

Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary

The 2001 Annual Report

Our Ministries This Year

Nurturing 166 Students

In the academic year 2001-02, thirty-two new students have been admitted, including thirteen taking the Master of Divinity Program, three in the Master of Religious Education Program, one in the High Diploma of Religious Education Program, five in the Master of Pastoral Counseling Program, nine in the B.A. (in Pastoral Studies) Program, and one in the Th.M. Program. Half of them are from the Baptist churches. All of them have been vigorously screened, and are of high quality.

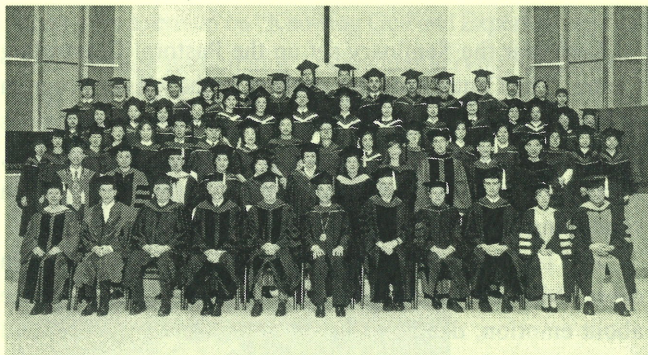
Dr. Joshua W.T. Cho, a professor well-liked by students, has been appointed as the new Dean of Academic Affairs. He commits himself to further upgrade the academic level of the Seminary. A proper balance between both the intellectual and practical aspects will be stressed in the curriculum so as to ensure that students are well equipped both academically and spiritually. At present, there is a total of 166 students in the Seminary. The journey of learning and becoming a servant faithfully following God's will is not at all easy. With God's help, however, and the support from churches, we believe that God will help us realize this goal of nurturing all these students to become quality ministers who will be faithfully serving the Lord in the church.



A group photo of the faculty and new students

Graduates Going into Their Ministries

This year, we have forty-eight graduates. May God guide all of them as they go into different ministries as fishers of men for Him. In their days of training, they faced many challenges and tests, but also experienced abundant grace from God. The Fiftieth Graduation Ceremony will be held at Tsimshatsui Baptist Church on November 11. We would like to entrust all these forty-eight graduates into God's hand, praying that our Lord will continue to lead and use them.



A group photo of the faculty and graduates

Lay Theological Education Department Serving the Churches

Our Lay Theological Education Department, which is situated at Chung Kiu Commercial Building in Mongkok, has offered fifteen programs to meet the needs of the churches in the academic year 2000-2001. The student enrolment is high. On the average, we have 1,785 students in every quarter. Among the programs offered, Certificate Program in Church Clerk Training, Certificate Program in Kindergarten Christian Education, Bachelor Program in Christian Studies, Certificate Program in Christian Woman Theological Training, and Diploma Program in Youth Mentor Training are very successful and well received.

A Joint Graduation Ceremony of eight programs was held at Kowloon City Baptist Church on July 15. We hope that the 240 graduates can apply what they have learned to their work and daily living, doing still better in serving God and men in their own churches.



Dr. Joshua Cho speaking at the Graduation Ceremony

Distance Education Program: Breaking through the Limitation of Time and Space

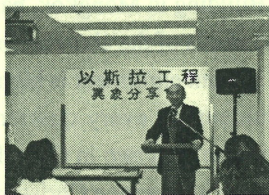
In this fall, there are thirteen, seventeen and fifteen students taking the New Testament Study, the Old Testament Study, and the Diploma Program in Christian Studies respectively. That means the total number of students in the Certificate Program in Bible Studies is 190, and in the Diploma Program in Christian Studies is sixty-nine. Among them, 221 students live in Hong Kong, and thirty-eight are from different parts of the world.

Distance Education Program actively ministers to the specific needs of different groups of believers. From March 1999, Onesimus Training Project has provided opportunities of spiritual nurture and growth for the believers in prisons. The number of participants in this project is increasing.



Nine brothers have already finished the New Testament Study, and seven of them have begun to take the Old Testament Study beginning this September. Since May, in collaboration with Christian Ministers to Visually Impaired Persons, we offered the visually impaired Christians a lay theological training program: the "Spiritual Light Project". Now, we have ten devoted students in this project. In June, the Distance Education Program organized a vision-sharing meeting of its new project, the "Ezra Project", at the Mongkok Education Centre. It aims to assist churches to do gospel follow-up work in remote areas in Mainland China by using the Distance

Education Program material published in simplified Chinese characters. In the meeting, pastors and ministers were enthusiastic about the project.



