



In This Issue:

Principal's Message

Feature Article

From Singapore to Cambridge

Faculty Profile

Alastair McEwen

Alumni Profile

Shirley Seah of MDiv class of AY 2020/21

Launch of new course—
Certificate of Expository Gospel Ministry (CEGM)

ETCAsia Advancement

Vision 2024

College Open Days

Prayer for us

Important Dates

Financial Update

Partner with
ETCAsia
Towards
Vision 2024

Principal's Message

by Marty Foord

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we commence the new year, and reflect upon the year just gone, it's impossible to deny how challenging these times have been for so many amongst us. Who could have envisaged only a few years ago what our current world would look like or how many lives would be turned upside down by this seemingly never-ending pandemic. Many in our world are feeling anxious, discouraged, frustrated, or even despairing. Others live in hope that our world might soon be COVID-free, or live in hope that at least that the virus will become more benign and life can return to what it once was. All of this is completely understandable, and who wouldn't wish for this? But as followers of Christ, we have an even greater hope than a COVID-free future. We look forward an evil-free world, a new creation where we will see God face-to-face (Rev. 21:3-4). The Holy Scriptures tell us why this will happen: Jesus entered our world to die for sins and then to rise again to begin the new creation. It has started in our hearts, but will be completed when Christ returns and ushers in a new heaven and a new earth. What a rock solid hope we have to anchor us in a fallen world of failed hopes! This is why ETCAsia exists, to train gospel workers who can bring this magnificent hope to a world which so desperately needs it. And the past two years has reminded us that nothing, not even a worldwide pandemic can stop our God from raising up labourers for his harvest fields. The work of the college and indeed, the work of the gospel has continued on, and for this we are so very thankful.

At ETCAsia, semester 1 is now in full swing. Our students, staff and faculty are back from their well-deserved Christmas break. Please join us in giving thanks to God for the way he has continually provided for and sustained the college through these difficult times. Please also pray for our students, that in the many challenges of their lives and studies, Christ would be their hope who truly anchors them. Please pray too for the faculty and staff as they turn their attention to the next important step in the life of the college - the application for accreditation with the Asian Theological Association. Please pray that we are wise and diligent in this process.

At the start of this new year, we want to thank you once again, our faithful supporters, for upholding us in prayer and for so generously supporting our work. Each one of you is a vital part of this ministry. We wish you all a blessed and hope-filled new year.

Warm Regards in Christ,

Marty.



New Covenant Ministry

By Ro Mody

On 3rd July 2021, we as a family (Rita, Charis, and myself) left Singapore after some fond farewells. We had spent four blessed years in Singapore. We do miss Singapore; especially we miss our friends and the community at ETCA. It has required trust in God to move country again.

After our return to the UK, I have been reflecting on the nature of ministry and what ministry ETCA should be training its students for. It has occurred to me as I prepared to teach 2 Corinthians again, that the famous last verse of 2 Cor 13:14 (the "Grace") holds the key to true ministry. Paul closes his letter by blessing the Corinthian church and saying "May the Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen." The verse has become known as the "Grace" and has closed many services as a final, liturgical blessing. But what does Paul really mean in context? This verse discloses the nature of Paul's New Covenant ministry. Paul has talked about the Old and New Covenant ministries in 2 Cor 3-4. In 2 Cor 10-13 he vigorously defends his own weak-looking, seemingly powerless ministry against the "super apostles" who have focused on success, prosperity, and power in their ministries. Then at the end he summarises the letter with this final verse.

Paul starts this final verse by talking about "the Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ." For Paul, "Grace" is an incongruous gift from "our Lord Jesus Christ." That is, Christ is both giver and gift, indeed he is the gift that keeps on giving. Grace from Christ does not fit any human values at all - it is unmerited, unconditioned, undeserved favour toward sinful human beings which results in their salvation. This "grace" is not really found in Old Covenant ministry (even though it has its own "glory") or in the ministry of the "super apostles". This "grace" is found in Paul's ministry; indeed, Christ's grace is sufficient and God's power is made perfect in Paul's weakness (2 Cor 12:9). The source of this grace is "the love of God" the Father. As John puts it: "'For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.'" (John 3:16.) The Father, out of pure, compassionate love for a sinful world, sent his Son to die for us.

But that is not all, the church is bounded together through a fellowship, participation, and communion with one another as the body of Christ. This fellowship has its origins in the Holy Spirit, "the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit." For Paul, that means that the church in Corinth must reject the anti-grace, Law-focused ministry of the super apostles, focus on God's love in sending Christ to reconcile humanity (2 Cor 5), and strive to persevere the fellowship of the church, created by the Spirit, by being united, and rejecting divisions (1 Cor 1-4.)

Now I look forward to continue to serve God at ETCAsia. My goal and prayer is that all our students will get to know Christ better and be equipped to be true New Covenant ministers and proclaim the Gospel by faithfully teaching the Bible, so that the billions of Asia might come to Christ. "May the Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen."

