



香港浸信會神學院



Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary

Today's Students, Tomorrow's Pastors.

Today's Seminary, Tomorrow's Churches.

Newsletter

November 2006



President's Word:
Rethinking Prayer

Special Feature:
Footprints in 55 years
55th Anniversary of the Seminary
Sharing of Our Graduates
Pray for Our New Students

Faculty Sharing:
Thoughts on Old Testament Ethics

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President **Alfred Kong**

Rethinking Prayer

1. Prayer does not bring God to us, but brings us to God.
2. Prayer does not mainly focus on 'the Grace of God' but rather on 'the God of Grace.'
3. Prayer is not an opportunity for us to exercise our lordship before God but the moment when God exercises His Lordship over us.
4. Prayer is not only a time when we are compelled to face God but also when we face ourselves.
5. Not only to people of prayer need faith, but they also need courage.
6. God's greatest work in the world with those who pray is not things outside the soul but rather with matters within.
7. In prayer, we close our physical eyes in order to open the eyes of our souls to see God's great deeds clearly.



Footprints in 55 years ▪ 55th Anniversary of the Seminary

2006 is the fifty-fifth year in which the Seminary has served the Lord.

Along the way in the past fifty five years, God has been leaving behind His footprints. These footprints guided our way, reminding us that He is Lord and we are merely His servants. Our duty is to be faithful in training servants who will be faithful to Him throughout their lives.

37 students completed their study in May of this year,
becoming graduates on the fifty-fifth anniversary.

When we see these future preachers joyfully taking photos with their teachers,
we are reminded that they are God's fifty-fifth harvest of the Seminary.



Graduates in the 55th anniversary

May all that God has harvested be to God.

May all the graduates serve the Lord faithfully throughout their whole lives.

We hope that they will not set out on a path on their own but will follow
the Lord's footprints that guide them on their way.

Sharing of Our Graduates of the ministerial programs

Thanks be to
the care and concern of those
who have nurtured me at the Seminary.
And thanks are to the teachers for all their
painstaking efforts in teaching.

Lee Kwok-hung
(Master of Theology)

O Lord my God, I would rather
forget everything I treasure than to forget
the grace You have given me through my wife
and children, my church, my teachers and seminary
schoolmates, and all those people and experiences you
have brought into my eye throughout the past few years. May
the Lord help me so that I can abide by the truth of “forgetting
what is behind and straining toward what is ahead” and follow
the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Then I will really forget those
things which should be forgotten without ever forgetting
God’s grace. Most important of all, I will try my best to
fulfill God’s will instead of my own will.

Lam Tat-ming
(Master of Divinity)

Everything is a part of God’s
grace! In the tempering of the past three years,
You tore me down so that You could build me up. You
kept showing me the vastness of the fields and let me hear
how urgent the cries of the world’s people are. Unthinkably, after
three years, You have given me a heart that loves Muslims. “And how
can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are
the feet of those who bring good news!’” This verse is still the driving
force that God has given me. Even though I will have to face even
greater challenges ahead, Your abiding company in the past three
years ensures me that You, my Lord, will definitely lead me on my
way. The God of Israel will definitely be my support.

Yung Pui-sze
(Master of Divinity)

“How can I adequately say thanks
to You for the good things while all these
blessings are so undeserved, yet You bestowed them
to me to prove Your love for me. Even the voices of a
million angels could not fully express my gratitude. All
that I am, and ever hope to be, I owe it all to Thee...”
~ From “My Tribute”

Cheng Wai-man
(Master of Divinity)

Being a seminarian in these three
years has been an experience full of grace. Now I
understand the meanings of ‘Calling’ and ‘Service’ more
clearly. I pray that the Lord will strengthen me to follow
His footprints closely and never let me go astray.

Mak Suet-chung
(Master of Divinity)

I learnt a saying at the
Seminary, “With Jesus in the boat,
we can laugh even when there is a storm.”
In the past three years, I learnt this saying and
then experienced it. I am filled with gratitude and
I understand more fully what is meant by relying on
God’s grace. I must thank God and all my fellow
students. I can only become braver in Your company.
Let us continue to run the race marked out for us
to run together.

Chan Sau-ye
(Master of Divinity)

Thanks be to my wife for supporting me and
shouldering much of the responsibility of raising our children;
Thanks be to the Seminary and the teachers for guiding me to learn and grow;
More importantly, thanks be to Jesus our Lord and Chief Shepherd for allowing me
to feed and care for His sheep.

Chiu Chi-keung
(Master of Divinity)

“Brothers, I do not
consider myself yet to have
taken hold of it. But one thing I do:
Forgetting what is behind and straining
toward what is ahead, I press on toward
the goal to win the prize for which God has
called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”
(Phil. 3: 13 - 14)

Keung Kwok-fong
(Master of Divinity)

“Not that I have already
obtained all this, or have already been
made perfect, but I press on to take hold of
that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me...I do
not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But
one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining
toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win
the prize for which God has called me heavenward in
Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 3:12 - 14)

Lam Lok-yan
(Master of Divinity)

Three years have passed away
swiftly. In retrospect, I am grateful for
these years of training and remaking. Before,
I was weak and lacked strength, but God’s grace
empowered me. Although I am still just a humble,
useless jug of clay, the Potter treats me as a treasure.
How can I repay God’s abundant grace? I must be
willing to offer my whole life as a living sacrifice.

Chan Yuen-ming
(Master of Divinity)

I will never forget my learning at the Seminary. I am very grateful to all the teachers for their careful teaching and their love and care even after the lessons. I am also very grateful to the schoolmates for their help. My study at the Seminary has been a gift from God. How well I serve the Lord in the future will be my repayment to God and my teachers.

Chan Kit-ming

(Master of Divinity)

“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’... For when I am weak, then I am strong.”
(2 Cor. 12: 9 - 10)

Hung Kwok-chi

(Master of Divinity)

Thanks be to the Lord who let me meet teachers who can also become my friends. They are my role models in serving God. I have also rubbed shoulders with others who are traveling the same road. Together we are becoming workers who do not need to be ashamed!

Yuen Wai-kin

(Master of Divinity)

In retrospect, I see throughout the past four years that I have been anointed everywhere; I have been blessed with the oil of kindness, goodness, faithfulness and love everywhere.

My strength will equal my days;

In the future, I will therefore raise the gracious cup and fix my eyes on my gracious Lord!

I dare not go against the call of love;

I know without doubt that the Lord humbles me and I feel deeply that I am unworthy!

I make an oath before the Lord that I am willing to be His servant.

I pledge to handle correctly the word of truth.

Chan Kam-tong

(Master of Divinity)

Praise be to God!
Through the study of pastoral counseling, I have gained a deeper understanding of others and myself. The techniques of counseling can help me to be an effective “soul engineer.” Though I have to spend five long and arduous years, it has been worth the effort.

Chow Chi-wah

(Master of Pastoral Counseling)

The study in the past years has enriched my life of service;
I also have come to a deeper understanding of myself and other people. I sincerely hope that I will do my utmost to serve the Lord and never waver!
“As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” (Jos. 24:15)

Tong Chan Siu-hung, Claudia

(Master of Pastoral Counseling)

Thanks be to the Lord for His protection and provision which have enabled me to complete my three years’ study at the Seminary. In the future, I will serve the Lord with my life to repay His great love and grace!

Li Tak-ye

(Master of Religious Education)

Thank God who has granted me the ability to complete this long study. It has indeed not been easy to study and serve at the same time. But by God’s grace, I have finally managed to graduate. To God the Father be all the glory and praise!

Lo Yuk-ching

(Master of Religious Education)

Thanks be to the Lord for guiding me in my study in the past four years. The best gift He has given me is a group of very good schoolmates and teachers. From them, I have learnt how to be a worker who needs not be ashamed — by influencing others by my own life, by advising others with words of the Bible, and by establishing others in the faith.
“I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.” (Phil. 4:13)

Mok Siu-leung

(Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies)

“The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not be in want.” (Ps. 23:1)
Thanks be to the Lord!

Li Yan-yan

(Master of Religious Education)

Gracious Lord, there were many times when I was about to terminate my study. But then you gave me the confidence and courage to go on. I hope I can also walk with others, as they are in distress and in pain so that they can survive and come out from under the dense clouds.

