

Today's Students, Tomorrow's Pastors
Today's Seminary, Tomorrow's Churches

香港浸信會神學院
Hang Keng Baptist Theological Seminary



Newsletter

December 2011



President's Word: The Mission of a Disciple Community

*Feature: Voices of Our Graduates
Experiencing God's Grace within
My Own Limitations*

All Is Grace from God

*Faculty Sharing: Characteristics of a Great
Commission Disciple Community*

CONTENT

President's Word / Joshua Cho	2
FEATURE:	
VOICES OF OUR GRADUATES	
Experiencing God's Grace within My Own Limitations / Koo Wai-hung	10
All Is Grace from God / Chan Yee-wah	11
Pray for Our Graduates and New Students	13
FACULTY SHARING	
Characteristics of a Great Commission Disciple Community / Pak Loh	14
CAMPUS ACTIVITIES	
Introducing Our Director of Mission Dynamic Center: Rev. Pak Loh	17
Academic Affairs News	17
From the Chaplain / Brian Lam	18
Admissions and Registration Office / Mandy Chung	18
Lay Theological Education Department / Toto Choi	19
Distance Education Program / Chow Pui-shan	20
Student Union / Law Ming-yuen	21
CAMPUS NEWS	
Faculty News	22
Lay Theological Education Department	22
Distance Education Program	24
Pastoral Continuing Education Center	24
Publication News	25
ALUMNI NEWS	25
STUDENT RECRUITMENT NEWS	26
DONORS REPORTS / FINANCIAL REPORT	27
REPLY	30
PRECIOUS MOMENTS	31

Publishing Supervisor: **Joshua Cho**
Editorial Consultant : **Ruth Moye**
Editor : **Ernest Ho**
Translator : **Ernest Ho**
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Tel. : **(852) 2715 9511**
Fax : **(852) 2761 0868**
Web Address : **http://www.hkbts.edu.hk**
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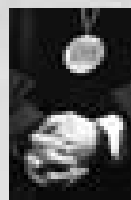
The Mission of a Disciple Community

Joshua Cho

The Theological Wisdom That Strides into the Church and the World

Thank God for His grace! In these last two years, He has been molding us to lead our beloved Seminary to be a place where teachers and students are constantly learning His wisdom and a community firmly rooted in theological wisdom.

A seminary that embodies theological wisdom must be inter-disciplinary. Theological wisdom must not only include insights gained from biblical studies, history, and theology but must also draw from ethics, religious education, worship, church music and the practice of missions. In fact, theological wisdom is practical theology that enables the disciple community to stride boldly into today's church and the ever changing world.



President's Word

Furthermore, a seminary intending to deepen its theological wisdom must be a disciple community in which its members practice cordial hospitality and live out faith, hope, and love. A disciple community which generously offers hospitality and becomes known for its faith, hope, and love will also be set apart to do Christian missions. In fact, theological wisdom must go beyond practical theology to stride into today's church and the world, facing their challenges to serve in these challenging arenas.

In this issue of the *Newsletter*, let us consider the direction of missions in which HKBTS's theological education is going to take.

Mission in the Old Testament

From biblical studies, we can see that our God is one who continues to call men and women, entrusting them with His mission. The one called by God will shoulder a bounden duty — the bounden duty that must always involve risk-taking. All those God calls to proclaim the Good News, the Gospel, must be ready to take risks as they proclaim God's message to the world.

Preaching the good news, preaching the Gospel, began when God called Abraham and commissioned him to go to a new place. The Bible recognizes the commissioning of Abraham as a crucial moment for the beginning of mission. God calls Abraham to "go" into a world where new possibilities can unfold. Genesis 12:4 records, "Abram left, as the Lord had told him. And Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five when he set out from Haran." Such a commissioning reminds us of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, the Flood and the Tower of Babel. In the stories those who resisted God's will were cursed. Even as God gave Abraham orders to "go to a new land," and God promised to make him "a great nation," "make your name great," and "you will be a blessing." Most importantly, Abraham was told, "All peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Ge 12:3) Owing to God's call to Abraham, not only his descendants but the entire world would no longer be cursed but instead be granted grace and blessings.

In the same way, God called Moses through the flames of a burning bush (Ex 3:1-6). "The Lord said, 'I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk

and honey'" (Ex 3:7-9) God sent Moses to Pharaoh and gave Moses the mission to bring the Israelites out of Egypt (Ex 3:10). This arduous task was to become Moses' great mission. Since Yahweh called him on this mission, Moses could count on God's support. It was God's will to challenge Pharaoh's dictatorial authority, yet His plan could only be fulfilled through the participation and risk-taking courage of Moses. Therefore, God sent Moses to confront a powerful political and economic structure — to confront a power which opposed humanity and one based on a dehumanizing political and economic structure.

Mission in the New Testament

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ called His disciples to a great mission (Mt 4: 19-20). They were called to leave their home town, their work and even their family responsibilities and to take up their cross and follow Him. Their mission was to make disciples of all nations. Their commission was composed of three elements: to go, to baptize and to teach (Mt 28: 19-20).

The mission discourse in Matthew 10: 5-15 deliberately links Jesus Christ's own mission with that of His disciples. Here we see that Christ calls men to be "disciples," whom He has chosen to "follow Him" as they set out on a new journey, a road of submission and the way leading to the cross. Christ Jesus goes on to command His twelve disciples, "As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near'" (Mt 10: 7). He gave them a concrete command: "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons." (Mt 10: 8) Those sick and dying, those having leprosy and those possessed by demons were all held in some kind of captivity. Captivity is any condition in which people are "dehumanized," whether it be the result of physical, political or religious power. The disciples' mission involves confronting any such dehumanized power. Therefore, mission consists of "making disciples"; making disciples equals mission and mission is to preach the gospel of the kingdom of heaven and to confront dehumanized power in all its forms.

The Contemporary Significance of Mission

The Christian mission is one that God issues from the Old Testament to the New Testament. To fulfill the Christian mission is not only to reach the world's "unreached peoples" (foreign missions) and evangelize them but also to go to every corner of the world to proclaim the power of Christ Jesus. We are especially obligated to go to places where God's intentions for creation are being violated. We are to preach and deliver the message of Jesus Christ's alternative power, testifying to the

will of God as experienced in the creation.

Such commissioning for mission is contradictory to the purposes of the unredeemed world. It is truly necessary for us to ask the question: What is, after all, the significance of the Christian mission in our contemporary lives?

In our contemporary lives, we see the growing expansion of powerful nations resulting from globalization, the hegemony of the transnational corporations and their exploitation of small, weak nations. We have all experienced the trans-cultural arrogance in the name of globalization and witnessed how some powerful cultures rule over weaker ones. We have seen some ethnic communities in conflict and at loggerheads with one another while the hatred of certain ethnic communities smashes or even annihilates parts of the human community.

In contemporary Hong Kong, we see how consumerism distorts life's meaning, giving people an illusion of a world free from pain, emotional stress and trouble. Consumerism assumes a person can find security and happiness through excessive consumption. Advertisements promote many products, boasting that they offer happiness by projecting images of smiling faces with not a hint of worry. In such a world, people are promised freedom from pain, fear, poverty and all such negative things.

The free market economy encourages excessive consumerism while covering up unreasonable profit and corporate monopolies. This is because political power rests firmly in the hands of the super-wealthy and mega-corporations. The symbiotic relationship between politics and economics brings about further inequality and injustice. Those with excessive power use their power and influence to grab even more wealth and power.

The above represents a social system, an economic system and a political system established by dehumanized power. Unfortunately, these dehumanized social systems, economic and political powers consolidate their evil power by taking advantage of the legal system and then expect the public to respect without question a rule of law which has been compromised.

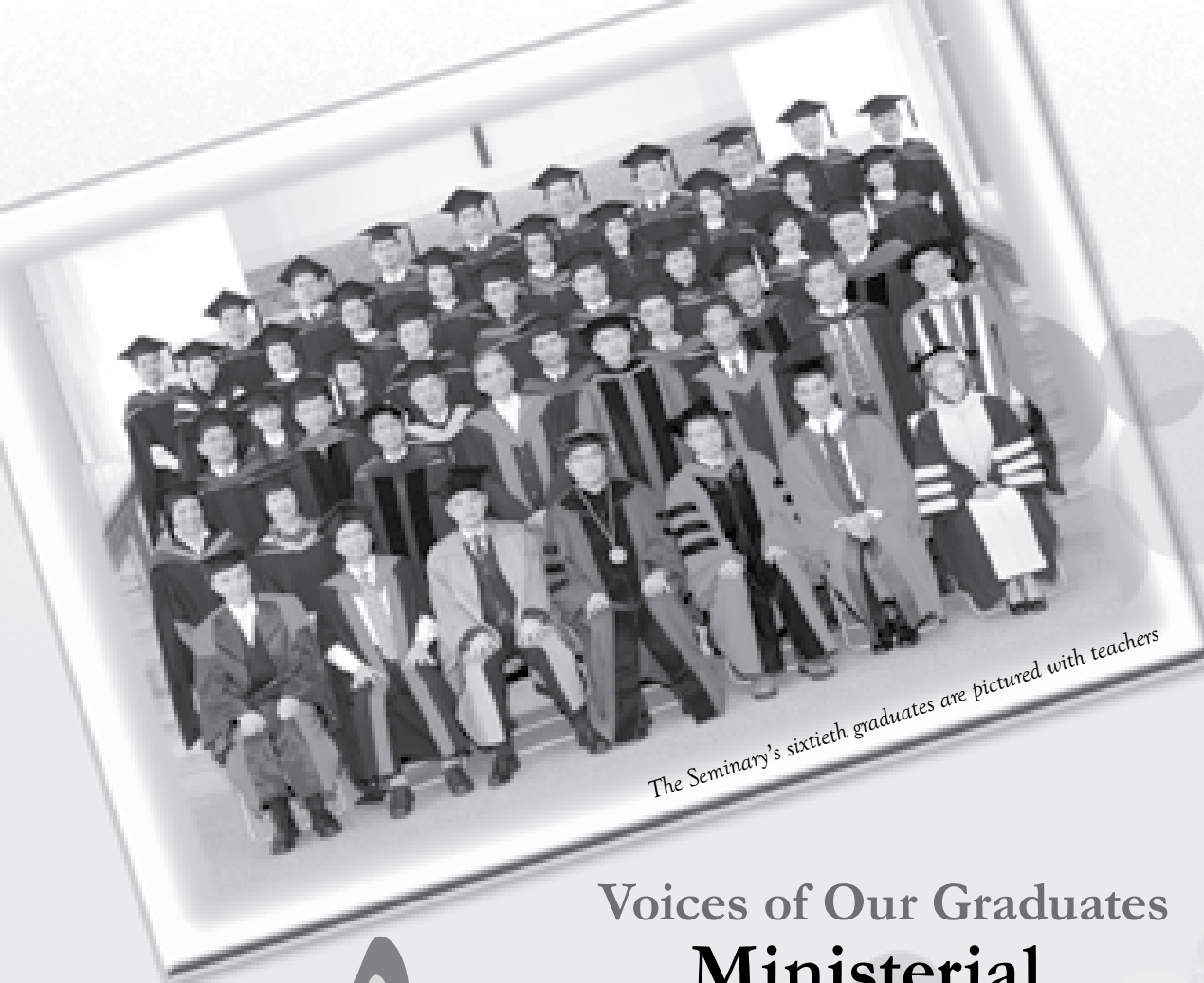
In so far as we can discern such dehumanized power which acts contrary to God's will in creation, we can understand the main context about Christian missions and come to understand its inherent meaning. To go on a mission is to do what God has entrusted us to do to help people out of difficult situations and deliver them from all that enslaves them. This involves both the unreached people and those already converted by restoring them to the vivacious life intended in God's creation. Therefore,

to do evangelism in missions consists of multi-dimensional purposes. For example, we try to give a gentle warning to those "powerful" trans-national political-economic systems to care for the "small and weak" nationals. Moreover, in a world of diverse cultures, we teach people of different cultures to live together creatively as together we strive to build a peaceful society. Furthermore, as we struggle to discern God's presence and power in a diversified but inharmonious world, we dare to take part in the transformation, deliverance and redemption initiated by God. In the course of history, God handed over His mission to Abraham, to Moses, especially to Jesus Christ, and now to us. Jesus Christ continues to call on his disciple community to preach the gospel so that all neighbors in our world will come under the reign of God's kingdom.

