

香港浸信會神學院

Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary



2019.2 Newsletter

Students' Testimonies of God's Call

President's Word

Marching Forward Again in the Direction of Preaching

Special Report

20 Years of Distance Education

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Marching Forward Again in the Direction of Preaching

Joshua Cho

President's Word



Ten years have passed quickly since 2009 when I took the helm as president of the seminary.

Looking back on those years, I realize that God has often taught me in His ingenious and meticulous way. Indeed, His wisdom is beyond my comprehension and has often left me in awe. Whenever I find that what lies ahead is fraught with challenges and difficulties, and I do not know how to proceed, God always leads me step by step and guides the seminary in different ways. He sometimes inspires me to move forward through changes in the environment, or through heartfelt words from students and teachers, or through encouragement from my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Riding on the Wind of the Holy Spirit and Looking Ahead

As I recall my early days as president I strongly felt that it was vital to lead the seminary on the basis of a solid spiritual foundation. Some management and administrative principles and insights were helpful, but I felt that they should only play supplementary roles. Hence, I have often said: Since a seminary is an academic institution, there are rules and regulations to follow. But when dealing with personnel and administrative matters, reasoning and compassion should be equally applied. Once the rules and regulations have been set, I expect everyone to fall in line. They would then conscientiously do their duties and act in an appropriate manner. Written guidelines should never be cumbersome and complex. I hope to have a streamlined administrative structure so that teachers can focus their energy on training and nurturing students, their own research and writing, as well as helping the church. I am also concerned about the role of the seminary as a faithful steward for Christ. It should make good use of the donations we receive because the donors love the seminary. To ensure that our precious resources are used properly, I did not carry out any large scale construction projects or operate the seminary like a business when I first assumed the role as president.

At the seminary, we have often said: the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary (HKBTS) is a spiritual community as well as a disciple community for Christ. We value the relationship between God and His people, and the relationships in our community. *Everyone in this disciple community needs to embrace differences and respect the diversity of our members. At the same time, we have to preserve what is so unique about this community and its conviction — that is to allow the story of Christ to be the life story of each of us in the community. It is a story focusing on “love.” Love is the sine qua non, or the necessary condition, that underpins this disciple community, which is like a family in the sense that both are bound by love.* But the love among members of this community should not be conveyed through the control of an authoritarian parent. Rather, it is an expression of familial love akin to instinctual affection that binds parents and their children

together; likewise, the same kind of affection is also found among siblings. Viewed from a different angle, a disciple community is also a spiritual community as we all belong to the body of our Lord Jesus Christ, and each member belongs to all the others.

Riding on the wind of the Holy Spirit, HKBTS has been navigating forward between the concepts of “Community” (*Gemeinschaft*) and “Association” (*Gesellschaft*).

Keep on Exploring the Road Ahead

For quite a while, I was somewhat puzzled over the question: how unique is HKBTS? Looking around me I find that there are seminaries striving to build distinct identities. For instance, one uses mobile apps to provide devotional materials for Christians and as a result their spiritual lives have been given a considerable boost. I have pondered further: Should HKBTS replicate the work of other Christian organizations? Or, should there be division of labor whereby each would focus on what it is especially good at?

The kind of theology HKBTS has been building is a practical theology, emphasizing the need for thinking theologically. As a form of wisdom it can be put to use in a pastoral setting and in one’s social life. Yet, people find the effort to internalize one’s thoughts demanded by this mode of intellectual training rather difficult and not easily seen. Besides, in order to train and nurture students of practical theology often involves a lengthy process, for they need to go through a long period of “immersion” before they can become useful servants of God.

Indeed, from a marketing point of view, this way of training students may not be ideal — for people cannot easily appreciate what is so unique about HKBTS. Without a doubt, preparing students with the wisdom of life cannot be done in a single stroke. They need to undergo arduous training and to work conscientiously with commitment before they can see the benefits of their labor. The practical theology of HKBTS is centred around a rigorous, yet simple and meticulous, learning ethos, and it is not about seeking quick returns. Hence, against the backdrop of tensions arising from competing values and priorities, i.e.

“visible labor” and “immediate results” versus “internalized effort” and “meticulous endeavors,” we continue to pursue the will of God intently.

Calls and Inspiration

Recently, I had a heart-to-heart with a seminary board member. I asked him whether the seminary should deploy marketing strategies to further promote our image. I have never been a fan of advertising gimmicks, but the world around us tends to follow this practice. I also shared with him the theological path currently taken by HKBTS, which is to practice theology in a real-life pastoral setting. This would cover a wide variety of aspects: from preaching and missions to pastoral care. He recognized the vital role played by preaching in theological education. I was heartened by what he said because he vindicated what we have done quietly for years, showing that our endeavors have not been in vain. I am very grateful to him for reminding me of the need for HKBTS to continue to move forward in this direction.

As I recall, during all these years God has continuously reminded me of the importance of preaching. For instance, last year when I realized more profoundly that teaching preaching was what God wanted us to do, a homiletics teacher happened to be unable to schedule the time to teach. I had to summon up my courage and hastily partner with Rev. Brian Lam to take his place. After finishing the course, I felt deeply that there was further need for training students in homiletics. I realized I wanted to share my insights on homiletics with co-workers in Mainland China. Besides, the idea of teaching homiletics at the seminary’s Pastoral Continuing Education Centre had occurred to me, but I temporarily dropped the plan because I feared that I was not yet ready for the task. After I was reminded by this board member, however, I am considering that idea again.

Later on, I also remembered meeting several good classmates at Princeton when I was doing my graduate studies in systematic theology there. They were all Ph.D. students specializing in homiletics. We often had a good time studying and playing soccer together. The day before we had our doctoral candidacy examination, we met up

for a game of soccer just the same. Even now we still keep in touch. In thinking of them, I realized that even during those days they had already helped me understand the importance of homiletics. What is so amazing is that God had arranged everything even back in those early days! I think God has used all those experiences and situations that I went through to call and inspire me.

Marching Forward Again in the Direction of Preaching

Between 2010 and 2011, I penned a series of four essays in the seminary’s *Newsletter* on the topic of preaching, *hoping to make HKBTS a preaching seminary. My goal is to nurture students to become heralds who preach the Gospel of the Cross, pastors who take care of the needs of congregants and prophets who proclaim the Truth with courage.* During the intervening years, I have witnessed the progress of both our students and teachers in their preaching practice. Indeed, their preaching skills, spirituality and testimonies have all steadily matured.

In the days ahead, I fervently hope that the seminary continues to embrace preaching education, and that students tend their flocks in the churches they serve through preaching. They are like chefs providing their congregations with spiritual nutrients by cooking nourishing foods for their members so that they can get healthy and strong bodies. As I share with you here my innermost thoughts, may these words be the witness to our joint efforts that will continue to go into preaching.

Closing Thoughts

God has led HKBTS in such wonderful and amazing ways! Under His leadership the seminary during my early days as president overcame one obstacle after another, and succeeded in building up its spiritual and academic atmosphere. Now in His grace, He is steering us again into the second round of learning in preaching, and 2019 will inaugurate another fresh year of learning homiletics! May God help us make further progress in preaching and make us heralds, pastors and prophets for Him!

Preaching the Gospel of the Cross

The good news of Jesus Christ being crucified on the cross is for all practical purposes treated as foolishness by some of today's churches and ministers. When certain Christians bring up the subject of the cross, it is just like a beautiful adornment while the cost of bearing Christ's cross in daily life is not mentioned. ... As we take up the cross, God uses the power of Christ's death and resurrection to help us leave behind our old selves and to transform our lives into the likeness of Christ. This should also be the way that a minister is chosen by God. They must take up the cross of Jesus Christ, accepting the uniqueness of the cross and preparing to be ridiculed – to be a fool for Christ. ... Therefore, we ministers must take hold of the essence of the calling of ministry neither following the tide of the world nor its false idols. Instead, we have to ask God to cleanse us with fire and call us to return to the most fundamental ministry: preaching the gospel of the cross.

Joshua Cho, "A Preaching Seminary, The Preaching Spirituality," *HKBTS Newsletter*, August 2010, 2-3; See also *Forging of Theologia*, 75-77

The Preacher as Herald

The preacher is not teaching a lesson, nor diagnosing the current situation, nor presenting his view on homiletics. This is not what a preacher should do. His mission is to act faithfully as a clear channel of the very word of the living God, which rises above the preacher's voice proclaiming the message of the gospel: to proclaim God's decision concerning life and death and to declare the gospel message of God's judgment and acquittal. The preacher in faith listens to God's voice and submits to God's will and then passes it on without making any changes. Preachers must also respond to God's call, not only respond to it but also submit to it. ... Preachers do not possess the word of God. Instead, what they possess is the "command" and promise to proclaim God's word. This means that when the scripture is preached faithfully, God will speak through the scripture and the sermon, and He will be present.

Joshua Cho, "The Preaching of a Herald," *HKBTS Newsletter*, November 2010, 3; See also *Forging of Theologia*, 81-82

The Preacher as Pastor

The preacher needs to be in touch with listeners so that he understands his congregation's real life situations and needs and can direct members to seek God's help so that they can be transformed to become responsible listeners, living out ethical Christian lives. In other words, the pastor's preaching shows an awareness of, and a response to, the existential condition of the listeners as he feeds God's people with God's word, filling their hunger and meeting their spiritual needs. According to the way each listener perceives or understands the sermon, the preacher adjusts the message, making sure that the listeners can absorb the nutrients that help them grow in their spiritual lives. ... In pastoral preaching, the needs, pains, hungers and the loneliness of listeners are neither regarded as irrelevant nor as something that would distract from the gospel message. Rather, it is the very place where God's grace can be discovered. In this place preaching of God's word is imbued with power to bring healing to those who hear.

Joshua Cho, "The Preacher as Pastor," *HKBTS Newsletter*, February 2011, 2; See also *Forging of Theologia*, 86-89

The Preacher as Prophet

However, I need also to emphasize that a preacher must not only be a pastor but also a prophet. Prophetic preaching is both significant and necessary. In prophetic preaching, we proclaim that God's sovereignty must always be clearly acknowledged as always remaining as over and above the authority of the world's rulers and leaders. A prophet must speak the truth in love, proclaiming the truth with courage and daring to uphold clearly the truth through deeds. Faithful preaching must always include a prophetic element. ... As a prophet preacher, one must always struggle to have a pure heart, practice self-discipline and pray for self-understanding in order to confront himself or herself as well as others. Such a preacher strives not to be self-deceiving but longs to be honest before God, honest with men and honest with oneself. Consequently, a prophet preacher can help the church be honest before God, able to face God and Christ in order to face the truth.

Joshua Cho, "Prophetic Preaching," *HKBTS Newsletter*, August 2011, 1-2, 4; See also *Forging of Theologia*, 93-94, 98

Students' Testimonies of God's Call

The *Newsletter* invited three of our new students from the Main Programs to share with us how they have been called by God to ministry. Their experience is a witness to God's faithfulness and grace.

The **Signpost** of Faith and Life

Timmy Or (M.Div. I)

The Trustworthy Lord

Growing up in church and having made a decision to accept Jesus as my Savior when I was in year three of primary school, I rarely had any doubts about the existence of God in my early years. However, when I grew up, I began to question my faith. (For instance, how can there be people who claim to be Christians, and yet their conduct is so insufferable? Why would the Lord allow this to happen? Why could I not see the Lord's reasoning?) Thankfully, the Lord helped me through all of these questions by *faith*, so that I understood that the Lord is Truth, and is beyond reasoning. The Lord is also Love, that He even gave His only begotten Son Jesus as a ransom to redeem us. How then could He be untrustworthy?

I am merely responding to God's calling as I now embark on the journey toward full-time ministry, because He enabled me to see the needs of the church from my position.

A Recognition-seeking Life

I have always been diligent and dedicated to whatever I did, whether in my studies or work. I thought that my parents' investment in me should not be in vain, nor should I fail the expectations of the other people around me. Having entered the Department of Civil Engineering of Hong Kong University gave me some pride, since it was as if a mission were accomplished. However, I found myself increasingly confused and lost as I went on. In fact, I have no passion for this industry; I intended to acquire the professional



Timmy and his family

qualification of a civil engineer merely to seek recognition from society.

I wanted affirmation from others, and also from myself. I hoped that academic results would gain myself some self-approval, yet I felt dejected because I was not able to meet my own expectations. I thought that serving with as much time as I could afford in church and university choirs were ways to respond to the Lord, but I knew that was also mixed with a motive of seeking recognition. However, the motive of recognition-seeking was self-defeating. In the third year of university, under the yoke of this drive for recognition, I stretched myself thin with both studies and serving at church, and my spirit had come to a point of collapse. This led me to consider how I should go on in life, and in faith.

A Journey of Life-reorientation

That summer in the same year, I participated in a short-term missionary trip to the Northern Desert, organized by

the Hong Kong Baptist Mission. I hoped the trip would help me reorient my life and search for the direction of my life and faith. There were two evening gatherings where the pastor shared with us how Jesus called Peter on two occasions. ***I admired Peter for being able to respond sincerely twice to His call; Peter simply followed His commands, and left everything to follow Jesus Christ.*** I began to reflect on the way I had been responding to the Lord. In fact, I have never truly followed Jesus Christ for I have never laid my life before Him. I had to change. Then I began to have the thought of responding to God by studying at a seminary. Since then, I have been keeping this idea in my prayer.

After the missionary trip, I was confronted with my final year studies and coursework. The hustle and bustle of school life put my thought of studying at a seminary on hold. However, half a year later, I happened to meet with a mentor. The topic we originally talked about was my spiritual depression at that time; interestingly, it then turned into my prospect for studying at a seminary. In fact, I did not have any specific vision, but the idea simply came into my mind again. ***As I reconsidered the matter, I gradually came to realize that the keynote of life should be “responding to God,” rather than “seeking recognition.”*** And so I was determined to embark on a journey of full-time ministry and discussed my decision with the church minister. He suggested that I should first take a job and pray for a clear sign from God in the meanwhile. Eventually, I accepted his advice and became an engineer for an engineering and consultancy company after my graduation.

The Signs from the Lord

For about half a year after my talk with the minister, I prayed for signs from the Lord. However, not a single remarkable or special sign was revealed in my life. Later, I happened to attend a seminar titled “Bonhoeffer under Nazi rule” with Prof. Andres Tang as the speaker. I have long respected Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer because he sincerely responded to his faith with practical actions, and I wanted to learn about him more. One of the messages Prof. Tang shared pierced my heart: Bonhoeffer committed himself to theological education because ***the church needs pastors who are “true disciples of the Lord.”*** As Prof. Tang observed, ***there are a lot of nominal Christians in the church who cannot resist the invasion of worldly values, and they need to be shepherded.*** I felt deeply that we all need to be more serious about our faith; it should not be altered

casually in response to the changing circumstances. Instead, our commitment is required. At the time, I thought this was the need that I saw, and it was God's calling to me. I longed to play a part in meeting this need, and I was sure that I wanted to respond to His call.

Not long after, I attended the Full-time Ministry Exploration Camp organized by the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary, through which the Lord answered my prayer and affirmed to me that I did indeed see a genuine need. There was a session where we would meet up with a professor, and I coincidentally met Prof. Tang. We spoke about signs, like the communal signs. I mentioned the message I heard from his previous seminar, and told him that it was the need of the church I also saw. He said to me, “You keep saying that you don't have a miraculous sign, but do you know that this meet-up is not a choice of either of us? Let's say that your hearing of my sharing once is a coincidence, but if it's twice, I don't quite believe that this is coincidental.” This to me was an overwhelming statement. I was then certain that the Lord Himself affirmed that I did see the need of the church, and He was answering my prayer.

Thinking that this conversation would be my biggest takeaway from the camp, little did I know the Lord showed me even greater grace. On the second day, I was arranged to meet with Dr. Jonathan Lo. I talked about how I have been searching for the signs of calling, and my plea to the Lord for permitting me to serve Him. He kindly reminded me and asked, “Why do you think that the Lord would not allow you to serve Him in the first place? Why do you think the feeling of being pierced to the heart came from yourself?” He said that nothing happens by chance in the Lord, and that He has been guiding us all along the way. It was not that I wanted to study theology myself, but the Lord led me to it. This was indeed a timely remark. I have been searching for signs with the wrong assumption (that the Lord did not allow me to serve), but He responded to me positively; it is amazing grace of God! After the camp, I am clear that God has been calling me, and I am willing to lay down myself as an offering to Him.

It is utterly out of the Lord's grace that turned a life driven by recognition-seeking to one that is responding to His calling! Praise the Lord for calling me, for guiding me to recognize the pastoral needs of people, and for being pierced to the heart by this need! I really wish to see and witness the growth of believers. ***As they grow in faith and in life, I long to become one of their signposts, so that they can walk on the correct narrow path; if so, that will satisfy me. And the one who actually leads them is not the signpost, but the One who sets the signpost.***

Let Me Be a Blessing to Others

Carmen Chan (B.Th . I)

God Molds My Life

When I was young, I was a happy girl. Since my father raised our family earnestly and my parents worked hard, my two sisters and I had a happy childhood together. I studied in Christian primary and secondary schools, and though I turned to Christ sometime when I was in Form three or four, I did not attend church.

During my adolescence, I started dating boys and became a self-centred and rebellious youth; these things all distanced me from my family. I was bullied in school and it caused me to lose self-confidence and to be fearful of making friends. I also gradually recognized that love between men and women does not last; it is indeed short-lived and insecure. I lost faith in having relationships with others.

After I graduated from school and started to work, I had neither fellowship, church life, nor any continual search for the understanding of faith. I did not even have family responsibilities, and I could not see any purpose or meaning for my life. I started grumbling at God and concluded that I would no longer pray to God or believe in Him.

Then, I met a Christian friend. When he knew that I had been a Christian before and learned about my situation, he invited me back to church. Surprisingly, I enjoyed church life this time; I was baptized after a year, and continued on, serving steadily in the church until now. Thanks to God for molding me through different service opportunities. Thanks to God also for calling me back to Him through that Christian friend, who is now my husband.

I eventually came to understand love through the Scriptures. Jesus Christ's love on the cross for our sins is unconditional; He loves us and let me know how to love others as He loves us. The relationship of brothers and sisters in church invited me to build relationships with others anew, and I learnt that only the love of God within us is

eternal. I became closer to my family as well; I ceased being self-centred and tried to take better care of them. *Our Lord's teachings and love changed me a lot. He enables me to open up myself, assures me, uses me and transforms me into his useful vessel.*

Passion for God

In the summer of 2009, my church organized a mission trip to Sichuan, China. When I saw and heard about the passionate service and genuine sharing from my brothers and sisters, I began to be motivated for missions. Therefore, I joined the Sichuan mission trip of my church right after my baptism the following year. I experienced the power of prayer and of my almighty God during the trip. To my surprise, as a newcomer to the mission field, I shared my testimony for the first time to several hundreds of people smoothly with peace in my heart. I was not confident for myself or my Putonghua, but God spoke to the brothers and sisters there through my sharing; the power of prayer and God's power were working through me. God transformed my previous life experience into a blessing for others.

In early 2011, the pastor of my church preached about Jesus' final instructions to His disciples before His ascension, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8) His teaching reminded me that believers should go beyond their own salvation, and obey the Great Commission. When we sang the response hymn "Set off on Your Journey Now," I was moved to tears. I prayed to God that I would offer myself to Him, and pleaded with God to use me, undeserving and incompetent as I was. *I have finally come to know what my life purpose is.*

Discerning the Will of the Lord

Since then, I have served in church with greater vigor. The more I served, the more I was rewarded. In the process of serving, I experienced joy and power from God, and my life

was being shaped. I gradually felt that I should enroll in some theological courses to equip myself for full-time ministry. In April 2011, I joined a mission trip to Cambodia, and God gave me a vision which is to preach the gospel to the unreached people. He told me to seek to discern His will further with the verse, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." (Mt 7:7)

I shared the message I received from God with my pastor when I returned to Hong Kong. She asked me if I have received a sign affirming God's calling—that would be the single power and foundation that would support me to face different kinds of difficulty in the future—but I could not say. Then, I attended an open day organized by a seminary which let me realize that I needed to discern my calling seriously.

Frustration and Escape

After this, I began to seek a sign that would affirm my calling. Moreover, I served as a mentor in the youth group in the meantime. Although my ministerial burden was to accompany youngsters as they grow in faith, this position vividly exposed to me the hardships and challenges of being a pastor. I, therefore, stepped back and said to God, "I am incompetent. I do not know how to speak. I am not learned. I lack self-confidence. I cannot take any responsibility."

I quenched the Spirit and ignored God's moving of my heart, but I had never forgotten my commitment to God in prayer: to serve Him faithfully. Thanks to God, He granted me numerous opportunities to take part in different roles in the church, whether on the frontlines or assisting. Moreover, God allowed me to serve with my husband, so I now understand that God put us into positions according to our various gifts, so as to serve the church together and effectively. Recalling the period of my escaping God's call, I must give thanks to God; He not only did not forsake me, but also continued to shape me in the course of my serving, and patiently waited for my response.

The Second Move

In March 2016, I began a new job with a higher salary. This job was related to stage performance management, a profession that I liked, and it also offered a potential of promotion toward the most senior position. This job, however, made me reconsider my life purpose again and again. There would often be a voice questioning me: "Is this truly your goal in life?" This question reminded me of my first response to God, and there was a sense of urgency in my heart that urged me to respond to the call to full-time ministry. Thus, I prayed



Carmen and her husband Anderson

solemnly, studied the Bible, served with humility and asked God to grant me a sign of assurance that He does call me to full-time ministry.

The Sign of His Calling

On February 15-16, 2017, my husband and I joined the Full-Time Ministry Exploration Camp held by Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary; its theme was discerning God's call. On the second day, Rev. Brian Lam preached on Exodus 4:1-20 at the morning chapel service. He talked about the excuses Moses made when God called him, which coincided with mine. He also mentioned that God turned Moses' shepherd crook into **God's** crook which can be used to bless other people with miracles. This transformation symbolizes that God turned Moses' career, his past, his experience as well as everything that he found himself undeserving into gifts that could bless the others. God removed my burden and worries in these years through Rev. Lam's words. ***God wants me to serve Him with what I have in my present and my past; even if there are experiences that I see as affliction and a shameful past, God would turn them all into gifts and blessings; and He urges me to share these gifts, and bless others with the witness of my life.*** Therefore, I praised God promptly and responded to His calling in prayer: I confirmed that God calls me, and I would like to serve Him in full-time ministry, so I will equip myself at the seminary.

During the Sunday service right after the camp, God affirmed my calling again and reinforced my faith with the hymn "Live out Love." When the congregation sang the lyrics, "let yourself be a blessing to others," my eyes were streaming with tears, for I knew that God truly calls me. Therefore, I responded with action last year and commenced school to equip myself with seminary training.

May all glory and praise be to our Triune God!



Dedicated to God: Being Torn Down and Built Up Again

Terence Law (B.Th. I)

Not Missing Out on Following Jesus

I was brought up in a Christian family, where I was the only child. Since I was young, I went to church—Fanling Baptist Church—with my parents, and attended Sunday service as well as Sunday school. I prayed to become a Christian two to three times when I was a kid, but I did it for fun instead of having a will to commit myself to be changed by God, without any serious consideration about the relationship between Christian faith and myself.

Until the summer when I entered Form three, my pastor shared a message that stirred me profoundly at my church's youth camp. He spoke about the story of the rich young man and Jesus. The rich young man asked Jesus, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" (Mt 19:16) Jesus told him that he should keep the commandments. The young man replied that he had kept all of them since his youth and asked Jesus what he still lacked. Jesus then told him to sell his possessions, and give to the poor, and then follow him. Nevertheless, after the young man heard this, he went away sad because he had great wealth.

After having listened to this story, I was immensely moved with tears flowing down from my eyes. *I recognized how mischievous and arrogant I was. Now was the time to live out a genuine Christian life, and let God manage my life. I did not want to become that young man; I did not want to miss out on the chance to follow Jesus.* At that time, I prayed to become a Christian with some brothers and sisters. I sensed that my prayer was different from the past, because I had never been touched by God's Word and His Spirit like this before, and I had never truly felt my own unworthiness and mischievousness in front of God before.

Did You See?

In the summer of 2010, I joined the summer camp organized by my mother church. The theme was "Did You See?" and the theme verse was: "See, today I appoint you

over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant." (Jer 1:10) The committee of the camp invited President Joshua Cho of Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary (HKBTS) as the speaker of the three-night Bible Study gathering, which would explore how the prophet Jeremiah was called and how he responded to God's calling.

In the camp, I was greatly touched by the experience of the prophet Jeremiah. I knew that my life had many imperfections, and I desired God to tear down all the things that he found displeasing in me, so that He can use me. In the words of the theme verse, my life still had many things that had to be "uprooted, torn down, destroyed and overthrown" by God, and then I could be "built and planted" anew. I, however, constantly doubted whether I should commit myself to be equipped for full-time theological training, because I was young; I had neither graduated from secondary school nor worked, thus lacking life experience. When I thought of a pastor being required to preach in the pulpit, I worried even more and was afraid that I could never manage to do that. The message of President Cho, nonetheless, reminded and encouraged me: *the foundation of Jeremiah's ministry was not human ability but God's omniscience and sovereignty.* When Jeremiah heard God's calling, he refused it by claiming that he was young and incapable of speaking. However, God did not let him go. He promised to be with Jeremiah and put His word into Jeremiah's mouth, just as He did with Moses.

After the third night sermon, there was a time of dedication. While my pastor, Rev. Yip, was leading us to sing a response song "May God Use Me," he summoned brothers and sisters who were touched to respond to God's call during the camp to come out and make a commitment. At that moment, I could not stop crying. I was both stirred and frightened by this moment. I would like to accept God's call,

but I was also afraid and wanted to reject it. Then, Rev. Yip reminded us, *“Do not hesitate because it does not seem right under the present circumstances; instead, you should respond to God’s call at the right time, and He will then guide your way ahead step by step. The process may be difficult, but by God’s grace, you will make it eventually.”* I finally mustered up my courage and came to Rev. Yip together with two other brothers and committed myself to receive full-time theological training.

Of What You Cannot Let Go?

After the camp, although the pastors encouraged me to pray earnestly for direction with regard to full-time theological study and let God make a way for me at the proper time, I was occupied with study and preparations for the public examination. Thus, I did not pray hard for this calling and determined in my heart that I would probably work for one or two years before beginning my studies at the seminary.

After graduating with an associate degree, I decided not to continue my study, and I started working in a Christian bookstore. In this period, I gradually loved reading different kinds of spiritual writings; these books guided me to ponder more on my faith, and I gained insights and encouragement from the experiences of more mature Christians.

At the beginning of 2017, brothers and sisters began to ask me, “Are you still working in the bookstore?” “When will you go to school again?” “Didn’t you promise to enter a seminary for theological study?” Indeed, I had always been struggling with receiving theological training deep down. Once, I shared my heartfelt struggles with a brother who was studying at a seminary, and I asked him, “How can I know this is the time for me to go to seminary?” He answered, “First, you have to ask yourself what you cannot let go of in your life, and this is the homework God assigns to you.” This was a piece of timely advice. Not having attained any great accomplishment since my youth, I found a sense of achievement in my work in the bookstore; it was this “comfort zone” that I did not want to leave. I discovered that my job was what I could not let go of.

A Note from Livingstone

After that, I came upon a passage in *The Biography of David Livingstone* which encouraged me once again:

A one-time burden of wanting to be a missionary can never assure one will walk on this path for his entire life. A one-time revival in faith can never guarantee one will walk till the end. Those who can walk until the



end are people who let Jesus Christ’s faith transform their lives and character. When I was young, I wondered how one can preach without eloquence. And if we do not preach, how can we evangelize?

I found out later that

the message of gospel is closely entwined with the life of the evangelist. The goal of evangelism is not to complete a fabulous mission. It is not for realizing our own dreams. And it is absolutely not for changing others. Genuine evangelism is to reach everyone you meet with your genuine life and do what you should do in your daily life.

This paragraph persuaded me to seize the moment to equip myself through theological training. I do not have to worry whether I am competent or not, because I am not working for God with my own ability; *instead, I can merely confess my inability, accept the imperfections in my life and offer myself to Him. What God cares about is not one’s talent, but one’s servant heart.* Moreover, I do not have to worry about my living expenses.

On the Way to Self-offering

After this, I prayed, chatted with pastors and people who studied at the seminary, and I participated in the Full-time Ministry Exploration Camp organized by HKBTS. All this helped me understand further that God may not show me His will in a particular way, and I should rather discern how God calls me through people I meet and events that happen in my daily life. I found that many people surrounding me asked God for “signs,” and I had also prayed for the same but in vain. *Afterwards, I realized that not everyone called is given a grand sign before one steps on the path of self-offering to God; if you are touched by His will, it is sufficient.* Therefore, I decided to send an application to the seminary in response to God’s call to me in these eight years. Thanks to God, I was admitted by HKBTS. In the coming four-years of life at the seminary, I hope that I can be enriched not only by knowledge from books, but also by offering myself holistically: to be torn down and be rebuilt by God, so I may learn more about myself, experience God, and live peacefully with others!

May glory be to the Triune God!



Years of Distance Education

Passing the Torch: Mission That Transcends Time and Space

The Thanksgiving Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Distance Education Program (DEP) and the Oath-taking Ceremony of the 1st Mainland China New Testament Certificate Program were held on November 10, 2018 (Saturday) on our Sai O Campus. President Joshua Cho, heads of our partner institutions, Rev. Wong Chi-kwan and Ms. Canda Chan, DEP tutors, students, alumni, co-workers, and brothers and sisters in Christ, all came together to participate in this lively event.

The theme of the thanksgiving celebration was "Passing the Torch: Mission that Transcends Time and Space." Since its establishment in 1998, DEP has been helping many Christians overcome their time and geographic constraints to receive theological education by correspondence, the internet, tutorials, topical lectures and the like for twenty years. DEP has so far served over 1,600 students from all over the world. On the day of the celebration, DEP tutors and students from Ireland, Australia, Mainland China and Hong Kong shared the bittersweet memories of teaching and learning while attesting our Lord's grace. In addition, the DEP's mission of promoting theological education at the congregational level is intended to be passed down from generation to generation. In this spirit, we invited DEP students from two successive generations, Ms.

Lo Sin-yee (mother) and Mr. Jonathan Lai (son), as well as DEP tutors from two successive generations, Rev. Daniel Lee (father) and Pastor Grace Lee (daughter), to share their testimonies.

Over the years, we have persistently engaged in the "Special Training Ministry," providing prisoners, the visually impaired, and other disadvantaged groups the opportunity to

receive theological education. On this special day, students of the "Onesimus Project" and the "Spiritual Light Project" came to witness how the Lord nourished and transformed them through DEP. Their testimonies were inspiring. Moreover, ten visually impaired mainland students stood side by side and took their oath at the beginning of their studies. They committed themselves to make the utmost effort to complete the entire New Testament certificate course for the ultimate goal of honouring God and blessing mankind. Their resounding and unified proclamation overwhelmed all who were present.

President Cho delivered a speech at the thanksgiving ceremony, acknowledging with deep appreciation the faithfulness and commitment of the tutors as well as the devotion and diligence of the students. He pointed out that **the kind of education the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary seeks to provide is "love education," in which the goal is not merely to master knowledge, but most importantly to know God, as well as to love and serve Him and others.** Looking forward to the future, President Cho is exploring how the curriculum and resources of the Main Programs might be integrated with DEP. Ideally,

DEP will introduce more innovative programs to meet the needs of the church and the society. The feasibility of introducing a distance degree program is being explored as well. Our unceasing prayers and supports are essential in this regard.

But for the grace of God, DEP would not have been able to sustain through these twenty years and nurture the spiritual lives of numerous brothers and sisters. This achievement is also possible because of the dedication of our tutors, co-workers, and volunteers, as well as the unyielding efforts of our fellow students! We express our heartfelt thanks to God for them all!



President Cho delivered a speech.



The visually impaired students from Mainland China took oath and committed themselves to complete the program.



Introducing Our New Teachers

Beginning this academic year, two new members, Dr. Alex To and Dr. Zhiyong He, joined our faculty team.

Dr. Alex To

Assistant Professor of Christian Thought (Baptist History)

Dr. Alex To is a senior mechanical engineer. He worked in various aviation-related organizations in Hong Kong and was the chairman of the Mechanical, Marine and Chemical Division of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (2003-2004). Being passionate about church history, Dr. To also dedicates himself to studies and research, and is especially fond of the histories of the Baptists and of the Chinese and the Western churches. Dr. To will teach the course "Survey of Hong Kong Baptist History" this spring semester.

Dr. To was born in Hong Kong in the 1950s. He was introduced to the Christian faith and Jesus through a classmate during the first year of secondary school. In 1970, he was baptized in the Shamshuipo Mandarin Baptist Church (now known as Christ Baptist Church). In the early 1990s, he and his wife moved to live in Vancouver, Canada and studied for his master's degree in Christian Studies at Regent College, majoring in church history. In mid-1990s, he returned to work in Hong Kong and participated in the construction of the "Chek Lap Kok Airport" (the present Hong Kong International Airport). In the meantime, he taught church history in the Lay Theological Education Department of the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary (HKBTS). He returned to Canada in 2006; during his

stay in Vancouver, he was invited to teach Christian history courses by various Chinese congregations. In 2018, he received his Ph.D. from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

Dr. To and his wife have one son and two daughters. Their eldest son has already graduated from university and their two

daughters are now studying in universities in Canada. Dr. To anticipates that joining HKBTS will enable him to know more about theological education and learn from our veteran faculty and staff about serving our Lord in the field of theological education. Together with our students, he hopes to discover God's will for each of us, so that we can become His children after His heart. It is also his wish to lead us into a deeper understanding of an important feature of the Baptist faith, the "universal priesthood of all believers." Dr. To also loves hiking and longs for opportunities to stroll along various mountain trails in Hong Kong with colleagues and fellow students while sharing with each other the beauty of faith and life.



Dr. To and his wife Anna at Buntzen Lake

Dr. Zhiyong He

*Executive Officer (Academic) of Distance Education Program
Lecturer of Christian Thought*



As a HKBTS alumni, Dr. Zhiyong He is no stranger to our big family. He was born in a small city in Jiangxi. His parents are now retired and enjoying their golden years at home. In 2006, Dr. He obtained his Ph.D. from Hong Kong Baptist University, majoring in the dialogue between religion and science. Afterwards, he co-

authored a book *Contemporary Debates on Intelligent Design* (2014) with other scholars. Indeed, he serves passionately and

pursues his faith with humility; he then obtained his degrees of Master of Christian Studies (2012) and Master of Divinity (2018) both from HKBTS. His research interests include narrative theology, biblical theology, Christian ethics, and the dialogue between reason and faith, etc.

Dr. He has been engaging in Putonghua ministries on university campuses since 2006 and has served in the Chaplain's Office, Chung Chi College, Chinese University of Hong Kong, for seven years. He has taught courses on Christian ethics, science and religion, and the Bible and Western culture in universities and research institutes in Hong Kong and Mainland China. In 2015, Dr. He went to the United States to further his study. Meanwhile, he engaged in pastoral work among local Chinese churches and had a profound recognition of the enormous spiritual needs of his brothers and sisters in Christ

and the lack of pastors who can integrate theology and church practices to attend to their needs. This led him to further his study in practical theology, seeking a better way to apply theological findings to pastoral care and the lives of the church congregation. It is also his wish that through his words and deeds he can help the church truly become a church, a lampstand "to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly" with our God.

Dr. He hopes that he can help students become good pastors and peacemakers, and be at peace with God, with the world and with themselves throughout their academic lives at the seminary. Dr. He admits that although he is cheerful and tender, he does have his own principles and stance; he desires to be a meek and lowly peacemaker serving in this community.

We thank God for leading these two teachers with unique gifts to join our faculty team.
Please pray for them and the whole faculty team, and may our Lord lead them
to offer their best service to God and to the students at the seminary.

Academic Affairs News

• Joint Graduation Ceremony

The Joint Graduation Ceremony of the Main Program, Lay Theological Education Department and Distance Education Program was held at the Kowloon City Baptist Church on November 18 last year. There were 67 graduates from the degree programs, and diploma or certificate graduates from the equivalent LTED program, together with 187 graduates from the diploma and certificate programs.

• Winter Intensive Program

The Winter Intensive Program was conducted in early January. The course offered was "Luke-Acts," taught by Dr. Sam Tsang, Adjunct Professor.

• Academic Forum

The Academic Forum for the Spring Semester was held on January 17. The topic was "The Christian Education Ministry That the Chinese Church Needs in the 21st Century," and delivered by Rev. Dr. Anthony Chow, the Provost and Professor of Practical Theology of the Canadian Chinese School of Theology, and Principal of the International School of Christian Education.

• Faculty Movement

Dr. Zhiyong He and Dr. Alex To joined our serving team this academic year. Dr. He is now Executive Officer (Academic) of Distance Education Program and a Lecturer of Christian Thought. He obtained his M.Div. from our seminary and his Ph.D. at Hong Kong Baptist University. His research interests include the dialogue

between science and Christianity, narrative ethics, Christian philosophy, and biblical theology. Dr. To is now our Assistant Professor of Christian Thought (Baptist History). He obtained his M.C.S. at Regent College, Canada, and his Ph.D. from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in the Netherlands. His research interests include the history of Christianity and Baptist history. May the Lord guide their service at the seminary and help them work with our faculty as a team for the missions of Christian education and research.

Publication News



The seminary's biannual academic journal, *Hill Road* (issue 42), has already been published with the theme, "**Marriage and Sex**." There are six thematic articles: "The Practice of Marriage from the Perspective of Discipleship: A Preliminary Investigation" (Andres S. Tang), "Union Experience in Spirituality and Sexuality" (Pan Yi-jung), "New Testament Teachings on Divorce and Remarriage: A Reflection on Contemporary Application and Improvisation" (Joyce Wai-Lan Sun), "A Biblical Theology Discussion on Same Sex Sexual Behavior" (Wong Fook-kong), "The Patristic Understanding of Scriptural Teachings on Homosexuality: Re-evaluation of the Viewpoints of John Boswell" (Nathan K. Ng), and "The Possibility and Legitimacy of Sexual Orientation Change: Scientific and Ethical Explorations" (Kwan Kai-man). In addition, there are one other miscellaneous article and several book reviews.

Hill Road is available at the seminary, its town centres and Christian book stores. For inquiries, please call the Publication Office at 2768 5168.

Visitor

- Rev. Dr. Mikael Broadway, Associate Professor of Theology and Ethics at the Shaw University Divinity School, visited the seminary from September 27 to October 28 last year. He shared messages at the chapel services on October 2, 3, and 16, and was also the speaker of the Baptist Heritage Week 2018 (October 23-25), and held an academic seminar on October 25, 2018.

Faculty News

- **Dr. Nathan Ng**, Professor of Christian Thought (Church History), spoke on the topic "The Impact of Constantine on Christianity" at a talk organized by the C Prospective on October 18, 2018.
- **Dr. Jonathan Lo**, Assistant Professor of New Testament, presented his paper "The Implications of Synoptic OT Citational Practice for the Synoptic Problem" at the 5th Conference of Asia-Pacific Liaison Committee of Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas in Taiwan from October 19 to 21, 2018.
- **Dr. Andres Tang**, Professor of Christian Thought (Theology and Culture), presented his paper "The Significance of Jürgen Moltmann's *God in Creation* in the Chinese Context" at a conference jointly organized by the Lutheran Theological Seminary and Cultural Regeneration Research Society (Hong Kong) on October 27, 2018. He also edited the book *A Companion to Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "Ethics"* (Hong Kong: Virtue and Wisdom Link, 2018) and wrote six essays in this anthology.
- Articles from three of our teachers are collected in the book *Standing Watch: Christian Reflections on Occupying Central* (Hong Kong: Virtue and Wisdom Link, 2018): **Dr. Andres Tang**, Professor of Christian Thought (Theology and Culture), "The Eschatological Perspective of History"; **Dr. Jonathan Lo**, Assistant Professor of New Testament, "Jesus and Politics"; **Rev. Brian Lam**, Lecturer of Practical Theology, "How to Dialogue with One Another and Cultivate Discernment in the Faith Community That Is Being 'Torn' After the 'Umbrella Movement'?"

Student Union 2019

The Executive Committee of the Student Union 2019 took office in January. Please pray for them and support their activities this year.



Executive Committee members of the Student Union 2019

Chairperson	: Lee Ka-fai	Spiritual Devotion	: Lau Sze-wun
Vice-chairperson	: Law Yuet-ho	Mission	: Fan Chun-yan
Secretary	: Law Hoi-yui	Living	: Ho Lap-san
Treasurer	: Ng Siu-yin		

Alumni News

- Alumnus **Chan Wai-meng** (class of 2016 & 2018) and alumna **Yip Chun-sze** (class of 2016 & 2018) were married in a wedding ceremony held at the chapel of HKBTS on September 25, 2018.
- Alumnus **Haven Wong Hin-fung** (class of 2016) married Ms. Amelia Ho Yan-yan in a wedding ceremony held at the chapel of HKBTS on November 3, 2018.
- Alumnus **Cheong Man-hin** (class of 2018) married Ms. Rebecca Lei I-lot in a wedding ceremony held at the Macau Assembly of God on November 17, 2018.
- Our student **Cheung Yat-chung** and alumna **Li Yuen-yuen** (class of 2017) were married in a wedding ceremony held at the chapel of HKBTS on December 30, 2018.
- Alumna **Irene Wong Wai-kwan** (class of 2017) was ordained as a pastor by the Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China on October 26, 2018.
- Alumnus **Allen Yung Chi-wai** (class of 2008) was ordained as a pastor by the Shamshuipo Tsung Tsin Church on November 25, 2018.
- Alumnus **Andrew Au Siu-yin** (class of 2012) was ordained as a pastor by the Aplichau Baptist Church on December 9, 2018.
- Alumna **Poon Kit-lin** (class of 2001) was ordained as a pastor by the Asia Assembly Mission Council on December 15, 2018.

Lay Theological Education Department

Lay Theological Training Diploma / Certificate Program

February-June (enrollment has already begun; auditing is welcome)

Subject	Lecturer	Venue	Date / Time
Bearing and Transforming Negative Emotions	Ms. Wan Mei-yee	Mongkok Education Centre	26/2 – 16/4 Tue 7:15 - 9:45 pm (8 lessons)
Older Adults and Church Music	Rev. Lee Muk-yee	Mongkok Education Centre	2/4 – 28/5 Tue 7:15 - 9:45 pm (23/4 class suspended, 8 lessons)
A Survey of Church History in China	Rev. Au Pak-ping	Applied Theological Education Centre	7/5 – 25/6 Tue 7:15 - 9:45 pm (8 lessons)
Christian Ethics	Mr. Chan Chi-fu	Applied Theological Education Centre	Class A: 8/4 – 10/6 Mon 7:15 - 9:45 pm (22/4 & 13/5 class suspended; 8 lessons) Class B: 10/4 – 12/6 Wed 7:15 - 9:45 pm (24/4 & 1/5 class suspended; 8 lessons)
Kneel before the Father: Be a Praying Person Who Knows Praying	Rev. Stephen Lin	Mongkok Education Centre	11/4 – 30/5 Thu 7:15 - 9:45 pm (8 lessons)

Women Theological Training Diploma / Certificate Program (Year-round Enrollment)

The program provides holistic and practical theological training for women. It seeks to help them develop mature Christian lifestyles and enable them to manage individual growth, family responsibilities, church service and societal challenges in a positive way.

Two courses, "A Joyful Life" (30/4-18/6, every Tuesday morning) and the "Encountering God and Recovering One's Vocation" (4/4-23/5, every Thursday morning), are now open for enrollment.

Elderly Ministry Certificate Program

The program provides holistic and systematic training in ministerial skills and basic theological training so that students can achieve holistic growth and be prepared for the challenges of an aging population.

Students who have completed any four subjects and have attended the spiritual formation meetings twice will be awarded the Basic Certificate; those having completed eight subjects, including the core course on "Caring for the Elderly" will be awarded the Intermediate Certificate.

Class Start Date: April

Early Bird Enrollment Date:

Before March 8 (50% discount on registration fee)

Registration Deadline: March 22

Church Administration and General Affairs Certificate Program (Evening Course)

The program provides holistic and systematic training for church staff and those aspiring to manage church administrative affairs and clerical work. The program includes the development of individual spiritual life, the art of getting along with others in a community, personnel and administrative management skills, and biblical and theological studies. It enables students to have holistic training and gain a broader view of service and to upgrade their ministerial skills so that they may serve their church more effectively.

Class will be held every Tuesday **evening**. This program can be completed in one year.

Class Start Date: April

Early Bird Enrollment Date:

Before March 15 (50% discount on registration fee)

Registration Deadline: April 9

All the program courses above are conducted in Chinese.

For inquiries or registration, please call 2711 2552, email ltedinfo@hkpts.edu.hk or log on to our web page at www.hkpts.edu.hk/lted to download the application form.

Distance Education Program

Exploring Truth • Reflecting upon Faith • Equipping for Ministry

Student Recruitment: Diploma programs will begin in March 2019, while certificate programs can be joined 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 can gain a better understanding of the Bible.	Secondary school leavers with their church pastor's recommendation	March and September	March semester : Hong Kong: February 10
Diploma in Christian Studies Program	Designed for equipping students for ministry, the program helps students strengthen their foundations in the Christian faith and doctrine.			Overseas: January 10
Higher Diploma in Biblical Studies / Christian Studies Programs	Further studies for students having completed the diploma program.	Completion of the diploma program and with a church pastor's recommendation		September semester : Hong Kong: August 10
Certificate in N.T. / O.T. Studies Programs	Introductory programs in biblical studies, guiding students to study each book of the Bible systematically.	All are welcome	Register at any time	
				Overseas: July 10

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

Online Program	Program Description	Date of Commencement
Online Version Online Certificate in Old Testament Studies Program Online Certificate in New Testament Studies Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Students can read and download learning materials and course work directly from the website. * Upon completion of the coursework, students may upload it for the tutor to mark and provide comments. * Time-saving, quick and efficient. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Students may join the program at any time with fee concessions. * A trial study of the online program is available here: http://elearning@hkbts.edu.hk

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

Pastoral Continuing Education Centre

Courses and talks offered from January to March 2019

Course / Talk	Lecturer	Date	Time
"Eden of Life" Workshop: How to Reestablish Space and Boundaries in Relationship (II)	Dr. Lawrence Chen	7/1, 14/1, 21/1	9:30 am - 12:30 pm
The Structure and Message of the Minor Prophets	Dr. Anna Lee	14/1	2:00 - 5:00 pm
Enhance the Prayer Dynamic in the Church	Rev. Stephen Lin	28/1	9:30 am - 4:30 pm
The Pastoral Theology of William Willmon (I): An Introductory Reading of Pastor: <i>The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry</i>	Rev. Brian Lam	11/2, 18/2	2:00 - 5:00 pm
The Pastoral Theology of William Willmon (II): A Selected Reading of <i>The Service of God: Christian Work and Worship</i>	Dr. Freeman Huen	25/2, 4/3	2:00 - 5:00 pm
The Pastoral Theology of William Willmon (III): An Intensive Reading of <i>Proclamation and Theology</i>	Dr. Andres Tang	18/3, 25/3	2:00 - 5:00 pm
Youth Ministry: Embracing and Communication	Mr. Ringo Ng	18/2	9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Applying Christian Positive Psychology to Pastoral Care	Mrs. Vivien Chan	11/3	9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Fee concessions:

- (1) *Early Bird Enrollment:* those who have enrolled and paid the course fee a week before the course begins will have a course fee reduction of \$20. (This concession cannot be used with other discount offers.)
- (2) A 10% discount for graduates from HKBTS degree programs, pastors of Baptist churches and students in our Lay Theological Education Department;
- (3) A 20% discount for valid cardholders of HKBTS Alumni Association members;
- (4) A 50% discount for full-time seminary students.

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

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

Inquiries: Please call 2768 5179 or email pce@hkbts.edu.hk

Student Recruitment for 2019-20

Bachelor of Theology
Master of Divinity
Master of Divinity (Further Studies)
Master of Religious Education
Master of Christian Studies
Master of Theology
Doctor of Theology

*Calling
and
Discernment*

Application Date for Admissions

Hong Kong : January 2 - June 6
Overseas : January 2 - April 30

Admission Test Date

By individual arrangement during
the seminary's office hours

Experiencing Seminary Life Camp

Date : February 27 - 28 (Wed - Thu)

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

Contents : Getting to know HKBTS, testimonies of God's calling, individual discernment
and group discernment workshops, praise singing, message, sit-in-class lesson
and talk with professors and current seminary students

Fee : First Group HK\$280 per person (beginning 2:00 pm February 27) or
Second Group HK\$250 per person (beginning 7:30 pm February 27)

Application Deadline: February 19

For Inquiries

Telephone : 2768 5130

Email : admissions@hkbts.edu.hk

Website : www.hkbts.edu.hk

Reply

I will support The Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary by

☐ praying for the Seminary's theological education ministry

☐ contributing \$_____ for

☐ Education Fund ☐ Campus Extension Project ☐ 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. 787-471721-883

☐ **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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(Same as signature on credit card)

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Card Expiry Date: _____ / _____ (MM/YY)

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

☐ I do not wish my name and donation amount to appear in the
Seminary's Newsletter.

- 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 in Hong Kong.
- Your personal data will only be used for issuing receipt and Seminary's
administration purposes.
- Please tick the appropriate box (☒)
- For donation inquiries: Tel : (852) 2715 9511

Fax: (852) 2761 0868

Email: inquiry@hkbts.edu.hk

Thank you for your support !

General Fund, 1 August - 30 November 2018

DONORS REPORT FOR AUGUST 2018

19

DONORS REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

Education Fund (Church / Organization)

九龍國際浸信會	13,462.00
上環浸信會	6,000.00
大埔浸信會	12,000.00
屯門浸信教會	500.00
以馬內利浸信會	4,300.00
沙田浸信會	8,000.00
紅磡浸信會	22,800.00
香港(西區)潮語浸信會	5,000.00
香港仔浸信會	16,981.36
香港浸信教會	117,250.00
香港堅尼地城浸信教會	1,200.00
粉嶺浸信會	50,000.00
深荃浸信會	500.00
第一城浸信會	8,000.00
愛群道浸信會	26,000.00
新希望浸信會	1,500.00
置富浸信教會	3,000.00
觀塘浸信會	2,155.00
基督教宣道會華基堂	2,000.00
啟聞基金	500.00
星月餐廳	2,000.00
無名氏	1,000.00
HK\$	<u>304,148.36</u>

Education Fund (Individual Donor)

Yau Cheuk Yue Wendy	100.00
文倩兒	30,000.00
方志強	200.00
王群	800.00
朱活平伉儷	300.00
何仲儀	1,000.00
何錦燕	1,000.00
吳炳榮伉儷	8,000.00
吳國傑伉儷	500.00

李鑫	100.00
胡文恩伉儷	500.00
殷振強伉儷	1,000.00
曹啟明伉儷	400.00
梁明財伉儷	500.00
梁羅黎光	1,000.00
梁麗嫦	300.00
許鋒威	1,000.00
陳偉倫	200.00
曾慶忠	500.00
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黃華娟	100.00
黃煥然伉儷	2,000.00
楊謝金玉	3,000.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	500.00
葉煥章	300.00
劉永生、鍾梓萍	300.00
劉建紅	100.00
蔡慧英	200.00
鄧炳光伉儷	2,000.00
羅佩珊	100.00
羅凱慈	500.00
關志偉	100.00
關廣智、鄧慧然	500.00
關德華伉儷	200.00
無名氏	4,000.00
無名氏	3,000.00
無名氏	1,000.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	400.00
無名氏	380.00
無名氏	340.00
無名氏	300.00
無名氏	200.00

無名氏	100.00
無名氏	56.60
無名氏	29.20
HK\$	<u>68,305.80</u>

Lay Theological Education Program

蔡艷桃	HK\$	<u>500.00</u>
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Distance Education Program

鄭鵬程	300.00
無名氏	444.00
HK\$	<u>744.00</u>

Theological Education for Filipino

Leaders Program

星月餐廳	1,000.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	400.00
HK\$	<u>1,400.00</u>

TEFL Mission Trip

Erlinda Betia	HK\$	<u>700.00</u>
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Campus Extension Project

朱沛德伉儷	2,500.00
陳國權	1,000.00
蔡艷桃	1,000.00
無名氏	2,000.00
HK\$	<u>6,500.00</u>

Campus Maintenance and Repairs

楊美玲	300.00
鄒小寶	1,200.00
HK\$	<u>1,500.00</u>

DONORS REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2018

Education Fund (Church / Organization)		洪鷹輪	100.00	Lay Theological Education Program	
大埔主恩浸信會	1,250.00	胡文恩伉儷	500.00	杜桂鵬	1,800.00
大埔浸信會	12,300.00	殷振強伉儷	1,000.00	葉吳秀華	600.00
元朗浸信會	25,000.00	袁秀琮	20,000.00	劉惠容	600.00
屯門浸信教會	500.00	曹啟明伉儷	400.00	蔡艷桃	500.00
牛池灣竹園潮語浸信會	6,000.00	梁明財伉儷	500.00	HK\$	<u>3,500.00</u>
沙田浸信會	16,000.00	梁麗嫦	300.00	Distance Education Program	
香港(西區)潮語浸信會	5,000.00	許鋒威	1,000.00	鄭鵬程	300.00
香港仔浸信會	11,651.80	陳志坤伉儷	1,000.00	無名氏	444.00
香港浸信教會	117,250.00	陳偉倫	200.00	HK\$	<u>744.00</u>
香港堅尼地城浸信教會	1,200.00	陳瑞娥	3,000.00	Theological Education for Filipino	
將軍澳浸信會	1,000.00	陳曉彬	500.00	Leaders Program	
深荃浸信會	500.00	陳麗英	500.00	星月餐廳	1,000.00
博愛潮語浸信會	6,449.00	曾慶忠	500.00	陳麗英	200.00
置富浸信教會	3,000.00	馮德華、鄧如玉	200.00	溫祥、黎琮珍	400.00
銅鑼灣浸信會	3,500.00	黃華娟	100.00	HK\$	<u>1,600.00</u>
興田浸信會	1,000.00	黃煥然伉儷	2,000.00	Campus Extension Project	
灣仔浸信會	2,000.00	溫祥、黎琮珍	500.00	Clawcrest Estates Ltd.	1,000,000.00
鑽石山浸信會	3,000.00	葉煥章	300.00	大埔主恩浸信會	10,000.00
基督教宣道會華基堂	2,000.00	劉永生、鍾梓萍	300.00	牛頭角潮語浸信會	1,000.00
啟聞基金	500.00	劉建紅	100.00	生命頌浸信會	10,000.00
星月餐廳	2,000.00	蔡慧英	200.00	真理基石浸信會	30,000.00
無名氏	13,000.00	鄭惠嫦	500.00	鑽石山浸信會	3,000.00
無名氏	1,000.00	羅佩珊	100.00	無名氏	40,000.00
HK\$	<u>235,100.80</u>	羅凱慈	500.00	HK\$	<u>1,094,000.00</u>
Chinese Indep. Baptist Church-S.F.	US\$ <u>540.00</u>	關志偉	100.00	Campus Maintenance and Repairs	
Education Fund (Individual Donor)		關廣智、鄧慧然	500.00	楊美玲	300.00
Ng Chung Wai	1,000.00	關德華伉儷	200.00	鄒小寶	1,200.00
方志強	200.00	無名氏	10,000.00	HK\$	<u>1,500.00</u>
王紹良	700.00	無名氏	10,000.00	President's Council	
王群	800.00	無名氏	4,000.00	李德祥	10,000.00
朱活平伉儷	300.00	無名氏	3,000.00	陳偉生伉儷	2,000.00
何仲儀	1,000.00	無名氏	1,000.00	無名氏	40,000.00
何錦燕	1,000.00	無名氏	500.00	HK\$	<u>52,000.00</u>
吳炳榮伉儷	8,000.00	無名氏	500.00		
吳國傑伉儷	500.00	無名氏	400.00		
林惠珠	500.00	無名氏	300.00		
洪坡拉	100.00	無名氏	300.00		
洪錦漢	100.00	無名氏	200.00		
		HK\$	<u>80,500.00</u>		

DONORS REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2018

Education Fund (Church / Organization)

九龍國際浸信會	37,882.00
上水浸信會	15,000.00
上環浸信會	6,000.00
土瓜灣浸信會	30,000.00
大埔浸信會	12,000.00
大學浸信會	10,000.00
屯門浸信教會	500.00
以馬內利浸信會	8,600.00
竹園浸信會	8,000.00
西九浸信會	8,896.00
旺角浸信會	8,038.50
香港(西區)潮語浸信會	5,000.00
香港浸信教會	117,250.00
香港堅尼地城浸信教會	1,200.00
恩典浸信會	10,000.00
海怡浸信教會	10,000.00
荃灣潮語浸信會	1,000.00
基立浸信會	3,000.00
深荃浸信會	500.00
筲箕灣浸信會	5,000.00
置富浸信教會	3,000.00
銅鑼灣浸信會	3,500.00
錫安浸信會	2,380.00
觀塘浸信會	3,585.00
中華錫安傳道會慈雲山錫安堂	1,000.00
香港路德會頌恩堂	2,000.00
浸信宣道會明道堂	500.00
基督教宣道會華基堂	2,000.00
香港浸信會神學院校友會	3,000.00
基督教迦勒保健中心	1,000.00
啟聞基金	500.00
星月餐廳	2,000.00
無名氏	34,000.00
無名氏	1,000.00
HK\$	<u>357,331.50</u>

Education Fund (Individual Donor)

Angel Wong Ying Sheung	50.00
Lau Wing Yi	50.00
方志強	200.00
王紹良	700.00
王群	800.00
朱活平伉儷	300.00
何仲儀	1,000.00
何錦燕	1,000.00
吳炳榮伉儷	8,000.00
吳國傑伉儷	500.00
林美玲	30.00
洪鷹輪	100.00
胡文恩伉儷	500.00

殷振強伉儷	1,000.00
曹啟明伉儷	400.00
梁明財伉儷	500.00
梁桂華	1,000.00
梁麗嫦	300.00
許鋒威	1,000.00
陳偉倫	200.00
陳偉權	750.00
陳麗英	500.00
陸澤浩伉儷	3,000.00
曾慶忠	500.00
馮德華、鄧如玉	200.00
黃華娟	100.00
黃煥然伉儷	2,000.00
楊謝金玉	3,000.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	500.00
葉煥章	300.00
劉永生、鍾梓萍	300.00
劉建紅	100.00
蔡慧英	200.00
薛聲明	1,000.00
羅佩珊	100.00
羅凱慈	500.00
關志偉	100.00
關廣智、鄧慧然	500.00
關德華伉儷	200.00
無名氏	100,000.00
無名氏	5,000.00
無名氏	4,000.00
無名氏	3,500.00
無名氏	1,500.00
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	500.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	400.00
無名氏	300.00
無名氏	200.00
HK\$	<u>149,880.00</u>

Bursary Fund

大學浸信會	4,000.00
北角浸信會	
明義神學助學金	291,400.00
觀塘浸信會	
恩典神學助學金	<u>80,000.00</u>
HK\$	<u>375,400.00</u>

Pilgrimage in the Wilderness

趙振興	HK\$ <u>3,000.00</u>
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Lay Theological Education Program

陳國權	1,000.00
蔡艷桃	500.00
HK\$	<u>1,500.00</u>

Distance Education Program

Chinese Gospel Church of Dublin	8,452.86
鄭鵬程	300.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	444.00
HK\$	<u>9,696.86</u>

Thanksgiving Celebration of the 20th

Anniversary of Distance Education

MYT	1,000.00
何鏡煒伉儷	5,000.00
賀志勇	100.00
馮妙齡	1,000.00
羅佩珊	200.00
羅品奇	1,000.00
無名氏	1,710.00
HK\$	<u>10,010.00</u>

Theological Education for Filipino

Leaders Program

星月餐廳	1,000.00
陳麗英	200.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	400.00
HK\$	<u>1,600.00</u>

Campus Extension Project

Angel Wong Ying Sheung	50.00
Ho Yuen Wing	50,000.00
土瓜灣浸信會	5,000.00
牛頭角浸信會	5,000.00
恩潮浸信會	20,000.00
錫安浸信會	3,000.00
鴨脷洲浸信會	5,000.00
HK\$	<u>88,050.00</u>

Campus Maintenance and Repairs

楊美玲	300.00
鄒小寶	1,200.00
HK\$	<u>1,500.00</u>

Graduation Ceremony

青山浸信會	400.00
觀塘國語浸信會	400.00
HK\$	<u>800.00</u>



Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary

Spiritual Revival Concert 2019

My God, My King

Conductor **Sanson Lau**
 Accompanist **Rosanna Lok**
 Singers **HKBTS Choir**
HKBTS Alumni Choir
 (conducted by **Helen Chang Wan**)
 Speaker **Rev. Brian Lam**
 Testimonies **HKBTS Students**

Free admission Free seating

Inquiries: 2630 1257 / 2715 9511



September 28, 2018

A Day of Fun and Games for Both Teachers and Students

Teachers and students came together at the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong's Wu Kwai Sha Youth Village. Through a variety of group games and activities, they cultivated a deeper understanding of each other and team spirit, strengthening the fellowship of our disciple community.



October 23-25, 2018
Baptist Heritage Week

Baptist Heritage Week 2018 with the theme of "Baptist Ecclesiology after Whiteness" was held on our Sai O campus. Three lectures were delivered by Rev. Dr. Mikael N. Broadway,

Associate Professor of Theology and Ethics in the Shaw University Divinity School. He presented his study on Baptist ecclesiology with a focus on how modernity and white supremacy have distorted and damaged the church, and how to work toward overcoming these sinful failures to become God's people.

November 18, 2018

Joint Graduation Ceremony

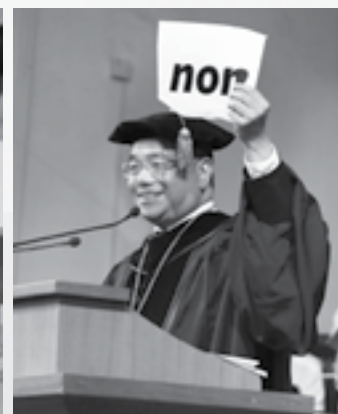


Precious Moments

The Joint Graduation Ceremony of HKBTS Main Programs (67th class), Lay Theological Education Department (19th class) and Distance Education Program (18th class) was held at the Kowloon City Baptist Church. In the 2017-18 school year, there were 67 graduates from the degree programs, and diploma or certificate graduates from the equivalent LTED program, along with 187 graduates from the diploma and certificate programs. The venue was fully occupied by the family and guests of the graduates. They all came together, and thanked God for the grace He bestowed on the graduates, and prayed that God may continue to bless them in their upcoming ministry.



Rev. Timothy Lau delivered a message entitled, "Be a Worker Approved of by God."



President Joshua Cho presented the graduation certificates and exhorted all the graduates.



December 17, 2018 **Christmas Worship: Immanuel**

The Christmas Worship Service, jointly organized by HKBTS and the Alumni Association, is an occasion when all our teachers, staff, students and alumni join together to remember the birth of our Savior. This is also a day when alumni return to their alma mater for their annual reunion. Thanks to God, more alumni joined this joyful celebration, and a new record high was set for this year. The Alumni Choir led the whole congregation to worship. Dr. Wong Fook-kong spoke on the topic "Immanuel" and reflected on the meaning of God-with-us. After the worship, we feasted together and had a joyful time of fellowship.