Ng Kwok-wing

(Master of Pastoral Counseling)

During my study at the Seminary, I suffered a relapse and was close to death. My mother and father had both passed away because of cancer and heart disease. In retrospect, over the past four years, I not only have made progress in my knowledge and skills, but have also experienced ‘the Lord’s grace’ in a very real way. Thanks be to the gracious Lord!

So Fung-shan

(Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies)

I experienced the Lord’s grace while receiving training in theology. The models demonstrated by the teachers are kept in my heart. I have also been showered with the care and love of my schoolmates.

The love of God has given me courage.

Thanks be to God who led me to experience His grace and presence deeply! He reveals His glory through my weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:9 says, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” I will never regret that I have chosen to serve God for my whole life.

Lai Nga-chung

(Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies)

Thank God! He led me to Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary and enabled me to grow in the tension between ‘unity’ and ‘diversity’ in this diversified learning environment.

Lam Shu-tong

(Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies)

Thanks to be President Kong, the teachers, seminary staff and my fellow students for their teaching, service and witnesses of Christ love with their lives. Thanks be to my schoolmates for their sincere dialogues which are like iron sharpening iron. Endless and boundless grace reveals my ignorance and true self. I hope I can try even harder to learn from others and the Word.

Leung Siu-chun

(Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies)

I would use the word 'smoothness' to sum up my four years of seminary study. Smoothness does not mean that there was no difficulties, no tears, no hardships and no failure. But I have always known that under any circumstances, I have to abide by God's teaching so that His presence will definitely be with me. That's why I could experience what 'smoothness' is. In the future my training in the theological seminary will continue to have a profound influence on my ministry in the church.

Chan Lai-mei

(Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies)

After completing the four-years' study, I will start my life-long service. Fellow students, I hope we can continue to walk hand in hand and become good shepherds with God's incarnation.

Tsui Fei

(Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies)

To me, graduation from this theological seminary is a miracle. I hope that God's miracles will continue to take place in my life and in the lives of my fellow students. I want to express my appreciation to the professors, seminary staff and schoolmates for their support and encouragement in the past four years' study.

Keung Kam-ping

(Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies)

Thank God! Through the instruction of my good teachers, I have laid a firm foundation for ministry. I wish I can try hard to practise what I have been taught and learn from the community in which I serve. I also wish the theological seminary will train more workers who will try the best they can in expanding the Kingdom of God.

Leung Suet-ying

(Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies)

I thank the Lord with all my heart for the study in the past few years. Training in theology is not only an academic pursuit, but it also includes character formation and the discipline of life. More importantly, it also enables seminarians to further understand and experience what it means to live 'the life of a minister'!

Yeung Shing

(Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies)

In the past four years when I received training in theology, I have tasted all sorts of joys and sorrows. Despite everything, God's grace has never left me. Nothing is a mere coincidence. Everything is in accordance with his good and unique planning. Thanks be to the Lord!

Yeung Sin-man

(Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies)

"Such costly grace is valuable because it calls us to follow; and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is valuable because it makes people give up their lives as the price. It is grace because it offers people the only true life..." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Discipleship*)

Lau Chi Man

(Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies)

Thanks be to God's grace, because no matter under what circumstance, what He grants me far exceeds what I wish and ask for. Thanks be to God for His guidance because He has been leading me to walk on His way. I hope that the Lord will continue to guide me as I serve Him. I will always remember this advice: Love God and love people. Serve people with a humble heart.

Ng Kwok Keung

(Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies)

The mission is God's mission to us. We have fulfilled it with all our heart, with all our mind and with all our strength. Good thanks be to my teachers for their instruction and thanks to my schoolmates for their understanding.

Lau Ki-shing

(Higher Diploma in Cross-Cultural Studies)

Four short years have passed. I will not fall short of God's immense grace. I am willing to abide in my mission throughout my life and work hard as a fisher of men for the Lord.

Ng Sheung-mei

(Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies)

Time flies. Four years' study now comes to an end. In retrospect, God's grace has been with me throughout these years. For four years as we have studied together, the grace and love of my schoolmates have been kept in my heart. The teachings of our good teachers have built up my life with the gracious Word. As I face the road ahead, I firmly believe that the Lord's grace will accompany me.

Tse Kit-wai

(Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies)

At a time when God has led a group of graduates onto the path of ministry, He has also led another group of students to come into the Seminary and onto the path of Christian commitment with all its tests and trials.

May you and I together pray for the new students –
For what they have forsaken, for what they have to offer up to God

Master of Theology Program:

Lam Nok-yan, Shek Wai-hon

Master of Divinity Program:

Chan Pik-ye, Chan Ying-chun, Cheng Wing-chi, Cheung Lai-pik, Hui Chiu-yu, Lai Sui-man,
Lam Chi-ching, Lam Lai-chun, Lau Kin-yan, Lau Wing-kwan, Lee Ying-heung, Lee King-wa, Luk Fung-wa,
To Ka-wai, Wu Po-po, Chan Chi-fu, Lau Kam-hing, Lee Lok-ho, Leung Kin-hung

Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies Program:

Chan Wai-lun, Cheng Chung-pong, Chung Siu-fong, Ho Po-har, Lau siu-ling,
Lee Sau-han, Lo Lai-kan, Ng Chi-lok, Soo Yard-li, Tso Wai-fong

Non-classified students:

Cho Kai-ming, Kole Nastassja, Koon Miu-king, Leung Yuen-fan, Yeh Mamre

“But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.
What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of
knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.
I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ...”

“Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it.
But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and strain toward what is ahead,
I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”
(Philippians 3:7-8; 13-14)



The Faculty and new students are pictured after the Convocation Ceremony

Fifty-fifth Anniversary Belote Lectures

Speaker: Prof. J. Wentzel van Huyssteen

Date: 24-26 October 2006 (Tuesday to Thursday)



First established in 1976, the Belote Lectures were to commemorate Dr. James Belote for his persistence in upgrading the quality of theological education. The Belote Lectures are held once every two years, and this year's Belote Lectures will be one of the activities celebrating our fifty-fifth anniversary. We are honored to have Prof. van Huyssteen, an internationally eminent scholar, to be our speaker.

Professor J. Wentzel van Huyssteen

Prof. van Huyssteen is the first Professor of James I. McCord Theology and Science and his book *Theology and Science: The Quest for a New Apologetics* won the Templeton Awards in 1992. He was the speaker of the 2004 Gifford Lectures at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland speaking on the theme "Alone in the World? Human Uniqueness in Science and Theology."

Venue: **Morning Sessions:** Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary campus I, Nin Ming Road, Sai O, Sai Kung North, N.T.

Evening Lectures: Mongkok Swatow Baptist Church
6/F., Christian Building,
56, Butt Street, Kowloon.

Admission Fee: Free

Registration: For reservation, call 2768 5129

Date of Enrolment: From now to October 20 or when all seats are filled

For details, visit our web site www.hkbts.edu.hk

Morning Lectures:

Human Uniqueness in Theology and Science

(10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.)

October 24 The Interdisciplinary Nature of Theology

October 25 Theology and Human Origins

October 26 Theology, Science and Human Nature

Respondents

Dr. Carver T.Yu

Dr. Lai Pan-chiu

Dr. Kang Phee-seng

Lectures delivered in English (English scripts available upon request)

Evening Lectures

Theology and the Image of God

(7:30p.m. - 9:30p.m.)

October 24 The Image of God: Biblical Idea or Cultural Construct?

October 25 The Image of God: Liberating or Oppressive?

October 26 The Image of God: From Embodied Self to Holiness.

With Chinese interpretation by Dr. Ip King-tak

Phase II Extension work completed

Thank God! The extension work of the Seminary has been completed during the 55th Anniversary. The campus has an additional area of 10,000 sq. feet. We hope that the multi-purpose hall, the classrooms and the library extension can support the development of theological education at the Seminary and provide a better environment for learning and study for students.



The multi-purpose hall is called John and Mary Memorial Hall. The hall can be partitioned into three sections for holding seminars, conferences or for teaching.

After the extension project, the library has also established the Ming Yee Graduate Library. The learning resources and facilities have also been enhanced.



The newly added third floor of the New Wing has three classrooms. There are also a new student common room, a Student Union office and a lounge for all students.



