

# the BRIDGE

*Bridging Cultures  
for Christ*



## Commencement 2009



Photo: Jarrett Davis

### Looking Forward:

by Jarrett Davis

It is a beautiful sight to see, watching hooded master's students step out from their commencement. It is like the lifting of a pen after putting the final period in place at the close of a well-written chapter. It is the exciting joy of conclusion, closing—a kind of fulfillment. As 22 students made their own memorable marches, emerging from APNTS last April 4th, there was another sense that hung strongly in the air, and it was not so much one of conclusion, but one of embarkation.

Once again, the class of 2009 provides a grand mosaic of calls, visions, and potential ministerial endeavors. Such as David Yucaddi. He is a Master of Divinity from Ifugao Province in Northern Luzon. Coming from an Igorot tribe, Yucaddi is well accustomed to the worldview and thought patterns of the predominately animistic/pagan culture within his province. Yucaddi is the son of a district superintendent from the Bible Methodist Church, and a graduate of Luzon Nazarene Bible College. With his degree finished, Yucaddi will now be returning to his own tribal people, going

about evangelizing and planting churches. Yucaddi carries an unmatched edge in ministry since it truly takes someone from a tribe to understand ministry within a tribe.

Another Master of Divinity graduate, Lawlam Puia is returning to his family in Yangon, Myanmar. Puia comes from a diverse range of pastoral work at Yangon Church of the Nazarene. Puia has attended APNTS on behalf of his district, and intends to return to Myanmar to fulfill a teaching assignment at Southeast Asia Nazarene Bible College in Yangon. Beyond this, Puia has a passion to work in group-based discipleship working to reach out to both Christian and Buddhist children in Myanmar.

These students represent only a small sample of the diverse stories and calls that make up the APNTS graduating class of 2009. During the ceremony, Dr. Neville Bartle challenged the graduates from Acts 26:16-18, to take up and embrace their privileged roles as servants in their ministries as they return to their own homes and churches.

As each of these graduates look forward to the plans that the Lord has prepared, they join with the growing number of APNTS graduates who are serving the Lord worldwide.

### The 22 APNTS graduates of 2009 include:

- 13 Filipinos
- 4 Koreans
- 2 Japanese
- 2 Burmese
- 1 American

### Of these there were:

- 16 Nazarenes
- 2 Presbyterians
- 1 Bible Methodist
- 1 Independent Presbyterian
- 1 Pentacostal
- 1 Wesleyan

### The Graduates were made up of:

- 11 Men
- 11 Women

Photo: NCN News



Rev. Ryu Doo-Hyun

Photo: WMC File



Dr. Lee, San Young

# APNTS Elects New Officers: Ryu Doo-Hyun | Lee San Young

The past year has been one marked with both transition and growth. From the celebration of 25 years as a Seminary, to the appointment of Dr Floyd Cunningham as the 5th President of the institution, the dream of Building New Bridges has been an exciting one indeed. As a part of this dream, APNTS has recently welcomed two new members into its leadership team.

Rev. Ryu, Doo-Hyun Ryu joined APNTS as the Vice-President of the school's Institutional Development, leading APNTS's regional partnerships. Ryu is one of the most influential leaders of the

Church of the Nazarene in Korea and will continue to lead the Nazareth Church of the Nazarene in Seoul, Korea, where he has served as pastor since 1987.

Also, Dr. Lee San Young, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Counseling and Comparative Religion was officially announced as the school's new Academic Dean March 12. As Lee joined the faculty of APNTS in 2008, she brought with her a rich academic background including a Ph.D from Vanderbilt Beyond this, she has had more than 13 years of pastoral experience and is an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene.

## Ministry and Women c o n f e r e n c e

The Church affirms that, "in Christ there is no male nor female, no greek or slave," but how is this to be understood in our present context? APNTS asked this very question at the Ministry and Women Conference" this past March.

This conference continued the seminary's focus on ministering to the church as a whole. Five Women Faculty members, ordained as elders in their respective denomination, presented papers emphasizing various issues important to assuring that the entire church is nurtured in to the presence of God. Among the topics of discussion were issues of worship,

particularizing language usage, and communicative issues that can inhibit effective communication of Christ to the *entire* church. The event saw about 70 students and faculty members as well as a number of pastors from the area.

Following the presentations, the conference concluded with group discussion and responses to the topics covered. All participants received a certificate awarding them four Continuing Education unit for their participation in the four-hour conference.



## Lessons Learned, While Teaching at APNTS:

Doug Flemming is the Communications Coordinator for the Asia-Pacific Church of the Nazarene headquartered in Singapore. Apart from his founding role in WM Communications on the APNTS Campus, Flemming also served on the Faculty of APNTS for many years.

Flemming recently had the opportunity to return to APNTS to teach for a short-term assignment. Below, Flemming reflects on some valuable faith-lessons that were learned as he taught.

I've been blessed to live and teach in Asia for nearly sixteen years. Through-out each teaching experience, I am reminded that I still have so much more to learn about Christ, culture, and communications. My recent stay at APNTS was no exception. This past February to March, I was invited to teach, "Intercultural Communications" for the experimental AP Global Communications Program. The students (my teachers) were twenty-three energetic Koreans from Kyung Hee University (Seoul). The very context for this course (American professor, teaching in English, to Korean students, studying in the Philippines, on an international campus) offered ample opportunities to experience intercultural relationships.

**These are come lessons I re-learned as I taught:**

**When we look for the positive aspects of any culture, we can find clear examples of "Christ-culture".**

The "collectivistic" Korean culture in many ways displays our biblical call to community. At the same time, this cultural value made it challenging to engage the students in classroom dialogue. Many students were reluctant to participate in reflecting their cultural desire to show humility and deference to the group. Hmm...that sounds familiar...Biblical even.

In the interest of education, I had to learn and adapt my teaching style. Instead of insisting on individual responses, I found group presentations more effective. One of the students ("Bono") taught me the Korean way of getting attention. So, at the appropriate time, when classroom chatter began to increase, I whipped out my new linguistic secret weapon - *Pak su se-bun sijak!* Suddenly, the students all responded in unison with three claps, and their attention was mine. Amazing!

**Finding the appropriate cultural key makes all the difference in developing productive intercultural relationships.**

It is also very refreshing to have students from a "secular" university, at APNTS. We who live and work in the "ministry realm" (i.e. a seminary campus) need to be exposed to different worldviews and lifestyles that challenge our Christian religiosity. Many of the KNU students had very honest questions and doubts about Christianity and religion in general. Interaction with them reminds us that our "Christianese" pat answers don't work in the real world.

**We must be able to clearly communicate our faith in culturally relevant terms.**

I was so proud of the APNTS Students who volunteered to be tutors. The campus community embraced the KHU students



Professor Flemming takes time to pose with Kyung-Hee students following their "farewell Banquet" this past March.

Photo: Jay Milares

with genuine Christian love. For our Korean guests, I would say it was in the context of these relationships (not course content, textbooks, or my wonderful lectures) where the majority of their real learning took place. I am convinced that my students now have a much better understanding, not only of intercultural communication processes, but more importantly of our Kingdom values, because Christ culture is best experienced in Christ-honoring relationships.

**The best way to communicate our faith is through authentic relationship.**

So, Professor Kwon, APNTS, and Kyung Hee students...thank you once again for this opportunity to be a learner.

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