

AY2022/23

ANNUAL REPORT

EQUIPPING AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST
IN THE MARKETPLACE





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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Positioning BGST to Better Serve Marketplace Christians

A/Prof (Dr) Kenny Tan

Chairman



Since 2018, BGST has been on a journey of transformation, beginning with our administrative systems and governance, and most recently with the review and enhancement of our postgraduate programmes.



Governance and Administration

We have focussed, in the last three years, on upgrading our financial, human resource, and technological systems. We thank God that this has not only streamlined our operations but also strengthened our governance, evidenced by BGST receiving the Charity Transparency Award in November 2022. In the new academic year AY2023/24, we will continue this momentum by introducing further administrative and technological improvements that enhance our students' learning experience.



Enhancements to our Postgraduate Programmes

BGST aspires to equip our students to become effective ambassadors for Christ in the marketplace. To this end, we have always strived to provide flexible modes of learning that allow our students to balance their commitments between family, work and ministry. The school has also regularly offered marketplace oriented courses to help students apply their faith in their manifold contexts and challenges.

We decided to undertake a thorough revision of our academic programmes in AY2022/23 to create a deeper and wider impact to and for our students.

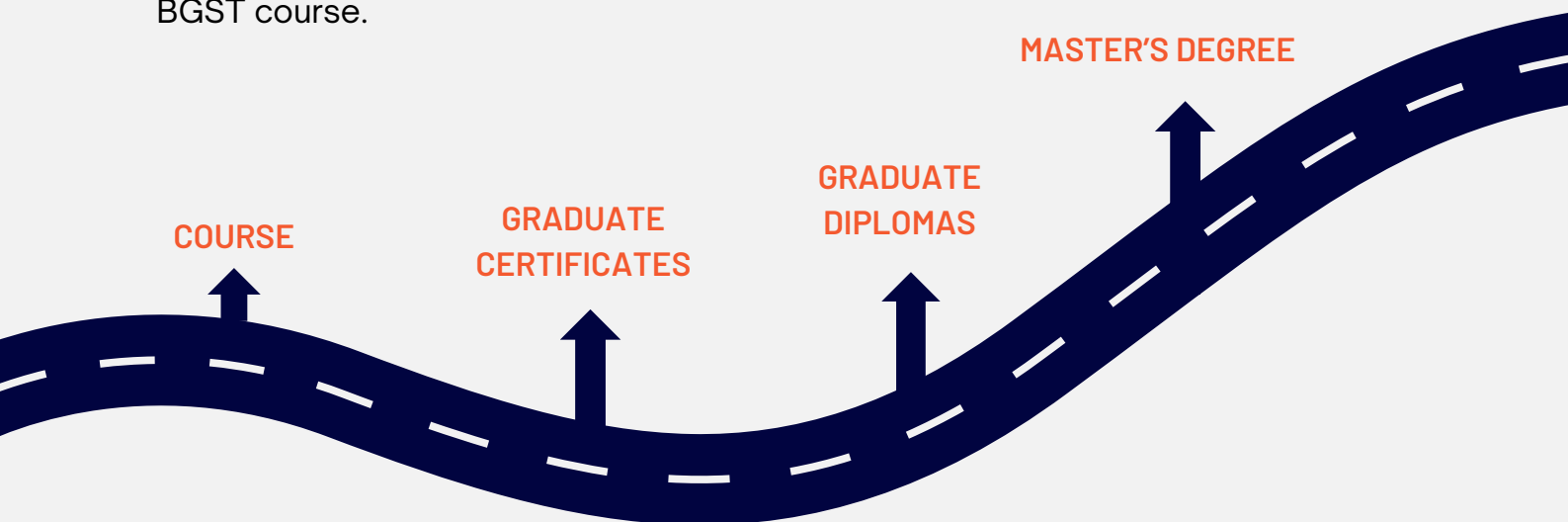


TWO KEY DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED IN AY2023/24

I. Integrative Theology Through Marketplace Ministry and Integrative Studies Pathways

The first is the launch of the marketplace ministry and integrative studies learning pathways from Graduate Diplomas to Master's Degree. Students will be progressively guided on how to discern God's guidance in their personal lives, workplaces and industries, while integrating God's Word into their everyday lives, cultural contexts, and communities.