There is more space for students to have meditation, to rest or to study in the campus.



The 55th Graduation Ceremony To be Held at Sai O Campus

As the second phase campus extension work came to a close, more facilities and space have become available at the Sai O campus. This year's graduation ceremony will be held for the first time at Sai O campus. Graduation is also one of the celebration activities commemorating our 55th anniversary. We look forward to that date because we expect it to be a time of joy, thanksgiving and praise.

The Seminary's Fifty-fifth Graduation Ceremony will be held on November 19 (Sunday) at 4 pm at 1 Nin Ming Road, Sai O, Sai Kung North at the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary Campus Church Pastors, Ministers, Deacons, Elders, Brothers and Sisters are welcome to come and join us in celebration and in praise of the Lord



Thoughts on Old Testament Ethics

Dr. Wong Fook Kong

(Associate Professor of Old Testament)

Ethics is a cross disciplinary subject by nature. Someone discussing the issue of abortion, for example, must be knowledgeable in the biology of conception and birth in addition to philosophy, sociology and Biblical teachings. Similarly, someone discussing genetic therapy must know the sciences involved in addition to the discipline from which he approaches the subject. Old Testament ethics is a sub-field of ethics that explores the values, assumptions, and practices of the Old Testament and examines their relevance to issues that people face today. The title "Old Testament ethics" does not mean that other disciplines are ignored; it simply means that issues are discussed from the perspective of the Old Testament. Academically this way of doing ethics is anachronistic; the legitimacy of its existence and practice is theological: God's Word transcends time, culture and physical location.

As I thought about the theological legitimacy of Old Testament ethics, I questioned why we divide the field into Old Testament and New Testament ethics. Since the whole Bible is God's Word, why should we not have one field called Biblical ethics instead? Furthermore, how many issues believers face today could be satisfactorily dealt with by looking at one of the Testaments alone? Let's take the issue of divorce and remarriage. Would believers facing these crises be satisfied if presented with all the teachings and background information on these topics up to the Book of Malachi? Conversely, could Jesus and Paul's teachings on these issues be adequately understood without any reference to the Scripture that they were using? I think one reason for this division among Christian scholars is that it followed the fields of Old and New Testament studies: Old Testament scholars, Old Testament ethics; New Testament scholars, New Testament ethics. I have no objection to this reality because these fields have

grown to such an extent that it is almost impossible to find a scholar who has a good command of both fields. Despite acknowledging human limitation, I think more integration rather than segregation is the way forward.

Apart from its inter-disciplinary nature, Old Testament ethics is one area where we can bring the Bible to believers and meet them where it matters to them. This past summer I read a book called *Freakonomics* that I chanced upon while waiting for my flight back to Malaysia for a holiday. It was written by an economics professor at the University of Chicago called Steven Levitt and a journalist called Stephen Dubner. The subtitle of the book reads, "A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything" and it has chapters like, "What Do Schoolteachers and Sumo Wrestlers have in Common?," "How Is the Klu Klux Klan Like a Group of Real-Estate Agents?," and "Why Do Drug Dealers Still Live with Their Moms?" With such chapter headings I figured the book would at least be entertaining if not terribly informative. Actually it was both.

Since I love humor, I was not surprised that I liked the book; however, I found that I am not alone. The "The Review" section of *Sunday Morning Post* (August 13, 2006) recently ran an article on the book and its authors. Apparently it has been a best seller for the past year and has inspired a website, a *New York Times* column and a TV show called *Freaky Friday*. Levitt, in the meantime, has earned a place in *Time Magazine's* list of 100 People Who Shape Our World. When asked about the reason for the success of the book, the authors attributed it to the marriage of "the narrative storytelling of journalism" and "rigorous academic research." According to them, storytelling is a great communication tool except that these stories are often untrue. What they did was to subject the stories and their points to the rigor of academic research and then present them in an interesting manner. I agree with their own analysis of their success but wish to add another factor: they presented economics to the masses using issues that the

average person on the street could relate to. The book is a showcase of how tools used in economic research could be used to solve everyday, mundane problems like spotting which teachers in the Chicago areas are cheating to inflate their students' results or which sumo wrestlers are giving matches away for mutual benefits.

According to my observation, people are issue and people oriented rather than text oriented. Just look at how political parties try to gain support: if it is not to stir up an issue for debate that they think they can win, it is to put forward a popular personality for people to rally around. Christians are no different in this respect. Even when they are studying a Biblical text, they are looking for teachings on issues that interest them. This characteristic is diametrically opposite of how most academically sound commentaries are written: vast amount of spaces are devoted to fine analyses of the sources behind the present text, lengthy discussions on the meanings of *hapax legomena*, copious comparisons with other ancient culture or texts, and endless arguments over whether something actually happened or, if they did, whether they happened exactly as stated in the Bible or not. Before going any further, I have to say that these studies are important. Besides, more academically sound commentaries that deliberately set out to be theologically and practically oriented have been produced in the past ten to fifteen years. Nevertheless, a lot of work is needed to make a text oriented commentary meaningful and accessible to the average issue and people oriented believer in the church.

Since ethics is issue oriented by nature, it is one avenue of presenting Biblical teachings to believers in a way that is meaningful to them. If done well, believers not only see how Biblical teachings are relevant in their lives, they also learn how to apply the Bible correctly. The price the teacher must pay is that it is a lot of work, much more than a text oriented Bible study. Just like any other areas of Old Testament studies, and perhaps more so since it impacts the life of people more immediately and directly, a strong exegetical foundation is needed to build biblically sound reasoning and principles. In all stages of this process, from study of the past to building bridges to the present, the discipline required of Biblical studies is of invaluable help to ensure that the results are qualitatively sound. This is related to Levitt and Dubner's point about weeding out

false stories and facts. Attractively packaged teachings can not and should not replace biblically sound teachings. I will cite two examples that I have encountered.

In quite a number of churches I have visited, well meaning Christians have asked me which sons of Noah Chinese people descended from. The usual assumption is that we are descendents of Shem. There are all kinds of reasons for asking this question, not all of which are related to ethics. Some people are just curious while others would like to think of themselves as "Jews of the East" in a more literal way. Since Noah blessed Shem above his brothers (Gen. 9: 25 – 27), some ask in order to know whether they partake of Shem's blessing. Others link this question to the curse on Ham's son, Canaan. Still others want to legitimize their support of the Jewish state, on the assumption that they are fellow Shemites. Regardless of the reason, any direct linkage of Chinese to the sons of Noah is exegetically, rationally and historically unsound.

When the Bible says that all the nations of the world descended from these three sons (Gen. 10: 32), it does not mean that every race in the world today could trace their lineage to one of the sons. It only means that their collective descendents gave rise to all the races that we see today. Since they had the same parents, we have to assume that they looked like a family; Noah did not have an African, a European, and a Middle-Eastern looking sons. Any physical and cultural changes in their descendants must have been gradual, a result of many factors like environment, diet, lifestyle, and interbreeding. To think of them as if they were different races is wrong. There was only one race to begin with. Chinese people are linked to the sons of Noah historically, i.e., some of their descendants went to China and became the Chinese people.

So which of their descendants became our ancestors? The answer is that we are not the pure descendents of any of Noah's sons. If we believe that all the families of the earth descended from them and observe that there are more than three types of people on this earth, we must conclude that their descendents intermarried. A look at the variety of people in the world today would bear out this point; there must have been a lot of intermarriages to give rise to the diversity of races we see today. What combination of intermarriages gave



rise to Chinese people that look like us is forever lost in the mist of time. Furthermore, since all the races on this earth descended from just three men, it is reasonable to conclude that many races today could lay claim to having Shemite blood; the question is what percentage of Shemite blood a person must have to qualify as a descendent of Shem in a meaningful sense of the word.

Another question that I get asked quite often is whether or not Christians should support the Jewish state. Usually I get the feeling that I am being asked to write a blank check: if the answer is yes, then it is unwavering support for Israel regardless of what they do; if the answer is no, it is no support for, or even opposition to, Israel regardless of what they do. This is emphatically wrong. The Old Testament is filled with words of consolation and blessings for Israel when they did what was right in God's eyes; similarly, words of woes and rebuke when they did what was wrong. There is no unqualified support for Israel in the Old Testament. If we follow the Bible we should support or reject Israel's actions based on the merit of their actions, not on the basis of their status as God's chosen people. To do otherwise is not to honor God but to go against what we learn from the Old Testament.

