



Asia Biblical
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Cornerstone University



2023-2025

CATALOG

Providing Context for a Global Church

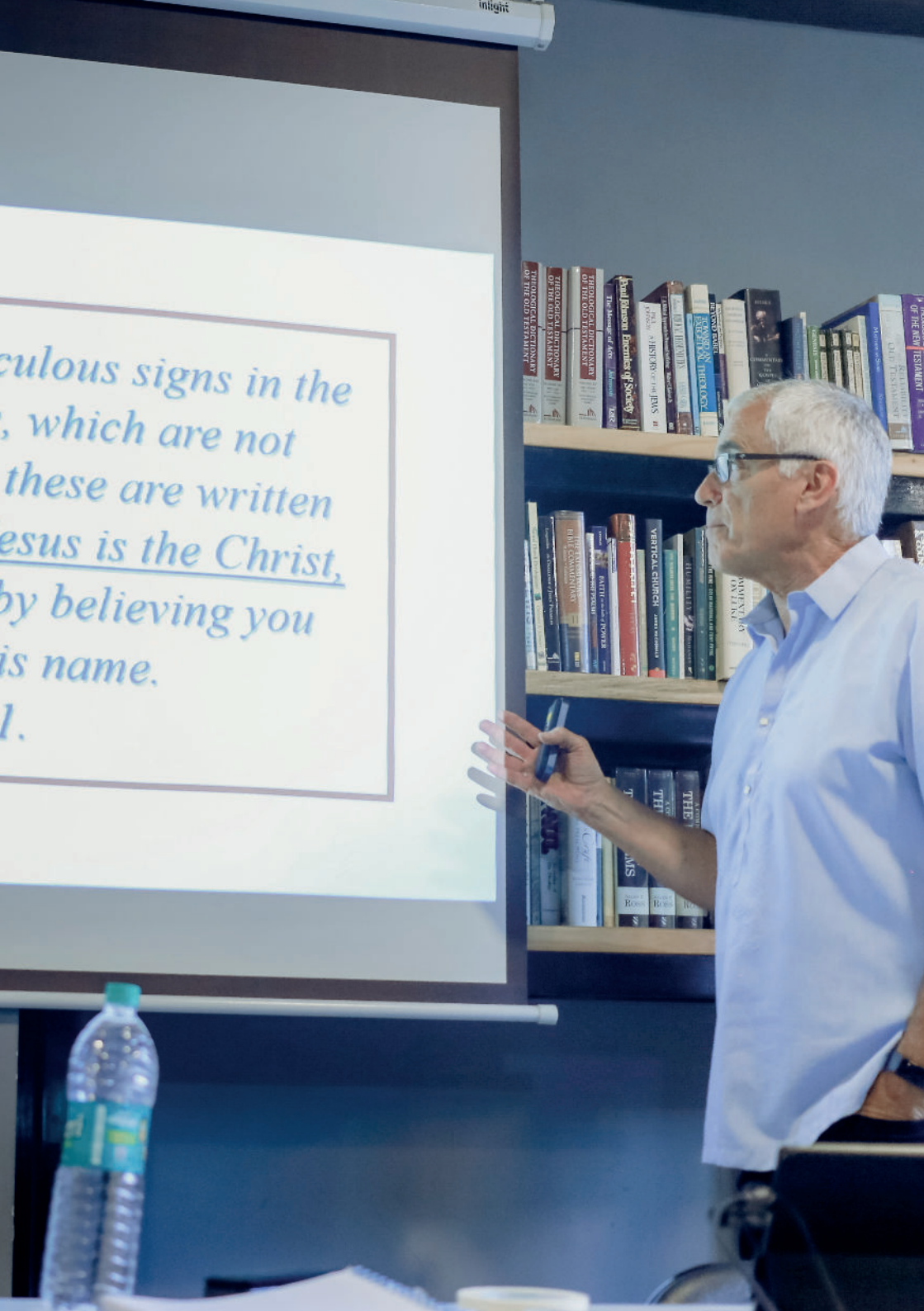


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ASIA BIBLICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

OF CORNERSTONE UNIVERSITY

Asia Biblical Theological Seminary of Cornerstone University, in cooperation with multiple mission organizations, makes available graduate level theological education to eligible Christian leaders serving in Asia. Since 1983, this program has provided the opportunity to earn master's degrees from Cornerstone University while remaining in Asia.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

ABTS aims to accomplish its mission through an integrated program of biblical, theological, and professional studies delivered through a combination of online and in-person classes offered in selected cities in Asia. Educational activities endeavor to provide training within the context of the student's life, work, and ministry.

ABTS is headquartered in Chiang Mai, Thailand, with a complement of resident personnel for the purpose of general management and oversight of the program as well as to provide a centralized core of full-time scholars and teachers. This office also serves as a resource and consultation center of curriculum and research materials for theological education in Asia. Classes are taught by a carefully selected roster of full-time faculty members, professors from the Grand Rapids campus and qualified adjunct faculty with experience in Asia.

OUR ACCREDITATION

Degree programs of ABTS are fully accredited through Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA. Cornerstone University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States.

Cornerstone University is a Christ-centered university with a passion for global influence through the transforming power of the gospel. Cornerstone exists to empower men and women to excel as influencers in the world for Christ by offering a student-focused learning community where Jesus Christ is central.

OUR MISSION AND VISION

Asia Biblical Theological Seminary exists to further the mission of Cornerstone University by providing graduate-level theological education and contributing to evangelical scholarship for Asian contexts. Our vision is to produce global theologians and practitioners who are growing spiritually, thinking creatively, teaching biblically, and serving contextually.

OUR EDUCATIONAL VALUES

- Centrality of the text: the Bible as our final authority for all we do, functioning as the foundation of our curriculum.
- Importance of theology: theology as the proper articulation of Scripture for faith and practice, and the guide for each educational discipline.
- Critical thinking: careful analysis and evaluation of data, evidence, observations, and experiences to develop thoughtful beliefs and actions.
- Lifelong learning: modeling and promoting a humble pursuit to always learn more and cultivate skills.
- Praxis: learning through and for reflective application.
- Cultural sensitivity: recognizing that the Gospel is always made visible in particular people and cultures.

OUR STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students of Asia Biblical Theological Seminary will demonstrate competence in the areas of specialized knowledge, applied knowledge and collaborative learning, intellectual skills, global and civic engagement, and biblical worldview integration and action. Student learning will target the following sub-outcomes:

- Recognize the centrality of the biblical text by demonstrating competence in exegeting, interpreting and applying Scripture in personal and ministry situations.
- Evaluate concepts of leadership utilizing effective organizational and group communication skills.
- Critique relevant data and make decisions consistent with Scripture.
- Develop methodologies for, and deepen commitments to, building Christ's church worldwide.

- Develop theological convictions and philosophies of ministry: integrate these principles into personal life, ministry settings, and cultural milieu.
- Synthesize new insights from seminars, reading, and analysis into ministry contexts: trace the end results of ministry innovations, either verification of methods applied or analysis of failure and lessons learned.
- Construct collaborative networks with colleagues who can support one another in the ministry.
- Integrate biblical, theological, and ministerial principles for understanding and addressing the pressing issues currently facing Asian society.
- Understand and evaluate worldviews from a Christian perspective, and develop methodologies for effective and holistic ministry within pluralistic contexts.

