



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



Today's Students, Tomorrow's Pastors.
Today's Seminary, Tomorrow's Churches.

Newsletter

February 2009

Professor Joshua Cho has accepted the presidency appointment from the Seminary's Board of Trustees to be the sixth president of HKBTS effective January 1, 2009.



"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands." (Psalm 19:1) Thank God for choosing a new president for the Seminary. God's commitment and preparation have revealed to us His glory and His work. We praise God with our unending praise and thank our Father God, the Creator of heaven and earth, for turning over a new chapter for the Seminary. As a community of weak and lowly people, we once again entrust our Seminary to the Lord, trusting in the sovereign power and love of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are confident that the morning sun is rising before us as we move forward following the leadership of Christ.

Sharing from the New President

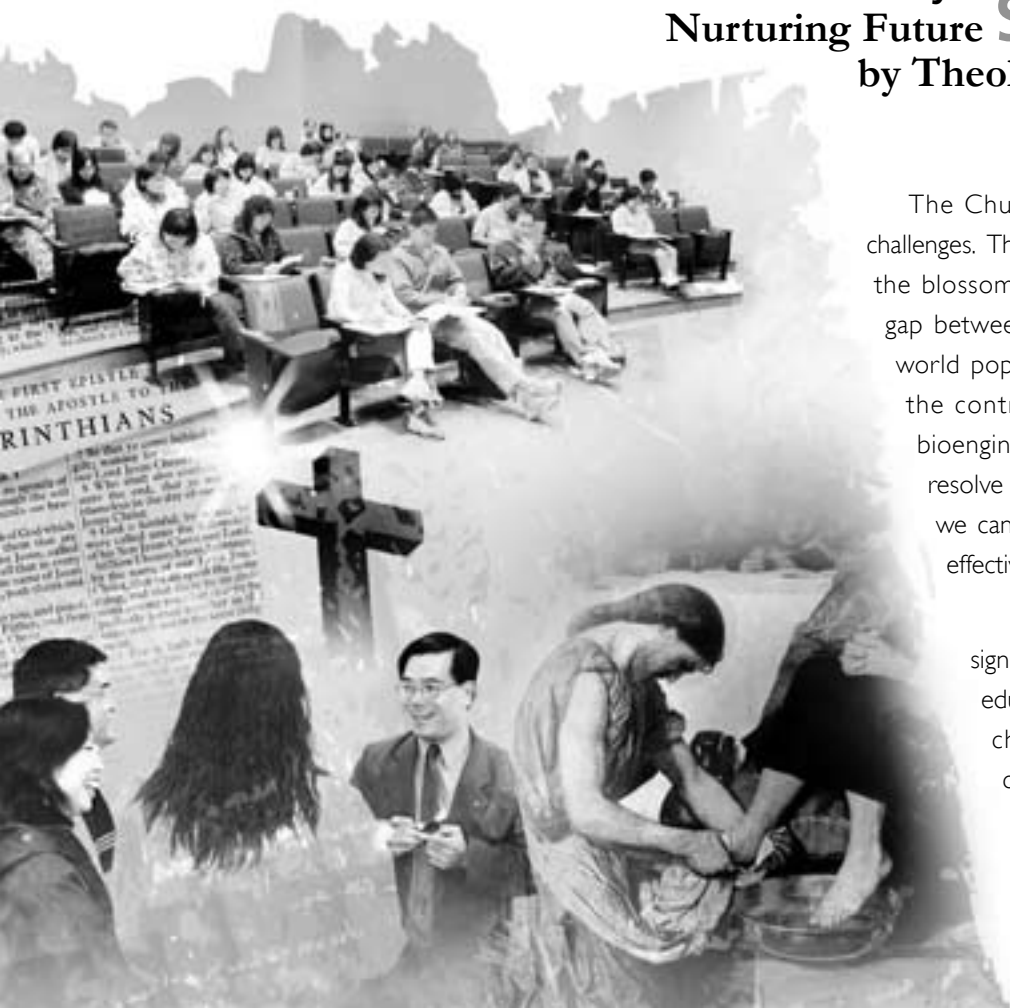
From Vision to Reality –

Nurturing Future **Servant Leaders** by Theological Education

President Joshua Cho

The Church of today confronts multiple and real challenges. These challenges include an expanding pluralism, the blossoming multinational enterprises, an enlarging gap between the rich and the poor, the ageing of the world population, a financial and economic recession, the controversial gender ethics, and the disputed bioengineering science. The Church must face and resolve the question, where are we headed so that we can become the real salt, the true light, and the effective leaven of our times?

These mentioned factors and situations significantly affect the development of theological education. In turning our face toward the ever changing world, we affirm our belief in the commissioning of the Church by the Holy Spirit to shoulder God's command for His world. The Church has to seek for the path and direction to move forward. She must



Biography of President Joshua Cho

Professor Joshua Cho is an alumnus of Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary. He completed his master of divinity at HKBTS, his master of sacred theology at Yale University Divinity School and his doctor of philosophy (*cum Laude*: Honors Program, with distinction) in Systematic Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary. He had taught at Valparaiso University in the United States of America before joining HKBTS. He is currently Professor of Christian Thought (Systematic Theology). He was appointed Dean of Academic Affairs in 2001 and then the Vice President and the Acting President.

