



香港浸信會神學院

Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary



2018.11 Newsletter

A Spiritual Voyage at HKBTS

President's Word **Beauty at 7:30 AM**

Faculty Sharing **How Do I Know God's Will for My Life?**

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Beauty @7:30AM

Joshua Cho

President's Word

Moving on Track as Everyone Pulling Their Weight



The seminary is on the move. Since 2017, I have been telling our faculty, co-workers, and students that the seminary entered a torch passing phase on different occasions like academic board meetings, all staff meetings, and chapel services. As many of our faculty and staff members are approaching retirement age, we are undergoing a transition period. In fact, not only our seminary staff but also the pastoral leadership in Hong Kong churches in general is undergoing a transition. In large and small churches alike, we are witnessing an older generation of pastors retiring from their ministry positions, making way for younger pastors.

While in this process of torch passing, I also often talk about what I wish for our seminary and the church; namely, I am anticipating that the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary (HKBTS) would be doing even better researches and more down-

to-earth theology studies so that the church would be blessed even more. This has always been the goal of our seminary. I always stress that "teachers are the engine that drives the seminary forward" as it is my belief that **teachers'** spirituality, character, teaching, knowledge, and practice can really get the whole seminary going so that the seminary may help the church to respond to society and the world. Teachers in our seminary work diligently day after day on teaching, research, writing, cultivating students' spirituality, and being the life mentors of students. Together they drive the seminary to excellence. Teachers work exceedingly hard, so do I and the students.

For facilitating an environment where our teachers and students can focus on their work and strive for the goal of our seminary, the contribution of our **janitorial and office staff** who work quietly out of the limelight is indispensable. They are faithful stewards of this cradle of preachers, taking care of every single inch of the seminary. They lovingly tend all the plants, keeping the seminary clean and tidy with the most sedulous care. In order to carry on the support operations of the seminary with the least possible resource, they show great flexibility and dedication. Co-workers from different departments work together as one to take good care of the seminary so that our students may concentrate on learning and teachers on teaching.

In addition to teachers, students, and co-workers who spend a lot of time on the campus, the continuous growth of the seminary also depends heavily on **directors and members of the President's Council** who love HKBTS dearly. With talents given by God, they look out for the seminary and actively contribute to its development. Their life experience and valuable advice have helped me a great deal in my role as leader of the seminary.

After eight to nine years of prayer and hard work with everyone pulling their weight, the "Ten years' Project" I proposed when I first took office as president and the "Faith, Hope, and Love Project" I put forward in the Thanksgiving Service celebrating the 60th anniversary of our seminary are gradually taking shape. **Over the years, our teaching staff, students, publication, graduate studies programs, lay believers equipping programs, and distance education program have all witnessed significant progress in terms of quality and quantity.**

Seeing Grace in the Campus Extension Project

After all these years of re-organizing and strengthening, the "software" of our seminary is mostly on track, yet we still need to work on the "hardware" at this stage so that the seminary may walk further for the Lord. The older parts in the "hardware"

need renovation. To alleviate the long-lasting problem of space shortage, we also need more usable space, especially study and discussion spaces for graduate students, more space for the library collection, and more offices for teachers. Additional floor area would be required for the seminary to further realize its ministry.

Early 2016 marked a new milestone for the expansion project. The Board of Director set up the **Campus Development Committee** and the **Building Committee** respectively, kicking off the Extension Project of the Sai O Campus (Phase 3). The Campus Development Committee consists of those directors appointed by the Board of Directors. As every director is subject to retirement by rotation once every three years, the composition of the current committee is somewhat different from the original one. Current director members of the committee include Deacon Cecil Chan (Chairman), Deacon Ho Kin-chung, Deacon Lau Man-hin, Rev. Chan Chi-keung, and Rev. Chu Wood-ping. Moreover, Campus Development Committee then nominated those committed and gifted church members who are also highly experienced in architectural engineering to serve as a Building Committee in order to assist our administrative staff in matters such as lease modifications, tendering, and construction supervision. Members of the committee are as follows: Deacon Cecil Chan (Chairman), Dr. Joseph Kwan, Deacon Samuel Chan, Deacon John Pak, Deacon Thomas Tsang and Mr. Sam Chan. I was also appointed into the two committees in my capacity as the president of the seminary.



The members of the Building Committee

We have experienced the amazing guidance of God even in the early stage of the expansion project. When the seminary applied for the construction of an additional 8,000 square feet of floor area on the Sai O campus, the Lands Department assessed the land premium payable as HK\$37.97 million. All our committee members considered the amount much higher than the market value of the additional floor area, so we made a unanimous decision to appeal to the Lands Department for a reassessment. After loads of scrupulous preparation work,

the seminary submitted sufficient documents and provided strong justifications, which resulted in a massive cut in the land premium to \$16.57 million. In the end, we accepted a third offer of HK\$15.91 million.

With this amazing experience, we could again firmly proclaim that *God is the only Lord of HKBTS. The whole expansion project must be led by the Lord while we closely follow Him to do His will.*

Serving in Unity and Fellowship

The next task was to design floor plans for the new academic building, for which we elicited the professional advices of the Building Committee members again. The pleasant atmosphere in the meetings made it an enjoyable experience to exchange ideas. We wasted no time and energy on picking quarrels. Everyone gave all they have for the benefit of the seminary and the future of theological education. *It is amazing that in our hard work we experienced fellowship as one. We appreciated and complemented one another while discerning God's will together.*

On the grounds that teachers and co-workers are the actual users of the new building, the Building Committee suggested we should seek teachers' opinion on the design and planning of the building. It started with three teachers with architectural background (Dr. Freeman Huen, Dr. Nathan Ng, and Dr. Tony Sher) drafting a space allocation plan; and we went on to invite all teachers and department heads to voice their views. Meanwhile we also collected opinion from students. We extended the consultation to different users in order to make sure everyone had a chance to be heard, thus encouraging the involvement and participation of all stakeholders in the expansion project.

In the process of opinion collection, there were voices urging for environmental protection. Considering the importance of nature conservation from the perspective of faith practice, another working group, the *Campus Environmental Consultation and Development Committee*, was established under the Campus Development Committee in June 2018 in order to look into matters concerning energy efficiency, waste reduction, recycling, and campus greening at the seminary. While I am an ex officio member, a number of environmental protection experts among the Baptists are also invited to join the committee. They include Deacon Ho Kin-chung (Chairman), Deacon Cecil Chan, Mr. Steve Wong, Mr. Andy Ho, and Mr. Edward Lam.



Campus Environmental Consultation and Development Committee meeting with the solar project developer

Beauty at 7:30 AM

The Sai O Campus was confronted with another severe external challenge in early August. One of the issues that concerned us is the government's plan to build a large sewage pumping station just 15 meters from our campus. We summoned the Campus Environmental Consultation and Development Committee and the Building Committee for a joint meeting, in which the committee members unanimously agreed that the construction of the sewage pumping station would not only cause irreversible damage to the surrounding eco-system and environment but also pose a health threat to our seminary's community and all visitors.

As committee members have their day jobs, and administrative staff members of the seminary were busy preparing for the new school term, we scheduled to meet at 7:30 in the morning so that everybody may go to work afterward. Since then we have always scheduled our meetings at 7:30 am. Though the issue we have to deal with is no easy matter, the meetings are always held in a pleasing atmosphere. One of the committee members once told me, *"The meeting at 7:30 in the morning is indeed also a prayer gathering."* What he meant is that we discuss God's work with a prayerful heart.



One of the early morning meetings

The Shining Glory of the Kingdom of God


My heart is filled with joy as I look back on these joint endeavors, because we are not only working on the hardware but also undertaking a spiritual project. Those who do ministry work have their lives established and serve joyfully with their gifts to build the seminary, which in turn builds the church. *This is typical of the Baptists: with the distinct gifts from God each of us works together as one, with no one higher than others.* To take it further, this is a characteristic not only of the Baptists but also of the Christian communities. When I see this beautiful scene on one side, and the conflicts within church communities on the other, I am overwhelmed with surprise: God has so much mercy

on HKBTS as to let us experience heaven on earth. By saying this I am not gloating over others. Instead, it dawns on me that *if we truly follow God, we can experience God's grace and find more good even in a chaotic world.* This is possible. This is the shining glory of the Kingdom of God.

