



## Molding Kingdom Disciples: Reflections on BSOP 55th Anniversary



God establishes the Biblical Seminary of the Philippines (BSOP). She is not only a blessing to the Philippine Churches, but also a vessel in God's hands for the Asian Churches, and the Universal Churches. Facing the fast changing era, under the direction of the BSOP founding motto of "*Believe in Christ, Suffer for him,*" we have the BSOP vision and mission of "*Equipping God's workers, with God's word for God's work*" as our functional goal and fervent prayer. At the throne of grace, we hope that those who pass through BSOP in the past, present and future will be God's faithful workers, who can expound God's word, serving as good stewards in doing God's work.

During the BSOP 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, the Board spearheaded three building projects. As we finished the first building project, God opened a huge door for BSOP to have many opportunities in training ministries. In the 90s, we earned the official recognition status of the Philippine Commission on Higher Education (CHED), giving us more opportunities to serve God. During the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, with "*Expanding Horizons*" as our theme, we continued to count God's blessings together, while at the same time seeking God's desire for our Seminary as we continue our journey.



菲律濱聖經神學院  
Biblical Seminary  
of the  
Philippines  
1957-2012



Phase 1: Dormitory Building (1997-98)



Phase 2: Administration Building (2000-01)



Phase 3: Dormitory Extension (2005-06)



Retirement and Multipurpose Building (2009-2010)

### The Fulfilling of Expanding Horizons

“*Expanding Horizons*” is our earnest desire, and is also our heartfelt prayer. *God truly in His will expands His horizons at BSOP.* From both aspects of quality and quantity, we really experience His bountiful grace. From the quality aspect, aside from the existing faithful faculty already in our faculty-training program, we have more additions like Dr. Jean Uayan (major in Church History), Dr. Jay Hallowell (major in Intercultural Studies), Dr. Chen Kai Ying (major in Ministry), and Rev. Samuel Tan (ThM in Old Testament). Samson and Juliet Uytanlet continue their studies in London and in the US, respectively, for their PhD degrees. Rev. Anthony Hao is also aiming to finish his PhD in the US, while Rev. Philip Co and Amor Hallowell are working toward their PhD in Manila. We are also thrilled that the Lord has led Dr. David Chang and his wife Joyce, Dr. Wilson Tran and Dr. Irene Tran, professors Li Bai and Linda Tue to join our faculty team. Our team is growing stronger as we continue to discover and recruit faculty. Actively, we also seek to train new and young faculty.

In the quantity aspect, our student body has grown from 100 to 150 students in 2012. BSOP in cooperation with AGST conducts ThM and PhD in Biblical Studies. In 2011, we have started a PhD in Intercultural Studies. All three programs received CHED recognition. Students come from the Philippines, Indonesia, India, Myanmar, Korea, Pakistan, and now we have even expanded to Africa with one student from Ethiopia. Due to the increase of our student body, we have just added five classrooms in the fourth floor and two rooms in the fifth floor of our Administration Building in June 2012.

### The Filling In of Supporting Partners

As God supplies our needs we declare our exciting experiences as “Ebenezer.” When the Board desires to have more students, we wait upon God, the Author and Perfecter of our faith to grant our expansion essentials. *We pray and hope that God will raise up more partners who will care for the needs of God’s family at BSOP.* Some partners come to network with us for our growing ministries, while others support our growing programs. Allow me to share some testimonies.

By God’s providence, a brother wanted to support God’s work and offered one million pesos (roughly \$20,000) to support several students in the year when we wanted to expand our student body. When I received the gift, one less zero was written on the cheque. As we depended on His grace to affirm the detail with him, this brother not only immediately resolved the mistake of his secretary, but he also added 100% to his original amount! It was God who touched his heart and encouraged him to give for God’s work. He gave at a time when we needed all the encouragement to await God’s timely provision.

Numerous families have contributed to BSOP in memory of their loved ones, to support student scholarship. The faithful Lord moves churches, people, foundations and others to support the needs of the Seminary. We also have many partners who give sacrificially for the cost of training God’s workers.

As the number of BSOP family increases, there are moments of happiness and sorrow. When our BSOP family is healthy, everyone praises the Lord; when in sickness, we pray also to the Lord. In times of peace, work progresses faster; in times of difficulties, spiritual

life renews. In these five years, we have Christian doctors like Dr. James Go who look after our medical needs. Every year, our Board member Sister Clarita Lim comes to our school to give medical examinations for the whole family. For dental needs, the Lord has sent two dentists, Dr. Priscilla Uy and Dr. Lydia Hao, who come weekly during school days to care for the dental hygiene of the BSOP family. Holistic cares are provisions of the Lord.

One time, a student suddenly got sick and needed surgery. The Business Office went ahead and issued a cheque to pay in advance for the huge expenses. That morning, a loving sister had deposited the same amount into our account. The timely deposit allows us to testify to His faithfulness.