Professor Cho was ordained Baptist minister in 1990 at Princeton in U.S.A. After returning to Hong Kong and the Baptist Seminary, Professor Cho has committed himself to church ministry as advisory pastor of several Baptist churches. He has also been actively engaged in academic activities on an international level by serving as Visiting Research Fellow of Global Network of Research Centers, Visiting Professor to Carey Theological College, Canada, and Mercer University, U.S.A. and as Advisor of doctoral students from Asian Baptist Graduate Theological Seminary and several universities in China. Professor Cho has authored three books *Humanity and Virtue* (2004), *Narrative and Ethics* (2005), and *Spiritual Friendship* (forthcoming). His books and articles reflect his passion in theological hermeneutics, virtue ethics and moral character formation.



President Cho and his wife, Vicky, are blessed with two sons, Zoeyn Kharis (12) and Jens Ian (10).

The Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary stands on the tradition of Baptists, affirms the sovereignty of our God in Trinity, affirms the redemption of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for all people, and affirms the power of the Holy Spirit and the unity of the Church. All of these convictions shape the instruction, research, and pastoral education in the Seminary for the dual purpose of character formation and leadership development in our students. The heart of character formation is the actualization of a servant's spirit in faith, love, hope, truth, and joy. The essence of leadership development is the practice of living the Word of God and leading with the Word through the cultivation of theological wisdom, thus becoming an effective leader for the Church. In practical terms, the Seminary under the life transforming power of the Holy Spirit exerts special efforts in character formation and life transformation. The Seminary in response to the call of Christ to the Church emphasizes the various disciplines of ministry, which include leadership, preaching, pastoral care, education, mission, and worship. The Seminary, in her witnessing to the sovereignty of God in God's creation of the world, integrates reason with faith in areas of culture, politics, economics, and science and enables ministers to lead the faithful in the pursuit of truth, love, justice, and peace.

On the path toward the achievement of these goals, the Seminary must be a spiritual community of learners. In this community, both teachers and students demonstrate their obedience to the calling of God by studying Scripture and theology studiously and through their growth in faith, understanding, and discernment. In this fellowship among teachers, students, and staff, the Seminary must become a community of the Trinitarian God and will seek to grow in wisdom, faith, love, humility, courage, justice, and hope by nurturing friendship and love for one another, through cultivating discipline in our lives as the followers of Christ, and by engaging in critical self-reflection. In so doing, we are to build up students who are not only high achievers in the classroom, but also servant leaders who possess moral and spiritual character readily serving God and ministering to people in churches, organizations, and in society. In other words, while we do not only pursue excellence in our teaching and research, we are intentional in our efforts to emphasize spiritual formation, pastoral skill-learning, and social engagement of the students. The Seminary must equip servant leaders who are committed to the mission of the Gospel, characterized by spiritual and moral strengths, and be able to exercise critical thinking and effective leadership.

stand firm on the Gospel of Jesus Christ in her search for new methods to share and to live the Gospel in the new age. At this juncture, the Seminary is determined to nurture and to equip the next generation of church leaders. She must listen to the real needs of the Church. By doing so, the Seminary develops servant leaders who have the spiritual strength of life renewal and the ministerial skill of faith that works. These are the people of God who can remain steadfast in the turmoil of the world and lead the Church within different contexts to share, to live, and to proclaim the Gospel of Christ Jesus.

Today what we envision is an achievable endeavor that we will bring to realization; it is not an impossible task for which we dream. Because we believe in the grace of Christ that God wills to open the future for us; because we believe in the power of the Gospel of Christ; because we believe in the guidance of Scripture we teachers and administrators stand firm on the testimony of Scripture, we stand on our Baptist forefathers' belief in *sola scriptura*, and we cultivate in church leaders a sense of responsible scriptural reasoning. Because we believe in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will cultivate the soil of life with the mind of Christ; and we believe those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. Because we believe in prayer, we believe that when all of our teachers, students, and staff pray on our knees God will bless us for our strenuous efforts to please God, have mercy on our weakness, grant us forgiveness for our transgressions, and continue to lead us forward with hope. Because we believe that you are "co-walkers" with us, your prayers, encouragement, and financial support from the Church and fellow Christian brothers and sisters, we will experience the might and richness of God with you and we shall co-labor in

the equipping of the faithful servant leaders of God.

I believe the morning sun is dawning on us so that the Seminary will move forward, because of the labor of our forefathers, because you walk with us, and because God has given us the mission and honor of shaping servant leaders of a new generation. May glory be to the only one true God. Amen.

Translated by Mrs. Celia Juergens

Inauguration of the Sixth President

The inauguration of the sixth president of the Seminary was held at Kowloon City Baptist Church on January 19, 2009. We were honored to have Professor R. Alan Culpepper, Dean of McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University, to be the speaker and his topic was "The Challenges of Theological Education in the 21st Century."

Our next issue will give a detailed report of the inauguration which was full of God's grace.

New Students' Testimonies of God's Call For the Sake of God's Grace, How Can I Be Afraid of Advancing ?

Liu Pui-yee (M. Div. I)

"... The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Luke 10:2)

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" (Isaiah 6:8)

What does consecrate one's life to do with me?

I came to Christ in October 2000. Two years later I was baptized and God's grace that I had during that period was abundant. At that time I was studying nursing in the university and had no idea of becoming a minister. To be a nurse had been my goal since I was a child; therefore, with all my heart I wanted to be a Christian nurse expressing God's love as I served patients. Every year, I attended the spiritual renewal meetings or consecration meetings held by my church or by Campus Crusade for Christ. When I saw that many brothers and sisters raising their hands in response to God's call to be full

time Christian workers, I would always be deeply touched. Yet, for a long time, I had not resolved to consecrate my life to God.

