



香港浸信會神學院
Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary

Newsletter
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Our Graduates'

Reflections

&

Sharing

President's Message

Discerning the Spirit of Truth and Confessing Christ as Lord

Today's Students, Tomorrow's Pastors

Today's Seminary, Tomorrow's Churches

Discerning **the Spirit of Truth** and Confessing **Christ as Lord**

A Brief Discussion on I John 4:1-6

Joshua Cho

A Beloved One

Several months ago, while I was chatting with a teacher at my office, he said to me, "You are a beloved person. If I were to write a book about you in future, I would certainly mention this very important point." I was very delighted to hear his comment.

There is much truth in what he said. **Since I assumed the presidency, I do not shoulder everything alone. Instead, my faculty and staff colleagues spare no effort in sharing the burden with me. There are also many zealous volunteers who come to my help.** Among these volunteers some have already retired. They could have taken a break from work to enjoy God's creation and the goodness of life, but they with a willing heart help the seminary with various affairs. My colleagues do their utmost to watch over and maintain the seminary. Some of them even come to the campus after work hours to carry out lawn care work voluntarily; some go the extra mile and come to serve the seminary or do the school work during their holidays. With regard to the new academic building project, which is close to completion, there are deacons and leaders from various churches taking up the duty of project management supervision, which eases my mind. As for the issue concerning a major sewage pumping station proposed by the government to be constructed at a site adjacent to the seminary, we have a number of experts in environmental protection and drainage engineering to help with our negotiation with the Drainage Services Department. **With so many brothers and sisters who love God, His churches and the seminary walking with me, I am beloved and blessed indeed.**

When it comes to the term "beloved," mention must be made of John the Apostle. John was a beloved person, commonly known as the "apostle of love." In the Gospel of

John, John describes himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (13:23; 19:26; 21:20, etc.). He was also the disciple leaning against Jesus during the Last Supper (13:25). His life thereafter was closely connected to the theme of "God's love." According to tradition, besides writing the Gospel, he was also the author of the Book of Revelation and the Letters of John.



Distinguish the True Spirit from the False Spirit

It was the last years of the first century when John wrote I John. During that period, the churches in some regions were faced with persecution. At that time, the church confessed Jesus Christ as Lord and that no one had greater authority than Jesus did. In addition, the early churches had to face the danger of false teachers. These false teachers lifted up themselves and viewed themselves as better than others in moral virtues and religious doctrines. They believed that real incarnation of divinity in human life was impossible and that Christ was a deity, who descended on Jesus, a human, at his baptism and departed before the crucifixion. Christ may have "seemed" (δοκεῖν) to be human but was actually not because the divinity and holiness of God could not be dishonored by the human flesh. In this way, **false teachers denied the fact that Jesus Christ possesses true humanity and flesh.**

John advised believers to resist the false teachers who claimed to have been inspired by the Spirit to put forward new teaching. He encouraged them to recognize the true Spirit from the false ones. John said, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether

they are from God" (1 Jn 4:1a). What John meant was that it is essential to discern spirituality. **True faith carries the power of discernment. Believing recklessly is without doubt "an intellectual suicide."** When Christians believe in Jesus Christ, they have to face this world with faith and wisdom.

Criterion 1: Know Who Jesus Christ Is

John pointed out that the false teacher's faith is an antichrist faith. His direct advice for the readers was: "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. And this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming; and now it is already in the world" (1 Jn 4:2-3). The spirit of the antichrist is opposed to the confession that "God has come to this world in the person of Jesus Christ." The antichrist is opposed to Jesus Christ and God's salvation plan.

John pointed out that the identification of truth and falsehood hinges on a core question: who is Jesus Christ?

The answer is: as God came to this world in the person of Jesus Christ and in the flesh, Jesus Christ is wholly God and wholly human. Jesus was the son of Mary, suffered under the hand of Pilate, was crucified, died, was buried and was risen on the third day. He ascended to heaven in glory and sat on the right hand of God the Father. This is the main confession of Christianity, and is the yardstick to measure and test the truth of prophetic messages.

For this reason, the story of Jesus Christ is not the story of just a benevolent man or a wise person; nor is it the story of a social activist. There is nothing wrong with these claims but they are far from being able to point out the core of the issue. If the Jesus Christ confessed in Christianity is purely a leader who is caring, inspiring, particularly wise and charismatic, then the story we own about Jesus Christ will just be one about "a great humankind" and we will just be worshipping ourselves. If God had not come to the world in the flesh, the teaching and learning at our seminary would have been a waste of brothers and sisters' efforts and offerings.

Put simply, **the first established criterion and confession of the truth is: "God has come in the person of Jesus Christ," or "God has come in the flesh."** John moved on to give the readers another established

criterion and test. This test is about the nature of the listeners of the Word: to see if they are from God.

Criterion 2: Distinguish Two Types of Listeners

Speaking of the two types of listeners, John said, "Little children, you are from God, and have conquered them; for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore, what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and whoever is not from God does not listen to us. From this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error" (1 Jn 4:4-6). The first type of listener is from God. **To John, those who are from God listen and believe in the gospel. They firmly believe Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. Their lives are also clear proof that they are from God.** God dwells in their hearts and souls. The God living in them is greater than the one who is in the world.

Although the God greater than the one who is in the world lives in a believing person, that person does not necessarily have a better grasp of the expertise and terminology of the Bible and theology than others; nor is he necessarily smarter and more outstanding than others. But if the Holy Spirit does dwell in that person, the biblical and theological knowledge he owns will be nurtured into a heart with genuine faith. This explains why some humble people know God more than those who are complacent.

I know a brother in Christ who has great talents and intelligence. He had studied a Ph.D. program in a reputable school but finally lost his faith. He went back to his mother church and discussed theologies with his pastor. The pastor had not received advanced training in theological education; nor was he smarter than the brother. But he knew God and Jesus Christ. Comparatively speaking, that brother did not know God despite his profound knowledge in theology; he did not know how to tell the truth from falsehood and he did not dare to do so. The pastor is from God and so he possesses spiritual insights. He calls the truth "truth" and errors "errors" because God dwells in his heart and He is greater than the one who is in the world.

I also met a famous professor of liberation theology in the United States. His parents were devoted missionaries and they let him study in an evangelical college. Afterward,

he obtained a doctor of philosophy degree in theology in a prestigious university. Since then, there have been changes in his theological perspectives. He was focused on the study of politics, racism, and feminism and enjoyed religious dialogues, especially those involving pluralism and universalism. Now, he always says that his theology is centred on “christic” experience; he thinks that such experience can be seen in the core experiences in various religions and the spirit of Christ can be revealed and working in folk religions in various cultures. He has not returned to what he originally believed in. Then, does he really know God?

Do theologians today really know God? Do we really know God? Does God dwell in us? Does the one greater than the one who is in this world dwell in us? I earnestly wish that we were all from God and knew God. May the one greater than the one who is in this world dwell in us and hence give us the spiritual power of discernment.

The second type of listener is the audience from the world. They are misguided by the spirit of error. They are from the world and not from God and so they only listen to the words from the world. They query the authority of the Bible and reject the teachings of the apostles. They are faithful to errors and enjoy being so. They view errors as the truth.

John pointed out that the apostles came from God and were faithful teachers. ***If a person is from God and knows God, he will listen to the apostles’ teaching about Jesus Christ.*** Anyone who rejects the apostles’ teaching does not know the God of our Lord Jesus Christ. From this, we can tell the spirit of truth from the spirit of error. What John meant is that this is a proclamation of the truth.

Truth and Sacrificial Love

The truth is God wants to reconcile with humans in Christ and He wants humans themselves to reconcile with one another. The truth is God has really come to this world in the person of Jesus Christ and people has to live on the basis of truth. ***This truth is not based***

on arrogance, pride, nor any presuppositions, but is founded on a life of sacrificial love, that is God, because God is love.

With the commencement of the new academic year, we believe God has come among us to love us, to give God’s life to us and to live with us. This vision, which filled John’s heart, also fills ours. We see that Jesus Christ has come to the world in the flesh. God does not stand at a distance or at some other position; nor does God come to scold people. Instead, ***God came to cry among us with His life broken for us.*** God was crucified for us. God died for you, for me, and for everyone. The life that this God has sacrificed for us cannot be created by us for ourselves. No single person, institution or power can give such sacrificial love. This love is in Jesus Christ. Christ sacrificed for us and accomplished the redemption. He is our only savior, who lives among us.

