

PARTNERSHIP

“ Oh no...
*I'm
Graduating!* ”



Cultivating Missional Pastors,
Equipping Lay Ministers to
Strategically Engage Asia's Harvest

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GRADS LIST

毕业生名单

Ng Boon Heng Kent	Graduate Diploma in Christian Studies
Cheng Weiwei 程薇薇	Graduate Diploma in Christian Ministry
Ke An 柯安	Graduate Diploma in Christian Ministry
Xu Ziwen 徐子雯	Graduate Diploma in Christian Ministry
Chang Yeng Cheong	Bachelor of Christian Ministry 基督教事工学士
Daram Ajay	Bachelor of Theology 神学学士
Hoang Ngoc Tham	Bachelor of Theology 神学学士
Ma Zhenshi 麻真实	Bachelor of Theology 神学学士
Jun He 君合	Master of Arts 文学硕士
Liu Zili 刘子立	Master of Arts 文学硕士
Wu Bing 吴秉	Master of Arts 文学硕士
Zheng Yanyan 郑燕燕	Master of Arts 文学硕士
Zhou Qingxin 周清心	Master of Arts 文学硕士
Anal Jalngam Seltun	Master of Divinity
Awomi Tokini Hotoi	Master of Divinity
Caleb Wong Kei Soong	Master of Divinity
Ho Shoo Mei Grace 何淑美	Master of Divinity 道学硕士
Salai Lai Sak Thang Joel	Master of Divinity
Sheng Yiyue 盛一悦	Master of Divinity 道学硕士
Xia Chunchun 夏春春	Master of Divinity 道学硕士
Xu Make 徐马可	Master of Divinity 道学硕士
Yee Weiren Aaron	Master of Divinity
Yueshuya 约书亚	Master of Divinity 道学硕士
Zhou Siyan 周思言	Master of Divinity 道学硕士
Zhuo Wujie 卓吴杰	Master of Divinity 道学硕士

Dearly beloved Pastor / Alumnus / Ministry Partner / Friend,

“Oh no... I’m graduating!”

The focus of this issue of Partnership is the graduating class of 2026. Some 25 students from India, Myanmar, Vietnam, East Asia and Singapore will graduate and have their Commencement Service on 23 May, 2026.

Although graduation is a time of celebration, many of the graduands confess to mixed emotions upon reaching this milestone. Several are unsure what the future holds for them as they contemplate going back to their home countries, some of which are currently plagued by political conflicts, tribal warfare and religious persecution. Most are already grieving the anticipated loss of close friends with whom they have been studying, praying and serving at BTS. Those from overseas will miss the Singaporean classmates and church friends they have come to know and appreciate during their time here. But there is also palpable excitement as they stand at the threshold of new beginnings. Some are anticipating going out to the mission field, or serving full-time in their local churches, or even studying further after a short break.

We trust you will be blessed by the testimonies of several of our graduating students as they look back on their time at BTS and reflect on their learning journeys, adjustments, and rich cross-cultural experiences. You will read of how they experienced the sufficiency of God’s grace in providing not only financial assistance but also the strength and discipline to persevere in their studies. Another common theme is graduands’ appreciation of BTS’s close-knit community of students, faculty and staff, despite the international mix and the varying age groups of the students. The close bonds forged, both inside and outside the classroom, together with the time spent in the mentored spiritual formation groups, have taught them to be authentic in journeying together towards mature faith and character. Many have benefited from an increased understanding of Scripture, sharpened theological acumen and increased conviction of God’s word as living and authoritative. Ministry opportunities also resulted in their growing confidence to serve God with joy and conviction.

