

Report of the President
Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary
May 3, 2018

I. OPENING REMARKS

It was 1969 and I was in the 7th grade when a bulletin announcing an opportunity for students to become involved in the track and field team of our junior high school was posted. I loved sports (and still do), so the coach in charge found my name signed near the top of the list expressing my interest in the team. When it became clear during the first few practice sessions that I was not fast enough for sprints, strong enough for shotput and discus, or flexible enough for hurdles or high jump, I found myself in middle distance running --- first the 800-meter run and later the 1600-meter relay, commonly called the 4 x 400. I enjoyed it and learned a lot, but unfortunately my family situation during the next few years made it difficult to consistently participate on a team. Alas, my future hopes as a potential Olympic runner were dashed, but great distance runners during that area like Sebastian Coe, Steve Prefontaine, Bill Rodgers, and Jim Ryun became some of my heroes.



Though I liked running the 800 meters – with its pacing and feel for whether to run the first lap fast/second lap slow, or vice versa – I grew to love the 1600 relay, with its emphasis on teamwork and strategy. The relay consists of four different runners running one full lap of 400 meters and then passing a baton to the next runner on their team until the last runner crosses the finish line. There are designated lanes for the first runner and for the beginning of the second runner, but then runners move toward the inside track and must maneuver (fight) for position. I learned that the fastest runners are usually placed in first and last position (last being known as the anchor), the 2nd and 3rd runners in the relay placed there because they were smart runners, steady in their pace, good baton-passers, and focused on the team rather than individual performance. It was usually the first event in the meet, so one’s prior preparation, experience, and ability to willingness to move right into race were key. In most races, I was given the 2nd “leg,” but never worried that, for some, that identified me as the slowest runner of the four. I knew it was important for runner #2 to keep the team competitive and play my part in an ultimate victory.

I have thought about that experience in this, my second year as President of Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary. Though the baton is in my hand, I am not running the 2nd leg alone --- somehow in God’s economy all of us (trustees, faculty, staff, students, and regional leaders) are involved on the track together. The start of the race was exciting; we came out of the blocks fast with lots of energy and enthusiasm. As the first-year baton was passed to the second and positioning became important, the competition we face became more apparent: contextual challenges, finances, administrative issues, personnel problems, time demands, distractions from the mission to which God has called us. If we move too quickly we will too quickly fatigue and fade; too slowly and we will lose ground that is hard to make

up; without smart thinking in positioning ourselves the challenge will get the inside track and make our distance longer; without proper pacing our timing for the hand-off to year 3 will be haphazard. Focused, steady, smart, team-driven, always aware of positioning and timing, confident that we're on track --- my coach's reminders that were spoken in my head during my 2nd position on the relay team have echoed in my mind often in this my second year of running the race of APNTS President.

Last year's report began with five key ingredients in leadership success: **Vision . . . challenge . . . community . . . courage . . . persistence**. Leaders on any mission must recognize the journey, while being able to both possess and share the direction and determination to turn a vision into a victory. The road to fulfilling a vision is not easy --- there are both mountains and valleys, the enjoyment and exultation share the track with the bumps and the bruises. But if we stick together, stick our necks out, and stick to it, we'll run the race in a way that our Heavenly Coach, our team, and those who cheer us on will be proud.

Allow me to retrace my steps in this year's "leg" of the race as APNTS President. Though the actual 4 x 400 relay typically requires each runner to cover only one lap, I have divided the year into three "laps" we have spanned (summer, 1st, and 2nd semesters), to provide an overview of many of my involvements as well as the seminary's activities. Let's take the baton and run together.

Lap 1: May 7- August 12, 2017 (summer term)

Just as students often move quickly from Commencement into a new ministry assignment, so your seminary president came out of the weekend running immediately to a new year of activities and responsibilities. Some of the highlights during the summer term, this "first lap," were:

- On May 9-10, just three days after Commencement, I traveled to represent APNTS at the Metro Manila district PALCON, leading a morning devotional session and presenting an afternoon seminar with Dr. Peggy on ministerial ethics. I appreciated the invitation of our local DS Arnel Piilin, enabling me to connect with area pastors and also spend some time with him.
- The very next week, Dr. Dick Eugenio and I attended the Association of Christian Schools, Colleges, and Universities in Cebu City on May 14-17, with workshops, plenary sessions, and networking time with leaders of other Christian schools, and I participated in the commissioning of the new ACSCU council. We are working with ACSCU with Dr. Eugenio's direct involvement on a new accreditation instrument for seminaries that stands to benefit us greatly in the future.
- Peggy and I hosted the general services crew for lunch in our home on May 19, a Trevecca Nazarene University student work and witness team here working with field leadership for a dinner on May 22, and a farewell luncheon for the Zweigle family on May 30. We continue to devote ourselves from a pastoral perspective to our campus community and we love them all dearly.
- On May 21-24, APNTS hosted Kindra Bible from the International Board of Education (IBOE) office during May 21-24 as she led us through leadership training for the GNECSIS student information system for data management. As you may know, APNTS was selected for the first



installation of GNECsis with the understanding that we would in turn train other institutions in Asia-Pacific, but I discovered earlier in the year that the initial training before I arrived had been poorly attended and the program not being fully utilized or developed as intended. Many thanks to Dr. Mitch Modine (faculty academic computing coordinator), Noreen Del Rosario (librarian), Judy Pabilando (registrar), who have taken the lead on campus and have also traveled to PNC to begin our shared training, along with Dr. Peggy Oldham (student life), Calm Mijares (HR), and Rowena Capsa-Nuestro (Accounting), who have begun or will soon begin use of the program in their areas.

- On May 25 the campus sustained a direct hit from a lightning surge, knocking out several switches and network devices across campus. With the good work of the APRC team, internet and phone service was restored, albeit on a somewhat limited basis, until the equipment could be replaced. Some of those items were unavailable or extremely expensive here, so provisions were made to sustain us



until I returned from the US in August with a suitcase full of the needed items. We were blessed with donations from two churches that I solicited allowing us to purchase them without an impact to our operational budget (beyond what insurance covered), with enough left to purchase an additional laptop computer for Connie Armstrong's use in work for the President's office, as the one previously used for that purchase was moved

to the registrar's office after one of their units expired. God provides!

- I brought the commencement sermon for the Grace Christian College junior high school graduation on May 31. President Dr. James L. Tan is a well-known leader in Christian education circles here and I was so pleased to be asked to speak after making friends with him during ACSCU. I made a presentation on family stewardship and financial management at Taytay 1st Church of the Nazarene on June 4, based on a seminar on "Financial Peace" that I had led on many occasions during my pastoral role at Nashville 1st Nazarene, along with an expanded version to young adults of the Metro Manila district NYI on October 14. Dr. Peggy was the keynote speaker later that afternoon for the Metro Manila NMI Day of Prayer.

Peggy and I made our way back to the USA the 2nd week of June to attend the Nazarene General Assembly in Indianapolis, Indiana (June 19-30), and then to travel for missionary deputation services through the 2nd week of August. The assembly was preceded by the GNEC (Global Nazarene Education Consortium) conference, where I served on a panel on the value of student information systems based on my previous higher education experience and our commitment to the GNECsis and joined in on several roundtable discussions with other college, university, and seminary leaders around the world.



The highlight of the assembly was the APNTS Alumni, Partners, and Friends breakfast, attracting 108 participants (capacity was 100 but eight APNTS staff and my family willingly decided to forego their meal so that all could have breakfast!). There were stories and reflections of the past, updates on the present, and dreams for the future, with four of the seven presidents sharing from the platform. It was a wonderful event, far exceeding our expectations in numbers, fellowship, and fun. Feedback for

the event was extremely positive, and one of my connections from the USA helped me to provide the

\$1,000 USD needed to keep the cost low and the impact to the APNTS budget minimal. We look forward to another such event in 2021! It was an honor to represent APNTS and the Asia-Pacific region the following week as a non-voting delegate to the Assembly, attending plenary sessions, the regional caucus, and the various business meetings of the church.

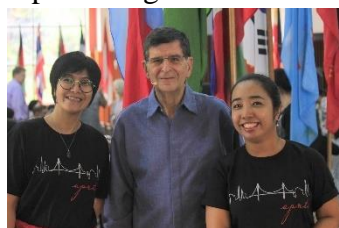
After the General Assembly, we embarked on seven weeks of travel to raise money for our deputation fund for ministry expenses, while also making an emphasis on student scholarships. We presented the seminary at churches and NMI conventions in Florida, Tennessee, Maryland, New York, Maine, Wisconsin, and Kansas, replenishing our deputation fund while also raising scholarships to cover costs of four students and ½ of our chapel sound system project goal. Praise the Lord for generous Nazarenes committed to global missions! We stayed in regular contact with the campus through email and teleconference meetings and realized what is said is very true --- *“home assignment is hard work, not vacation”* As August rolled around, we were ready to return to our campus family.



