

Newsletter November 2021 – August 2022

### A word from the Principal



**G**reetings from MEGST! The grace and peace of God be on you and your families. First, we praise and thank God for His protection amid all troubles. Due to the military coup, Myanmar has now become the most dangerous and unsafe country in the world for foreigners to travel in.

Everything has collapsed beyond hope and the outlook is very bleak. The price of commodities has risen 4-5 times. Serving God in this difficult time requires deep commitment, endurance, courage and focus. However, in the midst of the confusion we are focusing on God's specific calling in our lives.

Reminding ourselves that God has called us to train young Christians to be Christ's servants, we prayerfully decided to resume MEGST physically. United in hands and hearts, we work hard to train young Christians for the churches. God was with us as we approached local leaders to allow us to physically run MEGST in the present political chaos. While not expecting a very high percentage of students to come, more than 90% showed up even though traveling was very challenging. Now, we have nearly 200 students. We are entering into the 2nd Trimester for MDiv and intensive DMin classes are happening in September with 46 students. We have learned a great lesson that if we sincerely decide and work hard for God's glory, God is glorifying Himself in/through us and what we are doing. We are also reminded that all the great things happening here are the outcome of faithful believers who stand behind us and earnestly pray for us daily across the world.

As the MEGST community, we are very thankful to our faithful partners and generous sponsors: Leadev-Langham, NZ and Local-leaders, Australia, for their regular support in training young Christians to be Christ's disciples. We praise God that all the money you send us bears fruit throughout Myanmar.

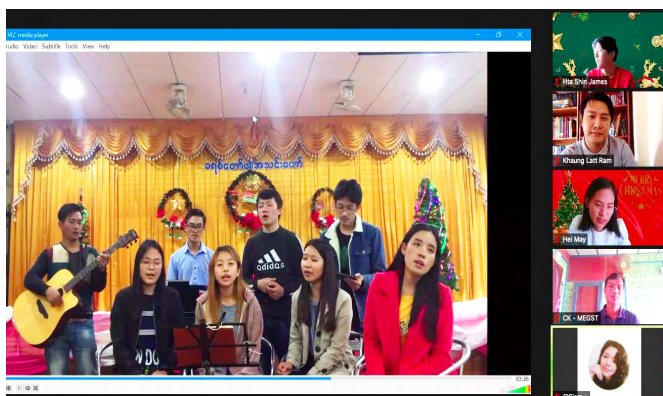
**Thankfully**

**CK Hrang Tiam**  
**MEGST**

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## MEGST Virtual Christmas 2021



**Praising group song from students**



**Message by Bronwyn Schick**

The MEGST virtual Christmas was celebrated on December 13, 2021, with great fun. Students from each class presented special items such as group songs, a duet, solo, dances, games, and so on. On top of that, we were deeply challenged and encouraged by Bronwyn Schick's message, "Are we like Magi who persevered and were determined to worship and honor Jesus Christ with costly gifts despite the many challenges?" Indeed, we had a heart-warming and wonderful celebration of Jesus' season. See the photos below with smiling faces, and red Christmas background images that reflect our joy in celebrating Jesus.

## DMin Classes Blended Learning

Our DMin students have experienced a new way of learning, the hybrid model, that brings students from different parts of the country into one virtual learning space. As a result, students from Yangon can attend classes in person at MEGST campus while simultaneously students outside Yangon can join classes remotely from their respective homes. Thanks to those who are behind this Smart Classroom. Their support and partnership have helped create an inspirational environment for our community.

From March 14–25, 2022, Rev Dr Hrang Hmung interacted with our DMin students for the course "Church Leadership and Management." Rev Dr. Stephen Vum Cung Nung, Dr Aung Htoo, Dr Ning Ngaih Lian, and Rev Dr John Buchanan jointly taught them the "Research Seminar" from March 28 – April 8, 2022.



