

Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary

Historical Statement

Floyd T. Cunningham

In 2023, Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary celebrates its fortieth anniversary. As God led the Israelites through forty years of wilderness, with its trials and frustrations, with example after example of God's faithfulness and goodness to his people, graduates and faculty of APNTS affirm how God has led APNTS. Just as the forty years in the wilderness brought the Israelites to the point of entry into the promised land, so the future of APNTS promised the same: continued years that will reflect God's faithfulness and victory.

The beginnings of APNTS go back to 1977 when the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene approved a plan to establish a graduate seminary to serve both the Asia Region (which included India) and the Pacific Region of the church. The church's particular needs in this part of the world demanded this. Dr. Donald Owens, Professor of Missions at Nazarene Theological Seminary (NTS) in Kansas City and formerly a missionary to Korea with a Ph.D. in anthropology, was elected to head the new seminary, which would become the first master's-level theological institution of the Church of the Nazarene located outside the United States.

In 1979, the church purchased a site in Taytay, Rizal, Philippines. Formerly an orphanage, the location consisted of ten acres with twenty-two wooden frame buildings, an office building near the entrance on Ortigas Avenue Extension, and an outdoor chapel in the heart of the campus. The location's proximity to Manila was a deciding factor, as leaders hoped that the cosmopolitan setting would provide models for evangelism for the other cities of Asia and the Pacific. The Church of the Nazarene had redirected its attention to Metro Manila only a few years earlier. The leaders believed that

the Philippines offered political stability, affordability, centrality to the region, and the widespread use of English, which was to be the language of instruction at APNTS.

Beginning in 1980, at Owens's invitation, NTS began conducting extension classes. These classes involved several NTS professors as well as Rev. Angelito Agbuya, pastor of the Angeles City, Philippines, Church of the Nazarene. Students represented various countries from both regions. Owens became Director of the Asia Region in 1981 and moved to the Philippines. Extension classes were held over the next two years, but general church leaders concluded that the new seminary should become autonomous from NTS. In preparation for opening a residential program, Owens searched for faculty members and initiated the construction of an administration and classroom building, the ground-breaking ceremony for which was held in January 1983. Other buildings on the campus were renovated for student and faculty accommodations. The Commission on Immigration and Deportation, Department of Justice, Republic of the Philippines, approved APNTS to begin as an educational institution for non-immigrant students.

Regular classes began on November 14, 1983. The school offered the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and the Master of Religious Education, with curricula and standards modeled on NTS. The faculty included Dr. Owens, Dr. Agbuya, Dr. Ronald Beech and Mrs. Neva Beech, long-time missionaries in the Philippines, and Dr. Floyd Cunningham. Beech served as academic dean and registrar, and Cunningham as dean of students and chaplain. Beech represented APNTS at the founding of the Asia Graduate School of Theology in 1983. The seminary was formally dedicated and the faculty installed on January 15, 1984, in a service conducted by General Superintendent Eugene Stowe.

Owens chose the theme verse for APNTS, 1 Timothy 2:5: "For there is one God and one mediator between God and human beings, the man Christ Jesus." He chose the school's motto, "Bridging Cultures for Christ." And he chose (or, he said, rather, Neva Beech chose) the school hymn, "In Christ there is No East or West." Having chosen the site of the school and its first

faculty and having overseen the first building program while continuing his leadership of the Asia Region, Dr. Owens and general church leaders sought a full-time president to lead the school forward.

Dr. Donald Owens

Much of the character and shape of APNTS is due to the vision of its first president, Dr. Donald Owens. His determination and insight into the nature of the institution the church planned led to the founding of APNTS.

Dr. Owens was the logical choice to become the first President. He began his many years of contact with the Asia-Pacific Region in 1954 when he and his wife Adeline went to Korea as missionaries to help establish a school and strengthen the work of the Church of the Nazarene in that country. With Owens holding to the Nevius theory, which emphasized the importance of national leadership, the growth of the Church of the Nazarene in Korea was remarkable.

Returning to the United States after twelve years in Korea, Owens became a professor of missions at Bethany Nazarene College. He began working toward a Doctor of Philosophy degree in anthropology at the University of Oklahoma, conferred in 1975. In 1974, Nazarene Theological Seminary called him to become Professor of Missions. During this time, the church began to envision a graduate-level seminary for Asia and the Pacific.

