



WINDOW TO BGST NEWSLETTER

JAN 2020



BGST CHURCH HISTORY TOUR 2019

THE SPIRITUAL LEGACY OF BRITISH CHRISTIANITY

A REFLECTION BY PAULINE GOH

British church history is very close to the hearts of Christians in our part of the world simply because we're inheritors of the many denominations that arose from its profound turbulence over the centuries. In fact, most of Western Christianity as we know it today has its roots in Britain. So it wasn't exactly difficult to sign up for a tour that was less a holiday than an education.

We had our fair share of suffering throughout the trip, not equally shared it's true, but still pretty disturbing for all: lost luggage for an entire family that took several days to resolve, being pickpocketed, cold and rain in the northern region, and sundry surprises. All this, however, seemed just part of the experience and, in fact, deepened it because of the amazing equanimity and resolution of those affected. It might be

fanciful to link this feature of our tour to the overall tone of the history we were discovering in that "sceptred isle" (so famously called in Richard II by the Bard) but it registered so with me.

While it was difficult to maintain a chronological flow in relation to the places we visited, it still turned out admirably well. In the northern region we discovered the remarkable monastic and mystic traditions that had existed as early as the 4th century. We crossed into Lindisfarne (Holy Island) on a road passable only when the tide was low where Aidan and St Cuthbert are memorialized. Then the ruins of the Cistercian monastery, Rievaulx, gripped us quite poignantly, judging by the frequency tour members showed their photos taken there. It was also of special interest to me because of Aelred and his book, *Spiritual Friendship*. It felt

like we were on a pilgrimage as we made tracks to Norwich to learn about the mystic, Julian, and her visions of Jesus; to Durham where the bones of St Cuthbert were eventually laid to rest and where Venerable Bede was also buried and to Canterbury ... where we met with Chaucer but not the Archbishop! Such are the vagaries of timing, weather and things beyond control that make a tour interesting and frustrating.

In between being captivated by the distant but satisfyingly romantic aura of the mystics, monks and nuns, we had to wrap our heads round the troubling history of the English Reformation. It seemed we had only Hampton Court to depend on for "material evidence" of the tourist kind, but we had our copious notes and lectures to make up for the lack. The story of King Henry VIII and his 6 wives is a familiar one, but we sometimes forget how much religious violence, schisms and mayhem ensued in the aftermath of his break from Rome. It wasn't easy to reconcile that aspect of things with what we usually hail the Reformation for: a return to faith and truth. So it was easier to turn our attention to the later evangelical awakenings that gave us the Methodist, Presbyterian, Brethren, and other such denominations of which most of us are

members. We saw the spot where John Knox was supposed to have been buried in St Giles Church in Edinburgh. We went to Oxford and Cambridge, and in London, visited John Wesley's home and church and cast our eyes on important biblical manuscripts and artefacts in the British Museum and Library. Oh, and we didn't forget the Romans because we went out of our way to Vindolanda, an excavated fort, and caught a glimpse of Hadrian's Wall and its famous scycamore tree in its famous gap!

One of the ways the tour catered for the many questions and issues that arose from the history we were unearthing was to suggest we talk about them over dinner or engage in personal contemplation of Scripture after the manner of Ignatian spirituality, for instance. I can't be sure if most of us attempted these but it was a thoughtful addition to the learning we received. Certainly I enjoyed the fellowship and wonderful forbearance the whole group showed when things went wrong. The journey was the thing, not the places we saw. So I would say that this was a tour that I carry on experiencing after it ended. For one thing, I've bought several C.S. Lewis's books on Kindle to re-read!



18-29 Nov 2020

BGST HISTORY TOUR: EXPLORING CHRISTIAN HISTORY, ART AND SPIRITUALITY IN ITALY

Led by Dr Lai Pak Wah, Principal & Lecturer in Church History
Biblical Graduate School of Theology (BGST)

For enquiry, contact Dr Lai at laipw@bgst.edu.sg





MR LEOW WEN PIN

FACULTY, LECTURER IN BIBLICAL AND
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

"BGST, with its interdisciplinary focus, forward-looking faculty and leadership, and dynamic alumni community, is an excellent place to stretch one's mind and grow one's heart in Christ, while being sensitive to the needs of the Church today. My experience with BGST has always been excellent, and I am grateful to the BGST family for their warm welcome as I return home to my alma mater to serve in the critical area of theological education."