**Rev Dr Stephen Vum Cung Nung and DMin II**



**DMin I**

**2022 DMin update:** Praise God that we have 22 students newly admitted to the DMin program, and also 24 students in DMin Year 2, thereby making 46 in total.



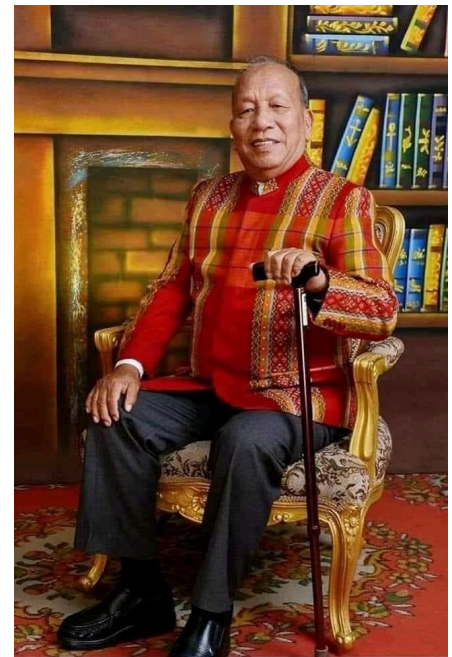
# Promoted to Glory: The Departure of Two Genius Great Leaders of MEGST

We were truly saddened by the news of Rev San Cung Nung's passing, our former principal, on February 2, 2021, at 12:35 pm at Pin Lon Hospital, Yangon. He played several important roles (Principal, Vice-principal of Public Affairs, Academic Dean, Chaplain, and HoD of Pastoral Studies) at MEGST during his eighteen years of service (2004-2022). His wholehearted contribution to MEGST and his passion for preaching and teaching Christ are worthy of emulation. We will treasure his leadership model and his living legacies as we continue in the ministry. Our deepest condolences to Rev Cung's wife, Mrs Kham Kung, and family. The MEGST community held a condolence service for Rev Cung's family at his house on February 5, 2021.



Rev San Cung Nung

We received the news of Rev Dr Ral Buai's departure, our former Board Chairman (from 1996 to 2013), on May 20, 2021 with deep sorrow. Rev Dr Ral inspired us with his visionary leadership and his love for the MEGST community and churches in Myanmar. We will treasure his leadership model and his living legacies as we continue in the ministry. Our deepest condolences to Rev Dr Ral's wife, Mrs Hnai Zing and his daughter, Dr Anna Sui Hluan, and their family. The MEGST community conducted a condolence service for Rev Dr Ral's family at the Headquarters of United Pentecostal Church on May 26, 2021.



Rev Dr Ral Buai

## Intensive English Program (IEP)



2022 IEP ran from March 7 to May 20. Like last year, our IEP teachers continued to teach our students online with the help of four tutors from our alumni. Thirty-five students joined and completed IEP. We are deeply grateful to our IEP teachers (Bronwyn Schick, Steve Heap, Li Dorsey, Anthea Fairbrass, Onny Holdaway, Jenni Bedford, Keith Bedford, and Jo Bissett) for giving their best and wholehearted commitment to the task of training young people for God's mission in Myanmar and beyond. Because of their excellent teaching, these students are ready for their next phase at MEGST.



## Graduates of 2022

We are pleased to inform you that fourteen successfully completed a Master of Divinity degree and two students with a Master of Theology in the 2021-2022 academic year. We praise God for enabling these determined graduates to accomplish their theological studies despite facing crisis after crisis here in Myanmar. To God be the glory!



## MEGST's Cup



MEGST's Cup, one of the exciting events at MEGST, was held over two days (July 15 & 22). The whole community of MEGST participated with great enthusiasm. There were four teams: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. After everyone gave their best in the tournament, team John won the championship.

## Fresher Welcome



**Dancing Myanmar Ethnic Gospel song (M.Div III)**

June 24, 2022 was Freshers' Day, where the whole community of MEGST took delight in welcoming new students.