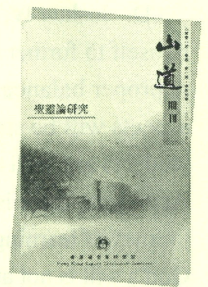
The Library Serving the Students and the Baptist Pastors

Since February 1999, after moving into the Sai O campus, we have allocated huge resources into the teaching and learning assets in the library resulting in a great improvement in our library resources. Our goal is that through further development and careful planning, our library service not only caters to the needs of our different programs and courses, but also helps facilitate the students and the Baptist pastors in their life-long study. Since August last year, within a year, the library has cataloged 5,300 volumes of new books. It is a new record. To keep pace with the new era, as the CD-ROM is a most modern

study aid, we have collected 240 pieces of CD-ROM. At this moment, we have already collected more than 56,000 volumes of books, and that means we are now standing in the forefront among local theological seminaries. In the coming year, there will be construction work to expand our library so as to cope with the growth in research work (such as the Graduate Studies). At the same time, we shall also commit ourselves to collect, organize, and compile the historical materials of the Seminary. In the near future the wonderful witnesses of our forebears can be better secured and preserved.

The Publication Ministry

We publish the quarterly *Seminary Newsletter* with a view to sharing with our churches, and brothers and sisters the development of our theological education ministry. Besides, our half-yearly journal, *Hill Road*, presents the fruits of our academic studies, and tries to build bridges to scholarship and the church. Not only do we improve the lay-out artwork and cover design, but also enhance the quality of the articles. Thank God that *Hill Road* has been well received and highly commended.



On the other hand, the *Fifty Years - Pictorial Chronicles of Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary*, an elegant publication with valuable pictures and historical records, has been published. Copies were sent to every local Baptist church. Besides, the third and fourth volume in Dr. Samuel Tang's Psalm Among Psalms Series (that is *Hymns of Faith* and *Songs of Prayer*) have already been published.



Pastoral Counseling Centre Combining Field Education and Service

Last year the Seminary set up the Pastoral Counseling Centre. The Centre provides students in the Master Program of Pastoral Counseling with more field practice opportunities and in turn equip them to be good quality pastoral counselors. Meanwhile, in so doing the Centre seeks to provide Christian counseling service in an effort to serve the churches.

Just last year, the Centre has dealt with seventy-seven cases. Most clients faced personal problems, such as those about emotion, deaths of loved ones, work pressure, and personal growth. Other cases include pre-marital, marital, and family counseling. Besides the Sai O campus and the Mongkok Education Centre, we also provide our counseling service in different churches.

Golden Jubilee Activities

The Seminary was founded in 1951, and this year is her Golden Jubilee. In order to count God's blessings and thankfully praise God for what he has done, several academic activities and thanksgiving worship services were held:

- **March 5-7** Rev. Samuel Y. C. Tang was the speaker at the Expository Study Camp for Preaching on the Book of Daniel. There were sixty-nine participants.

- **In April**, the *Fifty Years - Pictorial Chronicles of Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary* has been published, and to commemorate the occasion, a CD-ROM, entitled "Fifty Years of Countless Blessings" was also produced.

- **April 27** In collaboration with the Alumni Association, we held a Golden Jubilee Seminar for Pastors and Ministers, Rev. Paul Y.K.

Wong (our alumnus) spoke on the theme "Mission and Crisis". Ninety pastors attended the seminar.



- **April 28** Dr. Albert Travis led a workshop on organizing, and thirty people attended.

- **In late April** Joined with our alumni to praise our Lord, we arranged a series of thanksgiving worship services: Golden Jubilee Thanksgiving Worship Service, Golden Jubilee Thanksgiving Dinner, Alumni Day, and Golden Jubilee Thanksgiving Concert.

- **October 5** The Golden Jubilee Worship and Praise Meeting was held. The Seminary Choir, the Faculty Choir, the Alumni Choir, and the Choir from Christian Woman Theological Training Program went on stage, with several students sharing their experiences studying in our programs. Rev. Eric W. M. Tong gave a sermon on "Knowing God and Experiencing God" to encourage participants to consider serving God all their lives. More than 400 people attended the meeting.