Two and a half years after coming to Christ, I began my church ministry by becoming a tutor in the Children's Church



and serving in a Christian fellowship group. After graduating from the School of Nursing in 2004, I began my nursing career in the Prince of Wales Hospital. In early 2005, I joined the church's ministry in the Swatow region. My lack of training in the Bible prompted me to take a certificate program in theological training for lay Christians to study the Word of God. The program not only enriched my understanding of the Christian faith but also drew me closer to God as I came to a better understanding of God's power and attributes. In the spiritual renewal meeting held in May of the following year, I clearly heard the voice of God asking me, "Are you willing to see people drowning in the sea of fire? Are you willing to seek lost souls for me?" I was shocked and disturbed by these questions. When the pastor made the invitation call, I felt the Holy Spirit's strong urge and I finally summoned up the courage to raise my hand. I was then ready to let God use me all my life.

Memorable Experiences in Short Term Mission Trip to Burma

In November that year, I joined the short term medical mission trip to Burma for thirteen days. God allowed me to see two memorable scenes during that trip: When we set out on a prayer walk to pray for the well-being of the Burmese people, I saw a vast field of harvest. Immediately a scriptural verse came to my mind: "... The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Luke 10:2). The second scene occurred after the prayer walk as I was walking back to the local church. I came across a group of farmers who were tired and weary after a day's work. Again another scriptural passage popped into my mind: "Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field'" (Matthew 10:35-38).

During our medical ministry in Burma, we had the opportunity to serve the people with a group of Burmese young people. They exhibited a passion for God, for life and for spreading the gospel of Christ. Many were willing to consecrate their lives completely to God while they were still young. Their hearts of passion really touched me deeply. During this short-term mission, as I reflected on the two scenes I had

witnessed, I was impressed with the dedication to God of the young Burmese Christians and the Holy Spirit's guidance in the evangelistic process. I found that I had a passion for the lives of the people who came to Christ. All these experiences led me to consider the question: "What does God want me to learn?" I took this question to heart and quietly and prayerfully waited for God's guidance.

Two Scenes That Touched My Heart

Knowing that my employment contract would expire by July 2007, I once again asked God, "Oh Lord! What is your will for me?" I knew that it would take time for me to deal with the loss of income and my family responsibilities and that I also needed to prepare myself spiritually. I decided it was best to sign a one year contract. I then boldly prayed to God, "If you would call me to enter a seminary, please give me clear indication. Then I will set forth by faith on the road of consecration."

For more than half a year I had been seeking God's will. During that time, God let me see my inner struggles and helped me determine my priorities. I had rich opportunities to care for new Christians and to help them in their spiritual growth. In Northern Thailand and the Swatow region, I have cared for new Christians and have helped them mature. Through these ministries, it became clear to me that I have a heart for lost souls. Seeing how these souls thirst for God, I have earnestly sought to share with them that only Jesus can save them and give them peace and joy. More importantly, I tell them that Jesus enables them to be at peace with God who longs to give them abundant life.

There were two scenes that touched my heart deeply, causing tears to come to my eyes. On the medical mission tour in northern Thailand, I saw many people tormented by illness. They did not know Jesus and even rejected him when they heard the gospel. My heart was filled with sadness and pain for these lost souls. Besides, when we were ministering in the Swatow region, a group of young people taught us to sing a praise hymn. I saw a beautiful picture: People from every nation and every race are assembled to sing praises to God in the morning, exalting Christ and manifesting the glory of his kingdom. At that time, a scripture verse popped up in my mind: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord asking me, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" (Isaiah 6:8) "O Lord! I am willing to respond to your call as did Isaiah: Here am I. Send me!" I prayed.

When I seriously considered whether I would apply to enter a seminary in 2008, three patients in my ward died in quick succession, taking me by surprise and reminding me that the days of our lives are fleeting and unpredictable! Just as I was distressed for these people's souls, I prayed earnestly before God and was then determined to take a step forward by faith. For the rest of my life, I would strive to save lost souls and be faithful to the kingdom of God for as long as I live.

For All the Grace of God, How Can I Cease from Advancing?

However, as soon as I faced my own spiritual weakness, the resistance and difficulties in my family and in my economic situation, I checked myself from advancing. For this I prayed fervently and waited in anticipation for God's guidance.

Just when I considered myself to be unfit to be God's servant, God encouraged me on three different occasions with the same scripture verse: "But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'" (1 Samuel 16:7) God helped me to let go of my worries. Although I had often judged a man according to his appearance, God reminded me with scriptures that he chooses his servants by their hearts.

Facing God's call, how could I be afraid of advancing? Nevertheless, I still boldly asked God for affirmation that it was the right time for me to step onto the road of consecration. I was grateful to God for leading me to experience his great power. When it came to the time to apply for seminary study, I struggled what to say to my parents. One day, I went to my church's sanctuary to pray especially about this, to be silent before God and to pray, asking him to give me the right words to win my parents' understanding and support. One evening several days later when I still did not know what to say to them, my mother said something that encouraged me to speak up about my decision. It was beyond my expectation that my parents did not oppose at all but only told me to study hard at the seminary! Having their moral support and economic help, I would have no problems. All I needed to do was to entrust myself completely to God by faith.

Jesus says, "...If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23). I am willing to respond to God's call when I am still young, I am committed to preparing myself in theology, in the Scriptures, in the practice of pastoral ministry and missions, and in my spiritual qualities and meanwhile I am sure God will keep shaping me.

New Students' Testimonies of God's Call

Pray That God Will Raise Up Those Who Proclaim the Gospel

Tong Hon-sun (M.Div. I)

Beginning with a Prayer

From October to December of 2007, I was reading the minor prophets in the Bible for my daily devotions. Following my church's Bible Reading Scheme, I came to the topic, "The Judgment of God." I became aware of a recurring message: God will eradicate those who will not repent and follow him. But God is actually not willing to put them to death. This scripture message provoked me to begin praying persistently that God would raise up those who would proclaim the gospel for him.