The Disciple Community That Receives the Christian Mission

Here and now, HKBTS is a disciple community and we see clearly the will of God: God calls and sends us out to proclaim His will in this present age. It is His purpose that all the world's people will be set free so that they can enter into God's peaceable kingdom. Therefore, our disciple community must move with full confidence to experience God's presence fully in the world and share God's mission to the world. In the meantime, we also see that our mission to the world is to announce God's reign with the full conviction that God can lead men forward into the future with hope and purpose. We, as a disciple community, must be filled with love, knowing full well that our present world, though glutted with sin, can indeed be transformed by God's love. God loves this world. We must always remember that His love transcends human love as He demonstrated so clearly when He chose to offer the world His only Son. Finally, we must continually be renewed and filled with hope, as we anticipate the coming of His Kingdom. We must determine to resist the temptation to be disheartened in the face of a dismal world.

In an effort to deepen our disciple community's mission, the Seminary has launched our Mission Dynamics Center. The launching of this Center marks the beginning of our concrete effort to deepen our disciple community's mission. In the future when other research centers are established, may they too continue to broaden and deepen the Seminary's mission. I earnestly pray that God will continue leading us to fulfill our mission. May we soar high on His wings of faith, hope, and love as we do our part in transforming this present age.



Voices of Our Graduates

Ministerial Preparation Program

I must thank HKBTS for these three years of nurture and thank our teachers for their life example and commitment in teaching. What impresses me most in these three years is to learn that "there is unity as well as diversity in the Christian faith" and "rightly handling the word of truth." They are the main foundation for our ministry and for relationship building with our brothers and sisters.

Tong Hon-sun (M.Div.)

Thank God for His constant love enabling me to grow spiritually. I will make every effort to learn as His disciple!

I must thank my family and friends for their quiet but persistent support and encouragement!

I am grateful for the instruction of my teachers, who have cared for and built up my spiritual life!

I thank my fellow pilgrims as we walked together on our three-year journey of learning!

I am indebted to my alma mater for its love and to the churches in which I did my practicum.


Mak Wai-yin (M.Div.)

From the time I received God's call to this time of completing these three years of seminary studies, I have had the most amazing journey in my life. It has also been a journey on which I claimed God's promise and mission to study His word. Along the way, I have experienced great joy and rich blessings, a foretaste of the spiritual adage, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." For everything, I am grateful to God!

Wong Moon-lun (M.Div.)

I am grateful to my teachers' teaching as they have shared their precepts and have also modeled for me how to be a minister. I thank my classmates for the joy of walking with them. I must thank you, Chiu, my husband because without your sacrifice, patient listening, persistent love, and constant encouragement ..., I would have quit long ago. Most of all, I am indebted to God who has bestowed upon me all kinds of blessings.

Lee Pui-sze (M.Div.)



My three years of theological training have passed by quickly, and through this process I have come to discover my limitations and at the same time to experience God's grace. I am grateful to God for you, my dear teachers and fellow students, whose lives have given me much encouragement. Walking with you has made me understand first-hand the blessings of a disciple community, which puts "love" into practice. Now as I set out to carry out my church ministry I will never forget God's call or the teachers' wise instruction!

Liu Pui-ye (M.Div.)

I am grateful to the Holy Spirit for leading me to HKBTS. I am grateful to the Lord Jesus for helping me in my studies.

I am grateful to my Heavenly Father for helping me achieve my goals in life.

I thank all my teachers for their guidance.

I thank my fellow students for standing by me.

I thank all those who have faithfully prayed for me.


All these people are too precious to be overlooked.

All of them have helped in shaping my life.

I genuinely want to say this from my heart:

Thank you!

Ngan Lai-hing (M.Div.)




In the twinkle of an eye, my three years of seminary life have come to a close. I must confess I find it hard to say goodbye. Here I recount the various stages of my seminary experience. At first, I knew almost nothing about the Seminary, but eventually I found myself falling in love with HKBTS. At first I was incapable of theological thinking but I began to discover how captivating theology can be. At first, I knew little about pastoral care but then I realized that I must seek to develop "the heart of a pastor." Now that I have learned about all these things, I am keenly aware of how God's grace has always been with me through these few years. I must give thanks to God!

Tam Ka-man (M.Div.)

My three years of seminary life is indeed too short: How can I forget the Spiritual Formation Camp held in mid-summer? How can I dismiss the corporate worship experience in the Morning Chapel? How can I let go those intricate and seemingly obscure theological reading assignments? How can I leave behind the teachers who have guided me with skills and patience? How can I not remember my fellow-students as we have shared our joys and sorrows? Three years of seminary life are indeed too short for me!


Wong Wun-yin (M.Div.)



Thanks to my gracious Lord's selection and blessings.
Thanks to HKBTS for nurturing me and building me up.
Thanks to my teachers for instructing me both by precept and example.
Thanks to my fellow students for their acceptance and friendship.
Thanks to my church for her prayers and loving concern.
Thanks to my brothers and sisters in Christ for your support and encouragement.
Thanks to my family for walking along with me and providing me with their tender, loving care.
My eternal indebtedness to all these supporters.
I am willing to serve my Lord all my life!

Cheung Kwok-leung (M.Div.)





These three years of experience as a seminary student have deepened my appreciation for the grace of God, the love of Jesus, and the counsel of the Holy Spirit. I will always change but the God's grace will never change. I can only offer my love to Jesus who loves even me, his weak and lowly child. I have been constantly reminded of how the Holy Spirit has transformed and renewed me, allowing me to experience His presence in the humdrum and monotony of everyday life.


Ng Wai-leung (M.Div.)

Three years of study life have quickly come to a close. Not only have I gained theological knowledge, but I have also learned from my teachers their faithful commitment to God. I must say "thank you" to all the Seminary's teachers and staff and hope that my dear alma mater will continue to strive to equip quality workmen to go out to serve for God's kingdom!

Cheung Lin-sang (M.Div.)

"It takes 10 years to grow a tree, while a sound education program may require 10 times as long before it takes root." I am grateful to God for His calling and leading me into HKBTS to receive sound seminary training and nurture. Besides feeling indebted to my family for their support and love, I also thank my fellow students and friends, and in particular each of my teachers who have patiently and skillfully guided me in becoming God's faithful servant. I also want to thank Kwong Lam Baptist Church and the churches where I did my practicum for the opportunity to work together with them for the Lord.

Chu Wai-leung (M.Div.)



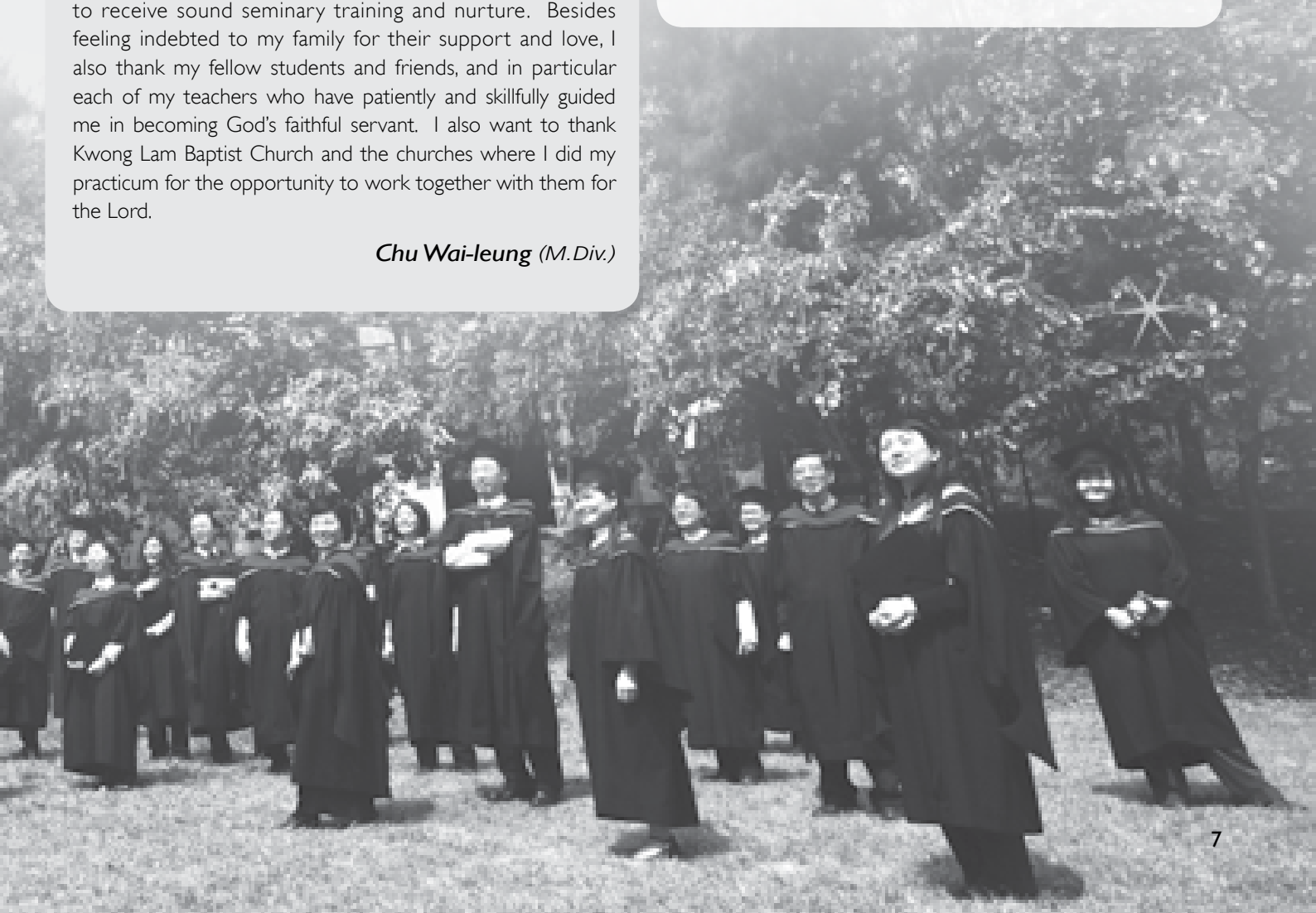
I recall with gratitude these five years during which I changed from part-time student to a full time one, from one studying the regular curriculum to one studying the hidden curriculum, and from a commuting student to one living in the student quarters. I must say my time at the Seminary has been fully loaded with God's grace. Thank God for His provision! I must thank the Seminary and the teachers for their guidance and instructions!

Lau Kam-hing (M.Div.)

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Eph 2:10)

For three years of theological nurturing, three years of grace and love, and three years of molding in God's grace, I thank God. I pray that God will now receive me and use me in His service. Glory be to God!

Sun Tak-yin (M.Div.)





"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it.'" (Isa 30:21) It is God who guided me to set foot on this road of seminary study that has broadened the boundaries of my ministry in faith. Now that I have graduated, I am more determined to be a committed disciple of the Lord. Having the privilege of being a member of the spiritual family of HKBTS is a reward beyond my expectation and a blessing of a life time!

Yau Fung-yin (M.Div.)

After many years of Christian ministry and seminary studies, I have gained deeper understanding and assurance of faith. I will not forget the Seminary's motto and our mission: "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." (2Ti 2:15)

Ho Ka-kit (M.Div.)

I must thank the church for its gracious love to me in providing me with a sabbatical leave that I began my further studies in pastoral counseling. I also thank HKBTS's teachers for their instruction, assistance, and acceptance of my weaknesses. Above all, I must thank God for his grace to heal my old wounds through the learning in my pastoral counseling studies. I pray that I can apply what I have learned as I continue serving the Lord!

Lo Mei-kuen (M.P.C.)

"I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." (Jn 12:24)


"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb 12:2)

Thank God for all His grace!