**Contemporary Gospel Drama (M.Div I)**

Our big brother, Tony, was with us at MEGST from July 8 to 13, 2022. We had a wonderful time of fellowship and conversation for the betterment of MEGST. We are thankful to him for his encouragement, wisdom, and support through which MEGST becomes bigger and stronger.

## Tony Plew's Visit



## Prayer Day

The afternoon of July 22 was set aside for Prayer Day. The whole community met together and fervently prayed for the well-being of Myanmar and for the deliverance from the ongoing crisis, as well as for other countries that face similar issues. Prayer items also included MEGST family, students, main sponsors, faculty members, staff, the board committee, alumni and new apartments.



**Praying for the well-being of Myanmar**

## Spiritual Emphasis Week



**Rev Saw Patrick**



**Rev John Tual Hre Thang**



**Rev Sang Pi (Gospel Singer)**

We were privileged to have Rev Saw Patrick, Rev John Tual Hre Thang, and Rev Sang Pi as resource persons during the Spiritual Emphasis Week (August 16–18). The whole community of MEGST was spiritually revived and refreshed by God’s words delivered by these people.

## Farewell

Mrs Man Biak Nem resigned from MEGST in May 2022, having worked at MEGST as our office staff for six years (2016 – 2022). We thank her for her service at MEGST and pray that she will continue to be a blessing wherever she goes.

Mr Biak Nei Sang (Sang Pi) resigned from MEGST in February 2022. He worked at MEGST as our IT specialist for one year. We thank him for his service at MEGST and pray that he will continue to be a blessing wherever he goes.

## Faculty/Staff News

- ❖ We grieved with David Van Lian and his family when he lost his mother on November 6, 2021. A condolence service for David’s family was conducted on November 9, 2021.
- ❖ Our Business Manager, Ta Oak Lan, and our Chief Librarian, Dr Dawt Hlei Mawi, returned to MEGST in February and in May, 2022.
- ❖ Dr Ning Ngaih Lian and her family received the gift of a daughter on 8 November, 2021.
- ❖ Dr Mark Naw Yaw Yet was a guest speaker at the graduation of the Emmanuel Divinity College in Moh Nyin, Kachin State, in March, 2022.
- ❖ Dr Aung Htoo conducted a “Theology of Work” seminar at the Tachileik Evangelical Bible College from March 3-4, 2022. He also spoke at their graduation on March 5, 2022.
- ❖ Rev Dr Ronald Laldinsuah took part in the Visiting Evaluation Team (VET) conducting an Online Site Visit of Nepal Ebenezer Bible College (NEBC) from 7th to 10th February, 2022. The work of evaluation was done via the Zoom platform.
- ❖ Our Assistant Librarian, Mrs Cing Khan Hau, moved to one of MEGST’s apartments (Building no. 57, Room no. 3B, Komin Kochin Street, Bahan Township) in May 2022.
- ❖ Lecturer Khaung Latt Ram and his family moved to Yan Shin housing (Building no. 10, Room no. 18) near MEGST in June, 2022.



## Praise with us

- We successfully completed the first trimester of the academic year with 90% of students physically attending.
- MEGST purchased a new apartment as part of its library extension. Many thanks to Lea-Dev Langham and the team for their supportive partnership.

## Let us pray for

- Our graduates that they will have a great impact on their churches and community.
- Myanmar in the midst of the national crisis and economic turmoil.
- Those who have lost their loved ones, that God will comfort them with a sense of His goodness.
- The smooth running of both online and in-class programs offered by MEGST
- The safety and good health of students, faculty and staff.
- The safe arrival of John and Wendy Buchanan at MEGST in October, 2022.
- The arrival of new books that are on the way to MEGST.
- Ca Nung Mang, doing a PhD at Torch in Korea; Rev Daniel Ciin Suan Piang doing a DMin at AGST-Alliance; Tha Lian Ci doing a PhD at AGST, and David Van Lian doing his PhD in the USA.

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