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About the Cover
In the heart of Calcutta, this imposing Hindu
temple was built by a rich man. Whereas
this edifice was almost totally devoid of
worshippers, the nearby and much humbler
Kali Temple was packed with devotees.
Apparently the Mother Goddess Kali means
much more in India than does architecture.
Read about the AIIAS team’s special trip to
India on pages 10 and 11.

Cover photo by Dr. Jim Park
Stories to Tell

Everyone has a story to tell, and as I listened to Alfredo Augustin (Current Student Feature, p. 7) tell his story, my heart was touched. I watched the emotion in his eyes as he told me his life story—here was someone who had a very sad beginning, one who struggled with discouraging circumstances, someone who longed for a father’s love but who wouldn’t give up on pursuing his dream of becoming a pastor. It was exciting to hear how the Lord has led in his life, and how Alfredo has been able to pursue his dream through the generosity of people who care.

Dr. Paoring Ragui, our Vice President for Student Services and Public Relations, also has a story to tell. Growing up in a remote tribal village in the far-eastern corner of India, Dr. Ragui is one of the very few who have ever left the village. In times past, the villagers, who have strong roots in animism, were headhunters who kept their trophies hanging around their homes.

This issue has a strong emphasis on the people of AIIAS—people coming from a variety of backgrounds but with the common goal of graduate education and mission. Read about AIIAS professors and students working together in a remote corner of India. Learn about how 12 Muslim students from Indonesia made lasting friendships during their month-long exchange program at AIIAS. Become acquainted with the new dean of the Theological Seminary, Dr. Gerald Klingbeil, as he shares his vision for the future. See how people’s lives were changed through a community service program directed by a professor and students from the AIIAS Department of Public Health. Enjoy the soaring view of AIIAS, taken from the air by Dr. Gheorghe Razmerita, a seminary professor.

As AIIAS looks to the future, we would like to invite you to become a part of making a difference here on campus. For many years, the AIIAS community has been meeting in the gymnasium for Friday evening and Sabbath worship services. Thanks to the generosity of many, the reality of having a beautiful place of worship and community on campus is very near. You can read more about it in the president’s article beginning on page 14. We are very excited about this project and plans are underway to begin construction in January 2008. If you would like to contribute toward this project, please contact me at flags@aiias.edu, or you may also write to Dr. Stephen Guptill at president@aiias.edu.

Hope you enjoy reading the October 2007 issue of Flag!

Gina Wahlen, editor

PS: A note to all AIIAS alumni: We are always happy to hear from you. Please send your photos and notes to us at flags@aiias.edu and we will be happy to share them with our readers.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I always read your Flags magazine. It’s good, and I am glad to hear what’s going on at AIIAS. I am an alumnus of AIIAS and it is always nice to hear good tidings from you, which I share with my students here at Universitas Advent Indonesia (UNAI).

May God continue to bless you in faith and love.

Thank you,
Dr. P. Tambunan,
Universitas Advent Indonesia (UNAI)
Bandung, Indonesia

Alumni Notes

The AIIAS Alumni Association is proud to announce the organization of its first alumni chapter. The first General Meeting of the Korean Chapter will be on October 29, 2007 at the headquarters of the SDA Language Institute in Seoul. The committee organizing the event includes Dr. P.D. Chun (chairman), Y.T. Choi (secretary), T.S. Shim, J.K. Chun, C.M. Cho, and D.G. Nam. All AIIAS alumni with their family and friends are invited to attend. For more information, contact Dr. Kyung Ho Song, AIIAS alumni president, at khsong@aiias.edu
**Interview with Dr. Paoring Ragui**

**Vice President for Student Services & Public Relations**

By Gina Wahlen

Dr. Paoring Ragui, Vice President for Student Services and Public Relations has been at AIIAS even before it was known as AIIAS. In this interview he talks about his family roots in India, his greatest rewards and disappointments, and his dream for AIIAS.

**Flags: Tell us about your family background.**

Ragui: I was born and grew up among the Tangkuhl Naga tribe in the small town of Ukhruhl in the state of Manipur, India. Manipur is located in a very rugged region in the foothills of the Himalayan mountains in the northeastern part of India.

**Flags: Growing up in this remote area, had you ever heard of Seventh-day Adventists?**

Ragui: We come from an animistic religion. Then the Baptists came to our area. However, our family first learned about Seventh-day Adventists during the second world war. My grandfather had learned some English in school, so during the war he served as a translator for the British and American soldiers who came to our area. He became close friends of two American soldiers who were Seventh-day Adventists. When they were getting ready to leave their post at the end of the war, they gave my grandfather the book Bible Readings for the Home. He carefully read the book and afterwards went searching for the Adventists. Later he became the first baptized member of the Adventist church in the entire region.

Following his baptism, my grandfather was very much ostracized by the tribesmen and the Baptists who were already in town. Nevertheless, he continued to be faithful. He was then joined by his children, of whom my mother was one.

**Flags: When did you first leave your tribal area?**

Ragui: When I was 14, my uncle arranged to send my older brother and I to the Assam Training School (ATS), which today is called North East India College in the town of Jowai, Shillong. Getting to Shillong required four to five days travel by foot, then bus, train, and bus again. I finished my high school education there, then went to Spicer Memorial College.

**Flags: How did you support yourself at Spicer?**

Ragui: Working as a literature evangelist, which I had started when I was still in high school. I worked in many of the surrounding states of Nagaland, Manipur and Assam where there had never been any Adventists. There were no places to stay, so I would just go to the Baptist pastor of the town, and he would take me in.

These pastors were very accommodating, and would introduce me to the prominent people in town, encouraging them to look at the books I was selling such as *The Bible Stories, Steps to Christ, Modern Ways to Health, Your Guide to Health, Desire of Ages*—all the books were in English at the time, so that's why I could only approach the educated people. As a result of my literature evangelism work there, 7 people were baptized.
Flags: Following your graduation from Spicer with a bachelor's degree in religious philosophy and history, what did you do?

