



ETCAsia
EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE OF ASIA

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Principal's Message

by Marty Foord

At ETCAsia, we're now more than half-way through the first semester, and much has happened in this short space of time. Although the college has had to face some challenges and changes, they seem small in comparison to the ways in which God has sustained us and so generously provided for our needs. The answers to prayer that we've seen have been a constant reminder of the unstoppable nature of the gospel of grace.

After many months of waiting, the Thompson family has arrived safely in Singapore, just one week after being granted permission to enter! The college community is very excited about their arrival and we all look forward to meeting them in person once they've seen out their quarantine period. What has been especially encouraging and inspiring for us all is how their enthusiasm to serve here in Singapore has not been dampened by the significant challenges they've had to face over the past year. We are so thankful to God for their example of godliness and courage in the face of adversity and we pray that God will continue to sustain them in every way.

Another wonderful answer to prayer is that God is continuing to raise up and send out labourers for his harvest field! We commenced the new academic year with over 40 enrolled students from a variety of churches in Singapore and beyond. And we thank God for our second cohort of graduating students, rejoicing that he has opened doors for them to serve in various ministries. Out of this group, one is now an associate minister in his church, one is now the pastor of an evening congregation, one is a children's worker, one is a women's worker, one will be heading to Cambodia to serve as a missionary, one is planning to return to Myanmar as the principal of a Christian college, and one is now teaching Greek to the students at ETCAsia and is also being trained to be a pastor in his church.

We remained indebted to you for your support, and humbled that you would keep us in your prayers. And we never cease to be amazed that the almighty God of the universe would use all of us in the work of building his kingdom. To him be the glory!

Partner with
ETCAsia

Towards
Vision 2024

Taught by God

By Ben Thompson

When I first packed my bags to head off to seminary in the UK my then pastor gave me some excellent advice. He told me that the temptations and challenges that I would face in my years in training were similar to the ones that I would face in ministry, and that in every instance the gospel was the answer. This meant that I should use my time at college not just to grow in knowledge, but also to learn to recognize and fight the particular temptations that would beset me for the decades beyond. Sure enough, at college I found myself tempted to compare myself unhealthily to my brothers and sisters around me and find my identity in my measurable performance rather than in Christ; I found myself tempted to sacrifice prayer and my own personal relationship with the Lord for the sake of completing my never ending list of tasks; I found myself more concerned about the opinion of men than of God. In each case the answer, of course, is the gospel. But one particular temptation that raised its head at college was a deep sense of inadequacy. As I looked at the immensity of the calling to preach the gospel, and then at myself, I could at times feel totally overwhelmed.

This sense of inadequacy has resurfaced at various times in my years as a pastor, perhaps most clearly in the extraordinary challenges of the last eighteen months. I've lost track of the number of times that I felt clueless about how to lead a church, and how to preach Christ in a context that was so different from the one in which I had been discipled and learned the skills of ministry. And yet, once again, the gospel was the answer. I have found fellowship with Paul as he asks 'Who is sufficient for these things?' (2 Cor 2:16) And I have found deep encouragement in the promise of Jesus that he will build his church and that even the gates of hell will not be able to frustrate him. (Matt 16:18). As ministers of the gospel we are simply servants, even tools in the hands of the master.

These things have come together for me as I've wrestled with the new challenges of being a lecturer at ETCAsia. Firstly, it's reminded me that teaching cannot simply be about information transfer. As the second and third years have studied the book of Deuteronomy with me, it's been vital that we listen ourselves to the warnings that Moses gives and recognize the particular ways in which the same old temptations of pride, unbelief and idolatry will clothe themselves in our modern context.

Secondly, I've found myself facing that same issue of inadequacy. The calling to train and equip men and women to preach the gospel and reach South East Asia for Christ is both terrific and terrifying. But this has brought me repeatedly to Psalm 119:99 - "I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation." This is my prayer for our students at ETCAsia: not that they would learn all that I have to teach them - if that were the case then they would be limited by me - but that they would be taught by God as they meditate upon his Word. That is the role of the faculty at ETCAsia - to help men and women be taught by God.

This necessity of our students being taught by God is why we have the emphases we do - on expository ministry that ensures that we are attentive to the shape and emphases of Scripture; on biblical theology that ensures that we understand each part of Scripture as part of a consistent, unfolding revelation that is centred on Jesus. It is as our students are taught by God that they will find themselves equipped to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ. It is as they are taught by him that they will be able to discern how to minister the unchanging gospel in a constantly changing world.

Continued on next page ...

