



Newsletter

April-September 2023

A Message from Vice Principal (Academic Affairs)
Rev. Stephen Vum Cung Nung, PhD



Greetings from MEGST!

First, I would like to express my deep and sincere thanks to God for the unwavering protection and guidance He has provided for our needs throughout the difficulties and challenges we have been facing in Myanmar. In times of uncertainty, God has been our rock, refuge, and strength.

Secondly, as a new Academic Dean, I am honored to serve alongside our esteemed faculty members, dedicated staff, and passionate students committed to pursuing theological education and deepening their faith. Together, we form a lively community of learners, seekers, and servants, united by our shared vision to train and equip Christians to be Christ-like leaders who build up the church and the nation of Myanmar and beyond.

Thirdly, we are grateful to God for our partners from New Zealand and Australia who voluntarily came to teach English in the Internship English Program (IEP) during the last three months, from March to May 2023. We have entered another milestone in our journey, beginning our first semester this Academic Year (June 2023–February 2024) with face-to-face learning in physical classrooms. By the grace of God, we currently have thirty-nine students in M.Div. I, twenty-four in M.Div. II, twenty-four in M.Div. III, five MTh students, twenty-eight MAOL students, and forty-five D.Min students.

Finally, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your constant prayer support and generous contributions to our theological seminary. We are humbled and blessed to have you as partners in our mission. Please pray for our country and MEGST, especially for the safety and a fruitful year of equipping Christ-like leaders for Myanmar churches and beyond. May the Lord richly bless you and grant abundant joy and fulfillment in all your endeavors.

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IEP Certificate and Exit Test (MEGST)



MEGST Intensive English Program (IEP) classes finished after three months, and forty-one students received their "certificate of completion" on 25 May. We appreciate the sacrifice and service of our volunteer English teachers. Terms One and Three were in person at MEGST, and Term Two was via online. The teachers in the IEP were:

Term 1 (March): Steve Heap, Li Dorsey, and Adele Little

Term 2 (April): Onny Holdaway, Andrew Smith, Anthea Fairbrass, Inez McClea, and Philippa Mclaclan

Term 3 (May): Keith Bedford, Jennie Bedford, and Bronwyn Schick

MEGST Exit Test was conducted at MEGST Chapel on 26 May 2023 (Fri) for MDiv and MTh programs for the academic year 2023-2024.



Condolence Service

On 17 April, MEGST faculty and staff visited Mrs. Dawt Dim's family to have fellowship and prayers for the family. 17 April is the Third Anniversary of our loss of Rev. Dr. Aung Mang, one of our founding members, as well as former principal and board chairman of MEGST.

Seminar on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Curriculum Development

MEGST held a three-day Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Curriculum development seminar on May 29-31, 2023. The facilitator was Dr. Jason Kinser, Chair of Computation and Data Sciences and Associate Professor at George Mason University. Faculty from MEGST and other Bible schools were blessed through this seminar.



Registration, Orientation, and New Leadership Roles

On 2 June 2023, MEGST held its registration and orientation for the academic year 2023-2024. The evening session was an orientation for new and returning students to learn the detailed guidelines of the MEGST "Student Handbook" and policies. Moreover, new leadership roles began on the first day of the academic year 2023-2024.

Academic Dean (Rev. Dr. Stephen Vum Cung Nung)

Dean of Students (Rev. Hmet Lian Thang)

Chaplain (Sayama Nant Aye Aye Than)

Post-graduate Director (Dr. Ning Ngaih Lian)



Fresher Day

The Fresher Day for this 2023-2024 academic year was held at MEGST chapel on 16 June 2023. Each fresher introduced themselves with some highlights and presented their special number, followed by a wonderful dinner provided by the SBO (Student Body Organization). Rev. Dr. CK Hrang Tiam gave an enthusiastic welcome sermon on the fresher day.