I am grateful to God for the gift He has given me and the opportunities for me to make use of it. It is also clear to me that there are many talents that I lack. But I thank God that I get to serve Him with brothers and sisters full of gifts. I pray that God will continue to guide us so that we may walk on and work together in love, rejoice at serving God, experience His presence, and encourage others to walk with Him.



A Spiritual Voyage at HKBTS



Feature

The campus design of the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary (HKBTS) is like a vast ship. Brothers and sisters in Christ are called by God to step on to this ship and start a spiritual voyage filled abundantly with grace. They would not only receive theological training in the disciple community but also go through hardships which make their lives grow, renew and breakthrough. This journey of “faith seeking understanding” turns out to be a lifelong journey of “faith showing understanding”; that means whether in words, deeds, teachings or whatever matter, we have to be the Lord’s faithful disciples, exhibiting the reality of Jesus Christ and what He has already achieved.

The following is the sharing of those who have participated in this spiritual voyage, the graduates of our Main Programs in this year.



Words from Our Graduates

Chan Pak-ham (B.Th.)

Through these four years of seminary life, thanks to the companionship of my God, teachers, classmates and family, I learned to better understand “myself”: understanding who I am, my limitations, and how to control my ego. This has been a life-renewing journey that has inspired me and showed me how I should respond to the salvation of God.

Chu Hoi-kwan, Peggy (B.Th.)

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’” (Mt 28:18-20, NIV) Let’s encourage each other through God’s command!

Chung Wing-mui (B.Th.)

Thanks to our Heavenly Father who led me to HKBTS for theological equipment! I would bear in mind our seminary motto “correctly handles the word of truth,” and lead the flock to be the Lord’s disciples. May our Heavenly Father guide my search for the right path in ministry.

Ho Tsz-mei, Apple (B.Th.)

Thanks to God for leading me during my student life and for allowing me to grow through some of the “hidden curricula” of life. I understand that I have nothing to boast about. It is only because God knows and loves me, that He grants me the grace to serve Him and the Church. In this moment of graduation, I pray that God would strengthen my faith, provide me courage and wisdom to face the coming challenges on the ministry path, and give me a pure and compassionate heart so that I can follow His guidance faithfully.

Hui Wing-shing (B.Th.)

Looking back over these four years of my life at the seminary, I would say “anywhere seems nowhere, yet somewhere seems everywhere.” Today I am going to graduate, and I cannot but give thanks to the Lord who calls and loves me! Also, I am sincerely thankful for the support of my family! Now I feel reluctant to depart, yet looking forward to the departure; may the Lord use me as His faithful worker who does not need to be ashamed!

Ko Tsz-yeung (B.Th.)

I can only give thanks when looking back on these four years of seminarian life! Thanks to God for His preparation and letting me study at HKBTS, where I not only extended my theological domain, but also learned how to live with other members of the disciple community. I want to give particular thanks to my mother church, Yuen Long Baptist Church, for all their support in finance and prayers.





Kwok Hin-chiu (B.Th.)

Thanks to God for giving me a chance to experience His abundant grace in the past four years, and empowering me to finish this theological training. The teachers' dedicated teaching rebuilt my understanding of the Scripture. These four years of seminary life have allowed me to experience the life of the disciple community; now, committed to living out our faith, I step onto the path of ministry.

Lau Ying-yeung (B.Th.)

Our Heavenly Father who loves us, thank you for training us through the community, so as to rectify our lives according to the truth, and learn to be your disciples. May you make us a group of people that keep moving on — like the disciples who were first called by Jesus — constantly keeping up to follow the footsteps of Jesus! Amen.

Lee Yiu-fai (B.Th.)

Four years of delightful seminary life are about to end. First, I genuinely thank our teachers who teach in words and deeds so that I can learn the lesson of humbleness and servanthood from their lives. Second, I must also thank my classmates who went through ups and downs with me; I honestly miss you all very much!

Li Chun-yin (B.Th.)

Theology graduation is like stepping into a McDonald's, struggling with which flavor of sundae to choose: a classic and familiar taste, or an exciting one? Some who eat sundaes simply enjoy them, some are distressed, and some even question the meaning of eating sundaes. When it is my turn, the question of which flavor seems unimportant. I can only recall my first passion for sundaes, and vow to eat every one in the world.

Mok Lai-yin (B.Th.)

Looking back on these four years of study, apart from my academic training, I experienced many unexpected challenges. Thanks to God's protection, I held fast to the call that He gave me; in the midst of difficulties, I experienced His surpassing love and grace, which was definitely beyond any expectations! Thanks to the care of the seminary's teachers, students and staff; thanks to the companionship of my family, who made the entire theological equipping process into a journey of endless grace. I will give my life as a living sacrifice, witnessing the glory of God and becoming His faithful servant!

Lo Shuet-sum, Sally (B.Th.)

Gratitude and Thanksgiving

Thanks to God who has never abandoned me,
Thanks to my mother church who nurtures and prays for me,
Thanks to my teachers who teach and witness the gospel,
Thanks to my practicum church who gave me encouragement and opportunities.
Thanks to my classmates who have accompanied me with love,
Thanks to my husband who has been giving me unlimited support.

Tse Lai-yi, Rebecca (B.Th.)

Thanks to God who calls this undeserving me!
While I received theological equipment over these four years, my family went through an unprecedented grace from God! I must never forget the lesson: never diminishing God's prominence and always living out the life of God's disciples. Thanks to God! It is He who has granted me an honorable identity — a theology student.

Yeung Chiu-kwan, Simon (B.Th.)

After more than four years of seminarian life, my ideas have been changed significantly as compared to the time I started class. Through the seminary, God allows me to know myself better and recognize my future goals; thanks to God! Besides, I have to thank our President, teachers, staff and schoolmates for their teachings and support! May God bless all of us!

Chan Sau-fan (M.Div.)

Looking back on these three years of seminarian life, they were filled with God's grace! At first, I was not accustomed to the studies; in struggling with financial, health and family issues, I had thought of quitting school. It was through the assistance of some senior students and the patient guidance of the teachers that I was able to carry on. This year, I am graduating! I hope that I will always remember these days of God's grace, and hold fast to the call that God bestowed on me.

Chu Ho-yee (M.Div.)

Four years ago, my husband and I adventurously resigned from our jobs and started to study theology; I thought I was fairly faithful. Looking back when we began school, we even did not have enough money for first year's tuition; now we have graduated, and we have witnessed the Lord's overflowing grace all the way. Thanks to our teachers and schoolmates for accompanying me in ups and downs! Thanks to the seminary's teaching! Thanks to my husband for standing with me in wind and rain! Thanks to God for reshaping me!

Chan Suk-yin (M.Div.)

I am leaving Nin Ming Road today. Thanks to God for letting me learn about the Word and how to behave with integrity from our teachers. Thanks to God for giving me spiritual companions. I have thus walked through a journey of grace; it is thanksgiving in addition to thanksgiving. Farewell, Nin Ming Road!

Chu Wun (M.Div.)

It is all due to God's grace that I can start and complete the pastoral equipment in these three years. God prepares a considerate family, a prayerful church, faithful teachers, responsive staffs and mutually supportive classmates at HKBTS for His servants; the abundant supply has been beyond my human imagination. May more people know about this God who is the Beginning and the End; may everyone in the land serve and glorify His honorable name!

Chan Wai-meng (M.Div.)

The grace of our Heavenly Father is surprising: He calls this sinful, frail man to serve Him! I hope to be the Lord's faithful servant in this era, witnessing Christ.

Thanks to our teachers' teachings, your words and deeds nurtured me! Thanks to my classmates' companionship; you let me understand how beautiful it is to have partners on the path of serving! Thanks to the encouragement of my church, you molded my life! Thanks to the support of my family, who allow me to do what I feel passionate about and devote my life to it.

