



Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary



Annual Report 2009-10



“...sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.” (Ps 107:22)



Sharing from
the President

It has been almost two years since I became the Seminary's President. Indeed time passes quickly, and yet we cannot but see God's wonderful deeds in our community. It is a community composed of those called by God to serve Him full time. In such a community we are deeply aware that the Lord is our strength and our song! As God is leading us forward, we see clearly so many visible traces of His hand. Our community offers sacrifices of thanksgiving and declares together God's works with rejoicing.

An "Excellent" Seminary — Serving in Humility and Practising Hospitality

As we recall, in the academic year 2008-09, we advanced the All-Seminary Prayer Meeting to the third day after the Opening Convocation with the purpose to begin the school year with prayers from all our faculty, staff and students. In the school year 2009-10, we once again prayed with one heart in the All-Seminary Prayer Meeting as we began the school year with prayer. It was then that we called out to God to make our Seminary an excellent seminary and grant that the Seminary will develop an ethos of hospitality.

We yearn for "excellence," which does not mean a prominent position on the bill board chart but rather a kind of humility — teachers humble before God; students humble before God; teachers and students humble before God. Humility is a kind of Christ-like attitude, a spiritual state in which we experience Christ's goodness and excellence (Phi 2:5-11), and the crystallization of genuine spirituality in a faith community. What we aspire to have in "hospitality" is to learn the practice of loving one another, accepting one another and better still loving strangers and even our enemies. Hospitality implies actively helping the needy, the hungry and the poor. Hospitality is putting the faith of love into practice and the quality of a life of love that the minister must have as he steps into the field of ministry from seminary.

Thank God that He has listened to our prayers. Since February 2009, HKBTS has quickened the pace of reformation. God has strengthened the faculty team of Biblical Studies and enabled the Seminary to strive toward excellence in theological education. In the past academic year, the whole seminary community learned together the faith practice of serving one another in humility and hospitality. There is no doubt that this is a way of life that we must continually seek to be perfect. Yet, I can see God's spirit at work in our midst, as the teachers are of the same heart, as new teachers join the faculty team, as there is mutual encouragement among students who grind into their studies, and as there is mutual aid among staff workers so that the spirit of hospitality has gradually converged throughout our campus.





Concerted in Heart and Effort — Serving the Church and Our Society

By January this year, I felt the need for the Seminary to move ahead to a new stage of putting “synergy” into practice. I prayed that God would continue to guide our faculty and staff, enabling them to cooperate and supplement one another so that they could be workmen who are one in the Lord and God’s co-workers as well. What made us leap with joy and feel grateful to God is that our Lord in His wonderful providence planted this same thought into the minds of the executive members of the new student union. They chose as this year’s theme “Crossover among Classes” which happens to coincide with the Seminary’s emphasis this year: “synergy.” I felt profoundly the working out of God’s will: God is helping our students, staff and faculty to advance toward this objective with the same heart and at the same pace.

I shared this with our faculty. Besides dedicating themselves to theological teaching and studies and nurturing students’ theological wisdom, I hope our faculty team can cooperate and supplement one another, taking an interdisciplinary approach to do more to understand the culture of our society, to grasp its complex social problems, and to understand the human soul with its spiritual needs. The result can be that as future ministers, the students we train can have the ability to respond to the needs of the church and our society. Seen from another angle, this demonstrates the spirit of hospitality as we show concern and offer help to those in need.

Last December, I interviewed our teachers one by one to understand their major and minor study areas as well as their concern for the church and our society. After the interview, I put pictures of our faculty team together. To my amazement, I found that God had gathered them together, giving them the potential to supplement their expertise with one another, to develop interdisciplinary integration and allowing them to respond together to the needs of the church and our society. I must call out loud God’s works with rejoicing as God has already provided us with a special gift — the building of a team of teachers who are in pursuit of excellence and have a desire to be of one heart, advancing at the same pace! This kind of teacher teamwork is what I envision. It can avoid the fragmentation of individual disciplines of study in contemporary theological education. But more importantly, the synergy of teamwork can produce immense power which enables us to become the Seminary’s engine, driving it forward, and strengthens us to serve the church and to respond to our society.