Ko Sze-ching (M.P.C.)

I thank my teachers for giving me limited amount of homework with boundless acceptance. I thank my fellow students that even though we have had limited opportunities of coming together, I have been blessed by their unlimited care and love. I am most grateful to God for giving me limited reproofs while lavishing on me his unlimited forgiveness. I hope to use my limited life span to serve God who is infinite. I hope that He will take pleasure in accepting what I offer Him! Amen.

Chu Joi-chee (M.C.S.)




HKBTS is forever our support: The care and concern of teachers over the past few years has constantly strengthened our faith and provided me with the assurance that our souls can rest in the midst of difficulties and hardships and that we can continue to be taught and be commissioned to serve.

Shum Wai-hung (B.A.P.S.)

“I will never fail you nor forsake you.” (Heb 13:5) Going through these four years of seminary life has made me understand more deeply this promise of God. The whole process of my studies has been a roller-coaster ride with many ups and downs in life, but the Lord’s grace has been unlimited and steady. Thanks to God for His care and love. For the support, teaching, encouragement and concern, I am grateful to my family members, teachers, fellow-students, church pastors, brothers and sisters, and close friends.

Ng Hang-kwan (B.A.P.S.)




Life begins with God’s great love to men and women. I have been given true freedom because of Christ’s costly grace. Ministerial preparation begins with God’s preparation. At the Seminary established by God, I have overcome life’s constraints with God’s help. True service begins with submission to God’s call, and so I have learned to follow our glorious Savior as I stand firm to my divine call.

Wong Kam-hing (B.A.P.S.)

Through these four years of summers and winters, God has broadened my vision and changed the course of my life through a great many people and events. I am thankful for every one of “you” whom I have had the privilege to meet and through you come to a better understanding of God’s love and righteousness, and His grace and law. I will miss HKBTS for the teachers I have come to respect and love and for the spiritual partners with whom I have shared mutual respect and encouragement.

Chan Lai-wah (B.A.P.S.)



I am grateful to the Heavenly Father for His selection and care. It is His hand of grace that has freed my soul from the tyranny of old wounds and debilitating self pity. It is His steadfast love that has taught me the meaning of unconditional love! It is His true light that has enabled me to stand firm and remain hopeful for my family! It is He who has called me to follow Him closely and love others with God’s love!

Sin Wai-yeung (B.A.P.S.)

Remembering my four years of seminary study has caused so many feelings to well up in my heart. I have experienced the pain as I was being broken. I have suffered the sorrow of being demolished and the joy of being rebuilt and healed. I have experienced God’s faithful watch and care over me as He has guided and led me, holding my hand every step of the way. I long to offer up to Him all that I have learned. I will strive to be an unashamed workman, never losing sight of the ultimate aim (ἵδιος) of being a Christian.

Lau Chun-ngai (B.A.P.S.)

Having finished the Master’s Degree Thesis is God’s grace; to me, it is a miracle. At one time, I lost the strength to go on with writing the thesis and yet the Lord urged me not to give up. I am grateful to Dr. Andres Tang, President Cho, and Ms. Mandy Chung. Thanks to my wife and daughter for their love. Over these years, there has always been hope in front of us.

Ma Sai-woon (Th.M.)

Experience God's **Grace** within My Own **Limitations**

Koo Wai-hung (M.Div.)

I am grateful for God's leading me to respond to His call, enter HKBTS for training in my mid-age, and experience these unforgettable three years. Now, I am about to enter the second half of my life and turn over a new and wonderful leaf.

As I look back I see evidence of God's abundant grace in these years.

Beginning from "Learning to Recognize My Own Limitations"

I still remember attending the Spiritual Formation Camp before the new school term began. Late in the afternoon of the first day, the Seminary set aside a time for first year students to share among ourselves. On the first day and in that late afternoon when we shared the difficulties, one remark from Dr. Andres Tang impressed me so deeply that it still rings in my ears. He said, "You have to learn to recognize your own limitations and to accept these limitations." These words raised the curtain for my three years of seminary training and began the process in which I would experience God's grace in such a wonderful way while accepting my own "limitations."

For one like me who has entered mid-age, to re-enter a new life of study involved many constraints. It is true that my physical strength, mental capability, eyesight and memory have declined to some extent but greater limitations came from the more practical situations: as a husband and a father of two children, I had to shoulder my family responsibility and I also had to face my limitations in meeting these responsibilities. Very often, after fulfilling my family duties, it would already be 11 pm before I could "begin my work" to revise and do my homework. Time was most precious for me. I had at one time tried to let go of my family responsibilities but when my wife tutoring our two children single-handedly, handling disputes between them and helping them do their homework while she had to deal with her own teaching workload, I felt great indescribable sadness! I am most grateful to my wife for her consideration and support as she faithfully helped me overcome the difficulties I encountered

one after another. I have learned to reciprocate her love by refraining from starting early my work!

These three years of seminary study have enabled me to once again learn to "understand my own limitations." To me, to respond seriously to God's call is to learn to do well every single homework assignment. I have

no excuse not to try hard to study hard simply because of my limitations. In these months and years of training, I came to understand that "recognizing my limitations" is to accept that I am a finite being since only God is infinite. I have learned to discern what is more important and to lay down "what I want to do but that is not really so important." These three years' experience of being polished by God has not been easy for me, but I can say that God's grace has always been sufficient!

The Singing Seminary

Joining "The Hill Singers" also enabled me to experience God's grace in my seminary studies. To me, the choir is a place to discipline oneself as a team member. Therefore, I chose this ministry post within my "limitations." Wednesday is scheduled for choir practice, and this became a challenge to my managing the already heavy school work. But then, the regular choir practice also served as a discipline over the past three years. I constantly reminded myself to take every choir practice seriously and to treasure the preparation for subsequent choral presentations. Over the past three years, "The Hill Singers" went to minister in different churches and traveled to the Mainland three times for church music exchange. I could experience how God's wonderful creation of music and found myself touched



Wai-hung and his wife Suk-ching, their daughter How-yu and son Chin-yu

and jolted by the hymns as we sang them over and again. My heart overflowed with gratitude as I saw how the music moved and awoke hearts as "The Hill Singers" sang in different venues. So when President Cho announced that HKBTS would be a "Singing Seminary," my heart repeatedly echoed his words with a hearty Amen. It is my sincere prayer that God will help the Seminary to advance in this positive direction.

Cheer on, Buddy!

Besides acquiring spiritual knowledge and exercising spiritual discipline, I have also received another precious reward: coming to know a group of wonderful classmates. Although we might not always be in absolute agreement, I can honestly say that through these three years of interaction we have managed to build a strong community of support as we prepare for a life of ministry. We have moved from being strangers to being so closed that we call one another "buddy." Sometimes, in the stillness of the night, when we are sitting at our computers doing our homework, the words appear on the monitor, "Buddy, cheer on." Such encouragement and friendship among our classmates have kept us from feeling lonely or isolated throughout these three years of study. At times, there would appear in our mail

box a card of encouragement or a small box of throat lozenge to express our mutual support. I pray with thanksgiving for the love that is felt among classmates and for the brotherly love that is expressed through such mutual support. It is this kind of love that enables us to become both a community of faith and a disciple community!

Endless Thanksgiving

Looking back over my learning experience at HKBTS, I must offer my endless thanksgiving to God, especially for His preparation for a team of dedicated teachers who are not only scholars but also the life mentors. At this point, I give thanks to each of you, our teachers for your love and concern, your teaching and pastoral care, your high expectation of us, and your kindness at difficult times. You have enabled us to grow and mature in our lives over these three years. I must thank our teachers on behalf of our students and thank our Father God for all of our teachers. My prayer is that He will continue to look after HKBTS, train more unashamed workmen who faithfully ministers for God all their lives, and who correctly handle God's Word of truth!

**GRADUATES'
SHARING**

All Is Grace from God

Chan Yee-wah (B.A.P.S.)

Take a Moment's Pause to Number My Days

"The length of our days is seventy years or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away . . . Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." (Ps 90: 10-12)

Looking back over the time when I had just completed the diploma program in theology (that was more than four years ago), I paused to number my days. God led me to re-consider an idea that had appeared to me more than ten years ago. Could I really be chosen by God to be His servant like those faithfully ministering pastors and ministers? After a period of prayer and questioning, and after receiving affirmation from family members,



Yee-wah and her husband Ka-on, their son Chee-hong and daughter Hong-ying

the church pastor and many brothers and sisters, I decided to respond to God's call to be fully theologically trained and I eventually applied to study in HKBTS.

A Class of Very Different Students Wonderfully Coming Together

God's leadership is so wonderful and it always exceeds my expectation. That year there were only seven students in the B.A.P.S. class in which I studied. Each had a unique personality and we came with varying background of growth and academic qualifications and from seven different churches. With the age difference between the oldest and the youngest being more than ten years, we got together and generated chemical reactions. There were moments when we burst out laughing and there were times when tears streaming down our faces. However, in these four years of study, we continued to support and pray for one another. The strength that God gave us allowed us to walk together through this stage of seminary training.

As for my studies at the Seminary, I truly thank God for His abundant grace. From the moment I applied to HKBTS, He has continued to give me strength and courage. To me, a housewife, to pass the entrance examination seemed an impossible mission. But God led me step by step to go through this examination and then the interview until I was finally admitted into the Seminary. However, my first semester's study was a period of great difficulty as I constantly groped my way. I often found the contents of the courses incomprehensible and was overwhelmed by the teachers' requirements. In addition, we as fellow students, had found it hard to relate to one another. At that point, I queried whether I could stay on until I had finished the whole study program. Yet, relying on God who strengthened me, I was able to complete my four years of seminary study systematically and with a sense of peace.

I Was Honored to Be the Oldest in Class

God endowed me with the grace of being the oldest in class! In the presence of six classmates who were younger than I, I was a little nervous at first. I was afraid of how they would look at me and I wondered if they would keep me at a distance because of our age difference. I found that they respected me as an elderly person and never rejected me as a fellow student. As a mother of two young children, I could not help but show my motherly nature, so my classmates accepted me as a "mom," regarding me as "the mom of the class." It was true that I came with a bit more life experience than they and yet the need to get along with members of a new generation incited me to think

in new ways and I found myself being challenged to integrate some of the ideas of my young classmates with mine. However, I believe the reason why God put us together before going into the ministry field is for us whom He called to be chiseled and molded to become God's useful vessels.

"Great Talents Take Time to Mature" Can Also Be Joyful

God has not only molded me through my classmates who have always walked beside me but He has also showered me with blessings through the Seminary's teachers, His agents. First, President Cho constantly spoke to the entire Seminary family, encouraging us all to grow with one-heartedness toward an important goal: An excellent seminary. I was inspired by the President's determination and witnessed that we have a team of excellent teachers. The opportunity to be their students is truly evidence of God's grace in my life.

Our teachers not only dedicate themselves to teaching but they also "blend" with students as they play basketball and football together and take an active part in students' activities. To me, their words of reminder and encouragement will continue to be useful to me throughout my life. I remember that on the first day of a philosophy class, the teacher reminded us that some of us who received God's call at a mature age should joyfully demonstrate that "great talents take time to mature." This statement meant a great deal to me. It has been engraved deeply in my heart. Of course, I am no great talent but just an earthenware vessel. Even so, I can achieve and am now able to graduate from the Seminary. Our teachers also shoulder the duty of spiritual mentors, walking beside us through difficult days and develop beautiful spirituality in us. I am grateful to each of our teachers for their sacrifice. Thank you for your love and teaching.

Every moment in the past four years has been deeply engraved on my mind. I will cherish these moments as the most beautiful memories of my life. It was never easy for me to complete my four years of seminary study, but to us as BAPS graduates, what we have learned is just the basic material and is a starting-point. We long to have the opportunity to do further study in the future. Last but not least, let me take this opportunity to give thanks to my family for giving me their quiet but faithful support all along. At this moment as I look back and also look ahead to the future, I truly thank God for His abundant grace and pray that He will bestow upon me a heart of wisdom, equipping me to be a faithful, unashamed servant for the rest of my life.