Chung Pui-sheung (M.Div.)

Now I can graduate from HKBTS. Apart from giving thanks to my God who calls me, I also have to give thanks to every teacher, student and staff of the seminary. Thanks for your company in the past three years, for giving me help and encouragement, and for building me up in love. Now I am graduating. Thanks to God, and thanks to everyone at HKBTS!

Chong Pui-kit (M.Div.)

To keep myself in learning and avoid stagnancy or even degeneration, I returned to the seminary for further studies. Thanks to God, I received the companionship and prayers from my family, brothers and sisters in church and everyone at the school, which all give me the strength to finish this journey. Intensely experienced: life is indeed a communal experience.

Dai Shengming (M.Div.)

Thanks to God for letting me "reborn as an eagle" at HKBTS — learn to wait for God, though difficult, yet energized in the end. Thanks to God for letting me "transform like a cocoon" — learn to destroy my ego, though painful, yet elevating. Thank you for the nurture of HKBTS! May God continue to bless, guide and use this seminary!

He Zhiyong (M.Div.)

"I can do all this through Him who gives me strength." (Phil 4:13) This verse impressed me in the process of learning in these years; because I found that I often caused troubles when I relied on my own strength instead of God's.

Kam Hai-yin, Judy (M.Div.)

Thanks to God! It is because of His grace that I can finish these five years of studies. The teacher's teachings broadened my horizons in biblical studies and theology. I hope that this knowledge will never settle as mere knowledge, but will become the nutrients of my spiritual growth, and assist me to reflect on our faith.

Lee Chui-ling (M.Div.)

I have deeply experienced that it is through God's grace alone that I can finish the M.Div. program. Since my father has encountered a series of misfortunes in recent years, I know that I can only look upon the Lord wordlessly. I have tried all my efforts, yet I know unequivocally that my efforts are in vain without the Lord. I heartily praise, give thanks and extol Him, looking forward to His guidance and sending.



Kam Wai-man (M.Div.)

"Studying theology" is a journey of faith and grace. In spite of hardship during the course, it enables me to get a glimpse of God's greatness and abundance; it also gives me the chance to participate in His plan. I am indeed filled with gratitude and excitement! Now having been equipped, we are about to start our ministry. For our future is in His hand, we can serve without anxieties.

Leung Yuen-fan (M.Div.)

Thanks to those who encouraged me, Gratitude to teachers who supported me to keep going, Thanksgiving to Lord Jesus Christ who granted me power and courage to finish the entire journey. I am finally graduating. May glory and praise be to God in the highest!

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Mt 5:16)

Kwok Lai-yee, Ellie (M.Div.)

Thanks to the teachers for their dedicated teaching.
Thanks to my confidants for their companionship.
Thanks to every staff at the seminary.
Thanks to the supervisors of my practicum churches.
Thanks to my mother church for their continual support.
Thanks to my husband and family for their care.
Thanks to our Heavenly Father for his all-time providence.

Loi Lon (M.Div.)

May the word of God be our lamp for our feet, and a light on our path. May He send us to various communities to be His good witnesses. May we shepherd with compassion and love; teach with faithfulness, wisdom and diligence; pray with patience, faith and hope; set an example of following Christ ourselves; witness the greatness of God's gospel in words and deeds; be His faithful servants. May the Lord guide us!

Siu Ting-fai (M.Div.)

Thanks to our Heavenly Father who has enabled me to finish this three-year theological equipping curriculum. I not only have acquired biblical knowledge and serving techniques at HKBTS but also came to know a group of erudite teachers, intimate classmates and caring staff. We walked aside with each other, witnessed the reality of our Lord Jesus Christ with our growth in life. I am also thankful to the teachings of my practicum churches and mentors, which gave me valuable pastoral experiences.

May God continue to use HKBTS as a place where brothers and sisters are trained to grow in faith and life!

So Ming-him (M.Div.)

Looking back on my seminarian life in the past three years, it was like every crucial event of life has happened within this period, so I have had to face them all at once. Whenever I met difficulty, I prayed, and I went through it. Every experience made me further trust in God's guidance: as I am sure that it is God who brings me here, He will definitely guide me through every challenge. Let us look back on our lives, and discover His guidance, so we can trust in His presence, and walk with Him continuously with peace of mind.

Tang Chi-hong (M.Div.)

In three years, my deviated theological thought was destroyed, corrected and rebuilt into a sound one. I learned from our teachers' lives what it means to live out theology and biblical knowledge. The collective learning with my classmates I have experienced is unforgettable. I am unwilling to depart, but we have to move on to the next stage. I sincerely believe that God will continue to be with us!

Tsang Chi-pang (M.Div.)

These six years enlightened me, letting me embody the life of "a worker who does not need to be ashamed" and who "is faithful to the guidance of the Holy Spirit through the Scripture, lives out his faith earnestly in everyday life, treasures opportunities of preaching, insists on treating every person and event with a pastoral heart, serves passionately, and loves his family." Thanks to God, and thanks to HKBTS!

Wong Mo-s. (M.Div.)

Approaching graduation, I recall Paul's saying again: "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them — yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me." (1 Cor 15:10) May the Lord use me, and glory be to God!

Yip Chun-sze (M.Div.)

Looking back on studying at the seminary over these years, it is full of grace! When I faced one difficulty after another — whether it was the sickness of a family member, spiritual tiredness, shortage of money, or doubts about life — I found that I can go through all of them with God's grace.

Apart from God, I have to thank my family for their support and companionship, my brothers and sisters in church for their prayers and company, and my seminary teachers for their teachings. Through these, I have been learning to be a faithful servant who recognizes God's will more and more.

Yuen Ka-kiu (M.Div.)

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." (1 Tm 4:12) Let's encourage each other with these words!

Cheong Man-hin (M.C.S.)

Two years have passed; I only realize now that I am going to graduate. Two years is too short; when I have only just adjusted to the life of the seminary, I now have to leave. Nonetheless, I have learned many precious lessons from my teachers and classmates. I am grateful that I have the opportunity to study here!

Lo Wan-wah (M.C.S.)

“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’” (Jn 8:12) Let’s encourage each other with these words!

Ho Man-chiu (M.C.S.)

Thanks to HKBTS and all the teachers who have guided me, so that I can get a glimpse of the depth and profoundness of theology. I have the feeling of a “communion of saints” when I studied various past and present thoughts about faith with my teachers and classmates. I am thankful that I can be one of them. Thanks to God!

To Yuen-chu, Doreen (M.C.S.)

It has been four years since I have a heart like “the deer [that] pants for the water” and began school at the seminary. Thanks to God! I have known the true Word, and it fed and transformed my life. Now I have graduated. I get a horizon for moving on continually, and the direction for my life becomes clearer. Thanks to God for His great love!

Hui Wai-man (M.C.S.)

“I can still remember how I was filled with struggles on the day that I started; who would expect the way to seek the truth is so distant and narrow ...” (from a hymn “Fellow Travelers”) The six-year part-time theological study was a tremendous “mind-blowing” project. Although the graduation is ahead, the project is still in progress. I hope that I can correctly handle the word of truth, and be a faithful servant of the Lord.

Kwok Chi-ho (Th.M.)

Thanks to the guidance of God who grants me the opportunity to study a Th.M. program. This is indeed a process of knowledge-building and life-polishing. I have thought of giving up, but thanks to the encouragement of my teachers and the support of my family, I have finally graduated! During the process, God molded me and let me understand that only God is the direction of life. Everything is under His guidance with His grace.



The Shaping of a Servant

Ho Tsz-mei (B.Th.)