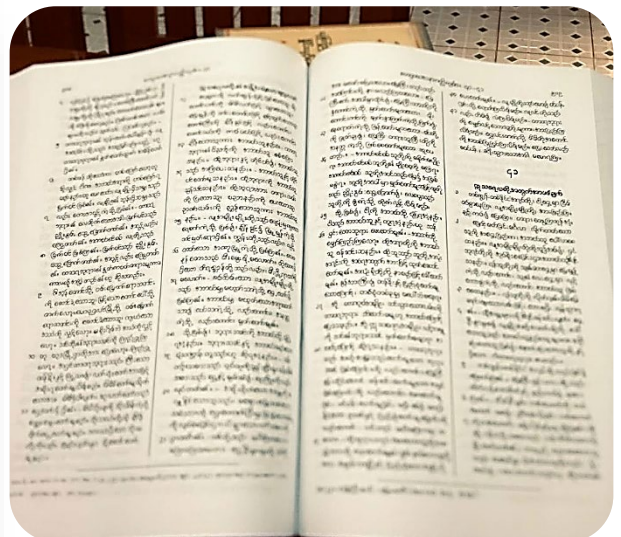
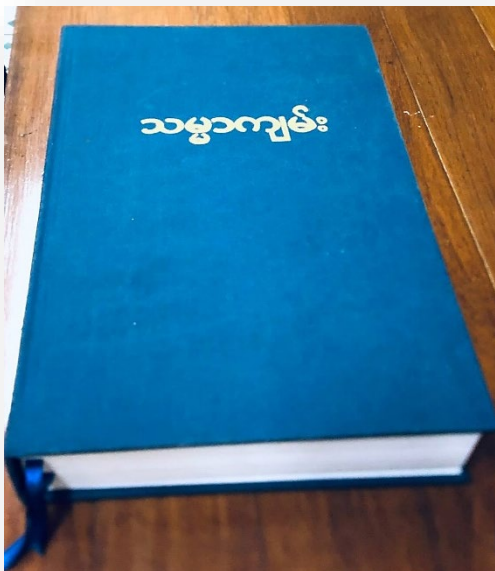


MEGST Cup

In late June and early July, a three-day competition for the MEGST Cup was held at some soccer fields in Yangon. The Godzone Care group won the MEGST cup for this academic year.

A Hand-written Bible from the Bible Society of Myanmar

On 12 July 2023, Rev. Khoi Lam Thang (General Secretary of Bible Society Myanmar) and Rev. Nant Aye Aye Chit (Director of Translation Department) joined MEGST Chapel by sharing the history of Bible translation in Myanmar and special encouragements from Rev. Khoi Lam Thang. Moreover, they presented a hand-written Burmese Bible for the MEGST library, written by five hundred and twenty-five Myanmar Christians from twenty-five cities in Myanmar in December 2021 during the lockdown period of COVID-19 in Myanmar.





Prayer Day

On 21 July, MEGST held their prayer day at the chapel and respective classrooms. It was a day to seek the Lord's favor by praying for Myanmar, for ministries in Myanmar, and the whole MEGST family. Our Lord blessed the faculty and student body through this day of prayer.

Fellowship with the Local Doctorate Degree Holders

Based on the needs for the DMin program in terms of their dissertation advisor, MEGST held a fellowship lunch with local and respected Doctorate degree holders (Dmin and Ph.D.) in Yangon on 31 July 2023 (Monday). Rev. Dr. CK Hrang Tiam (Principal) gave a welcome speech, Dr. Ning Ngaih Lian (Post-graduate Director) introduced the dissertation titles of the DMin student, and Rev. Dr. Stephen Vum Cung Nung (Academic Dean) shared the guidelines in terms of DMin dissertation format and led the Q and A session.



Spiritual Emphasis Week



MEGST held their spiritual emphasis week from 1-3 August 2023. The following special speakers from different denominations in Yangon joined and shared their exceptional sermons during chapel hours.

1 August: Rev. Dr. Thawng Tha Thang (General Secretary, Gospel for Asia)

2 August: Rev. Roi Ja (Senior Pastor, Full Gospel Assembly, Yangon)

3 August: Rev. Dr. Aye Min (General Secretary, MECA and Senior Pastor of Peace Evangel Church, Yangon).

Soccer Fellowships

1. On 12 August 2023, MEGST and Bethel Theological Seminary (Insein) held a game and had fellowship at the ATA Myanmar School Fellowship Day.

2. On 17 August 2023, a game and fellowship occurred between MEGST's current students and alumni.



E-library access to American Center Yangon

With the assistance of Rev. Dr. Austin Lee House (part-time lecturer), MEGST students and faculty can access the American Center Yangon and its e-library for their research work this year.



Academic Dean Forum

On 15 September, MEGST conducted an Academic Dean Forum led by Rev. Dr. Stephen Vum Cung Nung (the Academic Dean) at the MEGST chapel. Dr. Stephen shared about the MDiv degree's integrated program, the ATA's requirements, and answered questions the students raised regarding Academic affairs and student life at MEGST.



