

# 香港浸信會神學院



Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary

## Ministry: Retrospect and Prospect 2016-17





# Sharing from the President

**Joshua Cho**

In recent years, along with the fast changing political and social situation, the demand for “justice” from various sectors of the community has become increasingly intense. Accordingly, the seminary has adopted “teaching justice” as the focus of the 2016-17 school year. To better understand “teaching justice,” we need to carefully examine Micah 6:8, “To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” (NIV) The “justice of God” taught by the prophet Micah is distinctly different from that embraced by secular society. The justice cherished by Christianity is God-centered — God is justice. Only God Himself or a group of God’s people who are called to follow the divine justice of God are worthy of being called “just.” In other words, justice is to be “lived out” in the real world by a group of people faithful to God.

Through Jesus’ words and deeds and his redemptive actions, we see that “justice” means

to share with others all the grace and blessings in life which include generosity, geniality, forgiveness and “mercy.” In interpersonal relationships, “mercy” is loving each other, going through thick and thin together, supporting one another and facing all kinds of difficulties together. At our seminary, we have a faculty team which is willing to understand and live out justice. Our teachers embody this kind of mercy and their faithful love and kindness can be seen in their actions: taking an active part in meetings, promoting writing for the seminary’s academic journal together and teaching and shepherding students tirelessly.

In addition to “acting justly” and “loving mercy,” God’s third requirement is “to walk humbly with your God.” It is impossible for us to put justice and mercy into practice on our own, and so we must be humble, asking God’s justice to enter into our hearts so that our justice can prostrate under that of God. Then we can walk along with God and act justly towards others with a merciful heart. HKBTSS seeks to offer an excellent theological education to equip excellent pastors whom God can use for the family of God. Behind the seminary’s “excellence” is a heart of humility. Because of such humility toward God and all humanity, the seminary acts as a safe haven for students to develop their ideas by allowing their imaginations to gallop freely, making them better able to tackle thorny problems later in life. In addition to learning “justice” together, we also share the fruits of our learning with churches through the seminary’s newsletter.

As for the seminary’s Mainland China ministry, thanks to God’s leading, since 2015 when we admitted the first student



recommended by the Three-Self Patriotic Movement and China Christian Council to come here for further studies, there have already been a total of six students studying here. In the 2017-18 new school year, there will be four more joining our student body. This signifies that both TSPM and CCC acknowledge the direction and standard of the seminary's academic research. In these few years, I have made more frequent trips to the Mainland. Apart from giving lectures and speeches, I also began visiting the ministry fields of Mainland students so as to have a more in-depth understanding of these

father's world for He dominates history and must rule over His kingdom with love, holiness and peace in His time.

Since 1992, every four years the seminary must pass an academic accreditation inspection by the Association of Theological Education in South East Asia. In January 2017, we had another accreditation from ATESEA. The seminary ranks high in terms of our academic performance, faculty qualifications, course arrangements, admission requirements, library facilities, communal living, spiritual formation, directors' functions and financial status. All



students.

On April 2, HKBTS's annual Spiritual Revival Concert was held with the theme "Our Father's World" in which we reflected together on how we follow and respond to God, the Lord of heaven and earth. Today we have not yet fully conquered the law of sin and death, however; in Christ we are more than conquerors. Let us not forget that this is our

degrees conferred by the seminary's Main Program and Lay Theological Education Department are recognized by ATESEA.

Thanks to God's grace, the total number of students in the Main Program has continued to steadily increase. From 121 in the 2009-10 school year to 219 in the 2016-17 school year, there has been an increase of 80%; the increase in students in our graduate school is even more pronounced;

the increase being four and a half times more than our first recruitment. In addition to our own M.Div. graduates, other graduate students come from all over Hong Kong and from different seminaries on the Mainland which shows how fruitful we are in theological teaching and cultivating research talent.