Who Is Our Lord?

Today, do we know and fear God and honor Jesus Christ as the Lord? Or, do we view the worries about illnesses, those who are in power, our parents, children or lover as our lord? Is Jesus Christ our lord? Do we see that the true God, Jesus Christ, loves people in the world? Do we see God loving all sinners, including the Chinese, the sick, the deprived and the humble ones? Do we hear God calling us to love these people?

The early Christians heard God’s calling and paid a high price for the calling that they firmly believed in. They were known as “martyrs.” They testified to Jesus being the Savior and the Messiah, which resulted in their death in the flesh, but they lived forever hence. ***May God grant us sufficient grace so that we may believe and testify that Jesus Christ is our Lord and witness together that Jesus is our Savior, the One who loves people in the world and the one and only one Messiah.***

* This article is adapted from the writer’s speech delivered at our Opening Convocation Ceremony (August 24, 2021). All Scripture quotations are taken from the NRSV.



Our

Graduates' Reflections & Sharing

When brothers and sisters responded to God's calling and entered the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary (HKBTS), they received our discipleship education. Throughout the process, they became equipped with theological knowledge, learned pastoring skills, underwent character building, and, through the fellowship of the disciple community, faced together the challenges of the times and the deconstruction and rebuilding of lives. They experienced God's love through adversities, had deep reflections on their faith and put themselves through the mill to strengthen their will to serve. May the graduates of this community become faithful pastors for others, for the church and for the world by preaching the gospel, building up churches and expanding God's Kingdom. Now, let us listen to the reflections and sharing of graduates from our Main Programs.



Feature



The seventieth class of graduates with President Cho and all the faculty

Words from Our Graduates

**B.Th.
Graduates**

Fan Chun-yan (B.Th.)

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Rom 12:1-2).

Kong Tak-yeung (B.Th.)

The teacher of Greek was very strict. Spending just a week in his intensive course was very difficult. During the last lecture, he spoke with a lump in his throat, "When you graduate, ask yourself clearly what sort of person you are! Be faithful! God loves dearly those who are faithful!" After that, I did my best to be faithful, only to find that it was much more difficult to be faithful than to study Greek. May every prospective pastor be faithful in serving the Lord!

B.Th. Graduates



Yip Sui-lam (B.Th.)

Reflecting upon my life as a theological student in these few years, I found myself benefiting from two major things. One was the birth of my son, which made me experience completely man's limitation when I had to pay attention to both my studies and my child at the same time. Only by leaning on the Lord could I overcome the hurdles. The other thing was learning different theological perspectives made me understand that people do think differently, which enabled me to accept others' opinions. I am thankful that my education at HKBTS has enriched my life.

Ng Siu-man (B.Th.)

My four years of theological studies have passed in the blink of an eye. I thank God my Father for enabling me to learn and grow in such a bed of roses as HKBTS amidst this time of turbulence. I pray that God will keep my heart so that I may testify for Him in this age and lead a godly life, serving the Lord and people in all circumstances.

Lam Heung-na (B.Th.)

Looking back on my four years of theological studies, I am filled with gratitude. Thankful for the careful cultivation of every teacher and the support of my family, friends and my mother church (Evergrow Baptist Church), I could finally equip myself smoothly. I earnestly hope that I will devote myself to the Lord in the future, loving God and people, and remaining faithful as a servant of God who does not need to be ashamed, until the end of my life.

Tsang Wun-lam (B.Th.)

What has been moving me most during these four years of theological studies is God's Word. God has not worked magic on me. Instead, as usual, He let me go through the process of being uprooted, torn down, built up and planted. God had His own order of building up and planting, which sometimes annoyed me and yet was secure. I was like a tree firmly planted by streams of water.

Kenny Ng (B.Th.)

I will keep looking upon the Lord as Lord, and God as God, And keep serving Him according to His will, Not for my own sake but to abide in Him entirely. As a servant, I have no other wish but to be faithful till death.

M.Div. Graduates

Chak Kit-ling, Elaine (M.Div.)

Thank God for His presence! I thank Him for going through every moment of joy and sorrow with me in these four years of theological studies. I thank the teachers and fellow students for walking with each other and supporting each other. I have gained a lot from all my experiences, major or minor, during my time at HKBTS. I hope I will become God's servant, well-equipped with these fruits of learning.

Chan King-chung (M.Div.)

Finally, I have completed the B.Th. and M.Div. programs! Throughout these six years, not only have I gained knowledge but also I have learnt how to get along with others. This is a process of self-discovery, which lets me realize my own strengths and weaknesses and learn how to be a good pastor rearing the sheep. Thank God for His guidance all along and I also thank the teachers for their wholehearted teaching and the seminary staff for their comprehensive care.

Chau Hang, Henry (M.Div.)

Time flies. On the one hand, I hate to leave HKBTS; on the other hand, I can't wait to start my ministry as a pastor in the church. Looking back on the three years of learning, just like what a senior student once told me, "For our theological studies, we graduate not by grades but by miracles." This is also my personal experience. What I have been counting on is nothing but the grace of God.

Guo Junhui (M.Div.)

Thank you, teachers, for your devoted teaching in these three years, which has made me know God more! Thank you, fellow students, for walking with me, which has given me a better fellowship! Thank you, Heavenly Father, for always listening to me, accepting me, and making me grow by all means! Dear God, I am willing to follow your will and lay my whole life in Your hands.

Ng Yuk-chun (M.Div.)

Although the program has come to an end, my life-long (and faithful) learning has not ended. My studies during these two years have been a journey filled with grace. I have to thank the teachers and fellow students for walking with and encouraging me. All these are the gifts God gave me out of mercy on me, which have enriched my life. I thank the Lord for molding me. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide me in my ministries, so that I will be submissive to His will and be a humble and faithful servant of His for the whole life.

Lam Kar-ho (M.Div.)

Thanks to the guidance of my Heavenly Father, I have finally completed the six years' theological studies! During these few years, I have not only acquired theological knowledge but also a better understanding of what community reconciliation and pastors' personality and responsibilities are. Having benefited a lot from the reflections in these few years, I hope I can fulfil God's calling faithfully.

Tang Pui-yee (M.Div.)

After I have become a Christian, God let me know the stories of different people. I love listening to others sharing their experiences as I can see God's work in each of the stories. Thank God for calling me to join the seminary four years ago, guiding me in acquiring a new understanding of Him and leaning on Him. I cherish the teachers' teaching and my life getting along with different students during this period. I am also thankful to the teachers for the time and care they spent marking my assignments.

Lee Po-yee (M.Div.)

Thanks to our Heavenly Father, I have gained inspiration from the teachers during my three years of study at HKBTS and have cultivated a theological perspective with critical thinking, acknowledging "Christ is the Lord" as my core value. In future, when I am serving at the church, I will surely explain the Word of truth rightly, train up believers as disciples and complete the Great Commission together with them.

Li Yuen-yuen (M.Div.)

Seven years ago, I was still a teenager; today, with the lapse of two periods of theological studies, I have become not only a wife but a mother. During this wonderful time of my whole twenties, I keep learning and stepping on unknown paths through the strength of my faith; this makes me more convinced that whatever we are doing, we have to rely on God, who created all and remains in control of everything.



M.Div. Graduates

Mak Tsz-wing (M.Div.)

*Will you love the "you" you hide
if I but call your name?*

*Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?*

*Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch
and sound in you and you in me?*

—David Peacock et al., "The Summons"

"Therefore, since through God's mercy
we have this ministry,
we do not lose heart." (2 Cor 4:1)

Sin Wai-man (M.Div.)

I thank God for equipping me with theology. These past few years were really memorable. I have not forgotten my first calling, and I know that God is in control of all the plans. I just have to say in response to whatever happens to me, "Wonderful! Thank God!" A stage would come to an end, with a new one commencing. I would like to encourage myself with a saying of John Calvin: "Promptly and sincerely in the service of God." I will be entering my next stage of life with this saying. Lord, have mercy!

Wun Siu-fai (M.Div.)

I am thankful to my Heavenly Father for keeping me over the past three years. He allowed me to be equipped with theological education at HKBTS, going through a valuable stage of my life journey. He also gave me the vision of a missionary ministry more and more clearly. I hope I can remain steadfast in the vision I have received, and take up the mission without fear of any danger or obstacle so that I can be brave enough to preach the holy name of the Lord to different cultural communities.

Or Siu-tim, Timmy (M.Div.)

