

JANUARY TO MARCH 2023

From John and Wendy Buchanan

We arrived in Yangon (from New Zealand) at the MEGST College in April 2013, not really knowing what to expect. We had said to God, “We are available,” and this was the result. Would we be able to contribute? What might we do? What should we do with this crazy language, written in variations of circles that make no sense to us? By God’s grace and the patience of our MEGST colleagues, we found a place to belong – and for that we are so grateful.

As we write this we are 4 days away from returning to New Zealand permanently. Where did the time go? We would say this has been 10 of the most significant years of our lives. Deeply enriching, frustrating, and satisfying. We could write many things about what we have been doing but, more importantly for us is who we are becoming. John thinks he is learning to be more patient. Wendy thinks she is becoming more people rather than task focussed

Some of the highlights...

Teaching many different courses including Discipleship and Spiritual Formation, Research and Writing, Theology and Care of Children, Christian Education, Christian Ethics, Christian Leadership, Homiletics and a few other contributions to MTh and DMin programs. And there were other opportunities – Wendy spent much time in Kalay, then in Yangon, equipping teachers to teach English. John also taught a few courses in Kalay. We had some great times with friends teaching in Mohnyin. Our horizons have been widened.

Travelling to many parts of this great country, though there are still some places we haven’t managed to get to.

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Walking together with colleagues and students into the kingdom. We hope we have been able to bless people as much as we have been blessed, and that’s a lot. Students may forget the lessons we teach, but we all remember what our teachers were like. We have learned to value the ‘spaces’ between things in our diaries, like classes and meetings, as being as important as the actual work. We are so grateful that we have been able to return and physically work alongside each other. As we take up life again in New Zealand, we are still available to God. As we spend less time in formal teaching, we want to focus more on walking alongside people.

When we arrived ten years ago, there was so much hope for the country. Now, we feel sadness over the challenges so many people face. We can leave, but they can’t. Yet, our hope remains because it is in God, not man. We continue to see God working out his purpose in Myanmar and rejoice over the impact that He has through you.



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Free English Class

MEGST conducted free English class from January 10 to February 3, 2023 in the MEGST Chapel. There were about 30 students learning English with four local teachers in training. Sayama Wendy Buchanan led the whole program.

Come and learn English for free from a trained native English-speaking teacher and local teachers in training.

Dates Tuesday 10 January to Friday 3 February 2023
Time 9:00 – 11:00 weekdays
Place MEGST Chapel, 6th floor, 57 Komin Kochin Road, Shwegonedaing Junction, Yangon



Level Elementary. Suitable for Grade 9 to university students. Interchange Elementary
Cost The course is free, but books cost 6,500 ks.

Contact Awi San Lian, Office Secretary (09451120621, 01 558415) to register.

Trainer Wendy Buchanan B.A., M.A., PGDipTchg (Canterbury), PGDipSLT (Waikato), CELTA

Sports Day

MEGST sports day was held at Golden Dragon Futsal Playground at North Dagon on January 14, 2023 (Saturday). Faculty, Staff and students joined the program with different items of games, followed by a fellowship lunch.



Dr. Paul Barker at MEGST

Bishop Dr. Paul Barker taught a MDiv III class on the subject of “Deuteronomy” on January 9-13 (Monday to Friday). This trip is his 63rd visit to Myanmar. We are grateful to God for this chance to have him at MEGST again after the pandemic and coup.



Condolence Services

The condolence services for the grieving families were held at the residence of the respective families.

1. Mrs. Kham Kung' Place (February 2, 2023)- The first anniversary of the loss of her husband, Rev San Cung Nung (Former Principal of MEGST)



2. Dr. Austin Lee House' Place (February 17, 2023)- The loss of his mother in law, Daw No Bual Par



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Academic Dean Corner

On the 16 of February, 2023 (Thursday), there was a gathering at MEGST Chapel for a better understanding about the academic affairs at MEGST. There were discussions and questions from the students to the Academic Dean, Dr. Ronald Lal Din Suah on the academic programs and updates for the growth of the learning community.



Community Lunch

Rev. Ca Nuam Mang (the faculty on study leave in Korea) and his church, Falam Christian Fellowship (South Korea) provided a community meal for MEGST on February 2, 2023 (Thursday). The families of students, staff and faculty joined the fellowship lunch together.



Last Chapel

On the first day of March, the last chapel for the academic year of 2022-2023 was held at MEGST chapel with a special communion service led by Dr. John Buchanan. All the faculty, staff, and students joined the chapel service.