In pace with the continued development in our theological education ministry, the usable space at our current Sai O campus has become close to saturated. Some of our teachers must share a common office; as our library collection keeps increasing, more space for the bookshelves is needed. In addition, in recent years as the number of students in our graduate school has increased, it is becoming harder to provide available space for them to do research and in-depth thinking and to exchange thoughts and ideas with one another. These factors combined make it necessary for the seminary to implement the expansion project at an earlier date than

was expected. The Board of Directors has approved the establishment of the "Campus Development and Planning Committee" and the "Construction Group" to fully support the Third Phase Extension Project of the Sai O campus.

HKBTS really needs our churches to continue supporting our development. The seminary is like a forward-moving train carrying future preachers and heading toward the wheat field of gospel work led by God. To be able to continue moving forward, the train needs fuel. We earnestly hope that you can be the indispensable fuel for our seminary through prayer and by offering donations. You can support our theological education ministry so that together we can continue to move forward toward the wheat field of gospel work in this generation of lies and chaos by acting justly, loving mercy and walking humbly with our God.



## Recall with Thanksgiving and Advance with Hope

Looking back over the 2016-17 school year, there were 329 students taking the Seminary's degree programs with 219 students in the Main Program and 110 students in the degree programs of the Lay Theological Education Department respectively. During that year, 60 new students were recruited in the two programs while there were 67

graduates. As for the diploma and certificate programs, there are on average 268 students in programs run by LTED and 340 students in our Distance Education Program each quarter.

## 1. Main Program

The seminary's Main Program is comprised of programs in Bachelor of Theology, Master of Divinity, Master of Divinity (Further Studies), Master of Religious Education, Master of Christian Studies, Master of Theology, and Doctor of Theology. In the 2016-17 academic year, there were a total of 219 students while there are 48 new students and 40 graduating students.

### Sharing from Graduating Students

“Seminary study over these last few years has been an extremely important part of my life. Besides gaining Biblical and theological knowledge, I also came to know a group of like-minded co-walkers. Teachers and fellow-students have not only offered me great help intellectually but also spiritually. That is why I will never forget my seminary life which will continue to be of great help to me in my ministry life.”

“Being able to study full-time in the seminary is an opportunity that God offered to me to help renew my spiritual life. In these few years of study, I have experienced God's love and healing at HKBTS. Through my study and having been shepherded, I have been cured of my phobia of the pastoral ministry by God.”

“Thanks to the role model offered by our teachers, I have come to understand what it means to be a pastor and how to be effective at my own pastoral ministry. Many of the most difficult problems I have had in the pastoral ministry have been solved over these few years! I thank the seminary for making me a better pastor! I am grateful to God for enabling me to understand how to be like Christ through my teachers' teaching and the Holy Spirit's encouragement and molding.”

“My heart-felt thanks to President Cho and all the teachers who have put forth such a great effort in teaching us. My indebtedness to them cannot be described with words! Now, I must be faithful to serve the Lord all my life as

a reciprocation for the grace and teaching of God and the teachers.”

“Four years ago, I stepped onto the path of seminary training. Now that I am about to graduate, my heart is full of thanks! Thank God for leading me to study at HKBTS, for allowing me to understand that freedom goes hand in hand with responsibility, for allowing me to learn to be a member of the disciple community and for affirming my own vocation: To be faithful to the mission of leading people to become the disciples of Jesus Christ.”

### Direction of Theological Education

HKBTS's educational direction and objective is to serve our churches, to train pastors and ministers to build churches and to enable the church communities to become Jesus Christ's beautiful testimonies on earth. Therefore, we both value a solid foundation in biblical and theological knowledge and also stress cultivating the character and spiritual life of students and the whole seminary community. The seminary seeks to promote the discipleship ethic of theological education so that teachers and students can become a disciple community following Christ's footsteps as each of our students has access to individual care and encouragement from our two chaplains and our teachers. Then they will learn to be Christ's disciples and put His teaching into practice together, showing His truth to the world. Besides learning holistic pastoral care, they will learn to put into practice hospitality in love without forgetting that the vocation of a pastor is to lead the church to cater to the

needs of neighbors and strangers, sharing with them the love of Christ. Our students are to learn to be preachers of life and preach the message of life in the role of a "shepherd," "herald," and "prophet." We emphasize thinking with the concept of integral mission in mind and cultivating the soul of a missionary so that our teachers and students become a disciple community who has received the mission to be missionaries since the essence of the church is mission.