Our Graduates and New Students Need Your Prayer Support



HKBTS's faculty, Prof. and Mrs. Thomas Long are pictured with our new students after the Opening Convocation.

Please pray with us for our graduates that our Lord will lead each of them on the road of ministry so that they can be victorious over all the difficulties and to breakthrough all the constraints, to be servants who are faithful, excellent yet humble, always pleasing God, and vessels useful to God all their lives.

Please pray with us for our new students that our Lord will bestow upon them faith and strength, helping each of them adapt to the new learning environment, and prompting them to encourage and support one another on campus so that together, in the gracious love of God, they can all know God better and experience His presence all their lives.

Master of Theology Program

Kwong Wai-chi, Richie	Lam Shun-fong	Lee Ting-yu, Eric	Ng Ka-yee, Louise	Shing Pui-king
Tsang Man-fai				

Master of Divinity Program

Cheung Ting	Cheung Wai-shun, Vincent		Chu Joi-chee, Cherry	Kwan Ho-ping
Lai Wai-hang	Lam Mei-ling	Lam Sik-cheung	Lam Wing-ting	Mak Wai-yan
Po Ling-yan	Shum Ching-kwan	Yuen Sau-king	Choi Wan-kee	Cheung Wai-man
Sung King-cheong	Wong Wai-kwan			

Master of Christian Studies

Chu Ming-yee	Ng Chung-yin	Lai Wing-yee	Lau Siu-wing	Lo Suk-han, Sarah
Chiang Sau-kuan	Yung Hoi-man			

Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies

Chan Pak-yui	Cheng Ka-man	Cheung Chin-pong	Cheung Wai-lun	Kan Hoi-ki
Lee Chi-ning	Liu Lai-wa	Shek Sau-wan	Shum Man-yan	So Mei-ho
Tsang Hing-chung	Tsang Wai-hung	Wong Mei-yung	Yau Wai-sze, Windy	

Non-classified Student:

Chan Yee-wah	Ng Kwok-keung
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Characteristics

of a *Great Commission* Disciple Community

Rev. Pak Loh

(Director of Mission
Dynamics Center)

When we say HKBTS is a disciple community, it means all teachers, students, and staff members should display the qualities of a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is indeed the very core nature of our HKBTS community. In other words, we carry the attitude and life of Jesus whenever we go. Such a community will be a community full of God's wisdom and grace, a community with the Heavenly Father's ministry in mind.

We can look from different perspectives to examine this disciple community but one indispensable perspective is through the lens of Christian mission. In Matthew 28:16-20, the classic passage on mission, there are three spiritual characteristics Jesus' disciples have which characterize them as the first "Great Commission disciple community" of the New Testament. These three spiritual characteristics are also what HKBTS can learn in terms of our mission involvements. I pray that we can all encourage one another to thrive and enable HKBTS to become a dynamic Great Commission disciple community.

I. Faith

Verse 16: "Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go."

After Jesus' resurrection, the angel appeared before Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to announce that Jesus had risen from the dead. The women were sent to tell Jesus' disciples to go to Galilee where they would see Jesus for

themselves. This was a very special invitation because Jesus knew that His disciples' response would be positive so that they could be entrusted as the first ones to answer the call of the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations. These disciples would be given the great task of baptizing all who believed and teaching new converts all Jesus had commanded them. Theirs was the mind-boggling task of launching a mission campaign to expand the kingdom of heaven to all the world. Such a daunting mission campaign was launched by this little community of disciples who were willing to commit themselves to Christ Jesus with one heart and one mind. As the disciples began to lead this movement, they made it possible that the Great Commission could be successively passed on to other ordinary believers.

Certainly, the two "Marys" were afraid yet filled with joy as they ran to tell this to the disciples. On the way, they met the risen Lord Himself and heard Him say, "Peace be with you." The two women at once clasped Jesus' feet and worshipped Him with pure hearts. Jesus once again admonished them to tell their "brothers" to go to Galilee and to assure them emphatically that they would see Him there. Here, Jesus did not use the term "disciples," instead He called them "brothers," indicating that a disciple community should be a close knit community, like a family. This disciple community had to have faith to go to Galilee because they were still afraid and not yet too sure about Jesus' resurrection. Without sufficient faith, they definitely would not have gone to Galilee and to the mountain

where Jesus instructed them to meet Him. Their faith that moved them to go to the mountain in Galilee meant that they were sure of what they hoped for and certain of what they could not yet see. Such a faith enabled the disciples to have full confidence in Jesus' resurrection, not to mention there was the testimony of the two "Marys" which was not purely fictitious. This kind of faith could only have been born out of a close relationship with Jesus; it could not become mature overnight without any direct personal experience, without rational affirmation and without taking the first step with courage. Having followed Jesus for three years, His disciples could set out to Galilee with calm, serene faith. In fact, at this point, their faith in Jesus came to its climax.

What is our faith to God? On our spiritual journey, to what extent is our faith ready to be put to the test? What is it that we need to make a greater effort to learn in order to make HKBTS a community of great faith?

2. Worship

Verse 17: "When they saw him, they worshipped him."

With faith the disciples went up the mountain in Galilee and when they saw Jesus, they immediately worshipped Him. This is the most natural expression of their true feelings but it is also a rational response. From an affective viewpoint, the disciples did not understand how Jesus rose from the dead. Neither did they know where he had gone after the resurrection nor did they know how to face the chief priests and the elders who had Jesus crucified. The disciples only knew that there was a void of dejection and disorientation in their souls. After seeing Jesus, that void was broken so that they were filled with joy. This joy which had been lost but now restored drove them to throw themselves into a kind of ultimate worship. Although the Bible does not mention in detail how they worshiped Jesus, we can imagine that their worship must have been no less intense to their earlier worship when Jesus called them to follow Him (Lk 5:1-11).

From a rational point of view, the disciples would then naturally think about many of Jesus' teaching in the past. Although they did not fully understand all of His teaching, they were now personally experiencing what He taught about His resurrection for resurrected Jesus was standing right in front of them. In the presence of the resurrected Jesus, they sincerely worshipped Him in spirit and in truth and affirmed Christ's resurrection. If they did not worship the resurrected Jesus, the

disciples could not truly call Jesus Christ their Lord. Similarly, if the disciples did not affirm Jesus as their Lord, they could not be given the Great Commission from Jesus.

Worship is the powerhouse of mission when we passionately show our reverence towards God and submit to His will through our worship. Only the community which emphasizes worship can take up the responsibility of mission because only when we prostrate ourselves before God with reverence can we really experience our relationship with God. Only then can we fully comprehend God's great love and sorrow towards the lost and be able to take up God's mission with which He has entrusted us. It is through the generated passion from the worship that the disciple community can lead others to come to Christ. Not only can they receive God's redemptive grace but they can also become committed disciples who take Jesus as the Lord of their lives and worship Him in spirit and in truth. This principle of "becoming the Lord's disciples → worship → mission → leading other people to become Jesus' disciples" is the very foundation of the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

When Jesus revealed Himself after His resurrection, His disciples immediately worshipped Him. However, there were some disciples who doubted. Does it show their faith was not as strong as others? This is not necessarily so. Here we can see that the spiritual journey of each person is not the same. Our learning paths and growth in faith normally go through different stages with some moving faster and some moving slower, sometimes going deeper and sometimes remaining a bit shallower. What is most important is that we are walking on God's narrow path and are walking together. May we be thus reminded that in a community we have to complement one another and help to sustain one another with God's sacrificial love under the guidance of the Holy Spirit because "those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable" (1 Cor 12:22). I am convinced that those strong and faithful believers can help those with doubts to grow. Jesus did not refuse to give the Great Commission to the disciples even though some of them had doubts. On the contrary, he took the initiative to go to the eleven disciples and tell them clearly about the Great Commission that they were to shoulder together.

Therefore, in our HKBTS's disciple community, we have to acknowledge Jesus as our Lord and take His lordship seriously. However, individual acknowledgement is not enough as the

Great Commission is the mission and responsibility of all His disciples. To shoulder the Great Commission together, we have to learn how to worship well together and to be convicted that acknowledging Jesus as our Lord is the heart of worship.

3. Obey

Verse 20: "... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you..."

The main verb in the Great Commission is not "to go" to evangelize the world but to "make disciples of all nations." "To go" or a better translation "going" is a participle that describes the main verb, pointing out when we go to a place or wherever we go. "Make disciples" is that main verb and thus the foundation of Christian missions is to make disciples rather than merely going. Of course if we do not take the initiative and actively go, we cannot create opportunities to make disciples. Therefore, "going" and "make disciples" are closely allied.

Therefore, we see that it is a faithful disciple community which truly worship God brings about missions or puts into practice the Great Commission. These communities not only teach and baptize but they are obedient to God's commands. A disciple community that does not obey what God has commanded cannot develop passion for missions no matter who officiates the baptism and with whatever form. This is analogous to students being taught by good teachers and inculcating profound learning and wisdom, but then the students refuse to obey and practice what has been taught. What benefit do the students have?

In Greek, the root word for "disciple" and "learn" are the same. That means a disciple was originally an apprentice needing actively to put what was learned into practice. Obedience is the basic characteristic of a disciple. In fact, whether in the Old Testament or in the New Testament, obedience is a very important theme. For example, in the Old Testament, Yahweh demanded the Israelites to keep the covenant He had made with Abraham (Ge 17:9). In the New Testament, Jesus once said to the Jews who believed Him, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples" (Jn 8:31). Therefore, do not merely listen to the word, do what it says (Jas 1:22).

So, to enable others to "obey" God's commands more than mere teaching is required. There needs a process of teaching with great care to enhance students' understanding, assimilation and practice. So, the Great Commission is not only to evangelize the unconverted, but it also involves a great effort to build up a disciple community that "obeys" what God has commanded. In order that a community begins to obey God's commandments and to undergo life transformation, the gospel ambassadors must first live out the word of life with commitment.

However, some missionary organizations only take an interest in winning people to Christ as their goal. For example, they go to an unreached people group and present the gospel through showing the "Jesus Film." When there are people who come to Christ, they will consider they have already done their job and move on to do the same elsewhere. When it comes to the time to issue a report of their ministry, they gladly announce having led a large amount of people to Christ. Yet, this is definitely not the desired mode for carrying out the Great Commission. Missionary organizations must have a sound strategic plan for the incarnational ministry. Missionaries need to dwell among the people to proclaim and demonstrate the gospel clearly. Only then will people be transformed to be obedient followers of God.

Jesus says, "...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you..." To put it bluntly, if we take away the verb "obey," the sentence can still be fluent but we are no longer talking about Jesus' Great Commission. It is not too hard to teach others, but to teach them to obey demands wisdom and spiritual strength. Similarly, the teachers at HKBTS not only teach various subjects but also model and disseminate knowledge with conviction. They aim to see their lives be the examples so their students' lives can be challenged and transformed by God. And together, teachers and students build an obedient community in which members obey God's commandment.

What then is a Great Commission disciple community? Disciples must have a vibrant faith to trust, a pure heart in worship, and an obedient life to practice God's command. If we possess these characteristics, God will be pleased with our disciple community at HKBTS. Also, we will live in the likeness of Christ and devote ourselves to the ministry of the Heavenly Father.

Introducing our Director of the Mission Dynamics Center: **Rev. Pak Loh**

The Rev. Pak Loh, Director of Mission Dynamics Center and Lecturer of Practical Theology, assumed his office in August. Rev. Loh with his wife, Jennifer and their two sons, Nathaniel and Aidan moved to Hong Kong from Canada. Rev. Loh and his family moved into our Faculty and Staff Quarters and became new members of HKBTS's big family.

Born in Hong Kong, Rev. Loh went to Canada for his undergraduate study which was a double major in Sports and Economics in 1986. God called Rev. Loh to serve Him full time when he was a sophomore and so he went on after graduation to study in Ontario Theological Seminary where he received his M.Div. degree in 1992. After completing his seminary degree he went on a five-month short term mission to Africa. In November that year, he served as a minister in the English section of North York Chinese Baptist Church in Toronto. In 2004 he joined Overseas Missionary Fellowship (Canada) as Director of Mobilization in Chinese Churches. It was not until 2007 that he joined the Canadian Baptist Mission as the missionary coordinating all the Chinese ministries. As he was committed to his mission ministries, at the same time, he began his graduate study in the D.Min. program (majored in cross-cultural studies).