I will end my essay with an experience I had teaching Old Testament ethics to a group of ministers. I consider myself quite practically minded, in my teaching as well as preaching. Nevertheless, I do have a healthy interest in ethical theories and issues like ethics of biotechnology. What I found was that my students were more interested in topics like divorce and remarriage, abortion, marriage to non-Christians, and premarital sex. Somewhere along the way, the issue of disproportionate ratio of male to female members was also raised. I still think that a strong exegetical and theoretical framework is required for any introduction to Old Testament ethics. On the other hand, some issues are more urgent than others for ministers. Therefore, such topics are indispensable for any book or course that sets out to help ministers ministering on the field.

Vice President (Academic) & Dean of Academic Affairs

Dr. Joshua Cho

Prof. van Huyssteen's Interdisciplinary Theology

Professor J. Wentzel van Huyssteen is the speaker for the Belote Lectures this year. This internationally renowned theologian has tracked widely throughout the world, including South Africa, the United States, Canada, Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands, Britain, Scotland, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Poland, the Soviet Union and Korea. To have him come to Hong Kong and be our speaker is really a good opportunity for us to learn more about cross-discipline theology. Let me briefly introduce Prof. van Huyssteen's background and the characteristics of his theology.

Across South Africa and the United States

Prof. van Huyssteen received his Master of Arts degree at University of Stellenbosch in South Africa. Later, he received his Doctor of Philosophy degree at Free University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands with Philosophical Theology as his major. From 1972 to 1991, Prof. van Huyssteen was the head of the Department of Religions at University of Port Elizabeth in South Africa. In 1989, he published *Theology and the Justification of Faith* which won the Andrew Murray Prize and the Venter Prize for Academic Excellence.

Prof. van Huyssteen migrated to the United States in 1992 and was appointed as the first Professor of J. I. McCord Theology and Science by Princeton Theological Seminary. While in Princeton, he continued to do research on religion and the epistemology of science and mainly taught science and theology. During this period of time, he published *Essays in Postfoundationalist Theology* (1997), *Rethinking Theology and Science* (1998, co-edited with Niels H. Gregersen), *Duet or Duel? Theology and Science in a Postmodern World* (1998) and *The Shaping of Rationality* (1999). He had also won three Templeton Awards. In 2004, Prof. van Huyssteen was the speaker

of the world-renowned Gifford Lectures at Edinburgh University, Scotland. Outstanding theologians such as Reinhold Niebuhr, Jürgen Moltmann, Paul Ricoeur, Paul Tillich, Karl Barth, John Macquarrie and Wolfhart Pannenberg have been invited to deliver lectures there. The title of Prof. van Huyssteen's lecture was "Alone in the World? Human Uniqueness in Science and Theology".

Across Theology and Science

Prof. van Huyssteen points out that pluralism has caused the segregation of theology and science. In such a situation, people seem to be saying to one another, "You can believe what you believe and I can believe what I believe. But please do not talk me into accepting your ideas or say that your ideas are better than mine!" In such a climate, interdisciplinary dialogue becomes impossible because each discipline is skeptical that the other party would force it to accept some of the other party's ideology. As a result, many segregated small communities are formed. There are distinct borders separating one from the other. Mutual communication in an appropriate language becomes impossible and not even a single point of contact can be found.

Prof. van Huyssteen asserts that even in a culture influenced by the pluralism of postmodernism, it is still possible to have an interdisciplinary dialogue between theology and science. He goes beyond the absolutism of foundationalism and the relativism of non-foundationalism in modernity to develop a rational idea of postfoundationalism. This postfoundationalistic rationality includes the search for thinking, the search for understanding, the search for study with responsibility, the solution to problems and the appropriateness of experience. The reconstruction of reason in postfoundationalism is not a lofty meta-narrative, but rather a schematics that has yet to be developed. Reason appears in different fields and is in fact a part of life.

Prof. van Huyssteen argues that reason is "manifested" in human being's search for reason. Reason is not permanently positioned in a specific system of thought. Instead, it stretches across different cultures and disciplines because understanding and truth are "manifested" in different cultures and disciplines. Though human being's experience and understanding are bound

to be molded by local elements and conditioned by history, the core of reason has a universal intention.

Prof. van Huyssteen uses another metaphor to illustrate the transversality of reason. He describes such a picture: the crossing-over of lines shows that different lines (that is different discourses, thoughts and actions) have some interchanges and meeting points. Prof. van Huyssteen calls this kind of reason transversal reason. He also makes use of the transversality of reason to explain the universality of reason. Reason has its universal intention. This can be seen from the overlaps between discourses, cultures and disciplines. Therefore, it is possible to have understanding and exploration of truth between different cultures and disciplines. The exploration concerned is a kind of cross-veinal dialogue. This view of reason considers the role of veins and the veinality, complexity and versatility of reason. It also encourages cross-veinal and cross-disciplinary dialogues. As such, by evaluating the content of the meaning of different veins and disciplines, one can discover an overlapping foundation that cannot be overturned. With this foundation, one can be confident enough to search for meaning and truth in a pluralistic environment.

If Prof. van Huyssteen's insight is correct, his view on reason has pointed out a very important way for interdisciplinary exploration (especially the dialogue between theology and science). Then the intersection of theology and science is not to determine the degree of parallelism or correspondence in methodology between the two disciplines, but to discover the common resources of reason shared by all human beings. This is possible because the resources of reason are shared, and the thoughts of reasons are overlapped. Then one can enter a kind of interdisciplinary dialogue with his/her inherent concept and be willing to face criticism at the same time. All these provide a safe space in which dialogue can take place so as to try to connect different discourses.

The above is part of a sketch of the interdisciplinary theology of Prof. van Huyssteen. Readers wanting to have a better understanding of his viewpoints and exchange ideas with him are welcome to attend the Belote Lectures between October 24 and 26.

Academic Affairs News

1. Convocation Lecture

The first Morning Chapel in the new school term is set to be the Convocation Lecture with one of our faculty being invited to be the speaker. It is meant to encourage and foster an interflow of ideas between faculty and students. This year the Convocation Lecture was held on August 24 and the speaker was Dr. Andres Tang, Professor of Christian Thought (Theology and Culture) who spoke on "The Significances of Colin E. Gunton's Trinitarian Theology for Culture: Focusing on Freedom and Truth."

2. Academic Seminar

The theme for this year's academic seminars is "Theology and Arts." The first seminar was held on September 14 with Dr. Poling Sun speaking on "Exposition: The Revelation from the Book of Revelation: Taking Examples from Revelation 12 - 20." There were over a hundred students and faculty members present. The atmosphere was enthusiastic and a follow-up meeting was held on September 21. "Theology and Arts" is a new topic to be explored by faculty and students of the Seminary. The second seminar in the series is scheduled to feature Miss Lo Nei-huen, speaking on "Women: On Writing and Reading" on November 16. The third and fourth seminar will be held on February 8 and April 19 with Miss Wu Yin-ching speaking on "Faith and Literature" and Dr. Jerry Moye, Professor of Old Testament and Spirituality, on "Theology and Movies" respectively.

3. Belote Lectures

The Belote Lectures were held from October 24 to October 26 with the world-renowned theologian J. Wentzel van Huyssteen as the speaker. The morning lectures were held from 10 am to 12 am at Sai O campus and the theme was "Human Uniqueness in Theology and Science" while the evening public lectures were held from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm at Mongkok Swatow Baptist Church with the theme:

"Theology and the Image of God." Dr. Carver Yu (Vice President of China Graduate School of Theology), Dr. Lai Pan-chiu (Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Professor and Chairman of the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies), and Dr. Kang Phe-seng (Professor of the Department of Religion and Philosophy, Hong Kong Baptist University) were the respondents in the morning sessions. Professors from local seminaries and scholars from Mainland universities were also present at the lectures.