Lap 2: August 13 – December 31, 2017 (1st semester)

We returned from home assignment on August 13 and dove right into the 1st semester schedule. As is tradition, I spoke in the Opening Convocation on August 15, welcoming a new group of students to the APNTS family. Peggy and I were scheduled in two classes each: she in a weekly master’s class in Interpersonal Communications and a PhD modular class on the Psychology of Change in November, and myself in a shared role with Dr. Fletcher Tink (Seminar on Pastoral Ministry/Urban Ministry) and with Dr. LeBron Fairbanks (Strategic Planning). Though I immensely enjoy teaching, the class load along with administrative responsibilities proved quite heavy, and I have asked that our loads be limited in the future, with my preference for the modular format.

My mention of Dr. LeBron Fairbanks being with us during 1st semester even now in writing this report brings a smile to my face! As our visiting professor/president emeritus and former first lady, Dr.



Lebron and Anne provided such encouragement to the campus during their four months here --- teaching two classes and a workshop in Korea, preaching at our annual Spiritual Deepening Week and 34th Anniversary celebration chapel, and being a



meal partner and feedback giver for me during those days. Before they left, funds were provided to repaint the Unit 7 men’s dormitory (behind the dining hall) and scholarship funding for several students and for SWAP were provided. We are indeed grateful for the ongoing involvement of our 2nd president and first lady!

Other highlights at a glance were:

- Not long after our return, I was back in the air and on the road, travelling for the region to Singapore (Ministry Strategy Training) and to Bangkok (Course of Study Committee). Both were excellent opportunities for sharing ministry and educational vision with others and to contribute on behalf of



APNTS to ongoing development in these two areas. I also was invited to the annual meeting of the Philippines National Advisory Board held in Binalonan, where I presented a workshop, reported on APNTS news, and sat in on the sessions during the week, and to Union Church of Manila, where I presented the ministry of APNTS is three morning services in August and led a student group to participate in their Ministry Fair in October. I serve on the Board of Directors of the Asia

Graduate School of Theology (AGST), attending the annual meeting in September. I was honored to be the guest speaker at the 53rd Anniversary celebration of the Angeles City First Church of the Nazarene, where our friend and APNTS supporter Dr. Angelito Agbuya has pastored for 51 of those years! Dr. Peggy traveled as well, joining Rev. Sherry Shmidt as APNTS representatives and speakers at the Philippines Women of the Word conference in Davao in October.

- Along with being out among our constituents during first semester, we also welcomed a regional Think Tank to our campus in October to participate in the Donald Owens School of World Mission Lecture Series and Symposium, to continue dialogue about missional thinking and action on the region. Dr. Melba Maggay, Christian anthropologist, activist, and author best known for her books on culture and social change was guest speaker for the series, an outstanding event led by Dr. Lynn Shmidt, Assistant Professor of Missions and regional NMI coordinator. Dr. Keith Killen also was with us in October for a series of strategic planning discussions, and four of our Korea district leaders were hosted on campus in November while visiting Korean churches in the area.

- We may look back on October 28 – November 2 years from now as a historically significant week for APNTS, as, at the invitation of President Dr. Manabu Ishida. I went to Tokyo to meet with faculty members and students of Japan Nazarene Theological Seminary to explore ways the two schools could collaborate and connect as possible our programs for the betterment of both seminaries. I thoroughly enjoyed the new friendships and productive conversations, and we were so pleased to welcome Dr. Ishida to APNTS in February to continue the discussions. Dr. Dick Eugenio is now working with him and JNTS faculty regarding syllabi and program structure, in hope that a formal proposal may be coming in 2019. Please pray for their progress in the months ahead.