Rita, Charis, and Ro Mody



ETCAsia [Faculty](#)

Dr Marty Foord - (Principal) Theology
Dr Ro Mody - 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

Staff Profile

Alastair McEwen

Raised in a Christian household, the only son of a minister from the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland, and a regular participant in all the congregation's activities, around the age of 20 I was confronted with my unpreparedness for the return of Christ and the judgement and was converted. Two years of National Service highlighted to me the need for young men to hear the gospel presented in a clear and authentic manner. This prompted me to prepare for the ministry. After completing year 12 (at the age of 24), and marrying my wife Margaret, I commenced the BD program at the Reformed Theological College in Geelong, Victoria, graduating in 1974.

I studied Hebrew and Middle Eastern Studies at Melbourne University (BA Hons), while also being involved in a church extension work in the outer Melbourne suburb of Frankston. I was eventually called by this congregation and continued serving there for about five years.

I took some part-time lecturing at the Reformed Theological College in 1981 and 82, and accepted a call to fulltime work there in 1983. I obtained a BLitt in 1985, and in that same year the Lord provided the opportunity to pursue an MTh at Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

In 1989 a short course at the Institute of Holy Land Studies in Jerusalem had a profound effect on my understanding of the Bible, studying and visiting the places mentioned in Scripture. Since then the Lord has enabled me to visit Israel and surrounding countries a number of times, not only refreshing my understanding of the Bible lands, but also presenting the challenge of the state of the lost and the need for the Lord to send labourers into the harvest to work in the power of his Holy Spirit.

Although retiring from fulltime teaching at RTC in 2010, I continued on with part time involvement until 2020. I have also had the privilege and responsibility to assist with the preaching program in the local church, which is personally challenging, while strengthening my own personal walk with God. In his kindness he has preserved and strengthened Margaret's and my more than 50 year marriage, and has kindly given us 15 grandchildren, a number of the older ones having professed their faith. Although I have taken half a dozen short trips to Asian countries to serve and teach, to have been involved in the more extended teaching for ETCAsia this year has been a bonus from the Lord. God has been and continues to be so kind to me.

Alastair McEwen



Alumni Profile

Interview with Shirley Seah

MDiv Graduate
Class of AY 2020/21

Shirley, a recent ETCAsia graduate, will soon be going to Cambodia as an OMF missionary with support from her home church, Bethany Trinity Presbyterian Church. This email interview was done in March 2021 before she completed her MDiv degree.

What were you doing before you commenced your studies at ETCAsia?

Before ETCAsia, I taught English, Mathematics and Science in public primary schools in Singapore. While teaching, I was particularly interested in the application of Pedagogical Content Knowledge, because I saw how important it was to engage students with appropriate pedagogy to help them in their learning.

However, while it was always encouraging to see students grow in their understanding of schoolwork, I found greater joy and encouragement in sharing Jesus, his life and work with people around me!

What prompted you to choose ETCAsia?

It was hearing the faculty members preach the Word on numerous occasions that made me choose ETCAsia. They are careful and faithful teachers of God's Word. Also, it was encouraging to see them live out what they preach and teach.

My interview with Andrew Reid (before applying) also helped me to understand the college's vision of preparing good and faithful Bible teachers for Singapore and the region, and that excited me!

Also, I thought it would be exciting to be part of a new college in Singapore. Because the college is new and small at the moment, friendships forged are deeper and more meaningful.

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

I hope to be involved in cross-cultural mission work in Cambodia. Because of the obvious language and cultural differences, a big challenge will be to contextualize the Bible and to be able to explain it faithfully and simply. There is also the challenge of helping people live out the Gospel in their lives when there are so many distractions and needs around us.

Continued on page 4 ...



Continued from page 3 ...

Interview with Shirley Seah

In what way did studying at ETCAsia prepare you for Gospel Ministry in your Church or on the mission field?

I learnt how to handle God's Word better, how to apply it in different contexts, and also how to communicate it clearly.

In every class, we were asked to consider the implications of what we had learnt. As we were going through Christology, I was challenged to consider how Jesus Christ is perceived in Southeast Asia because of the religious diversity in the region, and how to teach about the person and work of Jesus in a culturally appropriate manner without compromising what the Bible teaches about him.

Learning Biblical languages (Hebrew and Greek) was difficult, but it gave me the resources to consider more deeply what the Word says. It is important because I will not be teaching the Bible in my first language, but a third, and I would not want things to be lost in translation.

How have ETCAsia's distinctives shaped your training and how will this affect your future ministry? What are you looking forward to in your future ministry?

I found most helpful that training in theology and training for ministry came together at College. Whatever we learnt in the reading and handling of the Word, we were challenged to think about how to apply in our particular contexts. It is about knowing the Bible and knowing the people we are ministering to, so that all may grow in maturity and Christlikeness.