Ragui: I taught History, Bible and English at the Sunbeam English School located in Nagaland, and pastored the church at the same time. However, after only one year I was invited by the Southern Asia Division to participate in a North American Division (NAD) literature evangelism program, which was being hosted in Toronto in 1977. The Lord really blessed me as I was selling books, and out of the 150 literature evangelists in the program, I ranked in the top ten in sales.

Flags: What did you plan to do with the scholarship money you earned through the NAD literature evangelism program?

Ragui: I planned to go to Andrews University in Michigan to study for the M.Div. (Master of Divinity) degree. Andrews accepted me as a student, but the U.S. Embassy denied my visa application. This really shattered my dream, and I was very disappointed.

Flags: What did you do once your U.S. visa application was denied?

Ragui: I went back to India and continued to serve as a teacher and then principal at the Sunbeam English School. However, I still wanted to pursue graduate education, and there were only a very few places within the worldwide Adventist educational system where a person could obtain a graduate degree. I had heard about Philippine Union College (PUC), so I applied and was accepted into their M.A. in Teaching Ministry program. I graduated from the Theological Seminary—Far East (predecessor of AIIAS), in March 1979.

I also met my wife, Purisima Ocampo there, who was the secretary to the seminary dean, and we were the first ones to get married in the Seminary chapel in April 1979.

Flags: Did you then return to India?

Ragui: No. I was invited by Dr. Leslie G. Hardinge, dean of the Seminary, to join the seminary and work as the Director of Admissions and Records. I also continued to study, completing an M.A. in Religion, then an M.A. in Teaching Ministry, followed by a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree. The Seminary then sponsored me to study for the Doctor of Pastoral Studies (DPS) degree at Southeast Asia School of Graduate Studies, which I completed in 1989.

Soon afterwards, Dr. Hardinge became the first president of AIIAS, and I became the Director of Student Affairs. In 1997 the position was changed and renamed and I became the Vice President for Student Services and Public Relations.

Flags: What are some of your main responsibilities as VP for Student Services & Public Relations?

I care for all students on the campus, and my mission is to create the best environment for our students coming from both foreign countries as well as locally. My goal is to help them achieve excellence in their pursuit of the highest degrees. My responsibilities include student housing, scholarships, visas and record documentation, and overseeing all activities of the student program and maintaining a good working relationship with students and administration.

Flags: What other activities are you involved in?

I have pastored the AIIAS Church, serving as an associate pastor from 1992 to 1996 and as senior pastor from 1997 through 1999 when I was ordained by the Central Luzon Conference.

I am also on the faculty of the Theological Seminary at AIIAS, where I have taught classes in equipping ministry, evangelism, worship and practice, and pastoral care. In addition, I’m involved in many outreach ministries including the Dasmariñas prison ministry and several branch Sabbath Schools.

I love to hold evangelistic meetings, and have led out in several, both locally and abroad. The latest one was in India, in my hometown of Ukhrul. My uncle, who years ago sent me to an Adventist academy told me, “We never knew how the Lord would use you. We never anticipated how you would come back and speak.” I had not been back to my hometown in 28 years, but I could still speak and preach in the local dialect of Tangkhul. [Editor’s Note: Read the full account of these meetings on pages 10 and 11.]

Flags: I understand that you have also done some translation work for your local people?

Ragui: Yes. I translated the book Steps to Christ into the Tangkhul dialect and it was published three years ago. It is now being distributed by the local mission.

Flags: Do you have any plans to return to the area?

Ragui: I plan to return in December for a mission trip with students and faculty from AIIAS to hold revival meetings and to help build a church. One of the highlights of the meetings was entering the village of Shiroi, about 15 km. from my hometown. This village is located in a very strategic place, because many villages are connected to it. It is one of the older towns in the region, with about 350 heads of family. Our meetings were a continued on page 9.
Songs Feel at Home at AIIAS

The first time that Pastor Kyung Ho Song and his expectant wife, Mi Hyang, saw AIIAS it was 4 a.m. The couple, along with 5 other Korean families had traveled from Seoul to Manila, where they waited expectantly for someone to pick them up. After waiting several hours at the airport, the group decided to hire drivers to take them to their destination.

At the time, AIIAS was located on the campus of Philippine Union College (now known as Adventist University of the Philippines, AUP). The drivers, not knowing where the school was located, drove around the area for hours before finding the place.

“We didn’t have much information then,” recalls Dr. Song. “We weren’t able to directly call AIIAS from Korea, so the only communication system we had at the time was through the Manila Sanitarium.” The Korean families had sent word of their arrival, but somehow the message didn’t get through.

The group was on the AUP campus for just two months when AIIAS moved to its current location in Silang. Since then the AIIAS campus has grown and communication and transportation systems have improved tremendously—with direction international telephone service, broadband and high-speed internet.

Their first experience at AIIAS was a memorable one for the Song family, with Mi Hyang delivering their child, Ji Hyuk, on September 18, 1991 and Kyung Ho graduating with a Master of Pastoral Theology degree in March 19, 1992.

Following graduation, the Songs returned to Korea, where Pastor Song served at the Chungyang Seventh-day Adventist church, located in the Southeast Korean Conference, the same conference where he had been ordained in 1981 and had pastored for several years.

After a time, Pastor Song experienced a growing desire for the teaching ministry. Upon returning to AIIAS in 1994, he entered the Ph.D. in religion program at the Theological Seminary.

Reflecting on his doctoral studies, Song says, “For me, especially in the area of theology, my philosophy is not to memorize. That’s not so important. But understanding, that’s important. . . . I learned how to study at AIIAS. What is most important in a Ph.D. program is to know how to study—and that’s what I learned.”

Seeing excellent potential in Song, the AIIAS administration invited him to join the faculty of the Theological Seminary, where he began teaching part-time while writing his doctoral dissertation, “Doctrine of Original Sin: A Historical-Biblical Evaluation of the Theories of Original Sin as Suggested Between the 16th and the 18th Centuries.”

