

Have you ever felt this emptiness deep inside your heart? You look for material things to fill it up, but no matter how much you have, it never makes you happy. You look for it in power and fame, but still they never satisfy the emptiness inside. For the past few years, I have been running away, hiding from God. I've been making many excuses, not submitting to His will. As I struggled, one verse reminded me over and over again - Galatians 2:20. The life I have was never mine to decide what to do or how to use it; it was His and His alone, so that in everything I do, I must



Jonalyn C. Co 許佳美

glorify Him.

To do this, I need to build my life with Christ Jesus as the center and foundation. I need to learn what is right in God's perspective. I need to be trained and disciplined in reading His Word. My gifts and skills need to be honed. I need to learn how to balance my life in serving Him and in serving His people. Moreover, I need to learn how to efficiently share His Word to people who need Him as I do. It is by God's grace that I was able to enroll at BSOP, to be equipped with the Word of God.

NEW STUDENTS' TESTIMONIES



Jennifer Lao 劉美麗

I first had a longing to serve God when I was in grade five, when a teacher in Sunday school talked about Amy Carmichael, a missionary to India. Her life moved me so much that I wanted to be like her. I never knew that it was a calling; I just knew that I wanted to serve the God who forgave me and loved me despite my own unworthiness. I forgot about that longing until God reminded me during my fourth year in high school, when I stood up and made a decision to serve God fulltime during a summer camp. Still, I had doubts because I thought I might be confusing my longing to serve God for His calling to fulltime service.

After college, I laid aside that calling and went to work in the secular world. God really wanted to use me, for wherever I went there was always someone wanting to know Him and asking me about Him. A workmate of mine asked if I could lead her in a Bible study. I said I would pray about it because leading Bible study requires more time in work and less time for myself and I wanted to rest from all ministries that the Lord gave me. Nevertheless, after much prayer, I decided to hold the Bible study in my office. When I told my workmate I was ready, she suddenly backed out. God wanted me to start serving Him, so I prayed that since the girl who asked me backed out would He call those people He wanted to know Him. I started with one Bible study attendee and after a few months, there were fourteen. God is really amazing. Had He not pushed

me to start the Bible study, I would have missed the chance to see all of them coming to know Him. When I left the job, the friends I left behind were the ones who continued the Bible study. Praise God for He made them grow.

I, myself, felt the need to be equipped in sharing God's word. The Lord opened a way for me to study at BSOP at His perfect time. When the acting directress of Youth Gospel Center gave me the application form, she wanted me to submit it immediately; if she had not done that, I would not be at BSOP. For a day after I did, my former employer said there would be an opening for team leader position and I was the most qualified for it. I was stunned but I know God never makes mistakes! He knows when and where I should go. He knows it is time for me to serve Him fulltime.



Xavier Tanpascual 陳煥章

I was worshipping our God almighty devotedly every Sunday hoping that He would listen to my plea and heal my son who has autism. This disability causes my son not to function well in his speech, behaviour and mind. We have tried every medication and therapy but I was not at ease because my son has had to have someone assist him since birth until now. I was crying to God and praying with all my might. Well, my efforts were not in vain because I was enjoying the fellowship with Him every Sunday. But when I get home afterward, I would feel depressed.

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What was wrong with me and my faith?

I could say my faith was in limbo and confused. I decided to search for the answer. One thing led to another and eventually I was led to study at BSOP. People usually think that the seminary is for training pastors, but I beg to disagree. I came to BSOP to equip myself and be ready to help God's church grow to become more like Him. I believe being confident in handling God's word is not an option but a requirement for every believer. I realize it requires hard work to be able to know our wonderful God, creator of the universe. It's amazing to discover Him in the Bible and how throughout history men and women who believed in Him had transformed lives. My life had been changed because of my son's disability. He did not get better but knowing God's character has changed my whole perspective in life. I am learning every day to give thanks to Him and I know with confidence that His ways are higher than mine. I will never regret studying in BSOP because it gives me a sense of fulfilment and joy to discover and experience God more deeply.

NEWS AND EVENTS



Baptism at 95! Prof. and Mrs. Allen Lim holding their mother Tan Ken. She celebrated her 95th birthday with the BSOP family on July 30, 2013. More joyous was her baptism by Rev. Alex Uy. The family in BSOP, as well as believers in many churches, had been praying for decades for her to accept the salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now it was a reality and we got to share the joy that transpired in heaven that day!

FACULTY ON THE MOVE

* Dr. Joseph Shao spoke during the 28th Anniversary of Iloilo Trinity Christian Church on July 14, 2013. On August 11-18, he led a team composed of Dr. Tan Chiu Eng, Dr. Irene Tran and Dr. Michael Malessa to Indonesia to attend the Triennial General Assembly of the Asia Theological Association. He also gave the opening address entitled "Communicating the Gospel Contextually in Contemporary Asia" which is also the theme for the convention. The venue is the South East Asia Bible Seminary Ministry Center in Jakarta.

* Dr. Michael Malessa and his family returned at the end of July after one year of furlough in Germany to resume his teaching ministry at BSOP.

* Faculty and staff of BSOP attended a whole day discipleship-making seminar called Operation Multiplication, held at Grace Gospel Church. Speakers included Dr. Billie Hanks and Dr. W. Michael Wilson.

BATAAN MISSION

In conjunction with the mission department of the United Evangelical Church of the Philippines, the Seminary has supported the Nehemiah Mission Project in Mariveles, Bataan. After two years, twenty-one persons have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Glory to His Name!

INTERNET BOOST

After several months of installation work supervised by Johann Xie, the students and faculty of BSOP have begun to enjoy stronger Internet reception provided by the fiber optics service of PLDT.

PUBLICATIONS

* Drs. Joseph and Rosa Shao have written *Joel/Nahum/Malachi* for the Asia Bible Commentary (ABC) series. In the same series, Dr. Joseph Shao also wrote the *Contextual Application on Psalm 1-72*, while Dr. Chiu Eng Tan

wrote the *Contextual Application for Romans*. All the 3 books have been published and will be presented at the ATA General Assembly in Indonesia.

* Alumna Ps. Juliet Lee Uytanlet, wife of Dr. Samson Uytanlet and Ph.D. candidate at Asbury Theological Seminary, has published an article entitled "Pride and Prejudice: Colonialism and Post-Colonialism in the Philippine Chinese Context: How IBS Can be a Liberating Methodology to Find the Truth to be Set Free" in *The Asbury Journal* 6 8 / 1 : 5 6 - 6 8 .

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