A Preaching Seminary

The academic year 2010-11 began at the end of August and we follow the fine tradition started two years ago to have the All Seminary Prayer Meeting held at the beginning of the semester for the whole seminary to pray to God. Setting out on a new year's journey, I shared a message entitled "God's Foolishness: Preaching for the World" in the Opening Convocation attended by all the faculty, staff and students. I hope God will cleanse us with fire and call us to reclaim our basic vocation: to preach the "foolishness" of the gospel of the cross. I pray that God will make HKBTS a preaching seminary and that our teachers and students will be filled with a deep spiritual quality reflecting the life of preaching.

I have come to a profound understanding that this is the prominent mission of a seminary: how we must help a group of future ministers to grasp the core of their being called to Christian ministry; guide individual seminary students to examine whether his inner life is worthy of the gospel under the light of the cross. A preacher's preaching must always be true to the Bible. The minister as they are guided by the light of the cross must merely proclaim Christ and His "foolish" cross. Only when they take up the "foolish" cross and refuse to follow the values and attitude of the world can they have the wisdom of a minister and the power of God. It is only then that they can be filled with the spiritual character of the preaching of life. Only then will they not see their future ministry as a burden but rather one of power, and one of renewal.

In the previous academic year, "graduating preaching" was newly added to the syllabus, giving our students more preaching experience and discipline and encouraging them as they prepare for their preaching ministries. The result was a big applause for the students' overall performance because all of the graduating students strived with all their heart and strength to preach the word of God. Certainly they felt the entire seminary support. Seeing that the hand of the Lord has led such a group of students to go on the stage in succession, we were rejoiced for them and also give thanks to the Lord for allowing this year's graduating preaching to have a good beginning.

"Preaching" will continue to be central to the forward direction for the Seminary. In fact, we are organizing in succession a seminar, preaching-related lectures, and a Bible Study meeting this year. The Seminar on Bible Preaching took place on September 20 while the lectures and Bible Study meetings will take place next year. One will be the "Seminar on the Art of Listening to Biblical Preaching" held in January 2010 and the other will be the Belote Lectures held in August. Professor Thomas Long, a well-known authority on Homiletics, will be the speaker of the forthcoming Belote Lectures with "Homiletics" as the theme. I trust that God will use these meetings to inspire our teachers and students to think more deeply, do further study and come to a better understanding of the preaching vocation.

There will always be high mountains and deep valleys ahead for HKBTS. But trusting God's hand of grace to guide us and welcoming the churches to watch over us, the Seminary is a train which carries and takes our future ministers forward toward destinations of service and proclamation. From "Excellence" to "Synergy" to "Preaching," I myself have witnessed that God is leading the Seminary to move forward on the railway of growth and wise progress.

Thanksgiving

Thank the Lord for preparing for us a team of teachers who work together in synergy which becomes the engine driving the Seminary forward. Thank the Lord for putting the "Preaching of Life" in the hearts of each of our teachers and students, reminding and leading us to be a "Preaching Seminary."

*Retrospect with
Thanksgiving*



Looking back over 2009-10, there were 319 students in our degree programs for theological training, with 121 students enrolled in the main campus ministerial training programs and 198 students in the Christian Studies Program of our Lay Theological Education Program. There were 67 new students and 60 graduates this school year.



*Prospect and
Advance*

1. Ministerial Training Program

The school year 2009-10 was a year for steady progress. As the school year came to an end and a new school year was about to begin, God granted us two special gifts: the Faculty Retreat Camp in August and the Spiritual Formation Camp for all teachers and students held just before the beginning of the school year. Not only could we experience the presence of God's spirit but we could also see that in the Faculty Retreat Camp, our faculty team members most positively and actively discussed the strategy and direction of teaching and learning together. We also found that our cooperation and understanding had reached a perfectly mature stage. In the Spiritual Formation Camp, the teachers no longer played the leading role since our students have grown mature enough to shoulder the leading responsibility.

Such soul-touching "unity" and "maturity" are precious, showing that they are divine gifts and they imply that our spiritual community has gained the foundation and the power to go forward more than ever before.

Sharing from Some Graduate Students

"Thank God for granting me a class of intimate, lovely co-walkers and a team of good teachers who love their students. HKBTS is a heart-warming seminary and the campus is always filled with laughter. This three-year seminary study has been the happiest campus life I have ever experienced. May HKBTS forever maintain this kind of human touch and its special testimony of love."

"Thank God for allowing me to finish this program of study! These few years of study have made me see, reflect, deeply experience and taste fully the meaning of the school motto. I should not only do my best to present myself to God as a workman who need not be ashamed, but one approved by God. This is easier said than done. However, from our dedicated teachers, we have discovered the shadow of unashamed workmen! Teachers, thank you! I hope and pray that God will continue to use the Seminary to train workmen after God's heart."