In 1981, the Church appointed him Regional Director over Asia, and he and his family moved to Manila. Owens diligently gave oversight to the founding of the school. While Dr. Owens soon decided to leave the school's leadership to others, he continued his support of the school over the years.

In 1985, Dr. Owens became the second president of Mid-America Nazarene University. Four years later, the General Assembly of the Church of the Nazarene elected him to its highest position, General Superintendent. He served for eight years, during which time he advanced the internationalization of the church. He is now serving as General Superintendent Emeritus. Dr. Owens authored several books, including *Challenge in Korea*, *Church Behind the Bamboo Curtain*, *Revival Fires in Korea*, and *Sing Ye*

Islands.

In all his capacities as a leader, Dr. Owens demonstrated a passion for the lost of this world, a passion for contextual ministerial preparation, a passion for the mission of the Church of the Nazarene, and a passion for servant leadership and Christlikeness of which he himself was a model.

Dr. E. LeBron Fairbanks

In April 1984, Dr. E. LeBron Fairbanks, formerly Academic Dean of European Nazarene Bible College and at the time teaching at Bethany (later Southern) Nazarene University, was elected President of the Seminary. He began serving in the office in July 1984. Later that year, his wife, Anne, and their young son, Stephen, joined him in Manila. The Fairbanks became a team and supported and complemented each other in many ways.

Dr. Fairbanks was in his early forties, filled with energy and ambition—ambition for the school that he now led. He gathered the few faculty members for marathon eight-hour meetings where they not only worked through policy, with every sentence perfectly crafted and agreed upon, but also developed a clear understanding of the particular mission of APNTS. More than that, these early leaders dreamed of a future for APNTS. At the same time, Fairbanks was a humble servant leader. (If there was a theme song during his time, it was “Make Me a Servant.”)

Under Fairbanks, in 1987, the seminary received its permit to operate from the Philippine government’s Department of Education, Culture and Sports (now the Commission on Higher Education), and full recognition from the same Department came on June 13, 1988. In addition to the M.Div., the degrees approved by the Department of Education included the Bachelor of Theology and Master of Science in Theology, though these were not yet offered. The Master of Religious Education became Master of Arts in Religious Education (M.A.R.E.). Accreditation for the M.Div. and M.A.R.E. degree programs was granted by the Asia Theological Association (ATA) in 1988 and by the Association for Theological Education in South East Asia (ATESEA) in 1991.

The faculty hammered out policies, institutional goals, and objectives. In a statement little changed over the next decades, the 1987 Catalogue stated: “Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary is a graduate-level institution of the Church of the Nazarene and exists to prepare men and women for Christian ministries throughout Asia and the South Pacific. APNTS is biblical in orientation, contemporary in application, evangelistic in emphasis, and Wesleyan in theological persuasion.”

The first graduation occurred on April 5, 1986, with Eugene Stowe as speaker. Two students, Clemente Haban of the Philippines and Jayaraj Krishnan of India, received the Master of Divinity, and two students, Carolina Binavince of the Philippines and Kim Soung Gon of Korea, received the Master of Religious Education degree.

Among the many important things that Dr. Fairbanks accomplished in his five years at APNTS was to strengthen the faculty in all key areas, build up the library collection, and establish relationships between APNTS and outside agencies, including the Asia Theological Association, the Asia Graduate School of Theology, and the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS). At that time, no other graduate seminary had seen the necessity or had the vision for government recognition. The seminary entertained both regional and national leaders of DECS. When the DECS Secretary granted our government recognition, it was stated to allow us to be international in both administration and student body.

Under Fairbanks, the library was greatly strengthened with the addition of several important collections imported from the United Kingdom, centering on Wesleyan and holiness studies as well as classic theological texts. The library came to number over 30,000 volumes by 2003 and nearly 64,000 volumes by the time of the school’s fortieth anniversary in 2023. Full-time librarians have included Anelia Bugaay, Stephanie Leupp, Ruth Salangsang Almario, and Noreen del Rosario, who became the head librarian in 2011.

During the presidency of Dr. Fairbanks, the faculty was strengthened. In addition to Dr. Beech, who taught New Testament and missions from 1983 to 1992, and Dr. Cunningham, who taught church history and theology, the faculty included Dr. James Edlin, Old Testament, 1985 to 1988; Dr.

