




WINDOW TO BGST NEWSLETTER

JULY 2020



HOW YOU CAN BE A PRAYING MA(TIS)

BY
MR QUEKTZE-MING

What was it about a small Jewish-origin sect that caused its teachings and ways of life to be the most diverse and inclusive movement in human history? In what ways do the Bible and Christian Tradition provide the foundation for, and still speak to, the major ethical issues of our day? How does a 5th century North African bishop – writing when old certainties of his city are falling apart – help us navigate our disruptive VUCA (“Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, Ambiguous”) world? Does a 16th century Spanish mystic have anything relevant to say about decision-making and soul-nurturing in leadership?

If you are intrigued by the framing and possible answers to these questions, then our new degree programme may just be for you.

BGST is proud to announce our new programme: **Master of Arts in Theology and Interdisciplinary Studies - MA(TIS).**

This is our 60-credit Masters programme, refreshed and rebooted to better reflect BGST’s Vision and Mission. In particular, the core elements of BGST training are: Scripture, Christian Tradition, and

Interdisciplinary Studies, and the core traits we wish to see in BGST students are: Christlikeness, living out their calling, and fulfilling God’s creative and redemptive purposes. This programme also allows our graduates to highlight their degree as an MA (in situations where that is desirable; for example, at non-religious workplaces).

With the introduction of MA(TIS), there will no longer be any subject concentrations for our 60-credit masters programme, for BGST aims towards integration rather than specialisation. Interdisciplinary Studies (including Cultural Analysis, Marketplace Theology, Practical Skills) have been made more prominent.

What does an MA(TIS) graduate look like?

Our MA(TIS) graduates are competent in engaging Scripture, Christian Tradition¹ (including Spiritual Discernment), and Interdisciplinary Studies. They can **nurture themselves and others** in Christlikeness to live out their calling in Church and the Marketplace.

What does the MA(TIS) curriculum look like?

The MATIS Curriculum will be as shown in the following table. All courses with unique course codes bear 3 credits except for those marked *, which bear 1.5 credits.

MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGY & INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (total 60 credits)		
Core Courses (48 credits, incorporating 30 credits Dip CS)		
Scripture (15 credits)	Christian Tradition (18 credits)	Interdisciplinary (15 credits)
HE101 Biblical Hermeneutics & Interpretation	TS101 Christian Theology for Everyday Life	ID101 Christianity, Culture, and Society
OT101 OT Foundations 1 OT102 OT Foundations 2	CH101 History of Christianity 1 CH102 History of Christianity 2	MM101* Vocation, Work, & Ministry
NT101 NT Foundations 1 NT101 NT Foundations 2	TS211 Christian Theology 1 OR TS212 Christian Theology 2	ID201* Anthropology for Christian Ministry & Practice ²
	CS101* Christian Spirituality 1 CS102* Christian Spirituality 2	ID211 Asian Religions in a Contemporary Age
	Any Christian Spirituality course	ID/TS253* Church, Society, & Ethical Issues ³
		MM102* Christians in a Digital & Disruptive World ⁴
		Any Learning & Teaching AND/OR Preaching Courses ⁵ (3 credits)
Elective Courses (12 credits)		

MA(TIS) will be officially launched in August 2020.

With the launch of MA(TIS), we will no longer be accepting students into the current MCS programme. Current MCS students who signed up for their programme in AY2012-13 or later may choose to graduate (under their existing curriculum) with either an MCS or MA(TIS). Look out for further information on how our degree programmes – DipCS, MA(TIS), MDiv – have been refreshed, how they build on each other, and the pathways from one to the next. Please do not hesitate to contact us or, if you are a current Diploma student, your academic advisor, on the pathways to completing your educational goals.

We hope you are as excited about our new programme as we are. Would you join us to be a Praying MA(TIS)?

¹ The term “Christian Tradition” refers generally to the ways the Church has reflected upon, and articulated their experience of life by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the love of God, with the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, in obedience to Holy Scripture. More particularly Christian Tradition is expressed in theological subject matters including Theology, History, Ethics, Spirituality, and/or Spiritual Discernment.

² ID201 *Anthropology for Christian Ministry & Practice*: This new course will depend on our MA(TIS) graduate’s appreciation and knowledge of cultural anthropological categories in Christian ministry, an important skillset for cross-cultural interactions in modern societies.