A Life-Changing Program

I am deeply grateful to God for bringing me to the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary to undertake the four-year Bachelor of Theology degree program. Studying theology has never been easy. In addition to the difficulties of assignments, examinations, and the heavy reading load, we have to reflect on our lives, balance our time, get along with people from vastly different backgrounds, and cope with challenges in our church practicum. All these challenges appear to be part of God's lesson plan for every theology student to help them grow stronger. ***We who are called to receive theological education do not simply study to develop our knowledge and skills, but more importantly to be equipped by God and become servants after His own heart so that we may shepherd His flock and lead by example.***

The lesson that life matters more than knowledge has been one of the most influential lessons that I learned during these past four years.

The lesson that life matters more than knowledge has been one of the most influential lessons that I learned during these past four years. In order to follow the footsteps of our Lord and become Jesus' disciples, we learn to be humble and to submit to the authority of God in every "hidden curriculum." Little

by little as we all matured, we were molded and changed by God every step along the path to graduation.

Managing Time in Our Lives

The first thing new students must learn at the seminary is self-discipline and time management. There are tons of assignments beginning the moment the semester starts and before students know it, it is already examination week. The workload at the seminary is undoubtedly heavy, and the teachers are demanding. I'm grateful for my senior schoolmates who walked with me and reminded me to plan my timetable ahead of time, allocate time that I could use after class every day, and schedule rest time and stress relief activities so as not to become overstressed.

One of the most important things I take away from these four years is my time management skills. Knowing that I need a lot of rest, I tried my best to plan my timetable in a way that I could go to bed before midnight, making sure that I could stay alert in classes the next day. No matter how busy I was with my course work, I would spare time to go jogging and dancing with my classmates. In this way, in the four years of seminary life I have acquired the habit of keeping early hours, planning ahead, and finishing my work early. I owe this to every teacher, senior schoolmate, and fellow classmate who has walked with me and given me reminders and encouragement.

Getting Along in a Community

Speaking of companions, HKBTS is really a big family, a disciple community in which everyone is willing to offer hospitality to one another. God wants me to get along with different people in this family in order to enhance my life.

God wants me to get along with different people in this family in order to enhance my life.

My fellow classmates are my biggest treasure! We have come from different upbringings as well as different denominations, and have different theological thinking, not to mention that we have completely different personalities: there are the hot-tempered and the gentle, the daring and the timid. When people who are poles apart come together, discomfort is to be expected. At first we had a lot of conflicts (when I was scared and even considering quitting), yet as time goes by we all learned to accept one another and put ourselves in one another's shoes. We became willing to put aside our own stubbornness and feelings for the sake of the relationship. After four years, we have more understanding and love for one

another.

I learned that it takes many sacrifices and a lot of tolerance for any relationship to work; to be of one mind, we constantly have to accept our differences and learn to appreciate one another instead of trying to simply transform others. *God did not create anyone perfect, so we have to love others with the love of God, having faith that God will always keep us in His love.*

Graduation marks the beginning of our new journey. I am deeply grateful for these four years during which I could contemplate God and learn more about Him, throw myself into the exploration of the world of the Bible and transform my life. There is still a long way to go. I hope I can strive to live for my Lord and become His faithful servant.

Thank you Lord, for loving me!

From **Hunger** for the Word *to* Life **Transformation**

To Yuen-chu, Doreen (M.C.S.)

It has been four years since I began school at Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary with a eager desire for God's Word "as the deer pants for the water." Thanks to God for letting me know about His Word, nourishing my life and transforming me! When I looked back on these years, it was like an adventurous journey, in which God's providence and guidance filled the path.

Embarking on a Journey of "Faith Seeking Understanding"

Thanks to God's grace that I could be a full-time housewife for some years, during that time I could manage to take care of my family as well as study theology according to my pace and time. The teachers are not merely transmitting knowledge but also passing on life and mission; I was thus intrigued to enter this journey of "faith seeking understanding." Moreover, it was a precious opportunity to study with the M.Div. classmates; the interaction with them was a decent experience of the disciple community. Thanks to God's guidance, in the past years, I rarely skipped classes due to accidents or sickness. I always learned with a grateful heart.



The teachers are not merely transmitting knowledge but also passing on life and mission; I was thus intrigued to enter this journey of "faith seeking understanding."

The requirement of the program I studied, however, was not easy. I had to face and solve quite a number of problems. Due to my personal limitations, and considering the needs of the family and balance in ministry, I often found my time, energy and ability wanting. Heavy loads of homework made me tired and depressed, and I also experienced amnesia-like distress in Hebrew and Greek quizzes. *It is true that studying theology is somewhat tough and requires efforts, but this spiritual pursuit also brought me peace and joy; I found my faith solid and authentic.*

Creating a Space for Understanding Faith

Thanks to God's grace for letting me understand faith and experience life renewal. It dawned on me that learning is creating a space for understanding faith. Having been a Christian for over thirty years, I thought I know Jesus Christ; yet I was merely knowing something *about* Him. I thought I was passionate about God's ministry and serving enthusiastically. It may however come out of responsibility and my commitment to the others' needs, and all these are within my "comfort zone." Nevertheless, while studying theology, I have gradually realized that the life of a servant is more significant than ministry itself. What God cherishes is my "being" instead of my "doing" and "possessing." I now have a new understanding of what the essence of being a disciple of Christ is. I continue to think, to seek, to understand

and to live out my faith with the aid of the Holy Spirit.

What God cherishes is my “being” instead of my “doing” and “possessing.”

Life Renewed and Strengthened

I entered the seminary out of a desire for God's Word; *God, however, renewed my mind and healed my pain by this learning journey.* My past ministry experience caused me to be doubtful and confused. What is “a good and faithful servant”? What does “fulfilling the will of God” mean? What is “glorifying the Lord”? Also, what is “gentle and meek,” and “submissive to God's guidance”? For a period of time, my head was loaded with such questions, while finding that the church was unlike a church, the pastors failed as pastors, and old companions turned into strangers. I sorrowed, wailed and cried. I was tired, frail, disappointed and even swore that I would never take up full-time ministry in church.

Thanks to God, for His grace is sufficient for me, and His thoughts are higher than mine. He gave me comfort and strength in my hard time. I can still remember our teacher reminded us that believers might go through God's tearing

down and planting of life. There would be no life renewal without being torn down first. In these four years, I intensely experienced what serious study and understanding biblical truth are. God trained my heart and mind continually, shaped my character and asked me not to fight with flesh and blood. My doubts in the past do not bother me any more: I have learned to obey and trust Him. How can a human as creature fully understand the works of the Creator? God also encouraged me with His Word: “but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” (Is 40:31) No matter where I go, Yahweh my God will be there with me.

Universal Priesthood of All Believers

I received theological equipment not because I want to serve as a full-time pastor. However, as all believers are called to be priests, all that we learn could be used by the Lord. I wish to be a minister of God's Word, and be His instrument for noble purposes in my living and services.

Lastly, thanks to the HKBTS program, and thanks to my teachers for their teaching and company. All are God's grace. Let us encourage each other in our endeavors.

Being the Lord's Disciple in Everyday Life

Ho Man-chiu (M.C.S.)

In a trice, I finished the two-year program of Master in Christian Studies. In a trice, I have to leave the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary (HKBTS).

Began School with a “Problem Awareness”

I can still remember one of the reasons that I decided to enroll this course was due to my participation in a theological thinking workshop held by Prof. Andres Tang in the “Theonous” Bible Conference. It was in 2016. Prof. Tang led the participants to reflect on what theology is required in the current social and political context of Hong Kong. He commented that churches in Hong Kong are unable to respond to the present social situation

because we have not made a serious effort to think about those issues. The Church's inability to make a response is indeed a consequence of reaping what she sowed in the past. However, it is better than nothing if we are aware of the problem now and begin to think. Thus I began school at HKBTS with this “problem awareness” ; hopefully I would be able to think about those related questions for the Church with those who share the same concern.

Start with the Basics

In fact, these are not easy questions to sort out. Moreover, the theological studies in these two years were quite hectic

that I did not have much time to reflect and ponder on those issues. Yet, I know that “equipping myself with the basics” is really important. Also, every practice of faith in the Church and among believers should be examined and restrained by theology. For this reason, although I seemed not to counter “directly” the above-mentioned problems of Hong Kong churches in the past two years, I still believe this two-year learning is immensely significant.