-Wen Pin

BGST would like to welcome our alumnus and adjunct lecturer, Mr Leow Wen Pin (GradDipCS, 2013), as our new Lecturer in Biblical and Interdisciplinary Studies, starting 2 January 2020. Prior to this, Wen Pin graduated with distinction from the University of Oxford (2019, MSt in New Testament) and the University of Aberdeen (2018, MTh in Old Testament). He also holds a Master of Divinity degree (2016, Biblical Studies concentration) from Singapore Bible College.

Wen Pin's research interests include Hebrew poetry, disability theology, and homiletics. He is currently working on a monograph on the Psalms of Ascents (Ps. 120–134) for the »Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments« series for Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht. He has also published articles/reviews in international peer-reviewed journals, as well as a number of book chapters. He is the recipient of several academic awards including, in 2019, the Stuart D. B. Picken Grant and Scholarship (by the International Academic Forum), and the Ginkgo Fellowship.

Before his move into vocational Christian ministry, Wen Pin was a trained educator, and he also served in Singapore's defence, education, and trade and industry ministries, with portfolios involving human resources, higher education policy, and national research policy. Being especially concerned about the inclusion of people with disabilities, he serves as the school supervisor of a special needs school which caters to children with autism/multiple disabilities. He also serves as a member of the disability policy workgroup of the Disability Concerns Network with the Lausanne Movement. He is the co-editor of *Call Me by Name*, a volume chronicling the experiences of Christians with special needs in Singapore.

Wen Pin is married to Dr Su Xinyi, a clinician-scientist. They have two sons, Matthew and Nathaniel, and they worship and serve together in the English congregation of Singapore Life Church (Presbyterian). Wen Pin frequently preaches and teaches with churches across the denominational spectrum, especially on disability inclusion issues.



MS YAP FOON LYN

**DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION &
OPERATIONS**

Foon Lyn has been a student at BGST since it opened its doors and has been participating in many of its seminars and courses over the years... and still enjoys this as well as travelling!

She has been in the education service in different capacities including Specialist Inspector of Music and Vice-Principal in local schools. Her undergraduate training was in Literature, Medieval History and Music. Her postgraduate studies were in Film Narrative. Foon Lyn worships at Zion Serangoon BP Church.

2020

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CONFERENCE (SAT)

7
MAR

"LEADING ACROSS GENERATIONS:
ENGAGING MILLENNIALS IN CHURCH &
MARKETPLACE"

Dr Joanna Williamson

9:30am-4:00pm

@ Zion Bishan B-P Church

bit.ly/acrossgenerationsevent

CONFERENCE (SAT)

28
MAR

"DISTORTIONS IN DOCTRINE"

Dr Robert Solomon and Prof Tony Lane

9:00am-5:00pm

@ Zion Bishan B-P Church

bit.ly/distortionsindoctrine

1-DAY RETREAT (SAT)

25
APR

"SPIRITUAL RETREAT: A SILENCE AND
SOLITUDE WITH GOD FOR GOD'S SAKE"

Ms Seah Chiew Kwan

9:00am-5:00pm

@ Agape Village

bit.ly/silencesolitude

www.bgst.edu.sg

3-DAY RETREAT (MON-WED)

14-16
SEP

"A CLOSER WALK WITH JESUS"

Ms Margaret Silf, Rev Dr Lim Kar Yong

@ Changi Cove

bit.ly/bgstcloserwalk

PRIVATE DIALOGUE (THURS)

17
SEP

"JOURNEY OF A SOUL"

Ms Margaret Silf

9:00am-5:00pm

@ St. Andrews Cathedral

bit.ly/bgstjourneyofasoul

PUBLIC LECTURE (FRI)

18
SEP

"SACRED IN THE CITY"

Ms Margaret Silf

7:00pm-9:30pm

@ St. Andrews Cathedral

bit.ly/bgstsacredinthecity

1-DAY RETREAT (SAT)

19
SEP

"AT SEA WITH GOD"

Ms Margaret Silf

9:00am-4:30pm

@ St. Andrews Cathedral

bit.ly/bgstatsea

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

EARLY CLOSURE ON 24 JAN 2020

Please be informed that BGST is closing early on Friday, 24th Jan 2020 at 1:00pm for Chinese New Year.

STUDENTS ONLINE PROFILE

Due to incomplete profiles, a few students have been unable to register for courses online. We ask for your help to update your personal particulars to ensure a seamless sign up process. Thank you!

FREE LIBRARY BOOKS

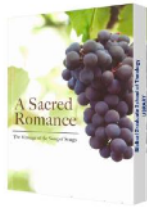
With the launch of the Digital Theological Library, BGST is downsizing its physical library, and **giving away hundreds of books!**

Come browse the titles from Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm (closed during lunch).
A love gift would be appreciated.