OUR STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

To encourage our students' growth in biblical character, ABTS limits enrollment to those who seek to live in conformity with the teaching of Scripture and to fulfill their responsibilities as students and Christians. We ask, therefore, that students certify their willingness to abide by the following basic standards of conduct:

- To seek to obey every divine command in order to maintain a right relationship with God, other people, and the created order.
- To participate in Christian service and faithfully attend a local church.
- To study carefully and complete coursework to the best of their abilities.

STUDENT GRIEVANCE POLICY

Although ABTS personnel and students are committed to working together in the love of Christ, it is inevitable that disagreements may arise from time to time. Students who feel they have been wronged by ABTS faculty or staff should follow the following steps to resolve the conflict:

1. The student may talk directly and informally with any faculty or staff member as opportunities arise. He/she may also communicate directly with the faculty or staff member with a written statement of the concern and the desired resolution.

2. Our country coordinators may act as liaisons and advocates for ABTS students in Asian settings where advocacy is the expected cultural norm. If corresponding with the faculty or staff does not bring the desired resolution, or if the student feels uncomfortable with direct confrontation, the student may take his/her concerns to the country coordinator for mediation. The coordinator shall make a judgment of the validity of the complaint and intercede on the student's behalf with the faculty or staff member.
3. If any of the parties involved feel that the matter has not been resolved through the above avenues, the complaint should be taken to the Dean for resolution. The Dean shall render a final decision regarding the complaint and take appropriate steps to correct the situation.



PROGRAMS OF STUDY



MASTER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

COUNSELING CONCENTRATION

DESCRIPTION

The Master of Religious Education (MRE) Counseling Concentration is a 31-credit hour program designed to help ministry leaders enhance their interpersonal skills, biblical and theological foundations, and understanding of the human condition with the purpose of empowering others toward positive life-change.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- Evidence of personal commitment to Christ as well as moral character and conduct.
- Completion of 31 credit hours of work with at least a 2.5 grade point average. Nineteen of these 31 hours must be taken in approved in-person or online classes. The remaining 12 hours may be taken as extension classes. A maximum of 12 applicable hours taken from an accredited institution within the last ten years may be transferred into the MRE degree.
- Submission of a student portfolio demonstrating growth in spiritual development, ministry skills, and understanding of Scripture as a result of the student's experience in this degree program.
- Completion of all degree requirements within five years from date of admission.

CORE STUDIES	13 CREDIT HOURS
THL500 Introduction to Graduate Theological Education	1 credit hour
BIB501 Biblical Hermeneutics	3 credit hours
THL572 Christian Worldview	3 credit hours
Bible Elective	3 credit hours
Theology Elective	3 credit hours
AREA OF CONCENTRATION	12 CREDIT HOURS
MNS671 Introduction to Christian Counseling	3 credit hour
MNS782 Practicum	3 credit hours
MNS Electives	6 credit hours
GENERAL ELECTIVES	6 CREDIT HOURS
TOTAL REQUIRED	31 CREDIT HOURS

MASTER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

EDUCATIONAL CONCENTRATION

DESCRIPTION

The MRE Educational Concentration is a 31-credit hour program designed to help teachers and educational administrators enhance their ministry competencies and broaden their biblical and theological foundations for educational ministry.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- Evidence of personal commitment to Christ as well as moral character and conduct.
- Completion of 31 credit hours of work with at least a 2.5 grade point average. Nineteen of these 31 hours must be taken in approved in-person or online classes. The remaining 12 hours may be taken as extension classes. A maximum of 12 applicable hours taken from an accredited institution within the last ten years may be transferred into the MRE degree.
- Submission of a student portfolio demonstrating growth in spiritual development, ministry skills, and understanding of Scripture as a result of the student's experience in this degree program.
- Completion of all degree requirements within five years from date of admission.

CORE STUDIES	13 CREDIT HOURS
THL500 Introduction to Graduate Theological Education	1 credit hour
BIB501 Biblical Hermeneutics	3 credit hours
THL540 Systematic Theology 1	3 credit hours
Bible Elective	3 credit hours
Theology Elective	3 credit hours
AREA OF CONCENTRATION	12 CREDIT HOURS
MNS644 Curriculum & Teaching	3 credit hour
MNS782 Practicum	3 credit hours
MNS Electives	6 credit hours
GENERAL ELECTIVES	6 CREDIT HOURS
TOTAL REQUIRED	31 CREDIT HOURS

MASTER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

INTERCULTURAL CONCENTRATION

DESCRIPTION

The MRE Intercultural Concentration is a 31-credit hour program designed to help missionaries and cross-cultural professionals enhance their ministry competencies and broaden their biblical and theological foundations for intercultural ministry.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- Evidence of personal commitment to Christ as well as moral character and conduct.
- Completion of 31 credit hours of work with at least a 2.5 grade point average. Nineteen of these 31 hours must be taken in approved in-person or online classes. The remaining 12 hours may be taken as extension classes. A maximum of 12 applicable hours taken from an accredited institution within the last ten years may be transferred into the MRE degree.
- Submission of a student portfolio demonstrating growth in spiritual development, ministry skills, and understanding of Scripture as a result of the student’s experience in this degree program.
- Completion of all degree requirements within five years from date of admission.

CORE STUDIES	13 CREDIT HOURS
THL500 Introduction to Graduate Theological Education	1 credit hour
BIB501 Biblical Hermeneutics	3 credit hours
THL540 Systematic Theology 1	3 credit hours
Bible Elective	3 credit hours
Theology Elective	3 credit hours
AREA OF CONCENTRATION	12 CREDIT HOURS
MNS551 Theology & Culture	3 credit hour
MNS782 Practicum	3 credit hours
MNS Electives	6 credit hours
GENERAL ELECTIVES	6 CREDIT HOURS
TOTAL REQUIRED	31 CREDIT HOURS

MASTER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MARKETPLACE CONCENTRATION

DESCRIPTION

The MRE Marketplace Concentration is a 31-credit hour program designed to help lay professionals integrate their faith with the workplace by providing biblical and theological foundations for a theology of work.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- Evidence of personal commitment to Christ as well as moral character and conduct.
- Completion of 31 credit hours of work with at least a 2.5 grade point average. Nineteen of these 31 hours must be taken in approved in-person or online classes. The remaining 12 hours may be taken as extension classes. A maximum of 12 applicable hours taken from an accredited institution within the last ten years may be transferred into the MRE degree.
- Submission of a student portfolio demonstrating growth in spiritual development, ministry skills, and understanding of Scripture as a result of the student's experience in this degree program.
- Completion of all degree requirements within five years from date of admission.