I am really thankful that I was able to be equipped at HKBTS. Although we are inadequate in many ways, this exactly reveals our need to experience the work of the Holy Spirit. I hope that where I serve God in future, I can continue with the Biblical truth, theology and practical applications I have learned or experienced at HKBTS and continue the fellowship of such a disciple community so that I will become a pastor "for the church."

Lin Shihong (M.Div.)

My gratitude goes to the Triune God who brought me to HKBTS to get equipped with theological education; to President Cho, teachers, seminary staff and fellow students for their help, care and encouragement; to my family for everything they have paid for me! Surely, graduation is not the end of my theological journey because theological studies are what we have to pursue for the whole life.

Th.M. Graduate

Th.D. Graduate

Wu Libin (Th.D.)

As we are going to graduate, let's encourage each other with the words of the Lord: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight" (Pr 3:5-6).

Kung Wai-lok (Th.M.)

As Mou Zongsan said, "There are three things to avoid in interpreting literature: first, shallowness of ideas and lack of insight; second, interpretation out of context; third, a narrow comparison between individual words. Instead, interpretation of literature requires repeated in-depth deliberation and understanding of the text. Where it is comprehensible, comprehend it; where it is not, leave it open without a conclusion." May the Lord reveal Himself to me so that I may know Him.

It is not that I understand therefore I believe, but that I believe so that I may understand.

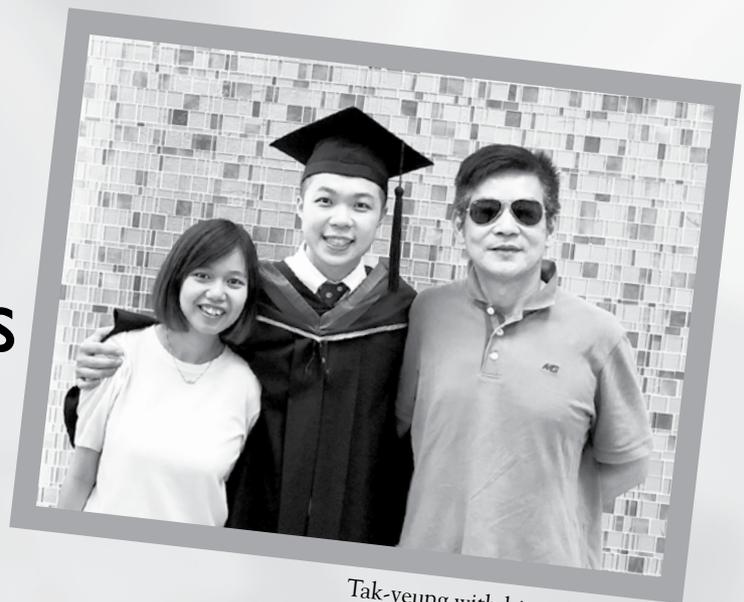
Be Faithful with the Little Signs

Kong Tak-yeung (B.Th.)

Faithfulness Seen in Every Little Sign

I once met a teacher at HKBTS who was composed, meek and lowly in heart and had an incredible memory. When he taught the original languages of the Bible, he was particularly strict. I remember complaining to him in the second semester of Year 2 when I was about to take his Greek lessons, “Dr. Shum, I fell far behind in the class, like ‘having a wheel fall off the wagon’ when I learnt Hebrew in the first semester!” Gently and calmly, he responded, “Then, let the other wheels fall off in the second semester as well!” In fact, when I did the exercises in every Greek lesson then, he would say, “Tak-yeung, is that really so?” “Class, don’t help him! Let him think about it himself,” or “Well... think over it again seriously. Are you sure?” Eventually, I also failed to catch up in this class, and indeed it was like all my wheels falling off!

Later, our class was fortunate enough to take his last Main Program course at HKBTS—Intensive Summer Course on Greek. Although the course lasted only for one week, it was a very difficult and intense course. Every day, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., I was reading loads of marks and symbols in the text of the Bible in its original language, observing the trivial changes in wording to decide different tenses of the words before thinking how to interpret them. When I finally came up with an idea, the teacher had already started a new chapter. Since then, I had come down with the “phobia of intensive training.” However, when I made it to the last afternoon for the course, Dr. Shum, who had been so eager to do his best to teach us everything in the books, took a moment to deliver a heartfelt message. With all our eyes fixed on him, he pushed his glasses into place and said with a lump in his throat, **“When you graduate, ask yourselves clearly what kind of person you are! Don’t look down on yourselves! Be faithful! God loves those who are faithful very, very much!”** Looking up at the sky, he shed a tear. “Cool” as this teacher had seemed, he couldn’t help shedding tears when he mentioned faithfulness to God. All of a sudden, I realized why he was so punctilious in the study of the original biblical languages. He was in fact practicing faithfulness—being faithful to the true meaning that God’s Word was meant to convey. He gave weight to every



Tak-yeung with his wife and father

word and every sentence and devoted his faithfulness to every little mark and sign.

From Learning the Original Biblical Languages to Learning Faithfulness

Afterward, when I made every endeavor to be a faithful servant before God, I found that faithfulness does require practice in every trivial matter because to be faithful is difficult indeed. Time and again, people kept testing my limits but still I tried to love them. I saw people who were actually extremely lazy pretend to work hard to serve God but still I tried to tolerate them. When faced with a brother seemingly excellent in theological knowledge taking the lead in the fellowship to confront the leaders at church, still I tried to respond in a meek and lowly way. When the sheep I pastored did not respect me and repeatedly committed mistakes, I still tried to strive on. All these turned out to be more difficult than learning the original biblical languages. Every time I wanted to react on impulse, Dr. Shum’s questions popped up on my mind: “Tak-yeung, is that really so? Are you sure?” Then I would calm down and think again how to respond in order to be more faithful. In this way, I began to understand that every little mark and sign in the biblical texts was giving me a lesson on how to be faithful in small matters so that I can also be faithful in larger ones.

...every little mark and sign in the biblical texts was giving me a lesson on how to be faithful in small matters so that I can also be faithful in larger ones.

Understanding God’s Great Love More Deeply

Although it is difficult to be faithful, I experience the sweetness of God’s grace when I do my best to be so. Stupid, ignorant and weak as it may seem to the world, it is through

this kind of faithful experience that God makes me understand the meaning of the gospel, what is meant by His laying down His life for our salvation when we were still sinners and that He has suffered what we suffer, and even more, so that the suffering makes us know more how deep His love for us is. ***I realize that when faithfulness ends up in troubles for us, we need not***

have all those troubles removed in order to see God's love—we may experience more profoundly how God loved us deeply in the past and loves us today when we are suffering.

May each pastor-to-be serve the Lord faithfully! When we devote ourselves to serving the Lord faithfully, our Lord will also let us experience Himself more deeply.

Please Teach Me to Hear Your Voice

Sylvia Mak (M. Div.)

Longing to See God with a Pure Heart

In the last lesson of the course “Pastoral Leadership and Ministry,” the teachers asked us what kind of pastor we wanted to become after graduation. At that time,

I replied by intuition, “One who’s the pure in heart.” “Pure,” to me, is a state in which I can stand before God sincerely and with transparency of the heart. I expect this kind of purity to reveal the self-deceit and self-pity in my heart so that I can see God and His work more clearly. Truly, I long for nothing more than seeing God and His work. I am eager to become that pure in heart.

*Truly, I long for nothing more than seeing
God and His work.*

Struggling Hard in Reality

Having said that, more often than not, I did not stand before God uncovered. Instead, I hid and ran away from Him. On various occasions in the past three years of studying and living at HKBTS, we shared the shock and reflections brought about by such experiences as separation, death, alienation, and other turbulence. We also realized how each day could be strange and unpredictable. Facing the absurdities that took place every day and going through pain, resistance, doubts and helplessness, we had a feeling of powerlessness, which was comparable to that of sailing against the current.

For this reason, I always expected to gain control of my

own heart and life, doing my best to avoid further loss of control and confusion in my heart or in reality. Despite knowing clearly the limitations in my own abilities, I still pressed myself to make the best endeavor to understand exactly what was actually happening and explain reality, and to ponder over everything thoroughly. I expected all the biblical and theological knowledge that I learned to apply to all situations, and so I studied, reflected, prayed and pastored with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind and with all my strength, just to be faithful to the Lord. However, such faithfulness, which took much of my strength, turned out to be a shackle. Under such pressure, which I felt I was outpacing my own growth, always confronting my own shallowness, stupidity, and naivety. That said, I still wanted to cover up this side of myself through self-deception so as to avoid getting hurt. Sadly, I still lived with the bitterness of my struggles and felt self-pity. Failing as such, I was deeply afraid that I would defy God’s calling. I was so ashamed that I could not stand before God at all. How could I stop hiding and running away from Him?