After completing his Ph.D. degree in October 1998, Dr. Song began teaching full-time in the Theological-Historical Studies department of the seminary, where he teaches systematic theology courses.

“I have learned many things from my students, who come from different areas and places around the world,” says Dr. Song. “As we discuss important topics, people have different understandings based on their backgrounds. . . . There is no dominant culture at AIIAS. It’s unique, and is the best place for mission training. We experience, indirectly through the students, many situations in the world church—and come to understand their hearts, minds, and their thinking.”

In addition to his academic responsibilities, Dr. Song also serves as president of the AIIAS Alumni Association. Under his guidance, AIIAS is establishing alumni chapters in various parts of the world—beginning with Korea (which has the largest number of AIIAS alumni), followed by Indonesia. Further plans are underway for a chapter in the Southern Philippines, as well as other chapters outside of Asia.

Dr. Song will coordinate the first ever chapter meeting of the AIIAS Alumni Association on October 29, 2007 at the headquarters of the SDA Language Institute in Seoul.

Regarding the future, Dr. Song’s plans are to “just follow God’s call wherever, and whatever they might be. I don’t have any plans to leave AIIAS at this point. We have been here since 1994, and it is like home for us. . . We have never stayed in any other place for so long. It’s very unusual for pastors,” he adds with a smile.

Mrs. Mi Hyang Song works as a counselor at AIIAS. She completed an M.A. in education, with an emphasis in guidance and counseling at Philippine Christian University in 2004, and will finish a Doctor in Education (Ed.D.) degree, with an emphasis in counseling in October, 2007. Their son Ji Hyuk, now 16, is studying at Maxwell Adventist Academy in Kenya.
Following His Heavenly Father

The only image that Alfredo Agustin has of his father is a blurry, black and white snapshot of a man in a coffin. Taken from the side, it is hard to distinguish the facial features of this person Alfredo has never known.

Alfredo was still in his mother’s womb when his fisherman father was killed in a dynamite explosion. In the 1960s, dynamite fishing was a common practice in the Philippines.

Growing up fatherless was not easy for Alfredo and his older siblings as they struggled to survive. Their mother remarried and moved several times, finally settling in Bacolod in the Central Philippines when Alfredo was 9.

It was there that Alfredo and his mother met a cousin, who served as an Adventist pastor and youth director who led them to Christ. “He really encouraged me, gave me Bible studies, and influenced my life to serve the Lord,” says Alfredo. “He is my hero.”

Nevertheless, those years were marred with sacrifices, as Alfredo’s step-father was without steady employment. Alfredo was pressured to quit school and work to support the family, which had grown to 9 children. However, he was determined to finish his schooling as he had a growing dream of becoming a minister for God.

After finishing high school, Alfredo longed to attend Mountain View College (MVC) in the Southern Philippines. But without funds this seemed impossible, so he enrolled in a two-year diesel mechanics course close to his home. After completing his training, Alfredo worked in a repair shop, but was not satisfied. It was during this time that Alfredo met an Adventist teacher who encouraged him to go to Mountain View and work in the rice paddies and study at the same time.

Although Alfredo was again pressured to stay home and work, he decided this must be God’s way for him to fulfill his dream and so he went to work and study at MVC. In 1990, Alfredo graduated with honors with a B.A. in theology. The following year he married Arlyn Piseo, a biology student whom he had met at MVC.

Alfredo’s first pastoral assignment was a 32 church district. In his next assignment, he had “only” 26 churches.

Baptisms were like an “Adventist fiesta,” Alfredo recalls. Celebrations started Wednesday with family Bible fellowship. Thursday and Friday were filled with games and lots of food. On Sabbath, a huge potluck would follow the baptisms, with a social event that evening. “It was really very satisfying, not only for myself, but also for my family, who supported me in my work,” says Alfredo. “Sometimes I still miss that life as a district pastor.”

Following his ministerial ordination in 1996, Alfredo was appointed chaplain at the Calbayog Sanitarium and Hospital. But less than one month later, he was involved in a motorcycle accident, that required two surgeries and a lengthy hospital stay. At first Alfredo questioned why God had led them to Calbayog, but soon he understood the reason. Alfredo was hoping to further his ministerial education, and it was in Calbayog that he met someone who would make that possible.

Eddie Glassford, from California, made frequent business trips to the Philippines. After meeting Alfredo and his family and hearing of his desire to continue his education, Mr. Glassford decided to sponsor Alfredo to study for a master’s degree at the Theological Seminary at AIIAS.

Alfredo graduated with an M.A. in Religion in 2002 and was invited to teach in the theology department of his alma mater, Mountain View. It was while teaching there that he learned God still had more surprises in store for him.

In 2004, Dr. Stephen Guptill, then education director of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD), met Alfredo while visiting MVC. As part of a General Conference doctoral training scholarship program, Dr. Guptill was looking for promising theology teachers whom he could recommend to the committee. Before long, Alfredo received an invitation to study in the Ph.D. in religion program at AIIAS.

Upon completion of his doctoral degree, Alfredo and his family plan to return to Mountain View College, where he will resume teaching in the theology department. He is currently writing his dissertation, “The Interpretation of Hades in the Story of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31),” under the guidance of Dr. Clinton Wahlen.

Looking back on how God has led him, Alfredo tells his children, “Although I did not experience love from my father, I still feel myself to be a complete individual because I feel the love of my Heavenly Father in my life.”

Alfredo Agustin with his wife, Arlyn, and children, Ralph Emerson, 15, John Nevin, 12, and Allyn Desiree, 6.
Indonesian Exchange Students Experience AIIAS
By Sheralee Thomas

Eight Indonesian exchange students recently spent a month on the AIIAS campus. Five were Muslim, the others Christian.