DMin Module (First Semester)

At MEGST, the third module for the second year DMin students was held. The courses and instructors for this module are as follows.

Subject: Church Leadership and Management (4-15 September 2023)

Professor: Rev. Dr. Cin Khan Vum

Subject: Issues Facing Christians in Myanmar (18-29 September 2023)

Professor: Dr. Aung Htoo and Rev. Dr. Stephen Vum Cung Nung



MAOL New Intakes and Residency Classes

Twenty-two new MAOL students are accepted for this academic year 2023-2024. The residency classes taken place are as follows:

1. MA (First Year) - Servant Leadership (Facilitator: Karman & Dr. Go Cin Zam) & Teaching and Learning (Facilitator: Roz Brain) – 4-8 September 2023 (8:30 am - 5 pm)
2. MA (Final Year) – Development and Social Change (Facilitator: David Sangdong) – 18-20 September 2023 (8:30 am - 5 pm)



'Big' Book Sales

A Big book sale at MEGST chapel was held for the first time during this academic year (2022-2023) on 28-30 September 2023. Stay tuned to the MEGST Facebook page for more upcoming sales.



Farewell

This year, after serving at MEGST as an Assistant Librarian for twenty-one years, Mrs. Cing Khan Hau (Haupi) resigned and decided to join her husband in Mandalay. On 26 June 2023, MEGST held a farewell service followed by a Thanksgiving lunch provided by Sayama Haupi and Saya Thang Za Pau. Mrs. Dawt Dim, Mrs. Kham Kung, and Mrs. Rebecca joined this occasion with the MEGST faculty and staff. May the Lord bless Sayama Haupi as she continues to serve the Lord with her husband.



Faculty/Staff News

1. Dr. Dawt Hlei Mawi returned from Mizoram, India, in early April 2023.
2. Rev. Dr. Stephen Vum Cung Nung joined a mission training for missionaries and laymen in Magwe City from 7-11 August 2023. More than sixty participants attended each training session and were blessed through this training.
3. Dr. Aung Htoo and his team joined Asia Intensive 2023 (City to City: Asia Pacific) in Bali, Indonesia, from 21 August – 1 September 2023.
4. Dr. Ronald Lal Din Suah joined the ATA Vet team in Jakarta, Indonesia (first week of August) and Bangalore, India (last week of August).
5. Rev. Ciin Suan Piang visited Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for his DMin thesis proposal presentation in August 2023.

Testimony (Alumni)



I am Mrs. May Pan Lynn. As soon as I graduated from MEGST, I have been teaching at Evangel Bible College (Yangon) and serving as the Dean of Students. Later, God also opened an opportunity to serve Him as the Women Commission Director in the Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance (MECA). In 2020, God has given me another blessing to become a board member of the Asia Evangelical Alliance (AEA).

I would like to highlight how faithful God is in my life journey as a woman leader. As mentioned above, I've taken some leadership roles, but they do not happen easily. I faced many challenges at the beginning of my ministry, but God helped me not to give up. I know myself, God's call for my life, and where I am going. I do not compete with male leaders in my work or ministry, but I want to complete the Lord's work as part of the body of Christ.

I believe I need to be equipped to break through the limitations placed on women in ministry. I prepared myself by studying and sharpening my skills and gifts. I depended on the Lord and the power of the Holy Spirit, leaving every matter in God's hands. Even when I received opposition from others, I accepted the situation, knowing God was training me to become a more mature leader. As I prepared myself, God opened many more opportunities for me.

In my leadership position, I am treated like a mother to the next generation – even though I am not old enough. I am not saying that I am perfect; I still face challenges, but I have confidence that God is leading me, and I will keep moving forward and break through any hindrance that comes.

Let us Pray and Praise God for:

- Our Graduates, to have a significant impact on their churches and community.
- For Myanmar, during a national crisis and economic turmoil.
- Our Dmin and MTh dissertation/thesis writers.
- The safety and good health of students, faculty, and staff.
- The wife of Lecturer, Khaung Latt Ramm is expecting a baby in March 2024.
- Rev. Ca Nung Mang, doing a Ph.D. at Torch Trinity Graduate University in Korea; Rev Daniel Ciin Suan Piang, doing a DMin at AGST-Alliance; Tha Lian Ci, doing a Ph.D. at AGST (Philippines), and David Van Lian doing his PhD at Asbury Theological Seminary in the States.



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MA

MDiv

MTh

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