



LUTHERAN
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY 

NEWS

GOD
COMING
TO THE
DUST
OF OUR
WORLD

Would you like to see Jesus' diapers?

This is possible. But you have to travel a bit: to Aachen, an old city in the very West of Germany. And you have to wait a bit: Jesus' diapers are carefully preserved, they are exhibited to a large audience only every seven years. Probably, you can see them again in 2028. And, by the way, together with Jesus' diapers you can also see a robe of Saint Mary and the cloth in which the head of John the Baptist was stored after his beheading. All those things are kept as relics in the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Aachen.

Normally, as a protestant pastor, I have great reservations about the relics of the Catholic Church. But Jesus' diapers are an exception. I like them. Why? Because even as Protestants, we can learn from them. There is a story related to them: Jesus' diapers are not just ordinary diapers, but they are also Joseph's pants! Some medieval paintings of the manger show the newborn baby Jesus naked and unswaddled in the cold stable, moments after his birth. (You can see one on the coverpage of this edition.) In this situation, Joseph takes off his pants and rips them into strips so that Mary can reuse them as diapers for the baby. This way the child is no longer naked and is a little warmer in the cold winter night. It is just a legend, the Bible doesn't tell about it. However, Jesus' diapers/Joseph's pants contain a message, or even more messages.

The first one is about Jesus himself. God becomes really human. Human beings eat and drink, but they also digest. The function of the diapers is not only to keep

the baby warm, but also to collect the dirt that the baby ejects. God does not avoid the human dirt. He enters really our world. The omnipotent God gives up his glory and becomes one of us: a helpless baby, totally depending on others for shelter, nourishment, clothes, and personal hygiene. The diapers become a sign of God's compassion and his wish to be very close to us.

The second message is a call to action. The diapers/pants remind us that Jesus calls us to share. He expects us to look at the other person who needs our help. And he expects us to support others in need. "Give to anyone who asks you anything," says Jesus (Luke 6: 30). And in the story of the Last Judgment (Matthew 25: 31-46), he emphasizes the importance of our commitment to others: to feed and give to drink, to take care of those in need, to invite strangers, to clothe others, to visit persons who are sick or in the prison.

The story of Joseph taking off his pants so that the baby Jesus can have diapers has a beautiful Christmas message. I am going through the time of Advent with this story. It reminds me what Jesus stands for: a community – or even more: a whole world – in which people care for each other. Just as He cares about us, coming close to us, very close.

In Christ,

Stefan Gradl

Background picture: Jesus' diapers exhibited in Aachen

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Statement of Purpose

The LTS News is a newsletter for local and global alumni/ae and friends of the Lutheran Theological Seminary "LTS" in Hong Kong. Through stories about people and events at LTS, it aims to connect readers and create a sense of belonging to a broad LTS community even beyond graduation.

Donation

To make a donation to support LTS, there are three methods and receipts will be sent back afterwards.

1. A check payable to the "Lutheran Theological Seminary" may be sent to the mailing address above.
2. A deposit may be made to Dah Sing Bank in Hong Kong, Account No.: (040) 645-701-23889
3. For US tax deduction, a check in US\$ payable to "Friends of LTS-USA" and send to "Friends of LTS/USA & Canada" c/o Mimi Borchers, Books with Numbers, 2730 Lone Tree Way, Ste. 5, Antioch, CA 94509. USA.



The 5th Anniversary of Companion LeShalom Centre Public Talk and Program Introduction on 12 May.



Bible Study Camp conducted by Dr. Cynthia Chau on 24 Jun.



110th Anniversary Biblical Theology Lecture. The speaker was the world-renowned New Testament and Pauline Studies scholar, Professor Dr. John Barclay FBA on 20-21 October.



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Annual Sacred Music Worship & the Commencement of 110th Anniversary Celebration on 21 April.



The Founders' Day of LTS 110th Anniversary Celebration on 24 November.



HOLD FAST TO HIS WORD LIVE UP TO THE CALLING

Kenneth Tsang | President



Hold Fast to His Word • Live Up to The Calling is the theme of the 2023-2024 academic year as well as the main theme of our 110th Anniversary Celebration. Apparently, it seems the theme is so common and it could hardly impress others. Then, why LTS is still using it as the theme of the 110th Anniversary Celebration?

In this year's admission interviews, I talked to a candidate who applied to study the Disciple Leadership Program. He works on daytime and plans to study Master of Arts (Theology) part time on weekday evenings and Saturdays. This course needs 66 credits in total. I asked why he applied to study theology and chose to take such a demanding course. As a layman who works on daytime, enrolling 22 subjects is not easy at all. I was touched and amazed by his reply. He said in a rapidly revolving world and changing society, there were various kinds of sayings and thoughts from different people. Hopefully, through the study of theology, he could get a clearer picture on things and on people in order to distinguish the right and the wrong, and to serve God better. His reply has explained precisely why LTS is using "Hold Fast to The Word • Live Up to The Calling" as the theme of the 110th Anniversary Celebration. Some said we were entering the VUCA age (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, Ambiguous). As a seminary stepping into the twelfth decade, how should we deal with it and position ourselves? As a seminary in training and equipping pastors and Christian leaders, how can we help them in facing such VUCA age as well as taking our stance?

"Hold Fast to The Word • Live Up to The Calling" is back to basics. "Hold Fast to The Word" is just like a ship's anchor holds fast to the steady and sturdy base while braving unexpected and ever-changing currents or

turbulences. "Living Up to The Calling" reminds us that the ship is in full gear with radar and navigation devices, and she knows her voyage even under the heavy fog. Our mission statement has already signified what are our radar and navigation devices, that is, to ground in the Bible and true to our mandate and to equip leaders to bear witness for Christ. These are what I will share with every new student enrolled in LTS. They will then be aware that LTS will teach, train and equip them as leaders based on Bible as well as the mission that our Lord and the church have entrusted to him. The ultimate goal is to train him as a leader to glorify God. In a nutshell, to fulfill the calling from God, one must be a leader bearing witness for Christ.

