

the BRIDGE

*Bridging Cultures
for Christ*



“Building New Bridges...”

“Bridging Cultures for Christ.” This simple motto has been the hallmark of our heritage, and it is the standard by which we will write our future. As we stand by this motto, we understand that bridges require foundations. Christ himself is the sure foundation. As a proudly denominational school, strongly loyal to the Church of the Nazarene, our biblical, historical, and theological foundations are unshakable.

Our foundation is Christian. The Bible is the means by which we understand Christ, and the rule under which we construct our theology.

Our foundation is unabashedly Wesleyan. The heart of our faith is a wealth of grace, including prevenient grace which flows to us from God, through the work of Christ. This grace is not earned, but given to a humankind that does not deserve it. By that same token, we affirm sanctifying grace: the optimism of grace that believes that men and women can be changed, made holy by Christ and kept holy by the spirit of Christ—in this life.

Lastly, we have a Nazarene foundation, which has its own distinct ethos set by careful balances. In education, the foundations of our church seek a balance between holiness of heart and well-prepared minds. As stated in the church’s philosophy of education, our objective is “a fusion of holy character and sound education.” This fusion is our objective.

A seminary built on these foundation must go beyond textbook truths and theoretical knowledge, and it must encompass the character that is set forth in our heritage. It is a character that builds bridges: bridges among ourselves, connecting churches and people, and bridges to others, connecting us to our communities and our world. And so our motto remains, “Bridging Cultures for Christ” as we embark on Building New Bridges in the next 25 years.

Sincerely,

Floyd T. Cunningham
President, APNTS

Photo: Jarrett Davis



ASIA PACIFIC NAZARENE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
25TH ANNIVERSARY

Bridges to Our Community



Photo: Jarrett Davis

As we reflect on the foundations of our heritage and remember 25 years of God's faithfulness, we cannot help but remember and likewise take-up that holiness centered focus that drives us to those around us. We realize that APNTS has the unique opportunity, like churches do, to encapsulate holiness as a body, building bridges beyond our walls, evangelizing and find out how God is working in the people around us. We believe that we are a living, breathing, pulsating community which is the body of Christ. As this kind of community, we must engage in real relationships with "flesh and blood people" not just "the world" in an abstract sense. This is our drive as we embark on the next 25 years, a passion which we hope will embody the life of Christ, as we continue in our commitment to quality graduate education paired with irreplaceable practical experience; building bridges outwards to our community and inwards among ourselves.

Foundation Day

As dusk settled on November 18, 2008, hundreds of people from all over the Taytay area gathered on the campus of APNTS as the school celebrated "Foundation Day" as part of the 25th Anniversary Festivities. The concert featured locally and nationally renowned groups such as Acel, NaCl's, Green Pastures band and other international cultural presentations from students.

Highlighting the evening were the internationally-known Philippine All Stars, a Christian Hip-Hop dance group who shared the story of their faith through Rap and Hip-Hop, inciting an unforgettable reaction from area youth.

APNTS students Brian Woolery and Emerald Longcop hosted the celebration along with Nazarene youth radio personality Jordan Escusa from "Perfect Rhythm," who treated participants, spectators, and radio listeners to the same event as an EB (Eyeball) activity.

The Foundation Day event, as part of the 25th Anniversary Celebration, was one of the many ways through which APNTS is working to make stronger connections with its surrounding community in keeping with the Celebration's theme and commitment: "Building New Bridges." Combined with hiphop dance, Indigenous Cultural and rock music from guest artists and students, the whole evening became a complete and exciting treat for everyone in attendance.



APNTS President, Dr. Floyd Cunningham poses with the Philippine All-Stars, one of the key-note performers at the foundation day celebration.

Korean Students share their culture in one of the evening "cultural presentations."

Photo: Jarrett Davis



Bridges Among Ourselves

FISC Re-Christening

Over 150 guests from Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, and the US congregated on the 17th of November for the christening service of the Fairbanks International School of Communication (FISC), as part of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary (APNTS).

International Board of Education Commissioner, Dr. E. LeBron Fairbanks, graced the occasion as guest speaker. He said: "These are big dreams requiring great faith," referring to the mission of FISC to train pastors, ministers, and media professionals to make disciples in the nations. Dr. Fairbanks noted that what has emerged over the past fifteen years far exceeds his 'small' vision in 1985! He added, "We support and sacrifice for the Fairbanks International School of Communication because we seek no less than the very best education possible in shaping the emerging servant leaders (in Asia Pacific and beyond) who understand how to communicate effectively to their present generation."