As I am preparing to serve in a cross-cultural context, I look forward to being able to explain the Scriptures faithfully and effectively in a different cultural context.

Can you share with us the most memorable part of studying at ETCAsia?

This is tough! I think it is the combination of learning how to read and handle the Bible, and also the conversations with faculty and students that are most memorable. The college community is very supportive and collaborative, constantly sharpening my thinking and challenging me to live out God's Word in my life.

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

Hang out with your classmates and schoolmates! I have made friends who don't just sharpen my understanding of God's word and encourage godliness, but I've found lifetime friends and friends whom I can pray for, for a lifetime.

What can we pray for you?

Pray that I will keep growing to see the Lord Jesus Christ more clearly, love him more dearly, and to follow him more closely!



Shirley Seah

Launch of New Certificate

Starting this July, ETCAsia is launching the new **Certificate of Expository Gospel Ministry (CEGM)**. It is a short program for people who want to learn how to serve more effectively in their churches. It will be one night a week over a year.

The CEGM aims to give people bible handling skills as well as practical tools for serving in ministries like small groups, children's ministry, youth ministry, and women's ministry.

The program consists of 8 modules that are each 4 weeks long. Each session is held on a Thursday night from 7:30pm–9:30pm. The modules will be taught by various ETCAsia faculty and experienced pastors.

The 8 modules are as follows:

Semester 1: July–November, 2022

1.	Bible Overview
2.	Theology Overview
3.	NT: Gospel of Mark
4.	Ministry Elective, either: - Leading Small Groups - Children's Ministry - Youth Ministry - Women's Ministry

Semester 2: January-May, 2023

1.	Expository Word Ministry
2.	NT: Letter of 2 Peter
3.	OT: Narrative
4.	Ministry Elective, either: - Preaching - One to One Ministry - Pastoral Care - Evangelism and Mission

For coming details see our website [here](#).

ETCAsia Advancement

The advancement office is focusing currently on two key tasks, amongst others.

Firstly, we are currently in the process of seeking **accreditation** with the Asian Theological Association (ATA). The faculty and staff are hard at work in preparation for this. We are hoping to be accredited some time this year, 2022.

Secondly, in December 2020 we launched **Vision 2024** with the goal of raising \$1.8M by 2021. This would enable us to expand to a full faculty of 4 to 6 members from our current 3 members. Growing our faculty is essential if we are to cater to a full-time student population of 60 students with 20% coming from Southeast Asia countries.

To date we have only raised \$650K, or 36% of the Vision 2024 \$1.8M donation target. However, we will continue on with Vision 2024 but perhaps with a smaller independent target of around \$200K to \$300K per year. This should enable us to recruit one or two additional faculty members by 2024.

We at ETCAsia are deeply grateful for your prayers, your input, and your incredibly generous financial support.



ETCAsia
EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE OF ASIA

COLLEGE OPEN DAY 2022

35 Selegie Road, Parklane Shopping Mall, #09-28

Day 1 - 9 Feb 22 (Wed)
11.30am - 4.30pm

Day 2 - 30 Mar 22 (Wed)
5pm - 10.30pm

HIGHLIGHTS

Trial classes

- Old Testament Introduction with Rev Dr Ben Thompson (Day 1)
- Foundations for Gospel Ministry with Rev Dr Marty Foord (Day 2)

Chapel hour

Interview with current students

Q&A with faculty

Visit live (limited spaces) or online (on Zoom)!

Sign Up Link: <https://www.etcasia.edu.sg/events/>

To sign up for Open Day, click this [link](#).

Prayer for Us



If you would like to prayer for us at ETCAsia, you can find [monthly prayer points at this link](#).

Important College Dates

Tuesday 4 January 2022

Semester 2 of 2021/2022 academic year begins

31st January to 4th February

Chinese New Year Break

Wednesday 9th February

ETCAsia Open Day 1

14th to 18th March

Study Break

Wednesday 30th March

ETCAsia Open Day 2

25th to 29th April

Study Break

2nd to 6th May

ETCAsia Financial Update

Current Financial Year (2021/22) @ Dec 2021

Breakdown of YTD Income (2021/22)

General Fund	\$529K	SGD
Viability Period	~ 10.5	Months
Based on average burn rate of \$50K per month		

YTD Total Income ~ 51% of total	\$504K	SGD
Budgeted Total Income	\$972K	SGD

YTD Expenses ~ 47% of total	\$376K	SGD
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YTD General fund	\$235K	SGD
YTD Faculty Fund	\$104K	SGD
YTD Staff Fund	\$11K	SGD
YTD Published Tuition Fees	\$135K	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

Partner with ETCAsia Today

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- [Monthly Partner to Vision 2024](#)
- [Yearly Partner to Vision 2024](#)