Rev. Loh hopes that through his ministry in the Mission Dynamics Center as part of the Seminary, he can help recruit and nurture competent mission talents. Furthermore, through being involved in research studies in missions and in the provision of resources, he hopes to build a stronger partnership among local churches, overseas mission boards and mission organizations. In the Seminary, he and the faculty team seek to strengthen students' consciousness for missions by means of class lectures, small group sharing, and seminars, and to systematically strengthen short-term mission ministries as we seek to put into

practice global discipleship for the building of a disciple community that ministers in the kingdom of heaven.



Rev. Loh likes to get along with people and he takes relationship building seriously. He is a tall and big person, with healthy skin tone. It is not surprising that he is fond of playing the basketball and squash perhaps giving people the impression of an extrovert. However, he admits frankly that his personality type is introvert and that he has a quiet disposition. He is a Sudoku who enjoys playing with thoughts in his spare time and likes watching TV documentary series.

≡ Academic Affairs News ≡

◆ **Opening Convocation and Diamond Jubilee Belote Lectures**

The 2011-2012 Opening Convocation was held on August 23 followed immediately by the first day of the Diamond Jubilee Belote Lectures from August 23 to 26. For this year's lectures, we invited the world renowned American master of preaching, Professor Thomas Long. The themes for the morning and evening lectures were respectively: "From Preparation to Proclamation: Expounding on the Sermon Preparation Procedure to Its Demonstration" and "Preaching the God of Love in the Suffering World." Throughout the four days of lecturers, many alumni, pastors and ministers, and brothers and sisters in the Lord joined our faculty and students to attend the lectures. Total morning attendance exceeded 1000 while the total evening attendance exceeded 900. Dr. Long explored the ministry of preaching in his lectures and the audience responded enthusiastically.

◆ **Full Time Ministry Seminar**

The Full Time Ministry Seminar was held on November 5. The seminar was designed for those interested in full time ministry and those wanting to know more about the Seminary's study program.

◆ **Student Recruitment for Main Programs Spring 2011-2012**

Student recruitment for the spring term 2011-12 into the main programs has begun.

The Master of Divinity (7-year part time), the Master of Divinity (Further Studies)(5-year part time), the Master of Pastoral Counseling (7-year part time), and the Master of Christian Studies (5-year part time). The deadline for application will be November 30 and the spring term will begin on January 16, 2012.

◆ **Diamond Jubilee Graduation Ceremony for All the Seminary's Programs**

For the Seminary's Diamond Jubilee, this year's Graduation Ceremony will be held at Queen Elizabeth Stadium. A Joint Programs Graduation Ceremony for the Seminary's main programs, the Lay Theological Education Department, and the Distance Education Program will be held in this special year of the Seminary's Diamond Jubilee. The Rev. Dr. Chow Lien-hwa will deliver the message. Church pastors and ministers, deacons and elders, brothers and sisters in Christ are cordially invited to join us as we and our graduates offer up our thanksgiving to God.

From the Chaplain

How to Accompany Those Who Came across a Trauma?

Rev. Brian Lam (Chaplain)

There are always accidents, big or small, in our lives. We can explain many of these accidents but some remain incomprehensible.

It is not so important to find out why a traumatic incident happened. Instead, we need to know what to do in case someone has an accident. How should we react when we accompany them?

Let Job 2:11-13 speak to us:

“When Job’s three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him. When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads. Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.”

First, we can arrange to go to accompany the one who has had the accident. As Job's friends seemed to know, being with the person is very important and more so if we ourselves have company. We may not have training in professional counseling but in the time of crisis, some members of the faith community keep company of the one suffering from an accident. Those accompanying the ones who suffer represent the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In our internet era when everything seems to be based on virtual reality, it is even more important for us to be in person at the scene of the accident to accompany the sufferer.

For us to engage in the ministry of accompanying the sufferers, what are some of the things we can do? We should express sympathy and give comfort. A practical approach is to mirror what the person in mourning does in accordance with the cultural situation. In the case of Job's friends, they tore their robes, sprinkled dust on the head, and sat on the ground, which were exactly the things what Job had done (Job 1:20, 2:8).

Accompaniment to the grief and loss is never easy because people in grief can change into a totally different person, perhaps in the way they act and speak that is different from the usual manner. Maybe the person undergoes such emotional ups and downs that the one before us does not appear what he usually does, even to the extent that his look has changed. The one with whom we have been so familiar may have suddenly changed into a stranger. This is something very hard to accept.

There is one more thing which is not at all easy: We simply do not know what to say to the person. Do we really believe in the importance of accompaniment? How precious it is to be there quietly beside the person in grief. Yet, in today's world, we feel the pressure to say something even when we don't know what to say. Gathering in silence around the suffering person will allow the Holy Spirit to speak to that person's heart and work in ways we cannot imagine. Do we truly believe in all these?

Admissions and Registration Office

Mandy Chung (Registrar)

The Admissions and Registration Office has just spent an ultra busy summer recruiting new students. We at the same time have the logistics of the theological community wide lecture

on preaching while getting ready for the new school term. In addition to our usual responsibilities, this year we are responsible for coordinating with other offices the Diamond Jubilee Joint-Programs Graduation Ceremony to be held on Sunday, November 27.

This year we admitted a total of 45 new students, including 6 in the Master of Theology Program, 16 in the Master of Divinity Program, 14 in the Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies, 7 in the Master of Christian Studies Program, and 2 non-classified students. This school year, we have far more new students than the graduating ones, giving this year a completely different feel for me. There is more of a bustle and excitement on campus this year. For example, the canteen has become crowded and joyfully noisy at lunch time. The addition of some fairly young new students give vigor to the Seminary! I pray that the Heavenly Father will bless our new students, helping each of them to adjust quickly to the Seminary's learning environment, and leading them quickly to throw themselves into seminary life for the joy in their theological studies!

The Full Time Ministry Seminar, held on November 5, a Saturday, is for those brothers and sisters who are dedicated to exploring the engagement of full time ministry or theological training. This year, we will begin the Seminar at 10:00 am to allow coverage of more new components so that it will be a more substantial program. The theme addresses a question asked, "What is the purpose of theological study?" Our teachers will give their responses and new students will share how they sense the call of God. There will also be the lively "Talk with Seminary Professors," message, worship and praise. We will then introduce the HKBTS study programs. Those interested in joining the Seminar can call 2768 5130 for enquiry or log on the Seminary's webpage www.hkbts.edu.hk for relevant information.

We will continue our student recruitment exercise for the spring term this school year (2011-2012). Owing to our curriculum design, those admitted in the spring can only be part-time students. Recruitment for the Master of Theology Program has already begun. For details, please call 2768 5130 or log on our webpage. Please note the deadline for application is November 30 and the spring term will begin on January 16, 2012.

Church pastors and ministers, and Christian brothers and sisters are welcome to audit courses offered in the 2011-2012 spring term. Please take note of the information released in early December on our webpage.

Lay Theological Education Department

Toto Choi (Associate Director)

Move forward, Keep Moving forward

Every October is time for the beginning of the school term for several LTED evening programs. Among them, Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies Program demands the longest period of study (at least 5 years). Most of the B. A. students work in the day time and just a few individual students are retired or housewives. These students hold different positions of responsibility in the society and in their churches, having to withstand stress from family, work, and church ministry. To them, making a commitment of five years or more in their study is no easy choice. Nevertheless, they bring with them the blessing of the Lord and the support from family and brothers and sisters in the Lord as they set out on the journey in anticipation of receiving holistic training in theology, enabling themselves to provide a more beautiful ministry in the future.

The B. A. program began as early as 1997, targeting those who dedicate themselves to the pursuit of theological knowledge and spiritual growth and who are willing to put their faith into practice and to commit themselves to Christian ministry. We hope that through providing a basic yet practical theological training program on a bachelor level, students can be holistically equipped in knowledge and practice. As a result, they can bear witness to the Christian gospel in their positions in society and model the vocation of "priesthood of all believers" in church ministry. The period of over ten years has seen B. A. program undergoing different changes and development. The major subject areas offered include "biblical studies," "music ministry" and "caring and counseling ministries." Students can select different majors according to their interest so that, in the future, they can use their spiritual gifts to the fullest in their churches and in their workplace.

B. A. requires students to take no more than 54 courses. It is remarkable for those who can go through at least five years of study in the evening and graduate successfully. In 2002, there were 13 in the first class of graduates. This year we have 8 graduates. We have had a total of 138 graduates throughout the years. Over the years of their study, they experience God's rich blessings and gain not only knowledge but also spiritual transformation and growth.

However, under the pressure of modern life's busy tempo

and the stress from multi-dimensional sources, Christian believers may be unable to set aside five years for the study or they may lack confidence to fulfill the program requirements. In view of all this, we launched a diploma program (30 subjects) and a certificate program (8 subjects), both at bachelor degree level, in 1998 and 2006 respectively. This is meant to allow students to build a solid faith foundation and spirituality as they train part of the basic program. They can receive training in different stages by following the prescribed order of the program. After completing the certificate or diploma programs, students who want to do further studies in the diploma or bachelor degree programs will be given course exemption accordingly. In fact, in recent years many students have taken the certificate or diploma programs first and then, according to individual situation, decide whether they will continue to study in the bachelor degree program. In addition to the 138 bachelor degree graduates, 50 have graduated from the diploma and certificate programs all these years.

Most of the graduating students will continue to bear witness to Christ in their work place or occupation. But there are some who, having gone through several years of study, have decided to respond to God's call and so keep moving forward. They are willing to change their direction in life by committing themselves to the enterprise of the kingdom of heaven. In response to God's leadership and call, quite a few of the graduates from the bachelor degree or the diploma or certificate programs plan have gone for further studies in HKBTS or other seminaries. Members of this group are serving as ministers in churches, in para-church organizations, ministering in Mainland China or going overseas as missionaries today. Looking back over the past, the program a student chooses to take is just a starting point. Once they willingly set out on the path to be equipped, God has accompanied them all the way, leading them forward, invigorating them to move forward, move forward, and keep moving forward!

≡ Distance Education Program ≡

Chow Pui-shan (Director)

The 2011 Fall Term Diploma Programs began on September 3 with the New Students Orientation being held on the same day. New students came to us from Hong Kong and overseas with diverse backgrounds: some are

working in para-church organizations; others come to Christ in correctional institutions; still others have completed the certificate program and continue to take the diploma program; then there are those taking individual courses of the diploma program as electives. What made us feel excited was that, before the school term began, a new student had already registered to join the Diamond Jubilee Belote Lectures held in late August.

Most of the times, the number of those applying to take the Diploma Program in Christian Studies exceeds the number of those applying for the Diploma Program in Biblical Studies. Surprisingly, this fall has been the exception. One student in the Mainland has completed our On-line Certificate Program in New Testament Studies within a year. The student then immediately enrolled in the Diploma Program in Biblical Studies, and paid for the whole program fee in a one-off payment. We can see how she is thirsty for the Word of God and admire her zeal in studying the Bible and trust in DEP.

In October, soon after a new term began in fall, we immediately began the student recruitment exercise for spring 2012. Besides the original certificate and diploma programs, we also introduce the higher level Advanced Diploma Program in Biblical Studies. We expect that students will continue to make a great effort to study God's Word, advance towards a mature spiritual life and take learning seriously. In the future, they can go on to serve as "mentors" in the church (Heb 5: 12-13).

On the afternoon of November 27, the Seminary will hold its Diamond Jubilee Joint Programs Graduation Ceremony held at Queen Elizabeth Stadium in Wan Chai. This will be our first ever Joint Programs Graduation Ceremony. It is a most precious opportunity for the graduates of the main programs, the Lay Theological Education Department, and the Distance Education Program to come together to share God's grace with their relatives and friends, and brothers and sisters from our churches.