Communion with the Saints

First, I deeply realized the comprehensiveness and profoundness of theology and how it touches people. Having learned about how various theologians organized the gospel revealed by the Triune God in Jesus Christ, and expressed their results in theological statements, I am deeply touched. It is because these are the fruits of the theological reasoning of believers in history when they chased and engaged in the works of the Triune God in this realm. Also, these efforts are ultimately for witnessing and adoring God: God has never abandoned this world of suffering; He still works and delivers salvation in this world; and the Reality of God is revealed to us here and now through the gospel of Jesus Christ. *Whenever I think of myself actually joining all the saints in history, thinking collectively about how the Church can faithfully participate in the salvation work of the Triune God in, to and for the world, I know this is a tremendous blessing and this moves me profoundly.*

“Doing Great Things” and “Everyday Life”

Moreover, in these two years, I realized that I have exaggerated the question “how the Church can respond to the current social and political context of Hong Kong.” I thought that only if we develop a “Hong Kong theology” or a certain kind of “local theology” could we be “responding” to the current situation in Hong Kong. This assumption is probably a symptom of being poisoned by Modernism with a tendency to pursue “greatness.” Such an approach which appears “down-to-earth” could be, however, quite “in the clouds”; because it may possibly neglect or bypass the faith practice of the Church and believers.

On the contrary, *I become more and more convinced that Christian faith is not about greatness, or the so-called “doing great things”; instead, it could be rather “simple” — being faithful as the Lord’s disciple as we play our roles in everyday life.* Of course, I am not saying that Christians should not “do great things”; if God sends you to “do great things,” go ahead. However, most of us are “ordinary people,” and everyday life is the context where



Ho Man-chiu and Dr. Andres Tang

we as “ordinary people” fight for our cause. For Christians, this means we can live as the Lord’s faithful disciples in everyday life. The world is full of “doublespeak”; Christians endeavor to talk about truth in daily life; we speak the truth because our God is the Truth. The world is heartless; Christians endeavor to take care of and love those who are not being loved in their daily life, for our God is Love. The world pays back evil with evil; Christians endeavor to accept and forgive one another in our daily life, for our God forgives us first. I believe the Triune God uses every Christian who faithfully tries to be the Lord’s disciple in their everyday life and through them influences the world subtly. This is, in fact, the everyday politics of Christians or being the Lord’s disciples. Maybe it is a more practical and “down-to-earth” approach in response to the current social and political situation in Hong Kong, and the Church has been commissioned to train faithful disciples.

I believe the Triune God uses every Christian who faithfully try to be the Lord’s disciple in their everyday life and through them influences the world subtly.

In retrospect of these two years of theological training, I earnestly find that what I learned was yet essential basics. I am now searching for direction, and I will leave this to God’s guidance. Finally, thanks to God and HKBTS for granting me a chance to learn theology formally. No matter where I will be, may God help me to be His faithful disciple, glorifying Him and benefiting others!

A Spiritual Voyage

Dai Shengming (M. Div.)



Dai Shengming and Dr. Vincent Lau

Embarking on a Spiritual Voyage

On January 4, 2016, I officially arrived at Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary (HKBTS) from Mainland China. My first impression of HKBTS was of peaceful tranquility and cleanliness. The sea-

facing seminary reminded me of a large ship on the shore, ready to embark on a long voyage at any moment. It was such a gorgeous view that it exceeded all my expectations. Dreaming about a splendid future, I prayed to God in such a beautiful scene, committing my next two and a half years of student life to Him.

Three Touching Lessons

Time really flies. Before I realized, I had spent two and a half years full of God's grace and blessings here. I owe much to God's guidance and help for the successful completion of my study. There are three things about HKBTS that have touched my heart dearly.

The first is that it has revived my spirituality. After graduating from Nanjing Union Theological Seminary in 2006, I ministered in the church for ten years until 2016. The year 2015 was a spiritual low point in my life of ministry and I felt I was out of my depth. Though I still managed to perform my duties in the church, the physical and mental fatigue was so overwhelming that I desperately needed to find somewhere to rest. God listened to my prayers and led me to the loving, big family of HKBTS. He renewed my strength with HKBTS: my spirituality was not only revived but also improved.

He renewed my strength with HKBTS: my spirituality was not only revived but also improved.

The second is that it has broadened my vision. HKBTS' missions of *theologia*, hospitality, disciple community, spiritual care, Christian education, servant-leader, practical theology, etc. have impressed me for life. The practical theology advocated by President Cho is the *theologia* of discerning the mind of Jesus Christ. *Theologia* will materialize in areas including preaching, mission, pastoral care, and Christian education, helping us to act according to Jesus' thoughts, feelings, and examples when we practice, live, witness, and teach. "Love" should be the most important principle in our relationship with God and others. These ideas have had a lasting influence on me. With their profound knowledge of theology, teachers of various subjects have greatly broadened my vision.

The third is that it has strengthened my faith. HKBTS places great importance on developing a disciple community and emphasizes that teachers should be competent as well as virtuous. Thus, it means that in this "ongoing learning" community, students are taught by teachers as disciples or apprentices. The character of a student is hugely influenced by the character of the teacher. I have benefited a lot from this kind of education.

"...every part suffers with it...every part rejoices with it." At HKBTS, I have experienced the truthfulness of this Bible quote.

"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." (1Cor 12:26) At HKBTS, I have experienced the truthfulness of this Bible quote. In 2017 during my fourth semester, I was facing huge academic stress; and my teachers and classmates offered generous help in the most difficult period in my study. In March 2017, when my father suffered from acute appendicitis, they also offered support and prayed for us. It was my teachers and classmates at HKBTS who weathered the storm with me.

A Turning Point in my Life

HKBTS has been a turning point in my life. God has helped me reorient my ministry work through the teachings and examples of the teachers at the seminary and mutual support among students. I now have a closer relationship both with God and with people. Equally important is that the seminary has reshaped my understanding of the doctrine of church and made me re-examine my duties as a church minister. Therefore I would like to express my gratitude to HKBTS, to the President, to my teachers, classmates, and all the staff. May God continue to bless HKBTS with guidance!

Our Prayers — The Driving Force *for* Our Graduates and New Students Who Are Becoming Preachers and Pastors



The sixty-seventh class of graduates was pictured with President Cho and all the faculty.

Let's pray for our graduates. May God guide them as they enter their ministry fields. May God work with them in building up the Church, witnessing Christ and leading people into the Kingdom of our Lord.

Let's also pray for our new students. May God help them to a smooth transition into seminary life, to grow in love, character and theological wisdom, and to learn to become servant-leaders as well as disciples of our Lord.

Behold, our new students:

Doctor of Theology:	Yue Guangpu		
Master of Theology:	Cheung Tak-wing Ling Hoi-ni	Hui Siu-kuen Tang Chi-hong	Wong Hin-fung, Haven
Master of Divinity:	Chau Hang, Henry Or Siu-tim, Timmy Wong Siu-kei Li Xin Yip Hay-sing	Guo Junhui Shiu Hau-lam Chan Wai-lam Lin Shihong	Lee Po-yee Sin Wai-man Wan Chi-hung Lo Shuet-sum, Sally Mak Tsz-wing Tang Pui-yee Hou Shengjie Wong Wing-yeung
Bachelor of Theology:	Chan Man-ping, Carmen Law Hoi-yui, Terence Ng Siu-yin	Chan Man-ting, Rachel Law Yuet-ho Yu Chung-sang	Cheng Kim-ho, Joseph Liu Wing-sze Ho Lap-san Lo Chun-kit
Master of Christian Studies:	Wun Siu-fai	Chan Ka-kit, Susanna	Yuen Suk-kwan
Non-Classified Student:	Lee Kit-chu	Shou King-kong, Sergon	Wong Kai-man

A group photo of the new students together with President Cho and the faculty members was taken after the opening convocation ceremony.



How Do I Know God's Will for My Life?