Christian education is neither student-centered nor society-centered but is God-centered; the main point is to teach the church to remember God's redemption, to hope for the fulfillment of His promise, pay attention to His commandments and to lead people to enter into the peace of Christ. In this troubled generation, the seminary emphasizes teaching students to build a community of Christ which will discern the will of God by means of theological wisdom and which will understand and put into practice the justice and mercy of God while walking humbly with God.

### **Connection between HKBTS and Our Churches**

The seminary and our churches are closely connected. We thank each of the churches and para-church organizations for

offering practicum opportunities for our students so that they can put into practice what they have learned in the classroom. In the past year, students had practicums in 95 churches and para-church organizations. President Cho and our faculty team respectively went out to different churches to be speakers in 24 spiritual revival meetings and evangelistic meetings, attended 23 important ceremonies, preached on Seminary Sundays in 28 churches, and spoke in 111 seminars organized by churches or organizations. We thank God for allowing the seminary to have the opportunity to serve our churches and enable a mutual and in-depth understanding of each other's ministries and needs. Additionally, the seminary organized the Exploration Camp about Full-Time Ministry and the Experiencing Seminary Life Camp in October last year and February this year respectively to enable those brothers and sisters to seek God's will for their lives and to more fully introduce to them our study programs

In addition, President Cho was the speaker at different meetings held in Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas. Also, we have had an increasing number of exchange visits with the National Committee of Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China and China Christian Council in different places in China. In December, President Cho was once again invited to be the accreditor by the Association for Theological Education in South East Asia. In February of this year, President Cho was invited to be the speaker at the 36th Spiritual Revival Meeting of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong with the theme "We — A Community Seeking to Follow Christ Ever Since the Reformation." He presented the idea of *Sola Christus* (through Christ alone), *Sola Fide* (by faith alone) and *Sola Gratia* (by grace alone) from the Baptist perspective. In June, President Cho was invited by Nanjing Union Theological Seminary to chair the seminar on "Theological Education and Church Construction."



# Events in 2016-17 Academic Year 2016

## Aug 2-4 Faculty Retreat Camp

Theme: “Theological Education for Molding Pastors: The Role and Strategy of the Seminary”

## Aug 17-19 Spiritual Formation Camp

All teachers and students joined the Spiritual Formation Camp together before the school term began. The theme for the camp was “Let Go, Transform, Move Forward.” Teachers and students together learned to “let go” through silence, worship, listening to sermons and group sharing and thus allowed the Holy Spirit to renew their lives.



## Aug 23 Opening Convocation Ceremony for 2016-17 Academic Year

In the Opening Convocation Ceremony, President Cho exhorted teachers and students when he preached a sermon entitled, “God-Centered Education.”

## Aug 24 Opening Convocation Lecture

Dr. Wong Fook-kong, Professor of Old Testament, spoke on the topic, “What does natural science do with biblical hermeneutics?”

## August 25 All Seminary Prayer Meeting

## Sep 12-15 65th Anniversary Symposium and Academic Lectures

Overall Theme: “Christian Education”

At the symposium on the first day, Rev. Dr. Lim Teck Peng from Trinity Theological Seminary, Singapore, Mrs. Sarah Ip from China Graduate



School of Theology together with the seminary’s teachers: Prof. Wong Fook-kong, Prof. Nathan Ng, Prof. Andres Tang, and Rev. Brian Lam presented papers. In the following three-day academic lectures, Dr. Lim Teck Peng spoke on the theme “Christian Education as Priestly Education: A Construction of an Educational Symbol.”