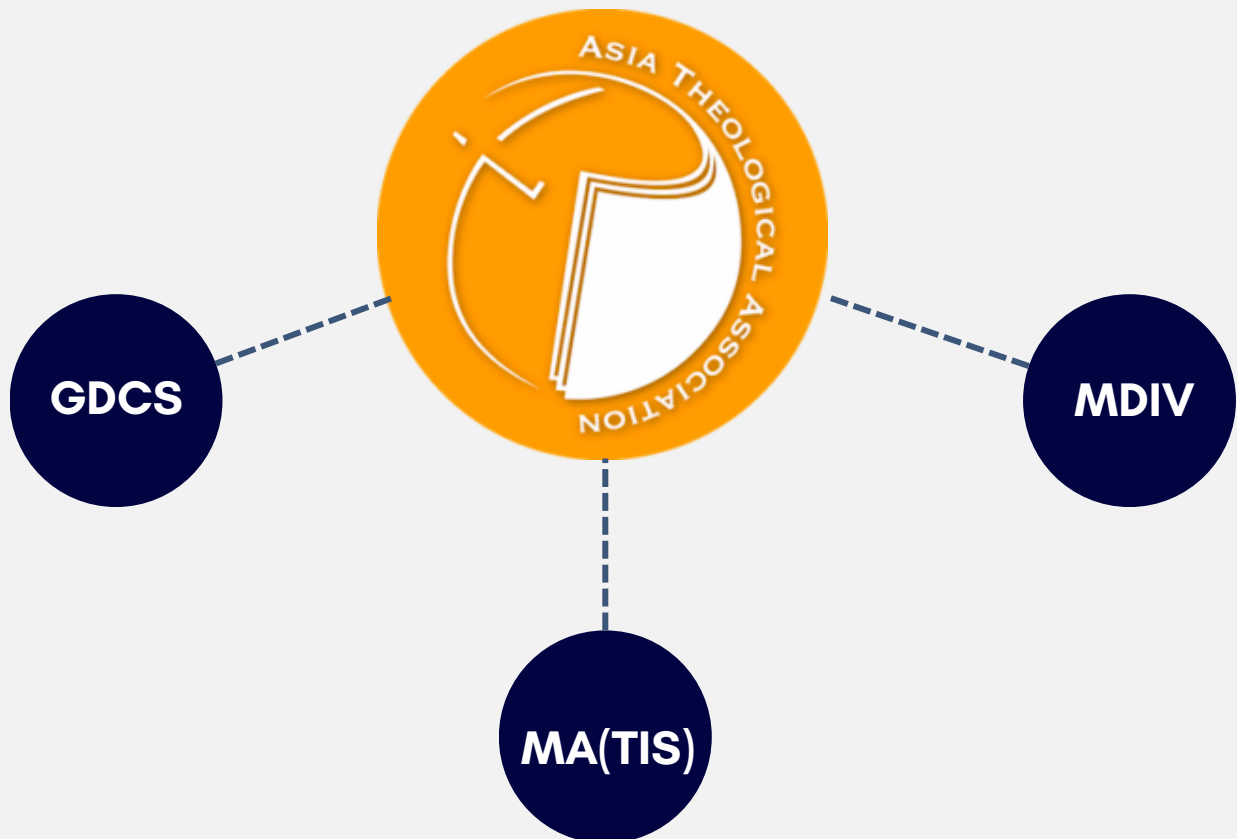
This approach to curriculum design is incorporated and embedded in every BGST course.



II. Practical Ministry Skills Formation

The second is the introduction of practical ministry skills requirements in our programmes. In a world that increasingly questions the relevance of Christianity, we need to focus and equip beyond just theological and theoretical knowledge, but also include a broader range of ministry skills such as teaching and learning, coaching, counselling, spiritual care, change management, and leadership.

RE-ACCREDITED PROGRAMMES WITH ASIAN THEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (ATA)



AY2022/3 also saw BGST re-accredited for our **Graduate Diploma in Christian Studies**, **Masters of Arts in Theology and Integrative Studies**, and **Master of Divinity** programmes with the Asia Theological Association. As the school develops a more integrative and practical approach to theological education, the elements mentioned above will become even more crucial if we are to address robustly the manifold complexities of our workplaces, churches, and communities.



Changes to Council and Faculty

Lastly, it is important to update you about changes to our Council, Management and Faculty.

Dr Jason Yap has retired from the Council, having served in our Programme and Services, and Human Resources Committees. On behalf of BGST, we would like to thank Jason for his faithful service during his tenure. Ms Lynn Yong has stepped up as the new Head, Administrative Services while Dr Tan Seng Kong has become our Head, Technology and Resources in addition to his responsibilities as our Systematic Theologian. Mr Hor Guo Yi has joined the school as our new Registrar and Assistant Lecturer. Mr Leow Wen Pin and Dr Kwa Kiem Kiok have completed their terms of service with BGST and have moved on to their next vocational stations.