Wong Fook-kong

Professor of Old Testament

Discovering God's will in our personal lives is a concern for many Christians. In this essay I would like to discuss an approach called "*The Way of Wisdom*" proposed by Garry Friesen in his book, *Decision Making and the Will of God*.[†] The following is an integration of some of his ideas with my understanding of Scripture. Interested readers should consult his book for more details.

What Is the Meaning of God's Will?

To begin with, what is the meaning of God's will? There are three possible answers to this question: 1) **God's sovereign will**. This refers to his plan for everything that happens in the universe. For example, salvation history is part of God's sovereign will for humanity. 2) **God's moral will**. This refers to God's commands in the Bible and how humans ought to believe and live their lives. In most instances in the Bible, the will of God refers to his moral will. 3) **God's individual will for each person**. This is something we cannot know from reading the Bible alone.

"Dot" Theory

The third meaning is what most Christians mean when they say that they want to know God's will for their lives. According to the traditional view, the correct decision is a "dot," i.e., only one choice is the correct choice. If we miss that opportunity to follow God's will, then we have missed out on God's ideal path for our lives. For example, if Abraham did not go from Haran to Canaan he would have missed God's perfect will for his life. What this means today is that if we do not marry "the

One" or choose a "wrong" career, we have missed God's wonderful plan for our lives.

According to the traditional view, the correct decision is a "dot," i.e., only one choice is the correct choice... There are a number of problems with this view.

There are a number of problems with this view. Firstly, even in the Bible only a few people are called to follow God's will according to this meaning of the term. For example, there were many godly people in the days of Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel but only these men were called to be prophets. Therefore, we should be wary about generalizing their experience for all believers. Secondly, even for those who were specifically called, there is no evidence that every aspect of their lives was regulated by God's commands. As far as we know, God only gave them specific commands that were related to their ministries. For example, God did not give Abraham directions about how to get from Haran to Canaan nor did he tell Joshua whom to marry.

On a more practical level, nobody follows the so-called "Dot" theory for ordinary, everyday decisions. We will give up after a few hours if we have to find out God's will about what to eat for lunch, what to wear for work, or whether we should bring an umbrella with us when we go out, each time, all the time! Furthermore, in many of these decisions it is almost impossible to argue that one decision is God's will rather than another. For example, could we sincerely believe that eating chicken rice rather than pizza is God's will for our lunch? More seriously, it may permit immature believers to justify unwise decisions on the grounds that "God told me to do it." This is the nuclear bomb of spiritual rationalization; all objections are annihilated before this declaration. Similarly, some believers may let circumstances or

chance dictate their decision on the grounds that they are “putting out a fleece” (Jgs 6:36-40). Instead of taking responsibility for their own decisions, this allows some to hide behind the invisibility cloak of circumstance.

God’s Moral Will

According to Friesen, God’s moral will should be our first consideration. If something is prohibited in the Bible, it is not an option. He uses Genesis 2:16-17 as an illustration. In this passage all the fruits of the Garden of Eden were available to Adam and Eve. Only the fruits of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil were prohibited. Adam and Eve did not have to worry about whether eating apple, orange, or fig was God’s will. According to him, the “Dot” theory reverses the picture so that all the fruits were prohibited except for one. What Friesen’s theory means in practice is that we have a choice in whom to marry but having sex outside of marriage is not an option.

...God’s moral will should be our first consideration.

So what if the decision involves non-moral choices? The choice is no longer between right or wrong but good or bad decision. In these cases Christians are supposed to exercise their God-given wisdom. Scriptural support for this includes Romans 14:5 which says, “One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind” and 1 Corinthians 7:40 which says, “Yet in my judgment she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.”* In the Old Testament, the corpus of Wisdom Literature teaches a person to differentiate between good and bad choices, many of which are non-moral choices (Prv 10:4-5; 11:2, 15).

God’s Sovereign Will

What about the sovereign will of God? What role does it have in this approach to the will of God? According to Friesen, God’s sovereign will does not exclude the need for planning; it just means that we have to submit to his will humbly. Circumstance should not be equated with God’s will; it is merely the context of the decision and it must be weighed with wisdom. For example, if the building I am in is on fire, I should not

take it to mean that it is God’s will for me to die. Wisdom tells me I should get out and live for God. Friesen gives scriptural examples of an open door that was taken (1Cor 16:8-9), prayer for an open door (Col 4:3), and an open door that was not taken (2Cor 2:12-13). His point is that not all open doors (i.e., available choices) should be considered God’s will. In general, the sovereign will of God is not something we can discern or discern clearly at any given time. Therefore, making a personal decision on the basis that it is the sovereign will of God is not wise.



Circumstance should not be equated with God’s will; it is merely the context of the decision and it must be weighed with wisdom.

“The Way of Wisdom” in Practice

How do all these work out in practice? The first thing to do is, of course, to make sure that our decision is **not against the teachings of the Bible**. Note that this is different from, for example, believers who claim that God is leading them to Thailand to be missionaries based on their reading of Abraham’s call (Gn 12:1-3). This is a personal experience between the believer and God mediated via the Bible. It cannot be made into a principle that all believers should follow. What we are talking about are Biblical teachings that should be followed by all believers.

There is a role for **circumstances** in our pursuit of God’s will, of course. God’s opening or closing of a door could be significant. Incidentally, Gideon was not seeking God’s will when he put out the fleece. By that time he was very certain about what God wanted him to do. He put out the fleece because his faith was weak and he was afraid. According to Friesen, it should be used infrequently and only for more important decisions. Furthermore, select a sign that is clear, definite, and somewhat uncommon (i.e., where there is not a 50%

chance of it happening).

The inner witness of the Holy Spirit is also important, i.e., whether we have inner peace with a certain decision. I wish to caution that this is a subjective feeling and should not be the main reason for a decision. I've known quite a number of believers who struggle with whether or not to break up with their boy or girl friend. Once the decision is made to break up, most tell me that they feel a sense of peace. I think their sense of peace comes from having made the decision itself. Also, there must have been conflicts prior to the consideration to break up. Thus, breaking up means the end of the conflicts. I think these factors, more than simply following the will of God, explain their sense of peace. Nevertheless, coupled with prayer (and perhaps fasting) a sense of peace could be an indication of God's leading.

Seeking the counsel of mature Christians who know us and care for us is also very helpful. According to the way of wisdom, we need to exercise wisdom in making decisions. However, we may not have the required wisdom or experience to make the correct decision in a matter we have not encountered before. Furthermore, we may be too caught up in the spirit of the moment or unable to view the issue from a different perspective. Getting a second opinion or perspective from older, wiser Christians can be enlightening. It could confirm what we want or caution us against our decision.

Our personal desire should not be ignored either. We should avoid the two extremes of pandering to our desire or denying it altogether. I have known seminary students who think that God has called them exactly because they do not want to serve the LORD full-time. This is bad theology. God does not want us to suffer unnecessarily. The other extreme is also wrong. In my experience, many people want to know God's will because

they think that following God's will brings happiness and success. The proof of following God's will, then, is happiness and success. If so, we will have a tendency to base our decision on what makes us happy or successful. However, this is skewed thinking. Jesus and many believers suffered exactly because they were following God's will. We should not think that following God's will would necessarily bring

happiness. On the contrary, it may bring us a lot of suffering.

The way of wisdom also emphasizes **common sense**. As Friesen says, God gives us common sense to use so we should not ignore it. This should not be a problem except that many Christians identify common sense with lack of faith. One of the great things about faith in Christ is that it empowers believers to move beyond their comfort zone, to reach heights they would normally not dare to dream about. On the flip side, it also encourages some believers to indulge in wishful thinking that defies common sense. What separates wishful thinking from genuine faith? According to my understanding, faith is when we step out boldly to do what God has commanded us to do. This is certainly true when it concerns obeying biblical teachings (e.g., to fulfill the Great Commission, to fight for justice for the oppressed). Wishful thinking is when we indulge our own personal desires beyond common sense reasoning. Jesus has indeed said, "Ask, and it shall be given to you" (Mt 7:7) but that does not mean that everything we ask for is God's will or that we will get it. God will not give us stone if we ask for bread (Mt 7:9); conversely, it also means that if we ask for stone, he will only give us bread. He will give us what is good for us rather than just what we want, or nothing at all.

