

MEETING WITH UUC ALUMNI IN CAMBODIA

It was a special privilege for me to be by the side of Rev. Dr. Cuong Huu Nguyen , former president of UUC, in a meeting with about 30 UUC alumni at the Leadership Conference in Phnom Penh, Cambodia during Oct 16-19, 2013. The attendees traveled from different parts of Vietnam and Cambodia; many did not know each other before the conference. All of them are pastors, leaders, professors with one leading her own theological training institution in the heartland of Vietnam. They movingly recounted the memories of the days they spent with the UUC professors, especially those belonging to the MA classes taught in Cambodia in the last decade. Most of them have been serving in challenging situations. They voiced the deep appreciation for the care of their teachers and for the balanced theological horizon which UUC opened up for them. *"We cannot imagine where we would end up now without the courageous mission of UUC in those days!"*

The attendees thanked Dr. Cuong Huu Nguyen for his enduring life of service and mentioned many other names including Dr. Dung Thien Le, Dr. Duc Xuan Nguyen , and Dr. Son Xuan Nguyen . They rejoice in hearing about the life and leadership of Dr. Dale Se-



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FORUM II ON THEOLOGY IN VIETNAM

Vietnamese Culture from a Christian Perspective



The second Forum on Theology was held in Vietnam on October 14-15, 2013. The forum drew in many Christian leaders from various groups and denominations. Seven topics were presented and discussed. The topics included:

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Meeting with UUC Alumni in Cambodia (continued)

wall and the expanding vision of UUC with programs taught in English, Indonesian, French and other languages.

A recurring theme of the conversation was the observation that UUC can exert a uniting vision for theological education and training in the bewildering development of Christian mission in Vietnam. It was quite an affirming experience for Dr, Cuong and for us all.

Rev. Linh Doan

Chairman of the Board of Directors
Union University of California



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

November 2013

“Stand at the crossroads and look. Ask for the ancient paths. Ask where the good way is, and walk in it. And you will find rest for your souls.” Jeremiah 6:16

In April 2011 I stood at a crossroad not of my choosing, but fortunately I knew the ancient paths. I knew where the good way was. Diagnosed with a fatal brain cancer and told that my life expectancy was 1 ½ to 2 years, I was pretty shocked and overwhelmed. For the next several months my prayers were mostly sitting in silence in the presence of God. I did not have many words to say but I was constantly aware of God’s presence.

And I knew where the good paths were. They led me to brothers and sisters in the church, who prayed the words for me while my prayers were all silences in the Lord’s presence. I depended on the words of the church in prayer. Many of you spoke those words to God on my behalf, and still do.

And I knew where the ancient path was. The one prayer I could say with words was “Lord, I gave you my life

many years ago when I was a boy. I trust you with my life now, to do with as you will. Whether I live or die, I trust what you want.” My path for all my days had been to live as a follower of Jesus. I had tried to walk that path faithfully. So trusting Jesus was both the ancient path and the good way at that crossroad, with my life in the balance.

Most of you know the story of my remarkable recovery. I won’t tell that story again now, except to say that I have come to believe the Lord has granted me 15 more years of life “and then some,” as He seemed to be telling me during my prayer time recently. Medically there is always the possibility the tumor will regrow, and I live with that. But I do not worry, and I think the Lord has shown me that the tumor is no risk to me anymore.

Jeremiah says that when we choose the ancient path and the good way, we will find rest for our souls. I can testify that what Jeremiah is telling us is true. The last three years have drawn me closer to the Lord, and in the Lord we find our rest. Jesus said that his burden is easy and his yoke is light. And when we take his yoke and learn from him we find rest for our souls. That has

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happened to me. A burden that should have been heavy became light. And I am not anxious about what tomorrow will bring.

When I think about my experience, I remember the troubles so many of our UUC community face as you seek to live faithfully in the Lord. We are Christians living in hard places and in hard experiences of life. I remember, and pray for you with both silences and words. And I encourage you to remember Jeremiah's words. You have chosen the good way and walked in it. Look for the rest for your souls that the Lord promises; and you will find it.

I have also learned that when our souls find rest, we can more readily give thanks and praise to God. As this season of Thanksgiving approaches, my prayer for the UUC community is that whatever we are facing, whatever crossroad we are standing at, we will again look for the ancient paths, choose again the good way and walk in it, and find again our soul's rest in the Lord.

And that together we will give constant thanks to the Lord for showing us the right path and calling us to walk in it.

Rev. Dr. Dale Sewall
President

Forum II on Theology in Vietnam (continued)

- Vietnamese Culture from a Christian Perspective
- Apostle Paul's Cultural Sensitivity: Lessons for Evangelism in Vietnam
- Funeral Practices of the Vietnamese
- The Preservation and Development of the Tribal Cultures in Central Highland in the Christian Context
- Vietnamese Culture: the Lac Long Quan - Au Co Myth and the Biblical Story of Creation
- The Parent Veneration Practice of the Vietnamese
- The Concept of Extended Family in the Vietnamese Culture: A Lesson for Vietnamese Christians



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UUC
DAY OF PRAYER

UUC's
Board of Directors
invites UUC students,
faculty and friends
to join them
in prayer for UUC on
the **first Monday**
of the month.



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THANKSGIVINGS

- We are thankful for safe & success conclusion of Vietnamese World Christian Conference in Cambodia Oct. 16-19 while the political situation in Cambodia was very unstable.
- We are thankful for the ministries of UUC's alumni



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for UUC's board retreat November 4--5, 2013
- Pray for the search for a new dean for the English School of Theology.
- Pray for provisions for the financial needs of the school.

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