Then one morning in early November, I was reading Zephaniah 1:2-3: "I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth," declared the Lord. 'I will sweep away both men

◀ *Hon-sun and Siu-lin*





and animals; I will sweep away the birds of the air and the fish of the sea. The wicked will have only heaps of rubble when I cut off man from the face of the earth,' declared the Lord." Once again, I prayed that God would raise up those who would proclaim the gospel for him. Just then, a voice spoke to me: "Are you willing to proclaim the gospel message for me full time?" At that time I neither responded nor took this to heart. It was only after that voice spoke three times that week when I began to struggle with the question of whether or not this was really God's call. I felt astounded. For several years I had been running a tutorial center. I had never considered serving God full time, nor had it ever occurred to me that God would call me to do so.

When I shared this struggle with my wife, Siu-lin, she was also taken by surprise. She asked me a few questions. (1) Was it God's call or was it only my own feeling or idea? (2) If it really was God's call, was I willing to accept and obey him with pleasure? (3) Did I have sufficient strength, qualifications and the right spiritual qualities to be a minister of God? In the weeks that followed, we thought seriously and unceasingly about the matter; discussed it frequently and then determined to pray about it, seeking God's will above all else.

How Can My Thought Impose Restriction on God?

To Sin-lin's second question, my answer was positive. At that time, I saw myself as one who was redeemed and able to stand upright before God, worshipping him in the sanctuary and ministering for him. How great was God's grace! How could I repay God's love for me? I also desired to work for God, proclaim his message and lead people to repent and turn back to God. Looking over my past, I recalled how God had renewed my spiritual life so that I no longer focused on myself, paid full attention to my busy work schedule or searched for worldly happiness. It was true that there was a time when I had attended church even though my heart was far from God. At that time I had not taken up my cross daily and followed Christ with all my heart. In those days I often forgot about God's love and care. It was not until I began to stumble continually along

life's road that I realized how melancholic, dreary and time-wasting it was for me to be alone without God walking beside me. Then when I began to look to God again, I was surprised to discover that it was through his discipline that I repented. I felt the pain and remorse but was grateful for his patience, mercy and abiding presence even when I was indifferent. I was deeply impressed by God's love and resolved to turn to him completely, not to allow anything to replace God's primacy in my heart, not to follow my own wisdom and not to go my own way but God's. I was willing to entrust my whole life to God and allow God to take pleasure in using me for his glory. Realizing that time passes quickly, I promised God: If you call me, I will respond while I am still young.

By God's grace, I was given the opportunity to serve and learn to secure a number of ministry positions in my church: In the Children's Worship Service and the Children's Sunday School, I could learn to serve with patience and humility; in church music ministry, I could learn to praise God with my voice and all my life. I did not deserve to serve in these ministries; in fact, no one deserves to serve God. From an objective point of view, I lacked the qualifications to serve God full time. Considering my limited spiritual life or ministerial experiences, I was not qualified. From my own viewpoint, to serve God full time seemed hardly imaginable and totally impossible. Since God's thoughts are always higher than mine, how could my thoughts restrict God's? For with God, nothing is impossible; all I needed to do was to trust God and obey him. The reason I was called was simply because God was willing to use me and not because of any qualification or ability I might have. Although I was undeserving, I was willing to respond to God's call with obedience and to follow his will with all my heart. I was finally convinced that by counting on the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, I would have the gift and power that I need to glorify him and serve men and women faithfully.

Both the Couple Responded in Unison

In order to affirm whether it was God's call or only my own desire, I began praying everyday, seeking God's verification.

Through my doubt and struggles, I have learned to stay in God's presence, waiting silently and patiently for his reply. As a result, my faith in God was strengthened day by day. I must thank God that he listens to our prayers and gave both of us evidences of his call. First, God gave me the first verification through my church pastor. In mid-December, I shared my experience of God's call with my pastor and received his strong affirmation and encouragement. He told me that he recently had had the same thought about me. I treasured my pastor's verification which strengthened my faith and confirmed my call.

God also gave me a second verification through my wife. Siu-lin frankly said she did not approve it at first, as she did not want our present stable way of life to be drastically disrupted. However, God changed her heart through prayer and Bible study, leading her to submit herself to God's will. One day in mid-December last year, she was doing her regular devotional Bible study, using a devotional guidebook. The scripture that day was Isaiah 6:8: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" Her heart was touched and she made a special mark beside that verse. Amazingly, that same day she read the same scripture verse in the responsive reading section in the Sunday Service. At last, she was finally touched, assured that God was speaking to her, telling her to be of the same heart with her husband in responding to God's call. In fact, she did not tell me right away but waited until I had had my own affirmation. In early January of 2008, she again hesitated, wanting to postpone the decision for a year. But in her private devotion the following day, God reminded her through Matthew 4:21-22 that when Jesus called James and John, they followed him at once. At that moment, she confirmed God's call once again and felt strongly that we should not hesitate but to respond immediately.

Prayed and Made a Wish in front of the Wailing Wall

When I quietly reminisced, I realized that God had been preparing my heart over the past few years. In 2007, I had had the opportunities to listen to several people giving their testimonies of God's call. In the beginning of that year, I got to know a seminary student doing his practicum in my church and invited him to join our prayer group. His testimony of God's call left a deep impression in my heart. In May that year, I joined a sightseeing tour to Israel and on the way met some ministers and seminary students. They shared with me their testimonies of God's call and witnessed to me God's mighty work on their lives. In Jerusalem, I prayed and made a solemn promise at the

Wailing Wall, "Lord, I am willing to offer myself up to you and to accept any arrangement you make in my life." Now God clearly responded to my prayer and extended his call to me. How then could I say "No"?