We have also received a testimony from a graduate living in England. He has just completed the Diploma Program in Christian Studies and he may not be able to come back to Hong Kong to attend the Graduation Ceremony. He wrote: "It has always been my wish to take a systematic theological program of study because I have always wanted to be equipped theologically for an effective service for God. Thank God that although I have experienced many obstacles

in the past four and a half years, by the grace of God I have completed the program and can use what I have learned in my ministry . . . In these difficult days, God has given me extra strength, especially through this program, imparting me with theological knowledge, biblical understanding, and the opportunity to reflect upon my Christian faith. This has enabled me to absorb new subject matter and content to design the fellowship meetings and to bring challenge and reflection about our faith to brothers and sisters so that together we can grow spiritually. Moreover, I have also learned to guide our fellowship (for overseas Putonghua-speaking Chinese) in its direction and development. It has been extremely hard for me to throw myself into the busyness of ministry and do well in my job while at the same time having to take the seminary study program. Even so, I must say this program has really been the key for me in the ability to shoulder the responsibilities of this ministry.'

May our Lord continue to bless every student, whether they are still studying or have already graduated. I pray that God will continue to watch over their hearts as they pursue truth so that God can use them! May God continue to use the co-workers in DEP as we work together to disseminate the program farther and wider and to empower more Christian believers to equip and edify the brothers and sisters.

Student Union News

Law Ming-yuen (Chairperson)

God's grace is immeasurable! Thank God ! The new school term formally began following the Opening Convocation on August 23. Every year, before school begins, the Seminary has the Spiritual Formation Camp so that teachers and students can be spiritually fed and renewed before they begin to face the challenges of a new school year. The theme for this year's Spiritual Formation Camp was "From Human Fear . . . to Fear of the Lord . . ." The camp was organized by the Spiritual Devotion Department of the Student Union and our speakers were members of our faculty, Dr. Andres Tang, Dr. Sam Tsang, and Rev. Brian Lam. Once again, students came away from the camp saying that they were touched and renewed by the Holy Spirit as they reflected on the learning and wise advice from their teachers. I found most helpful was the warning: Not to allow myself to be manipulated nor to handle my own fear by manipulating

others. I was reminded always "to go back to God, fear God."

Thank God! Immediately after this year's Opening Convocation, we were privileged to have the four-day-three-evening Diamond Jubilee Belote Lectures. In this year's Belote Lectures, God sent us the renowned master of preaching, Professor Thomas Long, as our speaker. In the morning lectures, Professor Long took narrative preaching as the model for preaching demonstration. He personally analyzed his own sermons. He shared with us the steps of his sermon preparation procedure and gave his personal views on preaching. In the Seminary, our teachers have always advised us sincerely but in a serious tone that we must always be faithful to the Word of God in all our preaching. Our fellow students benefited a great deal as we not only learned for ourselves more about the preaching ministry and experienced good preaching. We also benefited from quite a lot of exchange with the speaker and other attendants.

Thank God! "HKBTs Is Our Family, Participate and Love One Another to Exhibit We Are One Family" is the theme for this year's Student Union. This year, God brought us not only new students but also new teachers, enriching our large Seminary family life. October 9 was the Parents' Day, organized by the Student Union with the theme, "The Same Kind of Love." We hope that fellow students can invite their family members and relatives, or even friends and church brothers and sisters to this event. We welcome them to join our spiritual family at this gathering to get acquainted with our teachers and students. At the same time, we hope to use this occasion as an opportunity for us to give testimonies. We want to testify to our parents and friends how God has acted in our lives and to share God's love. This way, more people may come to know that in the lives of this group of God-called seminary students, how God has encouraged us as we have responded to God's call and His great love for us. We want to give Christian witness to all participants that it is God who Himself has led us forward with His kindness and faithfulness. God's grace is immeasurable!

Faculty News

- ◆ **Dr. Eric Kwong**, Associate Professor of Practical Theology (World Religions Study), has written a new book, *The World's Ten Religious Traditions: A Glimpse of the Origins of the Religious World*, published by Harvest Press in July 2011.
- ◆ **Dr. Nathan Ng**, Associate Professor of Christian Thought (Church History), has written a new book, *Constructing the Church: Key Developments of the Medieval Church*, published by Logos Publishers Ltd. in August.
- ◆ **Dr. Sam Tsang**, Associate Professor of New Testament, has written a new book, *Commonly Misinterpreted Texts: Exegetical Fallacies in the New Testament*, published in September by Logos Publishers Ltd. Besides, Dr. Tsang has co-authored a book with Nancy Ou entitled, *Judges Characterized: Stories of Leadership, Women and Family*. Their book, published by Logos Publishers Ltd., has been awarded the Gold Medallion Book Awards for the Best Author(s) in the category of academic books in the Fifth Gold Medallion Book Awards. The Awards Ceremony is hosted by the Association of Christian Publishers Ltd. held in August.
- ◆ The book, *Holy Scripture: A Dogmatic Sketch*, translated by **Dr. Andres Tang**, Professor of Christian Thought (Theology and Culture), has been awarded the Gold Medallion Book Award for the Best Translator of academic books in the Fifth Gold Medallion Book Awards. Dr. Tang also finished the Chinese translation of John Caputo's book, *Philosophy and Theology*, which has been published by Logos Publishers Ltd. in September.
- ◆ The book, *Ten Principles of Old Testament Interpretation*, published by the Harvest Press and written by **Dr. Wong Fook Kong**, Associate Professor of Old Testament, has been awarded the Gold Medallion Book Award for the Best Church Ministry II (that is, the non-textbook category) in the Fifth Gold Medallion Book Awards.

Lay Theological Education Department

Application for enrolment for the following programs:

Master of Christian Studies Program (Major in Christian Communication)

Aim: To enable lay Christians with university education to integrate Christian faith with communication theories so that they can engage in theological reflection on present condition and the social situation and be able to communicate the Christian message effectively.

Bachelor / Diploma / Certificate of Christian Studies Program

This is a part-time, evening program. Students can directly apply to study.

Certificate program: Certificate Program of Christian Studies, Certificate Program of Music Ministry

Diploma Program: Diploma Program of Biblical Studies, Diploma Program of Music Ministry, Diploma Program of Care and Counseling Ministry

Bachelor Program: Students can choose to major in Biblical Studies, Music Ministry, Care and Counseling Ministry

After completing the Certificate / Diploma program, students who apply to study in the Diploma / Bachelor Degree Program, may get relevant credit hours (having passed the subject concerned) exempted upon acceptance and admission to the Program.

Throughout the year, the above program accept part-time students who may choose to receive full student status in the August.

Youth Ministry Diploma Program

Aim: To provide systematic training in ministerial skills and basic theology for those Christians who are interested in understanding the youth community and are committed to joining the youth ministry. The program takes approximately two and a half year to complete. Classes begin in April and meet every Monday evening. It is open to those who would like to study certain specific areas or topics.

Courses offered in the October to December quarter of the **Women Theological Training Diploma / Certificate Programs** (auditing is also welcome)

Course Name	Lecturer	Venue	Date / Time
Self-Understanding and Growth	Rev. Ng Suk-yin	Mongkok Education Center	Sep 27 – Oct 25 (Tue, 5 lessons) 9:30 am – 12:00 nn
Studying the Book of Philippians from Various Angles	Mr. Chow Yuk-ming	Mongkok Education Center	Nov 8 – Dec 13 (Tue, 6 lessons) 9:30 – 11:30 am
A Survey of the Prophet Books	Rev. Au Pak-ping	Applied Theological Education Center	Oct 18 – Dec 20 Class suspension on Nov 15, 22 (Tue, 8 lessons) 9:30 am – 12:00 nn
Spiritual Discipline	Ms. Lai Ka-yin	Mongkok Education Center	Nov 3 – Dec 1 (Thu, 5 lessons) 9:30 am – 12:00 nn
Personality, Temperament and Ministry	Mrs. Lam Mui Yim-wah	Mongkok Education Center	Oct 7 – Nov 25 (Fri, 8 lessons) 9:30 am – 12:00 nn

October to December quarter of the **Lay Theological Education Training Program** (auditing is welcome)

Course name	Lecturer	Venue	Date / Time
Public Speaking Skills of Creative Communication	Mr. Ho Hin-wing	Mongkok Education Center	Sep 19 – Nov 7 (Mon, 8 lessons) 7:00 – 10:00 pm
Preparation and Practice of Worship	Rev. Joseph Chi	Mongkok Education Center	Nov 14 – Jan 9, 2012; class suspension on Dec 26, Jan 2, 2012 (Mon, 8 lessons) 7:00 – 10:00 pm
The Many Faces of Death	Rev. Wong Man	Mongkok Education Center	Oct 11 – Nov 29; (Tue, 8 lessons) 7:15– 9:15 pm
Survey of the New Testament	Ms. Vivien Tsang	Applied Theological Education Center	Oct 12 – Dec 7; class suspension on Oct 19 (Wed, 8 lessons) 7:15– 9:45 pm
True Meaning and Practice of Prayer	Ms. Lai Ka-yin	Mongkok Education Center	Sep 8 – Oct 27 (Thu, 8 lessons) 7:15 – 9:45 pm
Educational Ministry for the Elderly	Ms. Yiu Fung	Mongkok Education Center	Oct 6 – Nov 24 (Thu, 8 lessons) 7:15 – 9:45 pm
Essence of Systematic Theology	Ms. Sandra Chow	Kwun Tong Swatow Baptist Church	Oct 13 – Dec 1 (Thu, 8 lessons) 7:15 – 9:45 pm

Tuition Locations:

Mongkok Education Center	10/F, Chung Kiu Commercial Building, 47-51 Shan Tung Street, Mong Kok
Applied Theological Education Center	7/F., Christian Building, 56 Bute Street, Mong Kok
Kwun Tong Swatow Baptist Church	11 Tsui Ping Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon.

For inquiry: call 2711 2552 or log on our website: www.hkbts.edu.hk/ited to download an application form.

Distance Education Program

The new diploma programs will begin in March 2012 while the certificate programs can begin at any time

Name of Program	Program Description	Admission Requirements	Date of Commencement	Registration Deadline
Diploma in Biblical Studies Program	Through an in-depth study of a specific book of the Bible, students are trained to do systematic hermeneutics and Bible study.	Secondary school leavers with their church pastor's recommendation	March and September	March semester : Hong Kong: February 10 Overseas: January 10 September semester : Hong Kong: August 10 Overseas: July 10
Diploma in Christian Studies Program	Designed for equipping students for ministry, the program helps students strengthen their foundation in the Christian faith, doctrine and theology.			
NEW Higher Diploma in Biblical Studies / Christian Studies Programs	Further studies for students completing the diploma program	Completion of the diploma program and with a church pastor's recommendation		
Certificate in N.T./O.T. Studies Programs	Introductory programs in biblical studies, leading students to study a specific book of the Bible systematically	All are welcome	Register at any time. Concessions in fees are available. Students can begin at any time.	
Elective students: Students can choose to study part of the program offered as correspondence courses according to their own personal interest. For details, please log on the "Distance Education" website.				

On-line Program	Program Description	Date of Commencement
On-line Certificate in New Testament Studies Program	An introductory program of the study of an individual book of the Bible in Chinese with a choice of either the traditional Chinese or the simplified Chinese versions. It is a diversified program providing an on-line resource room as well as a platform for communication between tutors and students.	Students can begin at any time with fee concessions. Trial study of the on-line program is welcome: http://distance.hkbts.edu.hk The User ID for the traditional Chinese version: 04YM0001 Code:guest The User ID for the simplified Chinese version: 04YM0002 Code:guest

For enquiries call 2768 5105, email address [deinfo@2768 5105](mailto:deinfo@27685105) or log on the distance education program webpage www.hkbts.edu.hk/dist.