On a personal note, I will be stepping down as Council Chairman and Member at the upcoming AGM. It has been a pleasure and privilege to have been involved with the work of BGST since 1993; and to have served alongside fellow council, faculty and staff. I am confident that the School is in good hands as I end this personal season with BGST.

As BGST continues its transformational process to serve marketplace Christians better, we thank you and humbly ask for your continued participation and support in this essential ministry.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Partnering Churches to Equip God's People for Integrative Leadership in the Church and Marketplace



Dr Lai Pak Wah

Principal

The Journey Begins

Since 1989, BGST has sought to be the preferred theological college for equipping Christians to embody Christ's calling at work, church and society. By the grace of God, we have trained more than 5,000 Christians to be salt and light in their workplaces and communities.

The gospel mandates us to be faithfully relevant to our times. Amid a 21st Century of growing disruptions, increasing complexities, and shifting moralities, BGST has had to pivot our paradigms of theological education and strategies to better serve and equip Christians to live faithfully and fruitfully in their marketplaces. In 2018, we introduced a new logo to express our aspirations:

The CROSS

The **Cross** remains central to all that BGST does. Yet, our faith is not cloistered but practised with clarity wherever we are.



Manifold TRIANGLES

Thus, the **Manifold Triangles** denote Christians representing our Triune God in diverse ways in the city.

ORANGE Colours

The **Orange Colours** highlights BGST's commitment to faithful, traditioned innovation as we equip every Christian to proclaim the Gospel confidently and winsomely in our contemporary world.

A Refreshed Framework for Integrative Marketplace Spirituality

We spent a lot of time debating what BGST must do to better prepare Christians to become effective ambassadors for Christ in their marketplaces? Our conclusion: it is about **People, Practice, Pedagogy, and Partnerships.**



PEOPLE

To remember always that we are in the business of developing People who are assured in Christ's love and capable of applying Christ's word winsomely as they engage in Christ's world.

PRACTICE



To cultivate Christians who take seriously the Practice of their Christian lives, applying their faith in their respective spheres of influence in ways that are both theologically mature and professionally competent.

INTEGRATIVE MARKETPLACE SPIRITUALITY



PEDAGOGY

This calls for a holistic Pedagogy which robustly holds together theological (head) content, spiritual formation (heart) and ministry skills (hands), and which continuously spurs the person to take the next step of growth in their lifelong discipleship journey.

PARTNERSHIPS



BGST is not meant to achieve her vision alone. We want to actively partner with churches, parachurches, and marketplace experts, so that by pulling together different strengths we can help one another become effective ambassadors for Christ, together.

3 Strategic Thrusts

To achieve the above, we hope to partner churches more closely so that, together, we can equip God's people for integrative leadership in the Church and marketplace. This involves transforming BGST into:

01

A Christian Education Platform for Churches

By consulting with churches to create a wide range of Christian education and practical ministry skills training that equip Christians to become effective disciples in church and at their workplaces.

02

A Centre for Christian Leadership

By collaborating with churches and industry partners to equip both marketplace and church leaders to become thoughtful leadership practitioners, leading wisely and effectively in these complex and disruptive times.

03

A Centre for Spiritual Formation

By tapping on our expertise in Christian tradition and spiritual formation. Our desire is not only to become an oasis for spiritual formation and direction, but also a community where Christian leaders can learn from and support each other.



BGST 3.0: Partnering Churches to Equip God's People for Integrative Leadership In the Church and Marketplace

Our hope is that BGST will become a valued partner for churches in equipping Christians to be salt and light, ambassadors of the gospel in our culture, contributing to the flourishing and well-being of Singapore and beyond. We seek your prayers and support as we journey ahead in seeking a greater impact for God's kingdom.



MISSION

**BGST provides flexible, relevant
and quality education that draws upon
Scripture, Christian Tradition,
and Integrative Studies**