³ Formerly called Christian Ethics. The new name, Church, Society & Ethical Issues, better reflects the course’s new emphases on contemporary marketplace, societal, and political arenas, rather than only traditional categories of Christian ethical reflection.

⁴ This course will equip the MA(TIS) graduate to navigate disruptive VUCA ecologies both in church and marketplace contexts.

⁵ Teaching and Learning and/or Preaching is a new core requirement because the MA(TIS) graduate must have skills to nurture themselves and others. They may focus on either or both categories, for a total of 3 credits.

B R E A K D O W N

PRAYING THROUGH CHAOS BREAKTHROUGH

24, 31 July & 7 August • 8.00 – 9.30pm • Fee: \$45.

Register at bit.ly/bgstretreatseries



KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON - MAKE A DATE WITH CHAOS

Thrown suddenly into an unexpected confusion and chaos due to the pandemic, many find it hard to navigate this new normal. But confusion can be a grace and as the book of Genesis reveals, creation can emerge from chaos. How then can we navigate this time of crisis without losing our centre? After all, the Chinese word for crisis consists of two characters - danger and opportunity. What might God be inviting us towards?

BGST will be presenting a series consisting of three online prayer and formation sessions to help you to pray through chaos.

SESSION 1: SPIRITUAL FREEDOM IN A TIME OF CHAOS

When everything that I have come to experience as normal has broken down, what disposition would serve me well in order to navigate this time of confusion and chaos? Who models this disposition for me in scripture?

SESSION 2: FROM CHAOS TO CREATION

How might chaos be an invitation for me to bring something new to birth? How can I pray with the creation story to hear my own call to re-creation?

SESSION 3: DISCERNMENT IN A TIME OF CHAOS

When so many emotions now cloud my judgement, how can I begin to make good decisions? What are some useful discernment tools that will help me discern God's voice in this time of chaos?

The **SOVEREIGN GOD**

and the Christian Disciple

An On-line Seminar by
Bishop Emeritus
Robert M Solomon



BGST would like to congratulate **Bishop Emeritus Rev Dr Robert M Solomon** for his interesting and highly engaging Talks on *"The Sovereign God and the Christian Disciple"*.

Over 1000 persons registered for the webinar and another 150+ persons joined us on YouTube on 6 and 13 June 2020. The questions to Bishop came fast and furiously over the two Saturdays and many felt that the sessions could have gone on longer!

There were fascinating questions like "At what point then are we arm twisting God?", "How should we pray for someone who is very sick; have cancer or terminal disease? For healing or ask God take him home?" or even "Discerning God's will in prayer can be difficult; sometimes what we hear may be our own will (human desire) or the Devil. Are there biblical examples of how we can affirm that what we hear is God's will; and in your personal experience, how long should we wait before we abide by what we discern to be God's will in prayer?" For those who missed Bishop's enlightening replies, may we suggest that you purchase his book from *Armour Publishing*. Priced at \$27.00, there is free delivery for purchases above S\$100.

For enquiries, contact 6276 9976 or email sales@armourpublishing.com

Thank you to the sponsors for this event which included payment for the upgraded Zoom Account, and gifts to BGST to help defray costs.

Turkish Delight

A WHOLE NEW
MULTI-SENSORY EXPERIENCE



REVIEWS!



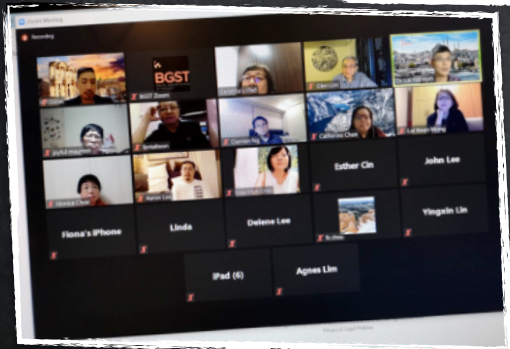
“ We used to take memorable birthday trips but this year, its homely birthday treats. ”



“ Had a wonderful Turkish experience at House on the Moon today! Refreshing yoghurt soup, spiced, shredded chicken, and an eggplant stuffed with lamb and beef as main course. For dessert, it was pumpkin. All specially created by the uber talented Huseyin Turan! ”

“ The texture of the egg plant was just nice, we are egg plant fans, any type of egg plants, so we appreciate the texture of this, just done nicely.