The Savior Opened a Way

My way out was to go back to the meaning of the word “pure” in Matthew 5:8. The word “pure” (καθαροί) in “the pure in heart” refers to the deliverance of humans from guilt and their regaining freedom, hence getting restored physically and spiritually. The “pure” here refers not to a situation or state which can only be reached with a forged effort, but to living and staying rooted in a relationship restored by God and closely drawn together to Him; it is not a forced process of tearing down and rebuilding on one’s own, but a road leading to God, our Father, which is prepared by the incarnate Christ. Through Christ’s condemnation and death, the Lord has saved us from our own failures. According to the Gospel of Mark, on the

morning of Christ's resurrection, He still expected to meet the disciples, who had become utter failures, in Galilee again, and expected them to resume the journey toward dying for the Lord, which would testify for God's glory by denying themselves.

Living before God sincerely and with transparency of the heart, I realized, is not relying on our own alertness and ability to reveal falsehoods or to control the changes in life, but on our discovery that darkness had nowhere to hide in front of the Lord who shines like a bright light. In amazement, I realized that the Word of God is "alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account" (Heb 4:12-13). I thank the Lord for letting me see how arrogant I have been, to such an extent that I wanted to punish myself on behalf of the true Word, offending Him in such a hypocritical and disrespectful attitude. Even so, the Lord saved me and delivered me from the cycle of self-condemnation, helping me to review all the restlessness in my heart in a peaceful way. He helped me to listen to His voice,

learn to wait for, listen to, submit to and securely trust Him with a single mind. In this way, ***the verse with the words "the pure in heart" has guided me to enter the Lord's rest by leaning on and trusting in Him, so that I may witness His work.***

Hearing His Voice in a Community

We hear God's voice not only in solitude but also in a community. I am thankful that there are teachers at HKBTS who knew me well and always encouraged me to "be courageous in accepting grace" when I got lost to such an extent that I could not save myself. I also thank God for letting me discover myself at ease in the disciple community of HKBTS, admit my own weaknesses and experience the reconciling power of the gospel with my partners. All these experiences are precious. ***We kept each other company and focused on one another in the community, experiencing the presence of Christ together, and allowing the voices of God and our partners to echo with one another. We not only found guidance for ourselves, but also watched and witnessed God's own wonderful and awesome deeds with our partners in the process.***

For Others, For the Church, and For the World

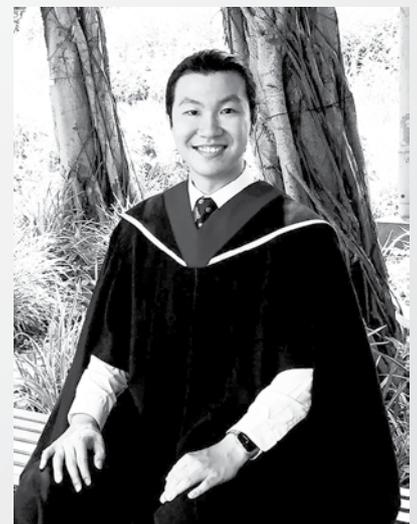
Timmy Or (M.Div.)

I am really thankful for being able to become equipped at HKBTS. My three-year learning experience at the seminary is truly a grace from the Triune God. During the period, my fellow students and I experienced, witnessed, and reflected upon the meaning of "God is love." In addition, He molded us in these three years so that all of us can have a role to play in His salvation story. The two aspects mentioned above are related to the nature of studying at HKBTS.

A Seminary for Others

Being created in the divine image of the Triune God, we should get along with one another in a way reflecting "God is love," which has long been demonstrated in God's economy of salvation when He sent His son into His created world. This is God "for others." Perhaps the greatest influence HKBTS has had on me is the concept of life "for others" revealed to me by the teachers and students within this disciple community, which allows me to experience the concrete meaning of

"God is love." Be it the life at the hostel, learning in classrooms, or the prayers of the community, it has given me the experience that we are not fighting alone on this theological journey, but instead learning about our Lord's life "for others" through our relationships with one another:



That said, I am not going to romanticize the learning and relationships at the seminary. In fact, even though we were theological students, we were still inadequate in handling relationships and other issues

that required an understanding and implementation of the meaning of “God is love,” which we had to face squarely. But this also revealed our need for a personal experience of the Holy Spirit’s work in the community. Only when we are empowered by the Holy Spirit can we become a seminary “for others” in Christ. HKBTS is a seminary “for others” and this is further revealed in the dimensions “for the church” and “for the world.”

...the concept of life “for others” revealed to me by the teachers and students within this disciple community, which allows me to experience the concrete meaning of “God is love.”

A Seminary for the Church

Long before I was admitted to HKBTS, I had heard that it was a seminary “for the church.” At that time, I did not pay much heed to such a description. It was not until I joined and learned in this community that I discovered HKBTS’s teaching of the Bible, theology, and praxis are “for the church” indeed. Although the training at HKBTS is academically demanding, it is aimed at **equipping us for serving in the church, so each of us may become both “an academic and a hard worker” and partake in the economy of salvation the Triune God first works out at the church.** The training at HKBTS allows us to continue in the place where we are going to serve in future with what we have learned in the Bible, theology, and praxis and to continue with the fellowship in this community so that we can become a pastor “for the church.”

A Seminary for the World

The Triune God first worked out the economy of salvation in the church but His salvation does not stop there. Instead it is extended to the entire created world. The training God gave us through HKBTS is not like that in an ivory tower; nor is it for ministries at the church only. It is “for the world” at the same time. HKBTS is a seminary “for the world,” which was revealed in the in-class discussions. What particularly impressed me was the essays and discussions of my classmates at the Senior Integrative Colloquium. These interdisciplinary essays not only required us to reach certain academic standards but also that our discussion must be responsive to the needs of Hong Kong and the world. Meanwhile, as a seminary “for the world,” mention must be made of HKBTS’s concern for ecology, which has renewed our understanding of the targets of salvation. **In academic discussions and praxis of the seminary alike, HKBTS has revealed the target of salvation of the Triune God: not only mankind but also the entire created world.**

The three dimensions mentioned above, namely “seminary for others”, “seminary for the church” and “seminary for the world” are closely related to our relationship with the Triune God. Ultimately, one’s relationship with others is inseparable from one’s relationship with God and our learning at HKBTS has continuously renewed our relationship with God. In such a disciple community, we study books, people, and ourselves. May I take this chance to thank the Triune God, teachers, and staff as well as fellow students at HKBTS.

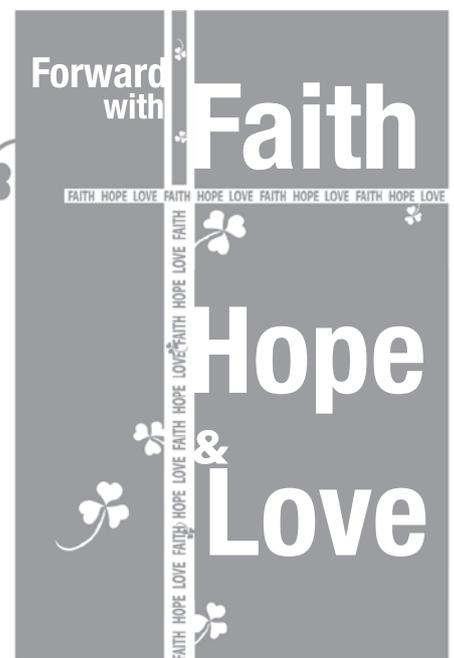
Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary

2021 Platinum Jubilee Thanksgiving Worship and Dedication Ceremony for the New Academic Building

You are cordially invited to join the Thanksgiving Worship and Dedication Ceremony for the New Academic Building at 3:30 pm on Sunday, November 28, 2021 through the link on our website.



* Please check our latest announcements in case there are any contingency measures or rescheduling due to the pandemic.



Please Pray for *Our Graduates* and *New Students*

Please pray for the graduates. May the Lord keep the servants He has chosen so that they may rely on Him wholeheartedly in this challenging age, become faithful workers who do not need to be ashamed, preach, and apply in life the gospel of peace. May they demonstrate Lord Jesus' authenticity with their words and deeds of love, bring hope to those in despair, and build up churches and expand God's Kingdom with Christ's truth and heart.