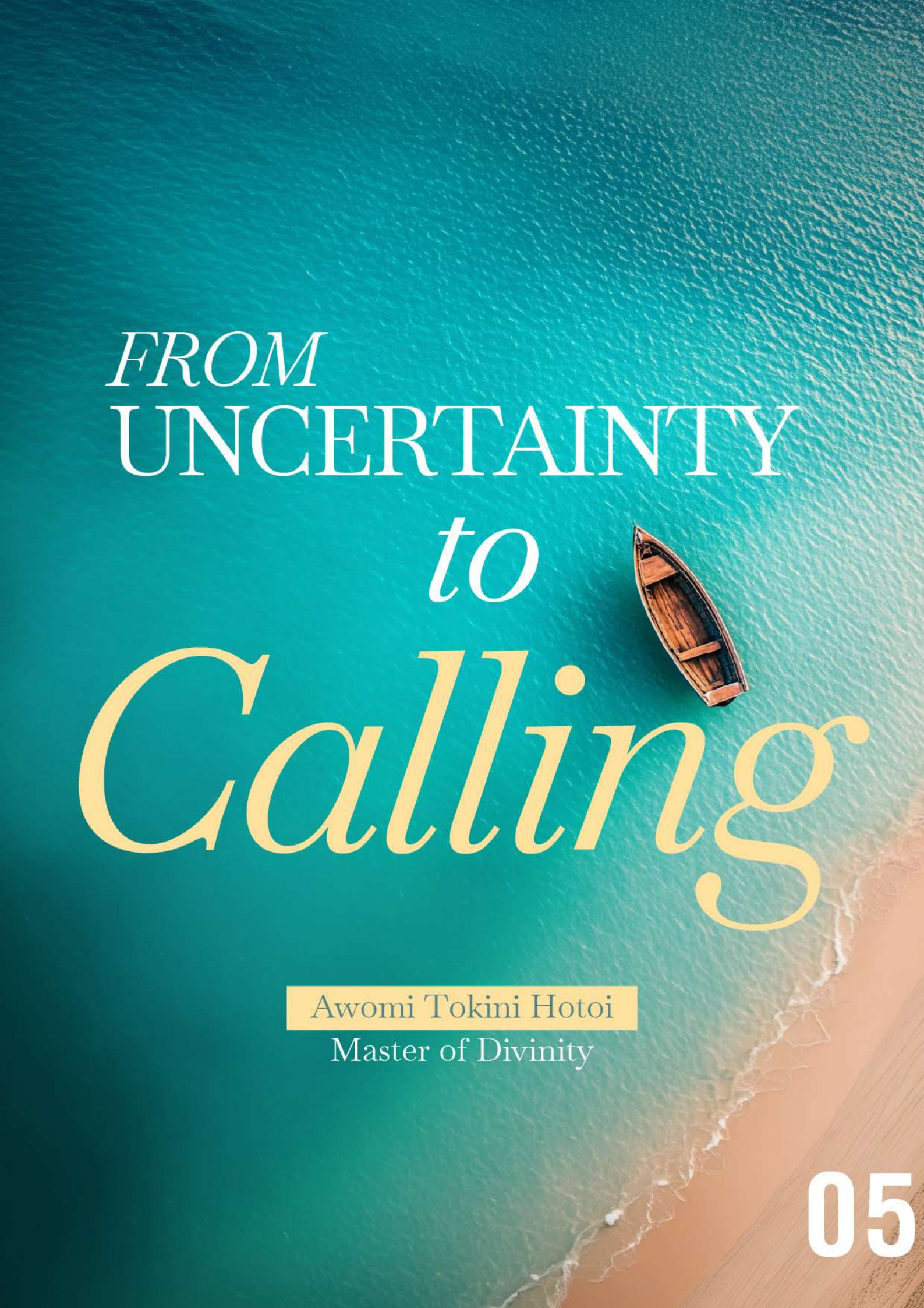
*“Not to us, O LORD, not to us,
but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love
and your faithfulness.”*
~ Psalm 115:1 ~

With pride and gratitude, the faculty and staff wish them well as they embark upon new adventures after graduation.

With deep gratitude to God,

Dr Ho Chiao Ek

President



FROM
UNCERTAINTY
to
Calling

Awomi Tokini Hotoi
Master of Divinity

05

BTS began as an unfamiliar place, marked by uncertainty and hesitation. Over time, however, it became a community that now feels difficult to leave behind. What started with anxiety slowly grew into a deep sense of belonging, making this transition both meaningful and challenging.

The first semester told a very different story. Sitting with disappointing results in hand, there was a quiet realisation that this journey might be harder than expected. Doubts began to surface, raising questions about personal ability and whether this path was even possible. Yet, in that moment of uncertainty, there was no sense of isolation. Instead, there was steady encouragement, patient guidance, and people who chose to walk alongside without expecting anything in return. In that experience, a truth became real. God's people are called to think of others and value them above themselves, and this was not only taught but lived out within the BTS community.

