

PARTNER WITH UUC

Before becoming familiar with Union University of California's ministry around the world, I had already seen its impact in Vietnam. I was working with a ministry in Seattle, WA whose work is focused on Southeast Asia and regularly took trips to various parts of SE Asia to provide encouragement, support, and to introduce American Christians to the vibrant church, culture, and people of SE Asia. Unbeknownst to me, over the years of my travels, I had met people who had benefitted from UUC's programs. These faithful servants were doing significant ministry in Vietnam by leading change in their churches and communities.

It reminds me that UUC's impact is continuing to be felt in Vietnam and in other places around the world. This is such good news to UUC and it is good news to the world.

(continued on page 2)

Seminar: CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION

A seminar on Cross-Cultural Communication will be held at UUC's campus from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM on June 18-20, 2014 and is open to the public. The seminar will be led by the Rev. Dr. Michael J. Oleksa, rector of St. Alexis Toth Orthodox Church in Anchorage, Alaska and adjunct faculty at Alaska Pacific University. Dr. Oleksa received his Ph.D. at the Orthodox Theological Faculty in Presov, Slovakia, and is an expert in communicating across cultures. He is author of four books on the Orthodox Church in Alaska, the Russian period in Alaska, and native cultures of Alaska.



Dr. Oleksa will bring his cross-cultural communication experience of more than 30 years as a missionary to the native Alaskan into his lecture topics: What is Culture, Cultures as "The Game of Life," The Global Literate Culture, Traditional Local Cultures, The Clash of Worlds, Getting Along/Making Peace...

The seminar is free to the public (meals cost \$20.00/day). To register, please contact info@uuc.edu.

GRADUATION SERVICE 2014

The graduation service for UUC and UUC graduates will be held on June 21, 2014 at 3:00 PM at UUC's campus. The Rev. Dr. Fletcher Tink, our new Vice-President for Academic Affairs, will be the commencement speaker. We invite you to attend.



Message from the President	2
New Chancellor of Vietnamese School of Theology	3
Prayer Requests	4
UUC Day of Prayer	4

Partner with UUC (continued)

Even those previously unfamiliar with UUC are beginning to see the incredible mission that God has placed on the “heart” of UUC. First Fruit, for example, has awarded UUC a grant to ensure the growth of our Diploma in Ministry program for tribal leaders in Vietnam. First Fruit has structured their grant to include a direct grant of \$30,000 and a “matching” grant of \$15,000. This means we have to find supporters who will contribute a combined \$15,000 for this program by the end of 2014 and they will match it with their own contribution of the same amount. First Fruit’s partnership with UUC is just one example of others who are beginning to see the necessary work of UUC.



As others begin to advocate for and partner with UUC, would you do the same?

We are in need of churches and individuals who can help UUC to continue its mission. You can advocate for us by attending an event or directing potential students and donors to UUC. You can partner with UUC by supporting us through your financial contributions. All of these efforts will help UUC to make education for the global church accessible.

Paul Kim

Special Assistant to UUC's President

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Goodness of the Holy One

“The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.”

Luke 1:49

The Mighty One *has* done great things for me. April 1, 2014 is the third anniversary of my diagnosis with brain cancer. It is three years since I was told I had an inoperable, fatal tumor and could expect to live 1 ½ to 2 years. On that day I mentioned to my doctor that I had never been to the Holy Land, and was hoping to travel there in the spring of 2012. He said that if I wanted to see Israel before I died, I should go by the autumn of 2011. He apparently thought that I had perhaps 6 more months of enough quality of life to travel before the tumor devastated my health. When that happens, he said, “It will be ugly.”

Now it is 3 years since I heard those words; a year since I quit taking chemotherapy. In the past year I have traveled to England, Wales, Paris, Alaska, Hawaii, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Rome, and from my home in Seattle to the UUC offices in California numerous times. I am looking forward to a trip to Israel sometime in the next 5 years. The tumor has shrunk to 1/10th of the size it was in April, 2011 and remains inactive, “stable” is the term the doctor uses. But he also wonders if the tumor is “no

longer viable” as a tumor which is an idea very different than what he told me in 2011. Then he said, “This tumor is always fatal. It will always find a way to overcome treatment and grow again. And the ending will not be pretty.”

I don’t believe those words are true for me, and the doctor wonders “Is the tumor no longer viable?” I have written before that I think the tumor is like the fig tree that Jesus cursed...still there, but withered up and never able to bear fruit again. I believe that when I die, when the Lord chooses to call me home some time more than 15 years from now, my death will be totally unrelated to cancer.