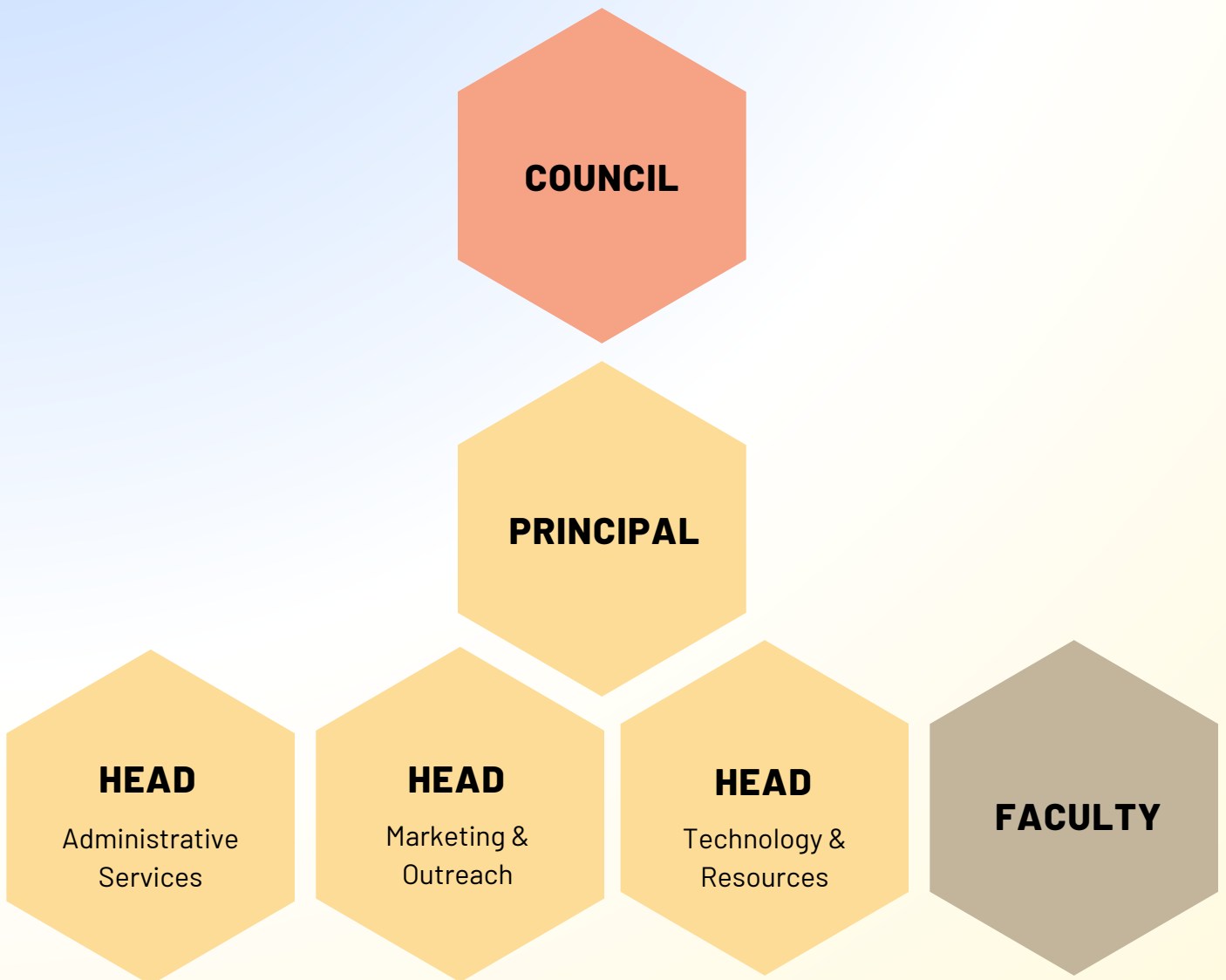
VISION

**That all Christians grow in Christ-likeness
and live out their calling to fulfil
God's creative and redemptive purposes
in the Church and the marketplace**

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Leading with Vision, Inspiring Success

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



CHAIRMAN



Appointed 2018,
Current Term of
Service: 2020-2023

Assoc Prof (Dr) Kenny Tan

A/Prof Kenny is the CEO of St Luke's Eldercare (SLEC) and Associate Professor with the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT). His previous role as COO for St Luke's Hospital and SLEC brought the community hospital and eldercare centres through capacity growth in infrastructure and services. Currently, A/Prof Kenny is pursuing his Doctorate in Transformational Leadership at Bakke Graduate University. He holds a Master in Counselling and an MEd (Policy, Leadership and Change) both from Monash University. He has an Executive MBA (University of Hull), MBBS (NUS) and GDSC (BGST).

VICE-CHAIRMAN



Appointed 2018.
Current Term of
Service: 2021-2023

Rev Barney Lau

Rev Barney is a passionate leader and coaching mentor with 20 years of corporate experience in Fortune 100 companies, and over 14 years of senior leadership experience as an ordained minister with Covenant Evangelical Free Church. A Councillor and Vice-Chairman of BGST's Council, he has served on Board/Chairmanship positions in leading Finance, Healthcare and Technology organizations, and professional and industry bodies such as the Singapore Computer Society and the Singapore IT Federation. He is a certified Learning and Performance Professional and a certified coach with ICF.