Entrance Exam

The entrance exam for the academic year (2023-2024) was held at MEGST chapel on February 22, 2023 (Wednesday). There were 20 applicants who sat for the exam, and the follow up exams were also held for the late comers in the month of March. A total of 27 applicants sat for the entrance exam and most of them are enrolled for the IEP program.



'Big' Book Sales

A Big book sale at MEGST chapel was held for the third time of this academic year (2022-2023) on March 2-4, 2023 (Thursday to Saturday) for three days.



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DMin Module (First Year)

The second module for the first year of Dmin students were held at MEGST. The courses and instructors for this module are as follows.

Subject: Theology of Work (March 6-17, 2023)

Professors: Dr. Steve Coe (USA) and Dr. Lazare Sebitereko Rukundwa (The Republic of Congo)



Subject: Worship Renewal (March 20-28)

Professor: Rev. Dr. David Suum (Principal, Grace Music Institute and Senior Pastor, Grace AG)



Intensive English Program

The Intensive English Program for the academic year of 2022-2023, which started on March 13, 2023 (Monday) will end on May 26, 2023 (Friday). The first month was led by Teacher Steve Heap, Teacher Li Dorsey, and Teacher Adele Little.



The Mission Emphasis Week

The "Mission Emphasis Week" for the academic year of 2022-2023 was conducted at MEGST Chapel on March 14-16, 2023 from 9 am to 12 noon. The students were so blessed by the lectures from the resource persons in terms of their future mission and ministry.



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Day 1 and Day 2: Rev. Jubilee Thang
(Director of Evangelism and Mission, MECA)

Topic: Mission to Children and Youth



HONORING ROOMS DEDICATION

The historic moment in the history of MEGST for the dedication of the Honoring Rooms to Rev. Dr. J. Ral Buai, Rev. Dr. Aung Mang, and Bro. Tony Plews was held on March 16, 2023 (Thursday), from 1pm to 2:30 pm. The families of the respected founders joined the special service. This event reminds us all of the sacrifices and services of our former founding members and gives us more passion to serve the people in Myanmar with humility and self-sacrifice.

Day 3: Rev. Dr. Aye Min (Chairman, MECA)

Topic: Revival which impacts mission



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MEGST BANQUET 2023

MEGST Banquet was held at Excel Treasure Hotel on March 17, 2023 (Friday) at 5 pm. All the graduating students and their family members, the board members of MECA, the faculty, the local government leaders, special guests from New Zealand, IEP teachers, visiting professors, and current students joined the banquet.

The program included a special number, introduction and prayer for the graduating students, contemporary dances from current students, choir from the graduating students, Myanmar cultural dance from a MAOL student, and a message shared by Bro Russell Thorp (Executive Director, Beacon Partnerships, NZ) on our calling of “taken, blessed, broken, and given” based on Henri Nouwen’s book, “Life of the beloved.” We thank Bro Russell Thorp and his organization for sponsoring this event.



MEGST GRADUATION CEREMONY 2023

The 25th MEGST graduation ceremony was held at Evangel Church on March 18, 2023 (Saturday) at 10 am. There was a total of 94 graduates from the classes of 2021, 2022, and 2023. This year, we have 8 graduates for MTh (Master of Theology) degree, 16 graduates for MAOL (Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership, DAI), and 70 graduates for MDiv (Master of Divinity) degrees. Out of 94 graduates 60 graduates attended the graduation ceremony and 34 graduates were absentia. Bro Tony Plews (Former Executive Director of Lea-Dev, Langham, NZ) shared a wonderful and contextual message on “Servant Leadership” and the attitude of a servant of Christ.



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Proposal Defense of Dmin Students

A total of 22 Doctor of Ministry students came to defend their dissertation proposals on March 23 and 24, 2023 (Thursday and Friday) at MEGST. The areas of their research work include discipleship training, healthy family and healthy church, the impact of storytelling, child care as a bridge for church planting, and equipping young people and the roles of pastors in raising the next generation leaders.



Saya Lian (Ta Oak Lan) resigned from MEGST in March 2023, having worked at MEGST as our Business Manager for three years (2020 – 2023). We thank him for his service at MEGST as an expert and well-trained Business manager and the farewell lunch was held on March 22, 2023 (Wednesday) at the meeting room. May the Lord continue to bless his family as they continue to serve the people in Myanmar.

Farewells

Dr. John Buchanan and Sayama Wendy Buchanan have served at MEGST for the past 10 years as faculty. A farewell lunch fellowship with them was held at the meeting room on March 2, 2023 (Friday). MEGST presented a gold ring to Dr. John and a pair of gold earrings to Sayama Wendy as a token of love for their service at MEGST. We are so grateful for their role as parents and mentors for the whole MEGST community and Myanmar churches.