"Looking back over these few years of theological training, I have experienced God's grace and blessings, and my life has been molded and built up. In the process of my study, I first have recognized my limitations, faced and accepted them and then finally give thanks to God for my gifts and even my limitations. I am grateful for President Cho, and for teachers who teach with patience and skill. Thank all of you who have enlightened me, broadened the horizon of my vision and spurred me on toward serving God."



We are grateful to the Lord for granting us a group of outstanding students. In the new academic year 2010-11, the number of students in the main campus has risen to 127. After a process of vigorous screening and selection, we have admitted 40 new students for the fall term. We will continue to recruit students in the spring term. In retrospect, we thank the Lord for leading 35 students to the Seminary in the 2009-10 school year. We also thank Him for commissioning 29 students to complete their studies and enter into the ministry of Christ.

Apart from regular programs to equip students in many ways, the Seminary places a strong emphasis on students' spiritual formation. In the past school year, there was a new arrangement in which every teacher and the two chaplains provided better care for all our students. Moreover, through the Spiritual Formation Group Meetings, Growth Group Meetings, Morning Prayer Meetings, Morning Chapel Hour, Fasting and Silent Prayer Meetings and other activities, the Student Union reinforces our pastoral care for students, cultivates their spiritual character and nurtures them to become ministers capable of spiritual renewal throughout their lives as ministers.

Practicum is another indispensable discipline for students. In the last school year, students were assigned to have practicum in 78 churches and para-church organizations. This allowed them to absorb practical experience and to be carefully chiseled by God as they served God and men.

Besides, there was a variety of talks and seminars to provide opportunities for students to strengthen their training in thinking and broaden their vision. These talks include the Baptist Heritage Week held from October 20 to 22 with its theme "400 years of Baptist Anniversary: Heritage Revisit"; the Academic Forum held on February 11 with its theme "The Phenomenon of the Post 80s Generation;" the Mission Week Lectures held from March 9 to 11 with its theme "Paul's Theology and Strategy of Mission." The luncheon meetings and visits also allow students to have greater understanding and fuller knowledge of different ministries, such as the gospel ministry targeting at the low socio-economic class or a visit to the street sleepers.



This past summer, some of our teachers and students went to the Mainland for a visit and exchange. These visits included “Hill Singers’ Short-Term Visit, Mission and Music Exchange Trip to Sichuan” (June 1-8), “Short-Term Mission to Yingde” (June 12-14), and “A Mission Visit to Northern Part of Inner Mongolia” (June 22-30, joining the Mission Team organized by the Hong Kong Baptist Mission). We see how God makes use of these caring and serving opportunities to mold the ministry life of our students and expand their spiritual horizons.



In reaching out to the church public, we continue to organize Talk on Full Time Ministry and Experiencing Seminary Life Camp to help those Christians who seek to consecrate themselves to the Lord to know more about HKBTS. In the past academic year, God also led President Cho and our teachers to 42 churches to lead the Seminary Sunday Service as they delivered messages and served brothers and sisters, the churches thus became better informed about our ministries and needs.

Last academic year, President Cho visited our alumni who are ministering in Tsuen Wan and Aberdeen districts to share with them the Seminary’s recent happenings. President Cho joined the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong to visit China’s Lianghui (the National Committee of Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China and China Christian Council) in Shanghai. In June, he was invited to speak at the graduation ceremony of China Baptist Theological College, the Bible Seminary of Hong Kong and the Chinese Mission Seminary respectively. In August, he travelled to Malaysia to attend the Third Consultative Meeting of Chinese Theological Education of the World where he was one of the speakers. In October, he attended the 16th North American Chinese Baptist Assembly and participated in its 30th Anniversary Celebration. Then, he traveled to Cape Town, South Africa, to attend the Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization 2010.

In the meantime, our teachers are gathering strength and making concerted effort to commit themselves to research and contributing to our two new publication series on Spiritual Theology and Church and Culture. Our teachers are eager to share their current research achievements with churches. In addition to *Friendship of Heart and Spirit: A Pathway of Spiritual Theology* (Joshua Cho), other publications in the “Spiritual Theology Series” will include *The Biblical Basis and Practice of Spiritual Warfare* (Alexander Mak), *Seasons of Our Lives: Spirituality in the Wisdom and Poetic Literature* (Wong Fook-kong), and *Living out the Word: The Spirituality of Martin Luther and John Calvin* (Nathan Ng). The “Church and Culture Series” will include *From Oral Text to Hypertext: Media and Homiletics* (Sam Tsang), *Church as Alternative Culture* (Andres Tang), *A Discipleship against Culture: A Perspective of John Howard Yoder* (Vincent Lau) and *Globalization and the Gospel* (Eric Kwong). These seven books will be published one after another in 2011-13.

