

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

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



Newsletter

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President's Word

The Pastoral Theology of "Forgiveness"

Feature

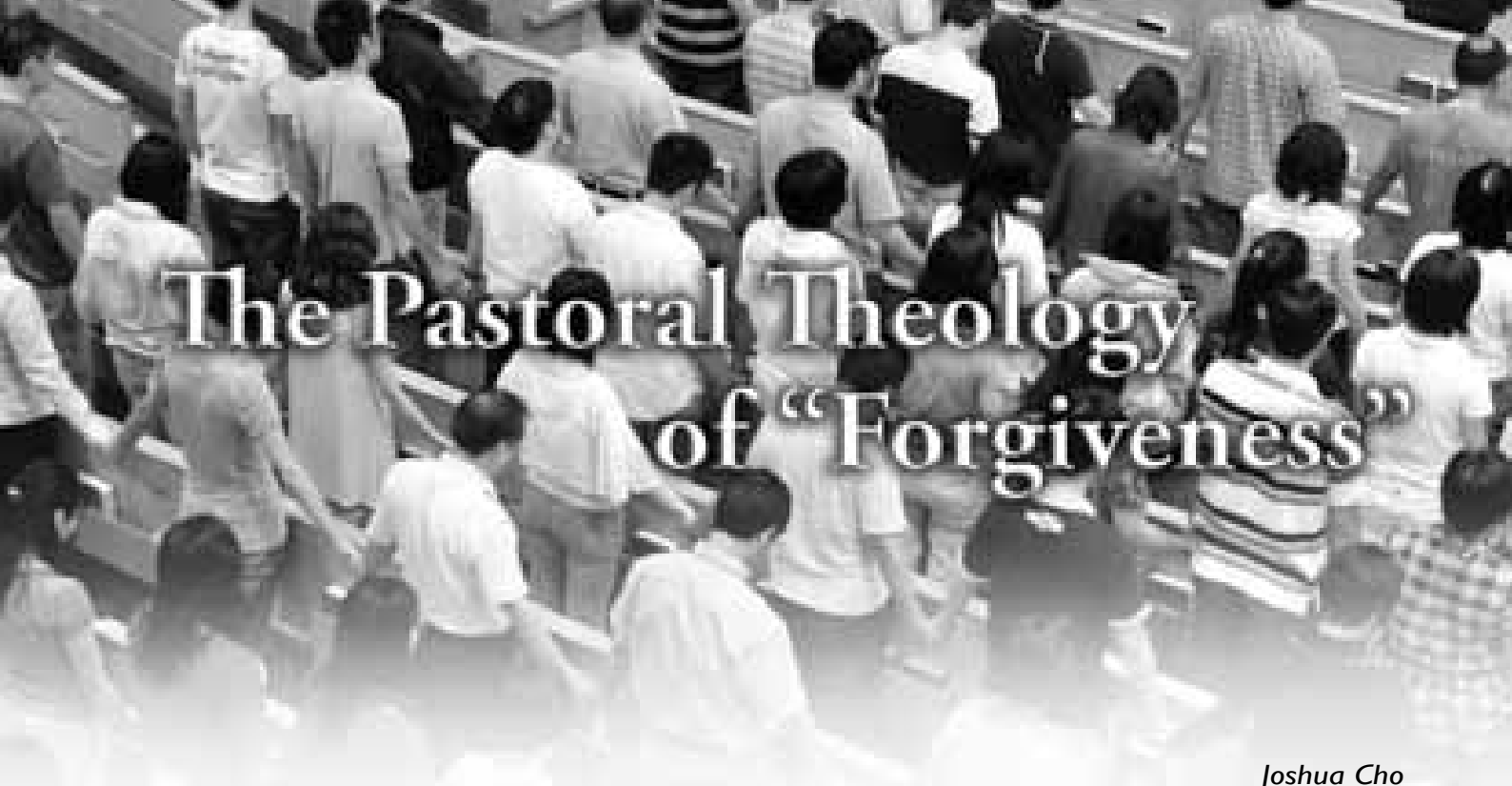
Voices of Our Graduates

The Life-Healing Community

The Spiritual Growth Journey of Walking with God

Faculty Sharing

TEFL—A Mission Field Comes to Us



The Pastoral Theology of “Forgiveness”

Joshua Cho

Learning Forgiveness in a Forgiving Community

Forgiveness is a major theme of Biblical teaching. The study of Forgiveness has in recent decades become a hot topic for research among social scientists. According to the studies, the act of forgiving benefits the ones who forgive as it reduces anxiety, depression, and anger while at the same time they gain in self-understanding and positive affect towards others. Some of these studies indicate that forgiveness may improve not only a person's psychological well-being but also the person's physical health as it positively affects blood pressure and the heart beat.

It is apparent from research in social studies that forgiveness is correlated closely with psychological and physical well-being. Yet these studies neither address the relationship between forgiveness and spirituality nor answer the question, “How do people learn to forgive?” We learn to forgive when there is “the forgiving community.” The course to take for generating social dynamics is to enable individuals to understand the concept of forgiveness and to encourage these individuals to internalize forgiveness so that it becomes a habit.

A church should be a forgiving community that cultivates the culture and expectation of forgiveness in the believers. A seminary should also become a forgiving community that cultivates the culture and expectation of forgiveness in our teachers and students. So, how

does a church learn forgiveness? How does a Seminary learn forgiveness?

Genuine Pastoral Care Confronts Sins

Some scriptural passages like Matthew 18:12-35 can enlighten us how to forgive. According to this Gospel, an offended individual is to show the offender as a brother in Christ his fault so as to resolve the problem between the two of them. It would be like finding a lost sheep if the brother in Christ is willing to repent. When private confrontation fails, the offended individual will take one or two others along as witnesses to the testimony established by him with the offender. When the offender does not listen, the church will be told of the testimony. If he still refuses to listen to the church, the church will “treat him as a pagan or a tax collector.”

“Treating as a pagan or a tax collector” or “disfellowshipping” is called for as a consequence to a serious offense committed by the member of the community. In other words, it is to regard the individual who refuses to repent as an unbeliever and to cease fellowship with him. The experience of intimate fellowship like the Lord's Communion in a community of disciples can only be shared among genuine spiritual family members. Another implication of treating a brother as a pagan or a tax collector is to reclaim this lost member by sharing the gospel of salvation with him again.



President's Word

Jesus' way of handling the personnel issues may be conceived by the modern generation as politically incorrect or even unsympathetic. The "political correctness" of personnel management is to minimize the dilemma of an issue whereas being "sympathetic" is to apply empathy for reducing the sense of misfortune in those who seek counseling. Yet, Jesus' way demonstrates genuine pastoral care. Genuine pastoral care confronts and deals with sins. Sins take life out of people. Confrontation will turn to love when its ultimate purpose is to find the lost sheep.

Genuine Love Is Forgiveness of Seventy-Seven Times

This confrontation in love can be seen throughout the 18th chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew. Matthew places the passage concerning the confrontation between the Parable of the Lost Sheep and the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant. His intent is to show to the readers that God desires to save and not to curse sinners. Confrontation is love in action when the intent is to seek repentance and redemption by revealing sin. So, what is genuine "love" when confrontation is made with love?

Matthew's passage tells us that genuine love is forgiveness of seventy-seven times. Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "... not seven times, but seventy-seven times." Jesus means: There is no limit to forgiveness. Forgiveness of seventy-seven times is forgiveness without limit or reservation.

Jesus uses the Parable of Kingdom of Heaven to open our eyes to the theology of forgiveness without limit. He says, "... the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants." A servant owed the king ten thousand talents and the king ordered that he and his wife and his children be sold to repay the debt. When the servant begged the king for forgiveness, the king forgave him and cancelled the debt that could never have been able to be settled by the servant.

But when the servant found a fellow servant who owed him a hundred denarii, he refused to let go. A hundred denarii was undoubtedly a minute sum in comparison with the ten thousand talents and this amount could be repaid in due time. The debtor pleaded as earnestly as the forgiven servant with the king. However, the forgiven servant was unwilling to forgive others. He cared for his own rights and decided to appeal to the law that would put the debtor in prison.

When the other servants saw what he had done, they

were greatly distressed and went and told the king everything that had happened. When the king learned about it, he called the servant in and said to him, "You wicked servant ..." "Wicked" in the original language *poneros* means "evil" or "immoral." The word is also used to describe small eyes conveying the notion of a mind of smallness, jealousy, narrowness, bitterness, and misery. The wicked servant is a person with a narrow mind filled with bitterness.

This story shows not only the smallness of the wicked servant, it also reveals the generosity of the king. The generosity of the king is the theological theme of the entire story. The generosity of the king is seen in his forgiveness of seventy-seven times, indicating that the forgiveness is unconditional and without limit. The king expects his people to be equally generous (Mt 5:45), to forgive seventy-seven times, and to learn to forgive unconditionally and without limit. As the generous people of God, we will ask God to help us refrain from taking revenge against those who have hurt us.

Repentance Is Change of Heart and Behavior

The general theme of the 18th chapter of Matthew concerns the generosity of forgiveness of seventy-seven times. This generosity does not come from a momentary mood. Verses 15 to 20 do show that some form of isolation may seem necessary for those who refuse persistently to repent after times of rightful confrontation. People who truly repent confess their sins and demonstrate change in their behavior. Repentance in the Bible means change of mind and behavior. Simply put, man should not just apologize for his wrong doing no matter how sincere his apologies may be. He must show changes in his behavior or at least demonstrate some intention to make real changes. We will continue to forgive those who sin against us and others, such as those who habitually hurt others with words. There is a need of time and practice for the change of behavior to develop. We will forgive seventy-seven times those who are trying their best to change and to improve.

Our casual response to insincere remorse as if nothing had ever happened, would bring about more damages and evil doings. The only act of love that endures is to insist on genuine repentance and change. This love directs us to confront with gentleness and to counsel in the grace of God. Knowing that we are ourselves forgiven sinners, it is better for us to acknowledge the sins of others and forgive them.

Prioritization of Forgiveness and Justice

We must also know that forgiveness does not necessarily follow confrontation. Forgiveness may indeed come before the change of heart in those who sin against us. The generosity of

forgiveness precedes the gradual change of the offenders. Jesus sets the prime example for us as he had become the friend of pagans and tax collectors before they responded to his call. He had accepted Judas to be one of the twelve disciples despite the foreknowledge of Judas' betrayal. Love relationships must often occur before repentance.

The Nobel Peace Prize recipient in 1984, retired Archbishop Desmond Tutu, dedicated his life to the abolition of apartheid in South Africa since the beginning of 1980's. Before and after Nelson Mandela became the President, Tutu put his conviction that there is no future without forgiveness for South Africa as a nation as she cannot be liberated from the atrocities of the past in order to set out on the path of construction. Yet, many held the adverse slogan: No forgiveness without justice. Forgiveness without justice is weak forgiveness. They often chant, "No forgiveness without repentance; no reconciliation without justice."