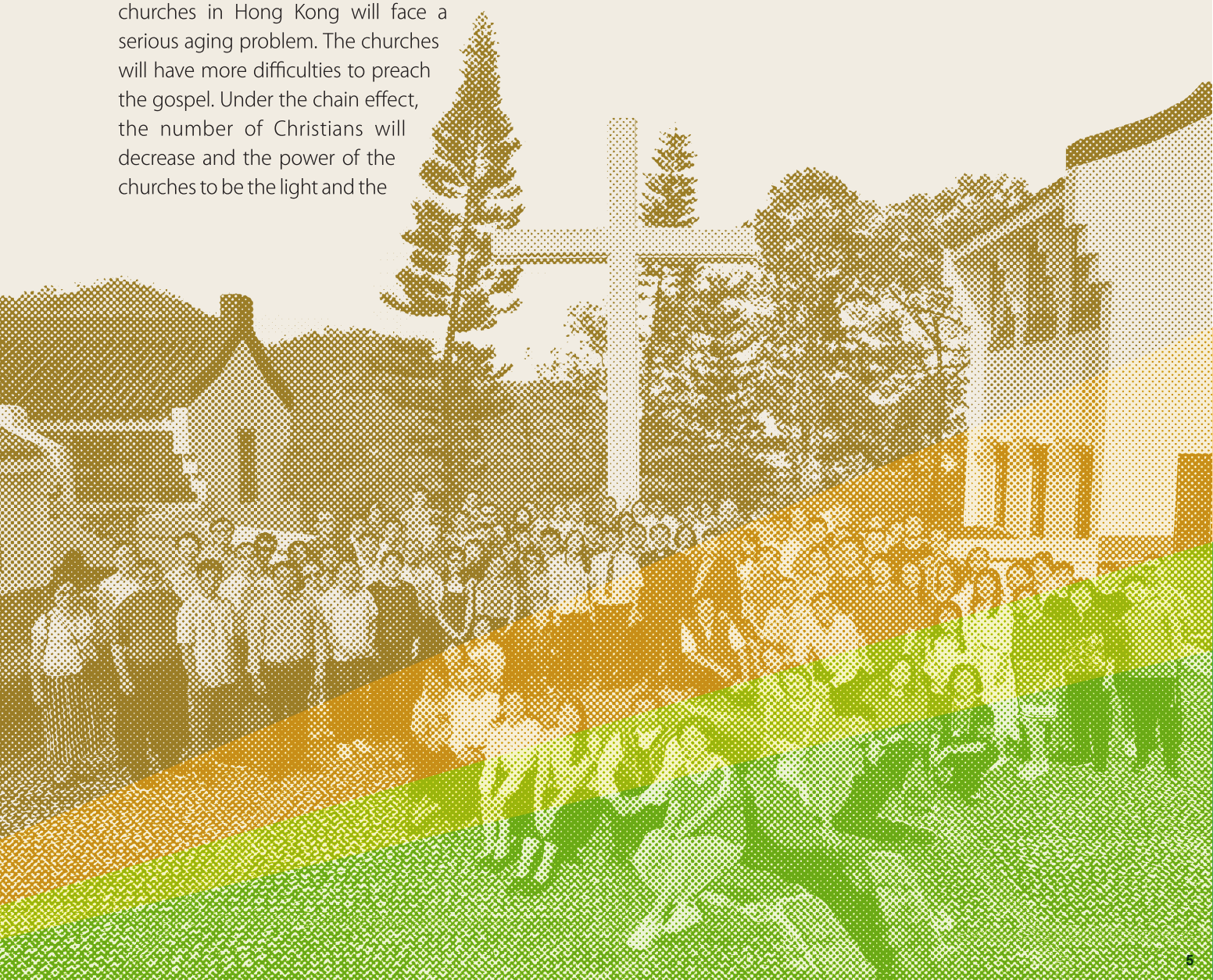
What do you mean by being a leader to bear witness for Christ? We in LTS will put all efforts not only in equipping our students with pastoral skills and knowledge, more importantly is to nourish their spiritual lives. Teaching them to prepare sermons, visitations, counselling, leading worship, diakonia and evangelizing etc. are the "Doings", which, without doubt, can let people know God. Yet, more crucially, pastors have to lead people to know and to feel the goodness and beauty of God, that is, to be like Jesus Christ, the "Being". We must stay alert that "Doing" without "Being" will usually bring negative effect, even hurt. There was a church in a foreign country where all believers were living in a remarkably simple life. Unfortunately, the senior pastor had maliciously used the offerings to maintain his extravagant life. Being a senior pastor, he must have a certain ability and capability. However, if his prime concern is on his personal life, not giving due pastoral care to his congregation, his church members will definitely feel sad and disappointed. Thus, LTS endeavors that all staff and students in the seminary could make effort to cultivate together having the same

mindset as Christ Jesus. That is, to trust in our Lord, to humble ourselves, to care for others and to commit our lives to Jesus.

The theme to "Hold Fast to The Word • Live Up to The Calling" is to equip leaders bearing witness for Christ. I must admit I am a bit impatient. But I have to remind myself repeatedly that Rome is not built in one day. Why so impatient? These days, churches in Hong Kong need more good leaders. Due to the recent wave of migration, many congregations are shrinking. Those leaving Hong Kong are mostly young people or families with children, thus causing a great gap in the church. It has not posed a major crisis to churches for the time being. If we still do not make up our minds to bear witness for Jesus Christ and lead people to accept God as their saviour to fill the gap in the church, after a decade, churches in Hong Kong will face a serious aging problem. The churches will have more difficulties to preach the gospel. Under the chain effect, the number of Christians will decrease and the power of the churches to be the light and the

salt in the community will become weaker. Nevertheless, though anxious, I understand that it takes time to train up good leaders, not to mention to encourage more to be willing to become leaders.