Academic expectations also came to be understood differently over time. What once felt like pressure to meet certain standards gradually revealed something deeper. Lecturers were not simply concerned with results, but with continual growth. Their correction and guidance were not meant to discourage, but to shape growth, even when that growth was not immediately visible.

Mentored spiritual fellowship at first appeared to be a meaningful idea, but one whose impact remained uncertain. That perception changed through experience. What began as simple gatherings for me became moments of honesty, where conversations moved beyond the surface. Struggles were shared openly, and guidance was received without judgment. In that space, supported by mentors and brothers, growth took place in a way that felt both personal and lasting.

Learning at BTS extended beyond the classroom. During overseas trips with mentors and friends, we learned much more about each other while interacting in different and unfamiliar contexts. It became clear that some lessons cannot be learned from books alone, but are discovered through shared experiences, careful observation, and simply walking through life together. One particular mission trip with BTS became a defining moment in this journey. The simple act of singing together in the van on the way to the mission field created a sense of unity and joy, while moments spent with the local people on the mission field revealed the beauty of connection beyond words and culture. Even the late night conversations with the boys in a tree house carried depth, laughter and moments of reflection that will stay with me. Through these shared experiences, something within began to shift. God used these moments not only to teach, but to shape and transform. What began as ordinary interactions gradually became meaningful reminders of His presence and guidance, forming both understanding and perspective in a deeper way.

As this season comes to a close, the departure is not simply an ending but a continuation with purpose. The journey with BTS has provided both knowledge and direction. What was received here now becomes something to carry forward, with a desire to serve and bless Asia. What began with uncertainty has grown into clarity, and what once felt like anxiety has now taken the form of a calling.

A person is walking away from the camera on a paved path that leads towards a sunset over a mountain range. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow and casting a long shadow of the person on the path. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

*My
Journey
at BTS*

Salai Lai Sak Thang Joel
Master of Divinity

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When I first arrived at BTS, I came with a desire to learn theology in order to gain knowledge that would prepare me for ministry. But as I look back on these past two years, I realise that God had something much deeper in store for me. What began as a journey of learning gradually became a journey of transformation. My faith was deepened, my thinking was renewed, and my whole approach to life and ministry began to change. Through classroom learning, intentional spiritual formation, and life in community, God gently and faithfully reshaped my heart and mind.

One of the greatest blessings in this journey was benefiting from the life lessons and teaching of the faculty and staff. I still remember how different it felt to be in an environment where professors were not distant figures, but people who walked alongside us. With humility and genuine care, they listened to our struggles, welcomed our questions, and patiently guided us. They were approachable and present and there was no barrier between teachers and students. This was especially meaningful to me as an international student from Myanmar, a country where there is often a clear distance between teachers and students and where teachers are rarely questioned. Here, I experienced something new: a learning community where I felt seen, heard and valued. Through both their words and their lives, they showed me that theology is not merely something to study, but something to live. As I observed their lives, I began to understand how the gospel shapes everything: our thinking, our relationships, our priorities, and our calling. Slowly, my own values were clarified, my priorities reshaped, and my sense of calling strengthened.

Another part of my journey that stood out was my experience in the Peer Learning Group (PLG). I remember how nervous I felt at the beginning – unsure of myself and hesitant to speak. Sitting in those early meetings, I often wondered if I truly belonged there. But over time, something began to change. As I listened to others and slowly began to share, I discovered the beauty of learning together. My classmates spoke with honesty and wisdom, and their stories challenged my assumptions and encouraged my faith. The PLG became a place where I learned humility, and where I realised that growth happens not only through teaching, but also through listening, sharing and walking together. What once felt uncomfortable became one of the most meaningful parts of my formation.

Now, as I prepare to return home, I find myself carrying more than just what I have learned: I carry a deep desire to live it out. I do not want these lessons to remain merely as ideas or theories. Instead, I long to serve my church and community with humility, wisdom and Christlike love. My prayer is that what God has done in me during my time at BTS will continue to grow and bear fruit. As I step into the next chapter, I do so with hope that the transformation I have experienced will shape not only my life and ministry, but also the lives of those I am called to serve; all for the glory of God.