This exchange program was a result of a visit to AIIAS last May by the Honorable Ira Hapsary Subagio, Attaché for Education and Culture of the Indonesian Embassy in Manila. The reason for the visit was to discuss the possibility of AIIAS being one of several educational institutions located in the Philippines that would host Indonesian exchange students. The program was first conceptualized at a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Education ministers in Bali, Indonesia earlier this year. The purpose was to create close ties among universities of the ASEAN countries, as well as to enhance the development of students from these countries.

It was agreed that AIIAS would participate and that Dr. Eric Nasution (Department of Business) would chair the committee organizing the activities and schedule for the eight prospective students – two men and six women.

On the third of August, Kokoh Getsamani Liberty, Richard The, Shinliati, Finda Ardiana, Jirhas Ranie Artika, Fanti Hernawati, Irene Ratih Ertinightyas, and Lila Fitriana arrived at AIIAS to begin their month-long stay. All undergraduate students, they hailed from seven well-known universities across Indonesia. Their majors included economics (with emphases in management, marketing management, and accounting) psychology, education, and public health.

The exchange students attended such classes as Instructional Media taught by Mr. Raimond Luntungan, Principles of Environment taught by Dr. Klaus Irrgang, Economic Issues taught by Dr. Eustacio Penniecook, Psychological Testing taught by Dr. Neda Salazar, Classroom Management taught by Dr. Graeme Perry, Curriculum of Global Health taught by Dr. Milton Mesa, Investment taught by Dr. Eric Nasution and English taught by Mr. Ishmael Siapco.

Very quickly, the exchange students noticed the academic advantages of studying at AIIAS. The small class sizes and the open communication between students and teachers was something they had not experienced before. They felt that this kind of dialogue, which is encouraged in classes, helped both students and teachers grow together. They hoped to see these aspects of AIIAS education implemented in their own universities back home. The fact that English is the medium of instruction and that the teachers hold high educational qualifications also impressed the exchange students. They felt challenged and inspired by the classes and eagerly utilized the AIIAS library for research. Irene Ertinightyas said, “the very complete library and the friendly lecturers encourage me to use my critical thinking when I give my opinion in class. I feel surrounded by love at this place.”

AIIAS professors who had exchange students in their classes remarked that these students participated well in all class activities and seemed to enjoy themselves. One teacher said that their research background was very good, especially for undergraduate students.

Besides observing classes, the exchange students came to appreciate many of the beautiful and interesting attractions on offer in this area of the Philippines. They became familiar with the bus and jeepney routes near AIIAS and the nearby town of Silang, where they visited a 412 year old Roman Catholic Church.

While still in the Philippines, the students celebrated the 62nd Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia. Together with the AIIAS students from Indonesia, they traveled to Manila for Independence Day celebrations at Fort Bonifacio. They bought souvenirs at the huge traditional market in Baclaran and tasted halo-halo, a
breakthrough in the sense that no Seventh-day Adventist had ever set foot in this village. Seven people from Shiroi were baptized. That is one of my most exciting experiences. These were all married men. Before I left, they said, “We will bring our wives and children.” The first Sabbath after their baptism they met in one of their houses, with 29 people attending, including their wives, children, and many relatives. The reports I have heard say that they are still very strong, and that their spirit is still high.

The biggest problem is that they do not have a place to worship. Their houses are too small, and they don’t know where to go. So, our next project is to help them build a church—we will give of our time, money and resources to help them.

Flags: Reflecting back on how God has led in your life, do you have any disappointments?

Ragui: As I look back, probably the biggest disappointment in my life—–not getting a visa to the U.S.—became one of the greatest blessings. It led me to come to the Philippines, where the Lord blessed me with a wonderful wife, and four children—one daughter is a physical therapist, another is a registered nurse. A third daughter is studying in a B.S. in nursing program and our son is in his third year of high school at Lipa Adventist Academy.

Continued from Page 5

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All are strong and faithful in the Lord. The two younger ones, Grace and John, helped out in the recent meetings in India, and my wife Puring cared for the children’s division as well as cooking for the team.

Flags: What do you see as the greatest strengths of AIIAS?

Ragui: Developing leaders in developing countries—that is its strongest point. AIIAS is also one of the strongest graduate schools where students are trained for evangelism. The developing countries are much more open to outreach ministry, unlike the West. AIIAS is developing that through Asian outreach evangelism and in the training of leaders.

Flags: Are there any areas where you would like to see AIIAS excel?

Ragui: I would like to see AIIAS become a hallmark in the area of evangelism and mission, because the Asian people are quite open at this point in time. China is opening up. It is not that expensive to hold meetings, and we have professors and students ready to go. AIIAS is located strategically within the 10/40 window, on the very doorstep of Asia. When it comes to mission and evangelism, we have great resources.
Most of us who have moved away from where we were raised often think about going home and seeing family and friends. Dr. Paoring Ragui, Vice-President of Student Affairs at AIIAS, fulfilled an expanded vision of going home by assembling a group of professors and students from AIIAS to engage in mission in his birth place, Ukhrul, in Northeast India.

The evangelistic meetings were held from April 21 to May 5, 2007, in the town of Ukhrul, Manipur, India. During the previous year a team of dedicated Bible workers and volunteer church members had diligently laid the groundwork for the meetings.

Under Dr. Ragui’s leadership, an eight member team from AIIAS spearheaded the 15-day program. The team consisted of two other AIIAS professors—Dr. Jim Park, assistant professor of discipleship and church growth at the Theological Seminary, and Dr. Eustacio Penniecook, chair of the business department at AIIAS and professor of management and economics. David Jason Canfield, from the U.S.A., and Jerry Karundeng, from Indonesia, both Master of Divinity students at the Theological Seminary, also participated in the program. Besides general visitation and speaking during the meetings, they helped conduct a week of prayer at the local SDA school of some 400 students.

Three of Dr. Ragui’s family also joined the team, including his wife, Puring Ragui, who led out in the children’s program and provided food service for the team, daughter Grace who sang during the meetings, and son John who helped manage the projector.

The meetings were held in the town hall which has a seating capacity of 1,200 people. With God’s blessings the hall was packed full almost every night, with some nights so filled to overflowing that there were not enough seats for everyone.