Some criticized Tutu's proposition of "forgiving first" as forgiveness without justice. Tutu responded: The slogan "No forgiveness without repentance; no reconciliation without justice" in its extremity denies the possibility of forgiveness and reconciliation. Justice in this corrupt and fallen world will never meet our demand for equality and fairness. As Martin Luther taught, every man is simultaneously saint and sinner. Every one of us is sinner. Tutu believes that we must place forgiveness before our fight for justice. When forgiveness and justice do not happen at the same time, we must learn to forgive first. Only forgiveness will bring true justice and genuine relational changes with change of hearts and community of peace. On the other hand, the law enforcement does not necessarily change the heart and mind of individuals. A clenched fist may present the image of justice but it also symbolizes exclusion. In conflicting and adversary circumstances, men not only desire justice but they also need to be embraced. Open arms reveal the intent for joyful embracement whereas clenched fists stand for injustice and hatred. Open arms help us see "possibilities" and thus opportunities for establishing justice.

The Ultimate Result of Forgiveness Is Life

Learning forgiveness of seventy-seven times is a long process of practice and experience. True believers learn forgiveness in the community of faith that leads to reconciliation. A church learning forgiveness can start with the leaders: From pastoral leaders to deacons, from deacons to church council, from church council to fellowship and Sunday school; from parents to children; from elderly to youth, and from youth to children. The Seminary learning forgiveness begins with our teachers: From teachers to students, from students to staff,

from staff to students; and from the Seminary to individuals and different communities in the society. Only through the process of constant practice and experience can the culture of forgiveness of seventy-seven times be formed. This process will lead to a change in individual lives and cultivate the culture of forgiveness in the churches and the Seminary.

Let us see and believe that the ultimate result of forgiveness is life itself. Where there is forgiveness, there is life. Learning forgiveness of seventy-seven times requires conscientious practice; conscientious practice comes from persistent determination; persistent determination comes from the conscious reminder and judgment of the value of life. Therefore, the educational goal of a community of forgiveness is the engagement in conscientious practice to forgive. This morality of forgiveness, through conscientious exercise and reminder of the worth of life, will lead to unceasing acts of forgiveness and will foster the development of the characteristics of forgiveness. The challenge posed to our churches is how to incorporate the education of forgiveness into the church curriculum. The challenge posed to the Seminary is how to incorporate the education of forgiveness into our chapel programs and the curricula.

A Pastoral Theology— "From Hospitality to Forgiveness"

The pastoral theology of forgiveness of seventy-seven times is what HKBTS will research and practice for the new academic year. This theology "From Hospitality to Forgiveness" is the extension of our research and practice of Hospitality over the past four years. We desire to learn the shepherding love of Christ in strengthening the Seminary's education in Pastoral Ministry. Healing by forgiveness is a Christological issue and is a vital part of the studies of Pastoral Theology. There is so much more for us as a community of forgiveness to explore and to learn. What I have shared above concerning the integration and prioritization of Forgiveness and Justice is the central theme among the many themes HKBTS teachers and students will be studying and learning in this new academic year.



Voices of Our Graduates

of the Ministerial Preparation Program

"Departure" is necessary for "entrance."

I depart from my four-year life as a seminary student and enter into the life of a church minister. I turn to the first page of a whole new chapter of my life. I ask God to establish me and reprimand me so that all I do, I do according to the mind of Christ Jesus. I ask Him to make me faithful to God's word and to refrain from the temptation to focus only on being efficient, eye-catching and powerful, but instead to be a humble, good and faithful servant of God.

Tam Ka-man (B.Th.)

If I had not responded to God's call, I would not have been a student at HKBTS;
if there had not been God's confirmation along life's path, I would not have been a student at HKBTS;
if I had not relied on God who strengthens me, I would not have been a student at HKBTS;
if it had not been for HKBTS, I would have no idea what kind of person I would be today!

Au Wai-ping (B.Th.)

The Lord says, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9) The words of this scripture are planted deep in my heart. When I recall my experiences as a student over the past four years, weak as I am, God has enabled me to have sufficient strength. May all glory be to God!

Tang Chung-sze (B.Th.)

When I have only just learned to reflect on my Christian faith, I am about to graduate.

I must accept the fact that I will soon be leaving the Seminary.

I must say that the process of learning at the seminary must continue throughout our lives.

I have learned at the seminary to be willing to grow slowly.

I ask God to help to continue peeling off my old self so that a new renewed self can emerge.

The learning of theology is a courier station in my life. There I settle down to do my faith reflection and integration, setting out again on my life cycle to fulfill my vocational call according to God's will.

Lam Wai-chu (B.Th.)

I thank God for calling me into ministry.

I thank God too for Dr. Cho and my teachers who have taught us by word and example.

I am grateful for those four years of learning and renewal. I have found renewal as I have studied the Bible and theology.

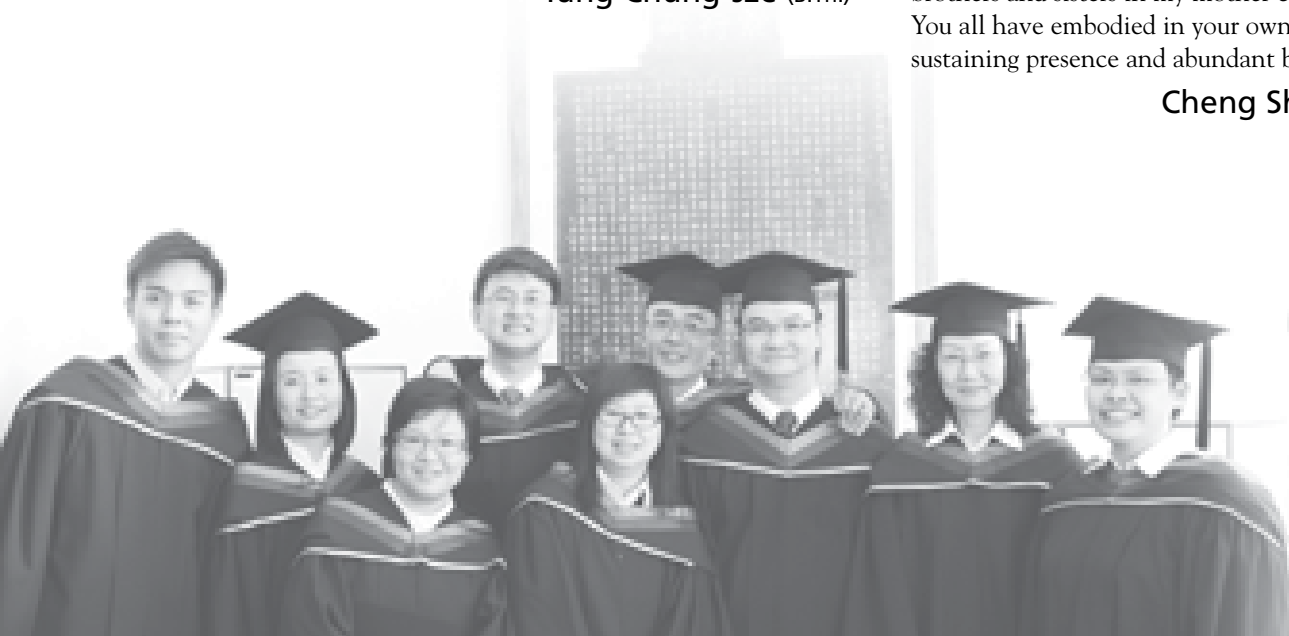
I have been renewed as I have reflected upon the biblical narratives.

I have found special renewal as I have lived in a disciple community.

I am grateful to my God, my family, fellow-students, brothers and sisters in my mother church.

You all have embodied in your own ways God's sustaining presence and abundant blessings.

Cheng Shee-ming (B.Th.)



It was with much reluctance that I said goodbye to the Seminary!

I often look back these past four years and recall warm memories of walking together with my teachers, seminary staff and fellow students.

I think of episodes that remain clearly stamped on my mind.

I thank my teachers for their constant admonishment, instruction, and encouragement, and thank members of the seminary staff for their helpful assistance and dedicated service.

I must thank God that all along life's way we can become sojourners together!

Leung Wing-seng (B.Th.)

Thank God for treating me, an earthenware, gracefully so that I am made ready to be molded in His hand.

Thank God for leading me to complete my studies in the past four years.

Today, He also leads me to enter into a new stage in life where I can continue learning to follow Him.

Dear God, let me be a God-fearer and a humble follower.

Yung Chi-yin (B.Th.)

In the learning process I have shed many tears.

But thanks to God's grace for my teachers have accompanied me all these years. They reminded me to be a good shepherd.

First, I must humbly learn to do self-reflection and accept others' opinion.

It is only when my soul glorifies the Lord and being gentle and humble before Him can I open my life and then seek to build up the lives of others.

Lo Tin-lam (B.Th.)

Four years of the joyful life of learning has just come to a close.

I still remember my feeling of reluctance to leave the Seminary as I said farewell at the end of my last lesson.

Theological training consists of both hardship and God's light. To relate to fellow students can both be challenging and filled with God's instructions.

The life of learning can both be tough and blessed by God's abundant mercy. Throughout these days and months I have experienced God's promise of "our strength will equal our days."

For all this I am truly grateful to God!

To Pui Yuen-yee (B.Th.)

I thank God for allowing me to complete the 5-year M.Div. program and I finally graduate.

My study program has moved from part time to full time and back to part time. Despite this complicated journey, I have always been aware that the process has been imbued with God's grace.

Please pray with me that God will now empower me to use all that I have learned in dedicated service in my ministry.

Kam Ho-yan (M.Div.)

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

This is the seminary's motto and the admonishment I received at graduation as I set off on the path of my ministry.

It is the maxim to which I hold fast as I walk along my ministry path.

Hope that you will remember this group of graduates in your prayers and may we be unashamed workmen of God all through our lives.

Chiu Shun-kin (M.Div.)

What a magical journey! In a flash three years have gone by.

As the journey has come to an end, the music ends and the audience disperses. And yet, the love of God and the love among fellow students have not changed.

After a break, our new magical journey will begin again.

Leung Yu-ching (M.Div.)



Even at very early age, I was already thinking of studying theology.
Yet, I had no idea that a seminary student would need to receive multi-dimensional training in such a broad variety of subjects.
I have a keen interest in spending more time to study certain subjects but my tight homework schedule makes that impossible.
Gone are those days when I managed to fulfill my obligation as a student.
In retrospect, I have come to understand that in the midst of my busy assignment schedule, I have built up a framework to do my theological thinking.

Chung Ming-yan (M.Div.)

I am grateful to my Heavenly Father for leading me and enabling me to complete my program of study and to successfully graduate through His grace.
I am especially grateful to President Cho, my teachers and the seminary staff.
I also need to thank the churches where I did my practicum for their instruction and assistance.
I must not forget to say thanks to my dear family and my mother church for supporting me and caring for me all along.
I owe everything to all of you for you have stood by me and walked with me throughout my seminary journey.
God has provided me with a support team, cheering me on and giving me strength to cross the finish line.