4. Church Ethics Series

The Seminary's Church Ethics Series will publish its second volume, Dr. Andres Tang's *Boundary and Ethics: The Ethical Theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, will be published in December. The Church Ethics series attempts to explore the essential meaning and the biblical basis of church ethics from biblical and theological perspectives. This is a new direction of academic pursuit for the Seminary and through which our readers' horizon will be broadened and their understanding of the ethical nature of the church will be deepened. Furthermore, the new ethical dimension of human nature that God creates and seeks to complete can be manifested.

5. Graduation Ceremony

The Fifty-fifth Graduation Ceremony was held at 4 pm on November 19 and it is the first time that the Ceremony is held at the Sai O campus.

6. Faculty Exchange Program

The Seminary and Mercer University in the USA signed an agreement with a faculty exchange program two years ago. In the last two years, two professors from Mercer University came to conduct two summer intensive courses consecutively. Our Academic Dean, Professor Joshua Cho, went to Mercer to teach a summer intensive course, "A Study of the Theology of Paul Tillich" for the whole month of July this year. During this period of time, Professor Cho did a series of liaison work for the Seminary.

Admissions and Registration Office

Mandy Chung (Registrar)

How time flies! Before I became familiar with the year 2006, the summer holiday has already slipped away!

The new school year started in late August. We admitted 37 new students. Among these new students, two are enrolled in the Master of Theology program; twenty, in the Master of Divinity program; ten, in the Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies program; and five are presently non-classified. I pray that the new students will adapt to the new learning environment as soon as possible, make good use of their time, and learn to treasure and enjoy seminary training in the coming years. I pray that God will walk with each of the students each day. I also pray that they not only can receive adequate training in theology and Bible study, but also they can grow closer to God, build up relation with their teachers and fellow students, and finally become workers who can really be used by God!

The Belote Lectures are to be held from October 24 through 26. Recently, the staff of the Admissions and Registration Office has been busy with the enrolment and preparation work for the Lectures (for details, please see page 8). We have also begun planning for the J-term courses to be offered in winter and spring and preparation for registrations. Moreover, we are busy preparing for the Student Recruitment Talk scheduled on December 2. The theme for this year's Student Recruitment is "Break Me, Use Me, Burn Me and Send Me." For those readers of this *Newsletter* planning to become full-time students in the seminary, I strongly recommend that you attend this talk to be held on the first Saturday afternoon of December. There will be a short talk, introduction of the programs offered and admission procedures, face-to-face

conversation with our professors and sharing from theological students. Enrolment for this session has already began. For details, please see page 19. You can also visit our web site: www.hkbts.edu.hk.

If you cannot attend the talk in December, but you wish to learn more about Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary and explore the issue of God's calling, you can participate in the "Experiencing Seminary Life Camp" to be held between February 28 and March 1 next year. This two-day camp will not only include the programs in the Student Recruitment Talk mentioned above, but will also have a question-and-answer session focusing on God's calling. Those attending will have the opportunity to worship and attend classes with our students. Moreover, participants can stay overnight in the seminary in order to experience fully the life of seminary students for two days. Participants will also have the opportunity to meditate, waiting quietly in the presence of God, and seeking to discern His will in our seminary campus with its beautiful scenery and closeness to nature. The camp provides a good opportunity for participants to communicate with our students and professors, sharing their calling, doubts and struggles. Participants can also listen as students share their callings. For details and enrolment for the Student Recruitment Talk and "Experiencing Seminary Life Camp," please pay attention to our later announcement or make enquiries at 2768 5130.

Our winter intensive courses are to be offered between late-December and mid-January, including counseling and Biblical studies. Ministers and laypersons are all welcomed to audit those courses. For details, please browse our website after mid-November. You can also make enquiries at 2768 5129.

Distance Education Program

Anna Tam (Director)

By God's grace, the Distance Education Program has been operating for eight years. Our vision is to help Christians who would like to receive training in theology but is unable to attend classes. By joining the DEP courses, they can receive systematic training and build up an abundant life without being subject to the constraints of time and space. Believers who take distance education programs not only come from Hong Kong but many are from all over the world. More than 160 students have already graduated. There are currently about 370 students enrolled in our program and the number of instructors has also increased to 22. In order to cater for students' needs, we continue to expand our programs. At present, we offer the following programs:

- Certificate in New Testament Studies
- Certificate in Old Testament Studies
- Diploma and Higher Diploma in Christian Studies
- Diploma and Higher Diploma in Biblical Studies
- Certificate in On-line New Testament Studies

Besides providing training for believers in general, we have also started a "Special

Follow-up" ministry to train some communities being relatively ignored and having only limited resources, including the "Spiritual Light Project" for the visually impaired believers and the "Onesimus Training Program" for believers who have come to

Christ in the correctional institutions. We hope that through these programs, these believers can experience God's love and their Christian lives can mature.

The staff and instructors serving in Distance Education Program seldom have the opportunity to meet with students or the instructors. Though we have been making progress since we first started these programs, there are some inadequacies. In order to improve the programs, we organized a meeting for an exchange of tutorial experiences among the instructors in late August. Thanks to God's grace, about 70% of the instructors attended the meeting despite their extremely busy schedules. In the meeting, we had the opportunity to express our heart-felt thanks to the instructors. Since most of the instructors are responsible for marking students' assignments for one to two programs, they might not have a thorough understanding of the whole picture of the Distance Education Program. We were happy to seize the opportunity to share the work and the recent development of DEP with them so that they could pray for us.

The time for an exchange of teachers' experience in marking papers was the climax of the meeting. The instructors actively shared their insights, raised their queries and pointed out aspects that needed to be improved. All these, together with the sharing and response from the DEP staff, made the meeting more successful than we could have imagined. After the meeting, some instructors, basing on their experience in marking assignments, offered practical suggestions on the questions set for students' assignments. We become more aware of the support from instructors. They are willing to put in extra efforts in order to give the students maximum benefits. In the coming year, we are planning to revise the courses first introduced in our program. We believe that the comments and suggestions we received in this meeting would be very useful. I would like to thank the instructors for their participation again. I also have to thank the God of grace for allowing us to become a blessing to His people!



Convocation of the "Spiritual Light Project"

Lay Theological Education Department

Anna Tam (Director)



The briefing session on the Advance Diploma Courses held in July

The Baptist Church has always emphasized the idea that “all believers are priests.” The Lay Theological Education Department also takes this as our aim. We hope that we can provide diversified courses that can meet believers’ needs so that they can be equipped for works of service in the Church. Thank God for His grace. Every year, there are on average more than 700 students in every semester; and there are 2,500 in number taking our courses every quarter. We have about 300 student graduates every year.

The programs we offer fall into two categories: basic training in theology and training in ministerial skills. Since we firmly believe that theological education must be people-oriented and concerned with nurturing lives, we began in October to offer “Advance Diploma” courses for students who have completed the programs within the ministerial skills category. To these programs which focus on ministerial skills, we have added courses such as Biblical knowledge, theological thought, spiritual discipline, personality and temperament types. Our aim is to train students’ spiritual formation and students are to be equipped holistically. The “Advance Diploma” courses include the following programs: Diploma in Ministry to the Elderly, Diploma in Youth Mentor Training, Diploma in Kindergarten Christian Education, Diploma in Christian Missions Training, Diploma in Christian Recreation and Sports Ministries and Diploma for Church Clerk Training.

While planning these programs, we were concerned that the students who had completed the earlier courses might not share our ideas and that the new program might not appeal to them. Throughout the recruitment

process, we could only try our best and commit the whole project to God. We proceeded according to our promotion schedule, from first organizing the contact details of our graduates, to sending out brochures and running briefing sessions on the Advance Diploma courses. Throughout the process, we could see the hand of our God of grace guiding us.

What the Lord has achieved is far more than what we could ever have expected. The number of applicants kept increasing. When the first round of applications was about over, more than 70 students had already enrolled. By the time the first round of applications was finished, more than 100 students had enrolled. Moreover, we experienced the Lord’s provision in the arrangement of lecturers, classrooms and program supporting staff.

The positive response in enrolment reflects that students are not only concerned about deepening their techniques of service, but are also concerned about the growth of their spiritual lives! They desire a solid and holistic knowledge of God and long to establish a more intimate relationship with Him in their busy lives. They also hope that they can know how to respond to all kinds of problems and put God’s truth into practice in the midst of a crooked and depraved generation. Their goals match our aims for offering the “Advance Diploma Programs.” We hope that the Lord who has begun a good work in this group of believers will continue to carry them forward as He guides their study in the coming two years and help them to continue their spiritual growth.

