

CHINA, THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION & MISSIONS

Watching the opening and closing ceremonies of the Beijing Olympics, I cannot help but think about China as a world superpower. I kept suggesting to people that they should think about moving to China - not so much because of the immense wealth that will keep building up over the next few decades there but more because of the potential China has in terms of missions.

For years, we have been treating China only as a mission field where we send laborers **TO**. The time has come for us to think of China as a place where we can send laborers **FROM**. To truly make the transition from being a

missions receiving nation to a missions sending nation, the Chinese church needs to have a new missions mindset. This new missions mindset needs to be supported by a corresponding education infrastructure as well. In the past, the "training centers" in China were developing workers to evangelise mainland China but they now need to develop missionaries that can function effectively in cross-cultural settings. To do that, they will need the partnership of the Church outside China.

We want to be bridge-builders to help establish the networking for this new infrastructure to take place. Our roles as Malaysian Chinese mis-

sionaries to APTS will be very helpful for that. Being our partner, you are also partnering with the Chinese Church.



Hosting young Chinese house church leaders to an Indian "banana leaf" lunch in Malaysia. This is a brand new experience for them because they do not have cross-cultural opportunities like this inside China.

FIRST ASIAN PRESIDENT AT APTS

It has been confirmed that Tham Wan will become the first Asian President at APTS (www.apt.edu). The term of office will begin in April of 2009. It is a great honor for us personally and also for the Malaysian Assemblies of God that we represent. But, it will also be a huge challenge for us, as it will be for APTS. APTS is in an important transitional phase now. Our predecessors have put in place strong administrative and physical infrastructures. We now need to recruit more students. This term, we welcome 11 new students from China, Taiwan, Mongolia USA, Europe, Korea,

Indonesia and the Philippines. We thank God for these additions but there is room for more. We are also praying for a student body that is more representative of the Asia-Pacific region. Right now, we do not have students from some key South-East Asian countries like Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam. We also look forward to students from "Creative Access Nations" like Laos, and perhaps . . . think & pray boldly with us . . . even North Korea!!

APTS runs on a unique philosophy where all fulltime faculty are self-raised support missionaries sent

by the General Councils of their home countries. That makes higher theological education at APTS affordable to students from Asia and the Pacific Islands. Even the President of APTS has to raise his/her own support. Because of that, we have had our missionary budget adjusted for the new term of appointment. **Our Malaysian friends have responded generously** for us to meet our initial funding target. We want to make a lasting impact here, where God has called us. To do that, we need your partnership. We are not doing this alone.



APTS students come from all over the world; although most are from Asia and the Pacific regions.



With Vietnamese students who had just graduated. They are returning to head a Bible school there.



Chinese and Korean students in Baguio. Most of these are planning to return to China.