As part of the event, FISC committee members unveiled the Christening plaque (pictured right) following Dr. Fairbanks' challenge. The service ended with prayers of dedication led by Dr. Floyd Cunningham, president of APNTS, and by Rev. Gi Hwan Jung of Manila New Life Church for the school and for Prof. Kwon Dong Hwan, FISC Director, respectively.



Photo: Daniel Pape

Alumni

In the midst of our celebration week, the seminary welcomed many familiar faces from the past 25 years as alumni gathered to "say hello" and re-acquaint themselves with their APNTS family. At an Alumni Banquet on Thursday evening of our celebration week, "Silver Anniversary Awards" were given to members of the alumni who had devoted 25 or more years of their lives to Christian Ministry.

Those receiving recognition were:

Rev. Carolina Benzonan
Dr. Tereso Casiño
Dr. Cecilia Casiño
Rev. Choi Young Doo
Rev. Janice Clark
Rev. Ilde Detalo
Rev. Sulpicio Detalo, Jr.
Rev. Nancy Detalo
Rev. Santosh Dongerdive
Dr. Jovita Fernandez
Rev. Pablo Figuración

Dr. Kang Kwang Heum
Rev. Kim Byung Gi
Dr. Kim Soung Gon
Dr. S. Jayaraj Krishnan
Mrs. Jayaseeli Christy
Rev. Elma Mago
Rev. Elpidio Manangan
Rev. Adelina Manangan
Dr. Wilfredo Manaois
Rev. Edmund Matulac
Mrs. Euly Matulac

Rev. Helen Romano
Mrs. Cheryl Strahm
Rev. Lucinda Tamayo
Rev. Jerry Tingson
Mrs. Ely Tingson
Rev. Midorino Tsutada
Rev. James Williams

APNTS Fast Facts:

It is exciting to see the development of our graduates, and see the places that their diverse lives and ministries have taken them.

These 29 graduates represent about 9% of our total number of graduates. Of these 29 graduates, 21 are Nazarenes, 15 (more than half) are women, of whom 11 are ordained. Nine are, or have been involved in cross-cultural ministries; 7 have doctorates; 18 are Filipino, 4 are Korean, 3 are Indian, 3 are American, and 1 is Japanese.

INAUGURATION

of the 5th President of APNTS

Beverly Gruver
APNTS Dean of Students

Dr. Floyd T. Cunningham was installed as the fifth president of Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary [APNTS] on November 20, 2008. Dr. Cunningham is a member of the Church of the Nazarene in Gaithersburg, Maryland. He received his A.B. in religion and history from Eastern Nazarene College, his Master of Divinity from Nazarene Theological Seminary, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Johns Hopkins University. He has taught at APNTS since the school began in 1983.

General Superintendent Dr. Jesse C. Middendorf conducted the ceremony of induction, charging the president to be a servant leader, carefully patterning his life and work after the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Others present for and participating in this historic event included two former presidents of APNTS: Dr. E. LeBron Fairbanks, now Commissioner of the International Board of Education [IBOE], and Dr. John Nielson, currently professor at Mount Vernon Nazarene University; Dr. Robert Woodruff, Global Education Coordinator, and Dr. Jerry Lambert, former IBOE Commissioner, Dr. Ron Benefiel, President of Nazarene Theological Seminary, and Dr. Im Seung-An, President of Korea Nazarene University, and the faculty of APNTS. A large delegation from the Korea Church of the Nazarene was in attendance as well as many from Church of the Nazarene Philippines along with students, staff, and a host of alumni.

Dr. Cunningham responded to the charge with his inaugural address focusing attention on the foundations of Biblical understanding of Christ and grace and Wesleyan heritage. From the school's motto of Bridging Cultures for Christ, he took up the challenge of Building New Bridges especially emphasizing the corporate embodying of holiness that must happen if we are to make Christ-like disciples in the nations. "We are compelled to build new bridges to others, build new bridges on sure foundations, build bridges that will bring people to oneness in Christ" said Cunningham. "We are trying to discern where God already is constructing [bridges] that we may join him in his work."



Photo: Daniel Pape

MALACAÑAN PALACE MANILA

Warmest greetings to the faculty and students of Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary (APNTS) as you celebrate your 25th Anniversary and Foundation Week.

As you commemorate your silver anniversary, you should give thanks to our Creator for the gifts of life, the wisdom and the many blessings He has showered on you and your seminary.

I would like to commend all of you for standing firm on your ideals despite the trials of time and holding on to the same principles through which your institution has been founded.

I hope that you will remain steadfast in pursuing your role as faithful servants of God and bearers of the torch that would lead our people to the path of righteousness.

I wish you more success and to God be the glory.

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines.

Submitted Photo



President: Dr. Floyd Cunningham
Editor/Layout: Jarrett Davis

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