Topical Lecture

Topic : **Disorder in the Church? Examining the Church's Nature by Looking at the Salvation Activities of the Triune God**
 Speaker : Dr. Andres Tang (Professor of Christian Thought)
 Content : Today, most people highlight the church as a community of human and all kinds of knowledge from social science and management are used to guide the practice of church work. The church's disorder arises from its emphasis on what it should do, forgetting what it truly is. This lecture seeks to look at the nature and purposes of the church from the kind, salvation activities of the triune God.
 Date : Nov 12 (Saturday) 2:30 – 4:00 pm
 Venue : Applied Theological Education Center (8/F, Christian Center, 56 Bute Street, Mongkok, Kowloon)

Registration: Free admission. For reservation, please call 2768 5105 or email deinfo@hkbts.edu.hk

Pastoral Continuing Education Center

Courses and talks offered from September to December

Course / Talk	Lecturer	Date	Time
Playing with Creative Ideas	Mr. Wu Yue-yung	Oct 3 (Mon)	9:30 am – 5:00 pm
Children's Development	Dr. Poon Wai-chi	October 17, 24, 31 (Mon)	1:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Drinking from the Fountain of Strength	Dr. Alexander Mak	Oct. 24 (Mon)	9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Making Use of Church History in Caring Ministry	Dr. Nathan Ng	Nov. 14 (Mon)	2:00 - 5:00 pm
Discipleship Training to Model after the Life of Christ	Rev. Chiu Sai-chiu	Nov. 21 (Mon)	9:30 am – 5:00 pm
Life and Sex: Contemporary Meaning of Christian Ethics	Dr. Kwan Kai-man	Nov 28, Dec. 12, 19 (Mon)	9:30 am - 12:30 pm
A More Beautiful Worship	Dr. Ng Wai-man	Dec. 5, 12, 19 (Mon)	2:00 - 5:00 pm

Readers can log on our webpage: www.hkbts.edu.hk/pce for details.

For application or enquiries, you can contact us at 2768 5179 by phone, 2630 1391 by fax or pce@hkbts.edu.hk by email. Application forms can be downloaded from the Seminary's website.

* Alumni Association members and graduates of HKBTS, ministers and seminary students of Baptist churches (including students in our ministerial training program and students taking degree programs in our Lay Theological Education Department, full time students in the 14-member seminaries of the Hong Kong Theological Education Association) can have tuition fee concessions. For details, please refer to the application form in the program pamphlet.

Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary Diamond Jubilee Joint Programs Graduation Ceremony

The Board of Trustees of the
Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary
Requests the honor of your presence
at the Diamond Jubilee Joint Programs
Graduation Ceremony of the Seminary
at 3:30 pm
on the twenty-seventh of November (Sunday)
in the year of Two Thousand and Eleven
at Queen Elizabeth Stadium
18, Oi Kwan Road, Wan Chai



鑽禧聯合畢業典禮

Publication News



Hill Road (Issue 27) has been published in July with "Family" as its theme while Issue 28 will be published in December with the theme "Biblical Theology." There will be seven thematic articles: "Theological Significance and Development of Demons in the Old Testament" (Wong Tin-sheung), "The Spirit of the Law: Teachings Regarding the Poor in the Pentateuch" (Wong Fook-kong), "Messianism in the Old Testament" (Pan Chou-wei), "The Unrighteous Will Not Inherit the Kingdom of God"— towards an Understanding of Paul's Soteriology" (Shum Shiu-lun), "A Rhetorical Study of Philippians and Its Theological Implications: A Preliminary Study" (Mak Kai-sun), "Community Socialization in the Theology of the Pastorals: A Rhetorical-Canonical Reading" (Sam Tsang) and "The New Biblical Theology Movement" (Lindsay Robertson). There are several miscellaneous articles and book reviews. *Hill Road* is available in local Christian book stores or you may obtain a copy at our Seminary or one of its urban centers. For enquiries or subscription, call 2768 5168.

Alumni News

- Alumnus **Hui Yuk-choi** (class of 1982) went to be with the Lord in Auckland, New Zealand on December 24, 2010.
- Alumna **Lam Yuk-sim** (class of 1990) was ordained pastor by ELCHK Living Spirit Lutheran Church on June 12 this year.
- Alumna **Wai Sau-ping** (class of 2000) and our student Law Chi-hung (M.Div.3) had their wedding ceremony held in Immanuel Baptist Church on July 1.
- Alumnus **Choi Wing-kau** (class of 1998) was ordained pastor by the Mennonite Church at Shatin Assembly of God Church on August 14.
- Alumnus **Eddie Tam** (class of 1993) was ordained pastor by Tsuen Wan Baptist Church on September 25.

Student Recruitment for Spring 2011-2012

Main Programs

Master of Divinity (7-year part-time)

Master of Divinity (Further Studies) (5-year part-time)

Master of Pastoral Counseling (7-year part-time)

Master of Christian Studies (5-year part-time)

Master of Theology

Date of Application for Admission

October 3 to November 30, 2011

First Day of Spring Term

January 16, 2012

For details, you may log on the Seminary's webpage:

www.hkbts.edu.hk or call 2768 5130 for enquiries

Full Time Ministry Seminar

Date : November 5 (Saturday)

Time : 9:30 am – 6:30 pm

Venue : HKBTS's Sai O Campus

I Nin Ming Road, Sai O, Sai Kung North

Intended Participants: Those wishing to understand more about God's calling and those considering committing themselves to full time Christian ministry and seminary study

Program Schedule:

9:30-10:00 am	Registration
10:00 – 10:15 am	Getting to know HKBTS
10:15 – 11:15 am	Introduction of Study Programs/Student Affairs/ Field Practicum
11:15am – 12:30 pm	“For What Do We Study Theology?”
12:30- 1:45 pm	Lunch, Exchange with Our Seminary Students
1:45 – 3:15 pm	Testimonies of God's Call
3:15 – 4:30 pm	Meet with Professors (individual/group) or Individual Meditation
4:30 – 5:30 pm	Worship, Praise and Short Message
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Sharing with Our Students, Prayer
6:30 pm	The Program Ends

Fee : \$50 / person (including supper)

Deadline: October 28

Enquiries: 2768 5130 by phone or log on www.hkbts.edu.hk

DONORS REPORT FOR JULY 2011

Education Fund (Church / Organization)

九龍國際浸信會	11,607.20
大角嘴浸信會	15,154.50
大埔浸信會	10,000.00
小西灣浸信會福音堂	2,000.00
元朗浸信會	16,000.00
屯門浸信教會	300.00
牛池灣竹園潮語浸信會	1,000.00
以馬內利浸信會	3,500.00
尖沙嘴國語浸信會	1,500.00
沙田浸信會	14,000.00
紅磡浸信會	3,500.00
香港仔浸信會	32,980.70
香港浸信教會	108,300.00
香港堅尼地城浸信教會	1,200.00
粉嶺浸信會	62,500.00
荃灣浸信會	40,000.00
基立浸信會	5,000.00
基磐浸信會	1,500.00
將軍澳浸信會	500.00
第一城浸信會	3,750.00
置富浸信教會	1,500.00
銅鑼灣浸信會	3,000.00
灣仔浸信會	12,000.00
觀塘浸信會	2,689.00
中國基督教播道會太古城堂	10,000.00
香港浸信會神學院校友會	5,435.35
基督教四方福音會彩坪堂	1,000.00
基督教宣道會華基堂	1,000.00
啓聞基金	300.00
	HK\$ <u>371,216.75</u>
Brooklyn Chinese Baptist Church	400.00
Chinese Indep. Baptist Church-S.F.	540.00
	US\$ <u>940.00</u>

Education Fund (Donor)

Chan Pak Yan, Grace	1,000.00
Chui Sau Lan	900.00
王紹良	300.00
王群	500.00
白智信伉儷	500.00
朱活平伉儷	300.00

何仲儀	1,000.00
何偉明	200.00
何錦燕	500.00
吳炳榮伉儷	8,000.00
吳國傑伉儷	500.00
呂志華	1,000.00
李錦霞	1,000.00
胡文恩伉儷	500.00
倪承恩	4,000.00
徐詩雅	300.00
馬湯碧翠	1,000.00
曹偉彤	4,000.00
梁廣華伉儷	500.00
梁麗嫦	300.00
許鋒威	400.00
陳偉倫	200.00
麥啓新	2,500.00
勞家怡	200.00
馮德華	300.00
黃仲麒	200.00
黃華娟	100.00
楊妙珍	700.00
楊謝金玉	2,000.00
葉煥章	300.00
劉永生	300.00
劉建紅	600.00
蔡慧英	200.00
鄧炳光伉儷	1,000.00
薛聲明	1,000.00
龐凌玉珍	1,000.00
羅佩珊	100.00
羅凱慈	1,000.00
關志偉	100.00
關德華伉儷	140.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	400.00
無名氏	300.00
無名氏	300.00
無名氏	400.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	1,000.00
無名氏	297.90
	HK\$ <u>42,337.90</u>

Scholarship and Bursaries

香港(西區)潮語浸信會	5,000.00
大學浸信會	4,000.00
愛子伉儷	300.00
	HK\$ <u>9,300.00</u>

Distance Education Program

Ernest & Sylvia Ho	1,000.00
朱美珍	200.00
何鏡煒伉儷	3,000.00
鄒小寶	700.00
無名氏	200.00
無名氏	500.00
	HK\$ <u>5,600.00</u>

Lay Theological Education Program

杜桂鵬	500.00
蔡艷桃	500.00
蕭桂娥	1,800.00
林美芬	1,000.00
婦女普及神學文憑課程	1,600.00
婦女普及神學證書課程	1,200.00
無名氏	200.00
無名氏	10.00
	HK\$ <u>6,810.00</u>

Local Filipino Program

第一城浸信會	7,000.00
張智理伉儷	5,000.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	200.00
	HK\$ <u>12,200.00</u>

Theological Education for the Hearing Impaired

張智理伉儷	500.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	200.00
	HK\$ <u>700.00</u>

Deacon Yue Wing Kei Memorial Scholarship & Bursary

無名氏	HK\$ <u>25,000.00</u>
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Rev. Princeton Hsu Tsung Shek Memorial Scholarship

無名氏	HK\$ <u>25,000.00</u>
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DONORS REPORT FOR AUG 2011

Education Fund (Church / Organization)

九龍國際浸信會	9,804.00
土瓜灣浸信會	22,000.00
大埔浸信會	10,000.00
屯門浸信教會	300.00
牛池灣竹園潮語浸信會	1,000.00
以馬內利浸信會	3,500.00
尖沙嘴浸信會	50,000.00
尖沙嘴國語浸信會	1,500.00
竹園浸信會	4,000.00
紅磡浸信會	3,500.00
香港仔浸信會	25,914.50
香港西區浸信會	50,000.00
香港浸信教會	108,300.00
香港浸信教會顯理福音堂	9,000.00
香港堅尼地城浸信教會	1,200.00
基督浸信會	1,500.00
將軍澳浸信會	500.00
慈雲山浸信會	8,000.00
愛群道浸信會	5,000.00
置富浸信教會	1,500.00
銅鑼灣浸信會	3,000.00
觀塘浸信會	2,771.00
香港浸信會聯會	64,682.30
基督教四方福音會彩坪堂	1,000.00
基督教宣道會華基堂	1,000.00
啓聞基金	300.00
HK\$	<u>389,271.80</u>

Education Fund (Donor)

Albert Chan	500.00
方志強	100.00
王紹良	300.00
王群	500.00
白智信伉儷	500.00
朱活平伉儷	300.00
何仲儀	1,000.00
何偉明	200.00
何錦燕	500.00
吳炳榮伉儷	8,000.00
吳國傑伉儷	500.00
呂志華	1,000.00
李勝球伉儷	5,000.00

林威烈	1,000.00
胡文恩伉儷	500.00
徐詩雅	300.00
曹偉彤	4,000.00
梁廣華伉儷	500.00
梁羅黎光	1,000.00
梁麗嫦	300.00
莫莊雅	100.00
許鋒威	400.00
陳偉倫	200.00
陳麗英	500.00
麥啓新	2,500.00
勞家怡	200.00
馮德華	300.00
黃仲麒	200.00
黃華娟	100.00
楊妙珍	700.00
葉煥章	300.00
劉永生	300.00
劉建紅	600.00
蔡慧英	200.00
鄧炳光伉儷	2,000.00
黎嘉賢	300.00
龐凌玉珍	1,000.00
羅佩珊	100.00
關志偉	100.00
關德華伉儷	140.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	400.00
校友(#06021)	1,000.00
蒙恩者	1,500.00
無名氏	300.00
無名氏	300.00
無名氏	400.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	1,000.00
無名氏	2,700.00
無名氏	3,000.00
無名氏	8,000.00
HK\$	<u>55,840.00</u>