ETCAsia [Faculty](#)

Dr Marty Foord - (Principal) Theology

Dr Ro Roddy - New Testament

Dr Ben Thompson - Old Testament

ETCAsia Adjunct [Faculty](#)

Dr Stuart Morgan - History, Biblical Theology

Mr Mike Raiter - Mission, Preaching

Dr Alastair McEwen - Hebrew

Mr John Chua - Greek

Dr Jenny Foord - Dean of Women

ETCAsia Operation [Staff](#)

[Wilson Oon](#) - General Manager

[Joshua Tay](#) - Registrar

[Jasmine Chee](#) - HR, Finance Mgr

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Taught by God, Ben Thompson

It is as they are taught by him that they will grow in knowledge beyond their teachers and so be able to be the next generation of pastors, evangelists, missionaries and lecturers in churches and colleges across the region. Who is sufficient for such a ministry? Only those who, in God's mercy, reflect deeply and humbly upon the Word of God.

Staff Profile

Joshua Tay, Registrar

Josh is the new student registrar of ETCAsia. He has been with the College since July 2021. Josh joined the College with both ministry and commercial experience after graduating from RMIT, Melbourne.

Growing up in a Christian family, Josh knew plenty about the bible and Christianity, but he never really knew Jesus personally. This affected the way Josh lived, in being puffed up in pride, while it was in his late teens, when his youth pastor read the bible (specifically, Galatians) with him, that Josh finally understood the gospel. The pastor asked him if he really wanted to be right with God and revealed to Him that it's not by living a goody-two-shoes life, but by having a real relationship with Jesus. He learnt that his chase for love and respect was futile because it'll never fill the hole in his heart, but that Jesus has already loved Him, shown by dying for him on the cross.

Josh has since grown to love Jesus more, with a desire to serve Him and others faithfully. He has served as a volunteer in Singapore Youth For Christ and had done a 1.5 year ministry apprenticeship at his university's Christian Union (with Heather Reid's wise advice) in Melbourne. God willing, Josh hopes to go into full time paid gospel ministry in the future. He also hopes to attend the college as a student some day!



Josh currently also works part time at The Crossing Church in the admin team, helping with social media, videos, and publicity for their events.

He is also a member of Bethesda Christian Centre and serves in the music and youth ministry with his wife Jo (Photo).

Student Profile

New Students

Helena Huey



I'm Helena, doing the **BTh part-time** at ETCA, alongside my first Bachelors in Physiotherapy. I gather with God's people at my local church, **Pasir Panjang Hill Brethren Church**. Currently, I serve in capacities such as leading youths in church, reading 1-1 with those around me in my campus, and campus ministry!

My pursuit of theological studies at this point arises from a desire to serve God and pursue his global mission cross-culturally, beyond the shores of Singapore. So, I gear up to be sent, I hope to grow in my love and ability to minister well to God's people, with God's word, throughout my time at ETCA.

Zoe Tan

Hello! I'm Zoe, a first year MDiv student at ETCAsia. I'm part of **The Crossing Church**, loving and serving the women at the 9am congregation. (Zoe in the middle of the photo with her church friends).

I'm not exactly academically inclined so college can be stretching at times. But God-willing, I hope to strengthen my gospel convictions during my time here—through being challenged to change or being reminded to hold fast to what's crucial. I also look forward to building relationships with students and teachers alike, for gospel partnerships in future (or for fun and games in the present). If by God's grace I graduate in three years, I hope to be involved in women's ministry, training women to better handle God's word for their relationship with Him and with others.

There's such a great need in this area, so if you're a woman reading this—join me to be a part of this good work!



ETCAsia Supporters' Evening

7th October 2021, 8.00 to 9.30 pm

Our supporters are a vital part of the ETCAsia ministry. Without you, the work of ETCAsia could not continue. All of us here at the college were very much looking forward to meeting you in person at our Supporters' Evening on October 7, but given the current COVID situation here in Singapore, the decision was made to host the event online, rather than have an in-person or hybrid event.

While it's disappointing that we can't meet you in person, we are delighted that 109 supporters have registered for the event. Of the 109 registered, 77 are local supporters coming from more than 20 churches here in Singapore, and 32 are overseas participants from the UK and Australia, coming from more than 17 churches.

The Supporters' Evening programme is as follows. We look forward to the opportunity to meet you and also thank you for your support

1	Introduction to ETCAsia Pastor Denesh Divyanathan Chairman of ETCAsia Board Senior Pastor, The Crossing Church
2	The Importance of Theological Education Rev. Dr. Marty Foord Principal, ETCAsia
3	Interview with Ben Thompson by Pastor Denesh
4	Alumni and Student Experiences: Interviews with: Ps Ng Jun Bin Ms Elvira Tan
5	Ways to partner the College Mr. Wilson Oon General Manager, ETCAsia
6	Q&A



Alumni Profile

Interview with Jason Sin

MDiv Graduate

Class of AY 2020/21

Jason Sin a long time member and a serving deacon of Bethesda Frankel Estate Church. He is married with three young children (see photo in page 5). This email interviewed was done in March 2021 before the completion of his MDiv program.