Please pray for the new students as well. May the Lord help them with their adaption to the life of a theological student. May they grow in theological wisdom, love, character, and knowledge so that they may learn in the community how to be the Lord's disciples and servant-leaders.

Our New Students:

Master of Theology:	Chung Ming-yan, Phillip	Or Siu-tim, Timmy		
Master of Divinity:	Cheung Chau-ming, Jade	Lau Tsz-hong	Lau Wai-yan	Law Chui-ying
	Li Jong-wa, Junias	Lee Ngar-wing	Wilson Leung	Tong Chun-kit
	Tsang Wai-hung	Tse Chung-kan	Yeung Ka-ye	Genatt Yung
Bachelor of Theology:	Au Yeung Pik-la	Cheung Lam	Lo Shan-fung	
Master of Christian Studies:	Chan Suet-ling	Sze Wing-yan		
Non-Classified Student:	Cheung Wai-lun	Leung Tak-fat	Liu Lai-wa	



The new students together with President Cho and the faculty after the opening convocation ceremony

Student Recruitment for Spring 2021-22

Daytime Programs

Master of Divinity (7-year Part-time)

Master of Divinity (Further Studies) (5-year Part-time)

Master of Christian Studies (5-year Part-time)

Master of Theology

Doctor of Theology

Deadline for Admission Application

November 30, 2021

First Day of Spring Term

January 17, 2022

Please log on to the seminary's website at www.hkbts.edu.hk/admissions for details.

For inquiries, please call 2768 5130.



Scan for details

Academic Affairs News

- **Opening Convocation for the New School Year**

The Opening Convocation Ceremony for 2021-22 was held on August 24, and President Joshua Cho preached a message titled “Discerning the Spirit of Truth.” Based on 1 John 4:1-6, President Cho asked all of us to identify an essential question of faith: “Who is Jesus Christ?” President Cho exhorted us not only to care for our society, but also to cultivate a close relationship with God—to truly know God, accept Jesus as our Lord, and invite Him to live in our hearts. As John reminds us, “Little children, you are from God, and have conquered them; for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (1 Jn 4:4 NRSV).

- **Opening Convocation Lecture**

The lecture was held on August 25. Ms. Michelle Chan, Lecturer of Biblical Studies, presented a lecture titled “Giving Back Our Deserved Honor—Taking Philippians 2:5-11 and 4:4-9 as Examples.”

- **Theology Camp for Youth**

Platinum Jubilee Theology Camp for Youth was held on September 18 with the theme “Hope That Is Seen.” It was attended by young Christians accompanied by their pastors. Three dialogue sessions were held for our teachers, the pastors and the young people to hear and understand each other and to reflect on their faith.

- **Open Lectures**

Platinum Jubilee Open Lectures were held from October 6 to 8 with the main theme “Living Out Faith in Tumultuous Times.” The three-day lectures were delivered by our professors. The topics were respectively “Hans-Georg Gadamer and the Issues of the Application of Scripture” (Dr. Wong Fook-kong, Professor of Old Testament), “Athanasius’ Response to Hostile Powers: Implications for Contemporary Christians” (Dr. Nathan Ng, Professor of Christian Thought [Church History]) and “God’s Story and

Our History: Insights from Richard Bauckham” (Dr. Andres Tang, Professor of Christian Thought [Theology and Culture]).

- **Full-Time Ministry Exploration Day Camp**

The Full-Time Ministry Exploration Day Camp with the theme “Launch Out into the Deep” was held for Christians who seek the will of God and His call to full-time ministry. The camp was scheduled to be held from October 8 to 9. Though the second day program was canceled due to the tropical storm “Lionrock,” the first day program enabled participants to reflect more deeply on God’s calling through experiencing the life of a theology student and conversations with teachers and students.

- **Main Programs Admissions for Spring 2021-22**

The Main Programs are now calling for applications for admission in the 2021-22 spring semester. Programs available include Master of Divinity, Master of Divinity (Further Studies), Master of Christian Studies, Master of Theology and Doctor of Theology. The spring semester begins on January 17, 2022. The deadline for applications is November 30, 2021.

From the Chaplain

Rev. Brian Lam Chaplain

Take Away the Dangers? No, Take Away the Fear!

What can we do if our fear lingers? Rev. Eugene H. Peterson (1932-2018) encouraged us to “pray our fear.” A concrete way to do so is to pray with Psalm 23. Rev. Arnold Yeung also suggested each of us read Psalm 23 again and again at regular intervals to see if we have new insights. The reason behind this is that our life experience should have been enriched in the interim between every two readings, which should bring us to a deeper level of understanding of this psalm.

Psalm 23 has indeed described the different scenarios of life and so many people are attracted by the psalm and find resonances in it despite their differences in life experiences. The psalm can roughly be divided

into five parts. Verse 1 is the theme of the entire psalm and it forms a part on its own. The remaining five verses can be divided into four parts (vv.2 & 3; v.4; v.5; v.6), each depicting a different scenario of life. Together, these four parts form a chiasmus, namely an A-B-B'-A' pattern—God is spoken of in the third person in verses 2-3 and verse 6, but in verse 4 and verse 5, God is spoken of in the second person.

The author of Psalm 23 keeps speaking in the first person. It can thus be seen that the psalm is one about our personal relationship with the Lord. In the middle parts of verse 4 and verse 5, where dangers and enemies are mentioned, “I” and “you” are used to describe the relationship between the psalmist and God. It seems to imply that the most difficult situations of life are the moments when God and I are the closest to each other.

In chapter 7, “Psalm 23: Praying Our Fear,” of his book *Psalm: Prayers of the Heart (12 Studies for Individuals or Groups)*, Peterson describes Psalm 23 as a “weapon against fear.” He tells us to pray, name our fears and ask Christ the Shepherd and Christ the Host to relieve them.

When faced with “the darkest valley” (Ps 23:4), we tend to ask God to take away the danger and it would be great if we are not put in such adversity; however, Psalm 23 says that sometimes God may not take away the danger but promise that He will be with us. God’s company will take away our fear, and so, “I will fear no evil.”

Peterson admits frankly that the adult world is one “that is ringed with terror—accident, assault, disease, violence and conflicts.” Living in this world, we have to learn to recognize and name our fears to God through prayers. This may be a life-long discipline for us to practice.

Lay Theological Education Department

Toto Choi Associate Director

Curriculum Reforms

The Lay Theological Education Department (LTED) regularly reviews its ministries and programs, hoping that the content and format of the programs will suit the needs of believers and become a great help and encouragement to those who serve God. We are thankful that veteran pastors and staff of various organizations participate in the running of these programs. They serve in the development of the curriculum and put forward valuable opinions on the programs. Through their sharing and discussions, they

explore viable changes to and reforms in our programs together.

October marks the beginning of the new school year for our department and heralds reforms in two of our programs. “Outside the Box—Youth Ministry Program” is our new endeavor. The program is targeted at Christian leaders in general and youth mentors. Aside from basic subjects, a variety of topical seminars will be included, which enriches the content of the program. Previous youth ministry programs were mainly focused on the study of different subjects. This time, we have introduced reforms not only in the program structure but also its content. The program will be changed into a mixed structure of subject learning and topical seminars. It retains and optimizes three basic subjects, namely “Reaching the New Generation,” “Making Disciples” and “Worship—Theory and Practice.” Students are expected to understand the biblical and theological foundations of youth ministries, explore the true meaning of the Great Commission as well as the theory and practice of “pastoring through close relationships,” and get a grasp of the comprehensive meaning of worship. The program also includes eight additional topical seminars, each lasting for two periods, with dual emphasis on theory and practice. These topics are “Sweet Words for the Soul,” “Emotional Support,” “Devotional Art,” “Ministry and Sexuality,” “Group Dynamics,” “Recreation Adventures,” “School Ministries” and “A Cup of Cold Water.” Day camps will also be held to reinforce the theories and praxis of “Recreation Adventures.” All the above changes are intended to increase the flexibility of the program structure and enrich its content with greater practical value.