## Sep 27 An Outing for Teachers and Students

## Oct 9 Parents Day

Theme: “Be Silent Together, Be Energetic Together, Be Empowered Together.”

## Oct 14-15 Exploration Camp on Full-Time Ministry

## Oct 25-27 Baptist Heritage Week

The theme for this year’s Baptist Heritage Week was “Contributions of Baptist Theologians to Ecclesiology.” Speakers of the three-day day time lectures were our teachers: Prof. Jerry Moye, Prof. Andres Tang, and Dr. Lindsay Robertson.



## Nov 10 All Seminary Prayer Meeting



### Nov 13 Joint Programs Graduation Ceremony

The Joint Programs Graduation Ceremony of the Main Programs (65th class), Lay Theological Education Department (the 17th class), and Distance Education Program (the 16th class) was held at Elizabeth Stadium. This year there were 54 graduates who were awarded degrees, or diplomas or certificates from the same degree program, together with 189 graduates from various diploma and certificate programs.



### Nov 17 Hand-over Ceremony of the Student Union

### Nov 24 Thanksgiving Day

### Dec 19 Christmas Worship Service: All the Seminary and Alumni Praising and Celebrating the Lord's Coming

The seminary and the Alumni Association jointly organized the Christmas Worship Service. All teachers, students, staff and alumni came together to remember the Savior's birth. The attendance once again broke the record. As we worshipped together, we also prayed for the nations on earth, the Hong Kong government and society, the church's witness, the seminary's development and the alumni's ministry.



## 2017

### Jan 17 Spiritual Formation Day

Theme: "Justice and Prayer"

### Jan 17-20 Academic Accreditation by the Association of Theological Education in South East Asia

ATESEA once again accredited the academic



level of our degree programs. Not only did they give us affirmation but they also recognized the seminary's performance in terms of academic quality, programs of study and facilities.

### Jan 18 Spring Term Began Prof. Wong Fook-kong gave a sermon on "The Prayer of Nehemiah" to exhort teachers and students.

### Jan 19 All Seminary Prayer Meeting

### Feb 15-16 Experiencing Seminary Life Camp

### March 23 All Seminary Prayer Meeting



**May 13 An Exchange Meeting for the President's Council**

**May 25 Awards Night and the Installation of Board of Directors Ceremony**



**April 2 Spiritual Revival Concert**

The concert was held at the Academic Community Hall of Hong Kong Baptist University with the theme "Our Father's World." Prof. Nathan Ng preached the sermon, our teacher, Josephine Li, conducted the joint seminary choir and together with guest singers did the singing while guest musicians played the violin and hand bells together with a student who gave the testimony.



**April 4 Graduation Ceremony of the Theological Education for Filipino Leaders Program**

**May 11 Commissioning Ceremony for Graduating Students**



**June 5-13 Short-Term Mission to Cambodia**

Students from the graduating class visited over ten missionaries in Cambodia and came to know more about the Kuy tribe which had never heard of Jesus Christ before. They personally participated in different ministries through which they integrated classroom learning and their own experience in practical situations and thus consolidated their understanding and commitment to the cross-cultural mission ministry.

**June 10-12 Short-Term Mission to Macau**

This activity enabled students to understand more about Macau churches and the mission field there, the local culture and the mission ministry of proximity culture.



## 2. Lay Theological Education Department

At present, the Lay Theological Education Department offers ten programs of study which include two degree granting Christian Studies programs and eight non-degree programs. They encompass universal theology and ministries of different fields. All the subjects offered in the degree programs are quarterly subjects while the non-degree programs offered topical subjects.