TREASURER



Appointed 2021.
Current Term of
Service: 2021-2023

Mr Brian Chew

Brian is the Executive Deputy General Manager and Head of Risk Management (Singapore Branch), China CITIC Bank International Limited. He worships at Church of Our Saviour where he serves as a Lay Pastor. Brian is passionate about theology and has completed his Master of Christian Studies with BGST in 2019.

SECRETARY



Appointed 2019 -
May 31st, 2022.
Current Term of
Service: 2020-2023

Mr Gregory Lee

Gregory is the Director of Pastoral Care, Counselling and Partnerships at St Luke's Eldercare Ltd since October 2022. Previously, he was the Director of Communications and Partnerships. He has over 35 years of experience in sales and marketing across many industries. Since 2004, he has been extensively involved in fundraising and communications for a number of not-for-profit Christian organisations including The Salvation Army and World Vision. He worships at Cornerstone Community Church.

MEMBER



Appointed 2011.
Current Term of
Service: 2021-2023

Dr Quek Swee Hwa

Dr Quek is the Founding Principal of BGST. He has been active in the International Council of Christian Churches, missionary work worldwide and prison ministry.

MEMBER



Appointed 2018.
Current Term of
Service: 2022-2023

Dr Jeremy Gwee

Jeremy is Director, Principal Business Trainer and Executive Coach of the Institute of Training and Occupational Learning for Asia. Previously, he was a banker for thirty-eight years. Possessing a doctorate in transformational leadership, he is also a certified coach in Gallup StrengthsFinder, Belbin and other behavioural assessment tools. Jeremy also serves on the board of regent for Bakke Graduate University.

ANNUAL REMUNERATION DISCLOSURE

In accordance with the revised Code of Governance for Charities and IPCs 2017, BGST discloses that:

- One governing board (council) member is remunerated \$19,200 per year.
- Board (council) members are not involved in setting their own remuneration.
- None of the 3 highest paid staff also serves as a governing board (council) member.
 - The Principal serves as ex-officio Secretary of the BGST Council.
- None of its paid staff receives more than \$100,000 each in annual remuneration.
- None of its paid staff are involved in setting his / her own remuneration.



PRINCIPAL, HEADS, FACULTY

Uniting Talents,
Fueling Innovation

PRINCIPAL



Appointed July 1, 2019;
ex-officio Secretary
since June 1, 2022

Dr Lai Pak-Wah

Pak-Wah is BGST's Principal and Lecturer of Church History and Historical Theology. He serves as an ex-officio Secretary on BGST's Council and as an elder at Mt Carmel Bible Presbyterian Church where he worships and oversees the church's Transformation and Succession Planning Taskforce. Previously, Pak Wah had engaged in investment promotion work with the Singapore Economic Development Board and was a lecturer at the School of Business, Singapore Polytechnic. He is the author of *The Dao of Healing: Christian Perspectives on Chinese Medicine*, and a certified Belbin coach. Pak-Wah holds a PhD from Durham University, UK. He is married to Rina and enjoys sports, engaging Chinese culture, and classical music.

HEAD, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



Appointed
February 1, 2023

Ms Lynn Yong

Lynn heads BGST's Administrative Services. She worships at Bukit Panjang Methodist Church, where she has served in the children's Ministry for more than 20 years. Lynn was the co-founder of edConnect Pte Ltd, an integrated early childhood software programme and service provider from 2003 to 2013 before she joined BGST in 2014. She is married to Henry, and they have 2 children.

HEAD, TECHNOLOGY & RESOURCES



Appointed
February 1, 2023

Dr Tan Seng Kong

Seng Kong heads BGST's Technology and Resources. He is our Lecturer in Systematic and Spiritual Theology. A graduate from Regent College, Vancouver (MA, Spiritual Theology). Seng Kong completed his PhD in Systematic Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, where he focused his research on Jonathan Edwards' Doctrine of Salvation. Seng Kong was formerly an architect. He currently worships and serves at Bethel Assembly of God. When he isn't preoccupied with theological materials, he dabbles with indoor gardening, watches Korean media with his wife and eats Indian food with his son.