Another program that has undergone changes is “Kids’ Joyful Walk with God—Childhood and Early Childhood Ministry Program.” The previous programs of Childhood Ministry and Early Childhood Ministry are now combined into one. Mentors or parents receiving the training are to serve children mainly aged 5-10. Although there is little change to the format of the program, which will be issue-based as before, double lessons will be introduced so that there will be more room for deeper exploration on individual topics. The program will retain its four important basic aspects: theories (giving students a comprehensive understanding of the ministries and increasing their understanding of children in their early childhood and beyond), spirituality (strengthening students’ spirituality so that they may live out their spiritual lives in their ministry and teaching), family (giving students a understanding of the relationship between children and the family so that

they may know how to work hand in hand with families to foster the healthy growth of kids in early childhood and beyond), and praxis (teaching and enhancing students' skills in serving kids in early childhood and childhood so as to build up students' confidence and effectiveness in Christian early childhood and childhood ministries). Those courses in the aspect of praxis not only cover items like how to bring children to faith, teach them to understand the Bible creatively and build up their Bible reading, prayer and worship lives, but also enable students to understand children with special educational needs and look into their emotional problems. In addition, more updated topics, such as "Online and Offline Teaching—Points to Note, Preparation and Skills," "How Do Childhood and Early Childhood Communities Know God through Games" and "How to Foster Learning and Growth through Board Games and Picture Books" will be covered.

May the Lord use the two programs above and the teaching and inspiration of the teachers to nurture the students and transform their lives. May the students then serve wholeheartedly and humbly so that they will become an example and a blessing to the children and youth they serve.

Distance Education Program

Charis Chan Executive Officer (Administration)

Identify Where You Are and Live Out Your Calling

Over the past year, Hong Kong has experienced a mass migration, and many are asking questions like "Where should I migrate to?" or "Where should I get a job or further my studies?" Quite a number of Hongkongers have drawn up their plans accordingly and are working hard toward their goals. However, while we are actively exploring where to go, do we notice where we are now? When our ancestor sinned, the first question our Lord asked Adam was: "Where are you?" (Gn 3:9) This question was not about geography but whether the man knew what kind of state he was in. To march toward one's goal, aside from knowing the destination, we need even more to know where we are now. Just as in the case of hiking or going on a trip, when we are locating our destination on the map, the first thing we have to do is to find out where we are before we can get to our destination successfully.

But then how can we know where we are? Having a relationship with the Lord is the only way for us to find out where we are and where we should be. Leaving God, humans will only lose their way and drift away from their goals. Therefore, wherever we are, we should understand our own state. The Distance Education Program (DEP) is thus aimed at helping Chinese people around the world to find their own identities through their understanding of the truth so that they can march toward the Lord and live out their calling. This is also the core belief and mission DEP has been holding fast to in a time of changes.

The 2021 fall term diploma programs commenced on September 1. Student Orientation and tutorials of various subjects were launched respectively. The 2022 spring term programs are now open for applications. As for the certificate programs, they are open for application throughout the year. All applications or inquiries are welcome.

Our Joint Graduation Ceremony with the Main Programs and the Lay Theological Education Department was held at the Tsim Sha Tsui Baptist Church on October 24 (Sunday). This year there are 20 DEP graduates. Two of them studied in our Special Training Ministries: one of them has joined the Onesimus Training Project jointly organized with the Hong Kong Christian Kun Sun Association (KSA), which aims at serving Christian prisoners in Hong Kong; the other graduate has joined the Philemon Training Project jointly run by Beauty and Grace Foundation and the seminary, which is aimed at serving the disadvantaged. The Special Training Ministries also include the Spiritual Light Project, which is aimed at serving visually impaired Christians, jointly organized with the Christian Ministry to Visually Impaired Persons.

With the persistence of COVID-19, the studies of our Chinese and overseas students as well as the students behind bars were particularly hard hit. Delay in postal services has caused much inconvenience for the collection of textbooks and submission and return of homework for those students in need. To comply with the anti-epidemic measures, staff of KSA are unable to visit the students in jail, which has made our communication more difficult. We request your special prayers for these students, asking God to have mercy on their learning.

We encourage you to support our ministries with prayers and offerings, so that we can live out our calling in this time and age together.

Student Union

Barney Lam Chairperson

Fear? Grounded in God, Following Jesus Together

“Fear! How can we get grounded in God? How can we follow Jesus together?”—this is my personal interpretation of the theme of the seminary’s Spiritual Formation Camp this year.

As is customary, the entire year of campus life at HKBTS begins with the Spiritual Formation Camp in mid-August. The Camp allows students to enjoy fellowship, support one another and practice spiritual disciplines together after we have completed our practicum and before we get ready for the new school year. The teachers and students organizing this year’s Camp were very thoughtful. Setting “Fear? Grounded in God, Following Jesus Together” as the theme of the Camp, they deliberately left room for our interpretation so that when the participants joined the Camp and read the title today, which is two years from 2019, they would start to reflect upon the profound fear in them and learn to face it.

When we ponder about fear, we may have different understanding about it but I believe a number of Christians in Hong Kong or even the people in general are feeling different degrees of worry when they are faced with the uncertainty and insecurity of the future. During the Camp, Dr. Wong Fook-kong guided our thinking with the Book of Habakkuk in the Old Testament. In the old days, Habakkuk the prophet meant to call upon God for His discipline of the kingdom of Judah for its undesirable spiritual state; however, he received a shocking response from God: He was going to destroy the kingdom of Judah with the hands

of the foreign nations. At the end of the Book, Habakkuk expressed his fear of God’s response and trembled for the calamity that was coming (Hb 3:16).

Today, when we look at the fear in our hearts, do we tremble essentially because of uncertainty or because of the future that is bound to come? In the past, the prophet asked God to tackle the spiritual problems of Judah but God responded in a political way. Habakkuk, though with fear and trembling, chose to be faithful to God, to believe in His salvation and to rejoice in the presence of God. When we face the political situation today, can we see the spiritual problem of Hong Kong in the midst of the uncertainties? Amidst the fear, have we ever asked for God’s response?

In addition, Dr. Vincent Lau guided us to think about how to face sufferings by studying chapter 4 of 1 Peter in the New Testament. Peter encouraged the Christians who were persecuted and scattered in Asia Minor at that time to be vigilant in prayers and to love, receive and serve one another in their sufferings. The testimonies of the churches in the New Testament let us realize that when various members of the church share their gifts and build up a disciple community, we can live out more the life of a disciple who is willing to suffer for the Lord and stand peacefully through the help of the Holy Spirit in our troubles.

When faced with fear, insecurity and uncertainties, we, as Christians, need to affirm that the purpose of our lives is to be the Lord’s disciples. Only when we receive the strength from God and support one another can we stand peacefully and firmly in this age of turbulent changes. May the teachers and students of HKBTS, together with the various churches in Hong Kong, become Christ’s disciple communities and support one another so that we may live with a heavenly glow even in the dark days of the future.

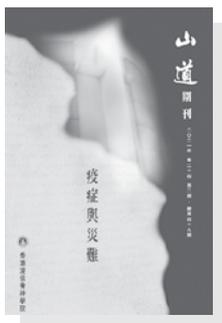
Campus Extension News

The construction work of the new academic building under the “Faith, Hope, and Love Project” is estimated to be completed this October. Internal Decoration will begin soon after the issuance of the Occupation Permit for the building. As of mid-October, HKBTS has been blessed by our Lord through churches and individuals with HK\$43 million to pay for the actual construction costs. We request your continuous support by prayers and monetary donations for HKBTS to meet the fundraising target at HK\$70 million.



The New Academic Building (August 26, 2021)

Publication News



The seminary's biannual academic journal, *Hill Road* (issue 48) will be published in December with the theme "**Plague and Disaster.**" There will be six thematic articles: "The Problem of David's Census and the Three-day Plague" (Craig Y. S. Ho), "Social Identity Formation of Christ Groups in Natural and Man-made Disasters" (Daniel

Sin-pan Ho), "The Metaphors of Plague" (Chiu Shung-ming), "Response in Plague: The Inspiration of Hauerwas's Ecclesiology to the Churches in Hong Kong" (He Zhiyong), "Moral Decisions under Coronavirus Disease 2019: A Christian Reflection" (Ip King-tak), and " Digitalisation of Theological Education in the Midst of Pandemic: Opportunity or Threat?" (Lim Teck-peng). In addition, there will be miscellaneous articles and book reviews.



In celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the seminary, we have compiled the HKBTS 70th Anniversary Special Edition, which is a collection of 4 volumes of selected articles with the main theme "Faith, Hope, and Love." The collection is part of our offering to God and an expression of our thankfulness.