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MAOL Residency in Bangkok

The two MAOL residency classes were held in Bangkok, Thailand on March 13-17, 2023 with 6 students.

The subjects and the facilitators:

- (1) "Culture, Ethnicity and Diversity" by Dr. Richard Lewis
- (2) "Mentoring" by Dr. Becky Magnuson



New Intakes for the Degrees at MEGST

The application deadlines for the following programs at MEGST are:

- (1) MDiv and MTh - February 2024
- (2) MAOL - September 2023
- (3) DMin - July 2024



ABOUT US

MEGST is an evangelical bible college meaning that it strongly believes and emphasizes the characteristics of Evangelicalism: The hierarchy and inspiration of the Bible, The Virgin Birth of Christ, the substitutionary atonement of Christ, the need of personal trust for salvation, and the urgent need of evangelism in obedience to the great commission.

MEGST is the right place for those who have the assurance of God's calling for ministry, those who love God and want to be rooted in the word of God, and for those who want to serve effectively with a Christ-like lifestyle.

Rev Dr CK Hwang Tiam (Principal)

Train Equip

Build

Why MEGST?

- ATA accredited
- MECA School
- Library with over 20,000 books
- Air-Con classrooms with full facilities
- Dormitory accommodation for male and female students



GET IN TOUCH

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Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology

MEGST is a leading inter-denominational seminary in Myanmar. It was established by MECA in 1996 and is accredited by ATA. MEGST has more than 500 graduates. MEGST offers MDiv, MTh, DMin and MAOL programs.



Our Vision

MEGST trains and equips Christians to be Christ-like leaders who build up the church and the nation of Myanmar and beyond.

Faculty (fulltime)

We have faculty all with post graduate qualification and many years of teaching experiences.

- 8 - doctoral degree holders
- 5 - MTh degree holders
- 3 - faculty in training (for PhD)

Research

Post-graduate Seminar

In this academic year (2022-23), MEGST had four post-graduate seminars. Faculty and students of Master of Theology and Doctor of Ministry joined seminars and Q&A times were so lively and dynamic. All faculty and students enjoyed and felt more stimulated to engage more in coming seminars. MEGST is convinced that Christianity in Myanmar needs such an atmosphere where each faculty and student share their experiences and thoughts so that churches in Myanmar may grow more holistically.

LAMP Journal
Available at MEGST website
megst.org

What students are saying?

"After my life-changing experience with my spiritual family at MEGST, I have confidence to preach and teach the Bible and theology in my context of Myanmar and beyond!"
-Yang Wu-Peng San (2016 graduate)

"As an interdenominational, multi-cultural and quality institution MEGST equips me to be a Spirit-filled educator, lover of biblical languages, theological knowledge and Christian ministry for whom I came across at MEGST!"
-Ray Yan (2008 graduate)

"MEGST enabled me to grow -academically, spiritually and practically in the necessary preparation for the field. My needed aspects for the ministry have been met significantly as it is an excellent institute with many educational, spiritual and communal resources!"
-Sai Khun (2017 graduate)

"MEGST inspires me to pursue Gospel-centered work and preaching, as well as the holistic coaching of faculty professors. I am moved to become involved in changing social injustices and practicing the gospel!"
-Redeaming Phayum
MDiv II student, 2023 graduate



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Faculty/Staff News

1. Dr. Dawt Hlei Mawi left for Mizoram to meet with her family on March 19, 2023.
2. Dr. John Buchanan and Sayama Wendy Buchanan left for New Zealand on March 28, 2023.
3. Bro Jim Russell resumed his work at MEGST in person for the Business administration. He has gone back to New Zealand and will come back in June, 2023.
4. The EC of MEGST has appointed Ms. Cing Hau Lun (MDiv graduate of 2023) to be the assistant to the Librarian to replace Mrs. Cing Khan Hau in March, 2023. Ms. Cing Hau Lun has been starting her job training since the appointment.

Praise with us

We could celebrate the biggest 25th graduation ceremony with the 94 graduates after the pandemic and the coup, which left us two years without graduation at MEGST since its beginning in 1996.

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.
- The smooth running of the IEP program offered by MEGST from March to May this year.
- The safety and good health of students, faculty and staff.
- The healing of the father of Dr. Aung Htoo for his gallbladder surgery.
- Rev Ca Nung Mang, doing a PhD at Torch Trinity Graduate University in Korea; Rev Daniel Ciin Suan Piang doing a DMin at AGST- Alliance; Tha Lian Ci doing a PhD at AGST (Philippines), and David Van Lian doing his PhD at Asbury Theological Seminary in the States.