At the end of the series, 47 people were baptized, including Hindu, Muslim, Baptist and Catholic converts. To some, 47 people may not seem to be a very large number, but the Manipur Mission is a difficult area. In fact, 47 is the highest number of baptisms ever reported there. Three pastor-evangelists and three contract lay workers have been placed in Ukhrul for follow-up and discipling work, visiting and nurturing the newly baptized members in the area.

One of these is a widow with two small
children. She acquired AIDS from her now deceased husband who was a drug user. She accepted the gospel of hope in Christ and is waiting for Christ to come to take her home.

Dr. Victor Ahom, holding a Ph.D. in Literature and one of the most learned persons in Ukhrul, also attended the meetings. For many years, he served as a university professor and has written a dozen books. He came to the meetings every night. Some AIIAS team members, while visiting Dr. Ahom, learned that he was an alcoholic. In fact, he had come to the first meeting drunk, but from the second night onward he appeared less and less drunk. By the end of the series he had accepted Jesus as his personal Savior and was ready to join the Seventh-day Adventist church. The team asked a faithful church member, who is also a college lecturer, to care for him.

Four bus loads of people arrived each night to the meeting hall from surrounding villages. One bus was hired exclusively for Shirui village, a very old village located approximately 15 kilometers from Ukhrul. Out of the 47 new members, 7 persons (all husbands) came from Shirui, a village which until this time had been unentered with the gospel message.

The AIIAS team's next step is to raise funds for a church in Shirui so that these new members, and those they bring, may experience worshiping God in a sanctuary. The estimated cost for a solid brick church is $10,000. The team is praying and believes that the Lord will provide for the sake of His people in this area.

The day before the meetings ended the Lord opened doors for the team to begin broadcasting 3ABN programs throughout the entire Ukhrul region. “We praise God,” Dr. Ragui says, “for this wonderful blessing and we have hope that through these programs many will accept Jesus as their personal Savior and embrace the truth of His Word.”
New Faces

Welcome to the Chung Family

Dr. Young Soo Chung recently joined the Applied Theology department of the Theological Seminary at AIIAS, where he is teaching classes in leadership.

“I am very excited to return to AIIAS,” says Dr. Chung, who graduated with an M.A. in Pastoral Theology degree from AIIAS in 1992. He served as a pastor in Korea, where he was ordained on April 5, 1993, at the Korean Union Conference in Seoul.

Having an interest in business, Pastor Chung completed a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) degree in 1999 from Sahmyook University. Continuing his pastoral studies, Pastor Chung completed a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree at Andrews University in 2004.

Before coming to AIIAS, Dr. Chung served as business manager at the Seventh-day Adventist Sahmyook Language Institute in Korea. His wife, Eun Kyung Ryu (known as “Kay”), who has previously worked as an English teacher, supported her husband in church ministry at the Institute. Since moving to AIIAS, Kay is now working at the Leslie G. Hardinge Library.

The couple has two children—a daughter, So Hyun Chung (“Sonya”) who is studying in the tenth grade at the AIIAS Jr. Academy, and a son, Sung Hyun Chung, who is in the nursing program at Andrews University.

AIIAS Theological Forum 2007

The 10th Annual Theological Forum will be held in the AIIAS Amphitheater from October 25 to 27, 2007, and will feature presenters from the Adventist Theological Society, as well as from the North Philippine Union Mission and from among AIIAS faculty and students. After each presentation there will be time for questions and answers.

On Sabbath, Dr. Ron Clouzet will be the speaker for the worship hour. His sermon is entitled, “His Cross and Mine.” Sabbath afternoon will feature a panel discussion with time for questions.

The registration fee (including all materials) is P800 or $15. For more information about the forum or transportation, meals and lodging, contact Ruby Orate by email at rubyo@aiias.edu, or fax (outside of the Philippines) 63-46-414-4331, or (Philippines) (046) 414-4331.

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New Dean Appointed at the Theological Seminary
By Nicola Wieland

Following the recommendation of the AIIAS Theological Seminary and administration, Dr. Gerald Klingbeil was voted by the management committee to serve as dean of the seminary. Dr. Klingbeil replaces Dr. Joel Musvosvi, who will be serving as dean of the theological seminary at the newly opened Adventist University of Africa in Kenya.

Dr. Klingbeil is not a new face on campus, having served as Professor of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Studies at AIIAS since January, 2006. Originally from Germany, he received his B.A. in Theology at Helderberg College, South Africa, where he met his wife Chantal. At nearby Stellenbosch University he earned an honor's degree in Semitic Languages and Cultures, as well as his M.A. and D.Litt. degrees in Ancient Near Eastern Studies.

Before coming to the Philippines the Klingbeil Family served eleven years in South America at Peruvian Union University in Lima, Peru, and River Plate Adventist University in Argentina. During this time Gerald was ordained as a minister, and the couple was blessed with three children, Hannah, Sarah and Jemima.

Over the years, Dr. Klingbeil, in addition to teaching at the undergraduate and (post) graduate levels, has been active in conducting and guiding research—as advisor for theses and dissertations, internal and external examiner, as well as editor and review board member of various journals. His publications include essays, journal articles, book reviews, dictionary and lexicon entries, book chapters and entire books. Besides his scholarly pursuits, Gerald enjoys spending time with his family, photography, sports and playing the piano.

Recently the new dean shared his vision and hopes for the AIIAS seminary. “One of the greatest assets of AIIAS is its unique location in Asia. AIIAS has the wonderful opportunity to bridge east and west and thus form church leaders and teachers with an international outlook.” Dr. Klingbeil also foresees the seminary using its strategic location to develop programs and models which will help the church reach out to predominantly Buddhist, Muslim or secular areas.

“I hope that students who study at AIIAS will not be the same when they leave,” he says. “Apart from learning new skills and tools, I hope that their stay at AIIAS will truly promote their personal spiritual growth.”