Meanwhile I am living a miracle. The Mighty One has done great things for me. To know this is true is very humbling; and it also gives me a sure confidence. I am sure that the words of John’s gospel (sent to me by a Catholic sister in Vietnam) are true for my life story: “This illness is *not* unto death, but is for the glory of God.” And I am sure this miracle is about more than me. It is also about Union University of California. Looking back, I can see that the Lord prepared me all my life for a leadership role at UUC in these crucial years as we grow into a global church leader training and theological education school. For a set time and at a critical moment I am called to work in behalf of our school. In a sense I am anointed for this, even saved from death for

(continued on page 3)

Message from the President (continued)

this. For his own reasons, the Mighty One wants me to be serving this school at this time in history. I also believe that the prayers of the UUC staff and board for the Lord to heal me, so that I could serve as President, have much to do with my healing. Without their request, I might be in gone from this world by now.

I tell you honestly that I have no ego in this. When you know that the Holy One has done great things for you, it is a humbling experience. In reality I am a farm boy from the poverty of the western Pennsylvania countryside, whom the Lord befriended, out of kindness and for his own reasons, to lift me up and guide me through life from the time I was a small boy until my seventh decade. The Lord has been faithful, and remains faithful. In gratitude I serve him; I seek to see the world as he sees it, and to labor for the fulfillment of his will in our world as he directs me. It is my honor to serve him and to serve our students, faculty and staff at UUC.

What he has done for me also gives me confidence about the future of our school. Would the Lord save me from death and then allow me to fail at the task he has given me? Would the Lord direct the UUC board to extend this extraordinary call to someone with brain cancer, and fill us with hope for all that UUC can do for the oppressed and courageous church around the world, and then not accomplish what he has begun? Would the Lord do all these things with the intention of letting us down? Will the Lord fail to complete what he

has been doing in this place through so many faithful people for thirty years? I cannot believe that the Lord would act in that way. Holy is his name, and his actions are faithful and holy. So we can have confidence that the good things he has planned for our school will come to their fulfillment, in far greater ways than we think for or imagine.

It was Mary, the mother of Jesus, who first said "The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name." I say it now to you. The Mighty One has done great things for me. If it were not true, I would already be gone from this world. Instead I serve UUC in the role of president, seeking to be the servant of all those courageous Christians who are our faculty and students, trusting that this same Mighty One intends to do, and will do, great things for our school. And through our school he will do great things for the global church at a crucial time in world history.

I invite you to believe with me, to humbly serve with me, and to praise our God with me. Please join me in praying with believing hearts that the Lord will work steadily to accomplish in us what he has been planning for many years to do. His goodness is unsearchable. His faithfulness is undeniable. His kindness to us is forever. Holy is his name.

Rev. Dr. Dale Sewall
President

NEW CHANCELLOR OF VIETNAMESE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



The Rev. Dr. Bau Dang has just been appointed as the new Chancellor for the Vietnamese School of Theology.

Dr. Bau Dang has been involved with UUC from the beginning as a supporter and faculty member. He has nearly 40 years of experience as a minister. He has founded and pastored three local churches, served six years as the District Superintendent who oversaw about 90 churches of the East District of the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. He has been appointed by the Bishop of Cal-Pac UMC to serve as the senior pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Garden Grove, CA beginning July 1, 2014.

(continued on page 4)

UNION UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA

14200 GOLDENWEST STREET
WESTMINSTER, CA 92683

714.903.2762

info@uuc.edu

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.



www.uuc.edu

New Chancellor of Vietnamese School of Theology (continued)

Dr. Bau Dang received his Master of Divinity from Biola University, Master of Business Administration from National University and Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminar.

For the last 20 years, besides his duties as pastor and superintendent, he has devoted his time to translate a new version of the Vietnamese Bible "Vietnamese Bible Version 2011" (Bản Dịch 2011), which is widely used in Vietnamese Christian communities around the world.

Dr. Bau Dang will be representing and promoting the Vietnamese School of Theology on a voluntary basis while serving as a local church pastor. In response to his new appointment, Dr. Bau said: "I am honored to serve as the Chancellor of the Vietnamese School of Theology. With the Lord's help, I will do my best to serve God in this capacity to help train as many as possible for God's work."

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for UUC's accreditation.
- Pray for the seminar on Cross Cultural Communication.
- Pray for the UUC's new Chancellor of the Vietnamese School of Theology.

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 donating online at www.uuc.edu, or by sending a check or money order to:

UNION UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

14200 GOLDENWEST STREET
WESTMINSTER, CA 92683

For more information on how to designate your gift toward specific programs, please contact info@uuc.edu.