

# NEWSLETTER



(October 2023 to March 2024)

## Messages from Rev. Hmet Lian Thang (Dean of students)

**G**reetings to all of you from Myanmar especially from Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (MEGST).

First, we give all glory and honor to God. Because of His faithfulness, wonderful providence, and his guidance, the Graduation ceremony of 2023-



2024 academic year held on 17 February went well amid the political crises. The presence of Brother Russell Thorp (Executive Director Beacon Partnership, New Zealand) and Dr. Cindy Perry (DAI Sr Consultant, and Regional Director Southeast

Asia) in our graduation celebration was a great blessing for the MEGST Community. We also thank God that we had 37 graduates, 25 from Master of Divinity (MDiv), 6 from Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership (MAOL) and 6 from Doctor of Ministry (DMin). It was an historic event to have the first DMin graduates in the history of MEGST.

Moreover, in addition to the coup, the military government's recent decision of the conscription for young males sounds ominous and affects many young people including our theological students in this period of Myanmar's insecurity. As most of our students are from the countryside, they stayed in the

dormitory, which the school provided. They must apply to the local authority office for their domestic 'visa' every month. Another challenge we have been facing is that travel is risky for all of us, especially for all students for their coming to MEGST and going home. Due to the political unrest, many houses were burned and destroyed, and many have become homeless, running from their homes. The consequences of these unwanted circumstances are that some students have difficulty in settling their school fees because their parents and relatives could not work on their farms and businesses, and even our outdoor activities of the school for physical fitness could not be done as planned. We are indeed living and working in a very difficult and stressful context. However, we are totally committed to our theological journey to equip and train our students to be Christ-like leaders. Therefore, we humbly covet your fervent prayers and support so that we will be able to continue to run our School, and that our students will be excused from this compulsory military service. Last but not least, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world who have been firmly standing with us, faithfully encouraging us, fervently praying for us, and supporting us generously. May God continuously bless you all bountifully.

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## DMin Researchers and Advisors' Fellowship

On October 2, 2023, there was a fellowship and encouragement of DMin Advisors and DMin researchers at MEGST Smart Classroom from 9 am to 12 noon. DMin researchers shared their updates on dissertation writing and presented their prayer requests. Moreover, there was a session for Q and A in terms of Dissertation writing and the DMin program as a whole.



## MEGST Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving Day of MEGST was held on November 23, 2024. There were some special items such as group songs from faculty and staff, solo, duet, offertory, special prayer, and the message shared by Rev. Dr. Stephen Vum Cung Nung on "Thanksgiving and the Will of God." The program was followed by a special dinner.



## Dr. Ronald's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the church ministry



MEGST family joined the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of Rev. Dr. Ronald Lal Din Suah and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church ministry at the respective church in Hlaing Thar Yar.



## Christmas Fellowship Lunch with Local Leaders

On Dec 22, 2023, some of MEGST faculty and wives joined the Christmas fellowship lunch with the local leaders and wives of Shwe Gone Yeik Mon at a nearby restaurant.



### Condolence Service

Due to the passing of Mr. Cin Sian Khai (51 years old), the older brother of Dr. Ning Ngaih Lian, MEGST family visited and had a condolence service at the residence of Dr. Liannu. Dr. Thawng Cin Thang, the husband of Dr. Maw Mawi, shared a condolence message for the family.



### Dr. Paul Barker's Visit



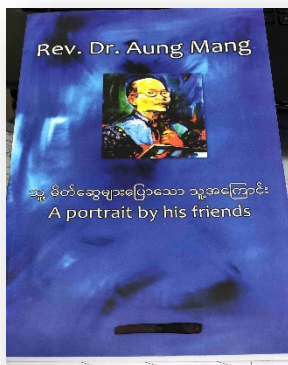
The visiting professor, Bishop Dr. Paul Baker arrived on New Year's Day in Yangon, teaching Biblical Theology to MDiv final year students, from 2-9 January 2024.

### Big Book Sales

On January 19 and 20, 2024, there was a big book sale at MEGST Chapel. Principals, faculty, and students from different parts of Yangon area and MEGST family joined the book sale.