In August I joined my church's summer camp and I was led to see the vision of my church after reconstruction. I made an oath before the Lord to equip myself and began preparing myself to fit in with my church's future development. After that, I enrolled in a part-time Masters of Christian Studies Program. Although I had no plans to pursue full time seminary study, God was gradually preparing my heart for this. Even though studying God's word was not so easy, God opened my eyes to see the joy of studying his word.

Learning to be One Who Proclaims the Gospel

In order to verify further God's guidance, I joined the HKBTS's Experiencing Seminary Life Camp in February 2008. In the camp, God continued to speak to me through the hymn, "Please Send Me." This powerful hymn also helped me realize that God had sown the seed in my heart three years before. Neither did I listen to this hymn nor sing it in the church, but three years ago I learned to sing this song after I had casually talked with a colleague. He liked this song very much and he taught me to sing it. I learned it and liked the melody. At home, I would without thinking begin to sing this song, repeating the chorus over and over: "Please send me, let me proclaim..." Incidentally, I came across this song once again in the camp and I meditated on the lyrics, talked with God through the song and prayed silently with all my heart, "Please send me."

I decided to serve God full time in response to his love and call to me. Thank God for leading me each step of the way. God helped me choose the right seminary for me and make all the arrangements and preparations. In retrospect, ever since I came to Christ, my church has been preparing me for my life's ministry. After I had joined Sham Shui Po Baptist Church, I worshipped and served God there and began to consider it to be my spiritual home. It was through the church I came to learn about Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary. When I was preparing to apply for a seminary, my pastor suggested that I go to HKBTS. As a result, under God's leading, I applied for admission in February 2008, closed my tutorial center in July and entered HKBTS to receive theological training.

Thank God for responding to my prayers and calling me. From now on, I am willing to learn to be God's servant, and one who proclaims the gospel of God.



News of Academic Affairs

1. Winter Intensive Program

The Winter Intensive Program that ran from late December 2008 to mid January 2009 had come to a close. The courses offered were "The Study of First and Second Samuel" and "Introduction to Bereavement Counseling" conducted by Dr. Sher Hing-kee and Miss Wong Wai-kwan respectively.

2. Personnel Change

Mrs. Helena Tang, Director of Field Education, will leave her ministry with the Seminary at the end of the year 2008. Chaplain Rev. Brian Lam will serve as the Acting Director of Field Education. The Seminary would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Tang for her dedication to ministry and pray that God will lead her ministry ahead so that she can continue to be a blessing to the community she is to serve.

3. Belote Lectures 2009

The Belote Lectures 2009 will be held from February 10 through February 12 with Professor Glen H. Stassen, a world renowned American ethicist and Baptist theologian, as the speaker. The morning lectures will be held from 10 am to 12 noon at our Sai O campus while the evening lectures will be from 7 pm to 9 pm at Tsim Sha Tsui Baptist Church. The theme for the morning lectures is "Christian Ethics as Incarnational Discipleship" and the sub-topics are "How History Demonstrates that Incarnational Discipleship is Solid Ground," "Just Peacemaking as Incarnational Discipleship," "Caring for the Creation as Incarnational Discipleship" with Dr. Kwan Kai-man, Dr. Andres Tang and Dr. Clement Shum as the responding speakers respectively. The theme for the evening lectures is "The Sermon on the Mount as Transforming Initiatives of Grace and Deliverance," and the sub-topics are "The Kingdom of God and the Beatitudes as Participation in God's Deliverance," "Transforming Initiatives, not Platonic Ideals," and "How to Correct Your Loyalties."

The lectures will be conducted in English, and there will be Chinese translation in the evening lectures.

4. Church Music Revival Meeting

The Seminary's annual concert will be held on April 24 at Kowloon City Baptist Church. The theme is "A Leap of Faith," and the program includes choral presentation, message from the President, and testimonies. It is hoped that the Christian audience will be encouraged to live their faith and to allow themselves to be used by God. All Christian brothers and sisters are welcome.

Visitors

- Dr. G. Walter Hansen, Professor of New Testament of Fuller Theological Seminary, and Dr. Grant Osborne, Professor of New Testament of Evangelical Divinity School, paid a goodwill visit to HKBTS last October.
- Dr. Stanley E. Porter, President and Dr. Phil C. Zylla, Dean of Academic Studies of McMaster Divinity School, visited the Seminary last October.
- Rev. Leong Tuck-soon, President of Chinese Baptist Fellowship of America and Canada visited the Seminary on November 4.

Faculty News

- **Dr. Andres Tang**, Professor of Christian Thought (Theology and Culture) contributed an article entitled "Dietrich Bonhoeffer's View on Pastoral / Ministerial Ministry" to *Defining Pastoral Ministry in the Chinese Church Context* published by the Divinity School of Chung Chi College, the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2008; another article entitled "Called to Preach: Notes on William H. Willimon's Interpretation of Karl Barth's Theology of Proclamation Vocation" was published in *The China Graduate School of Theology Journal* 46 in January, 2009. Besides, he and Chiu Shung-ming have jointly translated into Chinese Colin E. Gunton's *The Christian Faith: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine*. The book was published by Logos Publishers Ltd. in January 2009.

Lay Theological Education Department

Application is welcome for the following programs:

- **Diploma in Youth Ministry Program**

To provide systematic training in ministerial skills and basic theological equipping for those Christians interested in understanding the youth community and committed to joining the youth ministry.