The background of the entire page is a photograph showing the silhouettes of a group of people on a rocky mountain peak. They are all raising their arms in celebration or praise. The sky behind them is a vibrant sunset, with a gradient from deep purple at the top to bright orange and yellow near the horizon. The overall mood is one of joy and triumph.

*Learned
From
One Another
Across
Cultures
And
Generations*

Chang Yeng Cheong

Bachelor of Christian Ministry

I retired in December 2020 after many decades in the marketplace. In July 2021, at the age of sixty-four, I enrolled at Baptist Theological Seminary, Singapore. Some might have considered this an unconventional season of life in which to begin formal theological education. For me, however, it was the quiet fulfilment of a desire that had been present since my youth: to be equipped with God's word and to serve Him wholeheartedly.

When I began the Bachelor of Christian Ministry programme, I did so with a mixture of anticipation and uncertainty. Returning to academic study after retirement required discipline, humility and perseverance. Yet, to my surprise and deep gratitude, I discovered that I had never enjoyed studying as much as I did in the seminary. Theological education was not merely an intellectual pursuit; it was a spiritual formation process. Each course deepened my understanding of Scripture, sharpened my theological framework, and strengthened my conviction that God's word is living and active.

Over these years, the Bible has become clearer, richer, and more cohesive to me. Doctrines I once understood in a piecemeal fashion began to form a unified whole. Biblical theology, hermeneutics, church history and pastoral studies were not abstract disciplines; they were tools that shaped my faith and ministry. The classroom was not separate from devotion – it became an extension of it.

I am also grateful for the ministry opportunities I received during this period. I had the privilege of preaching in my home church, in the church where I interned, and during chapel service. Each sermon was both a responsibility and a grace. Preparing and proclaiming God's word forced me to handle Scripture carefully and faithfully. It also reminded me that theological education ultimately serves the church. Knowledge must lead to proclamation; learning must lead to service.

One of the most meaningful aspects of my time in seminary was the community. I came to know many younger foreign students who had dedicated their lives to full-time ministry. Their zeal, sacrifice and clarity of calling deeply encouraged me. We learned from one another – across cultures and generations – what it means to serve Christ faithfully.

The faculty and staff have likewise been a tremendous blessing. Their approachability, patience and pastoral concern made the seminary feel less like an institution and more like a family. I never felt out of place because of my age. Instead, I felt welcomed, respected and spiritually nurtured.

As I stand at this graduation in May 2026, I do so with gratitude and humility. This is not the end of my theological journey. I am prayerfully seeking God's direction for the next phase of service and study. Retirement, I have learned, is not a withdrawal from calling – it can be a reorientation towards it.

To God be the glory for His faithfulness. May He continue to guide each of us as we seek to know Him more deeply and serve Him more faithfully.

GIANTS

of Faith



Caleb Wong Kei Soong
Master of Divinity

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While driving to church with my family one evening on the way to ministry, I suddenly started sobbing uncontrollably and could not stop. What had happened?

I was sharing with my wife about conversations with BTS batchmates regarding what they planned to do after graduation. One shared that he planned to go back to his country to be a pastor but knew he would have to work an extra job because his church wouldn't be able to pay him enough to support him. One shared that she planned to go into the mission field to bring the gospel to people who have never heard it, but said that she didn't know how her financial needs would be met, nor did she have a concrete plan for what steps to take next.

As I shared these conversations with my wife, God moved me greatly. These are precious brothers and sisters in Christ. They are friends with whom I have spent countless hours in class and project team meetings, stressing over assignment deadlines. These are followers of Christ obeying His call to carry their cross and walk the narrow path, no matter what form this path takes and no matter where it leads.

What a privilege to have spent these few years walking alongside such giants of faith while I live and serve in comfortable Singapore. What an honour to have sat beside them and shared our lives in these short few years.

My time as a student in BTS has surely greatly enriched my theology. But any student of theology will have learnt of the dangers of becoming individualistic and isolationist. The study of God is only truly savoured when done among the people of God. As I come to the end of my time as a student in BTS, I thank God for the wonderful faculty, staff and fellow students whom I have had the privilege of meeting – the people of God.

8 STEPS OF THE
MISSIONS CONTINUUM

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6 (out of 20 to graduate)

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