Our Future Ministries

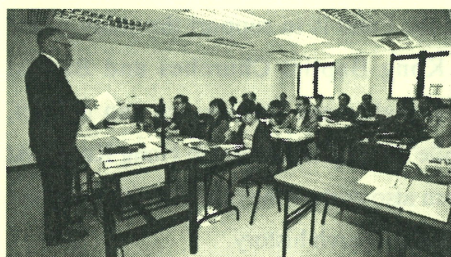
Trying Our Best to Nurture Every Seminary Student

At this moment, we offer Ministerial Preparation Programs, (the Master of Divinity Program, the Master of Religious Education Program, Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Ministry Program) and Continuing Education for Ministers Programs (Master of Pastoral Counseling Program, Higher Diploma of Religious Education Program). In addition, last year, we launched our first Graduate Studies Program: the Master of Theology Program.

In the coming year, we will continue to fully upgrade our programs. Under the leadership of the new Dean of Academic Affairs, we commit ourselves to nurture each of our students studying in the Seminary the best we can. Not only do we equip them with knowledge, but also help them to have constant spiritual discipline and growth. Only in this way can they become truly approved and beloved servants of God.

The Graduate Studies Program has had a good beginning, all of the first eight graduate students being of excellent quality. Due to the retirement of Dr. Richard B. Cunningham, the Director of Graduate Studies Program, we need to recruit

another suitable person to be the new Director. Please pray for us.



The Expansion of the Sai O Campus

The Seminary is considering some construction work: to expand the library to double its present space, to enlarge the canteen to accommodate 200 people as compared with the present 130. Multi-purpose conference rooms and a Heritage Hall will also need to be built. This is to meet the need for more space and facilities in the course of rapid development of the Seminary.

Mongkok Education and Resource Centre

We have already bought the seventh, eighth, and ninth floors of the Church of Christ in China Mongkok Church at 56 Bute Street, Mongkok. This new centre will supplement the present Mongkok Education Centre at Chung Kiu Commercial Centre in providing more space for conducting our programs and courses. Besides, it is also planned to be a centre for applied theology in various areas of ministry, such as continuing education for ministries, pastoral counseling service, serving as a resource centre in church music, a centre for Christian performing arts, and a centre for sports and recreation ministries. Construction is estimated to be completed by April, 2002, and then renovation will begin.



The Golden Jubilee Fund for the Studies of History of Hong Kong Baptist Churches

The purpose of the Fund is to support the study of the history of Hong Kong Baptist Churches and Baptist organizations. Through these studies, we can collect, preserve, and compile the Baptist history in Hong Kong. At the same time, we can also nurture the talents in studying and compiling local Chinese Church history.

The Fund will support: 1) research projects on Hong Kong Baptist history, 2) setting up the archive for the historical documents of the Seminary, 3) publication of the Annual on the Study of the History of Hong Kong Baptists, 4) subsidizing and promoting the "Campaign of Preserving the Historical Documents of Local Churches".

The fund-raising target for the year 2001-2002 is one million Hong Kong dollars.



The Mission Dynamics and Resource Centre

This centre is committed to promote, nurture, equip and support groups and individuals, who have a commitment to God's kingdom, to truly put into practice the "holistic mission" of the church as revealed in the Bible: the renewal of evangelism, church planting and missions on one hand, serving the community as well as caring for individuals on the other.

To achieve the above purposes, the centre seeks to provide mission education, research and study, practice and experience, information collection and language training, etc.

In September, Rev. Lin Tat Kit was appointed as the Honorary Director and has begun planning and promoting various kinds of its ministries.

A Pledge

"Today's seminary students are pastors and ministers of tomorrow." For a seminary student to be a good Christian soldier, apart from providing quality education on the part of the Seminary, the prayers of the churches, concern and offerings are also indispensable. The recent economic recession in Hong Kong resulted in a decrease in our offerings received. This year we have a deficit of over five million dollars. Here may we invite you to shoulder with us the responsibility of theological education development and support us by setting aside an amount in your next year's budget.

Response

Our church would like to support the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary:

- ☐ we shall keep praying for the development of theological education of the Seminary.
- ☐ we shall support the Seminary with an offering of HK\$ _____

Church: _____

Address: _____

Tel.: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____