The program takes two years to complete. Classes meet every Monday evening and begin in April.

The content includes the following: Family and Youth, Leading a Lively Worship, Counseling Session and Skills, and Games and Adventure.

- **Diploma / Certificate in Church Administration and General Affairs Program**

To provide holistic and systematic training for those in-service Christians or those committed to shoulder church administration responsibility.

The certificate program takes one year to complete. Classes meet every Tuesday afternoon and begin in April.

The content includes the following: Individual Spiritual Formation, The Art of Living in a Group, Personnel and Administration Management Skills, and Biblical and Theological Studies.

- **Diploma / Certificate in Mission Ministry Program**

To provide training for those Christians committed to understanding, participating in or promoting missions. The certificate program takes one year to complete. Classes meet every Monday evening and begin in April.

The content includes the following: Understanding the World's Great Religions and New Trends in Modern Missions, Experiences of Missionaries' Cross-cultural Lives, Review over Missionaries' Ethics and the Partnership Relationship on the Mission Field, Learning to Promote Missions at Church, Concern for the Missionaries, and Setting up a Support System for Missions.

- **Diploma / Certificate in Elderly Ministry Program**

To provide training for ministers, Christian social workers and lay Christians committed to understanding and ministering to the elderly as we face the challenge of an ageing population. The certificate program takes one year to complete. Classes meet every Tuesday and Thursday evening and begin in April.

The content includes the following: Caring Ministry, Family Ministry, Evangelistic Ministry, Education Ministry, Recreation and Sports Ministry, Church Music Ministry for the Elderly, the Many Faces of Death, and Field Practicum.

The deadline for the above programs will be March 16 or when the quota is filled. For enquiries, call 2711 2552 or log on our website www.hkpbs.edu.hk/ltd.

Distance Education Program

The new diploma programs will begin in March while the certificate programs can begin at any time

Name of Program	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 are trained to do systematic hermeneutics and Bible study.	Secondary school graduates with a church pastor's recommendation	March and September	March term: Hong Kong: February 10
Diploma in Christian Studies Program	Designed for equipping students for ministry, the program helps students strengthen their foundation in the Christian faith, doctrine and theology.			Overseas: January 25
Higher Diploma in Biblical Studies / Christian Studies Programs	Further studies for students who have completed the certificate program	Completion of the certificate program and with a church pastor's recommendation		September term: Hong Kong: August 10
Certificate in N.T. / O.T. Studies Programs	An introductory program in biblical studies, guiding students to study individual books in the Bible systematically.	All are welcome	Register at any time. Students can begin at any time. Tuition reduction application is available.	

Elective students: Students can choose part of the subjects offered in the correspondence courses according to their own personal interest. For details, please log on the "Distance Education" website.

On-line Program	Program Description	Date of Commencement
On-line Certificate in New Testament Studies Program	An introductory program of the studies of an individual book in the Bible with a choice of either the traditional Chinese or the simplified Chinese version. It is a diversified program providing an on-line resource room as well as a platform for communication between tutors and students.	Students can begin at any time with fee concessions. Trial study of the on-line program is welcome: http://distance.hkpbs.edu.hk The User ID for the traditional Chinese version: 04YM0001 Code:guest The User ID for the simplified Chinese version: 04YM0002 Code:guest

Students can decide for themselves the study place, time and schedule, for details log on the distance education program website www.hkpbs.edu.hk/dist/. For enquiries, call 2768 5105 or email deinfo@hkpbs.edu.hk

Pastoral Continuing Education Center

The Fourth Class of Christian Leadership Executive Training Program

Student recruitment has begun in January, 2009 for the Fourth Class of Christian Leadership Executive Training Program jointly offered by Peter Drucker Academy, Hong Kong and HKPBS. The program aims at nurturing ministers and Christian leaders for the Christian community and the society. The curriculum consists of three components: "self-management," "management of others," and "organizational management." The program runs through five months. Students will have to undergo intensive training through lectures, discussion of case studies and workshops. The target student group includes pastors, ministers and lay leaders of the Christian church, middle management personnel in Christian organizations or Christian administrators in non-profit making organizations. Early bird application enjoys a 10% discount while group (three or more people) application will enjoy group special discount. For application or enquiries, call 2768 5124 or log on our website www.hkpbs.edu.hk.

Publication News

Hill Road (Issue 22) has just been published in January 2009 with "Forgiveness" as its theme. There are six theme articles: "Forgiveness and Reconciliation in the Mosaic Laws" (Wong Fook Kong), "Forgiveness and Reconciliation: A New Testament Perspective" (Poling Sun), "Forgiveness as the Cornerstone of Church Unity: A Study of Paul's View of Forgiveness in Colossians" (Clement Shum), "'Binding and Loosing': The Basics of John Howard Yoder's Perspective on Forgiveness" (Vincent Lau), "A Discussion of Hauerwas on the Virtue of Forgiveness of the Christian Community" (Wai-hoi Ip), and "Forgetting and Forgiving: Miroslav Volf's Theological Perspective" (Andres Tang). There are four articles on other subjects and six book reviews. For subscription or inquiries, call the Publication Office at 2768 5168.



Alumni News

Alumnus Chan Luen-fong (class of 1962) went to be with the Lord in late September 2008 at the age of one hundred. May the Lord's comfort and peace be with his family.

Alumnus Liew Kam-keat (class of 1995) and **alumnus Mak Kin-ming** (class of 1998) were together ordained pastors by Truth Baptist Church on September 27, 2008.

Alumnus Tsui Man-yin (class of 1999) went to be with the Lord in early December last year. We are saddened by the news. May the Lord comfort and lead his family and let us remember them and their needs in our prayers.