- APNTS celebrated our 34th anniversary on November 14 with a special chapel service that also launched our Spiritual Deepening Week, which we hope will be an annual event. Dr. LeBron Fairbanks was the anniversary and the deepening week speaker, tying the two events together masterfully with the theme of “*Whatever Happens, Walk Worthy*” from Philippians 1:27, addressed in three parts for the three services of the week: “*Whatever Happens . . . **Keep the Faith***” (anniversary

sermon), *Embrace the Tensions*, and *Watch our Words*.” Copies of his presentations are available at <http://www.boardserve.org/blogs/whatever-happens-walk-worthy/>.

First semester also had challenges and burdens along with the highlights. In early June, while we were away on home assignment, the hoisting rope and brake on the elevator in the Nielson Center was damaged and the cost of repair was approximately 793,000 Php (or \$15,850), with the need of a maintenance contract at an additional annual cost of 67,200 Php (\$1,350), making the total cost of repair around 860,200 Php (over \$17,200). Obviously, we don't have that kind of money on hand and have no reserve plant funds for such large maintenance items. After several weeks of requiring the climb up the steps to reach the upper floors (with reports that we were losing rentals because of it), we had to move ahead with the repairs. After weeks of solicitation of funds, we were able to secure a little over \$8,500 from donors in Australia and the US which, however, was not received and applied until the new fiscal year.



Though the Business Manager's report at the 2017 board meeting projected a fiscal year ending of a deficit of about \$4,000 US, the elevator repair and other financial issues that emerged became increasingly clear in August, and we closed our fiscal year on September 30 with a \$43,584 deficit. You received a cover letter from me with the 2017-18 budget proposal outlining those challenges and how we proposed to address them in the years ahead. I made the decision to personally take on the budget-building process and make financial management a priority for me as President over the next two years. Our BOT secretary Engr. Shionel Gesite had been serving in an interim role and as a consultant for financial management since my arrival and had anticipated being relieved of those duties in July, though circumstances had created a need for him to continue (which I will outline next). Given my desire to have direct involvement with seminary finances and savings that would result from eliminating the associated reimbursement, I asked Shionel to wrap up his direct operational involvement on October 31. Thanks to our friend Shionel for all he has done for the seminary during the interim period.

The operating budget that you approved in October reflected a projected income consistent with 2016-17 income totals, with expenses budgets reduced by an overall 83%. Four positions were either not replaced or not filled. Income projections were conservative without being de-motivating or discouraging, recognizing that surpassing lines would result to more income with which to operate or to restore some of the previous year's loss. We discussed the budget plan with faculty, with staff, and with student leaders in separate meetings, and briefly collectively during a chapel service on September 21. We have been surrounded by prayer during this time by our campus community. Together we committed to an intensified stewardship of our resources and shared responsibility for reducing costs while contributing toward our efforts to increase enrollment, serve rental clients well, heighten awareness of the need of scholarship



contribution while ensuring that current student accounts were being paid. My hope has been that income expectations would not be so optimistic as to become unrealistic, and that, while doing so, reductions made wouldn't be so drastic as to interrupt services to our students and constituencies and not so extreme that they would create an unrealistic pattern for expenses in years to come. Our financial status to date is very positive seven-months into our fiscal year but we must not relax, as the road ahead to financial stability may be a long and daunting one. God will help us as we trust in Him to help us make wise choices.

One of the positions not filled was that of Business Manager. I will propose action later in this meeting regarding the responsibilities of financial management at APNTS as we move into the future, but thankfully for the time being Dr. Keith Killen agreed while he was here for our strategic planning sessions in October to serve in an interim role during the 2018 calendar year on a voluntary basis, with three visits of six-weeks each (January-February, April-May, and August-September) and management online during the weeks in between. I am very grateful that he not only is aggressively addressing prevailing issues in financial processes, facilities and general services, our income streams from rentals and other avenues, and management of our staff.



We announced to faculty, students, and staff during November and again in January, the need to request a tuition increase for the 2018-19 academic year, seeking approval from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) of the Philippines and from you, the Board of Trustees. A proposal for action will be upcoming later in this meeting.

One other setback in campus development occurred in November related to the repair renovation of our dining hall. You may recall from last year's meeting that we received an Alabaster grant for a combination of dining hall and residence hall repairs and had begun to raise funds for the dining hall project to allow for as much as possible to be applied afterward to the residence hall needs. Plans were to complete the project at the end of July in time for 1st semester, but weather and construction crew issues had delayed the work. Word then came in early November that someone had reported the project to city government, complaining that we did not have the required permit; those leading the project had led me to understand that a permit was not needed in this kind of renovation. After some blessed assistance by area Nazarenes, we were able to pay for the permit without penalty but not until losing almost three months. Gratefully work began again in February and is now nearing completion. Overruns, unexpected expenses, and a lower number of donations than we had hoped for have now depleted much of the grant, but we are still hoping to begin some work on residence halls sometime in the near future through work and witness.