Chu Kin-chung (M.Div.)

Thank God for leading me and looking after me all along.
Finishing these three years of molding, I have come to both an end and a new beginning.
I will no longer be a student but will begin to take up the responsibility of a minister.
Now my school learning has come to a close, I am about to embark on a voyage of life-long learning.
After graduation I will continue to renew myself, seeking to live in His likeness!
I am committed to gain a comprehensive understanding of what I have learned and put it into practice in my ministry!

Chang Kwok-pong (M.Div.)

I have always been keenly aware that it is God who has led me through these three years and who has granted me abundant grace.
It has not been easy for me to go through these days of learning.
The heavy load of assignments and the added load of weekly church practicum have sometimes discouraged me.
I even thought of giving up.
What has finally strengthened me to complete my study is God's call and His preservation.
I am truly grateful to God!

Mung Kin-sang (M.Div.)





My three years of learning has ended.
What I am about to face after my commissioning is a life of service.
I am grateful to God, my teachers, my fellow students, and the seminary staff. Also I must also thank my wife, my family, and all those who have kept watch over me and prayed for me!

Wong Hoi-yun (M.Div.)

I have graduated! I am about to enter into the field of Christian ministry!
Looking back at my seminary life, what I miss most is the time when I shared with teachers and fellow students during tea time or lunch.
There we exchanged views on theological thought and mentioned scriptures that puzzled us.
We were engaged in conversations and laughter.
In a flash I have to leave the seminary!
I am indebted to each one of you who have walked with me, allowing me to learn new lessons for life!

Mak Yuk-kwan (M.Div.)

What I have experienced and felt in these few years has been “I do not want to let go!”
I thank my teachers who have nurtured us with all their hearts.
They have enabled me to appreciate what it means to “dedicate themselves with their teaching and life examples.”
As I now walk forward toward my ministry field, I remember the words of one of my teachers: “The reason God calls us is to send us out to serve communities.”
I want to encourage my fellow students with these words so that we trust and obey God’s call all our lives.

Yan Chi-kin (M.Div.)

In the twinkling of an eye, three years of study has ended.
This does not mean I have finished the task but that I am only about to begin a second mile.
To be able to know God, to reflect upon God’s word, and to reflect God’s work through my life is the work of a life time.
I am grateful for my teachers’ encouragement and for my fellow-students’ loyalty and support as they have walked beside me, sharing my burdens.

Yip Yan-wing (M.Div.)

I am grateful to God for blessing me with a team of good fellow-students and sojourners during my seminary days.
I have counted their encouragement and admonishment to keep me going through all the difficulties.
God allowed me to experience difficulties so that I could learn first hand the sufficiency of God’s grace.
God gave me good teachers to show me how to be a good minister putting God’s word into action.
In His wisdom, God gave me a loving, supportive family to undergird me as I prepared to follow my calling.
I am resolved to lean on God as I seek to be His faithful servant and minister.

Lee Tin-wai (M.Div.)

Through these three years of learning, God has allowed me to see that I am weak and of no use.
What is worse is that I know not how to depend on Him.
The love and concern from President Cho, my teachers, and fellow students have enabled me to see the grace of my Heavenly Father.
Handing in the very last assignment, there was an unspeakable dismay in my heart.
For I and the Seminary with fellow students have nourished a profound sentiment which I cannot find words to express!

Ng Shuk-wah (M.Div.)

“If what we do is in God’s will and according to His purpose, everything is possible. Yet even if it is not His will, we can still experience our God’s guidance and unfathomable grace.”
I will keep in mind God’s gracious kindness, the instruction of my teachers, the loving care from my family, and the company of co-walkers.
May the voice of thanksgiving resound in my heart all my life!
“He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6: 8)

Wong Wing-chi (M.Div.)

Thank God for His grace in leading me to receive training through President Cho, my teachers, my fellow students, and the seminary staff.
He has taught me to imitate Christ, to be His disciple, and to serve His sheep. Pray that the Lord protects and purifies my heart and my mind, making me an unashamed workman of God.
In everything I do and think, by word of mouth or by life example, I can be Christ’s witness and give glory to God the Father.

Yeung Nok-ki (M.Div.)

It could only be through God's grace that I could return to my dear alma mater to further my studies in 2008.

As for my knowledge, I can testify that these recent five years have given me new insight into the Bible and expanded my theology.

In regard to my life as God's servant, I have come to accept my human limitations while at the same time I now know that God sustains me and empowers me through His bountiful grace.

As for the next stage of my ministry, I plan to incorporate all that I have learned in these five years into my service in the churches where God will send me.

Tsui Kwok-leung (M.Div.)

Here are my thoughts as I am about to graduate from the Seminary.

I have been a seminary student and I am resolved to continue doing theology all my life.

I will soon be a minister and I dedicate myself to preach the gospel throughout my life.

I am grateful to God for calling me to embark upon the voyage of Christian ministry.

I am indebted to my teachers for their wholehearted guidance. I thank my fellow students, my family, and the churches where I did my practicum for encouraging me in my learning.

My goals in the next ten years are as follows:

Preach one hundred sermons for God's glory;

Lead one hundred people to Christ;

Shepherd a generation (ten years) of Christian believers who can lead a vibrant Christian life.

God's way is most beautiful.

I submit myself to God and strain toward what is ahead!

Yip Yuen-cheong (M.Div.)

Thank God I am now able to graduate.

I must say that it has never been easy for me to further my studies while taking a full time job.

Still, through the course of my studies, the Lord blessed me, giving me new light and encouragement and increasing my knowledge.

Then too, we students have supported one another, sharing and encouraging one another.

May the Lord "establish the work of our hands for us yes, establish the work of our hands" (Psalm 90: 17).

Law Tai-ho (Advanced Diploma in Pastoral Counseling)

Thank God that I successfully completed my Master in the Pastoral Counseling Program that lasted for several years.

Once again, I am grateful to be a student in the Seminary where I have been accepted, guided, and respected.

I must also thank my wife and daughter for their support and prayers.

Most important of all, I have experienced God's abundant grace.

All glory be to God!

Cheng Kwan-yip (M.P.C.)

Thank God for leading me into HKBTS to receive training in pastoral counseling from which I benefit a lot!

The program has enabled me to increase my self-understanding and enhanced my self-confidence.

It has also helped me to build up the congregation at my church, enabling them to grow in their spiritual lives.

I hope that God will continue to use HKBTS to train up more workers for His kingdom!

Tam Kwan-lai (M.P.C.)

I like the ten coniferous pines in our campus.

The appearance of these trees seems not to have changed but they have in fact grown and changed daily.

We must remember that such beauty and orderliness hinges on the gardener's regular trimming.

In these three years, we as students have been tended and trimmed by our teacher gardeners.

They have been whole-hearted in their effort to tend to our growth and change.

Lo Suk-han (M.C.S.)

I have studied in HKBTS for three years, making my way through strong winds and heavy rain.

Through days of laughter and tears, I have experienced God's endless grace.

Thank God for my classmates. I always had great fun with them.

Thank God for the teachers whose extraordinary wisdom has made my seminary life both warm and rich.

Now I have embarked upon my ministry.

Deep in my heart I know that HKBTS will always be the warmest home!

My classmates will also be my soul mates throughout my life!

Shi Qi (M.C.S.)

I have found that leaving my ministry to study for two years at the Seminary has turned out to be an unforgettable experience.
 My goal has been to know more about God and my fellow human beings.
 There are a lot of outstanding teachers and staff, and many lovely classmates in the Seminary.
 They have painted many sweet memories in my life.
 I have not graduated because the study of theology is a life-long commitment. Who dares to say having “graduated”?
 The purpose of studying theology is to help us further understand the God of trinity and to know more about being disciples of the Lord.
 All this takes a life time to learn.
 The road ahead is still long but there are many fellow sojourners beside me. They are there to confirm the presence of God.

Lau Siu-wing (M.C.S.)

Thank God for leading me to study in HKBTBS.
 I am grateful to my teachers who have instructed me by word and example. May the Lord continue to use me and help me to be a faithful disciple.

Wong Yin-chau (M.C.S.)

I want to thank God for providing for my needs and protecting me during the time of my study.
 I thank Him for providing me with a team of approachable teachers.
 They have welcomed us to participate actively in class discussion and have given us joy in our studies.
 I also praise God for the life witness of our classmates.
 Their serious attitude toward learning and the ministry has inspired and encouraged me.
 I earnestly hope that we will continue to encourage one another to live out God’s truth and to glorify His name.

Lai Wing-yee (M.C.S.)



The Seminary’s sixty-second graduates and the faculty

The Community That Brings Healing to Life

Lee Kar-lo (M.Div.)

HKBTS Has Become My Spiritual Home

I still remember that at the time I came to study at HKBTS, it was with fear and trembling that I joined the orientation for new students. I soon began to worry about joining a camp with a large group of strangers. What was more threatening was that it was a spiritual formation camp. I was extremely reluctant to go. Then, before the camp, President Cho spoke in the chapel to all the new students. He urged us to consider HKBTS to be our second spiritual home. Even though both the Seminary and those around me still seemed to be new and strange to me, I suddenly knew it was a safe place where I would be accepted. At that moment, my heart was touched and warmed by President Cho's words. To someone like me who had been wandering abroad for a few years, a spiritual home was exactly what I was thirsting for at that time. Now as I recall all my days of study, I must say HKBTS is not only a place that has built me up, but it has also become my spiritual home.

Before studying in HKBTS, I often heard people around me say how hard it was to study in a seminary and how busy seminary students always were. It was not until I was really studying here when I began to feel the pressure others had so often complained about. In the early days of studying here, I began to feel that there was a rather wide gap between the actual study life and what I had imagined. Moreover, there was seemingly an endless stream of class assignments. I was tempted to throw up my hands and quit. However, my senior schoolmates kept on encouraging me to stay. They shared with me how they too found the path hard but had managed to survive.

After studying for a year in much confusion, I began to draw on my past of God's abundant grace. Sometimes I thought that I had no strength to continue but I soon discovered that God had already carried me through. "Your strength will equal your days." I came to realize that it was God who led me to study in the Seminary and I could trust Him to provide me sufficient strength and wisdom to manage. I have been able to reclaim my faith to deal with my discouragement. Under God's leadership, I have managed to complete three years of study.



Spiritual sojourners (first from right is Kar-lo)

An Impressive Experience: The Demolition and Reconstruction of Life

To me, in these three years, the experience that impresses me most is the demolition and reconstruction of my life. In the past, I had worked in a full time ministry post. Because of this, I often felt that my state of mind was utterly different from fellow students. At first, I had few expectations. This was because I had left my ministry field with hurt and brokenness. I longed to find in the seminary a place to take a rest and to experience God's healing. I needed to allow God to re-organize my life and put me back on the road again.