*May God Bestow on Us
a Year of Joy*

Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary

Student Recruitment 2009-10

Master of Theology

Master of Divinity

Master of Religious Education

Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies

Master of Pastoral Counseling

**Advanced Diploma in
Religious Education**

Date of Application for Admission

Hong Kong: January 1 – June 19

Overseas: January 1 – April 30

Date of Admission Examination

April 18

June 6

Experiencing Seminary Life Camp

Theme: Leap of Faith

Date : March 4 – 5 (Wed – Thu)

Venue : Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary
(1 Nin Ming Road, Sai O, Sai Kung North, N.T.)

Application Deadline: February 25 (Wed)

Fee : First Group HK\$200 per person
(beginning 10:00 am March 4)
Second Group HK\$180 per person
(beginning 7:30 pm March 4)

For inquiries:

Telephone: (852) 2768 5130

Email: admissions@hkbts.edu.hk

Website: www.hkbts.edu.hk

Program Schedule

March 4

10:00 am Registration (First Group)
11:00 am Get to know HKBTS
12:00 noon Sit-in Class Lecture
1:00 pm Lunch
2:00 pm Sit-in Class Lecture / Individual Meditation
4:00 pm Meet with Professors
6:00 pm Recess
6:30 pm Supper
7:30 pm Registration (Second Group)
8:00 pm Worship, Praise and Short Message
9:00 pm Pray in Small Groups
10:00 pm Rest

March 5

7:45 am Morning Prayer
8:30 am Breakfast
9:00 am Introduction to our Study Programs /
Student Affairs / Field Education
10:00 am Seminary's Morning Chapel
11:00 am Sit-in Class Lecture
12:00 noon Sit-in Class Lecture (cont.) or Rest
1:00 pm Lunch
2:00 pm Testimonies of God's Call
4:00 pm Meet with Professors / Individual Meditation
5:30 pm Consecration Meeting
6:30 pm The program adjourns

Belote Lectures 2009

Professor Glen H. Stassen

February 10 - 12

Professor Glen Harold Stassen is a renowned ethicist, professor and Baptist theologian in America. He is known for his work on theological ethics, politics, social justice, and for developing the Just Peacemaking theory in ethics on the question of war. His book *Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus in Contemporary Context* was awarded Best Book of the Year in the Theology / Ethics category by *Christianity Today* in 2004.

Professor Stassen received his PhD from Duke University and was a professor for twenty years at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is currently the Lewis B. Smedes Professor of Christian Ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary. He has been a visiting scholar at Harvard University, Duke University, Columbia University and the University of Heidelberg in Germany.

Morning Lectures (10:00 am – 12:00 noon)

Christian Ethics as Incarnational Discipleship

Date	Topic	Respondent
February 10 (Tue)	How History Demonstrates that Incarnational Discipleship is Solid Ground	Dr. Kwan Kai-man
February 11 (Wed)	Just Peacemaking as Incarnational Discipleship	Dr. Andres Tang
February 12 (Thu)	Caring for the Creation as Incarnational Discipleship	Dr. Clement Shum

The lectures are conducted in English while English handouts are available upon request.

Evening Lectures (7:30 pm – 9:30 pm)

The Sermon on the Mount as Transforming Initiatives of Grace and Deliverance

Date	Topic
February 10 (Tue)	The Kingdom of God and the Beatitudes as Participation in God's Deliverance
February 11 (Wed)	Transforming Initiatives, not Platonic Ideals
February 12 (Thu)	How to Correct Your Loyalties

The lectures are conducted in English with Chinese translation.

Venue:

Morning Lectures are held at Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary Chapel
(1 Nin Ming Road, Sai O, Sai Kung North, N.T.)

Evening Lectures are held at Tsim Sha Tsui Baptist Church
(31, Cameron Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon)

Financial Report

General Fund, October 1 - 31, 2008

	HK\$
Income	2,380,983.73
Expenditure	<u>2,472,485.81</u>
Deficit	<u>(91,502.08)</u>



R e p l y

I will support The Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary by

☐ praying for the Seminary's theological education ministry

☐ contributing \$_____ for

☐ Educational Fund ☐ Others: _____

Name: _____
(Mr / Ms / Rev / Dr / Mr & Mrs)

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Donation Methods:

☐ **Crossed cheque** payable to
"Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary"

☐ **Cash** either deliver to the Seminary or direct pay-in to our
Hang Seng Bank Account No. "242-026144-003"

☐ **Credit card:** ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD

Cardholder's Name: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____

Card No.: _____ Expiry date: _____

Amount: HK\$ _____

(Credit card charges are denominated in HK\$)

☐ **Monthly Autopay** by Bank Account or Credit Card —
autopay form will be forwarded to you

- Please send cheque or bank deposit slip with this reply to the Seminary at 1 Nin Ming Road, Sai O, Sai Kung North, N.T., Hong Kong.
- Receipt will be issued and donation is tax-deductible.
- Your name and donation amount will appear in the Seminary's *Newsletter*. If you do not wish them to appear in the *Newsletter*, please tick the right box. ☐
- Your personal data will only be used for issuing receipt and Seminary's administration purposes.
- For donation inquiry: Tel : (852) 2768 5113 or (852) 2715 9511
Fax: (852) 2768 5102

Thank you for your support !