In the past year, we offered a total of 59 quarterly subjects. Besides the existing training in the Bible, theology, history and ministerial skills in these programs, we also offered new subjects in accordance with needs and interests of lay people and taking into consideration the suggestions made by the lecturers and program committee members for individual programs. These subjects include "A Preliminary Exploration of Children Life Education," "Finding Opportunity of Growth from the Original Family," "Wonderful Ways of Disciple Education for the Elderly," "Biblical Parenthood and Teachings That Are After God's Heart," "Guilt and Forgiveness — Inspiration from the Book of Hosea," and "Rethinking Art•Faith." Responses from students have been very positive because not only are these courses inspiring and good for individual growth, but they are also useful when put into practice in ministry and thus are a blessing for others. Looking ahead, we will continue to offer other new subjects, for example, "Self-Understanding and Growth for Care-Givers," "Understanding Contemporary China," "Understanding the Working of the Holy Spirit in the Bible" and "Art and Spiritual Formation."

Apart from the quarterly subjects mentioned above, there are three one-year programs ("Childhood Ministry," "Early Childhood Ministry" and "Church Administration and General Affairs") in the non-degree programs which offer topical

courses. There are a total of 65 topical courses while each of the courses takes one to three classroom lessons to complete. In addition to providing courses on these topical subjects, we also organize various seminars. Through sharing from pastors and professionals in these seminars, students' knowledge and understanding of different ministries are deepened and broadened. In the past year, we organized 8 topical seminars and 5 of them were open to our churches. We hope that this will stimulate our brothers and sisters to do faith reflection. Meanwhile, they come to know LTED's different programs of study and will then give serious consideration to being trained so as to offer a more fruitful service to the Lord in the church or in the workplace.

Because LTED offers many courses on different subjects and topics, and conducts spiritual formation meetings, ministry practicum and growth groups for students, there is a great demand for lecturers. In the 2016-17 school year, the number of our seminary's professors and adjunct lecturers amounted to 85. We truly thank God for His provision in human resources, the pastors from different churches and para-church organizations and different professionals who have committed themselves to serve as our adjunct lecturers. During that year, an average of 351 students took our programs every quarter and the total number of people who attended our programs and seminars was 1159. A total of 164 students have graduated from these programs. The number of lecturers and students signifies a serious response on their part to God's vocational call. We firmly believe that in the process of teaching and learning they will have experienced God's guidance, inspiration and blessings, their lives enrich one another and work together for the good of those who love God.

**Ten Programs of Lay Theological Education Department**

1. Christian Studies	Master
2. Christian Studies	Certificate / Diploma / Bachelor
3. Lay Theological Training	Certificate / Diploma
4. Women's Theological Training	Certificate / Diploma
5. Elderly Ministry	Certificate / Diploma
6. Youth Ministry	Certificate / Diploma
7. Childhood Ministry	Certificate / Diploma
8. Early Childhood Ministry	Certificate / Diploma
9. Mission Ministry	Certificate / Diploma
10. Church Administration and General Affairs	Certificate / Diploma

**Number of Graduating Students 2016-17**

Master of Christian Studies Program	4
Bachelor, Diploma, and Certificate of Christian Studies Program	23
Non-degree Diploma and Certificate Programs	137
Total	164





## Selected Reflections from Graduates

“Throughout the process of studying, it has been like finding treasures in our Christian heritage and history; spiritual formation and reflection on worship have been most helpful to the reorganization of my personal beliefs.”

“The seminary not only teaches theological knowledge, it also attaches great importance to putting faith into practice. I hope that all lay people will consider taking a course or two to equip themselves to serve God with more love and knowledge.”

“To take care of both work and study, to rush for class, group meetings and the Christian fellowship have all greatly helped to consolidate my life! Sometimes having to work all night long to complete a homework assignment or to review the class lesson is a bitter experience. It is fortunate that our teachers teach us with patience and love which in turn changes my bitterness into sweetness. I can once again feel God’s grace which has accompanied me all the way!”

“The process of studying is full of challenges and yet my life has been edified. My most profound realization is that faith must be interpreted through life and I need to testify Jesus Christ through the way I live my life. The lives of my teachers, fellow students and myself have had great impact on one another. Together we are building the kingdom of God.”

“Although the program has come to an end, putting faith into practice and living out Christ through our lives is a lesson that I will carry with me for my entire lifetime. I truly hope that what I have learned can be assimilated into my ministry so that I can glorify God and be a blessing to others.”