Dr Lai Pak-Wah

Pak-Wah is BGST's Principal and Lecturer of Church History and Historical Theology. He also serves as an elder at Mt Carmel Bible Presbyterian Church where he worships and oversees the church's Transformation and Succession Planning Taskforce. Previously, Pak Wah engaged in investment promotion work with the Singapore Economic Development Board and was a lecturer at the School of Business, Singapore Polytechnic. He is the author of *The Dao of Healing: Christian Perspectives on Chinese Medicine*, and a certified Belbin coach. Pak-Wah holds a PhD from Durham University, UK. He is married to Rina and enjoys sports, engaging Chinese culture, and classical music.



Dr Tan Seng Kong

Seng Kong heads BGST's Technology and Resources and Spiritual Formation. He is our Lecturer in Systematic and Spiritual Theology. A graduate from Regent College, Vancouver (MA, Spiritual Theology). Seng Kong completed his PhD in Systematic Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, where he focused his research on Jonathan Edwards' Doctrine of Salvation. Seng Kong was formerly an architect. He currently worships and serves at Bethel Assembly of God. When he isn't preoccupied with theological materials, he dabbles with indoor gardening, watches Korean media with his wife and eats Indian food with his son.



Mr Quek Tze-Ming

Tze-Ming is the Lecturer in New Testament. After leaving legal practice, Tze-Ming served in student ministry with the Fellowship of Evangelical Students (Singapore). He received his DipCS from BGST, MDiv and ThM from Regent College. Presently a PhD candidate in New Testament Studies at the University of Cambridge, his special area of studies is in the use of the Old Testament in the New. Tze-ming serves in the teaching ministry of his church. He is married to Sharon, and they have two daughters. He maintains a lively interest in local food, football, and movies.



Dr Philip Satterthwaite

Philip was BGST's Emeritus Principal and Lecturer in Old Testament and Biblical Hebrew. He is now our Lecturer Emeritus. Prior to this, he was a Research Fellow in Hebrew and Aramaic at Tyndale House, Cambridge. His main research areas are the Old Testament historical books and the Septuagint. In 2007 his book *Exploring the Old Testament 2: The Histories* (written in collaboration with J.G. McConville) was published by SPCK/IVP. Philip has preached and taught in a number of churches in Singapore. He is a member of Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church. He is married to Eileen.



Mr Hor Guo Yi

Guo Yi is Registrar, and Assistant Lecturer for the ENGAGE initiative. He is passionate about Christian education and lay equipping, and desires to see every Christian keep taking the next step in their journey of discipleship. He desires to bridge the gap between Christian academia and the church by gleaning from scholarship and transposing those findings in simple ways that help the church find increasing faithfulness and relevance in the world. Guo Yi graduated from Regent College (MDiv) in 2021. He worships and serves at Covenant Evangelical Free Church together with his wife, Pei Xian.



THE YEAR IN RETROSPECT

Celebrating Breakthroughs,
Inspiring Progress



16

PROGRAMME
STUDENTS
GRADUATED

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN
BIBLICAL STUDIES (GCBS)**

Silas Wee Hao Wei

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN
THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (GCTS)**

Daphne Joanne Tan Chan

**GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN CHRISTIAN
STUDIES (GDCS)**

John Chu Kok Chin
Lee Hong Huei
Deborah Lim Ai Yen
Leo Yulianto Suryatejoisworo
Liaw Chin Chen
Tay Kah Poh
Patricia King Faith Wong Chong Hwee

**DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES
(DipTS)**

Joseph Soh Hua Wui

MASTER IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES (MCS)

John Chai Seong Chiang

1
GCTS

1
GCBS

1
DIPTS

7
GDCS

5
MA(TIS)

1
MCS

**MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGY AND
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES MA(TIS)**

Amy Ang Poh Kheng
Sebastian Choong
Lim Yew Ban
Samuel Soong Heng Kok
Paul Yeo Tze Chien