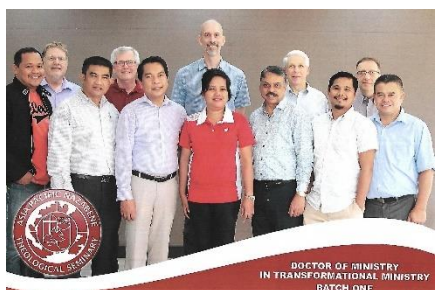


We left for our annual vacation on December 8 tired and with a heavy burden yet knowing as we worshipped through the Advent season that Christ who became flesh and dwelt among us over 2,000 years ago has promised His presence and His power today for us as we are called and live according to His purpose!

Lap 3: January 5 – May 5, 2018 (2nd semester)

Dr. Peggy and I returned from vacation with a renewed spirit, just in time to welcome new students in our orientation sessions on January 5th. Highlights of “Lap 3” (or 2nd semester) came quickly:

- The new Doctor of Ministry program had begun even before we returned, with the first course taught



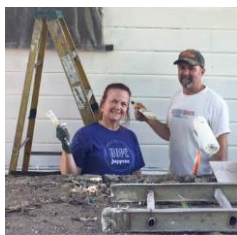
by Dr. Grant Zweigle and Dr. Lynn Shmidt underway on January 2nd with classes and an opening banquet. Dr. Clark Armstrong, program coordinator, led us in a day of prayer on November 8 as we neared the application deadline without a sufficient number to begin, and God --- and students --- came through, and the program moved ahead. We have had some bumps along the way with student finances and academic persistence, but we are

hopeful that the second group will begin as scheduled this summer. Many thanks to Dr. Clark who working very hard to make this endeavor a successful and productive one, with pastors even better equipped to serve as missional and transformational leaders for their church and for their community.

- District travel was a vital part of my higher education leadership in schools I served previously, and I have always thoroughly enjoyed interacting with pastors and laypersons on behalf of the campus I represented. Unfortunately, I was only able to attend two district assemblies on the region this year due to schedule conflicts or difficulty making arrangements. I have learned that, while USA district assembly participation is expected by school presidents and representatives with a risk of offense of the school leadership does **not** attend, the hospitality that is such an important part of Asian culture and the international travel dimension involved often more requires an invitation and personal care than my experience, when I avoided any additional load on my hosts by, for the most part, taking care of myself. Please know that I am very interested in making contact on the field as much as possible and, recognizing that there may be better times to do so than district assemblies, I would be so glad to serve our fields and districts while representing APNTS whenever and wherever I can.



- We were thrilled to learn that Kevin and Janet Wilkins expressed interested in a Work and Witness



Coordinator role, combining the responsibilities for APNTS and the Philippine-Micronesia field, a position that has been unfilled for 3-4 years as I understand it. After a visit to campus in October, we fell in love with them and happily welcomed them into this role on January 19. They are already hard at work, already hosting two teams and taking on general oversight of plant development at present, with possibility of an expanded role being proposed in our revised administrative structure. They plan to enlist teams from local areas, from churches/districts across

the region, and from USA/Canada. With needs on our campus so great and such a great facility to house teams (VMC) we prayed for great leaders, and God has answered our prayers with the Wilkins.

- Our relationship with Korea Nazarene University is enhanced by our offering of the Accelerated English Program (AEP), a five-week intensive for students to study and improve their English skills while also experiencing friendships and the missional spirit of the seminary. We have hosted groups in July-August and in January-February, and Jocel Longcop and her team of teachers and student tutors have done a wonderful job. The January-February group of 16 was a little smaller than past groups but promotion is already out for the July-August group, led by our own Jin Jun, next year's APNTS student body president and now student liaison for AEP, and we are planning toward a full group of 30 students.