Wilfredo Manaois, Christian education, 1986 to 1999; Dr. Donald Stults, missions, 1987 to 1991; Dr. Dean Flemming, New Testament, 1987 to 1997; Dr. Lourdes Manaois, Christian education, 1987 to 1999; and Dr. M. Robert Fraser, theology, 1988 to 1992. Dr. Beech was succeeded in that capacity by Dr. Edlin. Cunningham became Academic Dean in 1989.

During Fairbanks' tenure, extensive renovation and building programs on campus continued under the guidance of Rev. Gordon Gibson from 1984 until 1992, Mr. Terry Sanders from 1992 to 1998, Mr. Greg Taylor from 1998 to 1999, and again from 2004 to 2008, Mr. David Hendrix, 1999 to 2004, Architect Eric Sanchez from 2008 to 2013, Engineer Billy Borromeo from 2013 to 2018, and Mr. Kevin Wilkins from 2018.

Dr. Fairbanks left APNTS to lead Mount Vernon Nazarene College (which became Mount Vernon Nazarene University), where he served for eighteen fruitful years. Soon after his retirement, the Church of the Nazarene called upon him to serve as Commissioner of the International Board of Education of the Church of the Nazarene, which he did from 2008 to 2011. Retiring a second time to Lakeland, Florida, he founded "Board Serve," a consulting firm resourcing governing boards. One of the books written during these years of retirement included *Best Practices for Effective Boards*, which he wrote with Dwight Gunter and James Couchenour. Other books incorporated the spirit of leadership he demonstrated at APNTS and in the other places he served: *Learning to Be Last: Leadership for Congregational Transformation*, which he wrote with Stan Toler, and *Leading Decisively! Leading Faithfully!* published in 2016.

Dr John Nielson

After Dr. Fairbanks moved to the presidency of Mount Vernon Nazarene College, the Board of Trustees elected Dr. John Nielson, Vice-President of Eastern Nazarene College and formerly a missionary to Denmark, as the third President. He and his wife, Janice, settled in Manila in February 1990. John Nielson taught in the areas of preaching and character formation, and Janice Nielson in Christian education.

The faculty during the administration of Dr. Nielson included Dr. Abraham Athialy, who taught pastoral ministry from 1992 to 1998; Dr. Roderick Leupp in theology and Christian ethics, 1992 to 2000; Dr. David Kelly, biblical studies, 1993 to 1994; and Dr. Dwight Swanson, Old Testament, 1995 to 1997. Prof. Beverly Gruver, a former missionary to South America, taught English and education from 1997 to 2010 and served as Dean of Students from 2003 to 2010, when she retired. Prof. Joven Laroya taught Christian education and pastoral ministry from 1999 to 2001, and Dr. David Ackerman biblical studies from 1999 to 2002 and 2004 to 2008. Dr. Robert Donahue came in 1999 and taught in the area of missions. He directed the Owens School of World Mission until his retirement in 2012. Dr. Stanley Clark, a Wesleyan Church missionary, taught Christian education, 2000 to 2004; Dr. Stephen Bennett, a New Zealander, Old Testament, 2000 to 2002; and Dr. Christi-an Bennett, church history and missions, 2000 to 2002. Dr. Jack Holstead and Dr. Ruth Saxon each served for a semester as missionary-in-residence.

During the presidency of John Nielson, the administrative council included Mr. Nestor Ronquillo, Business Manager, and Dr. Wilfredo Manaois, as Dean of Students and Assistant to the President, as well as the Academic Dean.

Dr. Nielson stressed the importance of worship and oversaw the renovation of the outdoor chapel, named the Wooten Chapel, in honor of the mother of a donor. Dr. Nielson's theme throughout his years at APNTS was to build a "Christ-culture" transcending national and ethnic differences.

During Nielson's years, the first students arrived from Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh, South Africa, Myanmar, and other countries. The accounting, registrar's office, and library were computerized. Janice Nielson began "Kids' Klubs" for children on Saturday mornings. The school began having national culture days with presentations from each country in chapel. Small "covenant" or "koinonia" groups began with faculty members as leaders. Nielson worked with the Asia-Pacific Region to establish the Fairbanks Media Center, which was dedicated in January 1994. Using these

resources, in 1996, the school began an M.A. program in Christian Communication. This degree program was recognized by the Philippine government in 1997. *The Mediator*, the school's official journal, began publication in 1996, with Roderick Leupp as editor. Dr. Nielson oversaw scholarship partnerships with the Wesleyan Church and the Free Methodist Church and national scholarships for Nazarenes in the region. Nielson also established several endowments.