2. Lay Theological Education Program

Lay Theological Education Program has been devoted to promoting theological training. Through a pluralistic curriculum, we seek to help Christian brothers and sisters to build up a mature spiritual life, master ministerial skills, respond to challenges of the times and put into practice the mission of the heavenly kingdom in churches and in the marketplace.

In last academic year, a total of 9 study programs, including certificate, diploma, bachelor and master degree programs, were offered. Besides biblical and theological subjects, we also provided a variety of subjects in the Lay Theological Training Program according to the needs and interests of our students. Last year, new subjects included “Between the Sky and the Sea: Talking about Middle Age,” “Traumatic Emotions and Spiritual Formation,” “Sex Education and the Growth of Infants and Children,” “Christianity and Hymns” and so on. We are happy to report that students had a good learning experience and opportunities to reflect upon what they had learned.

Behind the many varied programs and subjects offered, the real backbone is our adjunct lecturers. Last year, we had 12 new lecturers who joined our faculty team, many being pastors. Over the years, they had walked side by side with us and supported our ministry. Due to an unforeseen crisis, we were forced to make some new arrangement for our lecturers on short notice just before the beginning of the school term. Although going through many twists and turns, with quite a number of liaison and personnel redeployment, God finally provided us with a suitable new teacher. As a result, our faculty team was expanded and enriched!

Besides, two of our lecturers in the Infants and Children Ministry Program gave us an active impetus to set up a column in *Christian Times* entitled “Words from Children’s Hearts and Souls.” These lecturers kindly contribute articles to promote children ministry from January to June this year. The column helps make more Christians aware of the value and importance of the children’s ministry. It is our hope that through the column more brothers and sisters will be moved to dedicate themselves to the infants and children’s ministry so that they will be willing to equip themselves to become useful vessels of the Lord.

Apart from diverse programs offered, LTED has also held topical lectures. In the past year, we organized a total of 19 topical lectures, most of which were held during students’ regular classes. Through the sharing from ministerial workers or professional people, students’ knowledge and understanding of various kinds of ministry could be broadened. Amongst the lectures 8 were open to the public. We hope to encourage more Christian brothers and sisters to receive training in order to shoulder the gospel mission. Thanks to God’s grace, a good many of them are pleased to pursue further studies in theological training. Last year, we have an average of 879 students participating in our programs every quarter, and the number of people attending our programs and lectures totals 2,500.

A total of 307 students graduated from their studies in 2009-2010. We keep praying for our graduates, asking God to lead each of them to serve God and men wholeheartedly in churches and the marketplace. May these graduates be God’s faithful disciples and the crack troop of the kingdom of heaven in this generation, one which continues to change rapidly beyond our expectation.

Nine Programs of Lay Theological Education Department

- | |
|---|
| 1. Christian Studies
(Certificate/Diploma/Bachelor/Master) |
| 2. Lay Theological Training
(Certificate/Diploma) |
| 3. Women Theological Training
(Certificate/Diploma) |
| 4. Elderly Ministry (Certificate/Diploma) |
| 5. Youth Ministry (Certificate) |
| 6. Childhood Ministry (Certificate/Diploma) |
| 7. Early Childhood Ministry
(Certificate/Diploma) |
| 8. Mission Ministry (Certificate/Diploma) |
| 9. Church Administration and General Affairs
(Certificate/Diploma) |

Sharing from a Graduate

At this moment of graduation, I cannot help but count God’s blessings. Counting the credit hours: 168 hours, a total of 56 subjects. Time spent: it has been 5 years, a total of 1,825 days. Counting experience gained: each subject learned can be put into practice, and I have indeed experienced the love and discipline of the Heavenly Father. Counting the program fee: God’s grace is sufficient. Counting what has to pay out: it is a lot. Counting my gains: it has been even more than what I paid out. Overall, my classmates’ friendship has been unforgettable, and I am grateful for my teachers’ instruction and for the abundant grace of the Heavenly Father!