What were you doing before you embark on Seminary studies in ETCAsia?

I was a financial derivatives lawyer in a European bank.

What prompted you to choose ETCAsia as the seminary of choice?

ETCA's theological convictions, faculty and emphasis on word ministry and preachers' training.

What is your plan after you complete your studies in ETCAsia?

The plan is to serve and build up my local church in gospel ministry through the teaching and preaching of the word. Anticipated challenges include recruiting and building up sufficient like-minded co-workers to share in the task of equipping the saints for the work of ministry and building up the body of Christ in my local church.

In what ways do the seminary studies in ETCAsia prepare you for the Gospel Ministry in your Church or in the mission field as you had alluded earlier?

By equipping us to faithfully interpret, apply, teach, and preach the Bible, in a way that is sensitive to its context and authorial intent, and informed by biblical, historical, and systematic theology.

One example of the training I have received which has been immensely helpful are the incisive and constructive sermon critiques I have received from faculty and fellow students.

How does ETCAsia's distinctive figures in your training for the ministry of the gospel and how does that effect your future ministry?

By regularly reinforcing that we hear God speaking to us today through His word, by the enablement of his Spirit, and that the whole story of Scripture ultimately centres on the gospel and points us to the person and work of Jesus Christ. I'm looking forward for myself and others whom I will be serving in ministry to grow deeply in our knowledge, love, obedience and worship of our Lord and to glorify and enjoy him more and more.

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Interview with Jason Sin

Can you share with us the single most memorable occasion in your study of God's word sat ETCAsia?

The grace and godliness demonstrated by faculty and fellow students in college is something that always encourages and spurs me on. The seriousness with which the study of God's word is taken in our college and the focus on its real-life application have helped me in my study of God's word.

What would your advice be for prospective students coming to ETCAsia?

Learn as much biblical Greek and Hebrew as you can before coming in.

What can we pray for you?

To always watch closely my life and doctrine, to be a blessing to others and to please and glorify God in all of life and ministry.



ETCAsia Advancement

As mentioned in the last issue of the Newsletter, the board has approved the Church Partnership Program (CCP) as a way in which churches can support the college. This program enables individual churches to donate a percentage of a student's tuition cost. This is available for churches who have sent students to the college, as well as for churches who haven't sent students but still wish to support the work of the college. The board has agreed to cover the full tuition cost for their respective students who attend the college. The subsidy for each student is 83% for the financial year of 2021/22.

We hope to expand our network by connecting more broadly with over 300 Protestant churches across Singapore. This has started with the College Supporters' Evening. In addition we hope to grow support within the board member churches through developing a greater variety of individual giving options. For example, it may be a once-off donation, monthly, or yearly partnership over a period of 3 years.

Additionally, our like-minded churches in Singapore and overseas now have the option of making the college their mission partner. We hope to continue developing our overseas links and partnerships with churches in Australia, the UK and NZ.

Partner with ETCAsia Today

- [Church Partnership Program](#)
- [One Time Gift to Vision 2024](#)
- [Monthly Partner to Vision 2024](#)
- [Yearly Partner to Vision 2024](#)

Important College Dates

4th to 8th October

Study Break

7th October 2021

ETCAsia Supporters' Evening

1st to 5th November

Study Break

8th to 12 November

Examination Week

17th December 2021

ETCAsia Annual Giving Day

Tuesday 4 January 2022

Semester 2 of 2021/2022 academic year begins

ETCAsia Financial Update

Current Financial Year (2021/22) @ August 2021

General Fund	\$478K	SGD
Viability Period	~ 9.5	Months
Based on average burn rate of \$50K per month		

YTD Total Income ~ 16% of total	\$156K	SGD
Budgeted Total Income	\$972K	SGD

YTD Expenses ~ 14% of total	\$117K	SGD
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Breakdown of YTD Income (2021/22)

YTD General fund	\$64K	SGD
YTD Faculty Fund	\$14K	SGD
YTD Staff Fund	\$2.7K	SGD
YTD Published Tuition Fees	\$74K	SGD
YTD Evening Courses	\$0	SGD

ETCAsia Banking Details

PayNow UEN: 201610151M

Name: Evangelical Theological College of Asia

Bank Code 7339 (OCBC Current Account)

Branch Code 695 (OCBC North Branch)

Account Number 6956-7606-4001

Swift Code OCBCSGSG

Write a cheque payable to "**Evangelical Theological College of Asia**"

Please also use the [website](#) for offline gifts

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