APNTS enjoyed the privilege of John and Janice Nielson's leadership for nearly twelve years. John served longer than any other president of APNTS. His Christ-like leadership shone as an example for the hundreds of students who attended APNTS between 1989 and 2001. More than that, he left a legacy that remained deeply embedded in the school's ethos.

Dr. Nielson was like many Nazarene school presidents: the spiritual leader of the school. As spiritual leader, he placed great emphasis on worship. Our chapel was both literally and spiritually the center of our school. Nielson personally led worship; he and Janice sang of Christ "ever interceding to the Father for his children," and his preaching reflected his cruciformed philosophy of ministry.

With great intentionality, John and Janice Nielson practiced hospitality. Around the dinner table, John Nielson told and retold stories of the Nielson family: stories that conveyed values of life and ministry passed from generation to generation.

As a leader, Dr. Nielson showed that we must never ask for our rights and privileges, the perks of our position. Rather, we must ask for our responsibilities. His own life reflected that: taking no higher place, demanding no special privileges as President.

A philosophy of ministry deeply embedded in him was that a leader must always forbear and never react to criticisms so as to hurt others, even those who complained. The leader must never react and must never carry grudges; the leader must bear the pain and never inflict pain on others. Dr. Nielson bore no malice toward those who criticized him. And when someone failed and fell, he was one, like Christ, a stronger, older brother.

We celebrated our diversity. Yet Nielson strongly believed in a Kingdom Culture with its own kingdom values, transcending cultures here below. Dr. Nielson reflected those Kingdom values. He did not come to APNTS on a career path. He poured the most fruitful years of his life into APNTS, asking for nothing in return, no special recognition. Those closest to him saw best the kindly, Christ-like, self-emptying character of his life.

The years John and Janice Nielson spent at APNTS were peaceful, golden years of spiritual leadership. John was a gentle and beautiful soul who went boldly, through Christ, to the throne on April 28, 2023.

Registrars of APNTS have included Dr. Ronald Beech, who served as registrar from the establishment of the school to 1989; Mary Grace Bernabe Berro, 1989 to 1991; Dr. Remedios Carrera, 1991 to 1992; Dr. Wilfredo Mannaos, 1993 to 1995, Ligaya Azura Emeter, 1996 to 1999, Imelda Laroya, 1999 to 2001, Helen Caparas, 2001 to 2010, Judy Pabilando, 2010 to 2020, and Dorys Pugong Arbes, from 2020.

Many adjuncts have served APNTS. Among the long-serving adjuncts of APNTS have been Dr. Angelito Agbuya, who directed supervised ministry and taught in the area of pastoral ministry; Dr. Carol Herrmann, Christian education and Christian communication; Dr. Resurrecion Reyes, Christian education, and Mr. Doug Flemming, Christian communication. Dr. Daniel Behr came to APNTS in 1999 as an adjunct professor of Christian communication and served full-time from 2016 to 2020. Dr. Charles Seifert taught church music and worship, and Dr. Carolyn Siefert pastoral counseling and Christian formation. Dr. Jason Hallig taught New Testament Greek for a number of years.

Dr. Hitoshi (Paul) Fukue

Dr. Nielson resigned in 2001 to accept a position at European Nazarene Bible College. Cunningham served as officer in charge from 2001 until January 2003, when the Board of Trustees chose Dr. Hitoshi (Paul) Fukue, who had been serving on the faculty since 2001, as President—the first Asian president of APNTS.

Before coming to APNTS, Dr. Fukue had pastored in Japan for many years and served as President of Japan Christian Junior College. He was inaugurated as President in April 2003.

In the same month, the seminary dedicated a major building on campus, the Nielson Center for Education and Evangelism. Dr. Fukue oversaw the development of the Master of Science in Theology program, which offered specialization for students with a prior theology degree. The school also underwent a series of planning and mission review processes under the guidance of Mr. Keith Killen. A five-year plan and strategic initiatives resulted. In chapel messages, Dr. Fukue helped the community to develop a theology of suffering.