DONORS REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2008

Education Fund (Church)

上環浸信會	2,000.00
大埔浸信會	10,000.00
牛池灣竹園潮語浸信會	1,000.00
尖沙嘴國語浸信會	1,000.00
何文田潮語浸信會	5,000.00
佐敦道浸信會	1,500.00
沙田浸信會	7,000.00
紅磡浸信會	3,500.00
香港仔浸信會	23,818.80
香港浸信教會	88,300.00
香港聖尼地城浸信教會	1,200.00
粉嶺浸信會	25,000.00
基磐浸信會	1,000.00
培正道浸信會	5,000.00
第一城浸信會	6,250.00
愛群道浸信會	5,000.00
置富浸信教會	1,500.00
銅鑼灣浸信會	3,000.00
廣源邨禧年浸信會	17,306.20
灣仔浸信會	1,000.00
觀塘浸信會	1,923.00
鑽石山浸信會	7,500.00
香港伯特利教會榮光堂	1,000.00
基督教宣道會華基堂	500.00
基督教豐盛生命堂	4,500.00
	<u>HK\$ 224,798.00</u>
Chinese Independent Baptist	
Church of San Francisco	<u>US\$ 540.00</u>

Education Fund (Donor/Organization)

Mr. & Mrs. John Dockerill	10,000.00
江耀全伉儷	3,000.00
何譚惠如	1,000.00
吳國傑伉儷	500.00
呂志華	1,000.00
胡文恩伉儷	300.00
徐詩雅	300.00
梁志華	1,000.00
梁錦松、郭詠文家庭	10,000.00
許鋒威	400.00
陳麗英	1,000.00
馮德華	300.00
黃華娟	100.00
葉煥章	300.00
劉永生	300.00
劉建紅	600.00
鄭非兒	300.00
鄧炳光伉儷	1,000.00
龐凌玉珍	500.00
羅佩珊	100.00
羅凱慈	1,000.00
關德華伉儷	140.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	500.00
無名氏	300.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	1,000.00
無名氏	300.00
無名氏	400.00
	<u>HK\$ 36,140.00</u>

Scholarship and Bursaries

大學浸信會	8,000.00
香港(西區)潮語浸信會	5,000.00
香港浸信教會婦女部	12,000.00
愛子伉儷	300.00
	<u>HK\$ 25,300.00</u>

Lay Theological Education Program

07-08年信徒宣教文憑畢業同學	1,200.00
07年長事工證書課程畢業同學	2,800.00
杜桂鵬	500.00
蔡艷桃	1,000.00
蕭桂娥	1,500.00
	<u>HK\$ 7,000.00</u>

Distance Education Program

Ernest & Sylvia Ho	2,000.00
何鏡煒伉儷	3,000.00
	<u>HK\$ 5,000.00</u>

Local Filipino Program

Faith Fellowship Baptist Church	420.00
IBC Filipino (HK)	50.00
九龍國際浸信會	500.00
九龍菲語浸信會	500.00
張智理伉儷	5,500.00
陳麗英	400.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	400.00
	<u>HK\$ 7,770.00</u>

Hill Singer

香港浸信會神學院校友會	<u>HK\$ 1,200.00</u>
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Precious Moments



October 12, 2008 Parents' Day

On this annual occasion, students invite their parents to come to our main campus for a tour and a gathering. This meeting is often filled with the warmth of filial love as students take the opportunity to share their testimonies and express their concern and appreciation to their parents.



October 14-16, 2008 Baptist Heritage Week

This year's theme of the Baptist Heritage Week was "Snapshot of Early Baptist Leaders to China and Hong Kong (III)" with Dr. Jerry Moye, Dr. Nathan Ng and Dr. Vincent Lau introducing the lives and contributions of Dr. Carter Morgan, and missionaries Timothy Richard and Issachar J. Roberts respectively.



October 29, 2008 A Sharing of God's Message from Dr. Stanley E. Porter

Dr. Stanley E. Porter, President of McMaster Divinity College, Canada, shared God's message in our morning chapel during his visit with Dr. Phil C. Zylla, Dean of Academic Affairs, in the Seminary.



November 2, 2008 The Eighth Graduation Ceremony of Distance Education Program

Twenty nine graduates were awarded diplomas and certificates. The ceremony was held at the Sai O campus with Rev. Brian Lam delivering the message and Dr. Joshua Cho presenting certificates and charging students. Graduates were photographed with guests of honor presiding the ceremony, tutors and program staff.



November 19, 2008 Handing over of Duties for the New Officers of the Student Union

The new officers of the Student Union took up their responsibilities in January 2009. They took a picture with last year's officers.



November 20, 2008 The Whole Seminary Prayer Meeting

Teachers, staff and students with one heart prayed for the needs of Hong Kong, the Seminary and one another.



November 27, 2008 Thanksgiving Worship

At the Thanksgiving Worship, a teacher, a staff member and a student shared God's grace. Following the sharing, we wrote down our thanksgiving items, and together we offered them up to God as a thanksgiving offering.



November 30, 2008 The Fifty-Seventh Graduation Ceremony

The Graduation Ceremony of the Graduate Program, Ministerial Preparation Program and Pastoral Continuing Education Program was held at Sai O campus with thirty eight graduates. Rev. Stephen C. K. Liu exhorted our graduates on the topic, "Workers Needed by Today's Churches."



December 7, 2008 Joint-Programs Graduation Ceremony of Our Lay Theological Education Program

The ceremony was held at Sai O campus with 372 students being awarded masters and bachelor's degrees, diplomas and certificates. There were around 1,460 guests attending the ceremony. Rev. Isaac Leung, pastor of Sham Shui Po Baptist Church, exhorted our graduates on the topic, "Ministries after God's Heart."

December 15, 2008 Christmas Worship

On this day when we remembered the Savior's birth, all of our teachers, staff, students and alumni joined together to worship God and to meditate on the saving grace of Christ our Lord. After the worship, we had a time of games and we feasted together.