### Tribute Book for Dr. Aung Mang



The tribute book for the honor of our lost loved one, the founding principal and former board chairman, Rev. Dr. Aung Mang, was published by the donation of our current board chairman, Rev. Dr. Peter Thein Nyunt. Dr. Aung's family, relatives, classmates, students, co-workers and friends from around the world, wrote more than 70 tributes for him. English, Burmese and Falam Chin languages are included.

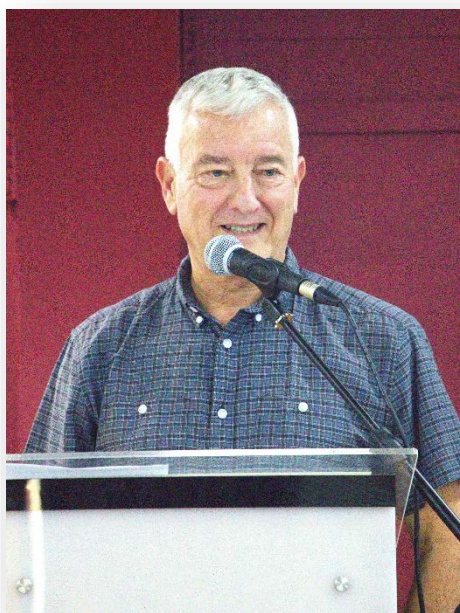
## MEGST Alumni Meeting

For the welcome of the graduating class of 2024 and the annual meeting of MEGST Alumni, there was a meeting at MEGST Chapel on February 9, 2024 (Friday), 1 pm.



## Spiritual Emphasis Week of 2023-2024 Academic Year

The “Mission Emphasis Week” for the academic year of 2023-2024 was conducted at MEGST Chapel on February 13-15, 2024, from 9 am to 12 noon. Bro Russell Thorp, the Executive Director of Beacon Partnership, NZ, delivered the message.



## MEGST Banquet of 2024



By the protection and leading of God on MEGST, the school was able to hold the graduation banquet for the 37 graduating students of 2024 on February 16, 2024 (Friday) at M3 Food Center, in Bahan, Yangon. The board members and their spouses, the faculty and staff (with their spouses), the representatives of DAI (MAOL program), the local leaders, former staff and special guests of MEGST, the families and friends of the graduating students joined the ceremony. Bro Russell Thorp (the Executive Director of Beacon Partnerships, NZ) shared a special encouragement on “Living Faith.”



## MEGST Graduation of 2024



On February 17, 2024 (Saturday), MEGST held its 26<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony at Asia Plaza Hotel from 10 am to 12 noon. There were 25 graduates from the Master of Divinity program, 6 graduates from the Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership, and 6 graduates from the Doctor of Ministry program. This year, MEGST has the first batch of Dmin graduates out of 23 Dmin students. Bro. Russell Thorp, the Executive Director of Beacon Partnership, NZ, gave a graduation message on “Unity” and Dr. Cindy Perry (DAI Regional Director of Southeast Asia) prayed for the graduates.

## MEGST Entrance Exam

The entrance exam for the prospective MDiv and MTh students was held at MEGST chapel on February 21, 2024 (Wednesday). Those who passed the entrance exam are accepted to attend IEP (Intensive English Program) from March to May, 2024.



## DMin Research Seminar



For the betterment of the preparation for their DMin proposals, the Post-graduate Committee held a three-half day research seminar at MEGST for their DMin second year students. Some advisors and post-graduate committee members also joined the seminar. The resource person is the Academic Dean, Dr. Stephen Vum Cung Nung.

## IEP Class



Intensive English Program class for prospective students of MDiv and MTh programs started on March 4 with the orientation. There are over 20 new students, including some returning students. The three native English teachers for the month of March are Steve Heap, Li Dorsey, and Anthea Fairbrass from New Zealand and Australia. The IEP classes are divided into three: Matthew, Mark and Luke.

## DMin Module



The second batch of DMin students (22 students) joined their last module in the month of March, 2024.