- In January we hosted David Fitzstevens and David Andrianoff, as they came to APNTS to explore the possibility of APNTS housing a significant collection of historically significant materials pertaining to Christianity in Indochina, with great potential for attracting future researchers. This is in the development stage and a decision will be made soon involving all parties.
- Drs. Dick Eugenio, Floyd Cunningham, and I were named as delegates to the Global Theology Conference held near Ocala, Florida USA in March. The theme focused on Christology, and Dr. Dick was one of six presenters of scholarly papers; each of us were part of small group discussions, joining several from across our region in representing Asia-Pacific. We also connected with many APNTS alumni and friends during the conference. Many thanks to Dr. Mark Louw, Dr. John Moore, and the conference committee for the region for allowing us to participate on the event.



- Connie Armstrong and Rachel Piilin have been key players in the improvement of our website and our social media presence. If you have not already, check out www.apnts.edu.ph for news, photos, and info on APNTS programs, and <https://www.facebook.com/apnts/>, our APNTS Facebook page. Many of our faculty have their own Facebook pages you can follow, Steve Walsh is always busy updating the APNTS Alumni Association page, and the APNTS Twitter page coordinated by Dr. Mitch Modine is very active - <https://twitter.com/APNTS>. Our electronic presence is very important for public awareness of the seminary, and I am thankful for those who give time and effort to it.
- Several events for faculty, students, and regional supporters have highlighted during this time.



Students from several area seminaries came to our campus on February 24 for this year's Inter-Seminary Sports Fellowship (ISSF) hosted by the APNTS student body council, which was great fun and gratifying to watch as our students led in many different capacities. A Faculty Development workshop on February 26 on transformational learning led by Dr. Clair Budd from Asbury University, who has served at APNTS this semester as a visiting faculty member, was outstanding. APNTS was the site of a regional writer's conference February 28 – March 3, with featured guest speaker Dr. Neville Bartle. Dr. Brian Hull, like Dr. Budd also from Asbury, was our

guest preacher for our Spiritual Renewal Week March 12-16 during our chapel hour and Wednesday night prayer meeting, while also leading a youth ministry workshop and meeting with small groups throughout the week. We joined with Taytay 1st Nazarene Church's GenCon congregation for a special concert during Maundy Thursday's *Alay Lakad*, where pilgrims walk for miles up to the Antipolo Cathedral. And pass the seminary gate, featuring Christafari, a Christian reggae ministry, which introduced APNTS to thousands along their journey.

- April 24 was a red-letter day at APNTS, as we officially re-opened the Owens School of World



Missions with the dedication of the Wesley Room on the NCEE 4th floor. Dr. Lynn Shmidt, program director for intercultural studies, shared the renewed vision for our cross-cultural mission at APNTS through an established an identity on campus, on the region, and around the global church for those following God's calling to missions. There will be regularly scheduled speakers and discussions on contemporary and contextual matters that affect missions in Asia, an annual think-tank, and a newly-approved master's degree in intercultural studies. Thanks to Dr. Shmidt, the donors who are making this possible, and to

Dr. Louw and others for their support of the Owens School.

- Our biggest highlight of this year is still to come --- 2018 Commencement weekend, a culmination of the hard work and study of 25 students in our various academic programs who will graduate, launching them into ministry to apply what they have learned and experienced in the arena to which God has called them. The ceremony next Saturday is called "Commencement" for good reason, for graduation is not an ending but a beginning, where focus shifts to the future, moving from what students have accomplished here to what they will become as they depart. What they have done at APNTS is but a preface, with meaning only when the story of God plotted through their lives becomes a reality in transformed lives for Christ's sake. We understand our role as partners with you in equipping pastors, disciplers, church-planters, missionaries, teachers, and all forms of creative ministers to be mobilized for the Kingdom, and Commencement is a bridge from preparation into that purpose to which God has called them.



I have formed this personal report in a chronological format this year, to step through what I have experienced in my role this year as President while also highlighting the scope of activity involved in leading the seminary. There are so many other daily happenings --- classes, chapels, meetings, important conversations, meals together, ministries and outreach projects in our local area and throughout the region, beyond that with which I can directly interface. Everyone --- from students to faculty, office staff to crew workers, librarians to accountants, and donors and supporters near and far --- runs the race of seminary excellence. Those whose lives our students are called to impact in the years ahead are counting on us! As Paul wrote in Hebrews: *"Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and entangles, and run the race marked out for us with perseverance,*

fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, so that we will not grow weary and lose heart.” May He be our strength and our sustainer, now and forevermore!