Now as I look back, I realized it was God who was encouraging and keeping me through the teachers and fellow students who stood by me. God also reminds me of something significant through a picture. In my first year at the spiritual formation camp, I was walking back to the camp site after a time of silent meditation. At that moment God showed me clearly that I was not alone. In fact He made it known to me that He had called many of His sons and daughters to walk beside me. Soon after I began to study in the Seminary, I had no idea why my senior fellow students were showing me a particular concern. They often offered me help and encouragement through many small but practical deeds. I see now how God was using the kind deeds of this group of small angels to show me I was loved and cared for.

A Life-Healing Community

When I began studying in the Seminary, one of my deepest hopes was to find spiritual sojourners. I am grateful to God that He did in fact prepare such spiritual friends for me. In my class, I found many good fellow students and friends. In this community of love, I had the courage to open up to them my wounds and scars, past failures and dark corners of my life. It was through their faithful presence, listening, sharing, and encouragement that my wounds were bound up so they could be healed. It was this kind of strength of love that allowed me to renew my strength and faith in the Lord. I really need much healing and renewal to run the race on the path of ministry ahead.

I come to experience first hand that HKBTS is a disciple community that is a life-healing community. Through the mutual love within this community, God has allowed us to experience healing of our souls little by little and to move beyond our past brokenness with hope and courage. We can then begin to see ourselves, our lives and our ministry again from God's perspective!

His Thoughts Are Higher Than My Thoughts

God also uses many small life episodes to instruct me in the lessons of life. I remember that time when I was about to have my church practicum. I was depressed not to have been assigned any practicum for that summer. Then I voiced this out in my practicum small group. The responses from the fellow students and supervisor greatly encouraged me,

reminding me that every experience in life can be seen within the bigger framework of God's will. He will teach me different lessons. When I was waiting to be assigned a church practicum that summer, I came to realize that it was God who was preparing this experience especially for me. It was He who would intervene into my life and ministry. Having gained this understanding I could do nothing but pray, asking God to lead me forward on the way ahead.

I continued to plan and reckon in many ways but to no avail. To my pleasant surprise, it was finally decided that I would have my practicum back to my own mother church. There had been a time when my church was without a pastor and at that particular time, a new pastor had been appointed and had just assumed office. It was all in God's good time. This was the most timely arrangement for me and for my church. In this small but amazing experience, God has once again allowed me to see that His way is higher than my way and his thoughts are higher than my thoughts. After a long wait, I saw clearly that what is most important is not man's reckoning but God's leading. I am thankful to the Lord for casting away my hurts, doubts, and for strengthening my faith through this experience.

Praise the Lord to work in me, a weak and unworthy person! It is His grace that has caused my life to be renewed and changed. It is also His grace, which has caused me to determine to be His servant all my life!

The Spiritual Growth Journey of Walking with God

Yeung Wing-ka (M.Div.)

An Answer That I Could Never Have Imagined

My past three years of seminary life has been a time of spiritual growth and a special journey with God. From this journey, I have come to a deeper understanding of how God works. He works through family support, teachers' teaching, and fellow students' watch. He leads me step by step to be His servants. I am ready to set out to serve God and minister to His people now and throughout my life.



*Wing-ka and his wife,
Sze-ling, and daughter, Wai-yan*

I still remember at the time when I first decided to study in the Seminary, I experienced God's wonderful leadership. At that time I was wondering how to tell my non-Christian parents about my plan to serve God full time. My situation made me perturbed and nervous. I was sure that even if they did not utterly object, they could not possibly understand or support my decision. I had already prepared a series of "contingency plans" in response to the various reactions my parents might have. Who could predict that God's leading would make things turn out so wonderful. Not only did my parents make no objection at all, but they even gave me their full support. They said, "Since you have been active in the church for so many years, it makes sense that you would want to do something for the church. Work hard at your studies!" This was an answer I could never have imagined!

After that, another wonderful thing happened: In a banquet occasion, many relatives came up congratulating me, overtly showing their support for my decision to study at seminary. Later I learned that it was my parents who had told them of my decision. This experience made me understand that God's leading can go beyond any conceivable boundaries. The experience also led me to reflect on how little faith and it also reminded me to renew my confidence in Him as I followed Him. Another wonderful blessing is that my wife, Sze-ling, and her family silently supported me in action so that I was able to experience God's grace again and again. God has continually provided me with grace in these three years, allowing me to keep a balance among my ministry, my family, and my finances. Consequently, I could wholeheartedly devote myself to my seminary studies without any worries. Above all, it is God who has looked after me and has shown mercy to me throughout my seminary studies.

A Concern That Was beyond Our Expectation

When applying to study at the Seminary, I had thought about the practical things I would have to face. They included a radical change in the environment. I needed to resign from my job and to leave my work environment. Also I needed to make changes and adaptations in my living environment. Originally, my wife and I lived in Yuen Long. Due to the long distance apart, I

would find commuting between home and school every morning tiring. Therefore, we intended to move into the Seminary's student quarters. Yet, this idea remained in the back of our minds and we had not yet seriously explored the possibility of living in the student quarters. I supposed that I would wait until the interview session when I could ask more about campus housing. I did feel a bit worried that waiting so late might make moving a bit rushed.

On that day, Sze-ling and I went to the Seminary and met with President Cho, Miss Lo (Dr. Grace Lo, the honorary Dean of Students' Affairs) and other members of the Student Admissions Committee. Besides asking me questions about God's call and my thoughts about ministry, they wanted to know more about my family conditions. I mentioned my concern about living so far from the seminary and the possibility of moving into the student quarters if I was admitted for study. After the interview, despite not yet knowing whether I would be admitted, Miss Lo volunteered to take us to get the forms to apply for housing and explained the details about student housing. I was so impressed by this lady who had just met us but was so concerned about our well-being. We were deeply grateful for the Lord's grace and we learned from her example to serve.

Teacher's Encouragement Helped Release My Mental Burden

This journey to equip myself in theology has not been all plain sailing. Although I was not old enough to be classified as a mature student, I had some of the problems of a "mature student." After all, I found it a big challenge to pick up studying again after I had stopped being a student for so long. In my first semester, I found myself studying archaeology as well as the Bible in the Old Testament class. This came as a complete surprise to me. Facing my first class assignment, I looked over the article and I found it completely incomprehensible. At this point, I was heavy-hearted as I kept asking myself if coming to seminary had been a big mistake. Should I even quit school? All along, I could affirm in so many ways that God had called me and was leading me, yet that moment, my confidence dropped to the very bottom.

Since it was a small group assignment, I was accountable to other group members. Knowing that I belonged to a group, I decided to bit the bullet and

focus my undivided attention on this assignment. I spent day and night using the internet and dictionaries, trying to understand the meaning of the article's words and phrases. As a result, after about three weeks I was finally able to work on my part of the assignment, together with a summary of the text. It was with fear and trembling that I handed in the assignment, still unsure that I had met the teacher's requirements. Now that my work had been completed, I told myself to let go of my worries and insecurities. Later, after we had made our oral presentations, it was time for the teacher to hand back our written reports. All my fears rushed back. Then to my utter surprise, I saw that the teacher had actually given a positive response to my assignment. The teacher went a step further to recognize how hard I had worked. His encouragement was what I so badly needed to help me lift my mental burden and regain my confidence.

My Soul Mates Were Surrounding Me like a Great Cloud of Witnesses

In the subsequent stages of my theological education, my course grades were sometimes high and sometimes low, but the teachers' comments about me were positive. Our teachers have shown us hospitality and acceptance as they have opened their homes to us, played basketball with us, and reached out to us in friendship in the canteen as well as in class. I can only declare that their encouragement and support have helped me survive the hard times of study and filled my heart with intimate sentiments and sweet memories. God has allowed all these positive episodes with my teachers to encourage me and increase my understanding. Although the path of ministry might be tough at times, I could look around me to find fellow company as I persisted in my efforts. I was surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses to cheer me on. Behind it all, I can see that God walks with me and I can recognize countless traces of His guidance and love.

Speaking of warmth and support, I must share about a group of fellow students who have accompanied me in my growth. God has granted me a group of good classmates for me to learn from among them humility and unity.

I remember when we first studied Greek, all the class members were nervous. It was after all a completely strange foreign language to us. Facing a series of tests and examinations with increasing levels of difficulty, we found our scores going from bad to worse. It was not surprising that the whole class became enveloped in a deep fog of melancholy. At that time of crisis, some students volunteered to help other students to do their revision. Others suggested that we gather together to pray before the examination. That way, we could turn our eyes away from the textbooks and hardship for a short time and lift up our eyes in prayers. We needed to remember that it was God who had called us and promised to be with us. We also needed to claim the support of our fellow students in the community.

Besides, I thank God for my fellow students for their desire for peacemaking. Each time, when there was a moment of indecision, every one was willing to submit to a common consensus. That meant they sometimes had to let go of their own interest for the sake of the group's unity. There were also some of our fellow students who showed their kindness by never forgetting the birthdays of other students and our teachers. These students offered birthday cakes and prepared birthday greetings to share at the Seminary. All these efforts of love and support have helped me understand the impact such offers of concern can have on others.

A Stepping Stone for My Future Life of Ministry

The above mentioned experiences together with countless other big and small life episodes constitute the best of my three years at the Seminary. I consider this special time as even a stepping stone for my future ministry life. Through all that I have experienced in this period of my journey of growth, God has taught me that the path of ministry involves more than mere knowledge or ability. Rather, the path of ministry must include a thirst for God and the patience to wait on Him. I have also learned that on the path of ministry, we must also develop an attitude of loving concern and passionate understanding of others. In this way we can truly be Christ's disciples, become His witnesses, and live out lives imbued with faith, hope and love.



After the Opening Convocation, new students, President Cho and the faculty, as well as Dr. George Wilson, Jr., our former president, took a group photo together.

Please Pray for Our Graduates and New Students

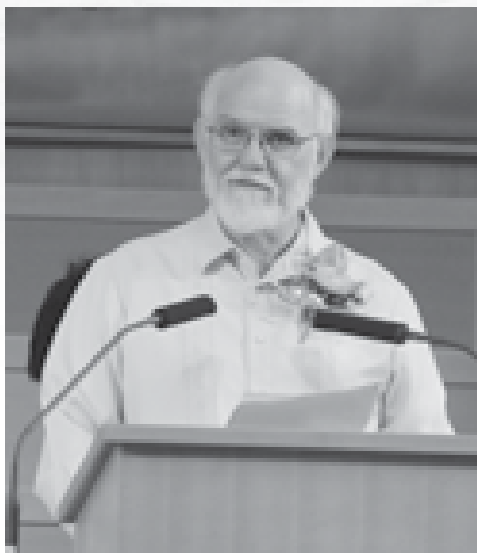
Please join us to **pray for our graduates** that God will lead each one of them to surmount all difficulties and to break through any limitations. Pray that each may become a faithful servant, outstanding yet always humble and pleasing to God. Pray that our Lord will preserve them and use them for service in the world throughout their lives.

Please join us as we **pray for our new students**. May God bestow on each of them faith and strength, helping each of them adapt to a new life of learning. Pray with us that they will learn to support and encourage one another and build community. May they each find on the seminary a place of renewal, growth, and vision.