OUR BOOK CORNER IS CLOSING

Take advantage of our parting gifts! **Book Clearance from 5-50% discount** including course texts. While stocks last.

LIBRARY NEW BOOKS



A SACRED ROMANCE: THE MESSAGE OF THE SONG OF SONGS

Wong, Kim Tok

Bible-Song of Solomon-Commentaries



COMMON MORALITY AND NATURAL LAW: A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

Ng, Kam Weng

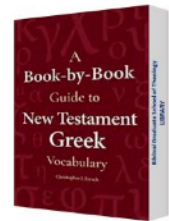
Christian Ethics



#FAITH: SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE CHURCH: A MONOGRAPH

Ang, Peng Hwa

Faith



A BOOK-BY-BOOK GUIDE TO NEW TESTAMENT GREEK

Fresch, Christopher J.

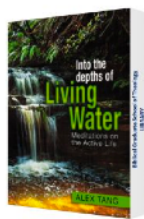
New Testament - Greek



SACRAMENTAL LIFE: SPIRITUAL FORMATION THROUGH THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER.

DeSilva, David Arthur.

*Spiritual Formation-
Episcopal Church*



INTO THE DEPTHS OF LIVING WATER: MEDITATIONS ON THE ACTIVE LIFE

Tang, Alex

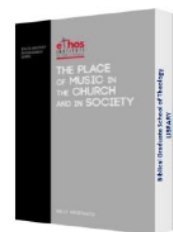
Spiritual Life-Christianity



DAILY WORK AS DIVINE VOCATION: A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

Cordeiro, Wayne

Banks, Robert



THE PLACE OF MUSIC IN THE CHURCH AND IN SOCIETY

Kristiano, Billy

Worship Music

FULL NEW BOOK LIST AT

<https://bgst.vlibonline.com/images/201912-bull.html>

Join BGST

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT EXECUTIVE

Reporting to: (1) the Principal; (2) Director, Administration & Operations.

Employment Type: Full Time

BGST is looking for a suitable candidate to fill the position of **Marketing Communications & Engagement Executive (MCE Executive)**. The MCE Executive should ideally share the vision and mission of the school. The incumbent will engage and work with various stakeholders, both internal and external, and these may include agencies, business executives, and existing and potential sponsors of BGST. His / her responsibility is to deliver strategic and operational support for the internal and external communication-related matters of the school, including providing innovative solutions in the areas of communication.

Key Roles and Responsibilities

The work of the Marketing Communications & Engagement Executive entails:

(A) Marketing & Communications The executive is expected to

- Work with Senior Management to develop marketing strategies to develop BGST's brand in Singapore and the region, ensuring consistency of branding across all platforms and collaterals.
- Implement and oversee marketing campaigns on classical and digital platforms for BGST's programmes, courses, events, and other initiatives.
- Manage the contents for BGST's website and other social media platforms.
- Assist the Principal in his public and internal communications.
- Manage and publicise events in a timely manner by exploring the most effective means of communication and creative promotional materials to reach the target audience.
- Assist speakers / lecturers with event materials. This would include preparation of participant / student content packages for pre-event dissemination and archiving.
- Explore and review creative and digitized means of communication to enhance and improve the current standards.

(B) Strategic Engagement The executive should work with key personnel to

- Assist the Principal in his Business Development and Engagement initiatives with partners, churches and donors.
- Implement strategic initiatives and programmes to engage BGST's community partners and donors.
- Coordinate sustainable medium to long-term fund-raising programmes / projects for BGST

Qualification and Experience

The candidate should be a degree holder, preferably in marketing communications. He/ she should have at least 3 – 5 years' experience in the relevant field. Should the candidate not have the required work experience but is willing to explore possibilities with the college, he / she may be invited to present his / her portfolio that indicates creativity and solutioning and / or be invited to make a presentation.

The candidate should send in his / her resume (hard copy) to BGST, attention "HR Department" or via email to laipw@bgst.edu.sg

A hand is shown dropping a coin into a glass jar. The jar is filled with many coins and has a white label with the word 'DONATE' written on it. Several coins are also scattered on the surface next to the jar. The background is a warm, out-of-focus yellow.

**DONATING
TO BGST
IS NOW
EASIER THAN
EVER**

**DONATE
MONTHLY**

**ONE-TIME
DONATION**



BIBLICAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

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Office Hours

Monday to Saturday: 9:00 am – 6:00 pm
(Closed from 12-1 pm, Wed from 12-2 pm;
Closed Saturdays in June and December)