...faith is when we step out boldly to do what God has commanded us to do. ... Wishful thinking is when we indulge our own personal desires beyond common sense reasoning.

Finally, the way of wisdom does not rule out **supernatural guidance** like an audible voice, angel, vision, dream, prophecy, or miracle. These are all found in the Bible and were ways that God communicated with his people. Nevertheless, these were not common even in Biblical times. Otherwise people would not be so astonished and awestruck when they happened. Therefore, we should not expect them to be common today. Even when we think we have contacted with the spiritual realm we should be careful. This is because not all spirits are from the LORD. It is our duty to test every spirit to see whether they are from the LORD or not (1Jn 4:1-3).

† Garry Friesen, with J. Robin Maxson, *Decision Making and the Will of God*, revised and updated edition (Portland: Multnomah, 2004).

* All Scripture quotations are taken from the ESV.



Academic Affairs News

- **Opening Convocation in the New School Year**

The Opening Convocation Ceremony for 2018-19 was held on August 28, and President Joshua Cho preached a message titled “*Communitas*.” He pointed out that according to Colossians 3:1-14, in a true community of disciples, each member both embraces the differences and varieties in the group, and maintains the uniqueness of its identity and conviction, namely the story of Jesus Christ becoming the life story of each member in the community. It is a story of “love.” Love is the *sine qua non* (essential condition) of a disciple community.

- **Opening Convocation Lecture**

The lecture was held on August 29. Dr. Lindsay Robertson, Associate Professor of Christian Thought (Theology and Philosophy), presented a lecture titled “Beauty, Art and Being: Some Dimensions of Personal Identity.”

- **Full-Time Ministry Exploration Camp**

The seminary organized a Full-Time Ministry Exploration Camp from October 19 to 20 for Christians exploring the possibility of full-time ministry. Participants got to hear sharing on the call to ministry, experience what a class at HKBTS is like, and meet our professors and students. The Chaplain, Rev. Brian Lam, held a workshop on “Discernment, Life, and Calling,” and Dr. Clement Shum, Assistant Professor of New Testament, shared a message. This camp allowed participants to reflect more deeply on God’s calling, experience campus life of students, and learn more about the programs of study at HKBTS.

- **Baptist Heritage Week**

Baptist Heritage Week was held from October 23 to 25 (10:00-11:00 am) on the Sai O Campus. Its main theme was “Baptist Ecclesiology After Whiteness.” Rev. Dr. Mikael N. Broadway, Associate Professor of Theology and Ethics in the Shaw University Divinity

School, presented a series of lectures about his study on Baptist ecclesiology with focus around how modernity and white supremacy have distorted and damaged the church, and how to work toward overcoming these sinful failures to be God’s people.

- **Joint Graduation Ceremony**

The Joint Graduation Ceremony of HKBTS for Main Programs, Lay Theological Education Department and Distance Education Program will be held on November 18 (Sunday) at 3:30 pm at the Kowloon City Baptist Church. Church pastors, deacons and brothers and sisters are welcome to attend the ceremony to celebrate and share the joy of our graduates.

- **Main Programs Admissions for Spring 2018-19**

The Main Programs are now calling for applications for admission in 2018-19 (Spring). Programs available include Master of Divinity, Master of Divinity (Further Studies), Master of Christian Studies, Master of Theology and Doctor of Theology. The spring term begins on January 14, 2019. The deadline for applications is November 30, 2018.

From the Chaplain

Rev. Brian Lam Chaplain

Conflicts and Reconciliation: A Note on the Spiritual Formation Camp 2018

With “*koinonia*” (fellowship) as its theme, HKBTS Spiritual Formation Camp held on August 15-17 this year discussed how we may manage conflicts and bring about reconciliation.

Prof. Andres Tang shared a message titled “Preparing Ourselves for a New Community.” He approached the issue with the concept of “strangeness.” A new community is a strange community. For year 1 students, HKBTS is a strange community; for the graduating class, the first field they serve as minister will be a strange community unless they return to serve in their own church. Prof. Tang reminded us that instead of eliminating

this strangeness as quickly as possible, we should always stay fresh and open ourselves to keep finding out more about the community and making ourselves known to the community. After all, "fellowship" means living together and getting along. It is neither something to be avoided nor romanticized.

In the morning of the last day, before we took communion, Dr. Sarah Shea preached a sermon on I John 1:1-4. The topic was "Fellowship amid Conflicts in the Church." She reminded us that the real foundation for fellowship is Jesus Christ and the Word. What should we do when faced with conflicts? We should examine our true nature in front of God's throne of grace. That is the beginning of reconciliation.

On the second day of the camp, we looked back on students' real life experience of conflicts and reconciliation. Dr. Freeman Huen invited a couple of fresh graduates to share with us their experience of conflicts with their classmates in the past few years and how they reconciled. Dr. Huen guided them to talk about their experience of reconciliation, especially the difficulty of reopening the door to communication after the conflicts, how they overcame the communication obstacles, and how they experienced God's work in the process. One of the graduates even shared with us what he learnt being a channel of His peace.

In the afternoon on the second day, every class except year 1 students formed a group to have a discussion led by a teacher on their experience of conflicts and reconciliation and the difficulties they faced. In this safe setting, some of the classes even honestly brought up the clashes they came across as they lived together at the seminary.

"Fellowship" means "life together" and "being with" (each other). Yet when a group of (justified) sinners live together, conflicts and problems are inevitable. We are not counting on just one camp to heal the wounds from the past; what we are hoping for is to take this camp as an opportunity to learn to deal with the issue as a faith community. If we do not learn how to manage conflicts and bring about reconciliation in the relatively safe environment of a seminary, we are even less likely to learn it when we have conflicts with fellow ministers or co-workers as we serve in local churches or institutions. We have seen a lot of ministers who divide the work without cooperating with

one another, and there are times when ministers call one another "co-worker" but cannot work together. May God have mercy on us; may the Holy Spirit renew the churches!

Admissions and Registration Office

Mandy Chung Registrar

Start of the Fall Term and Enrolment for the Spring Term

The new school year 2018-19 began amid red and amber rainstorm signals. This fall we have 33 new students: 3 in the Master of Theology Program, 14 in the Master of Divinity Program, 3 in the Master of Christian Studies Program, 10 in the Bachelor of Theology Program and 3 non-classified students. They will spend the next few years here as seminary students. I pray that in years to come, they not only grow in their knowledge and ministry skills, but also encounter God, other people, and themselves, and learn to be solitary before learning to get along with people in a group, because this is the foundation for ministry.

The seminary organized a two-day, one-night "Full-Time Ministry Exploration Camp" on October 19-20 (Friday - Saturday) this year for brothers and sisters exploring the possibility of full-time ministry and seeking theological training. Among the programs were a workshop on "Discernment, Life, and Calling," message sharing, trial classes, seminary students' testimonies of God's call, individual exchanges with professors or group exchanges, and sharing and prayer with current students so we may seek the Lord's guidance together. There was an introduction of our study programs, practicum arrangement, and student life.

We are calling for application for admission in the spring term this school year (2018-19). For further details, please call our office or visit our website. The application deadline is November 30. The spring term begins on January 14, 2019. Church pastors, ministers, and brothers and sisters are welcome to audit courses offered in the 2018-19 spring term. Please call our office for inquiries after mid-December.

Admissions and Registration Office Phone Number: 2768 5130; HKBTS Website: www.hkbts.edu.hk.

Lay Theological Education Department

Toto Choi Associate Director

A Brand New Start with our New Program

Our department's new program, the "Master of Arts in Christian Studies Program" (M.A.C.S.), is kicking off this October! Every one of our 17 new students is diligent and enthused believers' leader; some of them are deacons or department heads at churches, and some are co-workers at Christian institutions. They are willing to put in their effort, time, and money for biblical and theological training, preparing for the challenge from life and ministry, and working to improve their spiritual life and ministry.