Come to Know Our New Students

Doctor of Theology:	Chan Chi Fu			
Master of Theology :	Chan Hiu-ki, Kwok Chi-ho, Wong Lai-ming	Chow Chung-sing, Ng Lung-fei,	Kong Hoi-mei, Tang Lai-chi,	Kung Wai-lok, Tsui Kwok-leung,
Master of Divinity :	Au Chi-hong, Lau Sai-choi, Tang Lok-yee, Chan Tin-sang,	Che Sio-sim, Lau Sze-yan, Yuen Lai-wah, Kam Hai-yin,	Cheung Tak-wing, Lee Bo-ming, Ng Chi-lok, Yeung Hin-chung,	Chow Chun-kit, Leung Yiu-ming, Chan Kit-yee, Shi Qi
Bachelor of Theology :	Chan Sze-chung, Lam Yu-yan, Woo Hau-ying,	Cheng Wing-mei, Li Yuen-yuen, Yuen Mei-mui	Hsu Wing-kit, Seto Ka-wing,	Ie Foon, Tsui Siu-ping,
Master of Christian Studies :	Kam Hoi-sek,	Lee Siu-hung,	Pang Mee-yeuk	
Unclassified Students :	Cheung Sau-ming,	Ng Yin-chi,	Lau Siu-wing	

TEFL—A Mission Field Comes to Us



Prof. Jerry E. Juergens

*(HKBTS's Emeritus Professor,
Director of TEFL Program)*

Ten Years' Cultivation: An Alternative Practice of Missions Ministry

Our seminary has experienced a wonderful reversal of roles because a mission field has come to live among us. Over one hundred and fifty thousand Filipinos, mostly women domestic workers, live and work in Hong Kong. Some of these overseas workers have become Christians in Hong Kong. Others were Baptists in the Philippines. In Hong Kong Filipino Baptist Churches members are being raised up and called by God to be leaders in their churches. They need leadership training. Our seminary has joined with the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary in a program of theological education that has enrolled 385 Filipino students in TEFL (Theological Education for Filipino Leaders) over the past ten years. Classes are held in the Mong Kok classrooms of the HKBTS's Applied Theological Education Center (ATEC). Our goal is to provide leadership training for both lay and vocational Baptist leaders. TEFL students serve as leaders in

Filipino Baptist churches in Hong Kong during the years they stay here. Then when they return to the Philippines they will continue to serve God in Baptist Churches there. TEFL serves as a missionary school in training leaders for Filipino Baptist churches both in Hong Kong and the Philippines.

Students Study under Difficult Circumstances for Six or Seven Years

Our students study under difficult circumstances. They work six days a week and often have a fifteen hour work day as domestic workers. On their one day off, they spend half that day in church activities like worship, Bible study, discipleship training, committee work, and outreach. That leaves only four hours each Sunday afternoon and evening available for TEFL class time. In spite of these and other limitations these Filipino Christians are highly motivated and dedicated students who finish reading and writing assignments each week. Sometimes reading by flashlight in their bunk bed, they fall asleep well after midnight only to have to get up at six o'clock the next day. If they want to be a full time TEFL student, they must study every week throughout the year without a summer holiday.

The TEFL program began as a training program for lay leaders who would receive a one year Certificate or a two year Diploma in Christian lay leadership. Soon we realized that many of the students felt the call of God to serve as vocational leaders in churches both in Hong Kong and the Philippines. We then opened the Bachelor of Theology and the Bachelor of Ministry degrees for our students, and we expect to have our first Bachelor graduates next April, 2014. As the students are often limited by their employers' control, they are not able to study full time. That means that for some of them it will take many years to complete the requirements for each degree. If a student could take two courses each week for forty-eight weeks each year, it would take four and one half

years for them to finish the requirements for the Bachelor degree. Since there are often periods when students cannot take courses, almost all students will take six to seven years to complete the Bachelor degree.

A Team of Teachers Tiling for Their Students

Teachers of the TEFL program are usually local Filipino pastors, or their wives who have received theological training in the Philippines. Two hour classes are held on Sunday afternoon and evening from 4 to 6 pm and 6 to 8 pm. This means pastors who are only able to see their members on Sunday and must do all church activities in this short period before rushing to Mong Kok to teach a TEFL class for two hours.

An exception to our use of Filipino pastors has been the Church Music Program that we began in 2012. All but one of the teachers in this music program are local Baptist Chinese trained musicians. Without the assistance of these dedicated Chinese Baptist musicians the music program would not be possible. Since few students have access to a piano that are essential to music training, each student is provided with a fold-up electronic keyboard piano for learning the basics in music. These pianos are small and light and can be easily carried to and from the TEFL classes in ATEC. These portable pianos were made possible by the generous donation of a Hong Kong Chinese Baptist supporter of TEFL. Eighteen students will complete the Certificate in Church Music program at the end of this year and will participate in our graduation ceremony in April, 2014.

The Church Choir Festival: Celebrating Unity While Enjoying Fellowship Together

Since until this year, Filipino Baptists have not had an Association of Filipino Baptist Churches, TEFL has served as the only Baptist organization connecting Filipinos in Hong Kong. The Association was formed this year. Because TEFL has tried to unite Filipino Baptists in Hong Kong, we have sponsored a Church Choir Festival composed of Filipino church choirs in Hong Kong. The Festival has been held every two years, rotating years with TEFL graduation ceremonies. These music meetings have been times of worship through music, celebration of the unity of Filipino Baptists, and the enjoyment of fellowship among the churches. For many smaller churches the Festival has been an inspiration as it allows their members to participate in the Festival held at the Tsim Sha Tsui Baptist Church where the auditorium is full of singing Baptists.



TEFL Third Graduation 2009



Old Testament class and the Passover Seder



Church Music Piano Class and the fold-up electronic keyboard pianos

TEFL has tried to become a "paperless school." In order to do this, we have decided that all students should use computer notebooks. By the generous donation of individual Chinese Baptists in Hong Kong we were able to purchase enough notebooks so that each student could have an assigned computer for use throughout each course. All TEFL course textbooks are uploaded onto the seminary's web page and then downloaded by the students. Students are able to complete the interactive sections of each text lesson, and they then report these responses to the teacher by means of email attachments. Teachers can review the work of students each week and respond with each student by email. Teachers may add notes and do textbook editing and add hyperlinks for students to do research on the internet. Since we cannot provide a lending library for our students' use, the use of the internet for research becomes an important learning tool and a useful tool for ministry. The sharing of reports with fellow students enables ongoing communication between active learners in each class. About one half of our students enter TEFL without any prior computer experience. Computer usage is one of the ways TEFL widens the horizons of Filipinos in Hong Kong.

The Door God Has Opened Is Immeasurably More Than We Ask or Imagine

There have been four TEFL graduation ceremonies beginning in 2005 and occurring every two years. Through the year 2011, there have been 82 students who have completed the requirements for the different programs. We anticipate that, on April 5, 2014 at our fifth graduation, there will be twenty-eight graduates with four students receiving the first Bachelor degrees. In addition, there are eighteen students who will be our first students to receive the Certificate in Church Music. That will bring our anticipated graduation number in 2014 to forty-six, our largest graduating group so far. At each graduation ceremony the President of HKBTS and the Philippine Baptist Seminary have jointly awarded the diplomas and degrees. Such cooperation symbolizes the joint effort of both seminaries in the ministry of TEFL.

Although TEFL is largely a program of theological education for and taught by Filipinos, it is an integral part of the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary. The Director and Registrar/Secretary have offices in the Sai O Campus. The budget is integrated with the seminary funding. While student tuition, sometimes paid by the student's church, is

able to cover the cost of teacher honorarium, other expenses are met through the Seminary budget and the generous love offerings of friends of TEFL. We are grateful to those Chinese Baptists who are faithful supporters of the Theological Education for Filipino Leaders.

When the mission field comes to you, how can you help TEFL train leaders for Filipino Baptist Churches? First, pray for TEFL and the thousands of Filipinos in Hong Kong. Second, help your own domestic helper to be a student in TEFL. Encourage her and give her time to study and lead in their Baptist church. Third, make a donation to TEFL as a supporter. God has opened doors for missions that you may have never dreamed of. No one is certain how long the overseas worker program will last in Hong Kong. But being a missionary always involves being alert to opportunities God gives to us to reach people "while it is still day." God has brought the mission field to us. Will you join us in God's mission to Filipinos in Hong Kong?



Rev Borlado, Systematic Theology Class teacher



The Church Music Class

Academic Affairs News

Opening Convocation 2013-14

The Opening Convocation of the new school term 2013-14 was held on August 27. President Cho preached a sermon, "A Forgiving Community" that is based on Matthew 18: 12-35. He also used the time to share his vision for the Seminary's future development. He put forth the Seminary's plan to strengthen the training of pastoral care and Christian education.

Opening Convocation Lecture

On August 28, Rev. Brian Lam spoke on the topic "Transition, Transformation, and True Community: A Spirituality of Mentoring." Rev. Brian Lam is Chaplain of the Seminary, Director of Field Education, and Lecturer of Practical Theology. His lecture explores the process of change and how we can help others grow through asking questions.

Faculty and Staff Movement

Dr. Eric Kwong, Associate Professor of Practical Theology (World Religions) will be on his Sabbatical leave from August to December.

Dr. Wong Fook-kong has been promoted to Professor of Old Testament beginning September 1. Being an outstanding teacher and scholar, Dr. Wong has served at the Seminary for 14 years. During his tenure here, he has made an outstanding contribution in nurturing students and through his considerable publications.

Baptist Heritage Week

The Baptist Heritage Week was held from October 8 to 10 with the theme "Baptist Faith and Polity." The three-day lectures were delivered by three of our professors. Dr. Nathan Ng, Associate Professor of Christian Thought (Church History), spoke on the topic, "The Independence and Interdependence of Local Churches: Baptist Concept and Practice on Church Relationship." Dr. Vincent Lau, Assistant Professor of Christian Thought (Christian Ethics),

spoke on the topic, "Baptist Practice of Church-State Relations: A Historical and Theological Reflection of Religious Liberty and Church-State Separation." Dr. Eric Kwong, Associate Professor of Practical Theology (World Religions), spoke on the topic, "Transformation and Controversy of the Formation of Baptist Missionary Organizations: A Model of the Baptist Upholding of Voluntary Principle,"

Full Time Ministry Seminar

A Full Time Ministry Seminar was held on October 26. Brothers and sisters in Christ who want to understand full time ministry were the target audience. On that day, the seminary offered an opportunity for participants to have an in-depth reflection on God's call and to know more about the Seminary's different study programs.

Joint Programs Graduation Ceremony

The graduation ceremony of the Seminary for our Main Program, Lay Theological Education Program, and Distance Education Program was held on November 17, Sunday, at 3:30 pm at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium. We were honored to have Dr. Jeff Iorg, President of Golden Gate Theological Seminary, deliver the graduation message. Many church pastors and ministers, deacons and church leaders, and brothers and sisters joyfully attended the ceremony.

