October 2017 Outreach Partner

Bangkok Institute of Theology (BIT)

As a theological institution of the Seventh District of The Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT) and a divinity department of the Christian University of Thailand (CUT), Bangkok Institute of Theology (BIT) strives to accomplish its mission of training servants who can effectively teach God’s Word and help lead the Church in accomplishing God’s ministry, both within Thailand and overseas.

BIT, started in 1941 at the Sathorn Church and after four venue changes, is currently located in the Phrakanong campus (71 Soi Vachirathamsathit 37 Sukhumvit 101/1 Rd. Phrakanong, Bangkok 10260). BIT has 13 full time faculty members, 13 part time faculty members and 13 staff members. The past year saw many faculty members retire. There has been a “change of the guards” among the faculty of BIT. The board is a 17 member strong diverse group, comprising of Chinese and Thai race, made up of both the laity and the clergy. Within the full time faculty members there is an executive faculty group of seven (Director-Rev. Dr. Apichart Poonsakvorasan, Dean of Student Affairs-Rev. Yutapan Pinich, Dean of Academic Affairs-Rev. Dr. Wandeewatchananont, Dean of Administration Affairs-Mrs. Sirapohn Virasetsiri, Dean of International Affairs-Dr. Young-Sun Shin, Head of Masters of Divinity-Dr. Wiriya Tipyavorakankoon, and the Institute’s Secretary-Mrs. Tipakorn Prakot). In the 2017 academic year BIT has been blessed to train 100 young aspiring and committed servants of God (undergraduate/graduate). God has blessed BIT with 30 incoming students (14 in BA and 16 in M.Div. program). BIT students come from all regions of Thailand, as well as from the neighboring restricted access country. They come from at least 4 different tribal groups, so their cultural expressions of worship and costumes are a vibrant and colorful cultural display of adoration. Thirty-eight (38) students, who have successfully completed their theological education, will go through the baccalaureate service on Nov. 5 with about 35 students awaiting their official graduation at the Christian University sometime early next year. This year, one of the graduates (Mr. Matee Kong) will finish his missions training and will serve as a missionary in Myanmar. This is a joint effort where World Mission Partners (WMP), churches under the WMP, and the missionary candidate will converge to raise prayer and financial support for the work of missions in Myanmar.

BIT is one of four theological institutions that the Thai government “recognizes.” As such there are many paper works, completion of five clinical research and examinations that has to be coordinated with the government. This year, BIT is pleased to have passed the annual institutional examination from the Commission on Higher Education of Thailand.

BIT covets the partnership that it has with International Church of Bangkok (ICB). BIT sincerely appreciates the Angel Tree Project that ICB was gracious enough to extend to BIT students last year. Along with the financial support that we receive from ICB, we’d also appreciate your prayer support at this time. We ask for your prayers for the freshmen class of this year (class of ’21) as they adjust to the challenges of new educational surroundings and responsibilities. Thank you.

BIT staff & alumni gathered to pray for seven retiring teachers.

Last Dec., BIT students rejoiced with Christmas back packs from ICB.