Our key administrators will report more specifically in their areas of responsibility but allow me to introduce some of those progress made toward the priorities I laid out for us in last year’s report. highlights prior to their more in-depth report on academic affairs, student life, and business management.

1) Enrollment growth

Priority one has been to *strengthen enrollment in existing on-campus programs and off-site locations, finding increased methods of marketing what we have to offer and articulating a compelling case for the value and practicality of graduate theological education and advanced scholarship.* The numbers for on-campus numbers are good. Students in on-campus master’s degree programs and non-degree certificate and diploma programs during 1st/2nd semester total 89 this year, compared to 81 last year. On-campus PhD attracted 38 students and the first DMin class had seven students, also an increase over last year (though comparisons are difficult because of a change in the way we schedule those classes). Our partnership with the Metro Manila district in the LAMP program has brought in 55 students over the two semesters, compared to 41 last year. You can find this year’s enrollment numbers in the BOT folder in the file server.



Priority two has been working toward *additional off-site locations and, eventually, on-line options,* working collaboratively with field strategy coordinators, district superintendents, and regional Bible college presidents and academic deans to locate possible centers and configure programs to meet the needs of our region. You may recall last year that an outstanding group of Master of Ministry graduates from China came to participate in Commencement on campus; this year’s cohort is still being built and we appreciate the support of Dr. Rick Power in this effort. Sites in Myanmar and Viet Nam are ongoing, and new locations are being considered for Thailand and Papua New Guinea, with a collaboration with Japan Nazarene Seminary in process as I mentioned earlier. Our student count this year is 30, though that number is also fluid based on registration accuracy. We have shown interest in four other sites but must consider our financial and faculty resources before moving ahead with them. We also work based on interest and invitation, so if any of you have either, please let’s begin a conversation about how we can serve you. The possibility of on-line options is out there, as well as video-based classes, but again resources to invest ahead in those possibilities will be needed.



Priority three has been to *nurture and advance donor potential,* promoting our teaching ministry, identifying needs, and attracting committed contributors to projects and undesignated giving to seminary operations. My experience in doing so has involved travel contacts, publications, and networking, which to a limited degree I have been able to do this year. I mentioned last year that a budget income line labeled “Donations Raised by the President” included the expectation of 1.5 million PhP (or \$30,000).

Discovering this in January left me little time to do that, and since I am also focused on fund-raising for scholarships, special projects, and our ministry deputation account, securing that large sum just to “keep the lights on” seemed insurmountable. Knowing the wisdom of budgeting income conservatively, this year’s undesignated amount to be raised by the president was set at 750,000 PhP (or \$15,000); I am pleased to point out that God has blessed us with undesignated donations of 1,455,760 PhP (\$28,544) after seven months so far. Some of you have also contributed to that fund, and I am grateful; I would be thrilled to add a “Donations Raised by the Trustees” line to our income budget next year --- which is



admittedly a common thing in schools in the US --- or inviting into support of one or more of our special projects. Let me know how I can help encourage you!

Of course, donations have been made by many others to scholarships and projects, and a document listing of those made over these seven months can be found in the file served titled 2017-18 Donors Report, which you can reference later. Two US churches we have called home in recent years have been responsible for 1,194,570 PhP (or approximately \$24,000) in designated and undesignated giving, which does not include gifts to our ministry deputation account. Praise the Lord for friends and family who support APNTS!

Priority four has been *developing and empowering campus leadership in key areas in new or renewed structures and processes*. Those around me may tire of my urging them that decision-making should take place at the lowest possible level and is best done in conversation than in a conference room. The president or ADCO does not make every decision, or even all the big decisions; we all take responsibility every day to think creatively and do the work required to be good leaders. Unfortunately, finances and traditions have created the need for interim administrators to step up, but even then, they have been very effective in delegating and developing leadership. Transitions are just a part of life on a missional campus, but more and more our commitment must be to train and place indigenous leaders from within our region, from other countries outside of the USA and the Philippines, to staff our seminary either in missionary, in paid staff, or in volunteer roles, part-time or full-time, short-term, or long-term.