Thanksgiving

Looking back over the past academic year, we thank God for calling two of our staff workers to full time theological study while preparing suitable staff workers to replace them; we also thank God for giving us 12 new adjunct lecturers and a number of specialists to join our curriculum committee to contribute with their valuable suggestions. Besides, witnessing that our students, who come from many more different denominations and churches, enjoy mutual exchange and encouragement and that their study lives become enriched, we can only give thanks to God!

3. Distance Education Program

No matter where the student is, in Hong Kong or overseas, he only needs to use the DEP study material and with the pattern of self-study, he can then study theology and be equipped for ministry. Although students study on their own, we will provide them with the support they need, care for their individual progress and maintain close communication through email or by phone. They would also actively share their recent happenings and study progress. Some students even treat our staff workers as friends with whom they can communicate frankly.

As the spring term of the Certificate Programs begins in March every year, some students who come to our office to take the study material, bring candy to extend their New Year greetings for the Lunar New Year. This summer, we even received some souvenirs from students who had just come back from overseas. We treasure the friendship behind candy and souvenirs and thank God for the opportunity to serve our students and even to establish friendship between students and staff, we offer our grateful thanks to the Lord from the bottom of our hearts!

Furthermore, to broaden our students' spiritual horizon, DEP holds two topical lectures every year. The two lectures in 2009-10 academic year are the following: "Go Rightly toward the Goal — To Hurdle over the Two Extremes of Either Legalism or Laissez-Faire" and "Interpretation Gone off Track and How to Avoid It" with our two N.T. professors Dr. Alexander Mak and Dr. Sam Tsang as the speakers respectively. The lectures are open to all as we welcome all brothers and sisters to attend, study and explore together our faith and the Bible.

Besides offering training programs for Christian brothers and sisters, DEP also cooperates with other para-church organizations to serve the minority groups having special needs and economic difficulties. We work with the Gospel Center for the Visually Impaired and set up the "Spiritual Light Project." In 2008 when we began the Certificate in Old Testament Studies Program, there were 11 students in the program. Moreover, we also work with Hong Kong Christian Kun Sun Association to set up the "Onesimus Project" for inmates who have come to Christ in correctional institutions. Now we have more than 50 students enrolled in the certificate and diploma programs. These two groups of students who need special nurturing support still strive to complete their studies in an environment with limited resources but full of challenges. Students' active learning and honest sharing always make us feel encouraged and serve as a good reminder of how lovely they are.

The Theological Education Program for Filipino Leaders (TEFL) was inaugurated in 2003. All classes are conducted on Sunday afternoons for four quarters each year. The number of students registered for classes on average has risen from 40 in 2003 to 55 this year. Throughout these 7 years, it has had a class registration of over 1360. Two degree programs have been offered in 2008 and 2010 respectively. As of October 2010, the number of students enrolled in B.Th. and M.Div. are 26 and 3 respectively. Besides, the fourth Joint-Churches Worship, Praise and Thanksgiving Meeting was held in April at Tsim Sha Tsui Baptist Church with an attendance of over 400 people.

Classification of Our Programs
Correspondence Program
Diploma in Biblical Studies Program
Diploma in Christian Studies Program
Higher Diploma in Biblical Studies/Christian Studies Programs
Certificate in N. T./O. T. Studies Programs
On-line Program
On-line Certificate in New Testament Studies Program
Serving Minority Groups in Need
Visually Impaired Christians: Spiritual Light Project
Prison-inmate Christians: Onesimus Training Project
Filipino Christians: Theological Education Program for Filipino Leaders

The number of students graduated 1998-2010	331
Average number of students each quarter	325



Sharing from a Graduate

These three years of study have been of great help to me in that my knowledge of theology and the Bible has been reclaimed, integrated and deepened, and I know how to study and interpret the Bible from now on. I have a preference for the more practical subjects, such as "Christian Ethics," "Counseling Principles and Skills" and "Apologetics." These subjects enable me to serve in the church with confidence and to be more sure of myself, and allow me to grasp appropriate ways to witness for Christ, share the gospel message and defend Christianity in my daily living.

Thanksgiving

Thank God for the new blood in the DEP. The new team member joined us in August 2009. Since coming on board, he has devoted himself to editing, writing and revising the program materials. His goal is to improve the program content and enable students to have appropriate guidance in developing effective study methods and positive attitudes. Seeing the fruits of our mutual cooperative effort, we offer our thanksgiving to God with hearts of joy.