Student Union

Lau Yuk-keung (Chairperson)

After the summer holidays, the Seminary organized an orientation for new students on August 18. The Seminary invited members of the executive committee of the Student Union to have lunch with the teachers and new students. We introduced ourselves to each other, got to know one another and had spent time sharing. The old students briefed the new students about the school environments. In the first lesson, the teachers will explain course outlines, assignments and examination requirements for the course. The new students suddenly have to face so many requirements from different subjects; it is natural that they feel hard-pressed. Moreover, some new students have been working diligently for many years. And now when they revert to becoming full time students again, they will most likely need time for adjustment. This period of adjustment is by no means easy for new students. For example, when the students read some assigned articles, some may find that although they understand almost every word of the articles, they still cannot understand the article! But after the new students have become familiar with the language and concepts, and over a period of time, through God's grace, the explanations of teachers, exchange of ideas among students and their own efforts will help the new students to see the sun beginning to break.

The Camp for Spiritual Formation in the academic year 2006-07 was held in Cheung Chau on August 21 and 22. The theme of the camp is "Quietness: Be in Speechless Silence." The camp allowed us to experience calmness in quietness and our spirits were nurtured and in peace. About 100 teachers and students participated in the camp. Dr. Jerry Moye talked about "Solitude" and Dr. Andres Tang spoke on "Quietness." These were indeed what we very much needed to learn. In the session of "Walking through life," we got out of the campsite and walked along Cheung Chau's pathways. We traveled along a broad, smooth road, a steep road, a road shaded by trees, and a road where the burning sun shone directly on us. With fellow travelers walking beside us and supporting one another, we felt light-hearted and happy. Sometimes, those in front of us were staggering and we had to slow down and proceed

slowly and patiently. While we were on the way, we saw different kinds of scenery and different road situations and went through different mental stages. When we finally came to our destination, we were filled with joy and peace. During the Lord's supper, we were reminded of Jesus Christ's great love as he sacrificed himself for our sins.

The Spiritual Affairs Office of the Student Union continues to run the "Co-walkers Project." We assign a senior student to help each new student so that his or her learning and seminary life will not be neglected. We hope that all new students can throw themselves into the learning and disciplines of their lives in this big family as soon as possible. The theme of the Student Union for this year reflects this desire: "Encourage One Another; Walk with One Heart."

The Executive Committee of the Student Union has nominated four students to join the Election Committee. They are Wong Siu-leung (chairperson), Ip Pui-man (secretary), Chan Ho-pang (member) and Tsui Kwok-leung (member). The Election Committee will be responsible for the 2007 election of the Executive Committee. The election of the new Executive Committee will take place on November 2.

The Spiritual Affairs Office of the Student Union regularly organizes Morning Prayer meetings and lunch meditation meetings. On October 19, the office organized a fasting meeting during which students prayed for one another. The Missions Office organizes outreach programs in October and November. They included evangelical ministry for construction site workers, sharing with Jews and sharing ministries among South Asians in Hong Kong. The Daily Living Office also organized an Outing for the Faculty and Students and a Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration in September. Please remember the Parents' Day on October 29 when students will invite their family members to visit the campus, to participate in the gospel meeting and to enjoy dinner together.

We hope that God can use the functions and activities organized by the Student Union to glorify Him and benefit many people!



Obituary

Professor Glenn Morris, Sr.

The Professor Emeritus of the Seminary, Dr. Glenn Morris, Sr., went to be with the Lord in the States on April 6. We will always remember Professor Morris who taught in the Seminary for over ten years having made a rich contribution to the theological education for the Chinese churches in the eighties and nineties. Professor Morris was a gentle, sincere teacher to students, and our alumni will always treasure his wisdom and guidance.

organized by the Graduate Christians Fellowship on July 28. Also Dr. Tang has written an article, "Follow • Shoulder • Tragedy: The Narrative Quotations of Bonhoeffer's Life" which was published by *Solitudo* 11 (Spring-Summer 2006).

- **Dr. Nathan Ng**, Associate Professor of Christian Thought (Church History), has written a book, *The Foundation and Pillars of Christianity: Key Developments of the Early Church*, which was published in August by Logos Publishers Ltd.

Faculty News

- **Dr. Joshua Cho**, Professor of Christian Thought (Systematic Theology), has written an article "A Simple 'Biblical' Authority: Reclaiming a Post-'modern' Perspective," published by *Chinese Around the World* (May 2006).
- **Dr. Andres Tang**, Professor in Christian Thought (Theology and Culture), gave a talk on "Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Public Theology / Public Ethics"

President Kong's Trip to North America

President Alfred Kong was invited to participate in the Fourteenth Annual General Meeting of the North American Chinese Baptist Convention from August 21 to August 23, when he spoke at the Spiritual Revival Meeting each evening. President Kong enjoyed warm fellowship with pastors and leaders of Chinese churches in North America and shared with them the development of theological education at the Seminary. Together they explored the prospect of how the Seminary could be involved in the training of workers of overseas Chinese Baptist churches.

Lay Theological Education Department

Courses offered for the term from October to December 2006:

Course Name	Lecturer	Date / Time of Class
Carving Jade into Ornaments – Spiritual Gifts and Service	Dr. Alfred Kong	16/10 – 4/12 (excluding 30/11) 7:15 – 9:45 pm
Following the Great Commission: Facets of Evangelization	Rev. Liu Tak-hon	20/11/06 – 22/11/07 (excluding 25/12; 1/1) 7:00 – 10:00 pm
Foundation on Solid Rock – Essence of Systematic Theology	Ms. Tse Wai-man	10/10 – 12/12 7:30 – 9:30 pm
A Heart of Joy – Psychological Health Education	Ms. Lam Mei-hung	24/10 – 12/12 2:00 – 4:30 pm
Evangelistic Ministry to the Elderly	Ms. Lam Yim-fong	10/10 – 28/11 7:15 – 9:45 pm
Selected Reading of the Psalms	Ms. Lee Chun	25/10 – 13/12 7:15 – 9:45 pm
Challenges and Responses – Old Testament Overview	Ms. Liu Lai-hing	12/10 – 14/12 7:30 – 9:30 pm
Man Made New – Putting Christian Faith into Practice	Mr. Leung Lok-shun	5/10 – 9/11 7:00 – 10:00 pm
Going to Foreign Lands – Understanding a Mission Trip	Mr. Chan Chiu-yuen	16/11 – 14/12 7:00 – 10:00 pm
Incarnation – The Study of the Gospel in Different Cultural Contexts	Rev. Ho Chun-ho with Dr. Chan Nim-chung as guest lecturer	20/10 – 5/12 7:00 – 10:00 pm

All LTED courses are held at LTED Center in Mongkok.

Christian Woman Theological Training Certificate / Diploma (October – December)

Course Name	Lecturer	Place of Tuition	Date / Time
Gifts and Service – Discovering Gifts and Coordination with One's Christian service	Ms. Sun Chan Yuk-ngor	Grace Baptist Church	17/10 – 21/11 9:30 – 11:30 am
The Bible and I	Mrs. Celia Juergens	Mongkok Education Center	24/10 – 28/11 9:30 – 11:30 am
Grace Heavy as a Mountain: Mountains in the Bible	Ms. Wong Pak-hop	Mongkok Education Center	10/10 – 19/12 9:30 – 11:30 am
Hymns and I	Mrs. Lin Lau Yuen-sheung	Grace Baptist Church	2/11 – 7/12 9:30 – 11:30 am
Spiritual Formation: Be Renewed in Strength	Rev. Tse Yam-sang	Mongkok Education Center	2/11 – 9/11 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
The Prescription for Freedom: A Preliminary Hermeneutic of Galatians	Ms. Chan Wai-suet	Mongkok Education Center	16/11 – 21/12 9:30 am – 11:30 pm.
N.T. Book Study: Matthew	Ms. Yueng Tung-ying	Mongkok Education Center	6/10 – 8/12

Place of Tuition:

Hong Kong Area Hong Kong Grace Baptist Church 1A, Kin Bong Mansion, 27B, Bookstores Street, North Point, Hong Kong.