### Thanksgiving Prayer

Thank God for His timely provision. Last year, several new teachers joined our faculty team of adjunct lecturers and served as a great driving force. Pray that God will call more lay leaders to receive training to get themselves prepared to respond to the challenge of the times and put the Christian faith into practice, showing forth a beautiful testimony and offering to God an excellent service in the society, workplace and the church.

### 3. Distance Education Program

For those who are committed to receiving theological training but who are unable to take lesson face to face with the teachers or for those who want to have flexible self-study at their own pace, the programs offered by DEP are most suitable for them. At present, DEP offers 4 certificate programs, 2 diploma programs and two higher diploma programs. The number of students, who come from different parts of the world, registered for study every quarter is on average 340. We have 27 tutors who help students solve problems they encounter in their studies. Tutors in the diploma programs will meet with students at the beginning of the school term to offer them guidance or provide an orientation program for their studies.

Recently, on the afternoon of June 11 at the seminary's town center on Bute Street in Mongkok, the Applied Theological Education Center, a tutor-student tea gathering was held. That day nearly 30 DEP staff, tutors and students were present. We first enjoyed the refreshment prepared and then the seminary's Student Worship Team, the Servant, led hymn-singing. There was a time of sharing from tutors and students, followed by a prayer session. In addition, seven students who presently live in Ireland made a short video to share their feelings about the DEP program from across the ocean. Such a gathering enabled tutors and students who could seldom meet to come

together to care for each other and to cheer on the DEP students who are relatively "lonely" on the road of theological equipping.

Besides our regular programs, DEP has all along organized a topical lecture twice a year with the purpose of broadening students' horizon of knowledge and vision of faith. In the past school year, we organized two such lectures with Dr. Eric Kwong and Prof. Andres Tang as the speakers respectively; the topics were "Can Christians practice yoga?" and the "Separation of Church and State: The Baptist Perspective." These lectures are open to all brothers and sisters in our churches as we hope that more lay Christians can enjoy the spiritual feast together.

Over the years, in addition to nurturing lay Christians in general, DEP also seeks to put more effort in "special training ministry" and "Mainland ministry" by serving the lay communities which have some special learning needs and economic difficulties. Praise the Lord that last year 3 visually-impaired students from "Spiritual Light Project" (the program is jointly run by DEP and Christian Ministry to Visually Impaired Persons) and 8 students in prison from "Onesimus Training Project" (the program is jointly run by DEP and Hong Kong Christian Kun Sun Association or can be called "Prison Fellowship Hong Kong") were awarded a certificate or diploma. Barely had





some of these students graduated from one program, when they almost immediately registered to take another DEP program. As for the Philemon Training Project jointly run by DEP and Beauty of Grace Foundation Limited, the first student had been admitted into the program. Student admission will gradually increase. It is our earnest hope that God will use this meaningful ministry to offer training opportunities for those lay Christians who have special needs.

In addition, the Theological Education for Filipino Leaders Program, which was inaugurated in 2003, has a total student registration number of over 2,900 in these fourteen years. Courses are taught four quarters a year, and all classes take place on Sunday afternoons. Class enrolment has an average of 55. The Sixth Graduation Ceremony was held in April of 2017 with 34 graduates, 27 of which were awarded certificate or diploma, 7 awarded the bachelor degree or the associate degree from the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary.

#### The Correspondence Program

- Higher Diploma in Biblical Studies Program
- Higher Diploma in Christian Studies Program
- Diploma in Biblical Studies Program
- Diploma in Christian Studies Program
- Certificate Program in New Testament Studies
- Certificate Program in Old Testament Studies

#### Online Program

- Certificate Program in New Testament Studies
- Certificate Program in Old Testament Studies

#### The Special Training Ministry

- Onesimus Project
- Spiritual Light Project
- Heavenly Voice Training Project
- Philemon Training Project

#### Others

- The Theological Education for Filipino Leaders

### Thanksgiving Prayer

We thank the Lord for preparing a group of faithful and dedicated tutors for DEP! Pray that the Lord will empower them to continue to help students in their studies even when they are busy with their pastoral duties and personal lives. We also pray that God will continue to use DEP to enable more lay Christians to be trained and edified.