STUDENT STATISTICS



216

TOTAL STUDENTS IN
ACADEMIC YEAR

91

NEW STUDENTS
ENROLLED

149

TOTAL PROGRAMME
STUDENTS

15

NEW PROGRAMME
STUDENTS

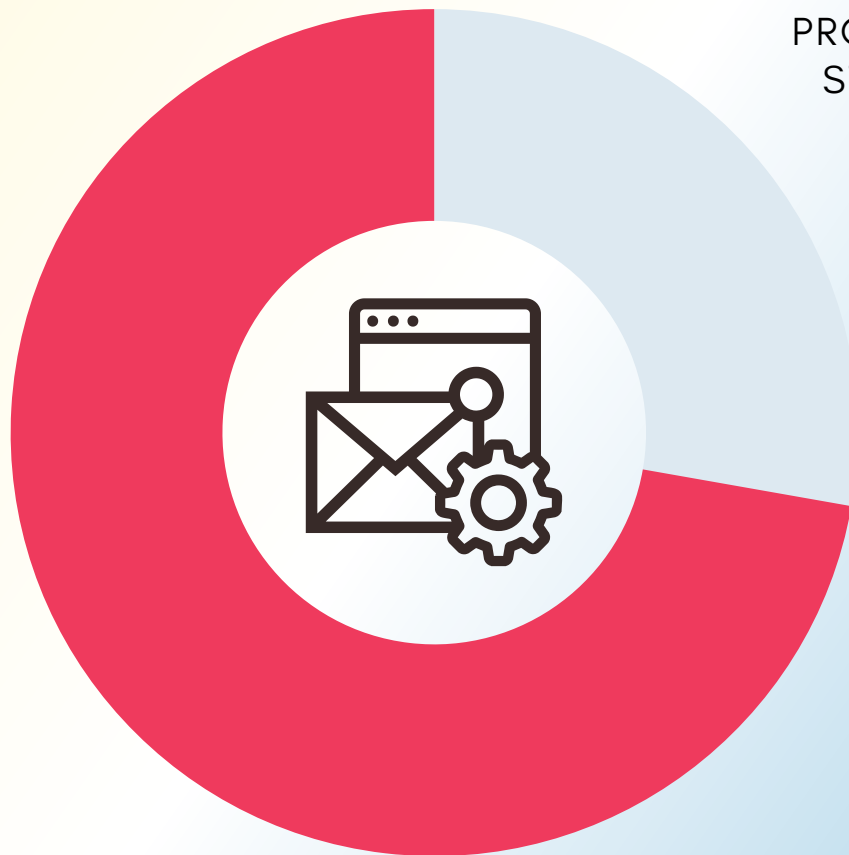


eng▶ge STUDENT STATISTICS

eng▶ge CERTIFICATE IN PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

5

ECPL PROGRAMME STUDENTS



13

eng▶ge CERTIFICATE IN LAY LEADERSHIP

ECLL PROGRAMME STUDENTS



BGST
BIBLICAL GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF THEOLOGY

COURSE STATISTICS

13

COURSES
PER SEMESTER

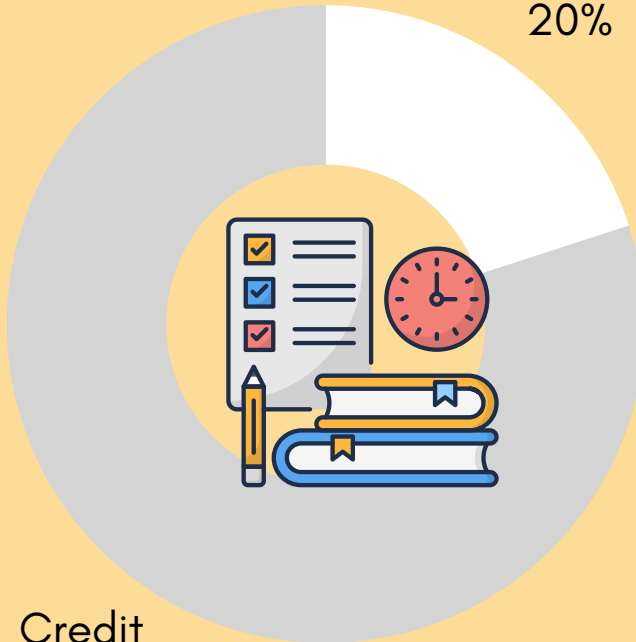
26

COURSES
PER YEAR

300

COURSES TAKEN

Audit
20%



Credit
80%

240

CREDIT COURSES
TAKEN

60

AUDIT COURSES
TAKEN

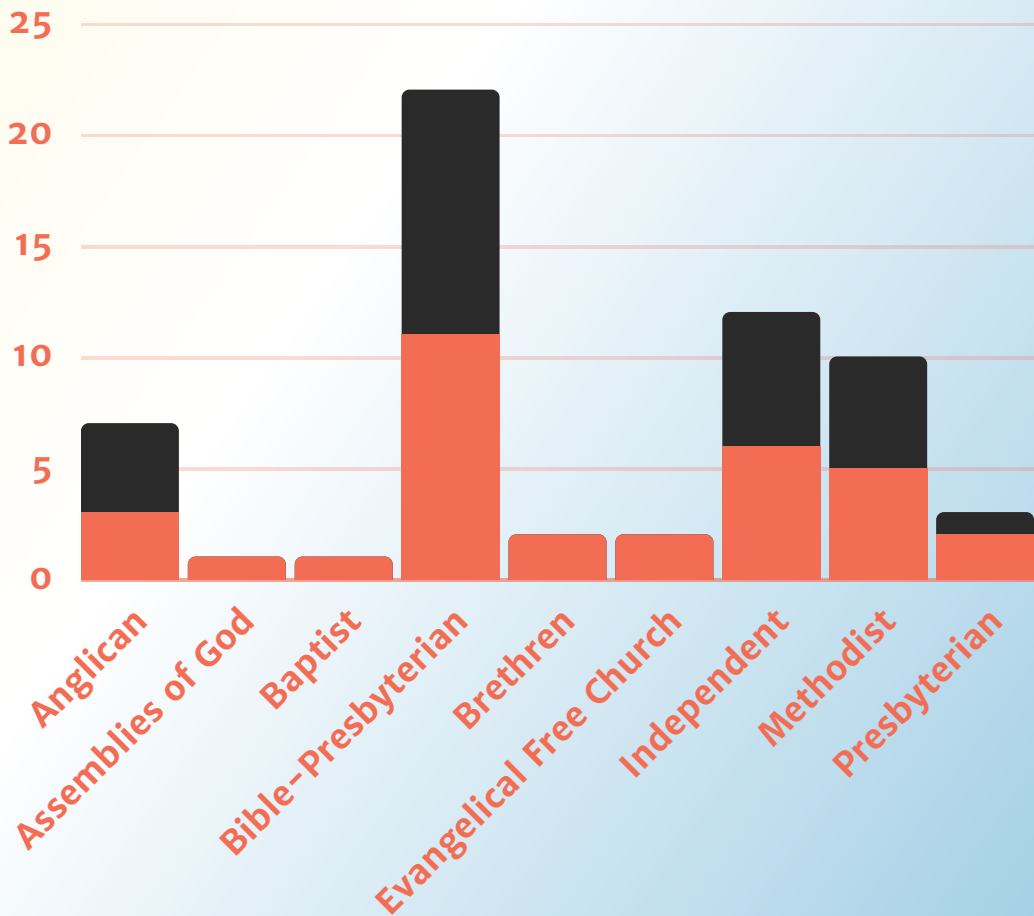
SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FROM VARIOUS DOMINATIONS

33

ORDINARY MEMBERS

27

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



KEY EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Gratitude, Collaboration
Continued Success

JULY 2022

DEDICATION SERVICE

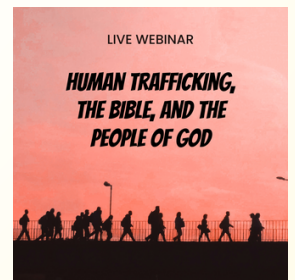
On Jul 7, we opened our new academic year with our Dedication Service. It was a night of devotion, appreciation and prayer. We sought God's guidance and wisdom for AY2022/23, to grow in Him, and to serve Him and His people with our hearts and our utmost.



SEPT 2022

HUMAN TRAFFICKING, THE BIBLE, AND THE PEOPLE OF GOD WEBINAR