Dr. Fukue taught theology, ethics, sociology of religion, and preaching. Mitsuko Fukue taught interpersonal and intercultural communication. Dr. Gilbert Montecastro taught Biblical studies from 2002 to 2006, Prof. Rovina Hatcher, Christian education from 2003 to 2011, Dr. Kwon Dong Hwan, Christian communication from 2004 to 2013, and Dr. Oh Won Keun, Old Testament from 2004 to 2007.

Dr. Fukue's first step toward Christ was an invitation to an English Bible study. It was the first time he had heard about Jesus. He was fascinated by the Bible and very interested in learning English. Over the next several years, he returned often to Bible studies.

While attending Tokyo's Sophia University, he met Helen Wilson, a visiting professor. She invited him to America to study. Two years later, amid national student unrest and campus riots, he searched for the card Professor Wilson had left with him. He finally found it in the back of a desk drawer. It said, "Northwest Nazarene College." Soon, he was there. In chapel services at the College Church, he struggled. He had doubts about God's existence. One Sunday, he vowed that he would never go back to church if he did not find God that night. A missionary spoke. There was an altar call. Many went forward. He found himself at the front, repenting of his sins, asking Jesus to save him, promising a life in service to the Savior.

Mitsuko, his girlfriend, came to study at NNC. She, too, found Christ.

After their wedding and Dr. Fukue's graduation from Northwest Nazarene College (now university) in 1970, they moved to Kansas City to attend Nazarene Theological Seminary. He especially valued the theology subjects he took. While in Kansas City, they started a Japanese Nazarene Fellowship, where many people came to Christ for the first time.

Upon Dr. Fukue's seminary graduation in 1973, they returned to their home city of Kochi, on Shikoku Island in southern Japan, to plant a Church of the Nazarene. There, he found it impossible to implement the evangelism strategies he had learned in the USA, which were inappropriate for Japan; yet, along with many others, Dr. Fukue's mother, sister, brother-in-law, brother, and father came to Christ.

In 1976, Dr. Fukue was elected to the General Council of the Nazarene Young Peoples Society (now Nazarene Youth International). He served on the Council for four years.

From 1981 to 1984, the Fukues studied at Boston University. Dr. Fukue studied under the renowned sociologist of religion Peter Berger. In 1994, after completing his dissertation on "Historical Transformations of Japanese Cosmology: Search for Patterns," Dr. Fukue received the Doctor of Theology degree. Mitsuko Fukue earned a Master's degree in education at the same school. While in the United States, Dr. Fukue lectured at Eastern Nazarene College and the Boston University School of Education.

Returning to Japan, he resumed his pastorate in Kochi City. He also lectured at Sophia University and Shikoku Christian University. In 1992, Dr. Fukue began teaching summer modules at APNTS as an adjunct professor. From 1995, he also served as an adjunct professor at Japan Nazarene Theological Seminary and, from 1997, at Japan Christian Junior College. He published articles in books and scholarly journals and translated various works.

In 1994, Dr. Fukue became pastor of the Oyamadai Church in Tokyo. Many outstanding professionals attended his church. From 1999 to 2000, he served as President of Japan Christian Junior College and Pastor of the College Church.

Hitoshi and Mitsuko Fukue came to APNTS as full-time professors in 2001. He served as Assistant to the President and Dean of Students and was an important Asian voice on the school's administrative council. In January 2003, the Board of Trustees elected Hitoshi Fukue, the fourth president of APNTS.

As President, Dr. Fukue immediately faced many difficult decisions. Finances are a perpetual burden, but he left APNTS a stronger institution. He often spoke in chapel from his heart on suffering, its meaning, purpose, and how we might live through suffering and not inflict it upon others.

Mr. Ted Wheeler served as business manager under Dr. Fukue. He was followed by Mr. Elmer Gutierrez, who remained until 2013. He was replaced by Mrs. Calm Mijares (who also had served as Dean of Students). Subsequently, for several years, including interims between presidents, Mr. Keith Killen served as business manager and, in subsequent years, as dean of administration.

Dr. Floyd T. Cunningham

In May 2007, Dr. Fukue resigned in order to resume pastoral ministry in Japan. Cunningham served as Officer-in-Charge and then, from October 2007, as Interim President. In June 2008, the APNTS Board of Trustees elected Cunningham the fifth President of APNTS.