## 4. The Applied Theological Education Center

### The Pastoral Continued Education Center

Looking back over the 2016-17 school year, we have seen students who thirsted for the word of God and also teachers who taught and guided students untiringly, adjusting the course content according to students' practical needs. Looking into the future, it is hoped that the center, in its quest for excellence, will continue to offer diversified courses to broaden the vision and horizon of students and aptly respond to the many different needs faced by our churches.

In the 2016-17 school year, we offered for pastors the following four series with a total of 24 courses.

**The Hermeneutic and Preaching Series:** Three of the seminary's Old and New Testament teachers and one external professor respectively taught six courses: "Theology of the Pentateuch," "Reading Timothy I and Timothy II," "Warnings Given by the Book of Isaiah to the Israelites (Church)," "Contemporary Message from the Book of Isaiah," "Beyond What We Can See: Daniel 2 – 7 (the Aramaic part)" and "On Preaching: From the Book of Judges." As the insights of the speakers on the Bible are unique, they broaden students' vision and understanding of the Bible.

**The Leadership Series:** The two veteran pastors who respectively taught the courses "The Psychology of Pastors and Their Spiritual Growth" and "Baptism, Marriage, Funeral: Message and Preaching" vividly shared with students moving stories in their pastoral ministry. "To Learn Preaching from Arnold Yeung and Thomas Long" is the visionary insight from our chaplain, Rev. Brian Lam. As for the two courses "The Way to Do

Pastoral Ministry in the Church" and "Church Management and Leadership," they were respectively taught by a veteran pastor and a retired university lecturer who expound the spiritual quality and leadership principles demanded from a pastor. It is commendable for the teacher of the course "The Discipleship System and Self-Sustained Church Growth" to have invited the whole staff team that worked together to join the lesson to share their valuable experiences.

**The Pastoral Care Series:** Those brothers and sisters and pastors who are committed to the prayer ministry together joined the course "The Prayer Ministry and Christian Counseling." There were lively discussions in the following courses: "Tide Over Their Difficult Times with Children and Adolescents," "Transcending Death," "The Pastoral Care for Divorced Church Members," "Rethinking Clinical Pastoral Cases and The Shepherding Styles," "Training in Personal Growth Comes to Life: Overcoming Fear, Shame and Guilt" and "Handling Inter-personal Conflicts in Ministry."

**The Individual Equipping and Current Affairs Series:** To commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we especially conducted a topical lecture "Rethinking Contemporary Social Reform and Church Reform from Lessons Learned in the 16th Century Reformation." Along with the "One Road. One Belt" slogan vigorously advocated by Mainland China, the course "Understanding Contemporary China" speaks for itself. The two courses "Rekindling the Fire of Love: Rethinking Group Life" and "Catechesis and Worship: The Experience from the Pre-Constantinian Church" enabled students to master the concepts of and skills in ministry.



### Statistics of Courses Offered in 2016-17

Category	No. of Courses(hr)	Student Registration (8/2016-6/2017)	
Hermeneutic and Preaching	6 (33)	152	(22%)
Leadership	6 (39)	229	(34%)
Shepherding	7 (51)	201	(29%)
Equipping	5 (27)	103	(15%)
Total	24 (150)	685	(100%)

### Thanksgiving Prayer

Thank God for granting us the opportunity to play a part in the ministry of pastoral continued learning and equipping! We pray that God will lead and use speakers who are humble to rethink, renew, improve and set up courses that are Bible-based and that assimilate the Christian faith into contemporary life. May pastors who get encouraged from these courses put what they have learned into effective practice and are a blessing to others.