Priority five has been to *revise and streamline our operational processes for efficiency, up-to-date relevance, customer service, and cost-saving*. Tradition is a wonderful thing until it blocks creativity,



necessary innovation, and productivity. I find myself often as the one who “stirs the pot,” as the metaphor goes, to help mix the ingredients and add new one for the right stew; I never want any of us to be afraid of trying something new or reticent to do something different because of comfort with the way things have always been. As I have worked organizational communication and work flow into a new administrative structure that you will review later in this meeting, I longer for software and skill to depict the three-dimensional rather than giving the appearance of top-down management. The phrase “teamwork makes the dream work” may or may not be something you’ve heard said before, but it is an embraced concept in higher education and

ministry leadership around the world, and I hope that will be said of me and my leadership and president here for years to come.

Priority six has been *developing new sources of revenue that do not distract from our core mission and enhance our identity and reputation* in this community, city, country, and region. I have grown



stressed in recent days that our commitment to facility rental reflect our interest in those who use our property and not just to help us balance our budget. However, I am also concerned that the wear-and-tear on our property without setting aside a percentage for upkeep, repair, and replacement will soon catch up with us. I wonder if we have grown dependent on the income lines without realizing the cost in the expense lines to support rentals are more than what we are bringing in, in the short-term and long-term. Keith Killen is helping us evaluate our rental prices and procedures, but also looking for other ways to maximize our property to help serve our core mission as a seminary. The cost of maintaining our property to operate the seminary is high --- perhaps too high to sustain us I have heard some say --- and the result too little to justify the expense. That is for you as a Board and you as regional officers to decide. I do know that, though nurturing the process is something I can do, finding new sources of revenue in a part of the world that is still new to me, is not. We will have to do that together. I hope you will join us in that venture.

Two years ago, Sunday, May 6, 2016, I attended a National Hickey League playoff game with our son Scott. Few if any here in Manila share my love for ice hockey and, with the heat, for good reason. That game began at 8 PM and at 12:45 AM it was still going on; since playoff games cannot end in a tie score, and the score was tied 3-



3, they played on through one, two, and into the third overtime period, the equivalent of two full games. Hockey moves pretty fast, and you dare not take your eye off the puck or you'll miss a score --- so we hadn't for almost five hours. When our team finally put one in the net around 1:00 AM to make the final score 4-3, I was exhausted – but happy. We had won! The next night I spent with our daughter and couldn't help but gloat a little because her boyfriend was a fan of the other team that Nashville had beaten that night. What great memories.



Things have happened fast in Scott and Lyndsey's lives since then; both are to be married this year, and Scott's wife, a new Christian who God's prevenient grace has protected from a damaging past relationship has three young and beautiful children, who now become our grandchildren. Lyndsey will move to a new place (Fresno, California) with her new husband and to a new school in which she will teach 7th grade English. Neither situation we would have anticipated when I boarded the Delta jet in Nashville on September 12, 2016 to fly 13,000 km away. Like so many parents and now new grandparents, a famous movie quote that echoes what I know about watching a hockey game comes to my mind: *"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."*

So, pray for us as we journey back to the USA next week for deputation fund-raising and, in between church and convention stops, two wedding celebrations. And pray for our adult children and our new grandchildren as changes are made in their lives and their new families are formed.

Our mission as a seminary is to prepare men and women for Christlike leadership and excellence in ministry. Our vision is to equip each new generation of leaders to disseminate the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Asia, the Pacific, and the world. Our focus is to serve the priorities of the Asia-Pacific region and address the broad-range of needs in the nations we serve, for graduates committed to transformational ministry within a contextual Wesleyan framework in theology and practice. In so doing, we must build strong relationships with our regional director and staff, with field strategy coordinators, with trustees and national leaders, with district superintendents, in partnerships with other regional schools, and within the resourcing opportunities we have with local churches and leaders. May those who cheer us on see that we have taken the baton and run the race with all we have.



I want to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to the members of the Board of Trustees, to the Chairman Kafoa Muaror, to regional director Dr. Mark Louw and regional education coordinator Dr. John Moore for their support and encouragement to me and to the seminary this year, to our ADCO administrators Dr. Floyd Cunningham, Dr. Peggy Oldham, and Dr. Keith Killen, Assistant Academic Dean Dr. Dick Eugenio and Special Projects Director Calm Mijares; to an outstanding faculty and hard-working staff; and especially to our student body, for whom we serve and love and give, and without whose calling and commitment to being equipped for ministry, there would be no reason for this seminary to continue. May we run the race together!

Respectfully submitted,

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