The food is very nice bro! Dessert is yummy, egg plant is delicious & rice is very flavourful (like nasi lemak!) and soup is tasty.



“ Interesting talk and food. The candied pumpkin was a nice finish! ”



FREE

RESOURCE



**UNDER THE WINGS OF GOD:
LESSONS FROM RUTH IN TROUBLED TIMES**
BGST'S FREE TEACHING SERIES ON THE BOOK OF RUTH.

[ACCESS HERE](#)

Contemplating Covid-19 Resources



[BROWSE OUR COLLECTION](#)

2020

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ONLINE PRAYER + SPIRITUAL FORMATION (SESSION 1 & 2) (FRI)

24,31
JUL

"BREAKDOWN TO BREAKTHROUGH:
PRAYING THROUGH CHAOS"
(SESSION 1) SPIRITUAL FREEDOM IN TIME OF
CHAOS
(SESSION 2) FROM CHAOS TO CREATION

Speaker: Mr Anthony Siow
8:00pm-9:30pm
bit.ly/bgstretreatseries

MEAL & TALK (SAT)

25
JUL

"FLOURISHING @ SOCIETY"

Speaker: TBC
8:00pm-9:00pm
**More details to come. If you enjoyed
Turkish Delight, join us for another
Experience.**

ONLINE PRAYER + SPIRITUAL FORMATION (SESSION 3) (FRI)

7
AUG

"BREAKDOWN TO BREAKTHROUGH:
PRAYING THROUGH CHAOS"
(SESSION 3) DISCERNMENT IN A TIME OF
CHAOS

Speaker: Mr Anthony Siow
8:00pm-9:30pm
bit.ly/bgstretreatseries

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

BGST BEGINS A NEW SEMESTER

The BGST office will be open from 10 am to 4 pm from Mondays to Fridays. Visits after hours or on Saturdays are by appointment only.

The library is also open during office hours but do contact Daisy at simd@bgst.edu.sg if you need to use the reference section after hours or arrange for book drops.

Live classes will be held on Monday and Wednesday nights. All other classes will be held via zoom for the first session and the class will then decide the format for subsequent sessions.

LIBRARY CHARGES FOR NEW AY2020/21

Library charges for the new Academic Year 2020/21 will be priced at \$130. This will allow access to the physical collection, OverDrive and DTL. This charge is compulsory for all Programme Students but is optional for all other students. For inquiries, please contact Daisy at simd@bgst.edu.sg

ATTENTION - LIBRARY MEMBERS!

We will now be charging \$50 per annum for the use of the Library (physical collection only). This will apply when the new AY2020/21 starts. Regarding your deposit of \$100 currently held with us, please choose one option from the following and inform Daisy at simd@bgst.edu.sg:

1. State if you would prefer to have the \$100 deposit returned to you via Cheque or PayNow
2. Convert the \$100 deposit into 2 years' Library Membership
3. Donate the \$100 deposit to BGST.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you!



THE DTL

For current DTL users who want to have access to DTL after 30th June, you will need to pay \$130 for a 1 year subscription as the current password will be changed. A new password will be given upon receipt of payment.

PayNow is the most preferred mode of payment. Send payment details to Daisy at simd@bgst.edu.sg.



THE BOOK CORNER IS CLOSED

If you would like any of the books, you can, for a minimum of \$50 donation. We will provide a bag and you can fill it up with any of the items we have available.

**All brand new!
Hurry! While stocks last!**



FACULTY SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS (JULY-AUG)



DR LAI PAK WAH 5 Jul

Jesus: "Who do you say that I am?" Mark 8:27-38

Mt Carmel B-P Church



DR TAN SENG KONG 25-26 July

John, a Commendable Servant (Matthew 11:1-19; 14:1-12)

Bethel Assembly of God



DR KWA KIEM KIOK 12 July

Missions Sunday

Yishun Methodist Church



MR LEOW WEN PIN 5 July

God's Gift of Love (1 Cor 13)

Singapore Life Church English Service

26 July TBC

Chapel of Christ our Hope (Sunday Service)

9 Aug TBC

Changi Bethany Church (English Service)

**Help BGST grow to achieve
its vision of training the
whole people of God!**

Consider donating today

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DONATION**





BIBLICAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

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