



LOOKING BACK AT 2013

As Christmas and the end of the year draw near, we are thankful to God for His guidance and providence through a wonderful year. On behalf of the board of directors, faculty, staff and students of UUC, we also would like to express our thanks for donors, prayer partners, and supporters who have undergirded this training ministry for the church.

Looking back at 2013....

... We invited Dr. Ray Bakke to be the chancellor for English School of Theology. Dr. Ray Bakke, a renowned professor of Urban Ministry, through his worldwide network has brought us many valuable contacts and academic resources.

... We created Union College, which primary purpose is to help train indigenous leaders who have not had access to education. The college started with a Diploma in Ministry program in Vietnam for tribal people in March 2013 with classes taught at 14 tribal locations in highland regions. A program taught in the Indonesian language will be started soon for people in West Timor and East Java.

... Dr. Lesly Joseph from France also joined us to lead the program taught in the French language for immigrants from Africa and the Middle East. He brought in 28 students who earlier studied at an institution which was established by him in Paris.

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Y THENG

Thoughts from a Union College Student

My name is Y Theng, a student of the Union College diploma program held in Đăk Long, Đăkglei in Kom Tum Province, Vietnam. My nationality is that of the ethnic minority group H'lăng of Vietnam. In our culture, females are expected to fulfill the domestic duties for our home and families, and also to work in the fields. Men, on the other hand, can go to school and work outside of the home. Therefore, as a female, I was only able to complete elementary school.

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... With Dr. Joseph, whose ministry is mainly to evangelize the Muslims, and staff from Indonesian School of Theology, Dr. Sam Sikitari, Dr. Makmur Halim and many others, who come from the largest Muslim nation in the world, a collaboration has been formed to bring the Gospel to Muslims. This is one of the most important efforts of our school in the future.

... We began the development of Vietnamese and Indonesian translation hubs which eventually will be able to translate textbooks and other learning resources faster and more accurately. The Vietnamese hub is ready for testing and refining. The Indonesian hub is still in the process of training. The translation hub will be the key for our expansion into other languages in the future.

... We offered 60 online UUC classes at the master and doctoral level, and 80 onsite Union College classes at the diploma, associate and bachelor level, serving nearly 500 students. 38 students from 6 different countries graduated this year.

... The fact that most of our students in Vietnam and Indonesia received full tuition scholarships and UUC is still functioning and growing shows us that God's grace and calling is upon us, and we appreciate your continuing prayers and financial support.



We look forward to 2014 with even more hope for what God will do with UUC.

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

"Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel..."

2 Timothy 2:2

In my devotional reading I recently came across this verse written late in his life by the apostle Paul. It is one way Paul summarized his message of the gospel. It is a short verse packed with meaning. As we approach the celebration of Christ's birth, **2 Timothy 2:2** can guide us in our reflection, our gratitude to God, and our living.

To "remember" Jesus Christ is not primarily an activity of our minds and thoughts. For Christians, remembering Jesus requires action. We live differently because we remember Jesus. We are different people because we remember Jesus.

Paul says we are to remember Jesus Christ "raised from the dead." This is a call to live as compassionate and

hopeful people. We are compassionate because we remember the compassion of Jesus, who gave his life for us and for many. In compassion, He died for others. Touched with sorrow by his death, we live with compassion toward those He loves—toward every person. With our compassion we reflect his compassion in the world.

We are hopeful people because we remember that He was raised from the dead. So death is not the fearful thing it could have been for us. We will survive it. Raised with Christ, we will live beyond death. And death is not the end of hope. Justice, mercy and kindness that is not fulfilled in this world will yet be fulfilled beyond the grave. So we do not lose heart. And we do not give up. Rather we remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead; and we hope and trust in him.

And we remember Jesus Christ "descended from David." These three words connect us to the past, to all God's promises to the people of Israel, to all God's faithfulness throughout history. And to the coming of the

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Message from the President (continued)

Messiah. These words also connect us to the future, to the promise that one day the Messiah will come again, to shepherd the people, and to rule an everlasting kingdom, a government of righteousness and peace that will have no end. "The Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

We hear these promises each year in the scriptures of

Christmas. And we celebrate their truth as we await their fulfillment.

The apostle Paul writes "Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, for which I suffer much." Let it be our gospel too, in joy and in sorrow, in suffering and in elation, remembering Jesus with our lives, until He comes.

Rev. Dr. Dale Sewall
President

Y Theng (continued)

When the church group in my community grew, we began to form various study groups, one of which is the Women's Ministries Group. Our Women's Ministries Group Đăk Ác 2 has more than 60 attendees with myself designated as the leader. It has been very difficult for me to help our women's group develop, as typically we did not know what to do other than have our women's group meetings resemble Sunday church service. Our group very much wishes to receive guidance from those who are knowledgeable on how to formulate programs and lead worship for women's church groups

I thank Union College for creating the opportunity and making it possible for me to become equipped with the knowledge I long hoped for in order to serve the Lord. Union College has held many courses that have been proven to be truly beneficial to equip me personally and also helped me to grow. I have shared much of what I have learned to my sisters in our Women's Ministries Group. The things that I have learned has directed the main program of our meetings, and I hope that Union College will continue to help us learn how to better grow our church groups, with a specific focus on reaching and serving women.

On behalf of the women of Đăk Ác 2, I thank you for fostering the best environment for us to learn without discriminating against us due to our gender. Union College has also greatly encouraged me and other women to continue our studies. I hope that the school continues to equip women in the same way that you also equip men.

May the Lord continue to bless the work of Union College and answer all your prayers.



THANKSGIVINGS

- We are thankful for the progress of the training program for the tribal leaders. Though being watched closely by the police, so far only minor harrasment has occurred.
- We are thankful for the ministries of UUC's alumni



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for God to continue to protect the tribal students from being harmed by the government.

SUPPORT UUC

Union University of California is able to provide scholarships to our underserved students primarily through the love and generosity of individuals like you. We welcome all levels of support, whether it is a one-time gift, a monthly donation, or a full scholarship for one of our students in need.

You can contribute by sending a check or money order to:

UNION UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
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WESTMINSTER, CA 92683

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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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