### Edna Wong Christian Worship and Arts Education Center

In 1517, Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-five Theses to the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, Germany and thus set off a reform movement that brought about drastic changes that continue to this day. Over the past 500 years, the Christian churches, either internationally or not, review and renew themselves from time to time.

In such a big environment, Edna Wong Christian Worship and Arts Education Center voluntarily needs to frequently review and examine whether what we have been doing is adhering to the spirit of continuous reform or not. In the past year, we invited Mr. Leung Yat-hin, a media worker, to run two categories of

courses for the Center. One was hymnology with a view to exploring the development of Christian hymns in the historical China throughout the last one thousand years from the perspectives of mission and culture. Students felt that their horizons and vision were broadened as they made many new discoveries. The other course was "Making Use of Computer Projection in the Worship Service" which sought to integrate the practical design of the projection screen and the approach of worship studies to enable students to have an in-depth reflection on applied theories of electronic media.

We once again invited Rev. So Wai-man



to teach the course, "The Floral Art Practice at Church." This time we added a demonstration of flower arranging to the lesson so that students could experience the practical effects of putting theory into practice.

In the past few years, the center co-hosted the Inter-Collegiate Music Ministry Camp for local college students. This year, it was presented by Hong Kong Sacred Music Service and was called, "Onward Christian Musicians: Leadership Training Camp." On the one hand, the camp was meant to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of HKSMS; on the other hand, recruitment of participants could be broadened to include, besides undergraduate students, church members of different age groups and together reflect upon issues such as music and spirituality and the evolution of ancient and contemporary worship music. The camp will be held in late August with the hope that participants will be encouraged to have continual renewal and a heart for enhancing the quality of their ministry.

What is worth mentioning is the course,

"Children Singspiration Tutor Training," which was first offered last year. Ms. Sarah Lee will continue to teach the course. We are discussing with her as we plan to strengthen the course content with a view to attracting more suitable learners to receive training.

Another new course offered was "Choral Treasure: Anthem Selecting for Church Choir" which seeks to explore and utilize church music materials in accordance with church liturgical calendar. The final lesson took place at the front-office of Hong Kong Sacred Music Service. Students were given a guided tour so as to better understand the nearly a thousand choral items provided there. Students were greatly enlightened.

Courses on singing, vocal music, playing electronic organs are subjects offered ever since the founding of the center, and they are still the most popular. Together with the new courses just mentioned, throughout the year the number of student registrations is around 1,000. In the spirit of reformation, our center will keep making progress in the future.

### Thanksgiving Prayer

We thank the Lord for granting us the willingness to be renewed and the possibility of making progress.

Please pray for the Training Camp for Church Music Leader held in late August.

Pray that participants will have a heart to learn and that teachers will offer them quality teaching.



# Publication

The academic journal, **Hill Road Journal**, is published bi-annually.



The theme of issue 38 is "Christian Education."



The theme of issue 39 is "The Spirits and Traditions of the Reformation."

**Chinese / English Newsletter** (published quarterly)



# Library Resources

The size of the total collection of our Rankin Memorial Library had reached 167,380 items. The collection includes Chinese and English books, electronic books, audio-visual materials, CD ROMs, periodicals, full-text electronic journals, bound periodicals and historical documents from Baptist history.

From August last year to July this year, the number of books checked out was 21,790.



# 2016-17 Student Life Snapshots



2016.9.27 Teachers mixed with students very well.



2016.8.18 A pleasant surprise for teachers!



2017.3.30 After the graduating students' sermons, a teacher came up to entrust the students' future ministry to God in prayer.



2016.11.10 Students led the hymn-singing session in the All Seminary Prayer Meeting.



2017.5.9 Sharing from the Graduating Class at the Morning Chapel

HKBT'S needs  
the **intercession**  
and **donation support**  
of our churches  
and of brothers and sisters.

Training tomorrow's pastors is the calling and responsibility of all of us.

Please keep remembering the needs of the seminary and our students and play your part in our educational fund.



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