4. Applied Theological Education Center

Our Applied Theological Education Center located in Mong Kok consists of two centers:

Pastoral Continuing Education Center

Its aim is to enable on-the-job ministers to have the option of a simple and more flexible mode for further studies to re-equip themselves.

In the 2009-10 academic year, PCEC has reached a new milestone as the number of students enrolled has reached 521. Counseling courses have been the most popular. For example, “Important Issues in Pre-Marital Counseling” has 64 students enrolled while the student quota for the course “Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis” was met within a month after course registration began.

The programs offered last year encompassed four areas of the ministerial profession:

- 1. Shepherdship:** It lays emphasis on helping ministers to gain a deeper understanding of the Bible and to empower them to teach the faith community in a practical way. The courses offered were taught by the Seminary’s 3 Bible professors and 1 visiting professor who guided students to explore seriously interpretations of the biblical text and to do theological reflection.
- 2. Leadership:** The courses were taught by 5 veteran pastors and lecturers with different backgrounds. They explored the principles and wisdom of leadership from multiple dimensions and reflected with the students on how to be an excellent leader led by God. Besides classroom discussion, some lecturers took the initiative to eat with students, continuing the exchange over lunch and exploring the ways to solve problems faced by ministers. One lecturer invited a church minister to lead a worship session prior to the lecture so that the melodious music would ease and comfort students’ soul and renew them spiritually.
- 3. Pastoral Care:** Caring and counseling courses have been especially popular among ministers and have been taught by 6 lecturers with professional qualifications. During class time, different case studies were presented by video and the lecturer shared his valuable counseling experience so that students could understand the important tricks of the trade.
- 4. Ministerial Equipment:** Five courses with distinctive features were offered in response to the context of ministry and individual development, for example, “Film in Theological Perspectives” and “The EQ and AQ of a Minister.”

Besides, the fourth class of Executive Training for Christian Leaders came to a close in February this year. Of the 8 students, 5 graduated.

These ministers and alumni in an attempt to enrich themselves were devoted to their studies. Both inside and outside the classroom, they shared, supported and prayed frankly and sincerely for each other. Through them, we saw a picture of what it means to mutually keep watch over one another. This picture reminds us to continue to keep watch over them and respond to their needs as we re-empower our ministers for their ministry. This is the responsibility and grace that God has given to us.



Statistics of Courses/Talks for 2009-10

Area	No. of Courses/ Talks (hour)	No. of Students Enrolled
Shepherdship	5 (39)	92 (18%)
Leadership	5 (42)	102 (20%)
Pastoral Care	6 (36)	222 (43%)
Ministerial Equipment	5 (21)	105 (20%)
Total	21 (138)	521 (100%)

Thanksgiving

Thank God who has led us through our internal re-engineering over the past year. Not only did he prepare for us suitable lecturers who offer their best to students, He also helped us solve problems again and again. Although Monday is the scheduled holiday for ministers, a lot of the ministers still give their best to learning by taking courses at the center. Occasionally, some students find it necessary to bring their small children along to class. While they pay full attention in class, their children can make good use of the spacious, comfortable lounge as their reading room. It is not unlikely that the children will learn from their parents and that one day these children will become our church leaders !

Edna Wong Christian Worship and Arts Education Center

The center aims to help Christians renew their understanding of Christian worship, drawing from the wisdom of the Bible, theology and church history. Moreover, by receiving diversified, integrative training in all sorts of art forms, students can broaden the vision, scope and experience of their ministry while upgrading their ability to integrate arts into church services and their other ministries.

Summing up our experience in these few years, we find that voice training courses, whether western one or local *quyi* (especially Cantonese opera singing), have always been the most popular. Through the interplay of elements that both convey emotions and express ideas, like breathing, emotion, imagination, language, bodily gesture and the dynamic control, the teachers and students understand each other in all aspects. Such communications are more than just the imparting and receiving of knowledge and technical skills, but more importantly the touches and encounter of lives in the spiritual realm! Some students have remarked after those lessons that they have come to a new and renew understanding of familiar hymns or old tunes. Besides, in courses or workshops that consist of choral training contents, some students, after listening to the teacher's explanation and singing demonstration, have said they seem to get a glimpse of the beauty of heaven. Therefore, they made up their mind to work harder with discipline as to encourage brothers and sisters in their churches to value the attitude and quality of the Christian ministry more.