Somehow, you have to start somewhere. Advancing to the twelfth decade, LTS will work even harder in the coming 10 years to put the theme of our Anniversary Celebration into practice, that is, to train up leaders with good training both in Doing and Being. We hope more brothers and sisters could respond to the calling of the Holy Spirit, see the need of the times, and take one more step to become leaders in the church. Soldiers, logistics corps and leaders of tens, hundreds and thousands, let's gear up to fight a good battle through our faith in God. ■



COUNT THE BLESSINGS

Elder K.C. Ma | Assistant to the President (Project Management)



To celebrate the 110th Anniversary, the Lutheran Theological Seminary has launched a series of celebration programmes throughout the year. The highlights are as follows:

- Annual Sacred Music Worship and the Commencement of 110th Anniversary Celebration on 21 April.
- The 5th Anniversary of Companion LeShalom Centre Public Talk and Program Introduction on 12 May.
- Bible Study Camp conducted by Dr. Cynthia Chau on 24 June.
- 110th Anniversary Biblical Theology Lecture conducted by the world-renowned New Testament and Pauline Studies scholar, Professor Dr. John Barclay FBA on 20 and 21 October.
- Anniversary Thanksgiving Service and Celebration on 24 November

The Seminary has a long history with many old documents kept in the archive room. During summer, we recruited two intern students from the City University of HK and two volunteers to arrange a systematic documentation of those archive materials. At the end of their service, the summer interns tidied up the

materials in good order and organised a small scale “Marks of Grace Exhibition” in the library. Their efforts provided a clear picture on different development stages of LTS, viz:

- 1913-1948 in Shekow, Hubei, China
- 1949-1955 in To Fong Shan, Shatin, Hong Kong
- 1955-1992 in Pak Tin, Shatin, Hong Kong
- 1992-present in To Fung Shan, Shatin, Hong Kong

From the bundles of old yellowish files and photos, we could now have a thorough review on the relocation of the campus to To Fung Shan in 1992. It provides us an answer why a small Seminary with no money, no land and no resources could complete a development project amounted to \$70M. We could see the amazing guidance and blessings of our Lord all the way through.

Indeed, in the project, God sent many angels to the Seminary.



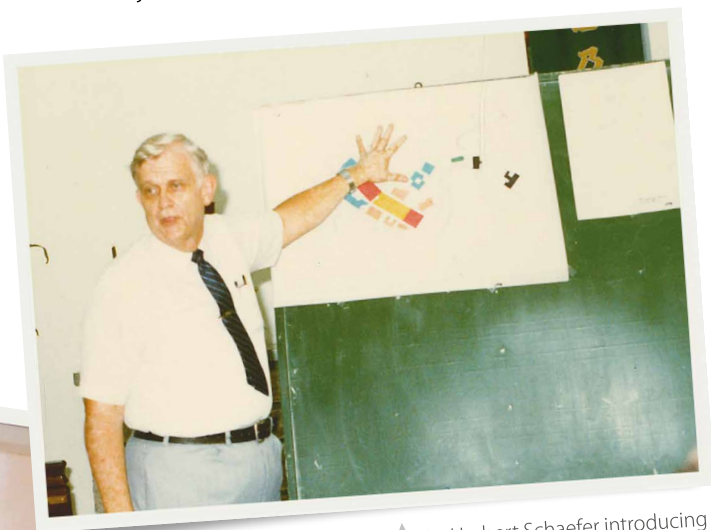
▲ Campus in constructing



▲ Dedication Ceremony of the New Campus on 29/11/1992

For instance, the Christian Mission to the Buddhist “CMB” transferred a vast piece of land as a gift and pledged a donation of \$2.2M to the Seminary. Land is very expensive in Hong Kong. Without CMM’s generous donation, the relocation of LTS could not have been made.

Dr. Herbert Schaefer is another angel. He joined the Seminary in 1981 to teach Christian Education as a missionary from the American Lutheran Church “ALC” (a precursor of today’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, “ELCA”). LTS made a wise decision to write to ALC to extend his service in Hong Kong and appointed him as the Executive Director of the LTS Relocation Project. He was a



▲ Dr. Herbert Schaefer introducing Campus Relocation Project

brilliant teacher and a highly competent administrator with good faith in God. From his manuscripts, we can see how he did a tremendous amount of work ranging from submitting application to the government to make LTS as a charitable organisation, appointing the architect, negotiating with different departments to pave the way for the development and relocation, devising strategy of fund-raising campaign and overseeing the construction project.



▲ Ms Helena To (centre) joining our Anniversary Celebration

We recently had a chance to encounter Ms Helena To, the architect of our new campus. She said she took up the project when she was young and green. She was grateful to Dr. Schaefer as he gave her a clear directive to design the Seminary in Chinese style and what the new campus should look like. She was often invited to go to his house in the night-time, after his heavy work schedules in the daytime, to exchange views on the development project till midnight. She was greatly impressed by his passion, commitment, and devotion. Dr. Schaefer retired in 1989 before the completion of the project.

Nevertheless, owing to his valuable input, he was invited to come back to Hong Kong to deliver a sermon at the Dedication Ceremony of the New Campus on 29 November 1992. At the end of his sermon, he reminds us:

“To sum up, the LTS rejoices and gives thanks to the Lord and His people around the world on this dedication of the new facilities and campus. The list of donors bears testimony to the fact that thousands have participated in this relocation by their prayers and their gifts. ...At the same time, the LTS takes another bold step into the future in its pilgrimage of faith which will end only on that glorious day when Christ comes again.”

While celebrating our 110th Anniversary, let us count our blessings and give thanks to our Lord. ■

NEW TEACHERS

Rev. Wong, Ka-Yu

Lecturer (Old Testament) • Faculty Development

“Hello, I am Joeson Wong. People usually address me as “Rev. Wong” or “Morning Sir” (as my name “Joeson” sounds like “Good morning” in Cantonese). I am a new teacher of the Old Testament at LTS. I look forward to meeting you at the campus.” – Indeed, this is all I wanted to write originally. Given that whatever c.v., research interests, etc. can be found at the website of LTS, why should I repeat the same here? But I believe that the colleagues who are responsible for the LTS Newsletter would not accept the said original draft... and therefore, it would be better for me to be submissive, and write something more...

I am “born and bred” at LTS, from M.Div. (2013), M.Th. (2015) to D.Th. (2015 up to present...). Even though 13 years have passed, I am still a “newcomer” – in the sense that though the environment and the buildings are familiar to me, many colleagues and students are new to me (perhaps because I am specialized in forgetting and therefore, “They are new every morning”...). Kindly pardon and correct me if I make any mistakes.