Student Recruitment of the Seminary's Main Programs for Spring 2013-14

Student recruitment for the spring term 2013-14 of the seminary's main programs has already commenced. The following programs are offered: The Master of Divinity (7-year part time), the Master of Divinity (Further Studies; 5-year part time), the Master of Christian Studies (5-year part time), the Master of Theology, and the Doctor of Theology. The deadline for application is November 29 and the spring term will begin on January 13, 2014.

Admissions and Registration Office

Mandy Chung (*Registrar*)

I am happy to report the statistics of the Seminary's student admissions for the academic year 2013-14. We have a total of 42 new students: 1 in the Doctor of Theology Program, 9 in the Master of Theology Program, 16 in the Master of Divinity Program, 3 in the Master of Christian Studies Program, 10 in the Bachelor of Theology Program, and 3 non-classified students. I pray for this group of students that our Heavenly Father will grant them grace and blessing in their studies in the new school term and that He will help them overcome all the difficulties as they adapt to their new learning environment. I earnestly hope that they will quickly immerse themselves in the HKBTS family where we learn to trust in our Heavenly Father and grow in our lives together.

The preparatory work for the beginning of a new school term is not always easy. However, we thank the Heavenly Father for His preparation and provision in every way so that we could solve some of the problems that might cause conflict. Before the school term, I had many opportunities to meet with the new students and I could feel their enthusiasm and their love for the Seminary. The Spiritual Formation Camp, which was held before the beginning of the school term, had not been affected by the number 8 typhoon signal and was successfully concluded. I was touched by all these, fully aware that it must be the Lord's grace!

This year's Full Time Ministry Seminar will be held on October 26 (Saturday). It is designed for those brothers and sisters who seek to serve God full time or those committed to pursue seminary studies. The content of the seminar was rich and included the following sessions: a class lecture, testimonies by alumni and seminary students, talks with professors, share and pray with seminary students, a sermon message, song of praise, and an introduction of HKBTS's study programs. Those interested to join may call 2768 5130 for inquiry or log on the Seminary's webpage: www.hkbts.edu.hk for detail.

Efforts for the 2013-14 spring term student recruitment will continue. Due to our curriculum design, those students admitted in the spring term can only be

part-time students. For further enquiries, you may call us at 2768 5130 or log on our webpage.

We welcome church pastors, ministers, and brothers and sisters to audit courses offered in the 2013-14 spring term. Please take note of the important information to be released in early December on our webpage.

Lay Theological Education Department

Toto Choi (*Associate Director*)

The Special Force of LTED

Each of the study programs offered by the Seminary's Lay Theological Education Department is especially designed for all lay Christians. We sincerely appreciate the depth of our students' aspiration. It is not easy for them to spare the time beyond their busy life schedule to pursue further studies. Yet behind all the programs, subjects, activities and meetings, there is a group of people who likewise have busy schedules but they still joyfully dedicate themselves to serve the students. They are the Special Force of LTED, which includes the Committee members of our study programs, adjunct lecturers, speakers at topical seminars, and small group supervisors.

LTED has many different programs of study and we invite different people to be honorary committee members to contribute their professional advice in order to plan and assist the development and functioning of the study programs. Apart from the regular class lessons requiring lecturers to teach, there are a number of learning activities also requiring instructors' support. For example, in our Women Theological Training Program, there are support groups and growth groups that require adjunct instructors and professional counselors to lead the group sessions. The Youth Ministry Program has to organize an annual camping activity, which requires instructors with relevant knowledge and experience to be in charge. Another example, students in the Elderly Ministry Program and the Youth Ministry Program are required to have practicum. Each small group requires a supervisor to assess students' performance in the practicum sessions. Going on a short-term mission trip is crucial for students

in the Mission Ministry Diploma Program. Students are expected to meet with the program committee members to receive an overall appraisal of their performance that are based on their reports. Together they review students' experience and learning opportunities from the mission trip. Besides the different programs and activities mentioned above, LTED also organizes various kinds of topical seminars. These seminars conducted by pastoral workers or professionals can serve to enrich our students' knowledge and to increase their understanding of various Christian ministries.

In the past school year, we offered an average of 22 courses, 26 topical lessons, 12 small groups, and 3 topical seminars. You can probably imagine how great the demand for lecturers is. As always, we rely greatly on the participation of the Special Force. They are our best ministry partners and the strongest pillars of each of our programs.

We are truly grateful for God's grace. Although the demand for more lecturers is great, we know from our experience that God continues to prepare teachers and send them to us at the right time. God's faithfulness is a perfect witness of His affirmation and guidance of the work of LTED. Many adjunct lecturers are pastoral workers who have walked shoulder to shoulder with us over the years, in support of theological education for lay people. Due to an unforeseen situation, just before the new school term we had to make alternative arrangements for our lecturers at short notice. After twists and turns involving much liaison work and shifting, God finally provided us a solution in His good time. The result was that a new lecturer came on board. We thank God for the new lecturer and for further expanding our Special Force. Despite the difficulty of finding lecturers, we are truly grateful that each year we continually have new members of the Special Force joining our teaching team.

May God bless all our teachers. Indeed, many of them have continued to be LTED's close friends, teaching and leading student groups. Their enthusiasm in serving the Lord has made them good models for our students. Although some of the instructors are able to help us conduct a topical seminar only once or help us occasionally, we are convinced that their labor and contribution will be pleasing and acceptable to God.

When compared with educational organizations in the job market, the honorarium our teachers receive is too little to repay them and reciprocate for their time and effort. Nevertheless, just knowing that students are enlightened and edified is our teachers' greatest reward. May the fruit of our teachers' work be manifested in our students' lives! This is our earnest prayer.

Distance Education Program

Chow Pui-shan (Director)

The DEP's Fifteen Anniversary Thanksgiving and Sharing Meeting was held on October 19 with the theme, "Thus far the LORD has helped us." That day, many DEP alumni, students, tutors, staff workers, brothers and sisters from partnership organizations and churches were present. In the meeting, a diploma program student was the pianist while the program tutor led the hymn singing session. Students in the "special training project" for the hearing impaired signed a hymn along with their tutor signing the words. A student in our "Onesimus Training Project" for prison inmates shared his testimony in a letter and one of our staff workers read out his heartfelt wishes for him on a recorded sound track. A graduate told of the ways he put what he had learned into practice in his church ministry and shared his happy, rewarding experience. Students presently taking the certificate and diploma programs shared both the difficulties they encountered and the joy in their studies. They then imparted ideas of successful learning to encourage the new students. The meeting was followed by a time of tea and refreshment, a display of the teaching materials of the various study programs, and a time of photo-taking. Due to the particular mode of learning, it is generally hard for tutors and students to get together or even for students to meet one another. This was a precious opportunity for us to get to know one another in a relaxed atmosphere so that we could exchange warm greetings and testify to the grace of God.

On November 17, DEP would have 40 graduates participating in our Joint Graduation Ceremony held for us, the Main Program, and the Lay Theological Education

Program. What so special about this year is that a majority of our graduating students are from far off places, either in Mainland China or from overseas. They are now in the process of visa application in the hope that they can make a special trip to Hong Kong to attend the graduation ceremony. We pray for this group of graduating students, asking our gracious Lord to continue guiding them as they grow spiritually. We pray also that what they have learned can become a blessing to others and the church.

Student Union

Lam Lai-yi (*Chairperson*)

The Student Union's Mission Department and Sai Wan Ho Baptist Church jointly organized the "Yingde Exchange." We set off before students' summer practicum, began visiting churches in Yun Ling Zhen, Han Guang Zhen, Yinghong Town and Yingde Town. We helped conduct worship services, meetings, and children's ministry in different churches and led in choral presentation with our graduating students delivering sermon messages. We also had the opportunity to hear the Chairperson of the Three Self Patriotic Movement Committee of the China Christian Council share his thoughts. Thank God that in the course of the journey, not only did we serve local brothers and sisters, but we also came to know more about China.

As a new school term was about to begin, we students anticipated the coming of the Spiritual Formation Camp. This year's theme of the camp was "Before Here and Now." In the three-day camp, we looked back over our former selves and prepared ourselves to set off on the path to the future. As for the new students, they would need to undergo an identity change as they move from their professions to study at the Seminary while older students could expect renewal of their lives. As for the graduating students, they would soon become ministers. Overall, each of us would face changes in the different stages of our lives.

In the camp we first had a time to welcome new students. Through activities we broke the interpersonal

barriers and introduced our teachers to the new students. Then, each day a teacher delivered a message on topics including the camp's theme, "Before Here and Now," "From Poverty ... to Affluence," and "A Community That Is Diversified But United As One," which is the theme for this year's Student Union.

As the school term began, each department of the Student Union had prepared different activities. For example, the Mission Department had meetings on the topics, "A Sharing Meeting on Mission to the Muslim" and "A Sharing Meeting on Triad Society Ministry." Such topics can provide our students with a multi-dimensional understanding of the different communities where we may eventually serve. In order to build closer relationships between teachers and students, the Daily Living Department organized the "Mid-Autumn Festival Dinner Party" and co-organized the "Faculty and Students Outing" with the Seminary. These events provide teachers and students with more opportunity to know one another as we seek to build a unified community.

Furthermore, the Student Union planned the Parents' Day for October 20. On that day, we set aside time to give our guests a guided tour around the campus. This was followed by an evangelistic meeting and a special dinner. The purpose of the Parents' Day is to let students' family members to get to know the Seminary better. Hopefully this experience inspires our students' family members to offer a wholehearted support to our students as they aspire to become full time ministers.



Rev. Mok Shu-kin shared the Triad Society Ministry

Faculty News

On July 22, **Dr. Andres Tang**, Professor of Christian Thought (Theology and Culture), spoke on the topic "Flowing Downstream: The Sub-culture of the Middle Class and Spiritual Formation." The seminar was organized by CProspective. His article, "Interpreting Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Theology of Sociality through the Lens of Confucianism Humanism," appeared in the book, *Bonhoeffer and Interpretive Theory: Essays on Methods and Understanding*, ed. Peter Frick (Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2013).

Visitors

- Ms. Wang Jia Wei, a visiting scholar and professor from Nanjing Union Theological Seminary stayed in our campus from August 1 to 27.
- Dr. George Wilson, Jr., our former president, visited the Seminary on September 4 to deliver a message on the topic, "Religious Education."

Hospitality: Committee Members of Alumni Association Invited New Students to Lunch



On September 25, alumnus Rev. Ho Ka-lun and several committee members of the HKBTS Alumni Association returned to the alma mater. While here, they invited new students to have lunch with them and introduced the Alumni Association to them. This gave our new students the opportunity to get acquainted with and learn from their seniors.