Scholarship and Bursaries

B. S. Smith Foundation Ltd.	7,127.87
香港(西區)潮語浸信會	<u>5,000.00</u>
HK\$	<u>12,127.87</u>

Lay Theological Education Program

香港浸信會幼稚園教育協會	5,000.00
蔡艷桃	500.00
蕭桂娥	2,000.00
杜桂鵬	500.00
無名氏	200.00
HK\$	<u>8,200.00</u>

Distance Education Program

Ernest & Sylvia Ho	1,000.00
朱美珍	200.00
何鏡煒伉儷	3,000.00
鄒小寶	700.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	200.00
無名氏	1,000.00
HK\$	<u>6,600.00</u>

Local Filipino Program

張智理伉儷	5,000.00
陳麗英	200.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	200.00
HK\$	<u>5,400.00</u>

Theological Education for the Hearing Impaired

張智理伉儷	500.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	200.00
HK\$	<u>700.00</u>

President Council

鄭崇羔伉儷	HK\$ <u>10,000.00</u>
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Mrs. Sue Mau Memorial Scholarship & Bursary

冒懷慶	HK\$ <u>20,000.00</u>
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DONORS REPORT FOR SEPT 2011

Education Fund (Church / Organization)

九龍城浸信會	12,000.00
九龍國際浸信會	10,221.60
上環浸信會	5,100.00
大埔浸信會	10,000.00
屯門浸信教會	300.00
牛池灣竹園潮語浸信會	1,000.00
牛頭角浸信會	18,000.00
以馬內利浸信會	3,500.00
尖沙嘴國語浸信會	1,500.00
沙田浸信會	14,000.00
紅磡浸信會	3,500.00
香港天樂浸信教會	1,500.00
香港仔浸信會	31,817.00
香港浸信教會	108,300.00
香港堅尼地城浸信教會	1,200.00
香港懷恩浸信教會	15,000.00
恩典浸信會	10,000.00
粉嶺浸信會	37,500.00
基督浸信會	1,500.00
將軍澳浸信會	500.00
置富浸信教會	1,500.00
蓮頭塘浸信會	3,056.30
筲箕灣浸信會	5,000.00
銅鑼灣浸信會	3,000.00
興田浸信會	2,000.00
觀塘浸信會	2,217.00
基督教四方福音會彩坪堂	1,000.00
基督教宣道會華基堂	1,000.00
基督教粉嶺神召會	20,000.00
啓聞基金	300.00
	<u>HK\$ 325,511.90</u>
Brooklyn Chinese Baptist Church	US\$ <u>600.00</u>

Education Fund (Donor)

Mr. & Mrs. John Dockerill	10,000.00
方志強	100.00
王紹良	300.00
王群	500.00
白智信伉儷	500.00
朱活平伉儷	300.00
何仲儀	1,000.00
何偉明	200.00
何錦燕	500.00

吳炳榮伉儷	8,000.00
吳國傑伉儷	500.00
呂志華	1,000.00
胡文恩伉儷	500.00
徐詩雅	300.00
曹偉彤	4,000.00
梁廣華伉儷	500.00
梁麗嫦	300.00
莫莊雅	100.00
許鋒威	400.00
陳偉倫	200.00
陳麗英	500.00
麥啓新	2,500.00
勞家怡	200.00
馮德華	300.00
黃仲麒	200.00
黃華娟	100.00
楊妙珍	700.00
楊謝金玉	2,000.00
楊啓毅	300.00
葉煥章	300.00
劉永生	300.00
劉建紅	600.00
蔡慧英	200.00
鄧幸榴	200.00
黎嘉賢	300.00
薛聲明	1,000.00
龐凌玉珍	1,000.00
羅佩珊	100.00
關志偉	100.00
關德華伉儷	140.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	400.00
無名氏	300.00
無名氏	1,000.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	400.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	300.00
	<u>HK\$ 43,640.00</u>
Connie Pong K. L.	200.00
Yu Shau Lai	1,000.00
	<u>US\$ 1,200.00</u>

Scholarship and Bursaries

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

蔡艷桃	500.00
蕭桂娥	2,000.00
杜桂鵬	500.00
無名氏	200.00
	<u>HK\$ 3,200.00</u>

Distance Education Program

Ernest & Sylvia Ho	1,000.00
朱美珍	200.00
何鏡煒伉儷	3,000.00
鄒小寶	700.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	200.00
	<u>HK\$ 5,600.00</u>

Local Filipino Program

九龍國際浸信會	680.00
白中興	5,000.00
張智理伉儷	5,000.00
陳麗英	200.00
黃挺安伉儷	4,720.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	200.00
	<u>HK\$ 15,800.00</u>

Theological Education for the Hearing Impaired

張智理伉儷	10,500.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	200.00
	<u>HK\$ 10,700.00</u>

Book Donation in Memory of

Ms. Denise Ho Yuk Ping	HK\$ <u>400,000.00</u>
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Diamond Jubilee Belote Lectures 2011

Cheng Tai Man	2,000.00
Lee Sau Man	300.00
李惠賢	500.00
杜崇基	500.00
陳順錦	1,000.00
楊啓毅	200.00
無名氏	950.00
	<u>HK\$ 5,450.00</u>

Financial Report

General Fund, 1 July - 30 Sept. 2011

Income	HK\$ 7,265,188.93
Expenditure	<u>(7,434,685.53)</u>
Surplus / (Deficit)	<u><u>(169,496.60)</u></u>

Please Pray for Us



- ◆ **Pray for our alumni who are ill:** We are concerned about some of our alumni who are sick or who are engaged in a life-and-death struggle with cancer. Please remember in prayer these servants who must leave their ministry posts. May the love of our gracious Lord embrace them, heal and comfort them, bestowing upon them the peace and strength for their soul every day.
- ◆ **Pray that God will lead Baptist Churches to give financial support to HKBTS next year:** HKBTS needs prayer and financial support from Baptist Churches to carry out the tasks which the Lord has entrusted us to nurture future ministers for our churches. We ask the Lord to lead Baptist Churches to join us in a concerted effort in taking up the responsibility in theological education.
- ◆ **Pray that the arms of God will protect the land He bestowed upon HKBTS:** For more than two years we have continually negotiated with the Drainage Services Department. We have pointed out that if the government would construct a large-scale sewage pumping station next to the Seminary as planned, the ecological environment in the neighborhood will be jeopardized and the Seminary and residents in the surrounding area will suffer. Yet, the authorities have not seriously considered altering the site selection for the pumping station. Please pray for the policy decision of the Drainage Service Department and pray that God will guide the Seminary, helping us to watch over our neighborhood and this piece of land according to His will.



Reply

I will support The Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary by

- praying for the Seminary's theological education ministry
 - contributing \$_____ for
 - Education Fund
 - Others: _____
- Name: _____
(Mr / Ms / Rev / Dr / Mr & Mrs)
- Address: _____

- Tel: _____ Fax: _____
- Email: _____

Donation Methods:

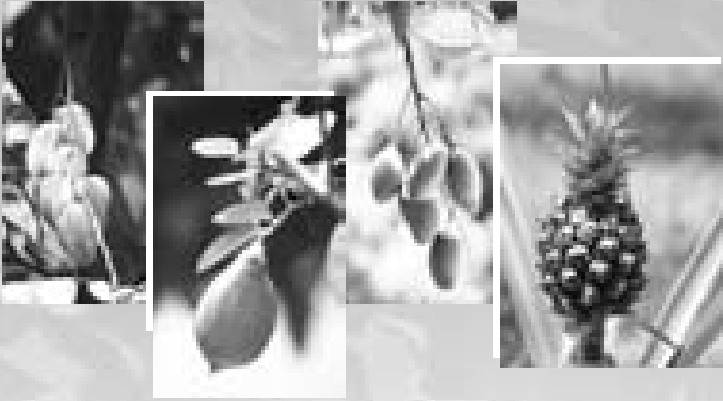
- Crossed cheque** payable to "Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary"
- Cash** either deliver to the Seminary or direct deposit into our Hang Seng Bank Account No. "242-026144-003"
- Monthly Autopay** by Bank Account — autopay form will be forwarded to you

- Credit card:** VISA MASTERCARD
 - One-off Donation Monthly Donation*
- Cardholder's Name: _____
- Cardholder's Signature: _____
(Same as signature on credit card)
- Card No.: [] [] [] [] - [] [] [] [] - [] [] [] [] - [] [] [] []
- Verification Code : [] [] [] (The last 3 digits on the back of card)
- Card Expiry date: _____ / _____ (MM/YY)
- Amount: HK\$ _____ (Credit card donations are denominated in HK\$)
- The bank charge for credit card donation will be paid by the Seminary.
* You may inform us to terminate this monthly donation at any time.

- 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 enquiries: Tel : (852) 2715 9511
Fax: (852) 2761 0868

Thank you for your support !

Precious Moments



Diamond Jubilee Is a Year of Abundant Harvest

2011 is our Diamond Jubilee and is also a year of abundant harvest. This summer, the trees in our campus hung thickly with fruit. It has been the greatest harvest ever recorded since our move into Sai O in 1999. We are grateful to God for granting us many beautiful fruits. All through the campus, our mango trees were heavy with fruit and in different corners in our campus, there were peaches, lemons, grapefruit, plantains and pineapples . . .

Theological Education for Filipino Leaders is a program jointly run by HKBTS and Philippines Baptist Theological Seminary. This year there were 19 graduates who were presented certificates and diplomas by Dr. Joyce Abugan, President of PBTS. Rev. Dr. Armand Canoy, PBTS Trustee Board Chairman and Senior Pastor of Manila University Baptist Church, delivered the message.

June 26 Fourth Graduation Ceremony for TEFL



July 14 LTED Topical Lecture and Introduction of the Christian Studies Programs



Besides introducing the Christian Studies Programs, Dr. Alexander Mak spoke on the topic, "Jesus' Discipleship Training As Viewed from the Literary Skills of the Gospel of Mark" and shared with brothers and sisters from different churches Jesus' Discipleship Training from the Bible.

August 9-11 Faculty Retreat



The theme of this summer's Faculty Retreat was "The Enhancement of Exchange and Interaction among HKBTS Professors." At the retreat, our teachers took the opportunity to take a break and draw close to God, have a time for fellowship and together explore the direction of theological education.

August 15-17 Spiritual Formation Camp



Teachers and students of the Seminary joined the Spiritual Formation Camp before the school year began. The theme of the camp was "From Human Fear ... to Fear of the Lord" The aim was to enable students' life experience to be transformed and renewed from negative fear to fear of God as they participated in worship and praise, listening to the sermon message, and practiced individual and corporate spiritual discipline. After the retreat they were ready to march forth onto a new journey with grace and courage given by God.

August 23 Opening Convocation

The Opening Convocation was the time for setting sail on a new year. President Cho exhorted the Seminary's teachers and students, speaking on the topic "The Mission of the Disciple Community." The message was followed by prayers from Dr. Alexander Mak and Dr. Vincent Lau for the new students and the new school year.



August 23-26 Diamond Jubilee Belote Lectures



The speaker of the Diamond Jubilee Belote Lectures was Professor Thomas Long, the renowned American Master of Homiletics. Prof. Long gave an in-depth exploration and demonstration of the preaching ministry. The Seminary's teachers and students as well as a great many attendants derived much benefit from his thoughtful lectures.



The four-day morning lectures were held at Sai O campus with the main theme "From Preparation to Preaching." Attendants to this year's lectures were obviously enthusiastic with around 200 church pastors and ministers each morning. This was a precious opportunity for so many minister co-workers and teachers and students from other seminaries to get together, learn and exchange thoughts on the preaching ministry.

The 3-day evening lectures were held at Tsim Sha Tsui Baptist Church with the main theme "To Preach the God of Love in the Suffering World." The lectures were translated from English into Chinese by Dr. Ip King-tak and Dr. Tony Sher respectively.