Scholarly thinking, a problem-solving mindset which will help them to deal with difficulties of various kinds, is one of the tools that he would like students to develop.

“Research by AIIAS students and faculty needs to be out there. I wish we would recognize the importance of interacting with the larger scholarly community. These scholars may not listen to the local church pastor, but they will listen to well-argued research.” When asked about the relationship between theory and practice, Dr. Klingbeil replied, “I see a wonderful harmony between theory and practice. We do not need more theory or more practice. We need more integration of the two in every aspect of the ministry of the church.”

Another important aspect of leadership, according to Klingbeil, involves personnel. Maintaining an already excellent Seminary faculty and developing future leaders at the Seminary is an important item on his agenda. He also wants to be an approachable leader. “I hope that people will feel free to approach and talk with me at any time. I am still the same person that I was before accepting this new responsibility.”

Klingbeil’s deepest desire is that God’s spirit be experienced as a transforming and empowering agent in classrooms, committee meetings and throughout the AIIAS Theological Seminary community. We warmly congratulate Dr. Klingbeil on his new position and pray that God will bless his leadership.
Plans for New Building Advance
By Stephen Guptill, AIIAS President

A new church/multi-purpose building on the AIIAS campus is coming closer to reality with detailed plans for the structure being presented to the building committee. Considerable thought by the faculty, administration and church leadership. A number of sub-committees has gone into the church design are currently working on specific areas of the building, including plans for audio, video, music, and a kitchen). The architectural firm St. Thomas Builders, led by Mr. De la Paz who is an Adventist architect, has been hired to translate the expressed needs of AIIAS into an attractive, yet functional complex.

As shown in the schematic drawing, the architectural design is somewhat contemporary and includes Asian elements reflective of the existing campus roof lines. Located on the hill just south of the administration building, the auditorium will occupy the highest place on campus, reflective of the importance of worship at AIIAS.

A large, fan shaped auditorium, seating about 1,200 people, and designed specifically to bring them nearer to the front, will serve both as a cultural venue and a place of worship.

The new building will incorporate many attractive features including a spacious lobby, with areas for literature distribution and other support services. The church offices and counseling center will be located to the right of the lobby, complete with a separate outside entrance which will allow accessibility without opening the entire complex.

A large deck area and restrooms will be located to the left of the lobby. The deck area will provide a lovely outside venue for social gatherings. A large function hall will be located downstairs, with a separate entrance. Surrounding the outside of the function hall will be a patio area which will provide an extension of the function hall through large glass doors. Inside the function hall there will be room for 200 seated at tables. There will be large storage areas where chairs and tables can be stored when not needed.

The kitchen is designed with a large window opening into the function hall for use both as a demonstration area as well as a serving window. There will also be an outside service window that can cater activities when the function hall is closed. The kitchen will provide the sinks, refrigerator, stove tops and microwave and storage areas needed in a social hall of this size.

The hillside outside of the function hall will be sculptured to form an amphitheater to take advantage of the beautiful green setting for an outside campus venue.

Multipurpose classrooms will be located on the east side of the building. Each will have its own storage area for chairs and supplies. The classrooms are designed to be used for children’s Sabbath School on the weekends and for academic classes and other church and school functions during the week. Restrooms, accessible from the classrooms, will also serve platform personnel and for baptismal changing rooms.

A large room intended for media production and as a staging area for larger performing groups will be located on the south side of the auditorium platform. It is part of the vision of AIIAS to provide a facility for media training and for producing high-quality digital audio and video recordings which will serve the growing needs of the church in this area.

It is the initial plan that the auditorium have as much ventilation as possible until it is economically feasible to install aluminum windows and central air conditioning. The structure’s design includes insulated roofing to
dampen the sound from rain storms. The auditorium will have an open ceiling with “floating cloud” acoustic elements, adding to the aesthetics of the room and helping to improve the sound.

Large decorative windows will line the sides and back of the auditorium. The plan for seating is to use specially designed padded chairs that can be fitted together to form almost bench like seating. The chairs will be stackable, giving flexibility to the auditorium for varied uses.

The platform will be large, with a concealed baptistry at the back that can be opened when needed. Double stage doors open to the hall and back entrance loading dock to accommodate easy, stepless accessibility even for larger stage needs. A curtain will close across the front part of the stage allowing other activities such as choirs to assemble without detracting from the program. Large storage areas at the back of the stage provide a place for chairs, piano and organ to be kept when not in use.

The entire structure will be about 3,700 square meters (39,826 sq. feet). According to the architect’s figures, cost for the complex, including limited furnishings, will be US$1.48 million. Due to the generosity of numerous donors, we currently have $222,000 from church members and friends, pledges of $300,000 from Dato’ Dr. & Mrs. Tan, $200,000 from the General Conference, and $50,000 each from the Southern Asia-Pacific and Northern Asia-Pacific Divisions.

The decline in the value of the US dollar over the past year has diminished our buying power. But AIIAS is optimistic about the new building and what it will mean to our campus life and worship. We are also grateful for the support we are receiving from alumni and friends for this project. We trust that many more will consider this project worthy of support, and recognizing the blessing it will be to the entire AIIAS community, prayerfully plan and generously contribute to this most important place on campus.

Some may be in a position to sponsor a chair for the children’s Sabbath School or for the auditorium. Others may be in a position to sponsor a room such as an office, kitchen, or classroom, or they may know someone whom they could approach. A few may wish to make a significant gift in order to complete the funding for the auditorium.