Alumni Association News

- **Alumni Picnic (November 25)**
This year's Alumni Picnic was a Cruise along the Sai Kung seashore. The Alumni Association extends an invitation to all the Seminary's teachers and students to join them.
- **HKBTS and the Alumni Association co-organized the Christmas Worship Service (Dec. 23)**
This is the day of joyful celebration as our alumni return to their alma mater for a homecoming reunion. On this joyful day, all the Seminary's faculty, staff and students will offer our worship and praise to God. It is hoped that all our alumni will set aside their time to join us on this annual event.

/ Lay Theological Education Department News

Student Recruitment 2013-14

Application for enrolment into the following programs (Teaching is conducted in Cantonese)

Master of Christian Studies Program (Major in Christian Communication)

Aim: To enable lay Christians with university education to integrate their Christian faith with communication theories. The program will allow them to engage in theological reflection on the current conditions and the social situation. As a result students can communicate the Christian message more effectively.

Bachelor / Diploma / Certificate of Christian Studies Program

The Christian Studies Program is a part time evening program. Students can apply directly to study in the following programs.

Certificate programs : Certificate Program of Christian Studies, Certificate Program of Music Ministry

Diploma Programs : Diploma Program of Biblical Studies, Diploma Program of Music Ministry, Diploma Program of Care and Counseling Ministry

Bachelor Programs : Students can choose to major in Biblical Studies, Music Ministry, Care and Counseling Ministry

After completing the Certificate / Diploma program, students can exempt all passed subjects if they enter the Diploma / Bachelor Degree Program.

Throughout the year, the above programs admit part-time students. Each August these students may apply for full student status.

Youth Ministry Diploma Program

To provide systematic training in ministerial skills and theology for those Christians who want to understand the youth community and also for those who want to join the youth ministry. The program can be completed in approximately two and a half years. Classes meet every Monday evening beginning April 2013. **The program is open for student admission around the year.**

Program content includes these topics: Be a Good Leader, Preparation and Practice of Worship, and Games and Adventure.

Courses offered in the October to December quarter of the Women Theological Training Diploma / Certificate Programs (auditing is also welcome)

Course Name	Lecturer	Venue	Date / Time
Book Study: Leviticus	Rev. Chung Chi-kwong	Applied Theological Education Center	Oct. 15 – Dec. 3 (Tue, 8 lessons) 9:30 am – 12:00 nn
Light up Other People's Lives: Helping the Bereaved	Ms. Wong Yuk-mei	Mongkok Education Center	Nov. 5 – Dec. 10 class suspended on Nov. 12 (Tue, 5 lessons) 9:30am – 12:00 nn
Book Study (O.T.): Ecclesiastes	Rev. Au Pak-ping	Mongkok Education Center	Oct. 4– Nov. 22 (Fri, 8 lessons) 9:30 am – 12:00 nn

Courses offered in the October to December quarter of the Lay Theological Education Training Program

Course name	Lecturer	Venue	Date / Time
Church Music Ministry for the Elderly	Rev. Lee Muk-yi Guest Lecturer: Mr. Hui Chi-yin	Mongkok Education Center	Oct. 8 – Nov. 26 (Tue, 8 lessons) 7:15 – 9:45 pm
New Testament Survey	Ms. Chan Hop-ying	Mongkok Education Center	Class A: Oct. 9 – Nov. 27 (Wed. 8 lessons) 7:15 – 9:45 pm Class B: Oct. 10 – Nov. 28 (Thu. 8 lessons) 7:15 – 9:45 pm
Evangelistic Ministry for the Elderly	Ms. Lam Yim-fong	Mongkok Education Center	Oct. 10 – Nov. 28 (Thu. 8 lessons) 7:15– 9:45 pm
The Christian Mission of the Church	Rev. Chan Che-keung	Mongkok Education Center	Oct 24 – Dec. 12 (Thu, 8 lessons) 7:15 – 9:45 pm

The Preparation and Practice of the Worship Service	Rev. Joseph Chi	Mongkok Education Center	Dec. 5 – Jan. 23 (Thu) & Jan. 27, 2014 (Mon) (8 lessons) 7:00 – 10:00 pm
Spiritual Formation in the Psalms	Ms. Lai Ka-yin	Mongkok Education Center	Oct. 11 – Nov. 29 (Fri, 8 lessons) 7:15 – 9:45 pm

Enquiries and enrolment: 2711 2552 Email: ltedinfo@hkbt.edu.hk Webpage: www.hkbt.edu.hk/lted

Tuition Locations: Mongkok Education Center 10/F, Chung Kiu Commercial Building, 47-51 Shan Tung Street, Mong Kok
Applied Theological Education Center 8/F., Christian Building, 56 Bute Street, Mong Kok

/ Distance Education Program

Exploring Truth Reflecting upon Faith Equipping for Ministry

Student Recruitment for March 2014

The new diploma programs will begin in March 2014 while the certificate programs can begin at any time

Correspondence 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 leavers with the recommendation from their church pastors	March and September	March semester : Hong Kong: February 10 Overseas: January 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.			September semester : Hong Kong: August 10 Overseas: July 10
Higher Diploma in Biblical Studies / Christian Studies programs	Further studies for students having completed the diploma program	Students completing the diploma program with recommendation from their church pastors		
Certificate in N.T./O.T. Studies Programs	Introductory programs in biblical studies, leading students to systematically study a specific book of the Bible	All are welcome	Register at any time. Concessions in fees are available. All are welcome to begin at any time	

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	Description: * Adopting a new on-line platform, known as Moodle * For those interested in studying the Bible, the program's contents are identical with those in the correspondence program. Features: * Course work is received and handled through the platform on the webpage to ensure efficiency and time saving. * Students can read learning materials and course work on the web page and download them.. * A student may upload completed course work for the tutor. The tutor can then mark it and make suitable comments. * Students can download the marked course work with the tutor's comments. They can also search for program information.	* Students can begin at any time. They may apply for fee concessions. * Trial study of the on-line program is welcome: http://elearning@hkbt.edu.hk
On-line Certificate in Old Testament Studies Program		

For enquiries, call 2768 5105, email to deinfo@hkbt.edu.hk, log on the DEP webpage www.hkbt.edu.hk/dist.

--- **Pastoral Continuing Education Center** ---

Courses and talks offered from September to December

Course / Talk	Lecturer	Date	Time
How to Minister to the Poor?	Mr. Tsang Wing-keung	Sep 16	2:00 – 5:00 pm
Doing Ministry with Church Music	Dr. Angel Chan	Sep 23, 30	9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Minister and Outreach to a New Generation of the Retiree	Ms. Wendy Wong	Oct 7	2:00 – 5:00 pm
The Ideal King in the Book of Samuel: Messiah	Dr. Tony Sher	Oct 21	2:00 - 5:00 pm
The Changing Youth Phenomenon and the Ministry to Our Youth	Prof. Sammy Chiu	Oct 28, Nov. 4, 11	2:00 - 5:00 pm
Elementary Training for Individual Growth	Mrs. Agnes Ip	Nov 18 Nov 25	9:30 am - 4:30 pm 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Study of the Didache	Dr. Clement Shum	Dec 30	10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Fee concessions: 1. A 10% discount for graduates from the Seminary's degree programs, ministers of Baptist churches, students taking degree programs in our Lay Theological Education Department; 2. a 20% discount for cardholders of HKBTS Alumni Association members; 3. a 50% discount for full time seminary students. Beginning this quarter, there is an extra fee concession for early birds and on-line registration.

Detailed information of each of the courses is available on our webpage, please log on www.hkbts.edu.hk/pce. Application forms can be downloaded from the Seminary's website or use "on-line registration."

For enquiries, you can contact us at 2768 5179 by phone, 2630 1391 by fax or pce@hkbts.edu.hk by email.

--- **Publication News** ---

Dr. Nathan Ng, Associate Professor of Christian Thought (Church History) has written a book. Dr. Ng's book, *Living out the Truth: Spiritual Pursuit of Martin Luther and John Calvin*, will be published in December. This book is the third volume in the Seminary's Christian Spiritual Theology series. The focus of Dr. Ng's book is the spiritual pursuits of these two giants in the Reformation. Dr. Ng is careful to strike a balance between scholarship and the interest of the general reading public. The author's discussion of Luther and Calvin is multidimensional yet concise, covering the basic without omitting the essentials. Dr. Ng concludes by pointing out that they are both alike and dissimilar in their spiritual development. Members of today's Chinese church can find in these two great souls inspiring role models and enlightening guidance for their spiritual formation.



The Seminary's academic bi-annual publication, *Hill Road Journal* (issue 32) will be published in December with the theme "Baptist Faith and Polity. There are 5 theme articles: "The Distinctiveness of Baptist: A Sketch of the Primary and Basic Insights," (Andres Tang), "Baptist Local Church Polity: Responsibility under the Lordship of Christ," (Jerry Juergens), "Baptist Practice of Church-State Relations: A Historical and Theological Reflection of Religious Liberty and Church-State Separation," (Vincent Lau), "The Independence and Interdependence of Local Churches: Baptist Concept and Practice of Church Relationship," (Nathan Ng), "Transformation and Controversy of the Formation of Baptist Missionary Organizations: A Model of the Baptist Upholding of Voluntary Principle," (Eric Kwong). In addition, there are several miscellaneous articles and book reviews. The books are available at local Christian bookstores. For enquiries or subscription, call 2768 5168.



Student Recruitment for Main Programs Spring 2013-14

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 of Application for Admission

November 29, 2013

First Day of Spring Term

January 13, 2014

Webpage: www.hkbts.edu.hk (go to “admissions” for details)

For enquiries, call: 2768 5130

Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary Joint Programs Graduation Ceremony 2013

The Board of Trustees of the
Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary Limited
Requests the honor of your presence
at the Joint Programs Graduation Ceremony 2013

at 3:30 pm

on the seventeenth of November (Sunday)

in the year Two Thousand and Thirteen

at Queen Elizabeth Stadium

18, Oi Kwan Road, Wan Chai

Financial Report
General Fund, 1 July - 31 August 213

	HK\$
Income	4,992,102.81
Expenditure	<u>(4,966,044.66)</u>
Surplus / (Deficit)	<u><u>26,058.15</u></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

☐ Education Fund ☐ Others: _____

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

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Donation Methods:

☐ **Crossed cheque** payable to

"Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary"

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

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

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

☐ One-off Donation ☐ Monthly Donation*

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Amount: HK\$ _____ (Credit card donations are denominated in HK\$)

The bank charge for credit card donation will be paid by the Seminary.

* You may inform us to terminate this monthly donation at any time.

- 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 enquiries: Tel : (852) 2715 9511
Fax: (852) 2761 0868

Thank you for your support !