Regarding myself, I am the first doctoral candidate under the cotutelle program between LTS and Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany. Recently I submitted my dissertation and the reviewing procedure is now undergoing (Nervous? Yes...). If everything goes smoothly, it is expected that the oral examination shall be conducted in Germany by the end of this year (Panic...). Kindly pray for me. In this coming semester, I shall teach the subject “Post-Exilic Prophecy” (in Cantonese). If it so happens that you meet me in the campus and find that I cast a black look, no worry, definitely it is not because of you (laughter~). Whenever I read, think and write, I just look like Grouchy in The Smurfs. I look forward to meeting you without my black look ~ ■



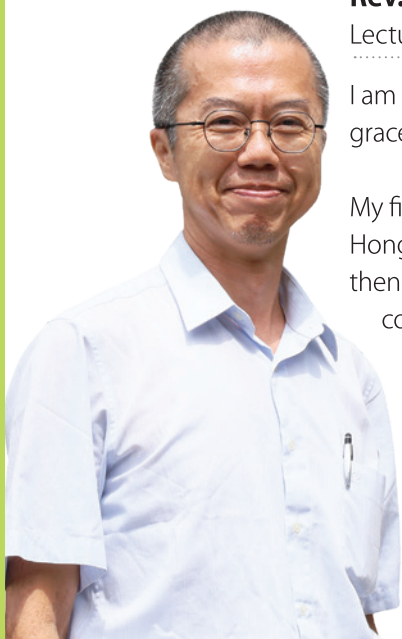
Rev. Fong, Hak-Shun

Lecturer (Systematic Theology) • Faculty Development

I am a pastor of ELCHK, who has joined the teaching team of LTS since this semester by the grace of God.

My first conscious experience with theology could be traced back to 1996, the days when Hong Kong was under a mist of uncertainty due to the approaching political transition then. Through those evening courses by LTS, God’s merciful equipment over me commenced then, which had later led me into service as His servant in Christ’s church. Today, when peace becomes utterly what the whole world hungers after, I am so grateful that God brings me to serve as a companion even closer with all those who seek to serve the world by bringing His peace to their neighbors.

So, let us learn and walk together, for only by serving God’s will, which has been once and for all accomplished by Christ, could we share the true, lasting peace of God with others. ■



Dr. Kallatsa, Laura

Overseas Visiting Scholar (Practical Theology)

Hi all friends of LTS! I am working as missionary in Hong Kong for one year, called by God and sent by the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (Felm). I am very grateful for this opportunity to serve both Kingdom of God and the academy here.

I arrived in Hong Kong in the beginning of August this year. When I stepped out of the airport together with my husband Markus, we got to feel the heat that we had never experienced. In Finland we were living in the countryside, in the north part of the country. Our village was the same size as Hong Kong but there were only 3,000 residents, while Hong Kong has over 7 million inhabitants. This is the first time in Asia both for me and my husband.

We have been asked how it feels to be here, in one of the most hectic cities in the world. It is very difficult to say. Mostly we have enjoyed our time here but, to be honest, also experienced a little culture shock. Hong Kong is very manifold. We have been spending an afternoon on the beach in Stanley, jogging in Victoria Park, attending Sunday services with natives and other immigrants, and trying to walk forward on the very crowded streets in Kowloon. We have seen so many different faces of Hong Kong already until now – and we are curious to see even more!

Before coming to LTS, I worked over seven years at

the University of Eastern Finland. My academic field is Practical Theology. I wrote my dissertation about the discussion of same-sex marriage in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland. After finishing my doctoral degree, I worked in the international research project which studied religious transmission in families. At the moment, I have research projects concerning traditions, habits, and emotions on the graveyards, leadership in the Nordic churches, and virtual services of the Lutheran Church in Finland.

At LTS, I was called to teach two courses in this semester: Family and Parenting, and Grief Counseling. I have taught similar courses in Finland but teaching in English in the new culture is very exciting for me. I have enjoyed the warm and welcoming atmosphere of the LTS. All faculty members and students are extremely friendly. I am so grateful and happy that I have met all of you clever and beautiful souls. Let our merciful God bless our life at LTS! ■



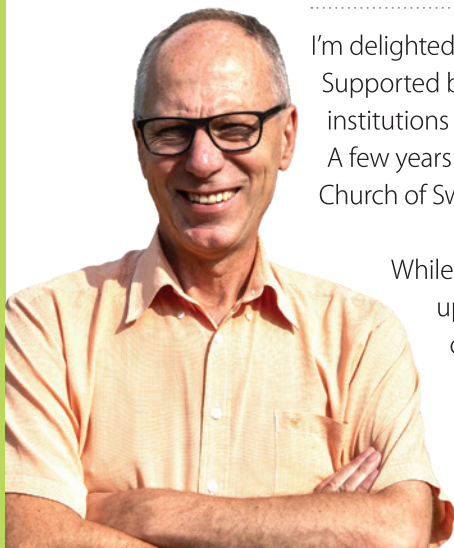
Dr. Oredsson, Dag

Associate Professor (Old Testament)

I'm delighted to introduce myself as the incoming Associate Professor in the Old Testament. Supported by the Norwegian Missionary Society, I bring a long academic experience from institutions in Sweden, including Uppsala University and, more recently, Lund University. A few years ago, I held a similar role at Makumira University in Tanzania, representing ACT-Church of Sweden.

While I'm new to Hong Kong and Southeast Asia, I'm genuinely excited about this upcoming chapter. I'm eager to connect with the dedicated staff, esteemed colleagues, and the engaging students who make LTS such a dynamic community.

I look forward to getting to know each of you better and embarking on this exciting academic journey! ■



NEW STUDENTS

Overseas



Hawng Hkawng | M.Th.

My name is Hawng Hkawng, pronounced similarly to Hong Kong. I am from Kachin State, Myanmar and an assistant pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church of Kachin

Baptist Convention "KBC".