Kowloon Area Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary Mongkok Center
47-51, Chung Kiu Commercial Building, Shan Tung Street, Mongkok.

For inquiries, call 2711 2552, or visit our website www.hkbts.edu.hk/lted to download application forms.

Distance Education Program

Self-determination, Self-reliance, Self-study

The program is suitable for students too busy to take regular lessons since it is not bounded by time and place.

Both correspondence and online courses are offered.

Correspondence & On-line Programs	Program Description	Admission Requirements	Date of Commencement	Registration Deadline
Diploma in Bible Studies Program	Through an in-depth study of a specific book in the Bible, students are trained to do systematic hermeneutics and Bible study.	Secondary school leavers with church pastor's recommendation	February and September each year	School term beginning in March: Hong Kong — February 10 Overseas — January 15 School term beginning in September: Hong Kong — August 10 Overseas — July 25
Diploma in Christian Studies Program	Designed for equipping students for ministry, the program helps students consolidate their foundation in the Christian faith, doctrine and theology.			
Higher Diploma in Bible Studies / Christian Studies Programs	Further studies for students completing the certificate program			
Certificate in N.T. / O.T. Studies Program	Introductory programs in Bible study	All are welcome	Register at any time	
On-line Certificate in N.T. Studies Program				

For details, please call 2768 5105 or email deinfo@hkpts.edu.hk or visit our website www.hkpts.edu.hk/dist/

Topical Lecture

Topic : **The Love of Waiting in the Song of Songs**

Speaker : **Anna Tam** (Director of LTED and DEP)

Content : The Song of Songs is a drama of love, raising the curtain with a heart awaiting for love and ending with love. The book abounds with the yearning and anticipation of love. This talk will reflect upon the inspiration of such sentiment as Christians nowadays wait to find their beloved.

Date : November 11 (Saturday) 2:30 – 4:00 pm

Venue : 8/F, Applied Theological Education Center, 56, Butt Street, Mongkok, Kowloon.

Pastoral Continuing Education Program

Registration to the second Certificate Course in Clinical Pastoral Education, to be conducted in 2007, has begun. Pastoral workers who want to study in the program can go to the seminary website and download the booklet and application form, or call 2782 9787 for details. The deadline for application is November 30, 2006.

Courses and talks offered from September to December 2006

Course / Talk	Lecturer / Speaker	Date / Time
A Preliminary Exploration in Applying the "Coach of Life" to Pastoral Ministry	Dr. Chan Jin-pang	October 9 (Monday) 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Workshop on Difficulty Problems in the Old Testament	Dr. Samuel Tang	
On Hermeneutics		October 11 10:am – 5:pm
On Homiletics		October 12-13 10:am – 1 pm
Interpretation of T-JTA Personality Analysis *	Rev. Lam Wing-shu	October 23 (Monday) 10am – 1pm
Pastoring Those Who Are Attracted to the Same Sex	Mr. Chung Kam-fai & Chung Kan Ching-man	November 6 10 am – 1 pm
Analysis of Intention and Behavior	Dr. Law Lai-man	November 13 10 am – 1 pm
The Space Set Aside for Worship	Dr. Philip Chan & Others	November 20 10 am
Application of T-JTA Personality Analysis	Rev. Lam Wing-shu	December 4 10 am – 1 pm & 2 pm – 4:30 pm

* HKBTS Alumni Association members, graduates, ministers and seminary students in Baptist churches (including students in HKBTS's ministerial training and LTED programs, full-time students of the 13 member schools of the Hong Kong Theological Education Association) have special fee discount.

For enrolment or enquiry, call 2982 9787 or fax 2630 1373, or download the enrolment form from our website www.hkbts.edu.hk

Student Recruitment Talk 2007-08 "Break Me • Use Me • Burn Me • Send Me"

Date: December 2, 2006 (Saturday)
Time: 2:30 - 8:00 pm
Place: Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary
1, Nin Ming Raod, Sai O, Sai Kung North, N.T.
Fee: \$50 per person
Closing Date: November 29
Inquiry: Telephone: 2768 5130
Email: admissions@hkbts.edu.hk
Website: www.hkbts.edu.hk

Schedule

2:30 pm – Attendance taking
3:00 pm – Introduction of programs / curriculum / practicum
4:00 pm – Conversation with professors
5:15 pm – Praise and Worship; Short Sermon
6:30 pm – Group Prayer
7:15 pm – Dinner and sharing with seminary students
8:00 pm – Closing

Publication News

Dr. Andres Tang's *Boundary and Ethics: The Ethical Theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer* will be published in December. Dr. Tang has compiled more than twenty articles he has written on Bonhoeffer's social / ethical theology over the past ten years. The book consists of four sections: including an introduction and a section on Bonhoeffer's writings during his early life, his middle years and his latter years. *Boundary and Ethics* is the second volume in the Seminary's Church Ethics series, while the third and the fourth are Dr. Wong Fook Kong's *Old Testament Ethics* and Dr. Poling Sun's *New Testament Ethics* respectively.

The theme for *Hill Road* (issue 18) is "Theology and Practice of Mission" to be published in December. There will be six articles exploring the theme. They are the following: "Missio Dei: Karl Barth and the Mission of the Church" (Lindsay Robertson), "Jürgen Moltmann's Church and Mission" (Andres Tang), "An Inappropriate Use of a Theory from Natural Science: A Review of David Bosch's Use of Paradigm Shift in Theology of Mission" (Eric Kwong), "Missionary Practices and Concepts of the Early Church" (Nathan Ng), "The Missionsary Concept of China Inland Mission in China" (Choi Kam-to) and "Spiritual Formation in Theological Education for Cross-cultural Missionaries" (Cheng May-nor). Also in this issue are three miscellaneous articles and several book reviews. *Hill Road* is available in local Christian bookstores. For inquiry and subscription to *Hill Road*, please call 2768 5168 or email hkbts.poinfo@hkbts.edu.hk.



Alumni News



- Alumnus **Yu Kim-wan** (class of 1994) was ordained pastor at Kowloon Ling Liang Church of Ling Liang Worldwide Evangelistic Mission on September 9.
- Alumna **Or Hon-ping** (class of 1993) was ordained pastor at Macau Christian Shuen Tao Church on September 10.
- Alumnus **Peter Teh** (class of 1992, formerly known as Teh Wai-mun) was ordained pastor at Vancouver Chinese Baptist Church on September 23.

Financial Report
General Fund, 1 June 2006 - 31 July 2006

	HK\$
Income	4,451,080.71
Expenditure	4,994,212.13
Deficit	<u>(543,131.42)</u>



R e p l y

I will support The Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary by

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

Educational Fund Others: _____

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

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Donation Methods:

- Crossed cheque** payable to
"Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary"
 Cash either deliver to the Seminary or direct pay-in to our
Hang Seng Bank Account No. "242-026144-003"

- Credit card:** VISA MASTERCARD

Cardholder's Name: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____

Card No.: _____ Expiry date: _____

Amount: HK\$ _____

(Credit card charges are denominated in HK\$)

- Monthly Autopay** by Bank Account or Credit Card —
autopay form will be forwarded to you

- Please send cheque or bank deposit slip with this reply to the Seminary at 1 Nin Ming Road, Sai O, Sai Kung North, N.T., Hong Kong.
- Receipt will be issued and donation is tax-deductible.
- Your name and donation amount will appear in the Seminary's *Newsletter*. If you do not wish them to appear in the *Newsletter*, please tick the right box.
- Your personal data will only be used for issuing receipt and Seminary's administration purposes.
- For donation inquiry: Tel : (852) 2768 5113 or (852) 2715 9511
Fax: (852) 2768 5102

Thank you for your support !