The first volume **Footprints of Faith, Hope and Love** was published in May. It is a collection of essays written by our teachers and published in our *Newsletter* in the past 20 years. These are the fruitful academic achievements of our teachers, including their insights and teachings in this era of change, and their sincere reflections on their teaching careers at the seminary.

The other three volumes were selected from the best articles in our *Hill Road*. The second volume **Foundation of Faith** was published in July. It is a collection of ten essays providing insights from biblical and academic scholarship. They cover such issues of faith as discipleship, witness, worship, bible study approach, in addition to the relationship between the Bible and archaeology, church-state relations

of the Baptists, the salvation of Jesus Christ, the relationship between theology and films and so on.

The third volume **Goodness of Hope** was published in September. It is a collection of twelve essays exploring the hopes of personal development, of the Baptist community, and of the Israelites for God's salvation in the past, and analyzing the eschatological hope of the church for the new heavens and new earth at the end.

The fourth volume **Practice of Love** will be published in November. It is a collection of eleven essays that intend to help our readers on the journey of learning to love. In this volume, we are reminded about how to love one another and to practice love with wisdom. These essays will help our readers think about how to love others in a broader and more concrete manner.

Hill Road and the HKBTS 70th Anniversary Special Edition are now available at the seminary, its town centres and Christian book stores. For inquiries, please call the Publication Office at 2768 5168.

Rev. Alfred Yiu-chuen Kong Rested in Peace

Rev. Alfred Yiu-chuen Kong, our fifth president and alumnus (class of 1975 & 1979), passed away peacefully to be with the Lord on July 26, 2021 (U.S. time) after an extended illness. His beloved wife, Mrs. Josephine Kong, was at his side in his last moment. His family held a private farewell ceremony for Rev. Kong on July 28, 2021 and his body was buried the following day. May the Lord's consolation, grace and peace be with his family.

Faculty News

- **Dr. Eric Kwong**, Associate Professor of Practical Theology (World Religions), spoke on the topic "Do Jews, Muslims and Christians Believe in the Same God?" at a public lecture organized by Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre on September 9.

Alumni News

- Alumnus **Calvin T. Y. Chan** (class of 1955, 1976 & 1980) rested in peace on June 20, 2021. May the Lord's consolation, grace, and peace be with his family.
- Alumnus **Raymond K. W. Chan** (class of 1981) rested in peace on July 24, 2021. Please pray for his family. May the Lord's peace be with them.
- Alumnus **Li Chun-yin** (class of 2018) married Ms. Anna Kwok in a wedding ceremony held at the Shaukiwan Baptist Church on July 11, 2021.
- Alumnus **Koo Wai-hung** (class of 2011) was ordained as a pastor by the Shaukiwan Swatow Baptist Church on August 15, 2021.

• A New Term of the Executive Committee of Alumni Association (2021-23)

Advisor:	President Joshua Cho
President:	Sin Tak-yin
Vice President:	Cheung Wai-lun
Secretary:	Chan Chi-wang
Treasurer:	Tsang Hing-chung
Academic Department & Spiritual Devotion:	Chow Pui-kin
Coordinator:	Lam Mei-ling
Care Department:	So Mei-ho



Lay Theological Education Department

Degree Programs in Christian Studies

October-December 2021 (auditing is welcome)

Subject	Lecturer	Date / Time
Emotional Intelligence and Mental Health	Mr. Matthew Lee	13/10 - 15/12 Wed 7:00 - 10:00 pm (10 lessons)
Introduction to the New Testament	Dr. Clement Shum	21/10/21 - 20/1/22 Thur 7:00 - 10:00 pm (14 lessons)
Church and Culture	Dr. Eric Kwong	15/10/21 - 28/1/22 Fri 7:00 - 10:00 pm (24/12, 7/1 class suspended; 14 lessons)

Lay Theological Training Diploma / Certificate Program

October-December 2021 (admission is now open; auditing is welcome)

Subject	Lecturer	Date / Time
Reaching the New Generation	Mr. Vincent Cheung	11/10 - 8/11 Mon 7:15 - 9:30 pm (5 lessons)
Making Disciples	Rev. Frankie Chow	22/11 - 20/12 Mon 7:15 - 9:30 pm (5 lessons)
Picture Books Making and Faith Sharing	Mr. Dick Hui	29/11/21 - 24/1/22 Mon 7:15 - 9:30 pm (27/12 class suspended; 8 lessons)
Introduction to the New Testament	Ms. Michelle Chan	13/10 - 1/12 Wed 7:15 - 9:30 pm (8 lessons)
A Joyful Life	Mrs. Bianca Fung	21/10 - 9/12 Thur 7:15 - 9:30 pm (8 lessons)

Venue: Applied Theological Education Centre

All the classes above are conducted in Cantonese.

For inquiries or registration, please call 2711 2552, email ltedinfo@hkpts.edu.hk or enroll online at www.hkpts.edu.hk/lted.

Distance Education Program

Exploring Truth . Reflecting upon Faith . Equipping for Ministry

Student Recruitment: Diploma programs will begin in March 2022, while certificate programs can be joined at any time.

Program	Description	Admission Requirements	Date of Commencement	Registration Deadline
Diploma in Biblical Studies Program	Through an in-depth study of a specific book of the Bible, students can gain a better understanding of the Bible.	Secondary school graduates with their church pastor's recommendation	March and September	March semester: Hong Kong: February 10
Diploma in Christian Studies Program	Designed for equipping students for ministry, the program helps students strengthen their foundations in the Christian faith and doctrine.			September semester: Hong Kong: August 10
Higher Diploma in Biblical Studies / Christian Studies Programs	Further studies for students having completed the diploma program.	Completion of the diploma program and with a church pastor's recommendation		Overseas: January 10
Certificate in N.T. / O.T. Studies Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Introductory programs in biblical studies, guiding students to study each book of the Bible systematically. * Students can read and download learning materials and course work directly from the website. * Upon completion of the coursework, students may upload it for the tutor to mark and provide comments. * Time-saving, quick and efficient. 	All are welcome		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Students may join the program at any time. * You may try the trial study of the program: http://elearning.hkbts.edu.hk

Elective students: Students may choose subjects offered in the correspondence courses according to their own personal interests. For details, please log on to the Distance Education web page at www.hkbts.edu.hk/dist.

For inquiries, please call 2768 5105, email deinfo@hkbts.edu.hk or log on to the Distance Education web page at www.hkbts.edu.hk/dist.

Pastoral Continuing Education Centre

Courses and talks offered from October to December 2021

Course / Talk	Lecturer	Date	Time
New Approaches to Children and Family Ministries	Mrs. Gabie Fok	11/10, 18/10, 25/10	9:30am - 12:30 pm
Trust and Obey: Reading Romans from the Perspective of Poetry	Dr. Cheung Kwok-ting	11/10, 18/10, 25/10	2:00 - 5:00 pm
Return to Normal—The New Challenge of Holistic Ministry (2): Adults and Their Works	Dr. William Lo	1/11	2:00 - 5:00 pm
Return to Normal—The New Challenge of Holistic Ministry (3): The Elderly and Their Well-being	Dr. William Lo	6/12	2:00 - 5:00 pm
Theology for the Preacher and the Congregation	Dr. Chiu Shung-ming	8/11	2:00 - 5:00 pm
Justification by Faith in Galatians	Dr. Kasper Wong	15/11	2:00 - 5:00 pm
The Wisdom of Proverbs: A Virtuous Woman (Online class only)	Dr. Alison Lo	13/12	9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Fee concessions

- (1) *Early Bird Reduction:* those who pay the full fee of the enrolled course may enjoy a reduction of HK\$20 (for a 3-hour course) or HK\$30 (for a 6-to-9 hour course).
- (2) A 10% discount for graduates from HKBTS degree programs, pastors of member churches of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong and current part-time students of HKBTS.
- (3) A 20% discount for valid cardholders of HKBTS Alumni Association members.
- (4) A 50% discount for full-time seminary students from the 16 member seminaries of the Hong Kong Theological Education Association.

Venue 8/F, Christian Centre, 56 Bute Street, Mong Kok, Kowloon

Registration Application forms can be downloaded from the seminary website, or you may enroll online at www.hkbts.edu.hk/pce/apply2.html

Inquiries Tel: 2768 5179
Email: pce@hkbts.edu.hk

* One cannot enjoy both the Early Bird Reduction and fee discounts.

† Due to the pandemic, the classes will be conducted both face-to-face and online, and students may choose to attend the classes in either mode. But there is only online class for "The Wisdom of Proverbs."