Cunningham was installed during the school's twenty-fifth anniversary in November 2008. The school opened extension programs in Papua New Guinea and Myanmar, constructed the New Life Volunteer Mission Center, and completed the Nielson Center for Education and Evangelism. The school housed Bresee Institute East, directed by Dr. Fletcher Tink, to promote urban ministry.

In April 2008, in partnership with Compassion International, APNTS initiated Holistic Child Development (HCD) programs at the Certificate, Diploma, Master's, and, eventually, Ph.D. levels. The Ph.D. began in November 2009 and was undertaken in partnership with the Asia Graduate

School of Theology (AGST). The Philippines Commission of Higher Education (CHED) granted recognition to the program in January 2012. The first Ph.D. graduate of APNTS/AGST was Rev. Mrs. Stella Bokare, who received her Ph.D. in Holistic Child Development on June 28, 2016. In addition to emphasizing children in crisis, the school expanded ministries to the community and built partnerships with various church, para-church, and non-government organizations.

In November 2011, the extension program in Papua New Guinea graduated eight students with the Master of Ministry and four with the Graduate Diploma. Meanwhile, students arrived from such countries as Colombia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Peru, and Russia.

In 2007, Dr. Lee San Young joined the faculty as a professor of religion, teaching counseling, Asian religion, and spiritual formation. She served as Academic Dean from 2009 to 2013—the first Asian to serve as academic dean. Dr. Mitchel Modine joined the faculty in 2008 to teach Old Testament. Faculty development continued with the appointment of Prof. Larnie Sam Tabuena, who taught in the area of philosophy of religion and Christian ethics and directed supervised ministry from 2008 through 2016. Dr. Nativity Petallar joined the faculty in January 2009 to teach Christian education and to direct the holistic child development program. Later, in 2009, Dr. Darin Land, a Free Methodist missionary, joined the faculty to teach the New Testament. He served as Dean of Students from 2012 to 2014. Dr. John Bondy and Prof. Linda Bondy served on the faculty from 2011 to 2013, teaching, respectively, in the areas of Christian Education and English. In 2012, Dr. Dick Eugenio joined the faculty to teach theology and served until 2021.

In the first semester of 2013-14, in partnership with the Metro Manila District, Church of the Nazarene, APNTS began a program called the Laymen's Apprenticeship Ministers Preparation (LAMP) at the baccalaureate level with CHED-recognized credits. By 2023, this had become a full-fledged Bachelor of Arts in Theology program.

Dr. Im Seung-An

Dr. Im Seung-an, recently President of Korea Nazarene University, was elected as APNTS president by the Board of Trustees in March 2013 and was installed as the sixth president of APNTS in January 2014. Cunningham served as Interim President until the installation of Dr. Im and then resumed duties as Academic Dean. President Im emphasized the value of holistically preparing students for ministry.

President Im will be known as the “acronym” president. His mind was always churning out new ideas. With an expansive vision toward the future of APNTS, Im initiated the “BEST” program, emphasizing that APNTS must concentrate on producing graduates who have mastered the Bible, who are responsible to the Ecclesial community, who are Socially-minded, and who are passionate about proceeding Toward the “glocal” mission of Christ. He desired that APNTS be not only the BEST, but GREAT . . . Glorifying God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, experiencing Regeneration, Evangelizing, evidencing Agapeic love, and being Transformed until Transfigured in Christ’s image. And he desired an education that centered upon the CROSS . . . taking up one’s Cross, living in Resurrection hope, living at One with others, living a Spirit-filled, sanctified life, and being ready to be Sent into the world. These acronyms were ways President Im encapsulated the values he most highly cherished after over forty years in Nazarene higher education.

President Im’s long explanations of these acronyms and their meaning amazed and sometimes amused faculty members and students, but this was his way of enforcing and reinforcing the principles and values that governed his administration and communicating his heart. These values were transmitted through tangible policies, including a vigorous, holistic concern for the welfare and maturation of students. He was concerned that we be “disciplined harshly,” his way of saying that Christian life is one of obedience and servanthood.

