

*The Myanmar context of mission-shaped ethnic identities.*

Examples of doctoral theses as contributions to the development of an inter-contextual theology of mission.

Since many years the Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS) in Hong Kong receives and guides theological students from Myanmar for second and third degree studies in the different theological disciplines. More recently, a significant number of their doctoral theses is being written within the area of Mission & Culture (Theological Studies), at the intersection of theology of mission and contextual (indigenous) theology.

Most graduates are active pastors and/or teachers in their respective denominations and (local and regional) seminaries, and come to LTS, invited and supported through the theological development program of the Mekong Mission Forum (Lutheran World Federation). All of them are double-minority, being Christians in a Buddhist-majority environment and belonging to one of ethnic minorities in a Burmese-majority country.

Three doctoral theses are being taken as examples of theological research and writing with a focus on the situation of Chin State and Kachin State, two states of the Union of Myanmar with a divergent religious and ethnic context. The exemplified theses refer to the *Chin Christian context*, the *empowerment of Kachin churches* and a *theology of friendship* respectively. In their literature review and theological construction the theses deal with the ambiguities of a mission-shaped Christian ethnic identity, current socio-political issues related to religion, ethnicity and marginalization, and interreligious and interethnic dialogue.

My paper aims at showing the relevance of these studies for the development of an inter-contextual theology of mission, in Myanmar and beyond.

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