I enjoy studying M.Th. at LTS, focusing on the theological understandings of icons in churches throughout history. I am excited to learn how to serve different churches in diverse missions and I am grateful to the LTS family for their support. I have a passion for writing, publishing, and art.



Lal Hma Ngaiha | M.Th.

I am Hma from Myanmar. My hometown is Kalaymyo, located in the north-west of Myanmar. I am now studying M.Th. in Pastoral Counseling. I am keen on playing

badminton and enjoy gardening.



Lian Sian Mung | D.Th.

I am Moong from Tedim Theological College, Chin State, Myanmar. I like reading, working together, wandering in the forest, and sight viewing. I'm here

to study Church History. I trust that the professors and new acquaintances here will provide me with new perspectives and better understanding in Church History. I am glad to meet students from different nations, as I can learn valuable lessons from them.



Lar Mar Zar Baw | M.Th.

Hello! I come from Myanmar, Ahsar is my Lisu nickname. I am very grateful to God for opening the door to Lutheran Theological Seminary. I am interested

in Pauline Theology so I will be studying M.Th. in the New Testament field. I can't wait to learn new things and meet new friends in LTS.



Nan Hpong | M.Th.

I am from Kachin State, northern part of Myanmar. I enjoy reading, football and badminton. I became a Christian when I was young and have served at Kachin

Theological College. When I arrived at LTS, I was warmly welcomed by teachers, professors, and senior students. I am blessed to be a member of the LTS family.



Yex Ohnmar Nay Win | M.Th.

I am Yex from Myanmar and will study M.Th. I am interested in counseling, especially pre-marital counseling which will be the theme of my research thesis.

Hiking and exercising are my interests. I am an introvert, thus, to befriend strangers is a challenge to me. As time goes by, I wish I could be an extrovert.



Khing Maung Shwe | M.Th.

I am from Southern Chin State, Myanmar. You can call me Shwe. I belong to the Mara Evangelical Church. I study M.Th. and the main course is Mission and Culture.

Studying at LTS is very enjoyable and gratifying. It is like a dream in which people are overflowing with humbleness and loving kindness towards each other.



Naw Tha Wah Eh | D.Th.

I am Wah Wah from Myanmar. I like listening to music, cats, snacks and learning something new. Since childhood, I knew I would be a minister after growing

up as I am the firstborn child offered to God by my parents. After graduation in university, I had my M.Div. program in 2011 and then taught at a bible school for two years. After graduation from M.Th. program, I served as a lecturer at another bible school and then at a theological seminary. Thanks to God for having the chance to study in LTS.

Mainland China



Huang, Chang Yu | M.Div.

Blessings to you all! I am from Guangdong Province. I was raised in a Christian family and I am of the 4th generation.

I studied in Heep Woo Seminary from 2013 to 2017 and graduated with a bachelor degree. I am now serving in the Seminary. I come to LTS to study the Master of Theology program for the coming two years. I hope to equip myself so as to contribute better in the theological education. May God bless LTS!



Jia, Qiong | M.Th.

I am from Gansu, now serving in the Lanzhou Christian Church. While studying at LTS for my Master of Divinity, I met

my wife. I am very grateful that I can return to LTS for my Master of Theology. May the amazing God continue to grace LTS to be a blessing to the Asian churches and believers.



Sun, Xin Tong | M.Div.

I am from Anshan City in Liaoning Province. Besides administration work, I also serve in the church. It is such

a great honor and most precious to be able to service Him, as it is also my driving force in learning. I wish I could witness His greatness and love more and more! May LTS advance better and better.

Local: Pastoral Training and D.Min.



Cheung, Tsz Fung | B.Th.

I am Chris from Solomon's Porch. I hope to be able to equip myself in the Seminary so that I can work for the Lord in the future.



Law Ka Ling | B.Th.

I am Elaine, I joined Tsing Yi Carpenter Church of ELCHK when I was 5 years old. Now studying Bachelor of Theology at LTS. I have a twin sister, and she is studying missiology in Taiwan now.

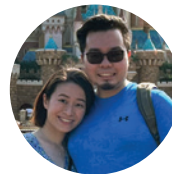
I love to worship, listen to music, watch variety shows, drink bubble tea (with no milk), play games and chat with people. Feel free to play and talk with me! I'm happy to join the LTS family!



Sham, Kin Chung | B.Th.

I am Sam. Praise the Lord! Starting from this fall semester, I am grateful to be able to enroll in the B.Th. program at LTS. Since I was young, I have been interested in history, warfare, and social culture,

hoping that they can help me better understand the Bible.



Tong Chun On | B.Th.

I am Hinson from Pentecostal Church of HK Lau To Chapel. I am studying B.Th. Program in LTS.

I love singing, reading, and playing board games in my spare time. I hope I can learn a lot during the program, not only in terms of theological knowledge but also on a spiritual level.



Ying, Hong | B.Th.

I am Sarah from Jiangxi Province, I am currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Theology program. I love nature, and enjoy hiking, singing, reading.



Lai Hei Wai, Hosanna | M.Div.

I come from the Eternal Grace Lutheran Church of ELCHK. I like travelling, eating and hanging out with besties. I'm easy-going and down-to-earth. I love to try new things and to meet different people.

I traveled to over 30 cities to experience different cultures. I am told that studying theology was not easy, but I believe God is always with me. Grateful to be called by God to study in LTS. Looking forward to be re-shaped by God after graduation.

Rev. Chan, Chi Kin | D.Min.



"I have a 'JoyYou' card and am entering my old age. Why do I still need to study?"

My eldest daughter once said wittily: "Dad, I have been hearing that you are going to school since I was a child. It has been thirty years now, and you still want to go back to school."

This thirst for knowledge started in a retreat forty years

ago. A talk in the retreat made me think: "As a Christian, how can I not be sure about what I believe? Should I have some knowledge and understanding of what I believe?" Since that time, the Lord has opened my desire to seek knowledge of the truth. In addition, I realized that by continuing to study theology and learning from the theories and ideas of various scholars, my faith and service will not stick to the rules and be behind the times. Instead, I can expand my boundaries and respond to the community. As I approach retirement, I hope to take this course to integrate practical experience with theology through study and research, so that I can have a unified concept to teach my church members. This is the best way to give back to the church before I step back to do teaching work.