Among the hallmarks of his presidency was an intentionally close relationship between APNTS and the Board of Trustees and the Asia-Pacific Region and its leaders. He listened closely to the needs, wants, hopes, and

aims of the church for APNTS and did his best to implement these desires of the church's leaders. He built close relationships between APNTS and Philippine pastors and leaders.

Among the concrete visualizations of his leadership was shutting down the chiller system so that the school could save money on electricity. He simplified accounting reports so that the true financial situation of the school could be readily seen. Korean partners supported Dr. Im and APNTS in many ways, including finances. Dr. Im demonstrated to the region that we were serious about extension education by expanding our Master of Ministry programs. His large dreams for APNTS were greater than two years could fulfill.

From the first day until almost his last, he was constantly saying, "Please teach me." This evidenced a humble heart. He wondered why running a school with about 100 students would prove as much of a challenge as running a school like Korea Nazarene University (KNU) with more than 6,000 students! His heart became a missionary heart. He returned to KNU, knowing that APNTS and KNU were corners in the same Kingdom of God.

In faculty development, experienced pastor Dr. Clark Armstrong joined the faculty in October 2013 to teach in the areas of Christian Education and Pastoral Ministry, and he remained as a full-time or part-time professor through 2023, including stints as business manager and dean of students. Dr. Grant Zweigle joined APNTS as Dean of Students and instructor in evangelism in 2014 and remained until 2017. Jocel Longcop served as the instructor of English from 2015 to 2019. Dr. Phillip Davis and Rebecca Davis, long-time missionaries in the Wesleyan Church, joined the faculty in 2015. Phillip Davis taught in the area of theology, and Rebecca Davis in the area of worship and music. Dr. Lynn Shmidt, who had been teaching at Asbury University, joined the faculty as the professor of missions in 2016, and Rev. Shearon Shmidt became chaplain in 2016. The Shmidts had previously been Nazarene missionaries in Africa. When the Shmidts retired in 2020, Rebecca Davis became the chaplain. Dr. Eileen Ruger, formerly serving in China Ministries, began teaching at APNTS in 2019 and took Dr. Shmidt's place as professor of Intercultural Studies and head of the Owens

School of World Mission. Free Methodist Professor Marie Osborn, who had also served in China, taught English from 2019 to 2022. Dr. Erlic Sagud, an alumnus of APNTS, joined the faculty in 2020 to teach Christian Education.

Dr. Bruce Oldham

Im Seung-an resigned as President in January 2016 to return to the presidency of Korea Nazarene University. Board of Trustees Chairman Kafoa Muaror became Interim President following Dr. Im's departure. In August 2016, the Board of Trustees elected Dr. Bruce Oldham as President. Dr. Peggy Oldham joined the faculty in the area of Christian leadership. In early 2019, the Oldhams resigned from APNTS to assume a pastorate in the USA. We thank God every time we remember the faithfulness and vision of the leaders he has brought to APNTS. God's choice of Bruce Oldham as President of APNTS demonstrated God's care for APNTS.

God prepared Dr. Oldham splendidly well for this particular place and time in the history of APNTS. He began his ministry as a pastor and maintained the heart of a pastor, possessing tender care toward the community that God gave him. Before coming to APNTS, Dr. Oldham served in administrative positions in Nazarene higher education for more than twenty years. He was Director of Admissions and Student Recruitment, Executive Assistant to the President for Church Relations, and Vice-President for Enrollment Management at Mount Vernon Nazarene University, where he served closely with former APNTS President E. LeBron Fairbanks, all the while teaching Christian Education. For six years, from 1995 to 2001, Dr. Oldham served as President of Nazarene Youth International. This global assignment exposed him to the Church of the Nazarene around the world. In 2005, he earned a Doctor of Education concentrating in Higher Education Leadership at Vanderbilt University. Following service at Mount Vernon, Dr. Oldham served as Dean of the School of Christian Ministry and Formation at MidAmerica Nazarene University. After two years, he resumed pastoral ministry as Senior Associate Pastor of the historic Nashville, Tennessee, First Church of the Nazarene. Dr. Oldham brought to APNTS successful models for structuring and organizing the school for its maximum

efficiency and best use of resources in order to achieve its mission.

With keen sensitivity to his new setting in the Philippines, Dr. Oldham anchored his inaugural address around three key Filipino proverbs: “If you plant, you will harvest,” “A broom is sturdy because its strands are tightly bound,” and “A person who does not remember where he came from will never reach his destination.”