Subject: Educational Ministries of the Church (March 4-15, 2024) - Dr. Ning Ngaih Lian (PhD)  
Subject: Pastoral Counseling (March 18-29, 2024) - Dr. Nathaniel E. Pearce (DMin)

## Dinner Fellowship with Special Guests

On March 18, 2024, MEGST faculty and staff (with their spouses) had a hotpot dinner fellowship with our special guests David Brown (Chairman-Local Leaders, Aus), English teachers: Steve Heap, Li Dorsey and Anthea Fairbrass, Jim Russell and Nathaniel E. Pearce (Guest Professor: Dmin Class) at Shwe Kaung Hotpot, in People's Park, Yangon.



## Memorial Service and Book Dedication for Rev. San Cung Nung (Former Principal of MEGST)

On March 23, 2024, the two years memorial service for the passing of our beloved Professor, Rev. San Cung Nung was held at MEGST chapel organized by his own family. Faculty and staff of MEGST, relatives of Rev. Cung, Pastors and Christian leaders in Yangon, and friends of Rev. Cung joined the memorial service. During the memorial service, the book dedication was held, which is named as "Homiletics" written by Rev. Cung in Burmese language.



## MAOL Class

From March 25 to 29, 2024, Dr. Aung Htoo taught Biblical Theology with 6 of the MAOL (Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership) students. This class is offered specifically for students who wants to earn MAOL degree with ATA accredited certificate.



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## Faculty and Staff News

1. Rev. Dr. CK Hrang Tiam, Principal of MEGST attended a seminar on “Equipping for Integral Mission in Asia” in Bangkok during Nov 20-22, ,2023. There were around 40 delegates from different theological institutions in Southeast and East Asia. The seminar was organized by ATA (Association of Theological Education in Asia).
2. Rev. Dr. CK Hrang Tiam visited ACTS on November 24, 2023 to have fellowship and promote the MEGST’s program to the respective school. Moreover, he visited Myitkyina during Dec 1-3, 2023 for a graduation, promotion, and fellowship with the alumni. During February 27-March 4, 2024, he also visited Tachileik as a graduation speaker and visiting alumni, promoting MEGST.
3. Some Post-graduate faculty members joined the online seminar conducted by the Institute for Excellence of Overseas Council on March 4, 15 and 22, 2024.
4. The wife of our faculty, Lect. Khaung Latt Ram gave birth to a baby girl on March 15, 2024. This is their second baby.
5. Lect. Nant Aye Aye Than and her husband, visited Myitkyina for ministry involvement during the first two weeks of March, 2024.



## Please 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 programs offered by MEGST.
- The safety and good health of students, faculty, and staff. Especially the protection from military conscription of some faculty members and students who are aged between 18 and 35.
- Ca Nuam 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.
- The purchasing of 4E for library extension.

## Alumni Testimony (Phway Bu-BA, LLB, MDiv, DMin)

Being one of the six graduates of the Doctor of Ministry program at the Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology in 2024, I am incredibly proud of this historic accomplishment. I am also indebted to MEGST for the opportunity to participate in this pioneering project, which highlights MEGST's commitment to leadership development and academic success. As I embark on this new chapter in my life, I am dedicated to using the information, talents, and insights gained from my doctorate studies to serve faithfully in ministry and positively contribute to the Kingdom of God. To sum up, my life as a student at the Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology has been a life-changing and rewarding experience marked by spiritual development, intellectual advancement, and career discernment.



From graduate to postgraduate level training, MEGST has created a fostering atmosphere for holistic development and ministry equipping. As I reflect on my studies at MEGST, I appreciate the priceless lessons acquired, the relationships formed, and the possibilities for growth provided. Moving forward, I am encouraged to continue living out the concepts of faith, service, and lifelong learning that I learned at MEGST, striving to make a meaningful difference in the world for the glory of God. I sincerely pray for MEGST's continuing success and sustainability in her objective to prepare more Christ-like leaders in Myanmar and beyond. May the good Lord bless and guide MEGST's activities, allowing her to fulfill her great mission of developing servant-leaders who will impact their communities and the world for His own glory. AMEN!

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