

香港浸信會神學院

Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary



2021.2 Newsletter



Students'
Answering
the Call
to
Follow
Jesus

President's Word

Unreserved Dedication to God – HKBTS Volunteer Team

Special Reports

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Sharing of the First Th.D. Graduate of HKBTS

Unreserved Dedication to God - HKBTS Volunteer Team

Joshua Cho

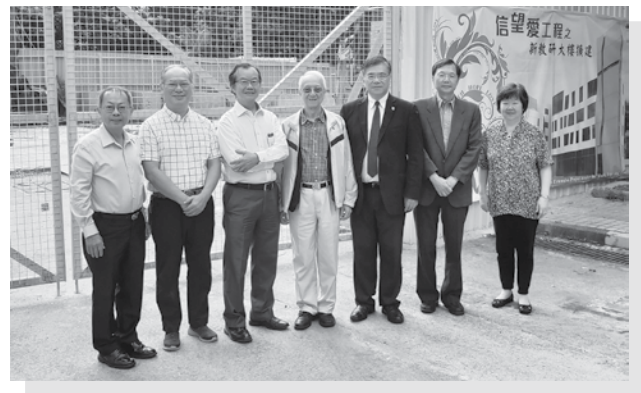
Over the past twelve months or so, Hong Kong has experienced unprecedented challenges. At this moment, as I am working on this article, the “fourth wave” of COVID-19 is hitting Hong Kong. Without any slackening, we are taking every preventative action to battle the pandemic. During such a period of hardships, the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary (HKBTS) remains steadfast in its loyalty to the duties God entrusted to it by embracing the challenges in adversities and doing its utmost to do what is right in the sight of God.



Campus Extension and HKBTS Volunteer Team

Following the patterns of a life cycle and the seasons of growth, the seminary entered a stage of redeployment of human resources a few years ago. We prayed to God to bring in additional and suitable members to our team so that we might make a concerted effort to propel the growth of the seminary. Amazingly, upon the finalization of the **Extension Project of the Sai O Campus (Phase 3)** by the Board of Directors in early 2016, God injected new dynamic power into the seminary by guiding a group of brothers and sisters to join the extension and building works of HKBTS on a voluntary basis. They are a team of colleagues who have been longing to participate in God’s work. They formed the **Building Committee** to assist the administrative staff of the seminary to deal with matters concerning land lease modifications, contract tendering and works supervision. Committee members include Deacon Cecil Chan (Chairman), Deacon John Pak, Deacon Thomas Tsang, Deacon Samuel Chan, Mr. Sam Chan and Dr. Joseph Kwan. In the capacity of the seminary’s President, I also joined the Committee, witnessing the good examples they had set about serving the Lord laboriously and zealously. Without exception, meetings were always conducted in a pleasant atmosphere, and all those present enjoyed the exchange of

ideas and interaction at the meeting table. During the whole process, there was neither argument nor waste of time and energy; everyone was giving all they had for the benefit of the seminary and the future prospect of theological education. *Wonderfully, everyone has experienced fellowship and unity in their hard work, appreciating and complementing one another while discerning God’s will together. “This is the ideal church in miniature,” I thought.*



Some members of the Building Committee with the seminary’s administrative staff in front of the worksite of the new academic building

Green Campus and HKBTS Volunteer Team

When the campus extension project entered the stage of floor plan design, the Building Committee suggested allowing users to voice their opinions on the design and planning of the new building. During the collection of opinions from different parties in the seminary, there were voices urging for concern for environmental protection. From the perspective of practicing faith, we considered the importance of environmental conservation and caring for nature, hence setting up another working group in June 2018 – the **Campus Environmental Consultation and Development Committee**, which was responsible for the study of and planning of matters involving energy efficiency, waste reduction and recycling, as well as campus greening. Besides including me as the ex-officio member, we also invited a group of experts in environmental protection from the Baptists to join the committee. These experts include Deacon Ho Kin-chung (Chairman), Mr. Edward Lam,



The Campus Environmental Consultation and Development Committee at meeting with solar project developer

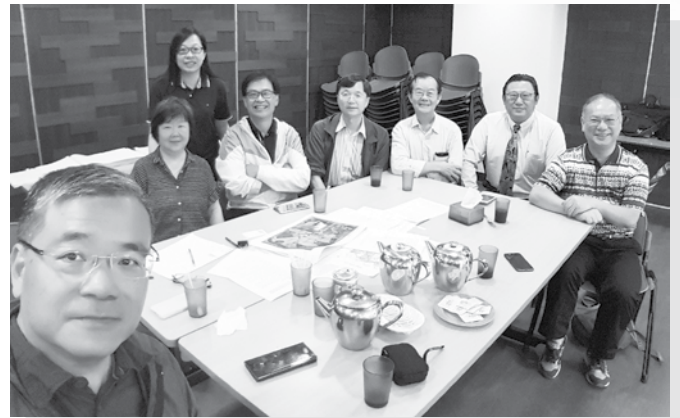
Deacon Cecil Chan, Mr. Steve Wong and Mr. Andy Ho. They all worked and pulled together in their team work, contributing their own expertise, which ultimately turned HKBTS into **the first theological seminary in Hong Kong installed with a solar panel power generating system**. Such a move could well be described as the practice of "Ecological Theology," which not only allows the full utilization of the rooftop space for the generation of renewable energy through the use of natural resources, but also promotes environmental protection education among our students, churches and even in society.

Drainage Issue and HKBTS Volunteer Team

When the seminary commenced its campus extension works, our Sai O Campus was confronted with another daunting external challenge in early August 2018. One of the issues that gravely concerned us was **the government's plan to build a major sewage pumping station just 5 meters from our campus**. We summoned the members of the Campus Environmental Consultation and Development Committee and the Building Committee for a joint meeting. During the meeting, the members unanimously agreed that given the close proximity of the proposed site of the sewage pumping station, the foul smell caused would surely lead to air pollution impact on the teachers, students and staff living or working on the campus. Worse still, the consequence would be inconceivable in case of any sewage leakage. What was more, the proposed pumping station was to be located adjacent to Nai Chung Pebble Beach. The beauty of the surroundings makes the place a popular destination for holidaymakers in Hong Kong. The site is also a good habitat for various species. Besides, close to Nai Chung Pebble Beach is the nature reserve at Starfish Bay; Nai Chung Coast is also a "Site of Special Scientific Interest"; the whole area covers the ecological environment of mudflats, beaches and rocky coasts, which is rich in biological diversity. It has long been recognized as a site with ecological value with its important natural resources and great educational and scientific values. **Once the environment is destroyed, it will deal a fatal blow to this web of ecological systems, which will be irreversible.**

Meanwhile, with the impending commencement of the new school term in 2018, I had to attend various preparatory camps and meetings. However, the commencement work of the Building Committee and Campus Environmental Consultation and Development Committee was in full gear. **Beyond our**

expectation, the committee members were all willing to come to the seminary for meetings at 7:30 a.m. During the meetings, they did not show any sign of reluctance. Nor did they find the meetings hard labor. Instead, they were all joyful and pleased. One of the deacons even said, "We all rise early to come to worship God and enjoy fellowship here!" Every meeting was conducted with dedicated minds and efforts. Despite the fact that these members were all qualified leaders from different churches well-equipped with knowledge in the building and works sectors, each of them was willing to esteem others better than themselves, listening to others' opinions in lowliness of mind and always putting the benefits of the seminary and the churches in the first place. I was deeply touched by this. Some might say, "This is what ideal practice of faith should be like among Baptists" but what I witnessed was a spiritual fellowship. **"730," which was an alternative name of the group, has finally become a synonym of the happy service in which everyone was complementing one another, developing into a much-told story in the history of HKBTS.** From this, I got a glimpse of the morning glory of God's Kingdom again.



One of the "730" meetings

An Ever-expanding Volunteer Team

With the coronavirus outbreak, extension works and drainage issues, the workload of the seminary staff kept increasing steadily. Amidst the shortage of staff, God has amazingly guided Mrs. Melon Huen Yeung Mei-lun and Mrs. Katherine Lam Liu Yin-chun to join our team work, hence further expanding the volunteer team of the seminary. Ms. Melon Yeung is Dr. Freeman Huen's wife. She had been teaching in Aberdeen Baptist Lui Ming Choi College for 32 years. Then in 2007 she became school principal and worked in that capacity until last August when she retired early. Ms. Katherine Liu is Rev. Brian Lam's wife. She has recently retired from her work in a



secondary school, which she has served for 36 years. Before retirement, she was the vice-principal of the school. The two ladies are currently **Assistant to President** and **Project Officer (Learning and Teaching)** of the seminary respectively. With their rich experience in teaching and school management, dedicated love to God and zeal in serving Him, I firmly believe they will become a new power driving the seminary forward. Besides them, Ms. Eva Ho, an alumna studying in a mission and world evangelism program in Emory University in the U.S., has also taken up the post of **Development Officer** on a voluntary basis to work with us to convey the vision of the seminary to different communities.



President Cho at meeting with Mrs. Melon Huen, Rev. Brian Lam and Mrs. Katherine Lam



President Cho at meeting with alumna Eva Ho (2nd from right) and colleagues from Publication Office and President's Office

In recent months, as the extension works have been proceeding in full swing, the seminary has invited Deacon John Pak and Mr. Sam Chan from the Building Committee to be our **Honorary Project Management Consultants**, responsible for the supervision of the entire extension works and the holding of regular works progress meetings with the chairman of the Building Committee, Dr. Cecil Chan. They can be aptly described as "SuperVolunteers," who played a leading role in the seminary's extension works, offering technical advice which has contributed to the smooth progress of the works.

In face of the drainage issue and our responsibility for environmental conservation, the seminary has gathered several core members of the Campus Environmental Consultation and Development Committee and the Building Committee, as well

as an alumnus well-experienced in this domain, forming the **Sai O Trunk Sewer Sewage Pumping Station (TSSPS) Issue Advisory Committee**. The members include Mr. Edward Lam, Mr. Steve Wong, Deacon John Pak and Rev. Wong Mun-lun. They act as the vanguard for the drainage issue and have been unceasingly helping the seminary to face up to the challenge. Not only do they offer concrete and viable suggestions but also they join our administrative staff in meeting the developers of neighboring sites, representatives of government departments and environmental protection experts. In a sensible and reasonable approach, they state clearly the seminary's stance, hoping that the authorities concerned will work out an appropriate solution without compromising the life quality of existing residents and the long-term development of the community.



Seminary representatives and Sai O TSSPS Issue Advisory Committee at meeting with government representatives

Staff and Volunteers Serving the Lord in One Mind

Throughout the journey, there have been lots of stories to tell. All these stories work together to bring out the life pattern of the seminary. On one hand, we have a team of regular teachers and staff; on the other, we have numerous volunteers behind the scenes sparing no effort in serving in different posts, some routine in nature, some administrative and others academic in nature. With the latest addition of a group of fresh and sincere members to the volunteer team, everyone is working hard together to contribute all they have to fulfill the mission of theological education. This is a touching picture indeed. From the deployment of all these human resources, we can see God's guidance throughout and the trueness of our faith. That is, **when people experience God, their lives will be lived with this mode of "unreserved dedication."** Just as what Romans 12:1 says, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship."



Peter Drucker and HKBTS Volunteer Team



Brian Lam

Chaplain, Director of Field Education,
Lecturer of Practical Theology

Peter F. Drucker (1909-2005) was a well-known name in the management field. With his particularly innovative insights on the management of non-profit organizations, he was widely held in high esteem in various sectors. The fact that the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary (HKBTS) is able to progress steadily under God's gracious guidance is not only due to the great efforts of its teachers and staff but also a team of volunteers behind the scenes, whose contribution cannot be left unrecognized. In this regard, we find Drucker's views on the management of non-profit organizations are a good reference for us. These views are also inspiring to HKBTS in the development of its volunteer team.

Third Sector Organizations

As pointed out by Drucker, previous discussions on organizational management generally covered organizations of only two sectors, namely **business** and **government**. Businesses supply products and services (i.e. the secondary or tertiary industry) whereas government furnishes the controls; the former is about business management while the latter is about public administration. Actually, there is a third sector, which tends to be overlooked. The organizations in this sector includes neither the regulatory bodies of the government, nor organizations operated for profit. Previously known as "**non-profit organizations**" (NPOs), such organizations are mostly referred to as "non-governmental organizations" (NGOs) in contemporary times. At the time when Drucker pointed this out, there were a lot of such organizations existing in the U.S., many of which relied on volunteers for their operation and propulsion. Seeing this, Drucker asked, "Why is it so? What's their significance?" Hence he started studying this sector.

A Christian himself, Drucker included records of his interviews with a number of Christian organizations in his book *Managing the Non-profit Organization: Principles and Practices*. In addition, he also regards institutions such as hospitals, universities and churches as "non-profit organizations." It had been widely held that "management" referred to "business management" only and that non-profit organizations and volunteers required no management. Drucker did not agree to this idea. He devoted his efforts to the study on non-profit organizations, pointing out that even non-profit organizations or volunteers needed management,

only that it is conducted in a different manner, which might even be worth learning for the business sector.

Mission and Community

Speaking of running non-profit organizations, Drucker pointed out in the first place that **having a mission** is a pre-requisite. Many volunteers already have full-time jobs. The reason why they were willing to



do voluntary work after hours was that they were attracted by the mission of the organization and they believed that what they volunteered to do was worthwhile. Participation in the voluntary work gave them a sense of contribution to society, and a feeling that what they were doing was meaningful.

Besides, when they took part in the voluntary work of non-profit organizations, they **experienced what community was**. At that time, quite a number of Americans lived in detached houses in the suburbs, hence lacking in the experience of a community. When they became volunteers at churches or boy scout organizations, they could gain the experience of a community. Generally, in business organizations, conflicts might arise among colleagues because of conflicting interests in matters concerning promotion. Such problems did not exist among voluntary communities. In this way, community experiences as such would be more preferable. When people served together, there would be a stronger sense of community. Competitions among colleagues to achieve the best performance for promotion simply did not exist.

Growth and Management

In Drucker's opinion, when volunteers did not work for remuneration, what the organization could give them was that it **facilitated them to fulfill a mission, to help them grow and build on their strengths**. For this reason, the leadership must let the volunteers know clearly the mission of the organization and redefine their mission as circumstances change so that the mission may be transformed into concrete and practical actions. Additionally, they should

give them chances to learn new skills. Drucker stressed the importance of training for volunteers so that they might possess the ability to contribute.

Some organizations welcomed volunteers indiscriminately but actually the management should understand the strengths or qualities of the volunteers first before they were assigned to appropriate posts and human resources could be properly allocated. He believed that the participants should not be regarded as “volunteers” but as “unpaid staff.” Even though their participation was part-time in nature, agreement should still be made on the time they should be on duty and it should be found out if the posts they held were a good match for their strengths. Apart from these, regular appraisals must also be performed, not as a basis for promotion but as a means to assess whether the volunteers had gained a sense of satisfaction from their works, whether their contribution was in line with the mission of the organization, and which areas in their personal lives necessitated growth or development.

HKBTS and the Volunteers

How can Drucker’s views on non-profit organizations apply to the situation of our seminary? *What is the mission of HKBTS?*

– *To train up our next generation of preachers and pastors.* How can the volunteers of the seminary make contribution to the fulfillment of this mission? While we have volunteers for routine and administrative work, such as directors, members of the President’s Council, and members of various task forces and committees, administrative staff, clerical staff and audio-visual workers, we also have volunteer practitioners like the in-service pastors joining our Field Education Committee. *They are all dedicating themselves selflessly to the cause of the Great Commission, contributing their strengths and time to facilitate the development of the seminary, working with us to nurture our future church leaders and devoting their efforts to the extension of God’s Kingdom.*

How can we convey the seminary’s mission to the volunteers in a clearer way? How can we strengthen their community experience in HKBTS? What else can we do on top of inviting them to attend such activities as our chapel services, worship gatherings, Thanksgiving Worship Service, Christmas Worship and staff retreats? How can we step up the training for them? How can we give them chances to grow and develop? All these are issues for us to ponder.

Sharing of the *First* Th.D. Graduate of HKBTS

The Road to a Doctoral Degree: A Journey of Grace



Tiger Chan (Th.D)

*In retrospect, countless hilltops and mountains have I trekked.
Bumpy as the road has been, God’s grace is everywhere.
Grateful am I beyond measure, for your love and walk with me!*

The journey of my studies for the doctoral degree is finally completed. Not until I looked back did I realize I had trekked so many hilltops and trodden so many winding paths. Throughout the journey, I was grateful to my classmates who walked with me and to the teachers who had helped me wholeheartedly.

A Rigorous Academic Journey

Before applying for the Th.D. program at the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary (HKBTS), the first barrier I had to go through was taking the IELTS Exams. The requirement of the Th.D. program for applicants is quite stringent. Applicants had to submit an IELTS result slip. I had not taken public exams for more than twenty years and so it was really taxing on me to handle such demanding exams all of a sudden. It had taken me two-odd months to prepare for the



President Joshua Cho conferring the Th.D. degree to Tiger Chan

exams. However, to my surprise, the greatest challenge did not come from the syllabus alone but the stamina required. On the morning of the exams, not only did I have to handle the exams, which lasted for three hours, but also I had to spend quite a long while waiting before, after and between the exams, which meant I had been tortured for almost 4.5 hours. Immediately after the exams, I felt drained and half-dead. I had asked myself why I had to be assessed on my English proficiency through a public exam when I was already a graduate with a master degree who had been trained in the seminary. Of course, this requirement shows that the seminary is fair to all applicants, who must be equipped with reasonable language abilities. Baptized by the IELTS exams, I realized that I had stepped on a rigorous academic journey and could only hold on to endure everything.

Witnessing God's Grace on the Rugged Mountain Ridges

After admission, a Th.D. student had to go through the Examination of Candidacy (including three regular course exams and a Modern Language Test) before moving on to the writing of dissertation. On my part as a student who was Christian thought major, I was not talented in language. Nor had I learnt German before. It was therefore difficult indeed for me to pass the seminary's assessment in the German exam. Thankfully, I came across two other Th.D. students who had asked a well-acquainted German teacher to start a German class with them. They let me join them and I was extremely grateful for this. Thank God I had these friends walking with me, which was a great encouragement for me to get over the hurdle posed by the German exam. Given my limited language learning abilities, I would not have been able to pass the exam without such encouragement.

After three years, I finally completed the four required exams. During the period, I had changed residence three times, which slowed down my pace of taking the exams. Then when I started to prepare for the writing of my dissertation, the real mountain towered ahead of me. The subject I had chosen to study was Kevin J. Vanhoozer, who is a contemporary American evangelical theologian. He is a lively and versatile scholar, who is knowledgeable in a number of domains. His theological theories entail philosophies and cultural theories in various fields. Therefore, not only did I have to investigate his own theological theories but also the theories of the philosophers, theologians, Christian thinkers and cultural theorists that he utilizes. For this purpose, I sought help from my supervisors and the postgraduate students at the seminary. I am grateful to all the classmates and teachers (especially postgraduate student Rev. Lau in the Master of Theology program) who were glad to share with me their study resources, including the important articles and publications of the relevant philosophers and theologians. This help allowed me to kick off my research journey at the right

starting point, so that I would not waste time going on the wrong way.

Among the thinkers whom I had to study was a non-Christian cultural theorist in the time of Soviet Union. His literary and cultural theories were particularly difficult to understand; having rarely come across such kinds of ideas and thought patterns in my past research areas, I began to feel lost as to where I should start. This was a hilltop I had spent much time trekking. I had even sought help from my teacher, asking him for referral to any scholar that had knowledge about the theories of this thinker. Unfortunately, there were few local scholars, especially in the Christian domain, who were dedicated to the study of this literary theorist. Coincidentally (I believe it must be through the wonderful arrangement by God), when I was sharing my difficulties in handling the dissertation studies with an ex-colleague, who was studying culture and theology in a local university, she happened to have come across the theories of this Soviet thinker in the university lectures and assignments. Such information from her finally presented to me an approach to climb over the hilltop.

To be honest, there were many other hilltops that I had climbed over with struggles and difficulty on this journey. The journey of research was lonely. On many occasions, I had to face boldly my own inadequacies, limitations and weaknesses, which resulted in confusion, struggles and hesitations, which might even end up with night-long insomnia as well as physical and mental exhaustion. Thank God that I was finally able to carry through the whole thing step by step through His sufficient grace and wonderful arrangements.

Angels Walking by Me

I am grateful to my wife for her silent support over the years. She has never made any complaint to me. In addition, my two angelic daughters had virtually formed a trio of beautiful angels with my wife, surrounding me with joy and laughter as well as a great driving force so that I could pick myself up and start the journey again after each challenge.



Dr. Tiger Chan and his family

Take My Life

Kwok Tak-sum (B.Th. 1)

“Rubbish Youth” Experiencing God

I was very much into sports back in junior high, playing football and running every day. I represented my school in competitions and won numerous medals. However, my grades at school were so far from satisfactory that I got kicked out of school in Form 3 for my poor academic performance. Such an experience made me feel worthless and hopeless and I lived each day unhappily. When I started going to a new school, I gradually turned into a bad student who caused troubles in class, smoked, and got into fights. In short, I was a worthless and hopeless “rubbish youth” before I became a Christian. Failing to see value in my own life, I attempted to seek and affirm myself through deviant behaviors.

After I failed my HKCEE exams, I started working as a transport worker, yet found no meaning in the daily hard work. It was not until two years later, for some unknown reason, I started going to church and discovered how special Christians were. They were cheerful and had peace in their lives. I decided to give it a try to believe in God in 2002. I quit many of my bad habits such as smoking and fighting after I converted. I was also actively involved in church and my life was completely renewed.

A Greater Life Miracle

In 2006, I had a calling from God to equip myself for serving young people, especially those at my alma mater, to help them and change their lives with my own personal testimony. But I had no idea how I could do that, as I could never become a school teacher with my education qualifications. Therefore, in 2007, I enrolled in the Youth Ministry Certificate Program of the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary (HKBTS) in hopes of learning more about what youth ministry was and how I could get involved. Moreover, since I was gifted in playing sports, I also took a number of different courses in sports coaching so as to create more opportunities to reach out to young people.

Just as I finished both the Youth Ministry Certificate Program at HKBTS and the sports coaching courses in November 2008, something special happened. A teacher from my alma mater invited me to work at the school as an integrated education officer, the main duties of which



Tak-sum with his wife Emily and his children Pearl and Cher

were serving young people through different activities and preaching the gospel to the students. How miraculous and surreal it was as I recalled then how God had called me to serve these students at school just two years before! That was how I went from a transport worker to someone who could work at school and share my faith with students every day. It has already been twelve years and I see this transformation as the greatest miracle in my life given my qualifications and ability. Being able to reach out to young people at school every day, preaching the gospel to them, sharing with them my personal testimony, and walking with them through different means like sports, activities and camps, I found the mission that God had given me and came to see how valuable my life was. So “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (Mt 19:26). *Believing in Jesus does allow our lives to become more remarkable, and even more valuable, and more hopeful.*

Calling and Waiting

In 2008, I was deeply drawn to the theme “Take My Life” of the HKBTS Annual Concert of Praise, because I wanted to be greatly used by God. I was deeply touched by the concert, seeing these seminary students who were used by God singing their hearts out and hearing testimonies of how they were called by God to serve. I saw how real God was. At the concert, I was moved by the verses: “Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field’” (Mt 9:37-38). God’s call upon me for full-time ministry began with these verses. *From that moment on, I have a passion for people’s souls, bearing in mind that there are still many out there who need the gospel, who need to know and believe in God.* Once people convert, their lives would no longer be the same, just as how my life was

completely transformed: from a man with no hope and direction in life, to someone who discovered the gifts and mission given by God — my mission was to share the stories of my life with others so that they may also know and believe in God.

Later on, I attended “A Talk on Full-time Ministry” organized by HKBTS which further reassured me of God’s calling. I was eager to start my full-time study in the seminary right away to get equipped and then serve God for the rest of my life. However, during my meeting with professors from HKBTS, they thought I was too young back then and that I may also have difficulty studying in the seminary with my below par academic background. They recommended that I take lay theological training to begin with and to keep growing spiritually at church, so as to be prepared for the day when God does guide me through to the seminary. That was how I first experienced God’s calling back in 2008.

Up until 2018, it had been twelve whole years since I was first called to serve young people in 2006, then diverting my career path to work at school in 2008 and calling me for full-time ministry at the “Take My Life” concert in the same year. For twelve years there were not only changes in different aspects of my life, such as my family, ministry, career but even ups and

downs in my spiritual growth; yet one thing that has never changed was my desire to get equipped in the seminary. **For twelve years, I kept preparing myself and waiting for God’s calling again.**

The Time Has Come

During a Bible study session that I was leading at a camp for an adult fellowship in 2018, that urge to see people’s lives change grew strongly in me again. The passion for people’s souls was just like what I had felt ten years ago when God first called me. I knew the time has come. Then, I attended the HKBTS Full-time Ministry Exploration Camp again to confirm if that was God’s will. After hearing what the seminary students shared, meeting again with professors, and sharing my thoughts with my pastors as well as brothers and sisters at church, I decided to leave my job and enroll in the full-time theology program at HKBTS to get equipped. I truly believe that the past twelve years had not been a waste of time and I thank God for using those twelve years to get me ready before receiving formal theological training. **Studying in the seminary is only the beginning. I shall learn, with a humble heart, how to let God use me and take my life to serve Him and others.**

Spread the Love Around

Titan Mak (M.Div. I)



Titan with his wife Shirley and his child Boaz

I was converted in a gospel camp organized by the school during the latter half of my primary school years; however, as I was still unsure of my faith, my early church life lasted for just a couple of months. Thank God, He did not forget me. He sent an angel to me. As chance had it, I came to know a friend who took me to church, which had turned a new leaf in my church life since.

Spread the Love Around

During my life in a small group at church, I felt a love

among the group members that was more than friendship, a love that I had never felt at school. Although the group met only once a week, which was not long in terms of the time we could spend together, the sharing among us, which was effective and openhearted, made me fall into the arms of the church again. This was what my heart had been yearning for.

Since then, the Holy Spirit began to work in me, gradually pouring love into my life. I also began to pass this love on to others. Once a quiet little boy, I became known by all as someone who always cracked cold jokes. **I hoped I could keep bringing laughter and love to those around me so that they might feel the love of God.** As time passed, I started serving in the church, from taking part in the children’s Summer Bible School to being a mentor for the youth and teenagers.

Are You Willing to Devote Your Whole Life to Serving the Lord?

Just when I had settled down in my church life, I was admitted into the university. Once I had stepped into this

merry world of university, I was presented with countless novel, interesting and extremely eye-catching stalls for clubs and associations to enroll into. That said, under the amazing arrangement of God, my heart was captured by a place which was inconspicuous on the campus – the Chaplain's Office of the Baptist University. There, at the university fellowship, I experienced a religious life that I had never tasted before. It was eye-opening to me. Together with brothers and sisters coming from different churches, I took a deep look into our faith. We kept watch for one another, and applied what we had learnt from God to our personal, campus and community lives.

During the three years of my university life, I had taken part in a few mission trips, the most impressive one being the religious exchange with students of Chung Yuan Christian University in Taiwan. One evening during the trip, a special gathering was held. Blurred as the memory was, I still remember the speaker challenging us with a question: **“Are you willing to devote your whole life to serving the Lord?”** He cited the verse: “Jesus replied, ‘Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head’” (Mt 8:20). I did not know how to respond to this at that time. My heart just kept pounding. While I was giving thought to this, my tears kept falling. This was the first time God called me. However, I did not respond. Instead I lay it gently in my heart.

A couple of years later, during a devotional reading of the Scriptures, the same verse came to me again. This time I was much calmer. I was less emotional than the first time but the feeling was more solid, as if it were a very concrete reminder to me. I kept thinking and praying about this. After that, the idea of serving the Lord full-time started to bud in my heart.

March toward the Goal

Having the goal of “serving God full-time” set, I kept pondering over how I could achieve it. My first thought was to enroll for theological studies at a seminary and then become a pastor in a church; however, the pastor of my church gave me some other advice. Thinking that I was too young at that time, he suggested I work for a period of time first so that I could gain more first-hand understanding of the situations and needs of those I aimed to serve in future.

Over the past few years, I had been mainly serving the youth and adolescents at church. For this reason, I tried to look for Christian institutions which served the younger generation.

Under God's guidance, I came to know Christian Zheng Sheng College (CZSC), which was recruiting teachers then. Not knowing if I was suitable for the job, I braced myself to apply for the post. At that time, Principal Chan suggested that I, instead of attending an interview, experience the actual life at the school for a couple of days before making any decision. As a result, I determinedly went to this drug-rehab school at Chi Ma Wan on Lantau Island.

The few days' experience was unforgettable. The teachers and students led a simple life on this isolated peninsula. Deeply engrossed by the conversations among them, I just wanted to listen on, without any desire to sleep. Despite this, I did not opt for staying at the school in the end because working there would only mean I would be a teacher transmitting knowledge from their books. What I understood from the experience was, however, that the students not only needed knowledge from books but the mighty power of the Gospel that could transform them. Then what about teaching there and preaching to them after school? It wouldn't work either. Even the youngest one of them had much richer life experience than I did. This experience at CZSC had given me greater motivation to equip myself for stepping onto the road God had shown me.

Walking with the Young

In the following years, I worked at the Boys' Brigade, Hong Kong, which gave me a chance to broaden my vision. Over the past years, I could say I had been working in the “frontline” in serving the young at church, with very close contacts with them; in this institution, which also served the young, my work was mainly “behind the scenes.” I had learnt a precious lesson from this “big difference.” My major duty was to plan activities and liaise with co-workers in various churches or schools. ***Through such liaison, I witnessed how committed these people were in devoting themselves to youth work.*** The way I served at church in the past was quite uniform, or routine, but what I had seen in these few years had enriched my vision.

God's instructions have been very clear to me. The community I served and those I serve now are mainly the youth and adolescents, who are important members of the church and the generation who is going to get the baton from us. ***Despite the way they were labeled or ignored in the last six months or so, I am willing to fulfill God's calling on me by continuing to serve the youth.***

It All Starts with a *“Bold Prayer”*

Hymns Leung (M.Div. 1)



just did not know how to start with, nor I have any direction in this regard. I had no idea at all how to respond to the Lord. But God always has a wonderful way of leading and arranging things. On the day I first set foot on campus, I was approached by a member from Campus Crusade for Christ who prayed with me and invited me to join them in their evangelistic activities on the university campus. I was stunned by the encounter, as if God Himself had reminded me to respond to my promises to Him. So, I began to get involved with Christian student groups at the university. It was there that I met a group of Christians who were very committed and eager to pursue God. Their pious lives inspired me *to learn to live a Spirit-filled life with the Lord as my first priority, to break free from the chains of my old self with the help of the Lord and to dedicate my four years at the university to His use.*

Suffering Turned into Blessing

I thought that as my spiritual life was being renewed, and I was growing spiritually and was beginning to respond to God, everything would go smoothly. However, I received a heartbreaking phone call on my way to campus for a morning prayer meeting one morning following the day I made such a resolution to follow Him. I was told that my grandfather died in an accident. I just couldn't understand. I didn't want to accept such reality, and I even complained to God with many bitter words — “I have just started to be ready to serve You, why do You let me go through this now?” Even though there was a lot of anger and sadness in my heart, this experience did not lead me astray from the Lord but on the contrary, became an opportunity for me to grow: *I began to understand that the sovereignty of life was indeed in the hands of the Lord, and myself began to have a burden for lost souls.* This made me even more eager to serve Jesus Christ and to preach His gospel. Gradually, God sowed the idea of full-time ministry into my heart.

Discerning the Lord's Call

Although my aspiration for full-time ministry was somewhat clear, I was still afraid that my decision was made on an impulse and I may end up not being able to follow through. So, I decided to take a year to discern whether I really wanted to dedicate my life to serve God. Meanwhile, I did not let many people know my aspiration, so that I could focus on and be sensitive to God's leading.

I planned to start with reading the Bible because I was

By God's grace, I was born into a Christian family and am a second-generation Christian. Although I have known God since childhood, I was always very distant from Him and did not follow Him very seriously. I put myself before God in all matters, not fully seeking to serve or respond to Him. It was only when I was facing public exams in Form 6 and I was unsure about the future and the path ahead and feeling helpless that I was driven to take hold of God. Praying to the Lord became my way out of that helplessness. I remember making a deal with God: *“God, if you let me be accepted by a university, I will be there to preach your gospel!”*

Little did I know that this “bold prayer” six years ago would be the starting point for my journey for full-time ministry.

God's Wonderful Arrangement

After the public exams did not go as I had hoped, I was not admitted by any university but after a few twists and turns, I enrolled in an associate degree course instead. During this period of my studies, in order to achieve better grades, I became more disciplined in my life, and my church life subsequently became more stable too. The Umbrella Movement occurred in the same year, and all these happenings provided me with an opportunity to reflect on my relationship with God. I took the initiative to read the Bible more often, instead of just taking on “second-hand faith” from others. It was then I discovered that the gospel of Jesus Christ is not only concerned with the salvation of the individual persons, but also with the needs of society and the world.

A year later, I was admitted by a university and my “bold prayer” of the past kept coming back to my mind. However, I

convinced that I needed the Word of God in my life in order to be able to follow Him. However, this was quite a challenge as I have reading difficulties coupled with a lower-than-average attention span. At the beginning, I felt powerless and was discouraged by the many words that I had to read, and I could not focus on the messages in my mind. **But the Holy Spirit reminded me that I could not rely on my own abilities to serve God, nor could I rely on myself to know Him.** So, I prayed to the Lord and asked Him to help me read and understand His Word every day. As a result, I was able to follow my Bible reading plan with no hindrances for the rest of the year, and I finished reading the whole Bible for the first time after a year.

In addition, I began to gain more experience in ministry at university. Both my successes and failures helped strengthen my faith in God and increase my desire to serve. Meanwhile,

from time to time and on different occasions, my friends and classmates asked me if I would be a preacher in the future, as if God was calling me again through their mouths.

Through all these experiences, I found that the Lord's call to me was becoming clearer and clearer. It enabled me to pray to God with confidence, asking Him to continue to guide me and use me. After graduating, I returned to my mother church as a trainee, participating in full-time ministry in a church setting and gaining hands-on experience. Although social movements and the pandemic made my trainee experience very different from what I had imagined, this process of trying and exploring a new model of pastoral care allowed me to realize that full-time ministry was indeed what I longed for. So, I enrolled at the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary, **hoping to be better equipped and be ready to respond to the pastoral call.**

A *Healing* God Who Walks *with* People

Yuen Tin-man (M.Div. I)



Angels Walking with Me

Despite the fact that I am a second-generation Christian in the family, I had never taken my faith very seriously. It was not until I encountered hardships that I realized God had quietly involved Himself in my life. I found that there were always angels standing by me, teaching me who God is and walking with me. Chaplains at school and mentors and ministers in my mother church always discussed matters about faith with me. After a period of religious pursuit, I decided to turn back to Christ

and become a true Christian in Form 4. Gradually I resumed my fellowship life and was attracted to faith again. I discovered that bit by bit faith had changed me both in the way I handled people and things and in my world values: such new life was very precious to me.

I wanted to repay God very much. Looking back, I found that God had arranged a group of angels for me, including teachers, classmates, pastors, churchmates and speakers for various talks and sermons, all of whom made me understand truth. I wished to do more to model God. As a result, I took up the role of mentor for the youth and teenagers' fellowship at church, hoping that I could walk with the younger generation and share with them Jesus' sacrificial love. Thank God! I was surrounded by His love all the time! **My ears heard of Him in the past but now I have personally experienced His company.**

What Matters Most

I firmly believe that the most important and worthwhile

cause in life is to let people know God as early as possible. In my first year at university, I once thought, "What a beautiful thing it would be if I could dedicate my whole life to the preaching of the gospel!" However, during a gathering in the Hong Kong Bible Conference in the same year, when the pastor called the congregation to make up their minds to take up full-time ministry, I said to God, "I hope I can focus on my work first. Someday in the future I will surely serve You!"

Despite this, during the Bible Conference in the following year, I heard again the pastor calling young people to dedicate themselves to God as early as possible so that they might have sufficient stamina to preach. Meanwhile, the pastor in my mother church reminded me that not everyone was so blessed to have the chance to serve God and in fact, someone had even passed away before getting admitted to a seminary. In 2017, I took part in a ministry serving refugees. This inspired me a lot and the urge in my heart became even stronger. Seeing that the refugees fleeing from war to come to Hong Kong were so heartbroken and desperate for love, I felt that God was calling me to show my care for this group of people and walk with them. At this moment, the only thing on my mind was that I wanted to devote all my time to serving God. On one occasion, when I was having quiet time on my own, I came across the dialogue between God and Moses, in which God assured him that He would give strength to those He called. That devotional experience had moved me a lot. I realized that God perfectly understood my inner weaknesses and struggles and that He would surely grant me all the strength I needed to face the difficulties in serving Him. To further confirm God's will, I retreated to Taiwan for a time in solitude.

A Spiritual Journey in Quiet Time

After arriving at Taichung, I came to know a sister in Christ, who gave me a devotional booklet as a gift. I was very much impressed by the first and second passages in the booklet, part of which reading, "*Dear Lord, please help us remember how precious it is to follow you. It is certainly worthwhile to put aside everything and follow you.*" The following verses were also quoted: "*and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many*" (Mk 10:44-45). I firmly believe that God was not only calling me by means of the two texts to put aside everything to follow Him but also recalling my memory of my first thought: God redeemed the lives of many by serving them. God presented to me all the past episodes of His walk with me so as to tell me to turn back. *I also wanted to follow*

His footsteps by helping people experience God through serving them. The devotional time in the next few days also reminded me of my first thoughts. Coincidentally, the passages mentioned "watching over children and serving refugees." God reignited my passion! I was eager to help people understand what matters in their lives: knowing God.

This experience during the trip allowed me to reflect. One day, when I was thinking about chances to preach the gospel, some friends staying in the same youth hostel as mine and coming from Korea, the U.S. and Thailand happened to have some questions about faith. I then had some discussions with them and shared with them my personal testimony. The experience allowed me to recapture the joy of sharing the gospel with others. Upon my return to Hong Kong, I pondered over the journey again: *it was not a travel experience, but God's dialogue with me!*

A Resolute Start for Full-time Ministry

In a missionary trip to the Northwest of China in 2018, I came into contact with many Muslims and gained some understanding of Islam. After this, I realized the difference between our respective religions. They were deceived by fake gods. I also began to think about this: why did God choose me to become a Christian among so many others? What a great grace it was! Afterwards, in the Full-time Ministry Exploration Camp organized by the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary, I recalled the grace I had received from God. Meanwhile, my family showed their support for my choice to pursue full-time ministry. At this point, I saw no more reason why I should not lay down my own self.

Thank God for His step-by-step guidance! I firmly believe that full-time ministry is what pleases Him much. It's time I started my studies at the seminary, which will be the best way I may equip myself for the future. *I hope I will be able to shepherd refugees and youngsters in future so that they may understand God is a healing God who walks with people.*

Recently, with the outbreaks of social movements in Hong Kong and the pandemic around the globe, both Hong Kong and the entire world were covered with dark clouds. Everyone's heart was filled with fear, anger and uncertainties. While many people began to lose faith in God because of this, I still have hope: God will surely exercise His own will in this age. I hope I will have more reflections in the seminary, understand God's will, ponder over the direction for my future pastoring and know how to respond to society's needs by comforting people with God's words.



Come,
Follow
Me

Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary

Student Recruitment for 2021-22

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

Application Date for Admissions

Hong Kong : January 4-June 4

Overseas : January 4-April 30

Admission Test Date

By individual arrangement during the seminary's office hours

Experiencing Seminary Life Day Camp

Date: March 10-11 (Wed-Thu)

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

Content: Sit-in-class lesson, talk with professors and current seminary students, testimonies of God's calling, workshop and introduction of the seminary's programs

Fee: HK\$150 (accommodation not provided)

Application Deadline: March 1

For Inquiries

Telephone: 2768 5130

Email: admissions@hkbtn.edu.hk

Website: www.hkbtn.edu.hk

* The Day Camp may switch to online due to the pandemic; please check our latest announcements.

Academic Affairs News

• Joint Graduation Ceremony

The Joint Graduation Ceremony of the Main Programs, Lay Theological Education Department and Distance Education Program was held at the Seminary Chapel on the Sai O campus on November 1 last year. There were 55 graduates from the degree programs, and diploma or certificate graduates from the equivalent LTED program, together with 123 graduates from the diploma and certificate programs.

• Faculty Movement

Dr. Bernard Leung joined our serving team in the spring term of this academic year as Assistant Professor of New Testament. Dr. Leung obtained his Th.M. and M.Div. from China Graduate School of Theology, and his Ph.D. from the University of Aberdeen. His research interests include Pauline Epistles, the social and economic settings of the early Christians, social history of Graeco-Roman society, and social-scientific criticism. May God lead his service at the seminary and help him work with our faculty as a team for the mission of Christian education and research.

Dr. Wong Fook-kong, Professor of Old Testament, is on sabbatical leave from January to May.

• Winter Intensive Program

The Winter Intensive Program was conducted in early January. The course offered was "Studies in the General Epistles" taught by Dr. Bernard Leung, Assistant Professor of New Testament.

• Platinum Jubilee Spiritual Revival Concert

In celebration of its 70th anniversary, the seminary will hold the Platinum Jubilee Spiritual Revival Concert with the theme "Trust in the Lord" on April 18 (Sunday) at the Kowloon City Baptist Church. At the concert, President Joshua Cho will deliver a message while Mr. Sanson Lau and Mrs. Helen Wan will respectively conduct the HKBTS Choir and HKBTS Alumni Choir with vocal solo Ms. Rachel Kwok and accompanists Ms. Rosanna Lo and Ms. Or Tam Suk-ye. Testimonies will also be shared by our students. Admission is free. Pastors, deacons, brothers and sisters are all welcome.

Publication News



The seminary's biannual academic journal, *Hill Road* (issue 46) has already been published with the theme "Church and State." There are six thematic articles: "Emperor Worship and the Pauline Communities" (Bernard Chun-ho Leung), "Constantine and Constantinianism: A Revisit of Its Historical Arguments" (Nathan K. Ng), "On Earth as It Is in Heaven – The Lord's Prayer and Totalitarianism" (Pilgrim W. K. Lo), "Reformed Attitude and Perspective on Church-State Relations: A Diachronic

Review and Evaluation" (Cheng Yang-en), "Hong Kong Baptists' Views on Church-State Relationship: A Historical Perspective (1842-1970)" (Alex K. To), and "A Preliminary Exploration of the Concept of 'State' in John Howard Yoder's Church-State Discourse" (Vincent C. P. Lau). In addition, there is one miscellaneous article, "Bonhoeffer's Six Types of Resistance: The Analysis of Michael P. DeJonge" (Andres S. Tang), 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.

Student Union 2021

The Executive Committee of the Student Union 2021 took office in January. Please pray for them and support their activities this year.

Chairperson: Barney Lam

Vice-chairperson: Yuen Tin-man

Secretary: Ho Sze-nga

Treasurer: Kwan Wai-keung

Spiritual Devotion: Ng Wai-ying

Mission: Yip Ka-yan

Living: Kwok Tak-sum



Alumni News

- Alumnus **Moses K.W. Lau** (class of 1958) rested in peace in Miami, U.S.A., in early October, 2020. May the Lord's consolation, grace and peace be with his family.
- Alumni **Szeto Ka-man** (class of 2003) and **Lo Tin-lam** (class of 2013) were ordained as pastors by the Tai Po Baptist Church on November 29, 2020.
- Alumna **Wong Mui-ling** (class of 2008) and our student **Wong Wing-yeung** were ordained as pastors by the Tsim Sha Tsui Baptist Church on December 13, 2020.
- Alumnus **Tang Hok-chun** married Ms. Lau Ying-tung in a wedding ceremony held at the Tsim Sha Tsui Baptist Church on October 24, 2020.
- Alumna **Tang Lok-ye** (class of 2016) was married to Mr. Lai Ho-san in a wedding ceremony held at the Evangelical Free Church of China Yan Fook Church on December 5, 2020.

Lay Theological Education Department

Bachelor Program in Christian Studies

April-June (admission is now open; auditing is welcome)

Subject	Lecturer	Venue	Date / Time
Peer Counselling on Intimate Relationship	Ms. Wan Mei-yee	Applied Theological Education Centre	13/4 - 15/6 Tue 7:00 - 10:00 pm (10 lessons)
The Book of Ezekiel	Dr. Michael Mok	Applied Theological Education Centre	8/4 - 10/6 Thur 7:00 - 10:00 pm (10 lessons)
Hong Kong Society	Dr. Vincent Lau	Applied Theological Education Centre	9/4 - 11/6 Fri 7:00 - 10:00 pm (10 lessons)

Lay Theological Training Diploma / Certificate Program

April-June (admission is now open; auditing is welcome)

Subject	Lecturer	Venue	Date / Time
Planning and Leading Meetings for Senior Fellowship	Rev. Pak Chi-shun	Applied Theological Education Centre	20/4 - 15/6 Tue 7:15 - 9:30 pm (25/5 class suspended; 8 lessons)
The Essence of Systematic Theology	Ms. Cheng Suet-ling	Mong Kok Education Centre	18/5 - 6/7 Tue 7:15 - 9:30 pm (8 lessons)
How to Develop Social and Emotional Learning Ability in Early Childhood through Musical Activities	Dr. Sarah Lee	Applied Theological Education Centre	7/4 - 2/6 Wed 7:15 - 9:30 pm (19/5 class suspended; 8 lessons)
The Key to Exploring the Treasury of Scripture	Ms. Yeung Tung-ying	Mong Kok Education Centre	6/5 - 24/6 Thur 9:30 - 11:45 am (8 lessons)
A Survey of Church History in China	Rev. Au Pak-ping	Applied Theological Education Centre	1/4 - 20/5 Thur 7:15 - 9:30 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.

The course, "The Key to Exploring the Treasury of Scripture" (6/5 - 24/6, every Thursday morning), is 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. Applicants who are 65 years old and above will enjoy a 20% course fee discount. Class will be held every Tuesday or Thursday evening.

Class Start Date: April
Early Bird Enrollment Date:
 Before March 15 (50% discount on registration fee)
Registration Deadline: March 30

Church Administration and General Affairs Certificate Program

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 Start Date: April
Early Bird Enrollment Date:
 Before March 15 (50% discount on registration fee)
Registration Deadline: March 30

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

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 2021, 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 graduates with their church pastor's recommendation	March and September	March semester : Hong Kong: February 10
Diploma in Christian Studies Program	Designed for equipping students for ministry, the program helps students strengthen their foundations in the Christian faith and doctrine.			Overseas: January 10
Higher Diploma in Biblical Studies / Christian Studies Programs	Further studies for students having completed the diploma program.			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. * You may try a trial study of the online program: 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 2021

Course / Talk	Lecturer	Date	Time
The Ministry of Deliverance Prayers	Dr. Hong Kwai-wah	4/1	9:30 am - 12:30 pm
The Challenge of Holistic Health	Dr. Andrew Luk	4/1, 11/1, 18/1	2:00 - 5:00 pm
Church Conflicts	Dr. Harry Hui	11/1, 18/1, 25/1	9:30 am - 12:30 pm
The Song of Songs	Dr. Anna Lee	25/1	2:00 - 5:00 pm
Preaching the Word: Pulpit Ministry	Dr. Samuel Chu	8/2, 22/2	9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Disconnected and Reconnected	Ms. Connie Wong	8/3	10:00 am - 5:00 pm
“Happiness in a Turbulent Age”: Contemporary Philosophy of Happiness from the Perspective of Positive Psychology	Mr. Eddie Lo	15/3, 22/3	9:30 am - 12:30 pm
“Long United, Must Divide”? — Galatians and “Church Unity”	Dr. Bernard Leung	29/3	2:00 - 5:00 pm

Fee concessions

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

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

Registration Application forms can be downloaded from the seminary website, or you may enroll online at www.hkbts.edu.hk/pce/apply1.html

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

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

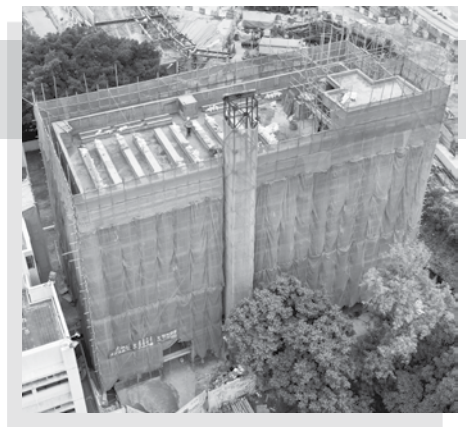
Campus Extension News

New Academic Building: Superstructure Construction

By God's grace, our Sai O Campus Extension Project (Phase 3) under the "Faith, Hope, and Love Project" is making good progress. Immediately after the completion of the foundation works, the new academic building's superstructure construction began and it is scheduled to be completed in one year. Construction work for the ground floor, the first floor, the second floor, the third floor and the rooftop was completed during the period from August 19 to November 30, 2020. Solar panel plinths have been already installed on the rooftop of the new building. Both internal and external finishing works for the building began in December, 2020.

The whole project is budgeted at HK\$70 million, which includes

HK\$60 million for the land premium and building costs and HK\$10 million for the new building's interior decoration and furnishing, campus central air-conditioning system replacement, and refurbishing of our Education Block for additional faculty offices. Your prayers for God's provision is requested.



Reply Slip

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

- praying for the Seminary's theological education ministry
 contributing \$ _____ to the

Educational Fund Campus Extension Project Other: _____

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

Church Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Contact Phone No.: _____ E-mail: _____

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

Donation Methods

- Crossed Cheque** payable to "Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary"
 Direct Transfer: our Hang Seng Bank Ltd. (024) account no.: 787-471721-883
 Fast Payment System Identifier (FPS ID): 166215137
 Monthly Autopay: an autopay authorization form will be sent to you (You may terminate this monthly donation at any time)
 Credit Card: VISA Master Card
 One-off Donation Monthly Donation (You may terminate this monthly donation at any time)

Cardholder's Name: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____

Card No.: [] [] [] [] - [] [] [] [] - [] [] [] [] - [] [] [] [] Expiry Date: _____ / _____ (MM/YY)

Amount: HK\$ _____

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

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

Thank you for your support!

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Financial Report

General Fund, 1 September - 30 November, 2020

	HK\$
Income	7,306,085.54
Expenditure	<u>(9,275,743.84)</u>
Deficit	<u><u>(1,969,658.30)</u></u>

DONORS REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

Education Fund (Church / Organization)	許鋒威	1,000.00	Distance Education Program	
九龍城潮語浸信會	陳秀慧	1,000.00	鄭鵬程	300.00
九龍國際浸信會	陳偉倫	200.00	無名氏	444.00
上水浸信會	陳麗英	500.00		HK\$ <u>744.00</u>
上環浸信會	彭偉業	500.00		
大埔浸信會	曾慶忠	500.00	Lay Theological Education Program	
大學浸信會	馮德華、鄧如玉	200.00	江艾華	200.00
元朗浸信會	黃念施	200.00	何健龍	200.00
屯門浸信教會	黃華嫻	100.00	林康妮	200.00
以馬內利浸信會	黃雅志	10,000.00	林榮恩	200.00
尖沙嘴浸信會	楊謝金玉	3,000.00	俞燕萍	700.00
沙田浸信會	溫祥、黎琮珍	500.00	梁明月	200.00
香港(西區)潮語浸信會	葉煥章	300.00	梁詩恩	300.00
香港仔浸信會	劉永生、鍾梓萍	300.00	梁潔貞	200.00
香港浸信教會	劉永彪	5,000.00	陳國權	1,000.00
香港堅尼地城浸信教會	劉玉珍	1,000.00	程偉傑	200.00
將軍澳浸信會	劉建紅	100.00	楊芷嫣	500.00
深荃浸信會	潘文組	11,852.19	葉吳秀華	632.50
第一城浸信會	蔡慧英	200.00	葉樹華	500.00
新希望浸信會	薛聲明	1,000.00	劉惠容	632.50
置富浸信教會	羅佩珊	100.00	蔡艷桃	500.00
嘉盛浸信會	關志偉	100.00	鍾敏慧	200.00
銅鑼灣浸信會	關廣智、鄧慧然	500.00	無名氏	2,000.00
觀塘浸信會	無名氏	24,600.00	無名氏	500.00
觀塘國語浸信會	無名氏	5,000.00	無名氏	500.00
鑽石山浸信會	無名氏	4,000.00	無名氏	200.00
中國基督教播道會太古城堂	無名氏	2,000.00		HK\$ <u>9,565.00</u>
浸信宣道會啟業堂	無名氏	1,000.00		
基督教宣道會大埔堂	無名氏	1,000.00	Theological Education for	
基督教宣道會華基堂	無名氏	500.00	Filipino Leaders Program	
啟關基金	無名氏	500.00	馬德明	1,000.00
	無名氏	500.00	陳麗英	200.00
	無名氏	400.00	溫祥、黎琮珍	400.00
	無名氏	300.00		HK\$ <u>1,600.00</u>
	無名氏	200.40		
Education Fund (Individual Donor)	無名氏	200.00	Campus Maintenance and Repairs	
Lau Man Wai	無名氏	300.00	楊美玲	300.00
2020年神學學士、道學碩士、	無名氏		鄒小寶	1,500.00
基督教研究碩士畢業班		HK\$ <u>99,252.59</u>		HK\$ <u>1,800.00</u>
方志強				
王群	President's Council			
朱活平伉儷	白中興	20,000.00		
何仲儀	謝兆祥伉儷	10,000.00	Campus Extension Project	
何錦燕	譚日旭伉儷	30,000.00	鑽石山浸信會	3,000.00
吳炳榮伉儷		HK\$ <u>60,000.00</u>	Lau Man Wai	300.00
吳國傑伉儷			張智理伉儷	10,000.00
李新蘭	Pilgrimage in the Wilderness		鄧輝祥	500.00
洪錦漢	溫恩智伉儷	HK\$ <u>50,000.00</u>	無名氏	50,000.00
洪鷹輪			無名氏	7,000.00
殷振強伉儷	Pandemic Prevention Supplies		無名氏	3,000.00
馬德明	西沙浸信會	HK\$ <u>26,160.12</u>		HK\$ <u>73,800.00</u>
曹啟明伉儷				
梁明財伉儷	Scholarship and Prizes			
梁錦松、郭詠文	大學浸信會	HK\$ <u>4,000.00</u>		

DONORS REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2020

Education Fund (Church / Organization)		馬德明	2,000.00	Distance Education Program	
九龍國際浸信會	8,688.00	曹啟明伉儷	400.00	鄭鵬程	300.00
九龍塘浸信會	5,000.00	梁明財伉儷	500.00	無名氏	444.00
土瓜灣浸信會	25,000.00	梁錦松、郭詠文	1,000.00		HK\$ <u>744.00</u>
大埔主恩浸信會	1,250.00	許鋒威	1,000.00	Lay Theological Education Program	
大埔浸信會	12,000.00	陳偉倫	200.00	婦神同學會	2,000.00
屯門浸信教會	600.00	陳偉權	800.00	岑麗嫻	2,000.00
牛池灣竹園潮語浸信會	6,000.00	陳麗英	500.00	植順昌	500.00
以馬內利浸信會	4,300.00	曾慶忠	500.00	黃玉珍	200.00
北角浸信會	120,000.00	馮德華、鄧如玉	200.00	黃麗霞	500.00
沙田浸信會	8,000.00	黃念施	200.00	蔡艷桃	500.00
紅磡浸信會	22,800.00	黃雪齡	1,500.00	盧樂培	200.00
香港(西區)潮語浸信會	5,000.00	黃華娟	100.00		HK\$ <u>5,900.00</u>
香港天樂浸信教會	2,000.00	溫祥、黎琮珍	500.00	Theological Education for	
香港仔浸信會	50,000.00	葉煥章	300.00	Filipino Leaders Program	
香港浸信教會	125,000.00	劉永生、鍾梓萍	300.00	馬德明	1,000.00
香港堅尼地城浸信教會	1,200.00	劉玉珍	1,000.00	陳麗英	200.00
恩潮浸信會	20,000.00	劉建紅	100.00	溫祥、黎琮珍	400.00
朗福浸信會	800.00	蔡慧英	200.00		HK\$ <u>1,600.00</u>
基督浸信會	3,000.00	鄧炳光伉儷	1,000.00	Campus Maintenance and Repairs	
將軍澳浸信會	1,000.00	鄭友蓮	1,855.00	楊美玲	300.00
深荃浸信會	500.00	薛聲明	1,000.00	鄒小寶	1,500.00
置富浸信教會	3,000.00	羅佩珊	100.00		HK\$ <u>1,800.00</u>
銅鑼灣浸信會	3,500.00	譚家祈	1,000.00	Campus Extension Project	
觀塘浸信會	1,729.00	關志偉	100.00	上水浸信會	20,000.00
鑽石山浸信會	3,000.00	關廣智、鄧慧然	500.00	李國雄伉儷	1,000.00
學基浸信會	15,000.00	無名氏	5,300.00	張智理伉儷	10,000.00
基督教宣道會大埔堂	500.00	無名氏	5,000.00	陳慧冰	5,000.00
基督教宣道會華基堂	2,000.00	無名氏	4,000.00	黃雪齡	1,500.00
啟關基金	500.00	無名氏	2,000.00	黃華娟	3,000.00
	HK\$ <u>451,367.00</u>	無名氏	2,000.00	鄧輝祥	500.00
		無名氏	2,000.00	蕭碧兒	500.00
Education Fund (Individual Donor)		無名氏	1,000.00	關偉強	100,000.00
方志強	200.00	無名氏	1,000.00	無名氏	10,000.00
王紹良	700.00	無名氏	500.00	無名氏	7,000.00
王群	800.00	無名氏	500.00	無名氏	3,000.00
朱活平伉儷	300.00	無名氏	500.00	無名氏	500.00
何仲儀	1,000.00	無名氏	400.00		
何錦燕	1,000.00	無名氏	300.00		
吳炳榮伉儷	8,000.00	無名氏	200.00		
吳國傑伉儷	1,000.00	無名氏	10.00		
李國雄伉儷	1,000.00		HK\$ <u>55,265.00</u>		HK\$ <u>162,000.00</u>
李新蘭	200.00			Ming Yee Theological Fund	
殷振強伉儷	1,000.00			北角浸信會	HK\$ <u>519,488.00</u>

DONORS REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2020

Education Fund (Church / Organization)

九龍國際浸信會	18,197.00
上環浸信會	5,600.00
大角嘴浸信會	11,800.00
大埔浸信會	12,000.00
屯門浸信教會	600.00
牛頭角浸信會	10,000.00
以馬內利浸信會	4,300.00
西九浸信會	3,785.00
旺角浸信會	320.00
香港(西區)潮語浸信會	5,000.00
香港浸信教會	125,000.00
香港堅尼地城浸信教會	1,200.00
恩典浸信會	10,000.00
將軍澳浸信會	500.00
深荃浸信會	500.00
慈雲山浸信會	13,000.00
筲箕灣浸信會	5,000.00
置富浸信教會	3,000.00
廣林浸信會	6,706.00
灣仔浸信會	3,000.00
觀塘浸信會	1,516.00
中華錫安傳道會慈雲山錫安堂	2,800.00
香港伯特利教會榮光堂	1,000.00
基督教宣道會大埔堂	500.00
基督教宣道會華基堂	2,000.00
基督教錫安傳道會	12,000.00
啟關基金	500.00
	<u>HK\$ 259,824.00</u>

Education Fund (Individual Donor)

Ng Ka Fai, Ricky	10.00
Tong Mi Yan	3,000.00
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	1,000.00
李國雄伉儷	1,000.00
李新蘭	200.00
李德祥	10,000.00
殷振強伉儷	1,000.00
袁秀琼	6,000.00
馬德明	2,000.00
曹啟明伉儷	400.00
梁明財伉儷	500.00
梁錦松、郭詠文伉儷	1,000.00

許鋒威	1,000.00
陳偉倫	200.00
陳麗英	500.00
曾慶忠	500.00
馮德華、鄧如玉	200.00
黃念施	200.00
黃華娟	100.00
楊志堅伉儷	100.00
楊謝金玉	3,200.00
溫祥、黎琼珍	500.00
葉煥章	300.00
蒙恩家庭	1,000.00
劉永生、鍾梓萍	300.00
劉玉珍	1,000.00
劉建紅	100.00
蔡慧英	200.00
鄧活靈伉儷	1,000.00
鄧炳光伉儷	1,000.00
羅佩珊	100.00
羅凱慈	1,000.00
關志偉	100.00
關廣智、鄧慧然	500.00
無名氏	20,000.00
無名氏	10,000.00
無名氏	5,000.00
無名氏	5,000.00
無名氏	4,000.00
無名氏	2,000.00
無名氏	1,000.00
無名氏	1,000.00
無名氏	1,000.00
無名氏	800.00
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
無名氏	0.50
	<u>HK\$ 102,910.50</u>
Daniel Hu & Fai-Yiu C. Hu	<u>US\$ 300.00</u>

Distance Education Program

鄭鵬程	300.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	444.00
無名氏	100.00
無名氏	100.00
	<u>HK\$ 1,444.00</u>

DE: Special Need Training Program

黃雅各、林靜華	1,000.00
	<u>HK\$ 1,000.00</u>

Lay Theological Education Program

香港華人基督會滙源堂-以諾團	2,000.00
杜桂鵬	2,400.00
陳國權	2,000.00
蔡艷桃	500.00
無名氏	2,000.00
	<u>HK\$ 8,900.00</u>

Theological Education for Filipino Leaders Program

第一城浸信會	12,211.00
馬德明	1,000.00
陳麗英	200.00
溫祥、黎琼珍	400.00
	<u>HK\$ 13,811.00</u>

Campus Maintenance and Repairs

楊美玲	300.00
鄧小寶	1,500.00
無名氏	1,000.00
	<u>HK\$ 2,800.00</u>

Campus Extension Project

牛頭角浸信會	10,000.00
香港懷恩浸信教會	5,000.00
筲箕灣潮語浸信會	20,000.00
番禺恩典家教會	700.00
李德祥	5,000.00
張智理伉儷	10,000.00
鄧輝祥	500.00
龔瑩瑩	4,000.00
無名氏	1,000,000.00
無名氏	200,000.00
無名氏	10,000.00
無名氏	7,000.00
無名氏	5,000.00
無名氏	5,000.00
無名氏	3,000.00
無名氏	2,000.00
無名氏	1,000.00
	<u>HK\$ 1,288,200.00</u>

Bursary Fund

香港華人基督教聯會	100,000.00
觀塘浸信會	80,000.00
	<u>HK\$ 180,000.00</u>



2021 Platinum Jubilee Highlights



Mar

Ground Painting

Date: Mar 13, 20, 27 (Sat)
Time: 10-11:30 am, 1:30-3:00 pm
Venue: Sai O Campus

Sep

Theology Camp for Youth

Date: Sept 17-18 (Fri, Sat)
Venue: Sai O Campus

Apr

Spiritual Revival Concert

Theme: Trust in the Lord
Speaker: President Joshua Cho
Date: Apr 18 (Sun)
Time: 5:30 pm
Venue: Kowloon City Baptist Church

Oct

Open Lectures

Theme: Living Out Faith in Tumultuous Times
Date: Oct 6-8 (Wed to Fri)
Time: 7:30-9:30 pm
Venue: Tsim Sha Tsui Baptist Church
(first 2 lectures)
Sai O Campus (last lecture)

May

Topping-out Ceremony for the New Academic Building

Date: May 20 (Thur)
Time: 6:30 pm
Venue: Sai O Campus

Nov

Joint Graduation Ceremony

Date: Nov 21 (Sun)
Time: 3:30pm
Venue: Queen Elizabeth Stadium

Nov

Thanksgiving Worship and Dedication Ceremony for the New Academic Building

Date: Nov 28 (Sun)
Time: 3:30 pm
Venue: Sai O Campus

For inquiries

Telephone: 2715 9511

Email: 70th_anniversary@hkbtts.edu.hk

Website: www.hkbtts.edu.hk

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



For the latest news and details of the activities,
please check our website.

* Some of the activities may switch to online due to the pandemic.
Please check our latest announcements.



Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary
Platinum Jubilee
Spiritual Revival Concert 2021

Trust in the Lord

Speaker **President Joshua Cho**
Conductors **Sanson Lau**
Director, Edna Wong Christian Worship and Arts Education Centre, and Lecturer of Church Music, HKBTS
Helen Chang Wan
Associate Professor Emerita of Church Music, HKBTS
Vocal Solo **Rachel Kwok**
Lecturer, Edna Wong Christian Worship and Arts Education Centre
Accompanists **Rosanna Lo Or Tam Shuk-ye**
Singers **HKBTS Choir**
HKBTS Alumni Choir
Testimonies **Titan Mak Hosanna Ho** (HKBTS students)

Date: April 18 (Sunday)
Time: 5:30-7:00 pm
Venue: Kowloon City Baptist Church (206 Argyle Street, Kowloon)
Inquiries: 2715 9511 / 2768 5179

Free admission Free seating For aged 6 and above

* *The Concert may switch to online due to the pandemic. Please check our latest announcements.*



Precious Moments

October 27-29, 2020

Baptist Heritage Week

Baptist Heritage Week 2020 with the main theme "A Theologically Minded Passion for Pastorship" was held on our Sai O campus. The first-day lecture on the topic "Social Concern" was delivered by Rev. Desmond Choi and Ms. Liu Lau Lai-king.



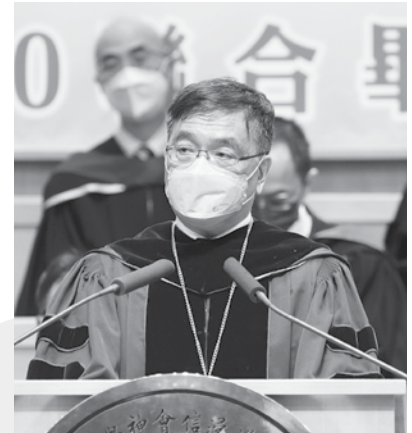
The second-day lecture on the topic "Church and State" was delivered by Rev. Sou Kai-fai and Rev. Chung Chi-kwong.

The third-day lecture on the topic "Baptists' Church Polity" was delivered by Rev. Stephen Lin and Rev. Leung Ming-choi.

November 1, 2020

Joint Graduation Ceremony

The Joint Graduation Ceremony of HKBTS Main Programs (69th class), Lay Theological Education Department (21st class) and Distance Education Program (20th class) was held at the Seminary Chapel on the Sai O campus with live streaming. In the 2019-20 school year, there were 55 graduates from the degree programs and diploma or certificate graduates from the equivalent LTED program, along with 123 graduates from the diploma and certificate programs. Thank God for leading our graduates to finish their theological training at HKBTS. We pray that God may continue to lead them in their upcoming ministry, and help them carry on their unfinished theological journeys.



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

December 21, 2020

Christmas Worship: Creative Ways to Present the Christmas Message

The Christmas Worship Service, jointly organized by HKBTS and the Alumni Association, was held online for the past year. Even though people were in different places, all our teachers, staff, students and alumni were of one mind and joined together on the internet to remember the birth of our Savior. The Alumni Choir led the whole congregation to worship with their recorded choir singing. Prof. Nathan Ng spoke on the topic “Creative Ways to Present the Christmas Message: Inspiration from Famous Christmas Paintings in the Middle Ages” and shared how to convey the message of Christmas lively in various ways. President Cho blessed us all at the end of the service.