Hung, Wan Ki | D.Min.



Hello everyone, I am Kevin WKH, a student enrolled in the D.Min. program this year. I am delighted to go back to LTS to study again. This is a familiar place, not only for personal growth, but also the starting place for a new chapter in my life. In the process of studying, I gained a lot of knowledge and life experience at the LTS campus. One insight is the

importance of peer learning. Through continuous mutual exploration, I can push myself to break through the bottlenecks of my thinking, also to keep my heart to have a drive in the pursuit of truth. As time goes by, some of the faces are no longer there. However, there are new peers and teachers, and they are my strength when facing new learning. I hope to keep this ambition while studying and strive to improve my theological knowledge at LTS. May the Lord bless everyone.

THE SCENE BEHIND THE FESTSCHRIFT FOR DR. PILGRIM LO

Alister AU | The Chief Editor of the Festschrift



"It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."

The above beautiful quotation comes from *The Little Prince*. It reminds us of the wisdom that knowing with the heart is superior to knowing with the eye. The heart is the only faculty that can perceive what is essential. The scene that unfolds before the eye may be remarkable, but the scene hidden behind is even more extraordinary. This holds particularly true for the publication of the Festschrift for Dr. Pilgrim Lo. While one may see the publication of the book and enjoy reading all the well-written papers, it is meaningful and evocative to acknowledge the untold story behind its production.

The production of the Festschrift is a bottom-up project. Students initiated the project voluntarily, and scholars and supporters responded enthusiastically. The initiation and the subsequent responses validate the long-term commitment of Dr. Lo's teaching and the impact he has had on people's life. The Festschrift, serving as a tribute to his retirement, becomes a platform to commemorate all the loves and celebrations. It is an amazement for me to see everyone working together for good. This scene requires a genuine heart to intend for the essential and to prioritize all charitable time and wisdom as a gift.

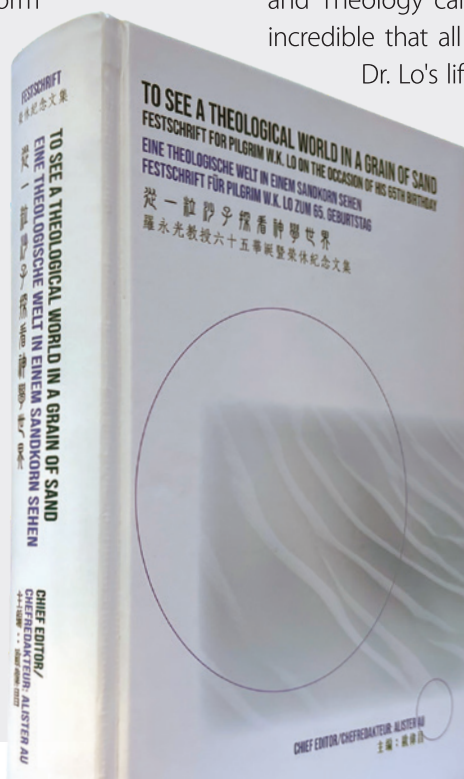
The contributors of the Festschrift surprised me too. Many of them are world-class scholars. The fact that these renowned people accepted the invitation to write is already a wonderful gift. There must be invisible threads bonding them to Dr. Lo, which is why, as the unfamiliar

editor, I could invite them successfully. It also indicates the high level of respect they have for Dr. Lo, as they find it worthwhile to dedicate themselves for the project.

Normally, organizing the contents of a Festschrift can be challenging due to its diversified nature. However, the contents of this Festschrift were not difficult to structure into several groups. This was because there is a theological logic behind the diversification. All the contents can be traced back to Dr. Lo's theological interests. The four groups of contents, namely Luther Studies, Theologians and Theology, Theological Studies, and Theology in Context, align with his research concerns. After reading all the papers several times, I could envision a web of meanings that connect the contents in various ways. Isn't it wonderful that a paper in Luther Studies can provide an explanation or background for a paper in Theological Studies? Isn't it miraculous that the papers in Theologians and Theology can be presented diachronically? Isn't it incredible that all the papers synchronically echo with

Dr. Lo's lifelong enterprise? The Festschrift then becomes a symbol of connection of everything.

The Festschrift is titled *To See a Theological World in a Grain of Sand*, which is adapted from the opening line of the poem "Auguries of Innocence". The original poetic scene is now linked with the new imagination of theology, inviting everyone to engage with true heart and unite one another in the mysteries of God. ■



GERMAN STUDY TOUR

Reformation and its Heritage



The Seminary organized a study tour for students led by Dr. Pilgrim Lo from 14 June to 2 July 2023 to explore the Reformation and its heritage in Germany. The followings are reflections from some students after the trip.

Piano CHOW | M.Div. year 1



The word “truth” was floating in my mind. Student Sophie Scholl in the White Rose Movement, Pastor Karl Steinbauer in the opposition against national socialism and Martin Luther, the church reformer, are all having a zeal in their hearts to search for the truth. Led by the truth and the love of God, they made up their mind to stand up for Him.

In the trip, I am also touched by the sincerity student-teacher relationship between Dr. Pilgrim Lo and Dr. Hans Schwarz.

Grace CHOY | Graduate of B.Th. 2023



I treasured the 19-days journey very much. Through the trip, I learned a lot about the Reformation history and visited many historic sites. In a Sunday service, Dr. Teuffel led the congregation to sing the song “By Gentle Powers (Von guten Mächten)”. Though we sang in four different languages, we were in one spirit. I felt that we had the same God, Christ was our head and we were His body.

On the road to Erfurt, all students took a photo hand-in-hand together in a wheat field, reminding us how precious it was if we could harvest together.

Roderick HUNG | Graduate of M.Div. 2023



Our trip consisted of two parts, to explore the local pastoral ministry and the historic sites as well as the life journey of Martin Luther.

We paid a visit to Diakonia Mother House. It refreshed our mind that Christians should have a social responsibility, to provide service to the under-privileged and to voice against injustice. It is our mission. In meeting with the German pastors, they advised us to keep our own style in the ministry work and to serve the congregation with sincerity.

In tracking the footsteps of Luther, we visited his house, university, monastery and the church he served. It cast back our mind to 500 years ago. We could feel his sermon, his persecution, his enthusiasm in the Reformation and his love for the church. I regretted a bit that I am not well-acquainted with Lutheran theology. As a Lutheran pastor, I have made up my mind to make a good effort on Lutheran studies.

Silas WU | M.Div. year 3



It is perfectly right that one travels far knows much. Through the study tour, I learned much about Lutheran theology and the Reformation.

What happened more than 500 years ago has initiated a huge ripple effect until now. When the world is full of sin and injustices seems no way out, God will choose His faithful servant to stand up for Him. Things will change unexpectedly as He is in control of history. He cares for us and leads us to salvation. Pray that we could serve as a humble servant and faithfully preach the word of God.

Windvy YU | Graduate of M.Div. 2023



Through the tour, I got firsthand knowledge about the history and the theology of the Reformation, the German history and the political interaction at that time.

I am impressed by an episode in 1518. When Martin Luther was summoned to attend the Holy Roman Empire’s hearing at the Diet of Augsburg, he was asked to recant or revoke his stance against the Pope. Yet, he refused as he was faithful to God and His word. It seems that our community is now in a state of agitation and people are mindful in expressing their views. In reflection, I wonder as to whether we, as followers of Christ, have the courage of Luther to defend our faith.



Left page:
Dr. K.H. Muehlhaus,
Dr. Pilgrim Lo and students

Above:
Students on the road to Erfurt

Below:
Silas Wu, Chairman of Student
Association, in Wittenberg

TO BRAVE THE WIND AND THE WAVES

Cultural Exploration and Mission Trip - Sabah

Henry Ng | Graduate M.Div. 2023



Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion.
The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher,
don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked
the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be
still!" Then the wind died down and it was
completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why
are you so afraid? Do you still have no
faith?" They were terrified

Mark 4:38-41

When we visited the churches in Sabah, we performed a drama there and the above verses were part of our dialogues in the play. Through the performances, we aimed to remind the congregation not to be frightened when having challenges in their lives, as Jesus is with us in our life journey.

In our 15 days cross-cultural missionary journey, both the students and the teacher experienced the peace in the Lord in the storm.

We visited various institutions, poor villages, local churches and churches of indigenous villagers run by Basel Mission. Half of our journey was in the mountain areas. We had to climb up mountains and cross streams, scorching and drenching by sun and rain. There were scary moments. In crossing the rivers, we had to ensure the weather was fine and the current was not so swift. Some students were too scary to take small boats riding through strong currents and rocks. When we stayed together on the boats, the verses about Jesus calmed the sea flipped through our mind. We just followed the footsteps of Jesus to go through the towns and villages to preach the Good News and to serve the people.

We all resided in urban areas. It is not easy for us to stay in the mountain areas of poor hygiene surrounding with insects, rats and snakes. It was even more difficult for me as I am suffering from eczema. Before the trip, I prayed earnestly to God that my eczema would not be triggered. We gave thanks to God even though some students had insect bites and some allergies, their symptoms were not serious and did not need to have treatments in the hospital. We learned to adapt to the environment and to have faith in our Lord Jesus.

One of the goals of our missionary trip was to revive the faith of the congregations in Sabah, in particular those believers from the indigenous villages. Over the years, the Basel Mission had made earnest effort to strengthen their pastoral care among indigenous congregations. Yet, owing to the recent pandemic situation, their church life and faith in God was declining. They attached more importantly on their traditional culture and festive dining rather than worshipping together in their churches.

God made use of our visit to pull them together, to share with them through our witnesses, dramas, hymns, and words of God, hoping that they knew more about Jesus



and restored their faith in Him.

It is still vivid in my mind that church members, after our drama show, responded to our invitation to come to the boat, the pros of the drama. Some were touched and shed tears. Perhaps they had similar panic experience in their lives not knowing what to do and having fears. The drama reminded them they could have peace of mind through Jesus Christ. We then sang together by the side of the boat the song "My eyes have seen you". The lyrics reassured them "With you my life is made anew... You are my refuge and strength..."

In Christ we are one family, all people are equal and we could ride on the boat and move forward with Jesus.

From the trip, we learn that through our Lord Jesus, not by ourselves, we could brave the wind and the waves in our journey ahead. ■



Above:

On the journey of visiting villages

Below:

Worshipping with villagers

LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Graduate List 2023 (46th)