CORE STUDIES	13 CREDIT HOURS
THL500 Introduction to Graduate Theological Education	1 credit hour
BIB501 Biblical Hermeneutics	3 credit hours
THL572 Christian Worldview	3 credit hours
Bible Elective	3 credit hours
Theology Elective	3 credit hours
AREA OF CONCENTRATION	12 CREDIT HOURS
MNS515 Vocation, Work and Ministry	3 credit hour
MNS782 Practicum	3 credit hours
MNS Electives	6 credit hours
GENERAL ELECTIVES	6 CREDIT HOURS
TOTAL REQUIRED	31 CREDIT HOURS

MASTER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

PASTORAL CONCENTRATION

DESCRIPTION

The MRE Pastoral Concentration is a 31-credit hour program designed to help both pastors and lay leaders enhance their ministry competencies and broaden their biblical and theological foundations for pastoral ministry.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- Evidence of personal commitment to Christ as well as moral character and conduct.
- Completion of 31 credit hours of work with at least a 2.5 grade point average. Nineteen of these 31 hours must be taken in approved in-person or online classes. The remaining 12 hours may be taken as extension classes. A maximum of 12 applicable hours taken from an accredited institution within the last ten years may be transferred into the MRE degree.
- Submission of a student portfolio demonstrating growth in spiritual development, ministry skills, and understanding of Scripture as a result of the student's experience in this degree program.
- Completion of all degree requirements within five years from date of admission.

CORE STUDIES	13 CREDIT HOURS
THL500 Introduction to Graduate Theological Education	1 credit hour
BIB501 Biblical Hermeneutics	3 credit hours
THL540 Systematic Theology 1	3 credit hours
Bible Elective	3 credit hours
Theology Elective	3 credit hours
AREA OF CONCENTRATION	12 CREDIT HOURS
MNS681 Pastoral Care	3 credit hour
MNS782 Practicum	3 credit hours
MNS Electives	6 credit hours
GENERAL ELECTIVES	6 CREDIT HOURS
TOTAL REQUIRED	31 CREDIT HOURS

MASTER OF ARTS

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN BIBLE, THEOLOGY, AND MINISTRY

DESCRIPTION

The Master of Arts (MA) degree is a 64-credit hour program providing opportunity for in-depth investigation into the three basic content areas. A substantial elective category allows students to explore areas appropriate to their ministry context. Students who have not accomplished any graduate studies are encouraged to complete the MRE degree before progressing to the MA degree. Students who complete the MRE first may apply all 31 credits from the MRE degree toward completion of the MA degree.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- Evidence of personal commitment to Christ as well as moral character and conduct.
- Completion of 64 credit hours of work with at least a 2.5 grade point average. Forty of these 64 hours must be taken in approved in-person or online classes. The remaining 24 hours may be taken as extension classes. A maximum of 24 applicable hours taken from an accredited institution within the last ten years may be transferred into the MA degree.
- Submission of a student portfolio demonstrating growth in spiritual development, ministry skills, and understanding of Scripture as a result of the student's experience in this degree program.
- Completion of all degree requirements within eight years. Students who apply credits from the MRE will be allowed five years for program completion.

CORE STUDIES	55 CREDIT HOURS
THL500 Introduction to Graduate Theological Education	1 credit hour
Bible	
BIB501 Biblical Hermeneutics	3 credit hours
BIB502 Old Testament Biblical Theology	3 credit hours
BIB503 New Testament Biblical Theology	3 credit hours
Bible Electives	6 credit hours
Theology	
THL540 Systematic Theology 1	3 credit hours
THL640 Systematic Theology 2	3 credit hours
THL641 Systematic Theology 3	3 credit hours
Historical Theology Elective	3 credit hours
Philosophical Theology Elective	3 credit hours
Ministry Leadership	
MNS500 Spiritual Formation	3 credit hours
MNS510 Organizational Leadership	3 credit hours
MNS782 Practicum	3 credit hours
Counseling Elective	3 credit hours
Educational Elective	3 credit hours
Intercultural Elective	3 credit hours
Marketplace Elective	3 credit hours
Pastoral Elective	3 credit hours
GENERAL ELECTIVES	9 CREDIT HOURS
TOTAL REQUIRED	64 CREDIT HOURS

ELECTIVE CHOICES

BIBLE ELECTIVES

BIB520 Genesis
BIB523 Psalms
BIB552 Gospel of Luke
BIB553 Acts of the Apostles
BIB554 Romans
BIB556 Pastoral Epistles
BIB557 Hebrews
BIB600 Bible Backgrounds & Ancient Cultures
BIB630 Wisdom Literature
BIB632 Isaiah
BIB762 Parables of Jesus
BIB789 Advanced Topics

COUNSELING ELECTIVES

MNS626 Interpersonal Communication & Conflict Management
MNS671 Introduction to Christian Counseling
MNS672 Counseling Skills

EDUCATIONAL ELECTIVES

MNS622 Foundation of Education
MNS643 Adult Education
MNS644 Curriculum & Teaching

HISTORICAL THEOLOGY ELECTIVES

THL510 Historical Theology Survey
THL515 The Ancient Church
THL517 Reformation Church History
THL526 History of the Charismatic Movement

INTERCULTURAL ELECTIVES

MNS551 Theology & Culture
MNS645 Evangelism & Apologetics
MNS665 Understanding Islam

MARKETPLACE ELECTIVES

MNS515 Vocation, Work & Ministry
MNS516 Christian Ethics in the Workplace
MNS564 Urban Mission & Ministry

PASTORAL ELECTIVES

MNS511 Theology of Church Ministry
MNS636 Homiletics
MNS681 Pastoral Care

PHILOSOPHICAL THEOLOGY ELECTIVES

THL572 Christian Worldview
THL576 Christian Ethics
THL789 Advanced Topics

PROGRAM PROCEDURES



ADMISSIONS

APPLICATION FOR DEGREE STATUS

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Evidence of commitment to Christ and moral character and conduct.
- Demonstrate sufficient life experience for adequate integration of course content with ministry and workplace contexts.
- Have earned a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from a recognized college or university and maintained a grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 system. Students having a GPA less than 2.5 may apply for admission under academic probation.
- Non-native English speakers will be required to pass the ABTS English Proficiency Test. Applicants who score 450 and above will be considered for admittance without academic restriction. Applicants who score 400-449 will be considered for admittance under academic probation.
- Affirm the Asia Biblical Theological Seminary Confession of Faith.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION

- Completed application form.
- Official academic transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate schools attended.
- Reference forms from a pastor, elder, or deacon of the applicant's local church and from one other person (not a member of the applicant's family).

APPLICATION PROCESS

All application materials should be submitted through the ABTS website and are accepted year-round. Acceptance for admission will be considered upon receipt of all the required documents. Applicants who have not accomplished any graduate studies are encouraged to complete the MRE degree before progressing to the MA degree. If the application process is not completed within six months from the date of acknowledgement of the application by the ABTS office, the applicant must re-apply.

Applicants who have fulfilled all application requirements, except official transcripts, may register for the Introduction to Graduate Theological Education course and one additional course for credit. However, credit will only be granted upon formal acceptance.

READMISSION

Any former student who has been withdrawn must apply for readmission. Official transcripts of all studies which have been completed in the interval must be submitted. Updated reference forms may also be required. Readmitted students must comply with all new requirements for admission and are subject to any new degree requirements.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students who wish to transfer to ABTS should submit a transcript of all credits previously earned with their application for admission. Credit may be given for approved, comparable work taken in graduate programs in accredited colleges, universities, or seminaries. By approval of the Dean, credit may be given for a limited number of courses taken in graduate programs which are not offered in the seminary, but which correlate with ABTS degree programs. MRE students may transfer 12 credit hours into their degree program. Master of Arts students may transfer 24 credit hours.