The raising of supporting partners is a gift from God. As we continue to grow in size, the Lord raises churches and many individuals as our partners to sustain His challenging work.

### The Focusing of Molding Disciples

BSOP started out with nothing and became something, from small to a big school. In our founding stage during the 50s, we were one of the five earliest Chinese seminaries. The most important contribution at that time was not only to supply the pastors for the Philippine Chinese churches, but also to train pastors for the needs of the Southeast Asian nations. The first President Rev. Hsueh Yu Kwong also helped in the training of the leaders of the Campus Evangel Group of Taiwan. Rev. Stephen Chan wrote his New Testament commentaries using his notes that he taught at BSOP. It was our late Elder Henry Co See Cho, one of the Founders and Board Chairman for a number of years, who published his books which became a blessing to the global Chinese churches. Dr. Denny Ma's famous *Old Testament Survey* and *New Testament Survey* were written after students at BSOP listened to his lectures. The contributions of our predecessors put BSOP on the theological map of the global Chinese churches. Now with BSOP involvement with the Asia Theological Association and Asia Graduate School of Theology-Philippines, BSOP is now one of the seminaries in the Global Community.

After the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2007, we started our annual Board and Faculty retreat. The purpose, of course, was to strengthen our disciple-making process and improve our training ministry. Aside from conducting the entrance and exit interviews, we welcome constructive criticisms for us to improve. We grow through changes for improvement. From casual

visitation of alumni in the past, we now have regular planned visits to alumni. We have focused our attention on our Thursday Care and Share Groups to mentor our students. ***Molding disciples is our duty; molding kingdom disciples with a bigger vision is our prayer.***

In these five years, we have organized our Care and Share Groups to get involved in short term mission once every two years. The purpose is to engage our students in the needs of the mission field. Every two years, we have organized teams to visit Philippine Chinese churches. The goal is to expose our students to the real needs of the churches and become kingdom disciplers.

Students of BSOP not only enjoy the care of their faculty in their respective groups, we also intentionally assign our faculty to counsel all our students individually to monitor and encourage their spiritual growth. At 5:00 a.m. each day, morning prayers are uttered up on our roof deck and in different corners of our campus. On weekends, aside from providing practicum for students to learn to do ministry, we also have some groups who gather together for mutual learning in preaching and teaching. BSOP is indeed a praying and learning community.

### Concluding Remarks

BSOP is a big family held in the hands of our God throughout these 55 years. God enables BSOP to expand the horizons in its service. God raises his faithful stewards to be the partners of BSOP. One day in front of the judgment seat, they shall receive the same reward. God uses BSOP to mold kingdom disciples. They, in turn, will become kingdom soldiers, finishing the task given to them.

Dental clinic for weekly services



50th Anniversary, UECP, Sept. 16, 2007



Care and Share Groups having meal and fellowship



Class field trip to Intramuros



Spiritual formation through Chapel Worship and Messages

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we celebrate the 55th Anniversary of BSOP, we burst out in joyful gratitude and exalt our God for His lovingkindness and mercy to us. From a very small beginning in Manila to a large compound in Valenzuela City, Bulacan, God had provided for our every need. God raised up numberless faithful servants who dedicated their sweat and life to teach Chinese students to become Pastors and Christian leaders in our local Chinese churches and churches abroad. God also raised His faithful stewards who took care of the financial needs of BSOP at a time when these Christian leaders were starting in their own profession and business. Because of their unselfish sacrifice and exemplary examples, many Christian believers followed in their footsteps.

BSOP experienced continued miracles throughout its 55 years of existence: When the East Asian churches exploded in growth and needed extensive training in their foundational Christian beliefs, God answered the East Asian believers' great need for training through BSOP. By faith, BSOP started expanding its very small facilities by going into three phases of construction: the Dormitory, Administration Building and Dormitory Extension. Each phase cost about 50 million pesos; the whole project spent a total of 150 million pesos.

When the first dormitory was being planned, there were only 30 students at BSOP. If by the time the buildings were completed, no additional students came to register at BSOP, BSOP would have been criticized severely as wasting God's precious resources. As it is, today there are roughly 150 students. BSOP even had to rush the construction of classrooms on the fourth and fifth floors of the Administration Building this summer due to a great shortage of classrooms.

For the foreseeable future, our Board of Trustees and Directors, relying on God's help and guidance, have laid the following goals:

1. Assist, support and help BSOP graduates in East Asia establish Training Centers in their respective places.
2. Improve our Seminary curriculum to meet the current needs of Chinese churches in the Philippines and in East Asia. This will specially focus on how we can train our students so that they will be welcomed by church leaders as fulfilling a need in their church.
3. Continue to recruit the best available teachers, not only to teach the students biblical knowledge, but also to model Christian living for the students to emulate.

All because of Christ.