In the past year, the Christian Worship and Arts Education Center delivered more than ten courses or workshops whose contents place equal emphasis on theory and application each quarter. The areas covered include the use of electronic media, training of vocal music and instrumental music (for example: playing the electronic organ), music appreciation, music theory and sight-read, choral skills and conducting, and folk *quyi*. The number of students enrolled has exceeded 500 over the past year.

Now and then, we explore the possibility of offering such courses as dancing (specifically on gesture and posture control), drama (specifically on such elements of communication as voice, emotions and the control of speech pace), the art of flower arrangement, space design in a worship service setting, appreciation of hymns, and a lot of visual art courses. It is hoped that this will arouse our churches' concern and lead churches to experiment with the fusion and application of art in all sorts of church meetings.

Thanksgiving

The courses we design and offer, especially ones like "Physical Environment and Worship" (introducing the inter-relationship between faith practice and the meeting place and space) and "Experiencing Cantonese Lyrics Hymns" (exploring the impact of local culture on church service) are pioneer in nature. Now different churches and even associations or conventions of local churches follow suit as they run similar courses. This all leads us to conclude that the use of arts in church service and other areas has gradually been valued by our churches. For this we really give thanks to God!

5. Learning Resources

Library Resources

Up to August this year, the size of the total collection of our Rankin Memorial Library had reached over 110,000 items, including over 87,000 Chinese and English books, 11,000 audio-visual materials, 690 CD-ROMs, nearly 1,300 periodicals and full text electronic journals, 5,300 bound periodicals; and 6,500 books and music scores being kept in ATEC at Mong Kok. Throughout the academic year, we had processed 5,356 items of books, journals and audio-visual materials, representing an increase of 28% over last year's record. Basically, we have a steady increase of over 4,000 new books each year. The remainder includes audio-visual materials produced by the Seminary over the past years and they are now being converted from video tapes or audio tapes into digital files for permanent storage.

We thank God for His provision and guidance over the years and continue to hope that these abundant resources can help students in their study and teachers in their teaching and the resources also provide support for our alumni and the ministers of Baptist churches in their continuing education and pastoral ministry.



Thanksgiving

In this academic year, the number of books checked out is 21,414, an increase of 3.7% from last year. We thank God for that! Besides, as the Seminary has had to cut back on its expenses, the library budget for the coming year must be reduced. However, when we receive book donations from brothers and sisters in Christ from time to time, we really leap with joy and thank God for His surprising provision!

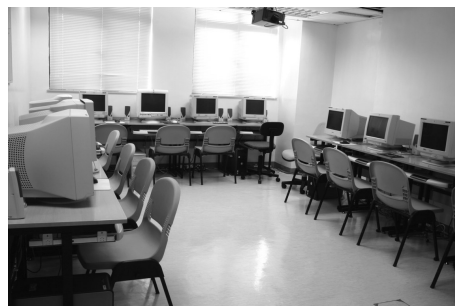
Information Technology Facilities

The information technology facilities are essential for learning, teaching and communication as well as the Seminary's overall operations. In the past academic year, our staff workers have had to continue to provide services on the foundation of our present infrastructure, such as to build and to maintain different kinds of services, for example, the internet, intranet, email, file storage and backup. Moreover, to meet the needs of the Seminary's operation and administrative management, it is necessary for us to set up different systems. Some systems can be bought from outside and adapted for use. In certain situations, some systems need to be researched and devised entirely by the IT office, for example, the system for registration and admission and the system for programs other than our main campus programs. In the past year, we focused on developing the systems for donation records and management of camp services.

As we look back over the year, it has been a great challenge for us to learn to effectively use our limited resources. Stepping into a new academic year, we still need to continue to practise good stewardship, to make every effort to upgrade our quality of service and to integrate new technology with resolutions for dealing with the demand for accommodating greater capacity and heavier load of our data.

Thanksgiving

Thank God for allowing the staff members in the I.T. Office to form a good team as we can bring our professional specialties into full play while complementing one another. Although the expenditure budget is reduced, God taught us to make good use of our limited resources as we learn to make do with what we have as we face all kinds of difficulties and challenges.





6. Publication Office

We publish the Seminary's Chinese and English *Newsletter* every quarter to share regularly the school's theological education development with local and overseas churches. In the past year, in the "Feature Page," we published "Voices of Our Graduates · New School Year Our New Students," "New Students' Testimonies of God's Call," "The Choral Singing Ministry of Our Students over the Past 59 Years" and "The Unforgettable 'Graduating Preaching'." Through these four issues of the *Seminary Newsletter*, our readers not only understand better the principles and developmental direction of our theological education, but they can also have a more direct and deeper understanding of our students. We believe that some of their truthful, touching sharing will continue to linger in the hearts of our readers.