Financial Report

General Fund, 1 June - 31 July, 2021

	HK\$
Income	4,249,548.08
Expenditure	<u>(6,041,325.68)</u>
Deficit	<u><u>(1,791,777.60)</u></u>



Reply Slip

I/We would like to support the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary by

- praying for the Seminary's theological education ministry
- contributing \$ _____ to the
- Educational Fund Campus Extension Project Other: _____
- Name: _____ (Mr. / Ms. / Rev. / Dr. / Mr. & Mrs. / Alumnus / Alumna)
- Church Affiliation: _____
- Address: _____
- Contact Phone No.: _____ E-mail: _____

- I/We do not wish to receive a hard copy of the Seminary's Newsletter
- I/We do not wish to receive any information from the Seminary by email

Donation Methods

- Crossed Cheque** payable to "Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary"
- Direct Transfer:** our Hang Seng Bank Ltd. (024) account no.: 787-471721-883
- Fast Payment System Identifier** (FPS ID): 166215137
- Monthly Autopay:** an autopay authorization form will be sent to you (You may terminate this monthly donation at any time)
- Credit Card:** VISA Master Card
- One-off Donation Monthly Donation (You may terminate this monthly donation at any time)
- Cardholder's Name: _____
- Cardholder's Signature: _____
- Card No.: [][][][] - [][][][] - [][][][] - [][][][] Expiry Date: _____ / _____ (MM/YY)
- Amount: HK\$ _____

- I/We do not wish my name to be shown in the Seminary's Newsletter.

- Please send the crossed cheque or bank receipt along with this completed reply slip to the Seminary by post, email or fax.
- Official receipt will be issued and donation is tax-deductible in Hong Kong.
- Your personal data will only be used for issuing a receipt and the Seminary's administrative purposes.
- Please tick the appropriate box
- Inquiry: Tel: (852) 2715 9511 Fax: (852) 2761 0868 Email: inquiry@hkbtn.edu.hk
Address: 1 Nin Ming Road, Sai O, Sai Kung North, N.T., Hong Kong Website: http://www.hkbtn.edu.hk

Thank you for your support!

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DONORS REPORT FOR JUNE 2021

Education Fund (Church / Organization)		馬德明	2,000.00	基督浸信會	10,000.00
九龍城潮語浸信會	55,000.00	曹啟明伉儷	400.00	彩坪浸信會	30,000.00
九龍國際浸信會	13,139.00	梁明財伉儷	500.00	筲箕灣潮語浸信會	40,631.00
大埔浸信會	12,000.00	梁錦松、郭詠文	1,000.00	灣仔浸信會	50,000.00
元朗浸信會	20,000.00	許鋒威	1,000.00	禧年行基金有限公司	40,000.00
屯門浸信教會	700.00	陳偉倫	200.00	何士傑	400.00
以馬內利浸信會	4,300.00	曾慶忠	500.00	何耀娟	5,000.00
生命頌浸信會	2,000.00	馮德華、鄧如玉	200.00	吳華欽	500.00
石澳浸信會福音堂	6,000.00	黃秀琴	500.00	周慧蓮	1,000.00
尖沙嘴國語浸信會	10,000.00	黃念施	200.00	林美詩	1,800.00
阡陌社區浸信會	5,000.00	黃華娟	100.00	容寬	100,000.00
沙田浸信會	8,000.00	黃雅忠	10,000.00	徐成偉	1,000.00
香港(西區)潮語浸信會	5,000.00	楊謝金玉	6,000.00	梁少榮伉儷	1,000.00
香港仔浸信會	17,201.97	溫祥、黎琮珍	500.00	梁明財伉儷	45,000.00
香港浸信教會	125,000.00	葉煥章	300.00	梁唐麗娟	1,000.00
香港堅尼地城浸信教會	1,200.00	劉永生、鍾梓萍	300.00	郭鳳瓊	2,000.00
香港懷恩浸信教會	500.00	劉玉珍	1,000.00	黃雅各、林靜華	100,000.00
恩典浸信會	10,000.00	劉玉英	2,000.00	葉余笑馨	30,000.00
將軍澳浸信會	500.00	劉建紅	100.00	鄒小寶	1,500.00
深荃浸信會	500.00	蔡慧英	200.00	趙啟迅伉儷	1,000,000.00
第一城浸信會	8,000.00	鄧活靈伉儷	500.00	鄧輝祥	500.00
新生命浸信會	4,000.00	鄧炳光伉儷	1,000.00	蕭寶蘭	10,000.00
新希望浸信會	1,500.00	薛聲明	2,000.00	羅凱慈	1,000.00
筲箕灣潮語浸信會	20,000.00	羅佩珊	100.00	關履端	500.00
置富浸信教會	3,000.00	羅凱慈	1,000.00	無名氏	200,000.00
銅鑼灣浸信會	10,500.00	關廣智、鄧慧然	500.00	無名氏	20,000.00
灣仔浸信會	10,000.00	無名氏	100,000.00	無名氏	10,000.00
觀塘浸信會	1,719.00	無名氏	4,000.00	無名氏	7,000.00
鑽石山浸信會	2,000.00	無名氏	2,000.00	無名氏	4,000.00
基督教宣道會大埔堂	500.00	無名氏	1,000.00	無名氏	4,000.00
基督教宣道會華基堂	2,000.00	無名氏	500.00	無名氏	3,000.00
基督教香港崇真會馬鞍山堂	2,150.50	無名氏	500.00	無名氏	2,500.00
Hong Kong Theological Education Association	1,000.00	無名氏	500.00	無名氏	2,000.00
啟聞基金	500.00	無名氏	400.00	無名氏	1,000.00
	HK\$ <u>362,910.47</u>	無名氏	300.00	無名氏	HK\$ <u>1,863,388.00</u>
		無名氏	200.00		
Education Fund (Individual Donor)			HK\$ <u>183,900.00</u>	Distance Education Program	
2021年碩士及學士畢業生	8,000.00	Scholarship and Bursary		鄭鵬程	300.00
方志強	200.00	明義神學助學金	100,000.00	無名氏	444.00
王紹良	700.00	先驅國際差會	3,000.00	無名氏	100.00
王群	800.00		HK\$ <u>103,000.00</u>		HK\$ <u>844.00</u>
朱活平伉儷	300.00	Pandemic Prevention Supplies		Lay Theological Education Program	
何仲儀	1,000.00	張智理伉儷	HK\$ <u>10,000.00</u>	陳小佩	90.00
何錦燕	1,000.00	Campus Maintenance and Repairs		蔡艷桃	500.00
吳承士、吳幼靜	4,000.00	楊美玲	HK\$ <u>300.00</u>		HK\$ <u>590.00</u>
吳炳榮伉儷	8,000.00	Campus Extension Project		Theological Education for Filipino Leaders Program	
吳國傑伉儷	1,000.00	以馬內利浸信會	103,057.00	馬德明	1,000.00
李國雄伉儷	1,000.00	北角浸信會	34,000.00	溫祥、黎琮珍	400.00
李新蘭	200.00				HK\$ <u>1,400.00</u>
洪鷹輪	100.00				
倪承恩	15,100.00				
殷振強伉儷	1,000.00				

August 3-4, 2021

Faculty Retreat

The retreat's theme was "Theological Education and the Internet in the New Normal." Together our faculty members explored how to conduct theological education via the internet, discussed the challenges that may arise, and looked forward to the future development of online theological education.

Precious Moments



August 17-19

Spiritual Formation Camp

Students and teachers joined the Spiritual Formation Camp before the new school term began. The camp aimed at preparing them spiritually for the coming academic year. The theme for this year was "Fear? Grounded in God, Following Jesus Together," so we explored how we responded to fear under the current circumstances and came to realize that following Jesus is the only way to be grounded in God.



August 24

Opening Convocation Ceremony

During the opening convocation ceremony, President Joshua Cho preached a sermon titled "Discerning the Spirit of Truth." Based on 1 John 4:1-6, President Cho encouraged all teachers and students not only to care for our society, but also to acknowledge Jesus Christ as our Lord. We should strive to know Him, long for Him to live in us and build a close relationship with Him.



August 25

Opening Convocation Lecture

The speaker of the opening convocation lecture was Ms. Michelle Chan, Lecturer of Biblical Studies, who spoke on the topic "Giving Back Our Deserved Honor—Taking Philippians 2:5-11 and 4:4-9 as Examples," and examined the concepts of honor and shame in Philippians by employing the socio-rhetorical criticism.