PhP 2,000/US\$ 45
	Early bird	PhP 1,500/US\$ 35

Note: Early bird discount ends on **October 31, 2017**.

20th
AIIAS ANNUAL
THEOLOGICAL
FORUM



THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION IN GLOBAL CONTEXT

NOVEMBER 9-11, 2017

*AIIAS, Lalaan 1, Silang
Cavite, Philippines*



GUEST PRESENTERS

Alberto Timm
Clinton Wahlen
Lisa Diller
Martin Lohrmann
Michael Sokupa
Dennis Pettibone
Nikolaus Satelmajer

REGISTRATION:

Fees **PhP 2,400 (US\$50) Up to Oct. 10, 2017**
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To develop leaders
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