He spoke of the original vision of APNTS, as it was conceived in the minds of church leaders and established by the first president, Donald Owens. Clearly, Dr. Oldham caught the same vision of APNTS for serving the region—and the world—fulfilling God’s great commission in its own way as a graduate school in the Wesleyan tradition. As Dr. Oldham observed, this part of the world is “desperate for local pastors and tent-makers to invade the space that traditional missionaries can no longer fill,” and APNTS was a seminary “already planted and cultivated for a field to be harvested.”

Dr. Oldham expressed the strong “strands” that bind together APNTS. These include (1) a dedicated faculty, which has produced effective graduates scattered around the world; (2) passionate students; (3) a support network that includes the Global Mission of the Church of the Nazarene, local leaders, and like-minded denominations; (4) partnerships with various agencies, including theological associations; and, especially, (5) Christ Jesus himself, who represents the very purpose of APNTS.

Dr. Oldham looked to the past history of APNTS to understand it well and lead it into the future. He alluded to the thoughts of his teacher, Mildred Bangs Wynkoop, that evangelism must build upon the foundations of thought for the church to be strong. Indeed, APNTS, like other Nazarene schools, sought the integration of the heart with the head and the “Word” with the “world,” as former President LeBron Fairbanks said. Dr. Oldham affirmed it this way, that APNTS must be both research- and ministry-oriented and continue “to serve as a ‘hub’ of graduate learning for Asia-Pacific.” Dr. Oldham expressed the necessity of strengthening both the “hub” and the “spokes,” which represented other schools on the region and the APNTS extension sites. Based on his many years of experience in education, Dr. Oldham understood the importance of “quality student experience,”

and that meant the total, holistic life of the seminary.

Strengthening the hub remained a major challenge. Balancing all of the factors that made for a “quality student experience” included not only the faculty of APNTS and the school’s spiritual life but also the upkeep of dormitories and other facilities. Dr. Oldham expressed his commitment to developing the central campus and extension centers.

In 2016, APNTS received CHED permission to offer a Ph.D. in Transformational Learning and a Ph.D. in Transformational Development, both in partnership with the Asia Graduate School of Theology. Dr. Catherine Stonehouse directed the Transformational Learning program, and Dr. Fletcher Tink the Transformational Development program, with Dr. Nativity Petallar remaining as director of the Ph.D. in Holistic Child Development. In 2017, APNTS received permission to offer both the Doctor of Ministry in Transformational Ministry, directed by Dr. Clark Armstrong through 2023, and the Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies. In 2018, Dr. Irene Yang replaced Dr. Stonehouse as program director of the Ph.D. in Transformational Learning. In 2019, APNTS’s Ph.D. in HCD received accreditation from the Asia Theological Association.

In 2018, Dr. Dick Eugenio replaced Cunningham as Academic Dean. Dr. Nativity Petallar was appointed Associate Academic Dean, overseeing the Ph.D. programs. Dr. Darin Land served as Assistant Academic Dean until he resigned from APNTS in 2020 to serve the broader interests of the Free Methodist Church in Asia. During the pandemic, for two years, 2020-22, all of the classes of APNTS were taught via Zoom. Upon Dr. Eugenio’s resignation in 2021, Cunningham served as interim Academic Dean. In January 2023, Dr. David Ackerman returned to APNTS to serve as Academic Dean and Professor of New Testament.

Dr. Larry Bollinger

In 2020, the Board of Trustees elected Dr. Larry Bollinger as the eighth President of APNTS. At the time, Dr. Bollinger was serving as Vice President of Eastern Nazarene College. Previously, he had served as a

missionary in the Philippines and had been director of the Church of the Nazarene's Compassionate Ministries from 1996 to 2016. His wife, Rev. Lynne Bollinger, had served as Chaplain of Eastern Nazarene College. Larry Bollinger teaches in leadership, and Lynne Bollinger teaches in Christian formation and intercultural studies.

The increasing world scope of APNTS was reflected in its vision statement: "Bridging cultures for Christ, APNTS equips each new generation of leaders to disseminate the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Asia, the Pacific, and the world." Indeed, more than 650 graduates of APNTS have gone on to pastoral, teaching, missionary, administrative and many other forms of ministry in various countries, including Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, China, Great Britain, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Samoa, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.