Dr Myrto Theocharous explored the current state of human trafficking today and how Christians should respond to it through the lens of the Old Testament, calling the church to embody biblical ideals and so actively taking responsibility for the discovery, rescue, and restoration of trafficked victims.

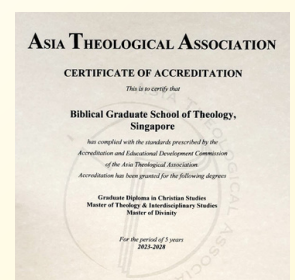


NOV 2022

ASIA THEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ACCREDITATION

Accreditation was granted for the following degrees:

- Graduate Diploma in Christian Studies (GDGS)
- Master of Arts in Theology and Integrative Studies (MATIS)
- Master of Divinity (MDiv)



**NOV
2022**

ANNUAL DINNER

It was a night of warm fellowship, worship and fun discovery as we learnt how the Christian faith can inform every aspect of our lives from food, play to hospitality.



**FEB
2023**

CARING FOR SEXUAL MINORITIES IN RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES WEBINAR

This taster webinar was an introduction to the course: Sexuality in a Community of Faith by Rev Dr Ng Liang Wei.



**MAY
2023**

32ND CONVOCATION

We celebrated the achievements of our graduates at BGST's 32nd Convocation, held at Zion Bishan Bible-Presbyterian Church.





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Singapore 349326



www.bgst.edu.sg



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