DONORS REPORT FOR JUNE 2006

Education Fund (Church)

九龍城浸信會	165,000.00
九龍城潮語浸信會	50,000.00
上水浸信會	6,000.00
上環浸信會	2,000.00
土瓜灣浸信會	22,000.00
大埔浸信會	16,666.60
牛池灣竹園潮語浸信會	1,000.00
以馬內利浸信會	7,000.00
尖沙嘴浸信會	30,000.00
尖沙嘴國語浸信會	800.00
佐敦道浸信會	750.00
沙田浸信會	7,000.00
紅磡浸信會	3,500.00
香港仔浸信會	21,935.20
香港浸信教會	166,600.00
香港堅尼地城浸信教會	1,200.00
粉嶺浸信會	8,000.00
茶果嶺浸信會	10,000.00
基磐浸信會	6,000.00
富亨浸信會	1,000.00
愛群道浸信會	8,000.00
置富浸信教會	2,000.00
銅鑼灣浸信會	3,000.00
灣仔浸信會	1,500.00
觀塘浸信會	2,164.00
基督教四方福音會彩坪堂	1,000.00
基督教宣道會華基堂	500.00
基督教豐盛生命堂	3,000.00
深恩浸信會	724.00
HK\$	<u>548,339.80</u>

Education Fund (Donor/Organization)

Mr. & Mrs. John Dockerill	3,000.00
Tiffany Lau	10,000.00
伍玉嬋	100.00
江耀全伉儷	3,000.00
何譚惠如	2,000.00
吳國傑伉儷	500.00
呂志華	1,000.00

林威烈	1,000.00
林高傑德	50,000.00
胡文恩	250.00
胡美華	200.00
唐榮敏	1,500.00
徐詩雅	300.00
曹啓明伉儷	220.00
許鋒威	400.00
陳得生	1,000.00
無名氏	1,000.00
無名氏	400.00
無名氏	300.00
無名氏	1,000.00
黃華娟	100.00
楊有恒伉儷	1,000.00
葉煥章	300.00
劉永生	300.00
劉建紅	600.00
劉福全伉儷	500.00
蔡志強伉儷	500.00
鄭非兒	300.00
鄭德儀家人	500.00
鄧炳光伉儷	2,000.00
謝映琅	600.00
簡慧婷	500.00
龐凌玉珍	500.00
羅佩珊	100.00
羅美華	500.00
羅凱慈	1,000.00
關德華	140.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	500.00
溫凱旋	1,000.00
HK\$	<u>88,110.00</u>

President Council

譚日旭	2,000.00
HK\$	<u>2,000.00</u>

Mission Dynamics & Resources Centre Usable Fund

香港(西區)潮語浸信會	5,000.00
HK\$	<u>5,000.00</u>

Scholarship and Bursaries

林高傑德女士助學基金	100,000.00
陳樹安博士伉儷獎助學基金	200,000.00
愛子	200.00
歐陽陳慧萍女士紀念獎學金	100,000.00
HK\$	<u>400,200.00</u>

Book Fund

第55屆傳道裝備課程畢業同學	6,191.70
楊立康	500.00
HK\$	<u>6,691.70</u>

Lay Theological Education Program

幼師基督教教育證書課程畢業同學	2,310.00
杜桂鵬	500.00
無名氏	100.00
無名氏	308.00
蕭桂娥	1,500.00
HK\$	<u>4,718.00</u>

BCS Scholarship and Bursaries

何譚惠如	1,000.00
呂美玉	500.00
HK\$	<u>1,500.00</u>

Distance Education Program

Ernest & Sylvia Ho	2,000.00
何鏡煒伉儷	3,000.00
鄒小寶	1,500.00
HK\$	<u>6,500.00</u>
USD	<u>18.00</u>
GBP	<u>1,000.00</u>

Local Filipino Program

MY Y	300.00
張智理伉儷	5,000.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	300.00
HK\$	<u>5,600.00</u>

DONORS REPORT FOR JULY 2006

Education Fund (Church)

九龍國際浸信會	32,197.20
上環浸信會	2,000.00
大埔浸信會	8,333.30
大埔國際浸信會	750.00
牛池灣竹園潮語浸信會	1,000.00
以馬內利浸信會	3,500.00
北角浸信會	120,000.00
尖沙嘴國語浸信會	800.00
沙田浸信會	7,000.00
紅磡浸信會	3,500.00
香港天樂浸信教會	474.00
香港仔浸信會	22,258.10
香港浸信教會	83,300.00
香港堅尼地城浸信教會	1,200.00
香港懷恩浸信教會	15,000.00
柴灣浸信會小西灣福音堂	3,000.00
粉嶺浸信會	25,000.00
基督浸信會	3,000.00
深水埗浸信會	1,811.50
第一城浸信會	6,250.00
銅鑼灣浸信會	3,000.00
廣林浸信會	1,000.00
樂滿浸信會	6,000.00
灣仔浸信會	1,000.00
觀塘浸信會	1,580.00
基督教宣道會華基堂	500.00
深恩浸信會	724.00
	HK\$ 354,178.10
Chinese Baptist Church	USD 10,000.00
Chinese Indep. Baptist Church-S.F.	USD 540.00
	USD 10,540.00
<u>Education Fund (Donor/Organization)</u>	
眾安發展有限公司	40,000.00
迦琳基金	1,000.00
L. Y. Ng	500.00

Mr. & Mrs. John Dockerill	3,000.00
伍玉嬋	100.00
江耀全伉儷	3,000.00
何譚惠如	2,000.00
吳國傑伉儷	500.00
呂志華	1,000.00
胡文恩	250.00
徐詩雅	300.00
曹啓明伉儷	220.00
許鋒威	400.00
黃勝芬	500.00
黃華娟	100.00
葉玉梅	150.00
葉煥章	300.00
劉永生	300.00
劉建紅	600.00
蔡志強伉儷	500.00
鄭非兒	300.00
薛林美愛	1,500.00
薛聲明	2,000.00
謝金玉	600.00
簡慧婷	500.00
龐凌玉珍	500.00
羅佩珊	100.00
羅美華	500.00
羅凱慈	500.00
關德華	140.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	500.00
溫凱旋	1,000.00
無名氏	30.10
無名氏	300.00
無名氏	400.00
無名氏	1,000.00
無名氏	1,000.00
	HK\$ 65,590.10

President Council

譚日旭	HK\$ 2,000.00
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Scholarship and Bursaries

香港(西區)潮語浸信會	5,000.00
愛子	200.00
	HK\$ 5,200.00

Music Camp

蔡燕萍	HK\$ 2,000.00
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Lay Theological Education Program

旺角浸信會	200.00
蒙召與裝備證書課程畢業同學	740.00
杜桂鵬	500.00
蕭桂娥	3,000.00
無名氏	49.00
無名氏	588.50
	HK\$ 5,077.50

BCS Scholarship and Bursaries

何譚惠如	1,000.00
呂美玉	500.00
	HK\$ 1,500.00

Distance Education Program

Ernest & Sylvia Ho	2,000.00
何鏡煒伉儷	3,000.00
鄒小寶	1,500.00
	HK\$ 6,500.00

Local Filipino Program

MYY	300.00
張智理伉儷	5,000.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	300.00
	HK\$ 5,600.00

Precious Moments



July 23-26 Church Music Camp 2006
The Annual Church Music Camp was held at Sai O campus. This year's theme was "A New Experience of Worship and Music." Thank God that there were over ninety servants of God from different churches who came to learn and share their skills in singing and playing the musical instruments with one another.

August 21-22 Spiritual Formation Camp

The Camp was held in Cheung Chau before the beginning of the new semester. The theme of the camp was "Quietness: Be in Speechless Silence." Both professors and students practised "solitude" and "quietness" to renew their trust in the Lord.



August 23 Convocation

During the Convocation which inaugurates the new academic year, Vice President Joshua Cho exhorted students with a sermon entitled "My Heart Is Not Proud" from Psalm 131:1-3.



August 24 Convocation Lecture

Dr. Andres Tang, Professor of Christian Thought (Theology and Culture) delivered the Convocation Lecture entitled "The Significances of Colin E. Gunton's Trinitarian Theology for Culture: Focusing on Freedom and Truth."



September 14 Academic Seminar

Dr. Poling Sun presented the first Academic Seminar this school term entitled "Exposition: Revelation in the Book of Revelation: Taking Examples from Revelation 12 - 20."

The discussion had been so enthusiastic that a follow-up meeting was held on September 21.



September 20 Midday Worship with "Servant"

The worship team "Servant" formed by our seminary students, led the faculty and students on the third Wednesday each month to sing praises and thanksgiving to the Lord.



September 22 A Faculty and Students Outing
At the Po Leung Kuk Recreation Camp in Sai Kung, the faculty and students enjoyed an outing in which team spirit was built up through games and activities.