Ernesto Tan-Chi, Jr.  
Chairman  
Board of Trustees and Board of Directors

Elder Ernesto  
Tan-Chi, Jr.



Board and faculty Retreat (Dec. 1, 2009)



Board and faculty Retreat (Nov. 24, 2010)



Board, faculty, students praying together



BSOP Board and Faculty members  
inside BSOP Boardroom during  
Retreat on November 28, 2011

## Molding Kingdom Disciples: More Opportunities, More Faculty, More Students



Dr. Tan Chiu Eng

Ever since BSOP dedicated the Phase III construction of the Dormitory Extension Building (housing about 70 students) on March 25, 2007, the Lord of Harvest has indeed “expanded” our horizons and we continue to labor in His Kingdom, molding Kingdom disciples in this generation. Here are the highlights of how God has blessed BSOP in its pursuit of academic excellence for the past five years.

On June 2, 2007, BSOP, as host Seminary of the Asia Graduate School of Theology, was granted Government Recognition by the Commission of Higher Education of the Philippine Government to conduct and operate the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Biblical Studies, Church History and Theological Studies. Dr. Joseph Shao and Dr. Edwin Perona now direct AGST’s Master of Theology and Doctor of Philosophy in Biblical Studies Programs. Currently, these Programs have grown from a handful of students in 2007 to more than ten, with students coming from Burma, Ethiopia, Holland, India, Indonesia, Korea, Pakistan, the Philippines and Nigeria. Also, in April of 2011, BSOP started to host the Doctor of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies Program of AGST, with the writer as Program Director.

Along with a diverse student body come the wide-ranging specialties of our multinational faculty members and lecturers who come from all over the world. Imagine a classroom of learners (students and faculty) from the East and West, representing more or less 10 countries with at least 300 years of life histories and learning (assuming that the average age of each person inside the classroom is 30), interacting with each other not just from textbooks but from their cultural, social and educational backgrounds and rich experiences in life and ministry. They are all learning to become Kingdom disciples in life, as well as disciplers of other Kingdom disciples.

Within the past five years, the Faculty Development Program of BSOP greatly accelerated. On March 25, 2007, Prof. Jean Uayan (BSOP faculty since 1978) received her Doctor of Philosophy in Church History, becoming the first recipient in BSOP’s history of a doctoral degree conferred by AGST-BSOP. In May of 2009, Rev. Anthony Hao, accompanied by his wife Jennifer (an alumna) and their son, joined the faculty after further studies at Dallas Theological Seminary. Anthony is finishing his dissertation for the Doctor of Philosophy in Bible Exposition degree of DTS. Samson and Juliet Uytanlet left for further studies at Ashbury Theological Seminary, Kentucky, in August 2007. They are now in the last stage of their studies and will be joining the faculty in June 2013. In March

2011, Rev. Jay Hollowell received his Doctor of Missiology degree from AGST-Asia Theological Seminary. Miss Chen Kai Ying also received her Doctor of Ministry degree from Singapore Bible College in 2011. Lastly, Rev. Samuel Tan passed his thesis defense in July 2012 and will be granted the Master of Theology in Biblical Studies degree by AGST-BSOP in March 2013. Another faculty member pursuing the Doctor of Education degree at AGST-ATS is Prof. Amorфина Rivera Hollowell. Rev. Philip Co is pursuing the Doctor of Philosophy in Biblical Studies at AGST-BSOP.

In May 2011, Dr. Wilson and Dr. Un Ho Irene Tran joined as faculty members after being trained in the USA and serving in Taiwan and Canada for many years. By June of 2013, eleven resident faculty members will have doctorates in Philosophy, Theology, Education Ministry or Missiology. We have finally reached the goal set in 2005 of having at least ten faculty members with doctoral degrees. Three more faculty members will be receiving their doctoral degrees within the next two years.

After reviewing and revising the “explicit” curriculum and strengthening the “implicit” curriculum of the Master of Divinity program, BSOP started the Mandarin track of this program in June of 2010. This move immediately led to the increase of residential faculty and students. Hence, in 2011 the Board of Trustees and Directors launched the project of adding classrooms on the fourth and fifth floors of the Academic Building. The construction started in March 2012 and was finished by July. Dedication of the new classrooms on these floors took place on August 12, 2012, simultaneous with the Convocation welcoming the new students for school year 2012-2013. As of this quarter (June – August 2012), on any regular class day from Monday to Friday, if all programs and tracks hold classes at the same time, eleven classrooms would be occupied by a total of around 150 students.

Looking at leadership development beyond the Philippines, the King of Kings has expanded BSOP well beyond what we have done and thought we could do. In September 2010, BSOP started its first Partner School abroad, with the second following in February 2011, and the third in March 2011. God willing, more Partner Schools may soon be added because, indeed, the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. We pray to the Lord of Harvest to send more workers to the harvest field as His disciples, **molding Kingdom disciples** for the extension of His Kingdom *in* and even *beyond* Asia.