DONORS REPORT FOR JULY 2013

Education Fund (Church / Organization)

九龍國際浸信會	10,174.20
上水浸信會	15,000.00
上環浸信會	5,400.00
土瓜灣浸信會	23,000.00
大埔浸信會	12,000.00
大學浸信會	10,000.00
元朗浸信會	18,500.00
屯門浸信教會	500.00
以馬內利浸信會	4,000.00
尖沙嘴國語浸信會	5,000.00
沙田浸信會	14,000.00
紅磡浸信會	3,500.00
香港(西區)潮語浸信會	5,000.00
香港仔浸信會	14,726.50
香港浸信教會	111,500.00
香港堅尼地城浸信教會	1,200.00
粉嶺浸信會	37,500.00
基磐浸信會	1,500.00
將軍澳浸信會	500.00
深荃浸信會	500.00
富亨浸信會	2,000.00
置富浸信教會	2,000.00
筲箕灣潮語浸信會	25,000.00
銅鑼灣浸信會	3,500.00
廣林浸信會	5,000.00
觀塘浸信會	3,731.00
HKBTS Asso. Alumni of USA & Canada	2,340.00
中國基督教播道會太古城堂	10,000.00
宣道浸信會佐敦堂	5,000.00
基督教四方福音會彩坪堂	1,000.00
基督教宣道會華基堂	1,500.00
基督教粉嶺神召會	20,000.00
基督教華人神召會旺角堂	500.00
啓開基金	300.00
	HK\$ 375,371.70
Chinese Indep. Baptist Church-S. F.	US\$ 540.00

Education Fund (Donor)

Dr. & Mrs Mui Chi Wing David	1,500.00
Vong Hu Choi	2,500.00
方志強	100.00
王紹良	300.00
王群	800.00
白智信伉儷	500.00
朱活平伉儷	300.00
何仲儀	1,000.00
何偉明	200.00
何錦燕	500.00
何譚惠如	1,000.00

吳炳榮伉儷	8,000.00
吳國傑伉儷	500.00
呂志華	1,000.00
李志孝伉儷	3,000.00
招志強伉儷	2,000.00
胡文恩伉儷	500.00
倪承恩	5,000.00
容志賢	500.00
徐詩雅	300.00
曹偉彤	5,000.00
梁廣華伉儷	500.00
梁麗嫦	300.00
莫莊雅	100.00
許錦威	400.00
陳偉倫	200.00
勞家怡	500.00
馮德華	300.00
黃仲麒	300.00
黃華娟	100.00
楊妙珍	700.00
楊謝金玉	2,400.00
葉煥章	300.00
劉永生	300.00
劉建紅	600.00
蔡慧英	200.00
鄧炳光伉儷	1,000.00
黎嘉賢	300.00
盧美娟	1,000.00
薛聲明	1,000.00
龐凌玉珍	1,000.00
羅佩珊	100.00
羅凱慈	500.00
譚嘉敏	500.00
關志偉	100.00
關德華伉儷	140.00
溫祥、黎琬珍	400.00
無名氏	5,000.00
無名氏	4,000.00
無名氏	3,000.00
無名氏	1,000.00
無名氏	1,000.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	400.00
無名氏	300.00
無名氏	300.00
無名氏	200.00
	HK\$ 63,940.00
鍾慕恩	US\$ 100.00

Lay Theological Education Program

杜桂鵬	500.00
張慧雯	1,000.00
陳寶虹	405.00
蔡艷桃	500.00
蕭桂娥	2,000.00
無名氏	220.00
無名氏	200.00
無名氏	100.00
	HK\$ 4,925.00

Distance Education Program

Ernest & Sylvia Ho	1,000.00
何鏡煒伉儷	3,000.00
鄒小寶	500.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	300.00
	HK\$ 5,300.00

Local Filipino Program

九龍國際浸信會	365.00
Po Annabel C.	550.00
Samuel Yip	550.00
張智理伉儷	6,000.00
趙啓迅伉儷	550.00
溫祥、黎琬珍	200.00
	HK\$ 8,215.00

Theological Education for the Hearing Impaired

張智理伉儷	500.00
溫祥、黎琬珍	200.00
	HK\$ 700.00

Scholarship and Bursaries

大學浸信會	HK\$ 4,000.00
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Campus Beautification

黃智惠	HK\$ 2,000.00
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DONORS REPORT FOR AUGUST 2013

Education Fund (Church / Organization)

九龍國際浸信會	14,478.00
大埔浸信會	12,000.00
屯門浸信教會	500.00
以馬內利浸信會	4,000.00
旺角潮語浸信會	5,000.00
紅磡浸信會	3,500.00
香港(西區)潮語浸信會	5,000.00
香港仔浸信會	17,720.55
香港西區浸信會	40,000.00
香港浸信教會	111,500.00
香港聖地地城浸信教會	1,200.00
恩典浸信會	10,000.00
柴灣浸信會	6,000.00
基立浸信會	3,000.00
基督浸信會	1,500.00
將軍澳浸信會	500.00
深荃浸信會	500.00
富安浸信會禧年堂	5,000.00
愛群道浸信會	5,000.00
置富浸信教會	2,000.00
銅鑼灣浸信會	3,500.00
灣仔浸信會	1,600.00
觀塘浸信會	2,506.00
浸信宣道會啓業堂	11,073.37
基督教華人神召會旺角堂	500.00
中華錫安傳道會慈雲山錫安堂	1,300.00
基督教宣道會華基堂	1,500.00
禧年行基金有限公司	50,000.00
基督教四方福音會彩坪堂	1,000.00
啓聞基金	300.00
	HK\$ 321,677.92
Brooklyn Chinese Baptist Church	US\$ 600.00

Education Fund (Donor)

Mr. & Mrs. John Dockerill	5,000.00
Tsang Wing Shan Emily	2,000.00
Yu Kwan Mei	100.00
方志強	100.00
王紹良	300.00
王群	800.00
白智信伉儷	500.00
朱活平伉儷	300.00
何仲儀	1,000.00
何偉明	200.00
何趙美湄	50,000.00
何錦燕	500.00
何譚惠如	1,000.00

吳炳榮伉儷	8,000.00
吳國傑伉儷	500.00
呂志華	1,000.00
胡文恩伉儷	500.00
徐詩雅	300.00
曹偉彤	5,755.63
梁廣華伉儷	500.00
梁麗嫦	300.00
莫莊雅	100.00
許鋒威	400.00
陳偉倫	200.00
陳麗英	1,000.00
勞家怡	500.00
馮德華	300.00
黃仲麒	300.00
黃英	500.00
黃華娟	100.00
葉煥章	300.00
趙偉舜	500.00
劉永生	300.00
劉志文	1,000.00
劉建紅	600.00
蔡慧英	200.00
鄭崇羔伉儷	10,000.00
鄧炳光伉儷	1,000.00
黎嘉賢	300.00
盧美娟	1,000.00
蕭桂娥	680.00
龐凌玉珍	1,000.00
羅佩珊	100.00
譚嘉敏	500.00
關志偉	100.00
關德華伉儷	140.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	400.00
主知名	50,000.00
無名氏	15.80
無名氏	300.00
無名氏	3,000.00
無名氏	1,000.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	10,000.00
無名氏	600.00
無名氏	400.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	200.00
無名氏	1,000.00
無名氏	300.00
	HK\$ 167,991.43
Connie Pong K. L.	US\$ 200.00

Lay Theological Education Program

香港浸信會幼稚園教育協會	5,000.00
杜桂鵬	500.00
蔡艷桃	500.00
蕭桂娥	2,000.00
無名氏	200.00
	HK\$ 8,200.00

Distance Education Program

Ernest & Sylvia Ho	1,000.00
何鏡輝伉儷	3,000.00
陳之虎	2,000.00
鄒小寶	500.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	300.00
	HK\$ 7,300.00

Local Filipino Program

International Baptist Church	10,000.00
張智理伉儷	6,000.00
陳麗英	400.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	200.00
	HK\$ 16,600.00

Theological Education for the Hearing Impaired

張智理伉儷	500.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	200.00
	HK\$ 700.00

Precious Moments



June 10-12 Mini-Global Conference

The Seminary and International Orality Network co-organized a mini-global conference at the Seminary. The theme of the conference was "Contextualizing Theological Education in Oral Contexts." Approximately 60 missionaries, seminarians, and scholars from over 30 countries attended the conference. As the theme suggests, program speakers mainly explored theological education for oral learners.

June 22-30 Mission Visit to Myanmar

Rev. Pak Loh, Director of Mission Dynamics Center, led a group of graduating students to Myanmar, paying visits to newly planted churches in Rangoon and the neighboring areas. They also visited the Myanmar Baptist Convention, Bible College and Children's Home. While in Myanmar they learned more about the local Christian ministry and the ways they served others. The team was deeply impressed with how God's servants led people to Christ through their selfless love.



July 18 Thanksgiving Dinner to Celebrate the Incorporation of the Seminary and the Inauguration of the First Board of Directors

In June, the Seminary registered with the government as a legal entity. The registration came after the Seminary's 62 years of development in Hong Kong and was done with the full support and approval of local Baptist churches. On June 18, the Inauguration Ceremony of the First Board of Directors was held in our Sai O campus. We rejoice with the directors that God has led the Seminary to embark on a new era.

August 6-8 Faculty Retreat Camp

The theme for this year's faculty retreat was "The Needs of the Students and the Seminary." The retreat allowed faculty members to enjoy fellowship and to bond with one another before the busy semester began. Teachers could focus on the Seminary's direction for teaching and learning. As the theme suggests, teachers discussed the needs of the Seminary and the students and committed themselves to be available for students and to serve as attentive, wise counselors to students.





August 13-15 Spiritual Formation Camp

Right before the school term began, all the faculty and students attended the Spiritual Formation Camp. This year's theme was "Before Here and Now." In this 3-day-2-night camp, participants learned to face changes, re-structured their value systems and developed a better life together. Every one was able to experience His presence at the camp. Thank God that the camp provided a time of reflection and renewal for the entire seminary community.



August 20-23 Trans-World Baptist Chinese Mission

President Cho and all the faculty joined the Opening Ceremony of the 7th Trans-World Baptist Chinese Mission Conference held in Hong Kong. President Cho was one of the speakers at the Seminar on Chinese Theological Education and Mission Ministry.



August 27 Opening Convocation for the New School Year

In the Opening Convocation, President Cho delivered a sermon entitled, "The Forgiving Community." Dr. Cho used Matthew 18:12-35 to challenge the faculty and students to develop a culture of forgiveness and reconciliation.

August 28 Convocation Academic Lecture

The speaker of this year's Convocation Lecture was Rev. Brian Lam, the Seminary's Chaplain, Director of Field Education and Lecturer of Practical Theology. His message was "Transition, Transformation, and True Community: A Spirituality of Mentoring."



September 4 Dr. George Wilson, Jr. Led the Morning Chapel

On September 4, Dr. George Wilson, Jr., our former seminary president, was at the Seminary and spoke on the topic, "Religious Education."



October 1 Sports Day for Local Baptist Churches: HKBTS's Relay Team Members

The 29th Sports Day for All Baptist Churches in Hong Kong took place on October 1. For the second consecutive year the Seminary's men's and women's relay teams came first in the 4 x 100 meters relay race for Christian organizations. In fact, we sent out two men's teams and they got first and second in the 4 x 100 meters relay race. After the prize presentation, members of our relay teams took a group photo with Rev. Eric Tong, Chairman of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong.