



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

Newsletter

2022.8



Supporting HKBTS's Teaching and Research:
**The Library and
the New Academic Building**

President's Message

HKBTS Going Deeper in Practical Theology

Today's Students, Tomorrow's Pastors

Today's Seminary, Tomorrow's Churches



Praxis

Theology

Bible

HKBTS Going Deeper in Practical Theology

Joshua Cho

President's Message

Starting with the Sai O TSSPS Issue

When I assumed the presidency of the seminary in 2009, one of the first major issues I had to tackle was the Sai O Trunk Sewer Sewage Pumping Station (TSSPS) Issue. It all began in 2008 when the Drainage Services Department was planning to construct a major trunk sewer sewage pumping station at the site next to our Sai O Campus, which was designated as a "government, institution or community facilities site" (hereafter referred to as "Nai Chung G/IC"; see fig. 1). At that time, the seminary had already raised strong objections against the proposal.

On February 9, 2009, the seminary accidentally discovered a notice from the Drainage Services Department posted on Nin Ming Road which stated the government's plan to carry out ground investigation works at a site near our basketball court. Under the request of neighboring residents, I, along with our administrative staff and several experts, started negotiations with the Drainage Services Department and the Tai Po District Council. We pointed out the serious inadequacy in the lack of consultation and objected to the hasty commencement of

ground investigation works without sufficient public consultation and serious consideration of other site options.

At that time, the seminary invited Prof. Ho Kin-chung, then Dean of the School of Science and Technology of the Open University of Hong Kong (currently Hong Kong Metropolitan University) to launch, in September 2009, a four-month study on the environment and ecology of Sai O, which concluded with an independent and objective study report, proving that the coastal area around Nai Chung and Sai O is the habitat of a wide range of land and sea animals, and is therefore of high environmental and ecological value. A number of objections based on environmental and ecological reasons were listed in the report, pointing out the inappropriateness of constructing a trunk sewer sewage pumping station at Nai Chung G/IC.

After lengthy and painstaking persuasive efforts, we did our utmost to press the government to conduct a comprehensive environmental assessment study on the possible impact of the project on Nai Chung Pebble Beach and its vicinity. Henceforth, the government did not take any further action on the construction of the major trunk sewer sewage pumping station.



The Resurgence of the Issue

While the matter was thought to have come to an end, the problem returned in June 2018, when the seminary received a letter from the Tai Po District Office of the Home Affairs Department notifying us that the Drainage Services Department had commissioned the Office to consult the local

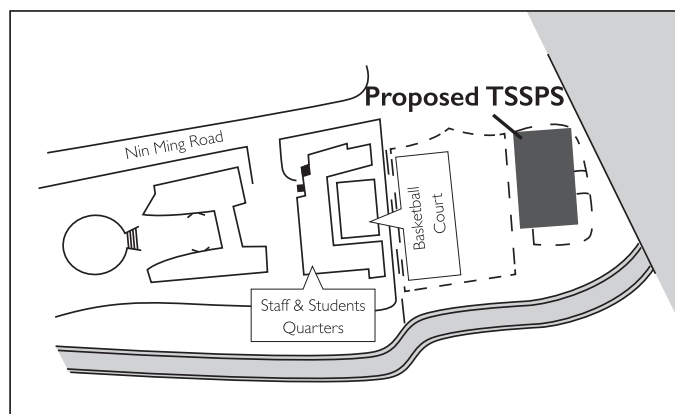


Figure 1. The Proposed Site for TSSPS (2009)

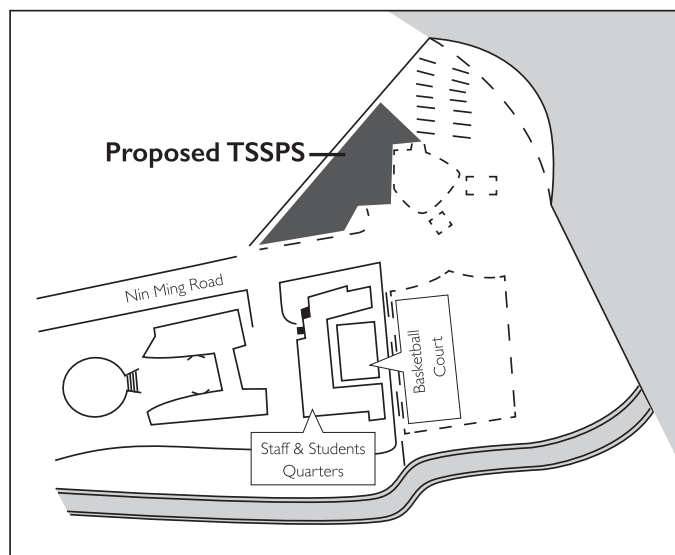


Figure 2. The Proposed Site for TSSPS (2014 & 2018)

community on their opinions on the construction of the Sai O Trunk Sewer Sewage Pumping Station. Not realizing what had happened, the seminary made some searches for related information immediately and found out that the Drainage Services Department changed the site for the construction of the sewage pumping station in December 2014 from Nai Chung G/IC into the permanent government land at Nin Ming Road (which was the government land opposite to the entrance of the seminary; see fig. 2). A comprehensive environmental impact assessment for the site had already been conducted.

Comparing the sewage pumping station plans proposed by the Drainage Services Department in 2009, 2014, and 2018, the 2018 proposal contained the most far-reaching impacts on the seminary, both in terms of site selection and the scale of works. Concerning site selection, the government proposed in 2009 to build the sewage pumping station 60 meters to the east of the seminary; however, the distance between the proposed site and the seminary was greatly shortened to 5 meters to the north of the seminary. As for the scale of works, the daily treatment capacity of the proposed sewage pumping station was 12,500 cubic meters in 2014; however, according to the 2018 proposal, the treatment capacity was greatly increased to 20,600 cubic meters.

The seminary promptly formed a voluntary consultant team with experts in this field (core members include Mr. Edward Lam, Deacon John Pak, Prof. Steve Wong, and Rev. Wong Mun-lun) to come up with a good solution. After an assessment of the 2018 proposal, the consultant team believed that once adopted, the proposal was bound to cause irreversible and serious damage to the natural scenery, ecology, and environment of Nai Chung Pebble Beach and its vicinity during the construction and subsequent operation of the pumping station if the proposal was not carefully designed and handled. The first to bear the brunt would certainly be the teachers, students, and staff who work, study and reside at the seminary. The dust produced during the site construction works would affect the health of those at the seminary. Besides, there were bound to

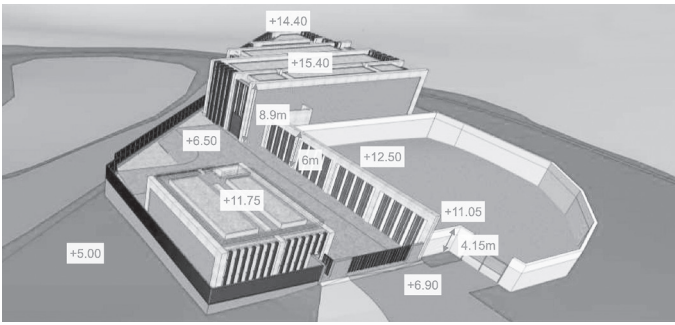


Figure 3. Building Height of the Proposed TSSPS (Original Scheme)

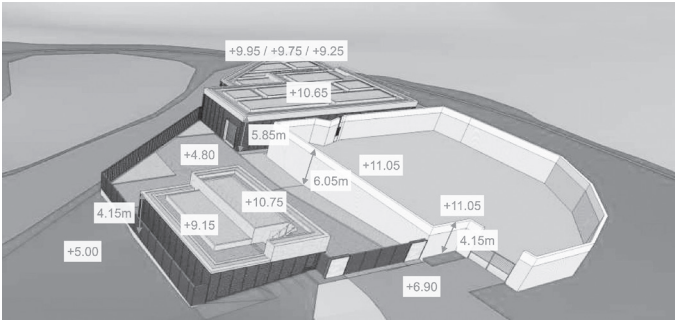


Figure 4. Building Height of the Proposed TSSPS (Revised Scheme)



Figure 5. The Proposed Living Water Garden

be many heavy vehicles moving in and out of the site every day, which would not only result in noise and air pollution but also affect the life and health of the residents in the neighborhood. Upon completion of the sewage pumping station, the teachers and students residing at the seminary would have to put up with the nuisance of foul smells and noises as well as related potential health hazards. In case of odor leakage or flooding in the pumping station, it would pollute the sea, harm wildlife, and potentially make people ill.

The seminary had written to the government time and again, stating clearly our concerns and suggesting other sites which are believed to be more appropriate. Starting from 2019, we had had meetings with the Drainage Services Department and the works consultant company it commissioned, only to

find that they were still holding on to the principle of cost-effectiveness in turning down the site options suggested by our expert consultant team. They insisted on the Nin Ming Road site, which was just 5 meters away from our staff and students quarters.

Going the Extra Mile

Based on the spirit of settling the matter gracefully and properly by working hand in hand with the government, our expert consultant team was willing to go the extra mile by inviting renowned local architect Prof. Raymond Fung Wing-kee, JP, to give us professional advice on the Drainage Services Department's proposed design of the sewage pumping station. Our representatives were also given a chance to meet the Under Secretary for the Environment Mr. Tse Chin-wan, BBS, JP. We were then able to present our concerns and worries about the works project to him directly and clearly.

After numerous efforts to negotiate with various parties, the original design proposal for the sewage pumping station was improved. According to the new design proposal, the main building of the pumping station would be moved from the periphery of the construction site to a location further away from the seminary and the height of the building would be greatly reduced to about 30% of its original design (see fig. 3 and fig. 4) to retain the view of the beautiful scenery. Evergreen and low-maintenance vegetation would be planted on the outer walls of the building so that the building would be integrated into the natural environment of its surroundings harmoniously. A "Living Water Garden" would be constructed near the seminary. Two couplets would be put up separately at the two entrances of the garden, which read: "How can the water be so clear? / For living water is coming from the springhead" and "Lift your eyes to the hills and your heart will be calmed; / Turn your ears quietly to the flow of the living water and your mind will become clear and bright." There would be walking trails and outdoor seats in the garden and Golden Trumpet trees would be planted for the leisure and joy of visitors (see fig. 5). Additionally, we have had detailed analyses of and discussions on how to reduce the negative impacts that the construction and operation of the sewage pumping station may have on the surrounding environment and residents.

This is evidence of the good citizenship of Christ's church, which fights for the well-being of society and its citizens and is willing to help the government to carry out remedial actions by taking into consideration the needs of people from various sectors, reaping the greatest benefit for society in general. **This can be described as a story, a beautiful story, in HKBTS's practical theology.** We hope this beautiful story will go on.

Continuing the Beautiful Story

When we are talking about beautiful stories, the renewal of our working teams during these few years comes to mind. Several years ago, the seminary began to prepare for the changes and challenges of a new environment, hence the changes in our personnel.

Regarding our volunteer team, we thank God for bringing in Mrs. Melon Huen and Mrs. Katherine Lam in September 2020. Both of them have rich experience in teaching and school management and they are now our Assistant to President and Project Officer (Learning and Teaching) respectively. In addition, Mr. Roger Lai has been volunteering for the management of the seminary canteen since June 2020. These "great volunteers," who have been working quietly without expecting any reward, work together as good stewards of Jesus Christ to help the seminary.

In October 2021, the seminary appointed Prof. Wong Fook-kong and Prof. Nathan Ng as Associate Deans. Prof. Wong heads our teaching and research while Prof. Ng takes care of the academic affairs. They have shared the workload of the Academic Dean. In just a couple of months, they have played a great role in their positions, handling pandemic issues, leading the teachers, and educating the students so that I can feel at ease handing over the academic affairs of the seminary to them and the next generation gradually. In January this year, Ms. Ophelia Chow joined the seminary's administrative team as Director of Administrative Affairs. This is another important mark in our history. With her assuming the post, I can focus more on my work as the President in leading the seminary to serve the churches. ***In the future, I will take greater care of church needs, have more exchanges with church deacons and alumni, and broaden HKBTS's international network again to go deeper in its practical theology.***

Going Deeper in Practical Theology

Why did I say HKBTS has to go deeper in practical theology? What did that mean?

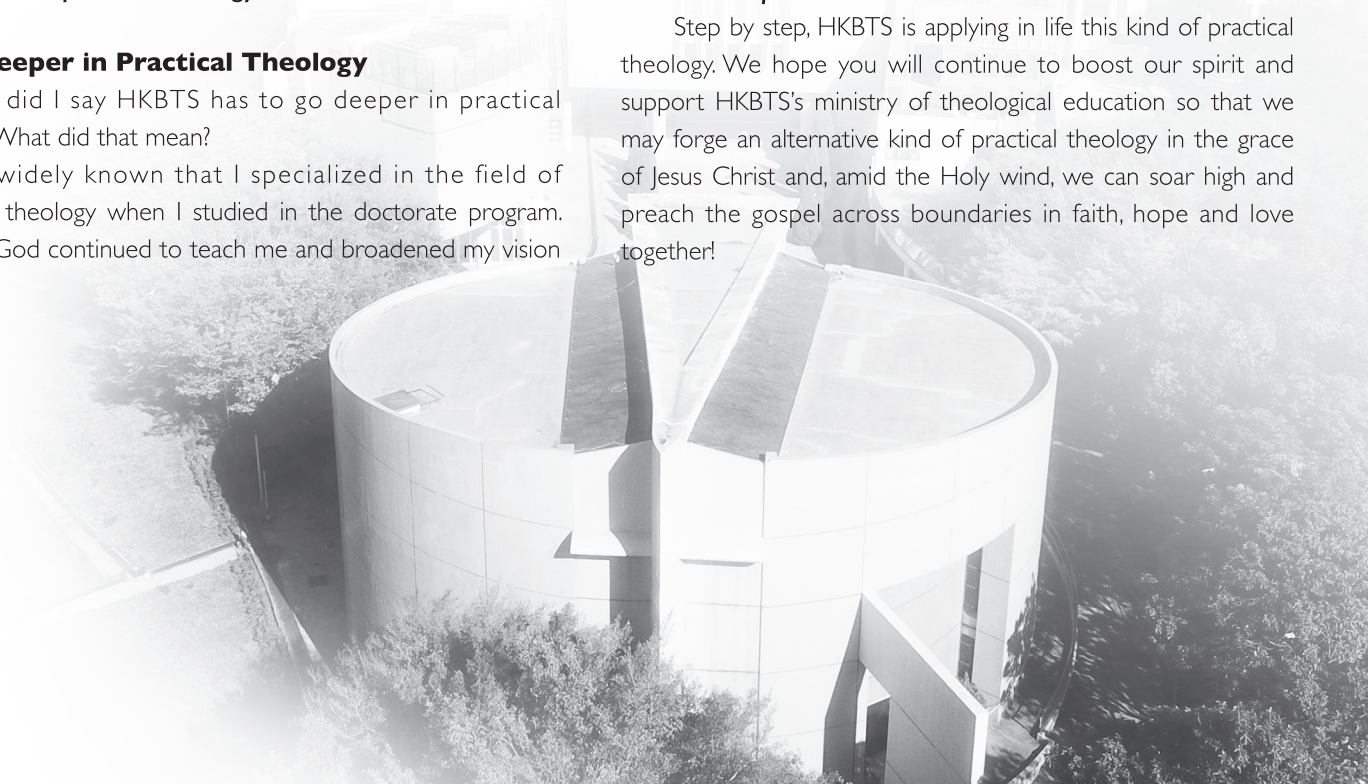
It is widely known that I specialized in the field of systematic theology when I studied in the doctorate program. However, God continued to teach me and broadened my vision

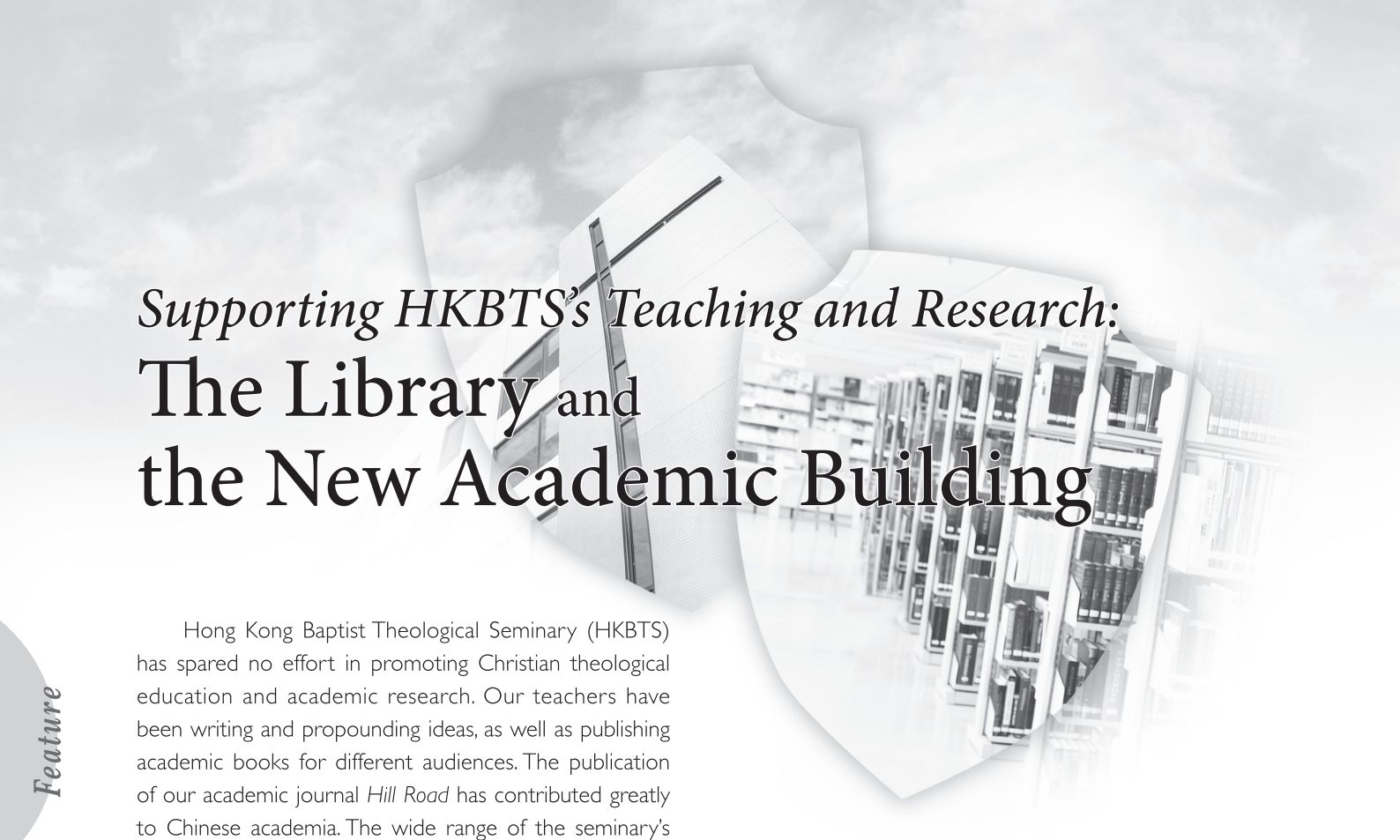
from that of systematic theology to that of ethics. After assuming the presidency of the seminary, my focus further shifted to the area of practical theology. The stress on practical theology is the direction of my "gradual visualization" after my return to serve HKBTS. The Sai O TSSPS Issue can also be described as what triggered me to re-orientate my thoughts.

To me, practical theology is performative. It starts and ends with praxis. One approach to practical theology is to start with descriptive-analytical tasks and then reveal the hidden value in the praxis. ***The climax of the performative tasks in practical theology is the renewed understanding of God's action at the moment concerned, which will then renew the praxis accordingly.*** In other words, these tasks form a cycle that will ultimately give rise to new praxis.

Therefore, practical theology not only explains the Bible and the theological tradition but also points out what faithful praxis is. Faithful praxis is largely related to church life. When believers lead their lives at church as disciples, they have to hear and respond to divine revelations together. ***For this reason, the church should be a "listening community" in the first place, before becoming a "speaking community" and a "community of actions."*** The church speaks justly because they hear Lord Jesus's words. When the church speaks, it means the church hears Lord Jesus Christ's story and His words through Scripture. When the Holy Spirit speaks through Scripture, the church has to respond with faithful actions. When the church carries out faithful actions, it will manifest the fact that the church hears Lord Jesus Christ's will through the Bible. ***As motives and practical actions are equally important, not only must we make others see our faith in actions, but also the action itself must originate from faith. Both faith and action must be in line with Scripture.***

Step by step, HKBTS is applying in life this kind of practical theology. We hope you will continue to boost our spirit and support HKBTS's ministry of theological education so that we may forge an alternative kind of practical theology in the grace of Jesus Christ and, amid the Holy wind, we can soar high and preach the gospel across boundaries in faith, hope and love together!





Supporting HKBTS's Teaching and Research: **The Library and the New Academic Building**

Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary (HKBTS) has spared no effort in promoting Christian theological education and academic research. Our teachers have been writing and propounding ideas, as well as publishing academic books for different audiences. The publication of our academic journal *Hill Road* has contributed greatly to Chinese academia. The wide range of the seminary's theological programs has helped to nurture the talents of our students along with their spiritual virtues and provide academic knowledge for churches. The various kinds of talks held regularly have made the fruits of academic research available to the public and shown believers how to apply them to their daily lives.

The library and the new academic building of HKBTS play an important role in this as the backbone of its teaching and research. The *Newsletter* has interviewed our Associate Librarian Mr. Lam Kin-man and two Associate Deans, Prof. Wong Fook-kong and Prof. Nathan Ng, to introduce our readers to these two important facilities of HKBTS.

A Treasure Trove of Resources: **Rankin Memorial Library**



Rankin Memorial Library is a treasure trove of teaching and research resources for HKBTS. It is our strong academic backbone supporting the studies and research of our teachers, students, and alumni; it is inextricably intertwined with the long-term development of the seminary's teaching and research work.

Looking back on history, there has been a library in HKBTS ever since its establishment in 1951, when the seminary moved from Stirling Road to Pok Oi Chuen in Kowloon City. It was named "Rankin Memorial Library" in 1953 to commemorate the evangelical efforts in China made by Dr. Milledge Theron Rankin (1894-1953), the Executive Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. In 1958, the library was relocated to 1 Homantin Hill Road, along with the campus premises. In 1999, the library was relocated again to the current Sai O Campus together with the campus premises. Its extension works were then completed in March 2006. Currently, the library, with an area of 750 square meters, is located on the second floor of the Administration and Education Block on our Sai O Campus. The number and types of books in its collections rank among the top libraries in Hong Kong seminaries.



There was already a library on the Pok Oi Chuen campus.



The library on the Homantin Hill Road campus



The library on the Sai O campus



The library on the extended Homantin Hill Road campus with a spiral staircase

Ample Academic Resources

Rankin Memorial Library has rich collections falling into diverse categories. Currently, there are nearly 130,000 Chinese and English books, 230 periodical titles, 6,440 bound journals, over 230 theses, 34,900 eBooks, 1,260 eJournal titles, 12,200 AV materials, and 840 CD-ROM discs. With its collections of over 180,000 items, **it is one of the libraries among local seminaries with the most abundant resources.**

In addition to biblical and theological information, the library also provides books and information from other disciplines like literature, history, philosophy, art, and social sciences to our teachers, students, and alumni. The library's collections are constantly expanding. Every month, the library purchases approximately 200 newly-published Chinese and English books, which are displayed in the "New Book Display" corner so as **to ensure users can access sufficient resources to conduct research and read the academic research of others.** Many graduate students say that the abundant library resources are highly conducive to their study and research.

What is more, the library has two special collections. One is the **Curriculum Lab** containing Sunday School teaching materials; currently available for users' use in Bible teaching and religious education are Sunday School courses designed for various ages and learning stages, including puppets and pictorial teaching kits. The other collection is the **Hong Kong Baptist**

Archive, which contains publications of the Baptist Convention, special anniversary publications of various Baptist churches and organizations, literature about Baptists, and historical records of the seminary. All these amount to 3,100 items and are precious reference materials about the history of local Baptists.

In addition, as we are a member of the Hong Kong Theological Education Association, apart from the right to use the resources of our library, our users may also use the inter-library loan service to borrow the books collected in other member libraries of the Association, hence expanding the amount of available resources.

Development of Electronic Library

Along with contemporary advances in technology, more and more learning resources are being digitalized. Since June 2019, the library has adopted a new generation of Alma with Primo library management system in replacement of the Dynix System, which had been used for over two decades. The new system is more user-friendly, allowing users to gain access to information concerning printed materials and electronic resources through a single interface. Search queries for information about the library materials can be conducted by title, author, subject, keyword, or even the table of content of books; inquiries about call numbers and loan status can be made; loan renewal or book reservation can also be done by the users.

The library also keeps expanding and updating its electronic databases. Currently, the library has subscribed to six full-text online electronic databases; in addition to eBooks and eJournals, there are over 2.4 million records of academic writings or research information. Users can access such information freely through the Internet anytime and anywhere for their research work, which is very convenient. Besides, the library has purchased a large quantity of multi-media CD-ROM discs, containing contents like encyclopedias, dictionaries, Bible study aids and commentaries, Bible maps, periodical indices, collections of sermons, theologians' information, classical writings, and comparative religion resources for use in the library.

A Comfortable Study Environment

Tranquil and peaceful, the library offers a suitable environment for users to study. It accommodates 35 study seats. Master of Theology (Th.M.) and Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) students may apply for a fixed study seat for a personalized space for study and writing of dissertations. With the completion of the new academic building, the study space for graduate students will be greatly increased. Additionally, there is a tutorial room in the library, where group discussions or meetings for 2 to 10 persons can be conducted.





Mr. Lam Kin-man said the utility rate of the tutorial room had been very high, with a considerable number of students reserving the room for group discussion or preparation for their assignments.



Prof. Wong Fook-kong agreed with this view. During the pandemic, he saw students and alumni facing limitations in borrowing books from the library, hence the importance of eBooks. He saw the need to think of ways to expand the library's electronic resources so as to facilitate students in borrowing the information they need. Nevertheless, he also believed that the development of electronic resources

A Further Step amidst the Pandemic

Over the past two years, the COVID-19 situation has been unstable. As a result, the seminary has to take anti-epidemic measures accordingly and sometimes the library can only be open for limited hours. However, to facilitate the study and research of students and alumni, the library makes every endeavor to keep its opening hours normal until the evening. Sometimes, when alumni cannot enter the campus owing to anti-epidemic restrictions, the library staff are willing to go the extra mile to clear the book loan or return procedures for them at the main entrance of the seminary when prior notice is given by phone. While there may be more restrictions on using the library, Mr. Lam said that the borrowing rate remained stable. With help from staff, as well as the support of our rich electronic resources, teachers, students, and alumni are still able to make good use of the library resources.

Way Forward: Expansion of Resources and Space

Looking ahead, both of our Associate Deans believe that the development of the library is of crucial importance to the growth of the seminary.



Prof. Nathan Ng said that **there are two key factors determining the academic development of a seminary: the faculty and the library resources.**

These are important cores of academic study resources. Good faculty and books will continue to attract students to study at the seminary. The library is therefore indispensable in the seminary's teaching and research work. **Currently, the stock of the seminary's library is among the richest of local seminaries;** having said that, efforts have to be kept up to acquire books and electronic resources according to the needs and research direction of the seminary.

Talking about the digitalization of library resources, Prof. Ng pointed out that **printed books are indispensable despite the current trend of library digitalization.** While eBooks are easier to borrow and search for teachers and students and take up less space, Chinese and English books have to be bought every year as the digitalization of Chinese Christian publications is still uncommon.

for Chinese Christian publications is still lagging behind those of the English world in terms of popularity and user-friendliness.

To increase the stock of the library, space is an essential factor for consideration. Besides the digitalization of library resources, another option in the pipeline is the re-planning of the use of the existing space of the library. With the completion of the new academic building, the existing campus space will be re-developed, hence **new planning for the space use within the library so that more space can be made available for the accommodation of books.** Prof. Wong also suggested placing copies of learning resources related to the curriculum somewhere outside the campus for students' easy borrowing. Prof. Ng said the seminary actually has similar practices at present. For example, there is a small-scale library in the Lay Theological Education Department in Mongkok, where copies of books and information are kept.

Looking back at the past seven decades, from its development in Pok Oi Chuen as a simple room on the seminary premises into the current spacious and quiet academic treasure trove, **the HKBTS library has been living up to its mission, being committed to providing the best learning environment and richest academic resources for teachers, scholars, and students of every generation.** Mr. Lam said that the library would continue to play its role in supporting theological education at the seminary and would make efforts to increase the stock of suitable books and electronic resources in response to the seminary's curriculum, teaching, and research work of our teachers as well as the learning needs of our students, providing core hardware and a strong backing on the path of academic development of the seminary.



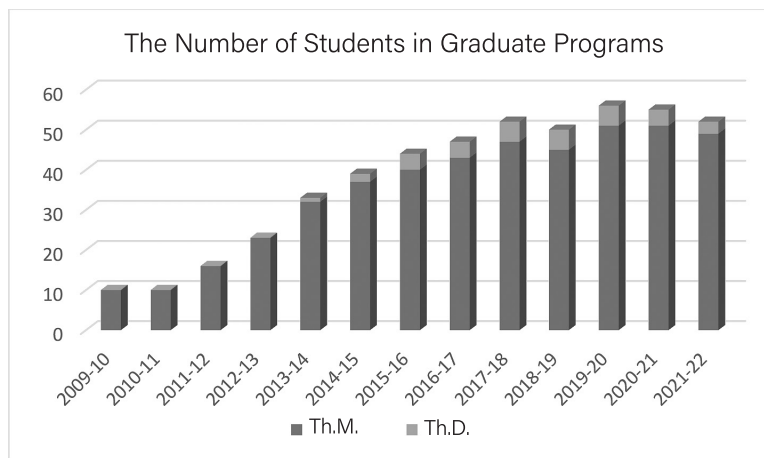
Students having a discussion in the tutorial room.



A Milestone of the “Faith, Hope, and Love Project”: **The New Academic Building**

The new academic building is part of the seminary’s “Faith, Hope, and Love Project,” which was put forward by President Joshua Cho in the Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving Worship on February 20, 2011. President Cho stressed the need to **build up a disciple community marked by “faith, hope, and love” on the basis of having the same mindset as Jesus Christ.** Among others, the implementation of specific ministries includes expansion of the faculty, development of the graduate programs, reforms to and development of the lay believers equipping programs, as well as the setting up of theological research centres.

With the gradual implementation of the “Faith, Hope, and Love Project,” the existing campus could not meet the seminary’s needs. In 2016, the Board of Directors agreed to carry out the Extension Project of the Sai O Campus (Phase 3), to tie in with the future developmental needs of the seminary and increase its education and academic strengths. The extension works include the construction of a new four-story academic building on its Sai O campus, with a gross floor area of nearly 930 square meters (about 10,000 square feet).



During the six years from its preparation in early 2016 to the completion of the new academic building, as well as the subsequent issue of the Occupation Permit in late April 2022, the seminary has witnessed the abundant grace of God and the love of brothers and sisters toward God and the seminary. ***The new building marks HKBTS’s march into a new stage of the “Faith, Hope, and Love Project.”***

**Enriching the Academic Ambience:
The Integrated Study Centre**

The seminary’s graduate programs have been well-received, and the number of students taking these programs has been increasing in recent years. In addition to the Master of Theology Program, the seminary introduced the Doctor of Theology Program in 2013 to nurture teaching and research talents for seminaries in Hong Kong, the Mainland, and Southeast Asia. To date, the seminary has nurtured two Doctors of Theology. In view of this, the seminary has an even greater need to set up a study centre ***to provide a venue for both individual research and group discussions for students who have deeper pursuits in the theological field.***

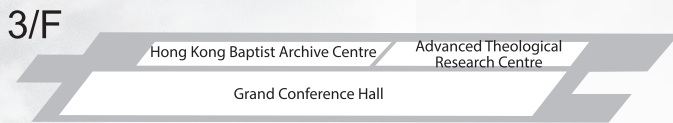
Against this background, the Integrated Study Centre was set up on the second floor of the new academic building. In addition to a classroom, there are facilities including three group study rooms, one seminar room, two graduate student carrels, and a small pantry, offering more spacious rooms for individual studies or idea exchanges and knowledge exploration with fellow students. Among others, the two graduate student carrels provide a total of 8 dedicated spaces for graduate students so that they may focus on their academic research and the writing of dissertations. This is believed to be good news for our graduate students. ***It is expected that the Integrated Study Centre can create a better ambience for academic research and optimize the learning environment for our students.***

**Promoting Research and Exchanges:
The Integrated Theological Research Centre**

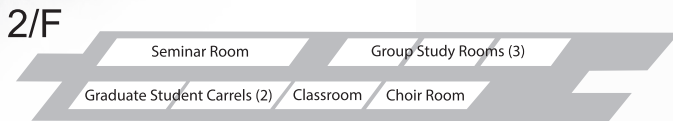
The third floor of the new academic building is entirely dedicated for use as the Integrated Theological Research Centre. The centre was set up to bring together Christian experts and scholars from various fields, church leaders, and pastors, along with our faculty, to pursue truth, exchange ideas, discern Jesus Christ’s mind, and help the church to respond properly to the specific problems faced by us currently by means of solid theological reflections.

The Centre houses the Hong Kong Baptist Archive Centre, the Advanced Theological Research Centre, and a Grand Conference Hall. Working side by side with the Hong Kong Baptist Archive under the existing library, the ***Hong Kong Baptist Archive Centre*** will continue to promote the study of Baptist history. The seminary will actively liaise with long-established local Baptist churches or even overseas Baptist missions to collect valuable materials related to the history of local Baptist churches to enrich the stock of the two archives, preparing sufficient reserves for related research. As for the ***Advanced Theological Research Centre***, it will collect and compile important academic literature and materials to create conducive conditions for advanced theological research. The Centre’s ***Grand Conference Hall***, which can accommodate 80 persons, is expected to provide a venue for local and international academic conferences, pooling local and overseas scholars together for academic interflows.

The New Academic Building



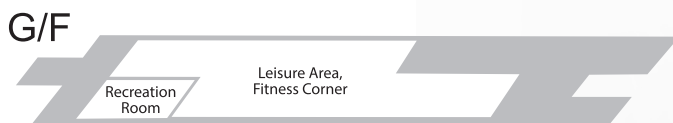
Integrated Theological Research Centre



Integrated Study Centre



Publication and Education Centre



Deacon Chan Sai-Ying Memorial Centre

Pooling of Wisdom across Sectors in Response to the Needs of the World

Talking about the Grand Conference Hall, both Associate Deans were full of ideas. Prof. Wong said that, in discussing the development of the building, President Joshua Cho and they *hoped that the new academic building would become a place where local and overseas Christian scholars could have exchanges and reflections about theology*. Prof. Wong also believed that the Grand Conference Hall is an ideal venue for hosting international conferences for the interflow of ideas. Despite being under the impact of the pandemic, which makes it difficult to invite overseas scholars to come to Hong Kong in person, it is still possible to let them share or teach via video conferences.

Prof. Wong also pointed out *HKBTs's long-term emphasis on interdisciplinary team teaching*. Contemporary theological education has always been split into individual disciplines. The Bible, theology, and practical subjects are being taught as separate, unrelated disciplines. However, with the changes in our

environment, many complicated issues have arisen in society, which require in-depth reflections from multiple perspectives. Prof. Wong said that both President Cho and they had been pondering over whether the opportunity could be seized **to set up an interdisciplinary platform for the seminary to be more responsive to social problems and needs**. This may be achieved through partnership with various sectors, educational work or the publication of books and periodicals, moving from the Bible to theology, and further to practical theology, which means the application of theological teaching to help the church to respond to the needs of the times. In his opinion, cooperating with different professionals will strengthen the seminary's study and application in the area of practical theology. It is believed that this will help the church in a more effective way. For example, many people have been suffering from emotional problems in recent years owing to the building enclosure and quarantine measures during the epidemic. Considering the problem from a purely psychological perspective may not suffice; it is believed that it may help the public and Christians to respond to the practical situation if the problem can be approached from a theological perspective as well. Prof. Wong has seen a number of pastors seeking guidance when faced with social issues. He believes that the seminary could take up more on this front, and such a role could not be fulfilled with biblical knowledge alone. So he hopes that the seminary will have more cooperation and communication with churches and other sectors in the future.

Interactive Exchanges and Strengthening Local Pastoring

In addition to the pooling of international scholars for the promotion of the seminary's education and research, and interdisciplinary exchanges and cooperation, Prof. Ng said that **strengthening the teaching of local practical pastoring** is also a direction for our future development. The seminary hopes that local pastors and HKBTS alumni will be invited to gather at the Grand Conference Hall of the new academic building to share and discuss pastoral issues.

Additionally, Prof. Ng said that President Cho and they hoped that the Grand Conference Hall would also become **a platform for the connection, sharing, and interflow of ideas and research among pastors and alumni**. Prof. Wong agreed with this view very much, believing that the creation of an interactive exchange platform will allow pastors and alumni undertaking different ministries to share their experiences and learn from one another. To cite an example, there are alumni

serving their churches in youth sports ministries, trying to contact young people and share the gospel with them through sporting activities. They can share their successful experiences with other participants on the platform, exchange ideas with one another, and develop content together. Prof. Wong also said that some alumni missed the Spiritual Formation Camp organized by HKBTS and the Grand Conference Hall might also be used to run similar activities for alumni, who can enjoy more in-depth sharing especially after they have acquired practical pastoring experience.

Prof. Ng added that this kind of interflow will also bring together pastors shepherding similar target groups so that they may share their pastoring stories with one another. Afterward, our teachers may teach relevant academic theories for discussion. The seminary may organize this kind of small-scale meeting for pastors and alumni serving different communities. For example, starting with the issue of youth pastoring, youth pastors may be invited to discuss the difficulties in shepherding young people today. He believed that exploration of such issues as the difficulties and ways of pastoring the youth under the impact of the pandemic and the emigration wave would stimulate a lot of interactions and discussions. Besides becoming a platform for the connection and interflow among alumni, the Grand Conference Hall may also serve as a venue for the “President’s Classrooms” in the future, offering a spacious and comfortable discussion venue for the President and alumni, and church leaders.

An Academic Path with Dual Emphasis on Theory and Practice

Both Associate Deans stressed that the direction of HKBTS’s academic development must tie in closely with its mission statement—“Today’s Seminary, Tomorrow’s Churches.” Therefore, the seminary will never conduct purely academic research. Our research will be aimed at serving the churches ultimately. From this, we can see that the future direction of our education and research will be to keep up with the needs of society with a dual emphasis on theory and practice so that churches may be helped to respond to the needs of the times more appropriately by putting their faith and theological knowledge into practice. ***It is our vision that the new academic building will become a “great melting pot” for the pooling of theological knowledge and the application of wisdom, which will promote interflow and interaction between overseas***

and local scholars and among church pastors, group people together for deep reflections on theology and figure out with churches a way to practice our faith when faced with different social issues.

With the digitalization of our library resources and the increase in library stock, the completion and opening of the new academic building, and a renewal of the faculty, we are looking forward to the great enhancement in HKBTS’s teaching and research capacity, which will make the seminary more qualified to make a far-reaching and long-lasting contribution in such areas as local and international theological research, the nurturing of servant-leaders for churches, the development of practical theology, and responding to church and societal needs.

Academic Affairs News

- **Faculty Retreat**

The Faculty Retreat was held from August 2 to 3 with the theme “The Future of Hong Kong Theological Education amidst the Emigration Wave.”

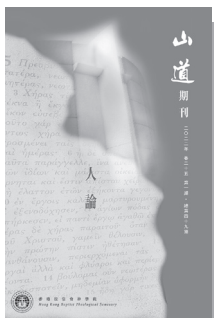
- **Spiritual Formation Camp**

HKBTS students and teachers will attend the Spiritual Formation Camp for the new school year from August 16 to 18. The theme will be “Staying Connected While Social Distancing.”

- **Opening Convocation**

The Opening Convocation 2022-23 will be held on August 23. The next day will be the Opening Convocation Lecture by Dr. Bernard Leung, Assistant Professor of New Testament.

Publication News



The seminary's biannual academic journal, *Hill Road* (issue 49) was published with the theme “**Anthropology.**” There are five thematic articles: “A Psalm for Nurturing Desires: The Shaping of Desires in Psalm 63” (Simon Cheung), “Pauline Anthropology, Resurrection, and

I Corinthians 15” (Bernard Leung), “An Examination of Pannenberg’s Fundamental Theological Anthropology and Its Breakthrough of Barth’s Formal Anthropology” (Keith Chan and Li Haoyu), “The Political Implications of the Christian Concept of Person: Rereading Dietrich Bonhoeffer” (Lee Man-yiu), and “In the Beginning Was the Drama: Balthasar’s Theatrical Anthropology” (Peng Sheng-yu). In addition, there are two miscellaneous articles and five book reviews.

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

Faculty News

- **Dr. Andres S. Tang**, Professor of Christian Thought (Theology and Culture), spoke on the topic “Theology of Preaching and Listening” at the Christian Ministry Institute 25th Anniversary Lecture on March 6, 2022.
- **Dr. Eric Kwong**, Associate Professor of Practical Theology (World Religions), spoke on the topic “Understanding World Religions’ Relationships through Doctrine and History” at the Lectures on History of Religion in Hong Kong held by Modern History Research Centre, Hong Kong Baptist University on April 25, 2022.
- **Dr. Nathan Ng**, Professor of Christian Thought (Church History), spoke on the topics “Pastoring in the New Normal” at the annual meeting of Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni Association on May 30, 2022, and “The Present New Situation from the Perspective of Church History” at the lecture on the Third Wednesday of June Annual Pastors’ Event of the Three Denominations jointly organized by the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong, Evangelical Free Church of China and Christian and Missionary Alliance Church Union Hong Kong on June 15, 2022.

Alumni News

- Alumnus **Ng On-keung** (class of 2002) was ordained as a pastor by the Evangelical Free Church of China Kong Fok Church on May 15, 2022.
- Alumnus **Ng Chi-hoi** (class of 2014) was ordained as a pastor by the Abounding Grace Baptist Church on May 21, 2022.

Campus Extension News

The Occupation Permit for the new academic building under the "Faith, Hope, and Love Project" was issued on April 22, 2022. The defects rectification works of the new building are now being carried out. Meanwhile, we are acquiring teaching and research equipment as well as audio-visual facilities for the conference hall. The installation of the solar power system on the roof of the new building started in July.

The whole project is budgeted at HK\$70 million, of which HK\$10 million is for the expansion of the library and the provision of additional faculty offices, and HK\$60 million is for the construction costs, interior renovation, facilities, furniture, etc.

By God's grace, the seminary continues to receive naming donations from churches and individuals. More than HK\$52 million has been raised by the end of May. Your continuous support is essential to HKBTS academic development in education and research. Please pray with us and make monetary donations for the required HK\$18 million to complete the project.



The custom-made conference table, 11 meters long, in the Grand Conference Hall



Lay Theological Education Department

October 2022 Admissions Now Open

Master of Arts in Christian Studies

- This is a master-level degree earned through a part-time, evening program that enables students to build a solid Biblical and theological foundation.
- Students may select courses according to their interests and needs.
- Students may choose “Biblical Studies,” “Communication,” or choose not to pursue a specific major.
- Some credits acquired in this program can be exempted when being admitted to the Master of Divinity or the Master of Christian Studies degree programs in the seminary’s Main Campus Programs.

Bachelor/Diploma/Certificate Program in Christian Studies

Certificate Program: Christian Studies, Music Ministry

Diploma Program: Christian Studies, Biblical Studies, Music Ministry, Caring and Counseling Ministry

Bachelor Program: Christian Studies, Biblical Studies, Music Ministry, Caring and Counseling Ministry

These are part-time, evening programs.

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, “Give My All to Glorify You: The Everyday Practice of Discipleship” (11/10-29/11, every Tuesday morning), is now open for enrollment.

Golden Age Ministry Certificate Program

The program provides holistic and systematic training in ministerial skills so that students can achieve holistic growth and be prepared for the challenges of an aging population. **Application Deadline:** September 23.

The course, “Pastoral Care for the Aged” (11/10-29/11, every Tuesday evening), is now open for enrollment.

Youth Pastoral Ministry Certificate Program

The program provides holistic and systematic training in ministerial skills and with guidance focusing on specific situations and needs so that students can serve youth more effectively. Most of the classes will be held on Monday evening.

Application Deadline: September 23.

Childhood Ministry Certificate Program

The program provides holistic and systematic training in ministerial skills for those aspiring to serve children aged 5-10 in their church, schools, and communities so that they can serve the children and parents more effectively.

Application Deadline: September 9.

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. It enables students to have holistic training and gain a broader view of service and upgrade their ministerial skills so that they may serve their church more effectively. Classes will be held every Tuesday evening.

Application Deadline: September 23.

Mission Ministry Certificate Program

The program provides holistic and systematic training in ministerial skills so that students can respond to the great commission of the Lord Jesus. Classes will be held every Monday evening. **Application Deadline:** September 15.

All the program courses above are conducted in Chinese.

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

Distance Education Program

Exploring Truth • Reflecting upon Faith • Equipping for Ministry

Fall 2022 Admissions Now Open

Program	Program Description	Admission Requirements	Date of Commencement	Registration Deadline
Diploma in Biblical Studies Program	Focusing on the context and interpretation of the Bible.	Secondary school graduates with their pastor's recommendations.	March and September	Spring semester : <i>Hong Kong:</i> February 10 <i>Overseas:</i> January 10 Fall semester : <i>Hong Kong:</i> August 10 <i>Overseas:</i> July 10
Diploma in Christian Studies Program	Focusing on Christian faith and doctrine.			
Higher Diploma in Biblical Studies/Christian Studies Programs	Further studies for diploma graduates.	Diploma graduates with their pastor's recommendations.		
Certificate in N.T./O.T. Studies Programs	Introductory programs in biblical studies, guiding students to study the Bible systematically.	All are welcome	January, May, and September	Spring trimester: January 20 Summer trimester: May 20 Fall trimester: September 20

Elective students: Students can choose their interested courses in the programs.

All the programs can be taken online or by mail. Trial online programs: <http://elearning.hkbs.edu.hk>

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

DONORS REPORT FOR APRIL 2022

Education Fund (Church / Organization)		林威烈	1,000.00	Distance Education Program	
小西灣浸信會福音堂	2,000.00	林嘉鴻	500.00	馬德明	1,000.00
屯門浸信教會	700.00	洪鷹輪	200.00	溫祥、黎琼珍	400.00
牛池灣竹園潮語浸信會	8,000.00	殷振強伉儷	1,000.00	鄭鵬程	300.00
阡陌社區浸信會	5,000.00	馬德明	2,000.00	無名氏	444.00
沙田浸信會	8,000.00	曹啟明伉儷	400.00	無名氏	100.00
青山道潮語浸信會	8,000.00	梁明財伉儷	500.00	無名氏	100.00
紅磡浸信會	23,000.00	梁錦松、郭詠文	1,500.00		<u>100.00</u>
香港(西區)潮語浸信會	5,000.00	許鋒威	1,000.00		HK\$ <u>2,344.00</u>
香港浸信教會	125,000.00	陳偉倫	200.00	Campus Maintenance and Repairs	
香港堅尼地城浸信教會	1,000.00	陳偉權	500.00	申融融	300.00
朗福浸信會	600.00	陳貴豪	1,000.00	楊美玲	300.00
培正道浸信會	5,000.00	陳麗英	1,400.00		<u>600.00</u>
基石浸信會	2,500.00	曾慶忠	500.00		HK\$ <u>600.00</u>
將軍澳浸信會	500.00	馮德華、鄧如玉	200.00	Campus Extension Project	
彩明浸信會	2,400.00	黃念施	200.00	陳世英慈善基金	1,300,000.00
深荃浸信會	1,000.00	黃華娟	100.00	申融融	300.00
筲箕灣浸信會	10,000.00	黃雅志	10,000.00	黃詠莎	2,000.00
筲箕灣潮語浸信會	20,000.00	溫祥、黎琼珍	500.00	鄒小寶	1,500.00
置富浸信教會	3,000.00	葉玉梅	200.00	鄧輝祥	500.00
銅鑼灣浸信會	7,000.00	葉煥章	300.00	無名氏	1,000,000.00
鑽石山浸信會	5,000.00	劉永生、鍾梓萍	300.00	無名氏	300,000.00
九龍五旬節會佐敦堂	3,000.00	劉建紅	100.00	無名氏	7,000.00
中華錫安傳道會慈雲山錫安堂	1,000.00	蔡慧英	200.00	無名氏	2,000.00
基督教宣道會大埔堂	500.00	薛聲明	1,000.00	無名氏	1,000.00
啟關基金	500.00	羅佩珊	100.00		<u>1,000.00</u>
	HK\$ <u>247,700.00</u>	羅凱慈	2,000.00		HK\$ <u>2,614,300.00</u>
		關廣智、鄧慧然	500.00	Nancy Moy	US\$ <u>3,000.00</u>
Education Fund (Individual Donor)		無名氏	1,000,000.00	Scholarship and Bursary	
方志強	200.00	無名氏	5,300.00	無名氏	HK\$ <u>200.00</u>
王紹良	700.00	無名氏	4,000.00	Mr. John T & Mrs. Frances T	
王群	800.00	無名氏	1,000.00	Carter Memorial Fund	US\$ <u>89.77</u>
申融融	400.00	無名氏	500.00		
朱活平伉儷	300.00	無名氏	500.00	Faculty Support	
何仲儀	1,000.00	無名氏	500.00	茶果嶺浸信會	HK\$ <u>19,103.00</u>
何錦燕	1,000.00	無名氏	500.00		
吳承士、吳幼靜伉儷	3,999.99	無名氏	400.00		
吳炳榮伉儷	8,000.00	無名氏	400.00		
吳國傑伉儷	1,000.00	無名氏	300.00		
李國雄伉儷	1,000.00	無名氏	200.00		
李新蘭	200.00	無名氏	0.20		
周國高	600.00				
			HK\$ <u>1,060,200.19</u>		

DONORS REPORT FOR MAY 2022

Education Fund (Church / Organization)		容玉琴	500.00	Distance Education Program	
九龍城浸信會	280,000.00	殷振強伉儷	1,000.00	溫祥、黎琮珍	400.00
九龍國際浸信會	32,567.00	曹啟明伉儷	400.00	鄭鵬程	300.00
又新浸信會	6,000.00	梁明財伉儷	500.00	無名氏	500.00
上環浸信會	6,500.00	梁錦松、郭詠文	1,500.00	無名氏	444.00
大埔浸信會	26,332.00	許煥英	1,000.00	無名氏	100.00
屯門浸信教會	700.00	許鋒威	1,000.00	無名氏	100.00
以馬內利浸信會	10,800.00	陳志坤伉儷	500.00		HK\$ <u>1,844.00</u>
阡陌社區浸信會	5,000.00	陳海儀	500.00	Lay Theological Education Program	
沙田浸信會	8,000.00	陳偉倫	200.00	陳國權	1,000.00
香港（西區）潮語浸信會	5,000.00	陳麗英	700.00	林榮恩	100.00
香港仔浸信會	1,543.02	曾慶忠	500.00		HK\$ <u>1,100.00</u>
香港西區浸信會	2,995.20	馮德華、鄧如玉	200.00	Campus Maintenance and Repairs	
香港浸信教會	125,000.00	黃念施	200.00	申融融	300.00
香港堅尼地城浸信教會	1,000.00	黃國東	500.00	楊美玲	300.00
朗福浸信會	200.00	黃華娟	100.00		HK\$ <u>600.00</u>
粉嶺浸信會	50,000.00	溫祥、黎琮珍	500.00	Campus Extension Project	
基磐浸信會	18,000.00	葉煥章	300.00	大埔浸信會	100,000.00
將軍澳浸信會	500.00	劉永生、鍾梓萍	300.00	申融融	300.00
置富浸信教會	3,000.00	劉建紅	100.00	朱浩一	1,500.00
觀塘浸信會	3,825.00	蔡慧英	200.00	周慧蓮	500.00
基督教宣道會大埔堂	500.00	鄭淑華	1,000.00	黃詠莎	750.00
香港神學教育協會	1,000.00	薛聲明	2,000.00	鄒小寶	1,500.00
馬利亞、馬大團契	2,000.00	羅佩珊	100.00	鄧輝祥	500.00
啟聞基金	500.00	羅凱慈	2,000.00	盧仲娥	10,000.00
一家親家庭音樂教育網	120.00	羅榮志	500.00	薛聲明	1,000.00
	HK\$ <u>591,082.22</u>	譚逸雄伉儷	1,000.00	無名氏	7,000.00
Education Fund (Individual Donor)		關廣智、鄧慧然	500.00	無名氏	2,000.00
Mak Tak	800.00	無名氏	10,000.00	無名氏	2,000.00
方志強	200.00	無名氏	4,000.00	無名氏	2,000.00
王紹良	700.00	無名氏	1,000.00	無名氏	2,000.00
王群	800.00	無名氏	500.00	無名氏	1,000.00
申融融	400.00	無名氏	500.00		HK\$ <u>128,050.00</u>
朱活平伉儷	300.00	無名氏	400.00	Faculty Support	
何仲儀	1,000.00	無名氏	400.00	茶果嶺浸信會	9,802.00
吳安強	2,000.00	無名氏	300.00	K. Y. Choi	4,000.00
吳炳榮伉儷	8,000.00	無名氏	200.00	Lau Sau Hing	2,000.00
吳國傑伉儷	1,000.00		HK\$ <u>52,300.00</u>	Ling Mei Ping	5,000.00
李國雄伉儷	1,000.00	Pandemic Prevention Supplies			HK\$ <u>20,802.00</u>
李新蘭	200.00	張智理伉儷	HK\$ <u>5,000.00</u>		
洪錦漢	200.00				
洪鷹輪	100.00				

Financial Report
General Fund, 1 March - 31 May, 2022

	HK\$
Income	7,787,325.43
Expenditure	<u>(8,736,038.25)</u>
Deficit	<u><u>(948,712.82)</u></u>



Reply Slip

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

- praying for the Seminary's theological education ministry
- contributing \$ _____ to the
 - Educational Fund Campus Extension Project Other: _____
- Name: _____ (Mr. / Ms. / Rev. / Dr. / Mr. & Mrs. / Alumnus / Alumna)
- Church Affiliation: _____
- Address: _____
- Contact Phone No.: _____ E-mail: _____
- I/We do not wish to receive a hard copy of the Seminary's Newsletter
- I/We do not wish to receive any information from the Seminary by email

Donation Methods

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

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

- Please send the crossed cheque or bank receipt along with this completed reply slip to the Seminary by post, email or fax.
- Official receipt will be issued and donation is tax-deductible in Hong Kong.
- Your personal data will only be used for issuing a receipt and the Seminary's administrative purposes.
- Please tick the appropriate box
- Inquiry: Tel: (852) 2715 9511 Fax: (852) 2761 0868 Email: inquiry@hkbt.edu.hk

Address: 1 Nin Ming Road, Sai O, Sai Kung North, N.T., Hong Kong Website: <http://www.hkbt.edu.hk>

Thank you for your support!



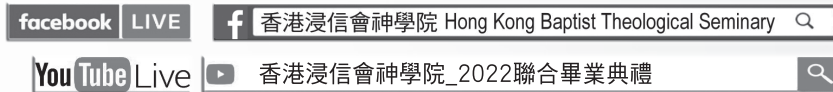
香港浸信會神學院
Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary

Joint Graduation Ceremony 2022

The Board of Directors of
the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary
requests the honor of your participation
at the Joint Graduation Ceremony
at three-thirty pm on the sixth of November (Sunday)
in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Two
at the Kowloon City Baptist Church

Inquiry Tel: 2711 2552 / 2715 9511 Email: itedinfo@hkbtts.edu.hk

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



Precious Moments

May 12, 2022

Commissioning Ceremony for Graduates

At the ceremony, our graduating students received benediction and intercession from the seminary. They were to be sent to serve in different ministry fields. President Joshua Cho presided over the ceremony and Dr. Bernard Leung, on behalf of the faculty, addressed the graduating students on the topic "The Weight of Glory" (2 Cor 4:17). He exhorted our graduating students not to pursue the transient vanities of the world and that we should fix our eyes not on the present hardship in ministries, but on the eternal glory that will be revealed in the future.





Publishing Supervisor: **Joshua Cho** Editorial Consultant: **Stephanie Lo** Editor: **Arthur Ng**

Translators: **Jenny Hung, Irene Wong**

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Tel: **(852) 2715 9511** Fax: **(852) 2761 0868** Email: inquiry@hkbts.edu.hk Web Address: <http://www.hkbts.edu.hk>

 **香港浸信會神學院 Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary**  **hkbts_1951**

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

The Lord Sends Out Workers

Full-Time Ministry Exploration Day Camp October 7-8, 2022 (Fri & Sat)

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 to the seminary's programs

Fee HK\$150 (accommodation not provided)

Application Deadline September 27, 2022 (Tue)

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

For Inquiries Telephone: 2768 5130 Email: admissions@hkbits.edu.hk Website: www.hkbits.edu.hk