OTHER APPLICATIONS

NON-DEGREE ENROLLMENT

ABTS permits the enrollment of students seeking advanced education in Bible, theology or ministry without a specific degree objective. Students are permitted to take a maximum of 6 credits under the non-degree enrollment status. These students are required to complete the Non-Degree Application form and submit official academic transcripts from all previous undergraduate and graduate schools. Non-native English speakers are required to pass the ABTS English Proficiency Test. Non-degree students may apply courses taken for credit on a non-degree basis toward fulfillment of a specific degree program at a later time.

GUEST STUDENTS

ABTS welcomes guest students from other accredited seminaries for limited enrollment. A Guest Student Application is required in advance of enrollment. Upon completion of a given course, an academic transcript can be secured from Cornerstone University for the transfer of credits to the home institution. Contact the ABTS office for instructions.

AUDIT STUDENTS

ABTS classes are open to those who wish to audit. The extent of participation in the class by an audit student should be arranged between the professor and the student.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

FEES

Thanks to the generosity of donors, significant scholarships are available to the majority of students from Asian countries. Current tuition prices after the scholarship deduction and information regarding other fees are available from the ABTS office, the country coordinator, or the ABTS website.

All fees must be paid during the course registration period, by the specified due date, prior to the start of each course. Payment may be made in local currency to the country coordinator or by bank transfer to ABTS bank accounts as stated in the fee assessment. Funds may also be transferred by a mission agency or an individual in US dollars directly to our ABTS-US bank account by special prior arrangement.

Transportation and room and board are the responsibility of the individual student. Contact the coordinator at the class site for information about available housing near the site where courses are being held.

SPOUSE BENEFIT

The spouse educational benefit is intended to provide spouses of ABTS students with the opportunity to participate in the theological educational experience in order to promote a shared pilgrimage of growth and learning. The spouse of an active ABTS student, regardless of prior academic record, is entitled to audit classes free of charge. This audit opportunity provides for class attendance only; course work will not be submitted or graded and there will be no official academic record. The benefit is not applicable to courses that the student audits. If the spouse wishes to take the course for credit, full tuition must be paid.

AUDITING

The cost to audit a course is 1/3 of the regular cost of tuition.

WITHDRAWAL

In cases of withdrawal, tuition refunds will be determined as follows:

Percentage of Refund	Extension, Hybrid, and Online	Traditional
100%	First week	First day
75%	Second week	Second day
50%	Third week	Third day
No refund	After week three	After day three



ACADEMIC POLICIES

COURSE LOAD

The total course load, including both in-person/online and extension courses, will be a maximum of two courses at a time. Students who manifest discipline in completing coursework may enroll in a third course with the prior approval of the Dean.

SCHOLASTIC STANDING

The student’s scholastic standing is indicated by their Grade Point Average (GPA). Grades for each class earn points according to the following scale:

A.....4.0	B.....3.0	C.....2.0	D.....1.0
A-.....3.7	B-.....2.7	C-.....1.7	D-.....0.7
B+.....3.3	C+.....2.3	D+.....1.3	F.....0.0

Grade points are averaged together to obtain the GPA. In the best interest of the student, the school has established a scale for determining probation and dismissal levels. The probationary level for 9 credit hours is 2.0; after 18 credit hours, the probationary level is 2.25. Students are liable for dismissal when their GPA falls below 1.5 after 9 credit hours or 1.75 after 18 credit hours. Students whose GPA falls below the probationary level but above the dismissal level are placed on Academic Probation. Students on Academic Probation are permitted to take only one course at a time. It is hoped that this restriction will help them raise their GPA by giving full attention to each course.

Graduation with honors is applicable to the MA program only. To qualify, one must achieve a GPA minimum of 3.85 for summa cum laude, 3.7 for magna cum laude, and 3.6 for cum laude.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the act of presenting someone else’s intellectual work as one’s own and will not be tolerated in course work done for ABTS. While students are encouraged to conduct academic research and utilize reference materials from a variety of sources, all sources used must be appropriately cited and documented. Intellectual honesty in scholarly pursuit is expected as the norm from our students. Students who commit acts of plagiarism will receive severe grade reductions, possible course failure, or dismissal.

WITHDRAWALS

Permission to withdraw from a course must be requested specifically in writing from the professor and the ABTS office. In every case, the student is responsible to notify the ABTS office of his/her intent to withdraw. Courses will be treated as follows on the student’s academic record:

Official Record	Extension	Hybrid and Online	Traditional
No record on transcript	First week	First week	First day of seminar
W — no effect on GPA	10th week	6th week	Last day of seminar
WP or WE*	10th to 14th week	6th to 9th week	3rd to 9th week
WE	After 14th week	After 9th week	After 9th week

*During this period, students will receive WP or WE depending on the quality and amount of assignments submitted in relation to the date of withdrawal. WP (withdrawn passing) will have no effect on their GPA. WE (withdrawn failing) is treated as an F for their GPA.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

REQUIRED COURSES

Checklists for the degree programs are provided to assist in planning the program of study. It is the student's responsibility to assure that he/she has completed the required courses in accordance with their program of study. A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required for graduation.

STUDENT PORTFOLIO

All students must fulfill all Student Portfolio requirements prior to graduation.

MRE Program:

- Pre-program and Post-program Assessments
- Graduation Packet (Graduation Application, Summative Evaluation, Grad Evaluation)

MA Program:

- Pre-program and Post-program Assessments
- 3 Follow-Up Reports (FUR)
- Graduation Packet (Graduation Application, Summative Evaluation, Grad Evaluation)

The student's degree checklist, outlining courses taken to fulfill degree requirements, and an application for graduation must be submitted at least six months before graduation. Final summative reports involve the student's evaluation of his/her growth during the degree program and a form completed by a ministry supervisor or colleague assessing effective integration of course content into relevant contexts.

APPLICATION FOR GRADUATION

All students must apply for graduation. Students should notify the ABTS office when they have successfully completed 27 credit hours (9 modules) toward the MRE degree or 57 credit hours (19 modules) toward the MA degree. The office personnel will respond with an analysis of progress made toward graduation. The necessary forms for graduation portfolio reports can be filled out online at the ABTS website.



COURSE PROCEDURES & DESCRIPTIONS



IN-PERSON AND ONLINE COURSES

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

In-person hybrid courses consist of four or five weeks of online instruction, 20 hours of face-to-face instruction, and a period of time for the completion of assignments. In-person traditional courses consist of 40 hours of face-to-face instruction and approximately 2 months for the completion of assignments.

Online courses consist of a combination of synchronous and asynchronous components, including videos, discussion forums, assignments, readings, and live conference calls. Online courses do not include a period of in-person instruction.

Courses are taught by full-time ABTS faculty, visiting professors from Cornerstone University, or qualified adjunct faculty from Asia and the US. Occasionally, courses may be scheduled over longer periods of time or offered in “connected classroom” format, which allows students to join select in-person classes live via conference call. Classes are held in participating countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region. View the schedule on the ABTS website or contact the country coordinator for specific courses and dates.



REGISTRATION

Registration will be available online at least one month prior to the class. Classes are subject to cancellation for insufficient registration.

The ABTS website is the best place to check for up-to-date information on the class schedule. Students may also contact their country coordinator or the ABTS office to obtain information for courses.

Students must be formally accepted prior to enrolling in a course for credit. Courses may be audited without credit by ABTS students and non-students alike. Arrangements to upgrade from audit to credit status must be made with the professor during the class. Students wishing to switch from credit to audit must do so within the first week of an in-person or online class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend all sessions of an in-person or online class. However, students with a valid reason are permitted to miss up to 4 hours of an in-person class, or the equivalent of an online class, with the permission of the professor. For illness or genuine emergency, the professor may replace up to 6 additional hours with extra reading or assignments. Students missing more than 25% (10 hours) of the course must withdraw.

ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments must be submitted by the due dates provided by the professor. Late assignments may be subject to grade penalties, and missing assignments will automatically receive an “F.” Students who fail a course but desire to receive credit will be permitted to re-enroll at their own expense and attend the course again. Full tuition will be charged.

EXTENSION COURSES

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Extension courses consist of textbooks, recorded lectures, and various other materials offered in an online format to guide students in their course of study. These courses are taken independently but involve regular interaction with an ABTS professor.

Courses will be assigned to an ABTS faculty member for oversight and grading. Students who are interested in personalized readings or extension courses should contact the ABTS office.

TERMS OF STUDY

Students may register for an extension course at any time that is convenient for them. Registrations should be sent to the ABTS office. Personnel will respond with a fee assessment, and materials will be sent to the student when payment is received.

The course will begin on the 15th of the month following registration. Four months will be allowed for course completion. If possible, we may accommodate requests to study during a specified four-month period.

It is strongly recommended that students enroll in only one extension course at a time. They may, of course, complete courses in less than the allotted four months and register for a second course upon completion of that first one. Students are not allowed to enroll in more than two courses at the same time, whether extension, in-person, or online, except by special permission from the Dean.

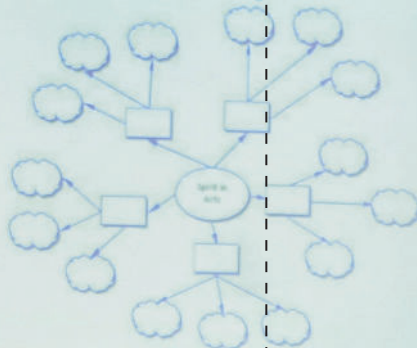
Assignments must be submitted on or before the course due dates. Students should keep a copy of all work submitted until the grade is received.





Acts 1:2	Acts 8:15	Acts 13:4
Acts 1:5	Acts 8:17	Acts 13:9
Acts 1:8	Acts 8:18	Acts 13:52
Acts 1:16	Acts 8:19	Acts 15:8
Acts 2:4	Acts 8:29	Acts 15:28
Acts 2:17	Acts 8:39	Acts 16:6
Acts 2:18	Acts 9:17	Acts 16:7
Acts 2:33	Acts 9:31	Acts 19:2
Acts 2:38	Acts 10:19	Acts 19:6
Acts 4:8	Acts 10:38	Acts 19:21
Acts 4:25	Acts 10:44	Acts 20:22
Acts 4:31	Acts 10:45	Acts 20:23
Acts 5:3	Acts 10:47	Acts 20:28
Acts 5:9	Acts 11:17	Acts 21:4
Acts 5:32	Acts 11:15	Acts 21:11
Acts 6:3	Acts 11:16	Acts 23:8
Acts 6:5	Acts 11:24	Acts 23:9
Acts 7:51	Acts 11:28	Acts 28:25
Acts 7:55	Acts 13:2	

Using these verses, develop a mind map explaining the Spirit's activity in Acts. To do this you will need to build categories and then subcategories.



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BIBLICAL STUDIES

BIB501 Biblical Hermeneutics

3 credit hours

An introduction to the process of determining the original meaning and contemporary significance of biblical texts. This is a required course for all students.

Formats: in-person, online, extension

BIB502 Old Testament Biblical Theology

3 credit hours

A study of Old Testament history and literature, with emphasis upon key theological concepts in Old Testament biblical theology. Included is an introduction to the nature and methodology of biblical theology.

Formats: in-person, online, extension

BIB503 New Testament Biblical Theology

3 credit hours

A study of the New Testament history, literature, and theology, focusing upon the theological development of the NT. Included is an introduction to the nature and methodology of biblical theology.

Formats: in-person, online

BIB520 Genesis

3 credit hours

A study of the structure, cultural background, and foundational concepts in the book of Genesis.

Formats: in-person

BIB523 Psalms

3 credit hours

A study of the book of Psalms, giving attention to the various forms of the Psalms and their function within the historical experience of Israel. The course begins by focusing on the formulation and interpretation of the Psalms, then examines in detail the various types of psalms, giving sermonic treatment of selected psalms with application for today's Church.

Formats: extension

BIB552 Gospel of Luke

3 credit hours

A textual examination of the Gospel of Luke, highlighting significant theological themes found in the gospel. The course enables students to prepare narrative material for preaching and teaching.

Formats: in-person, extension

BIB553 Acts of the Apostles

3 credit hours

An exegetical examination of the Acts of the Apostles with concentration on the biblical theology of the book of Acts, the historical background of events, and the theological emphasis of the speeches. Special attention is given to articulating the message of Acts in ways that are both textually accurate and contemporarily relevant.

Formats: in-person, extension

BIB554 Romans

3 credit hours

An exposition of this letter in terms of its significance for biblical, pastoral, and systematic theology. Particular attention is paid to the epistolary and rhetorical constructs contained in the letter and how these mechanisms affect its interpretation.

Formats: in-person

BIB556 Pastoral Epistles

3 credit hours

An exposition of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus based on their nature as occasional documents. The individual theological witness of each letter is emphasized.

Formats: in-person, extension

BIB557 Hebrews

3 credit hours

This course is an exploration of the background and content of the epistle to the Hebrews focusing on the key interpretive issues and theological contributions of this Christian homily addressed to a marginalized community of Christ-followers who were suffering for their faith and losing sight of the hope found in the promises and accomplishments of Christ.

Formats: online, extension

BIB600 Bible Backgrounds and Ancient Cultures**3 credit hours**

A study of the role and findings of archaeology in the Ancient Near East, emphasizing the contributions of artifactual data for understanding the history and culture of both the Old and New Testament periods.

Formats: in-person

BIB630 Wisdom Literature**3 credit hours**

A study of the Old Testament wisdom literature (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job) with emphasis on the literary structure and main message of each book.

Formats: in-person, extension

BIB632 Isaiah**3 credit hours**

An inductive, biblical and theological study of the major passages of Isaiah. The student will develop an understanding of the prophet's historical message and its futuristic aspect. The result is a compilation of the major themes of the book and their importance to the redemptive program of God.

Formats: in-person, extension

BIB762 Parables of Jesus**3 credit hours**

Methods of interpreting Jesus' parables are surveyed and then an eclectic model drawing on the best insights of each is applied to each of the major narrative parables in the Gospels. The course examines differences among parallel accounts and suggests plausible reasons for the variations, applying conclusions regarding the theology and significance of Jesus' parables to life and ministry.

Formats: extension

BIB780 Readings in Biblical Studies**1-3 credit hours**

An in-depth pursuit of personal interests in biblical studies through the reading of related books or periodicals and the presentation of reports. The course consists of readings of the student's choice guided by a professor. Students will contract with the professor for the required reading and reports.

Formats: extension

BIB789 Advanced Topics**3 credit hours**

This is a course centered in the professor's interest or research specialization, allowing in-depth coverage of material otherwise not available to the student. This course will be offered on an occasional basis.

Formats: in-person, online



THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

THL500 Introduction to Graduate Theological Education 1 credit hour

This course introduces students to the nature, methods, expectations and values of theological education at ABTS. Orientation to ABTS's online learning platform, degree requirements, and research methodology are emphasized to prepare students for their program of study. This introductory course is the first course required for all students.

Formats: in-person, online

THL510 Historical Theology Survey 3 credit hours

An introductory survey of the history of the church from the time of the Fathers to the modern day. This course highlights the most significant events, councils, persons, and writings with special attention given to the development of doctrine and to Asian Christianity.

Formats: in-person, online

THL515 The Ancient Church 3 credit hours

A history of the ancient church from Pentecost to AD 500, together with the men and writings of that era. Significant creeds are also analyzed for their intentions, influence, and correctness. Students are encouraged to evaluate their own beliefs as compared to historical orthodoxy.

Formats: extension

THL517 Reformation Church History 3 credit hours

This course traces the historic development of the Protestant Reformation from its background prior to the 16th century to its impact on the world and church of today. The lives and teachings of the leading Reformers (Luther, Zwingli, Calvin and Knox) are examined in some detail, along with the course of the Reformation in various nations: Germany, England, Scotland, France, and the Netherlands. In addition, both the rise of the major Protestant Movements: Lutheranism, Calvinism, Anabaptism and Puritanism and the Roman Catholic and Remonstrance reactions are outlined.

Formats: extension

THL526 History of the Charismatic Movement 3 credit hours

A historical and theological study of the origins and development of charismatic thought through the 20th century with emphasis given to theological backgrounds and trends in the USA. In addition to a theology of spiritual gifts, the themes of worship, bibliology, sanctification, and ecclesiology are analyzed. Throughout the course, the pros and cons of the various charismatic movements are presented so that students can make informed decisions on what a victorious Christian life entails.

Formats: extension

THL540 Systematic Theology 1 3 credit hours

This course introduces and practices systematic theology within the context of the large story of Scripture (or metanarrative) that begins with creation, is centered in Jesus' first coming, and reaches its culmination in the new heavens and earth. The course also presents the doctrines of Scripture and God within the metanarrative.

Formats: in-person

THL572 Christian Worldview 3 credit hours

A philosophical elaboration of the Christian perspective upon all of life and reality with emphasis on the metanarrative framework of creation, fall, redemption, and new creation.

Formats: in-person, extension

THL576 Christian Ethics 3 credit hours

This course presents a biblical model for ethics in a postmodern world, examining the ethical theories of obligation and value from a philosophical perspective. A survey of various ethical systems identifies unstated assumptions in ethical theories and evaluates those theories for legitimacy, relevance and cogency, providing a Christian framework of values and ethics as a foundation for God-honoring decisions in the student's life and ministry.

Formats: extension

THL640 Systematic Theology 2**3 credit hours**

This course continues the metanarrative approach in the study of angels, humanity, our rebellion against God, our need and the great provision of salvation in the persons and work of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Formats: in-person, online

THL641 Systematic Theology 3**3 credit hours**

This course presents the eschatological people of God (the Church), our salvation, and the consummation of all things in the second coming of Jesus Christ, His Kingdom, and the new creation. These promises of God are presented within the context of the metanarrative and from a premillennial perspective.

Formats: in-person, online

THL780 Readings in Theology**3 credit hours**

An in-depth pursuit of personal interest in the theological disciplines through the reading of related books or periodicals and the presentation of reports. The course consists of readings of the student's choice approved by a professor. Students will contract with the professor for the required reading and reports.

Formats: extension

THL789 Advanced Topics**3 credit hours**

This is a course centered in the professor's interest or research specialization, allowing in-depth coverage of material otherwise not available to the student. This course will be offered on an occasional basis.

Formats: in-person, online



MINISTRY STUDIES

MNS500 Spiritual Formation

3 credit hours

A survey of biblical spirituality and helpful models of its application from church history for contemporary cultural contexts.

Formats: in-person, online, extension

MNS510 Organizational Leadership

3 credit hours

This course studies the biblical foundations of leadership, the classical and modern theories of leadership, the visioning, planning, implementing and managing roles of leadership, leading high performance organizations, and creating organizational value and satisfaction.

Formats: in-person, online

MNS511 Theology of Church Ministry

3 credit hours

A study of the functions of the church from an exegetical base, with emphasis on worship, evangelism, and education in and for Asian ministry contexts.

Formats: in-person

MNS515 Vocation, Work and Ministry

3 credit hours

This course traces the concept of work as it is developed throughout Scripture and explores the implications of that investigation for integrating faith in the workplace. Priority is given to a comprehensive vision of calling and ministry with practical application to Asian work contexts.

Formats: in-person, online

MNS516 Christian Ethics in the Workplace

3 credit hours

An applied study of Christian moral action for the Asian workplace. Biblical principles will be applied to real-world case studies with the goal of helping students maintain Christ-like integrity and witness in the workplace.

Formats: in-person

MNS551 Theology and Culture

3 credit hours

A study of the biblical basis of culture/anthropology and of historical principles of cultural engagement. Emphasis is given to understanding one's own culture and the culture of others in order to contextualize and communicate the gospel clearly in intercultural contexts.

Formats: in-person, online

MNS564 Urban Mission and Ministry

3 credit hours

A course that focuses on Christian missions and ministry in the world's growing cities. The biblical basis for urban ministry is presented and case studies of effective urban strategies worldwide are examined. Attention is given to urban issues such as ministry to the poor and homeless, pastoring and raising a family in the city, and planting urban churches.

Formats: in-person, extension

MNS622 Foundations of Education

3 credit hours

An exploration of the biblical principles of education, the historic traditions that formed educational theories, and the application of these principles and theories to the cultural and social milieu of the 21st century.

Formats: in-person, online, extension

MNS626 Interpersonal Communication and Conflict Management

3 credit hours

An examination of the biblical principles of interpersonal communication and conflict management in human relationships within the body of Christ. Attention is given to communication models, self-concept, non-verbal messages, stress, and other strategies that assist the Christian leader in developing interpersonal communication skills and managing conflict acceptably and productively.

Formats: extension

MNS636 Homiletics**3 credit hours**

This course provides an introduction to homiletics with attention to the philosophy and priority of preaching, skills in hermeneutical organization of sermons, and principles of delivery. Emphasis is given to exegetical expository preaching in a pulpit ministry designed to communicate for clearer understanding of truth, richer relationship with God, and more obedient action in response to His Word. The course includes a laboratory in which each student will prepare, deliver and evaluate messages.

Formats: in-person, online

MNS643 Adult Education**3 credit hours**

This course explores the dynamics of adulthood throughout its various stages. Principles of andragogy are applied to uncover the needs and characteristics of adult learners.

Formats: in-person

MNS644 Curriculum and Teaching**3 credit hours**

This course introduces principles and models of curriculum development for faith education programs while providing opportunity for reflective practice. Educational learning theories are also introduced for the purpose of creating better informed teaching practices.

Formats: in-person, online

MNS645 Evangelism and Apologetics**3 credit hours**

A study of biblical evangelism and the biblical, historical, and modern approaches to defending the faith. Emphasis is given to proclaiming and defending the gospel message in multi-religious contexts.

Formats: in-person

MNS671 Introduction to Christian Counseling**3 credit hours**

This course seeks to introduce the student to the current landscape of Christian counseling. While introductory in nature, students will be led through the process of evaluating several prominent models of Christian counseling, recognizing the complex factors influencing human behavior, wrestling with the value and challenges of integrating scripture with secular counseling theory, and investigating how the message of the Bible speaks to specific emotional wounds and distortions.

Formats: in-person, online

MNS672 Counseling Skills**3 credit hours**

This course aims at helping students to grow in their practical ability to listen and care for others. In order to best accomplish this goal, readings and lectures will be offered in tandem with regular hands-on practice opportunities. Feedback on these opportunities will be provided from the professor, student peers, as well as the student's own self-reflections.

Formats: in-person

MNS681 Pastoral Care**3 credit hours**

A study of the biblical concept of pastoral care and the varied responsibilities involved in caring for people in both individual and group settings, developed with an awareness of how cultural identity and worldview relate to biblical principles, exposition, and care.

Formats: in-person, online

MNS782 Practicum**3 credit hours**

During this capstone course, students engage in practical application through guided reflective and reflexive praxis. Theoretical analysis culminates to personalized real life intervention involving planning, implementation, reflection, and documentation.

Formats: online

MNS784 Readings in Counseling Ministries**1—3 credit
hours**

An in-depth pursuit of personal interests in counseling ministries through the reading of related books or periodicals and the presentation of reports. The course consists of readings of the student's choice guided by a professor. Students will contract with the professor for the required reading and reports.

Formats: extension

MNS785 Readings in Pastoral Ministries**1—3 credit
hours**

An in-depth pursuit of personal interests in the homiletics or pastoral areas through the reading of related books or periodicals and the presentation of reports. The course consists of readings of the student's choice guided by a professor. Students will contract with the professor for the required reading and reports.

Formats: extension

MNS786 Readings in Educational Ministries**1—3 credit
hours**

An in-depth pursuit of personal Christian education interests through the reading of educational journals, periodicals, and books and the presentation of reports. The course consists of readings of the student's choice guided by a professor. Students will contract with the professor for the required reading and reports.

Formats: extension

MNS787 Readings in Intercultural Ministries**1—3 credit
hours**

An in-depth pursuit of personal interests in Intercultural ministries through the reading of related books or periodicals and the presentation of reports. The course consists of readings of the student's choice guided by a professor. Students will contract with the professor for the required reading and reports.

Formats: extension

MNS788 Readings in Marketplace Ministries**1—3 credit
hours**

An in-depth pursuit of personal interests in marketplace ministries through the reading of related books or periodicals and the presentation of reports. The course consists of readings of the student's choice guided by a professor. Students will contract with the professor for the required reading and reports.

Formats: extension

MNS784 Readings in Counseling Ministries**1—3 credit
hours**

An in-depth pursuit of personal interests in counseling ministries through the reading of related books or periodicals and the presentation of reports. The course consists of readings of the student's choice guided by a professor. Students will contract with the professor for the required reading and reports.

Formats: extension

MNS789 Advanced Topics**3 credit hours**

This is a course centered in the professor's interest or research specialization, allowing in-depth coverage of material otherwise not available to the student. This course will be offered on an occasional basis. Check with the ABTS office in advance of the class to determine applicability to MRE concentrations.

Formats: in-person, online

CONFESSION OF FAITH



CONFESSION OF FAITH

We worship the one, true God, almighty Creator and Ruler of all things, who has revealed Himself as spirit and eternally triune: three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, coextensive in essence and character. Having boundless knowledge and power, God acts with absolute freedom in accordance with His perfect holiness, love, goodness, justice, wisdom, and faithfulness.

We believe that while God has revealed Himself in many ways and most fully in Jesus Christ, the Bible is God's unique, written self-disclosure to humanity, fully human and divine in its authorship. Scripture is as true as its divine Author, clear and uniquely powerful in its message, sufficient for all of our deepest needs, and our only infallible guide and final authority for faith and life.

We believe that God created angels as immaterial and holy beings who are unique in their ministry of worship and service to God. Satan is a fallen angel who, along with his demons, rebels against God's sovereignty in active opposition to God and His plan of redemption until the time of their ultimate doom.

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image as His perfect representatives on earth. Through an act of willful disobedience, Adam sinned, resulting in the depravity of the human race and the corruption of all creation. Consequently, humans are now imperfect representatives, sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God and under His wrath, subjects of the kingdom of Satan, and utterly unable to remedy their lost condition.

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is God incarnate, the fully divine Son of the Father who added to Himself a full human nature; two natures united in one Person. He is the Agent and Sustainer of creation who was sent by the Father for our redemption; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, Mary; who lived a sinless life as the perfect image of God; and who was crucified and died as our representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and bodily rose again defeating sin, Satan, and death. As our ascended Lord, Jesus now intercedes on behalf of His people and rules over His Church until the time of His triumphant return as King of creation.

We believe that the Holy Spirit, as the fully divine, third Person of the triune God, is involved in all the works of God and was sent to apply the redemption accomplished in Christ. The Spirit brings new life to God's people through His works of conviction, illumination, regeneration, and baptism into union with Christ. At salvation, the Spirit permanently indwells believers, guiding, equipping, and empowering us for Christ-like service in and through the Body of Christ, and sealing us as the Guarantor of our inheritance.

We believe that all those who, by God's grace, through faith and repentance have responded to His call are justified, adopted, and made members of the Body of Christ, the universal Church. This Church is made visible in local congregations which advance God's kingdom by making disciples who increasingly image Jesus Christ throughout creation. Jesus commanded His Church to observe two sacred practices: baptism and the Lord's Supper.

We believe in the blessed hope of the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ, the bodily resurrection and reward of the just unto everlasting life, and the raising of the unjust unto final judgment and punishment. He will fully establish His kingdom on the earth, destroy all His enemies, make all things new, and submit all things to the Father; and God will make His dwelling with mankind forever.



ABTS PERSONNEL

ABTS FACULTY

Jonathan Agarwal

Instructor of Organizational Leadership

BSc (Hons) Calcutta University; CAIIB Institute of Bankers; CMA Institute of Cost Accountants; MBA Xavier Institute of Management; MA Asia Biblical Theological Seminary. Corporate Finance & Banking 1974-1986; Finance Executive & Regional Director World Vision 1989-2016; ABTS 2017-present.

James Blumenstock

Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology

BA Cedarville University; MDiv Grand Rapids Theological Seminary; ThM Calvin Theological Seminary; PhD Australian College of Theology. Youth Director in USA 1998-2001; ABTS 2001-present.

William Crompton

Associate Professor of New Testament

BA Messiah College; MRE and MA Asia Biblical Theological Seminary; EdD studies Asia Graduate School of Theology Alliance. Missionary in Thailand 2005-2017; ABTS 2017-present.

Nelson Estrada

Associate Professor of New Testament

BCM Bethel Bible College; MA Asia Pacific Theological Seminary; MDiv Asian Theological Seminary; ThM Asia Graduate School of Theology; PhD University of Sheffield. Lead Pastor in USA 2007-2023; ABTS 2023-present.

Thomas Golding

Associate Professor of Biblical Studies

BA University of Northern Iowa; ThM and PhD Dallas Theological Seminary. Pastoral ministry in USA and Australia 1980-1996; Lecturer and Principal at Adelaide College of Ministries 1996-2018; ABTS 2018-present.

Brandon Hirth

Assistant Professor of Counseling

BS Grand Valley State University; MDiv Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; ThM Calvin Theological Seminary. Youth pastor in USA 2011-2014; Associate Pastor in USA 2014-2020; Counselor, 2009-present; ABTS 2019-present.

Timothy Miskimen

Associate Professor of Systematic Theology

BA Cedarville University; MDiv and ThM Grand Rapids Theological Seminary; PhD studies Columbia International University. Internship in South America 1991-1992; ABTS 1999-present.

Greg Vrugink

Associate Professor of Old Testament

BA Cedarville University; MDiv Columbia International University; ThM Calvin Theological Seminary; PhD Columbia International University. Pastoral ministry in USA 2008-2014; ABTS 2015-present.

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Sheraz Akhtar

Educational Ministries

BA, MA (TESOL), MRE, PhD University of Auckland. Professor, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

William Barrick

Old Testament

BA, MDiv, ThM, ThD Grace Theological Seminary. Emeritus Professor of Old Testament (Ret.), Master's Seminary, California, USA.

John Bell

Homiletics and Educational Ministries

BS, MS, PhD, MDiv, DMin Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. BS, MS, PhD, MDiv, DMin Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. Professor (Ret.), Michigan State University. Pastor, Crossway Multinational Church, MI, USA.

E. D. Burns

Missiology and Spirituality

BA, MA, MA, MDiv, PhD Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Scott Carroll

Biblical Archaeology and History

BA, MA, PhD Miami University of Ohio. Director and Sr. Research Scholar, Manuscript Research Group.

Stuart Devenish

Spirituality

BTh, MA, PhD Edith Cowan University, Independent Scholar, Melbourne, Australia.

Scott Dixon

Educational Ministries

BA, ThM, PhD Michigan State University. Professor, Cedarville University, Ohio, USA.

Timothy Dunham

Pastoral Ministries

BS, MA Denver Seminary. Lead Pastor, Chiang Mai Christian Fellowship, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Juan A. Eclarin, Jr.

New Testament

BRE, MRE, ThM, PhD cand. Dallas Theological Seminary.

Tom Hutchison

Educational Ministries

BA, MDiv, PhD Marquette University. Professor, Cedarville University, Ohio, USA.

Brian Main

New Testament

BS, MDiv, MPhil, PhD Catholic University of America. Pastor, Cross Point Bible Fellowship, Ohio, USA 2006-2010.

Dale Marshfield

Biblical Studies

BRE, MDiv, ThB, ThD University of KwaZulu Natal. Director, Education by Design Services.

Chris Sadowitz

Intercultural and Pastoral Ministries

BA, MDiv, DMin, PhD studies Biola University. Missionary to Japan, ABWE.

Caleb Shum Chi Hung

New Testament

BTh, MDiv, ThM, DTh Divinity School of Chung Chi College, Chinese University of Hong Kong. Dean and Professor, China Baptist Theological College, Hong Kong.

Joselito Villoria*Pastoral Ministries*

BS, ThM, DMin Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Pastor at Greenhills Christian Fellowship, S. Metro in Manila, Philippines. Director of ABTS Philippines.

Premkumar D. Williams*Theological Studies*

BA, ThM, PhD Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Professor, Baptist Seminary of South India, Bangalore, India.

Daron Wilson*New Testament*

BS, MDiv, ThM Northwest Baptist Seminary. Former full-time professor, Asia Biblical Theological Seminary.

Marc Wooten*Intercultural Ministries*

BS, MBA, MD, MDiv, PhD Concordia Theological Seminary.

Kevin Zuber*Systematic Theology and Biblical Studies*

BA, MDiv, ThM, PhD Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Professor, The Master's Seminary, California, USA.



VISITING FACULTY FROM CORNERSTONE UNIVERSITY

David Kennedy

Old Testament

BA, ThM, PhD Studies St. Louis University and Dallas Theological Seminary. Emeritus Professor of Old Testament, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.

Robert Lehman

Counseling

BA, MA, MDiv, PhD University of Iowa. Professor of Counseling, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.

David Turner

New Testament

BA, MDiv, ThM, ThD Grace Theological Seminary, PhD Hebrew Union College. Emeritus Professor of New Testament, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.

Michael Wittmer

Theological Studies

BA, MDiv, ThM, PhD Calvin Theological Seminary. Professor of Systematic Theology, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.



VISITING SCHOLARS

Darrell Bock

New Testament

Executive Director of Cultural Engagement and Senior Research Professor of New Testament Studies, Dallas Theological Seminary.

Douglas Moo

New Testament

Kenneth T. Wessner Professor of New Testament, Wheaton College.

Bruce Ware

Systematic Theology

T. Rupert and Lucille Coleman Professor of Christian Theology, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Ben Witherington III

New Testament

Jean R. Amos Professor of New Testament for Doctoral Studies, Asbury Theological Seminary.



ADMINISTRATION

Gerson Moreno-Riaño, BA, MA, PhD
President of Cornerstone University

Bradford Sample, BA, MA, PhD
Vice President for Academics and CAO

James Blumenstock, BA, MDiv, ThM, PhD
Dean

William Crompton, BA, MRE, MA, EdD cand.
Director of Academic Affairs

Jonathan Agarwal, BSc(H), MA, CAIIB, CMA, MBA
Director of Business Affairs

Greg Vruggink, BA, MDiv, ThM, PhD
Director of Online Education

Ritu Tiru Agarwal, BA, PGDip, MRE
Director of Public Relations

Yiwa Sriphongyai, BEd
Asst. Director of Academic Affairs

Atchara Siri watt (Aof), BA
Administrative Assistant for Academic Affairs

Nalinee Phongsattha (Fawn), BA
Administrative Assistant for Office Affairs

Louise Barnard, MA
Consultant for ABTS Operations

SITE ADMINISTRATION

Delhi	Dr. Thomas Golding Rev. Arvind Balaram	Academic Coordinator Country Coordinator
Papua New Guinea	Mr. William Smith	Country Coordinator
Philippines	Dr. Lito Villoria Ms. Sholeh Villoria	Director, ABTS Philippines Country Coordinator
Singapore	Mr. Vincent Ho	Country Coordinator
Thailand	Ms. Nalinee Phongsattha (Fawn) Dr. Nelson Estrada	Country Coordinator Academic Coordinator (Bangkok)







Asia Biblical
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Cornerstone University

ASIA BIBLICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
of Cornerstone University
433-435 Moo 3, T. San Sai Noi, A. San Sai,
Chiang Mai 50210 THAILAND

Tel. (66) (0) 53 491 584
E-mail: office@abts.asia
URL: www.cornerstone.edu/abts