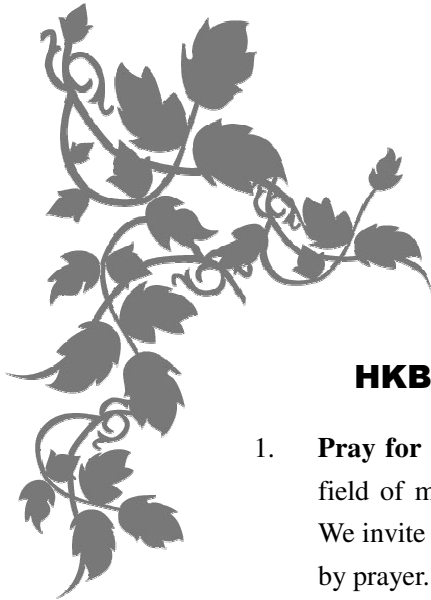
Hill Road is our bi-annual, thematic academic journal. The themes in the last few issues are the following: "Forgiveness," "Theology and Psychology," "Discipleship," and "New Perspective on Paul." *Hill Road* was first published in 1998, and over the past twelve years, it has become a stretching-out field, providing opportunities for mutual exchange with Chinese churches and other seminaries, and together we explore different issues.

Looking back at last academic year and also the past years, as we have regularly published the Seminary's *Newsletter* and *Hill Road* one issue after another, we have experienced the Heavenly Father's grace! Without doubt, publication work calls for effort from many different parties as it goes through many working procedures and involves intricate relationships. Over the years, we have issued one copy of *Newsletter* and *Hill Road* after another, publications we consider fairly good work. Like completely ripe fruit, each edition allows us to taste the sweetness of working together with God and with fellow believers!

In the editing and publication of books, the staff members in the Publication Office have similarly experienced God's meticulous care and protection. At present, our teachers are devoted to the study and writing of the "Spiritual Theology" and "Church and Culture" series. The fruit of their study will be published one by one. Different topics of the "Spiritual Theology Series" written by Dr. Alexander Mak, Dr. Wong Fook Kong and Dr. Nathan Ng will be published consecutively in 2011 and 2012 while various volumes in the "Church and Culture Series" written by Dr. Sam Tsang, Dr. Andres Tang, Dr. Vincent Lau, and Dr. Eric Kwong will be published in 2012 and 2013 respectively.

Thanksgiving

The busy working schedule and the deadline for publication will impose considerable pressure on us, yet our Heavenly Father always has the best time schedule. Consequently, various procedures and stages of the publication work will always be completed in time, one by one! Thank the Lord for His meticulous care and leading. Thank the Lord for not minding us to be insignificant and small, but is willing to work with us every day!



HKBTS Needs Your Support and Prayers

1. **Pray for our graduates in these two years:** They have just entered the field of ministry and are faced with many things to learn and to adjust. We invite you and the Seminary together to support this group of ministers by prayer.
2. **Pray that God will help HKBTS to be a “Preaching Seminary”:** Pray that the Lord will guide the Seminary so that we can help this group of future ministers to hold fast to the preachers’ basic vocational call by God and help our teachers and students to have deeper thoughts, constant learning and a good understanding of the preaching vocation in the new school year.
3. **Pray that the Lord will lead our Baptist churches to support well the Seminary’s theological education ministry:** Without the prayers and financial support of our Baptist churches, HKBTS cannot fulfill its mission of nurturing a new generation of ministers entrusted to us by God. Pray that the Lord will lead our Baptist churches to set aside sacrificial offerings to support the Seminary.
4. **Pray that the Lord’s arm will protect the land He has granted to HKBTS:** The Seminary has negotiated with the Drainage Services Department for a long time, pointing out that if the Government constructs a large scale sewage pumping station right next to our campus according to its plan, it will result in damaging the ecological environment of the area. Pray that DSD will make careful and responsible decision, and that God will help us to be a good watchman over this piece of land and our neighbors.



Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary

Address : 1 Nin Ming Road, Sai O, Sai Kung North, N.T., Hong Kong

Tel. : (852) 2715 9511

Fax : (852) 2761 0868

Email : bts-inquiry@hkbtn.edu.hk

Website : <http://www.hkbtn.edu.hk>