NAME	CONGREGATION	NAME	CONGREGATION
Diploma in Theological Studies		in Christian Spiritual Direction	
Cheung, Tsz Fung	Solomon's Porch	Lai, Yin Ling Melody	C&MA North Point Alliance Church
English and Leadership Development Diploma		Poon, Wing Tong	CRCHKS Chinese Rhenish Church, Tsz Wan Shan
Phommaviseth, Chanthaphone	Naxay Evangelical Church (Laos)	in Diakonia (Intensive)	
Soukpaseuth, Bountom	Lao Evangelical Church (Laos)	Deng, Ning	
Higher Diploma in Christian Counseling		in Marketplace (Intensive)	
Lau, Yat Cheung	HKMLC Mingtao Chapel	Liu, Chuan Kang	
Law, Kit Fong Crystal	HKMLC Hsin En Lutheran Church	Ren, Xiao Li	
Ng, Wing Hung	EFCC Tung Fook Church	Zhou, Lang	
Wan, Yuk Fong	TTMHK Shaukiwan Church	Master of Divinity	
Wong, Chi Hung	Faith Hope Charity Evangelical Mission North Point Church	Cheung, Shuk Han	ECF Kowloon Canaan Church
Bachelor of Christian Studies		Hung, Roderick	ELCHK Hung En Lutheran Church
Chan, Yip Hing		Lau, Yuk Ling	ELCHK Tsing Yi Ling Kung Lutheran Church
Church of Living Grace		Mo, Man Chun	Hong Kong Evangelical Yan Chiu Church
Bachelor of Theology		Ng, Toi Chuen	Hong Kong & Macau Lutheran Church
Choy, Lau Ting	HKSKH The Crown of Thorns Church	Nip, Chi Hin	ELCHK Kam Sheung Life Lutheran Church
Chu, Man Kit Eden	ELCHK Ling Fai Lutheran Church	Tang, Pak Kan	ELCHK Yuen Long Light Lutheran Church
Fan, Ho Yin	ELCHK Tsing Yi Ling Kung Lutheran Church	Wong, Wing Tung	HKMLC Hsin En Lutheran Church
Kwok, Chi Yiu	Shatin Baptist Church	Yu, Kwan Ching	CRCHKS Chinese Rhenish Church, Tsuen Wan
Lai, Chiu Fat	ELCHK Ling Fai Lutheran Church	Master of Divinity (Intensive)	
Master of Arts		Shao, Shan	Heilongjiang Theological Seminary (Heilongjiang)
in Christian Counseling and Spiritual Direction		Xue, Hai An	Guangdong Union Theological Seminary (Guangdong)
Leung, Wing Mui	Christian Saints' Assembly Asta Church	Ye, Tao Fei	Jieyang Theological College (Guangdong)
in Christian Counseling		Doctor of Ministry	
Ho, Kin Fan	Tuen Mun Christian Grace Chapel	Kiang, Lok Man	
So, Ho Yin	Sen Lok Christian Church	LCHKS Abiding Spirit Lutheran Church	
Yau, Yuen Sze	HKMLC Spirit of Love Lutheran Church	Doctor of Theology	
in Diakonia		Nant Tin Si Moe	North Okkalapa Pwo Kayin Baptist Church (Myanmar)
Fong, Tat Yin	Hong Kong Chinese Church of Christ, Lai Wo	Ronald Pasaribu	Sekolah Tinggi Guru Huria HKBP, Seminarium Sipoholon (Indonesia)
Lau, Sze Fan	LCHKS Eternal Life Lutheran Church	Soe Saing	Naga Baptist Church (Myanmar)
Tse, Chun Ki	The Church of Christ in China Shatin Church	in Lutheran Studies	
Pang, Chi Yan Josephine		ELCHK Truth Lutheran Church	

Theological Education by Extension Graduates

NAME	CONGREGATION	NAME	CONGREGATION
Certificate for the Heartful Journey to Life Ministry			
Leung, Wai Yan	ELCHK Living Spirit Lutheran Church	Au Yeung, Lun	TTMHK Tuen Mun Church
Mak, Suk Ha	ELCHK Truth Lutheran Church	Lai, Hei Wai	ELCHK Grace Lutheran Church
Wong, Fai Lan	Hong Kong Christian Shuen Tao Church	Wong, Fung Sim	HKMLC Living Stone Church
Diploma for the Heartful Journey to Life Ministry			
Chan, Mun Yee	ELCHK Tuen Mun Lutheran Church	Lam, Hak Shing	CRCHKS Chinese Rhenish Church, Tsuen Wan
Graduate Certificate for the Heartful Journey to Life Ministry			
Tai, Wai Ling	HKMLC Yan Tsing Lutheran Church	Leung, Chi Him	HKMLC Living Stone Church
Yeung, Pak Chuen	ELCHK Joy Lutheran Church	Ng, Wing See	HKMLC Living Stone Church
Graduate Diploma for the Heartful Journey to Life Ministry			
Master of Arts in Christian Studies			
Master of Christian Studies			
		Chan, Cheong Mun	TTMHK Shatin Church



NEWS

Board of Directors Announcement

- ▶ Rev. Chun-wa Cheung, from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong (ELCHK), retired as the Bishop on September 1st, and consequently stepped down as the Chairman and member of the Board of Directors of our Seminary. We express our gratitude to former Chairman Rev. Cheung for his dedication and contributions to the Seminary over the years.
- ▶ Reverend Yau-chi Yeung, from the ELCHK, assumed the position of the Bishop on September 1st and concurrently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of our Seminary. We warmly welcome Rev. Yeung to this role.
- ▶ During the Board of Directors meeting on September 8th, President Yat-man Leung from the Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church was elected as the Chairman. We pray for God's wisdom and strength upon Chairman Leung as he leads the Board of Directors and the Seminary.

President and Teachers' Updates

- ▶ From September 12th to 21st, the President attended the 13th LWF Assembly of the World Federation of Lutheran Churches held in Poland. On September 14th, he served as the speaker for the Bible Study session during the morning worship service. Rev. Michelle Chiu served as a member of the Worship Planning Committee, assisting in designing and leading various worship services during the assembly.



- ▶ Dr. Pilgrim Lo, Professor in Systematic Theology, retired in August 2023 after serving LTS for 30 years. Upon his retirement, he donated a carpark space in a private housing in Shatin as a gift to the Seminary to express his love to LTS.



LUTHERANTHOLOGICAL SEMINARY
2023 FALL SEMESTER
SPECIAL LECTURES



UNDERSTANDING THE ISRAEL PALESTINE CONFLICT: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

In this course, we aim to foster a deeper understanding of the present-day conflict by exploring its historical background in three parts:

pre-1948 era

exploring the impact of the Ottoman Empire, the British Mandate, and the influential Balfour Declaration. Gain valuable insights into the factors that shaped the conflict's early stages. Discuss the multifaceted nature of Palestine and Israel by examining their various definitions, etymology, historical contexts, and origins.

1948 to 1973

witnessing the formation of the State of Israel and subsequent conflicts. Explore the complexities surrounding this crucial period, including the displacement of populations, geopolitical tensions, and the quest for a lasting resolution.

1973 to the present

delve into the challenges of occupation, terrorism, the intricacies of peace negotiations, and the patterns of success and failure in these efforts. Gain a nuanced understanding of the ongoing dynamics and the complexities that hinder a comprehensive resolution.



Dr. Dag Oredsson
Associate Professor (OT)
Doctor of Biblical Exegesis
Uppsala University

15, 18, 20

DEC 16:00-17:30
Ming Yee Lecture Hall, LTS
50 To Fung Shan Rd, Shatin
2023 Free of Charge
Registration