To receive more information about this vital project and how a U.S. tax-deductible gift can be made, please contact the AIIAS president, Dr. Stephen Guptill by email at president@aiias.edu. You may also contact Gina Wahlen, AIIAS Director of Advancement at grwahlen@aiias.edu or flags@aiias.edu. Or you may write to: AIIAS, Lalaan I, P.O. Box 038, Silang, 4118 Cavite, Philippines.
Expressions of joy and freedom were heard recently at the graduation of the smoking cessation program held in the chapel of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD). “At last my husband stopped smoking!” “I am so thankful for this help.” “I am glad I have more money for my family’s needs.” The participants were all employees of a local feed manufacturing company in Silang that showed an early interest in tobacco control for their workplace and the community. Fifteen graduates received certificates representing the culmination of their hard work in quitting smoking after attending the 9-day Breathe-Free program led by Milton Mesa, M.D. and professor of public health at AIIAS, assisted by AIIAS Master of Public Health (MPH) students, and Silang Tobacco Inter-Agency Control Committee (STICC) members.

Smoking cessation programs are the beginning of a larger community effort of STICC comprised of AIIAS, SSD, and Silang municipality members. In November, 2006, STICC was formed to address the burden of disease caused by tobacco use in Silang.

As an integral part of this program, Elizabeth Mascareñas, an MPH student at AIIAS, chose as her community project to work with STICC taking the first steps in making the town of Silang smoke-free. By February 2007, the Silang mayor, Hon. Clarito Poblete, signed an executive order giving STICC the commission to implement the Philippines national tobacco regulation law, Republic Act #9211, in the town of Silang. This law mandates the making of enclosed public places smoke-free, including transportation vehicles, restaurants, and workplaces, and reducing the exposure of non-smokers to secondhand smoke throughout the Philippines. STICC is actively working toward this goal by training community leaders how to conduct smoking cessation programs, educating the public about tobacco and local tobacco laws, and setting up support systems for creating a smoke-free environment in Silang by 2008.

AIIAS and Loma Linda University Cooperate in Joint Project
By Klaus Irrgang

Fifteen Loma Linda University (LLU) Master of Public Health (MPH) students, along with two LLU professors, worked hand in hand with eleven AIIAS students and professors in the communities surrounding AIIAS during a three week joint project held at AIIAS. The project, coordinated by Dr. Klaus Irrgang, took place from July 19 to August 9.

This cooperative venture between the LLU Department of Global Health and the AIIAS Department of Public Health was first conceived by Dr. Ron Mataya, chair of Global Health at Loma Linda.

The project was field experience for the course, “Integrated Community Development,” which was taken by the students beforehand on their respective campuses. The project gave students an opportunity for first hand community development work as well as getting to know other students and professors from a sister General Conference graduate institution.

The students were organized into five small groups led by AIIAS Public Health faculty, students and Mrs. Pureza Nasution, the AIIAS community services officer. The groups conducted community activities in and around the nearby Silang township, including malnutrition assessment and education, planning and presenting an HIV/AIDS awareness program in a drug rehabilitation center, assessing the health information system in the Philippines, planning for and training volunteer barangay health workers, and conducting a training seminar for future leaders of community smoking cessation programs.

In addition to these community outreach activities, the students and faculty also visited a number of significant organizations in Manila, including regional offices of the World Health Organization and USAID, and the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR).

At the Philippine Department of Health (DOH) in Manila, the group was honored by a personal welcome by the Philippine’s Secretary for Health, the Honorable Dr. Francisco T. Duque, III (thanks to MPH student Elisabeth Betcha Mascareñas, who works at the DOH Public Relations department). Dr. Duque took twenty minutes out of his busy schedule to introduce his “Formula One” health plan to the group.

Our guests from Loma Linda enjoyed many social activities including swimming into sea caves in Batangas, rafting on Taal’s crater lake, and visiting historic Corregidor Island, which made the field experience even more fun and educational.

Dr. Mataya has already begun planning for next year’s trip for a new group of students and has asked Dr. Irrgang to be the coordinator again.
**AIIAS from Above**
By Gheorghe & Diana Razmerita

When we met Clifton and Cynthia Brooks one Friday evening, little could we imagine the experience that was awaiting us just two days later. Cliff, the pilot-missionary who operates the Adventist World Aviation (AWA) airplane in the Philippines, invited us to come for a ride as he was testing his airplane after a repair in the U.S. Although the word “testing” kept us from saying a loud “yes” right away, by the end of the Sabbath we decided to grab this opportunity.

The next morning we found ourselves at the Manila airport in the small but comfortable AWA Cessna. Our children were more than excited. Soon we took off and an extraordinary panorama opened up before us. We flew over Taal Lake and volcano, went down to southwestern Luzon and crossed over to Mindoro Island. We even landed on a grass airstrip somewhere in the south and enjoyed a beautiful resort before returning to Manila.

Although there were many beautiful sights, the highlight of our trip was the flight over AIIAS. Approaching the campus from the direction of Tagaytay city, we scrutinized the land, searching for the red-roofed buildings. And there they were, scattered among the famous coconut trees. There was the administration building, the gymnasium, the library, the two schools, the student apartments, the faculty houses, including house no 215, where we live.

While soaring over the AIIAS campus we experienced a contradictory feeling of knowing it, yet not knowing it. The paradox resided in the perspective. We knew how the campus was arranged from the ground, but it was different seeing everything from above. We wondered if this was the view that God and the angels have from above. It gave us a fresh outlook on our everyday lives—doing our routine duties, busy and concerned with the immediate emergencies. We considered that perhaps we should look at things from a higher, more heavenly perspective.

Enjoy these pictures, enjoy AIIAS, and enjoy the perspective it offers us all, a new perspective on the world and life.

To learn more about Cliff and AWA, visit [www.flyawa.org/article.php?id=16](http://www.flyawa.org/article.php?id=16).
AIIAS Representation at International ASI Convention

AIIAS was well represented at the recent 70th Anniversary International ASI Convention held in Louisville, Kentucky from August 1-4. Given a prominent place in the large exhibit hall, the AIIAS booth featured new photographs of the campus and people and was favored as a photographic stop for convention visitors.

Dr. Paoring Ragui, VP for Student Affairs & Public Relations, Mrs. Gina Wahlen, Director of Advancement, and MBA student Samuel Bangura, were kept busy from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. talking with interested guests. Dr. Clinton Wahlen joined them on Friday and Sabbath.

Over 2,000 people attended the Adventist Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) convention with several hundred registering their names and contact information at the AIIAS booth. ASI, known for its support of mission around the world, is a Seventh-day Adventist organization made up of laypersons involved in business, education and in various professions and services.

Previous to the ASI Convention, Mrs. Wahlen set up the AIIAS booth at the Redwood Area Camp Meeting in Northern California. An AIIAS Trivia Contest was printed in the camp’s daily newsletter, and a daily drawing was held at the AIIAS booth, with winners collecting various prizes from the Philippines.

One of the most interested guests to see pictures of the AIIAS campus was Mr. Dan Brown, a general contractor who oversaw the construction of AIIAS on its current site in Silang. Many other booth visitors commented on the beauty of the AIIAS campus and picked up brochures and copies of Flags magazine.

Junior Academy Goes Wild About Books

AIIAS Junior Academy (AJA) is placing an emphasis on reading. The students have discovered that reading is a great adventure. If a visitor were to go into the library during break time or after school they would find a variety of students who are there to read, do homework or to borrow books.

During the past school year, AJA was one of the top schools in the Philippines for sales at a Scholastic Book Fair. Scholastic Publishing brought hundreds of books to the school for students, parents and others to purchase. Sales were equivalent to those normally found in schools 5 times its size. As a result the school received a percentage of the sales amount in new books, adding to the library’s collection.

Already this year AJA has had another book fair for which the students, using the rain forest as a theme, created posters in order to promote reading. They also created masks or costumes that featured rain forest items. The posters and masks were judged by the Scholastic Company and winners were awarded books and bookmarks as prizes. The students at AJA are discovering that reading is not only educational but fun.

--Candace Iseminger

Library Receives Facelift

For the past five months, the library has been a place of annoying sounds and disturbing dust. It has not been the best place to find serenity nor a secure hub for pondering assignments and examinations. It has been a place where “library sculptors” polish the rough edges of the building, carving out a new look for the library—which has as its utmost desire to offer its patrons with excellent facilities and services.

The Leslie Hardinge Library is the new home for the AIIAS computer laboratory. This move was made in response to an increasing demand in the Instructional Media Resource Center (IMRC) for computer access. Now more computers are available longer hours for both instruction and research.

The library stacks now enjoy more ambient light with the help of new flooring and light-colored shelves. The new shelves can now accommodate both regular-size and oversize materials thus making locating materials much easier. The second floor of the IMRC now houses periodicals where students can freely access the entire collection, including current issues of the journals.

Currently, work is being done on the main entrance of the library to make it the most attractive part of the building and help set the mood for research and serious study. It will also include an informal reading and exhibit area where students can enjoy informative and general interest materials. A help desk will occupy a prominent place in the lobby to guide and serve our researchers.

--Megumi Flores

Ph.D. in Business Begins

The Ph.D. in Business program was launched on schedule on June 4, 2007. It is the first doctoral program in business approved by the General Conference International Board of Education and is designed to prepare SDA business faculty. The first students in the program come from the Philippines, Myanmar and India, and all have indicated their commitment to being business teachers at SDA institutions upon completion of their degrees.

Students interested in joining the program will find program information at http://www.aiias.edu/academics/sgs/business/phd/ and admissions information at http://www.aiias.edu/admissions/.

--Ron Vyhmeister

Research in Thailand

Drs. Ron and Shawna Vyhmeister recently presented a research seminar at Mission College in Thailand. Dr. Shawna presented topics on research design, qualitative methods, resources and referencing, and others. Dr. Ron talked about quantitative methods, data analysis, and some tips on using the Web as a reference tool. Following the presentations, the Vyhmeisters spent two more days consulting with various faculty members on their current research study, and to lend opinions and advice as to how they could do it better or easier.

One of the unique features of this seminar was that it revolved around a study of faculty participation in research. The seminar began with a survey developed at AIIAS. Survey data was then collected and processed in Thailand, giving the faculty a clearer picture of their strengths and their weaknesses in the area of research.

--Shawna Vyhmeister
Graduating Class Organizes

The 89th Graduation Ceremony will be held October 21, 2007 on the AIIAS campus. Approximately 100 master’s and doctoral degree candidates are expected to graduate, representing both on-campus and distance learning students. In addition, the first two online degree candidates are expected to graduate, both with a Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degrees.

The October graduation candidates have officially organized as a class and have elected the following class officers:

President     Ian Abordo       Philippines
Vice President      Sonny Sipayung          Indonesia
Secretary               Sheryl Olasiman   Philippines
Treasurer               Zhang Enze           China
Class Pastor           Simon Bwambale       Uganda
Music Coordinators    Ian Abordo & Zhang Enze
Faculty Sponsors        Dr. Clinton & Mrs. Gina Wahlen USA

The March 2007 graduating class gathers together with AIIAS faculty and the commencement speaker, Dr. Ted N.C. Wilson, a general vice president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The graduation service was held on March 11, 2007, with 50 master’s and doctoral degree candidates receiving their diplomas. The class included graduates from 13 countries, including: Chile, China, Congo, Indonesia, Korea, Madagascar, Myanmar, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Rwanda, Thailand and the U.S.A.
Good news! The steady growth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its institutions has created a demand for qualified personnel who can support its worldwide mission with their talents and education.

In response to this need, the General Conference has launched the Adventist Professionals’ Network (APN)—an electronic global registry of Adventists who hold a degree in any field and have an email address. APN assists Adventist institutions and agencies in locating candidates for positions in areas such as teaching, ministry, health care, management, administration, and research as well as consultants and personnel for mission service.

Once registered, APN members can find job opportunities in Adventist organizations, join one of many Adventist professional associations, and network with thousands of Adventist professionals around the world. Members are protected from solicitations and unwanted mail.

Enter your professional information directly in the APN secure website, free:

http://apn.adventist.org

Encourage other degreed Adventists to join APN and enjoy its many benefits. For questions and comments on APN, contact us through apn@gc.adventist.org