Students in the evening program are usually from a wide age range. In the past, most students enrolled in degree programs were in their middle age. It is especially delighting that our M.A.C.S. program has two students in their twenties who choose to receive theological training, devoting their prime years to the Lord when they are in their best position to build the foundation for their career. With different background and faith stories, the 17 new students are all firmly devoted to ministry and learning. Here are some of their messages and expectations:

"Nowadays our society is full of sophistries when it becomes hard to tell the true from the false. There are so many different values that we cannot tell which is right... What does the Bible teach us on these issues? How would Jesus respond if He lived among us today? ...I reckon that I understand too little about the Bible and think too little about my faith, so I hope I can develop a set of biblical principles for my life after taking this program."

"Branches that remain in Christ build their lives on the rock, thanks not to ministry works, activities nor relationship with people, but to every word that comes from the mouth of God. I long to study God's word. May the Holy Spirit help me understand His word, and save me from losing heart and turning from the road of ministry."

"As a youngster who grew up in the church, I have witnessed a number of brothers and sisters overwhelmed or even taken in by worldly information and values. I need better equipment with biblical and theological training,

a more profound experience in the faith and in ministry, and broader horizons so that I may inspire young people around me to reflect on faith and encourage them to hold on to Christian values."

"Since 1997, Hong Kong has undergone tremendous economic, social, and political changes over the last two decades. How would the Christian faith respond to these transformations? Socio-political turmoil has triggered vigorous debates both inside and outside the church, causing conflicts that rip society apart in an unprecedented manner. By studying the Christian faith with a systematic and holistic approach, I hope I can have a better grip of the core of the faith. Such a process will not only help us improve and renew our spiritual life, but also enable us to better discern and respond to what is happening in our society."

"For a long time, I have been pondering the idea of taking a theological program for lay believers, but I was always too busy to take action. Midway upon the journey of my life, I told myself I should not spend all my time making a living. I decided to humbly submit to God's guidance. By taking this program, I may equip myself with a more systematic understanding of the Bible so as to improve my ministry and gospel preaching."

While every student embarks on this new journey with their own expectations, I believe it is not mere coincidence that they meet in this program. I pray that they will encourage one another on their academic journey, bringing new motivation to themselves and to the group as a whole. May God accept their commitment and guide their learning so that they experience His teaching, molding, and blessing even more in the coming years.

Distance Education Program

Carter Pang Former Associate Director

20th Anniversary: Passing the Torch

Recently I happened to hear a friend of mine make the following emotional remark, "Three years make a generation gap; ten years make an era." In some ways, this is an apt description of the world we are living in. If ten years really make an "era," the Distance Education Program (DEP) has already witnessed two eras before we realize.

Thanks to the grace of God, DEP has the opportunity to serve more than 1,600 students from all over the world in the past 20 years. When I was re-organizing files in the office at the end of July, certain interesting facts came to my attention. Among our students over the years, there are at least a pair of father and son and a pair of mother and son taking our courses at different times or even at the same time. We also have Rev. Daniel Lee and his daughter, Pastor Grace Lee, who are former and current tutors for DEP, serving our students all these years. To me, they embody the passing on of DEP from one generation to the next.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of DEP, with gratitude we are holding a Thanksgiving Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Distance Education Program in the afternoon on November 10 in the Multi-purpose Hall on our Sai O Campus. The theme of the celebration is "Passing the Torch: Mission that Transcends Time and Space." We shall count the blessings of the Lord and encourage one another with our worshipping, testimonies sharing (among our guests are the mother-and-son duo mentioned above and the father-and-daughter tutors), thanksgiving prayers by our tutors and representatives of our partners (including Christian Ministry to Visually Impaired Persons, Hong Kong Christian Kun Sun Association, and Beauty of Grace Foundation Limited), and refreshments. We cordially invite you to the Thanksgiving Celebration to share with us the joy from God. For registration or inquiries, please contact the DEP office.

Our diploma programs for fall 2018 started on September 1. The new students briefing session and tutorial classes for various courses were held within the two weeks around the start of term. Certificate programs are open for application all year long. Trial classes and tuition discounts are available for online certificate programs. For further details, please visit DEP web page.

If you have any inquiries, please reach us by phone at 2768 5105, or by email at deinfo@hkbs.edu.hk, or visit DEP web page at www.hkbs.edu.hk/dist.

Student Union

Tsang King-chung Chairperson

A Beautiful Picture

My feeling was mixed on the Student Union Election Day. On one hand, I was excited for being one of the many

candidates. I know I would be able to make good use of the skills and gifts given by God if elected. I wish to do something for this seminary, however small or big it is. On the other hand, I was not sure about what to do next specifically if elected. I was not only a rookie to this place, but also a father of a newborn and a two-year-old kid back then. Could I handle all these? With this question in mind, I was elected and started serving in the Committee of Student Union (SU).

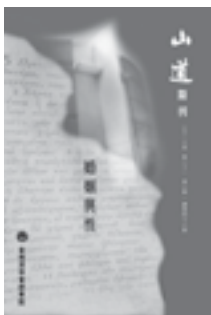
The SU theme was simple. "Inherit the Past and Usher in the Future; Be Kind to Our Families and Friendly to Our Neighbors." The SU is here to continue and to complete what has been carried forward from the past, and to pass along the unfinished. We are just a vehicle between the past and the future. Adding value to this transferring process would be a bonus. We, however, were not quite sure what to do specifically with this theme when we started off. It was just a general idea when the proposal was made. Thus, the only way to figure this out was through learning-by-doing. By listening to what has happened in the past (we call that oral tradition) and working with the present committee members, we all learned a lot of ideas and skills.

"Student Union is unnecessary if its services were neither self-initiated nor done through and by love and faith," said one of our professors. Rather than being driven by the needs of students, we serve simply because we want to return the favor to God through caring for whom He cares. With His grace, we can give more than what we have in hand. With His faithfulness, we can go beyond what we can see. The picture becomes clearer as we go along the journey. We show hospitality to students and our neighbors, and pray that we may have entertained angels unknowingly during the process. And we did!

All things become bright and wonderful since the Lord God has made them all. He waters the land and sunbathes flowers and trees so they would grow beautifully. This picture is just like the SU in the past year. The flowers and trees are the result of the diligent works by all of us. The chairperson of the SU committee, however, is just the soil underneath. Neither colorful outlook nor outstanding shape is needed. Providing a safe and quiet place to students where they could hear and follow the lead of the Spirit is the principal task of the SU chairperson.

May God continue to bless the students and our neighbors through the SU. This is our prayer and our stand.

Publication News



The seminary's biannual academic journal, *Hill Road* (issue 42), will be published in December with the theme, "**Marriage and Sex.**" There are six thematic articles: "The Practice of Marriage in the Perspective of Discipleship" (Andres S. Tang), "Union Experience in Spirituality and Sexuality" (Annie Yi-Jung Pan), and "New Testament Teachings on Divorce and Remarriage: A Reflection on Integration and Contemporary Application" (Joyce Wai-Lan Sun), "A Biblical Theology Discussion on Same Sex Sexual Behavior" (Wong Fook-kong), "The Patristic Understanding of Scriptural Teachings on Homosexuality: Re-evaluation of the Viewpoints of John Boswell" (Nathan K. Ng), "The Possibility and Legitimacy of Sexual Orientation Change: Scientific and Ethical Explorations" (Kwan Kai-man). In addition, there will be several miscellaneous articles and book reviews.

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

Visitors

- **Dr. Colin Godwin**, the president of the Carey Theological College, Canada, and his spouse visited the seminary on June 27.

Faculty News

- **Dr. Nathan Ng**, Professor of Christian Thought (Church History), wrote a book, *Rebuilding the Church: Key Developments of the Reformation* (Hong Kong: Logos Publishing House, 2018), which was published in July.
- **Dr. Jonathan Lo**, Assistant Professor of New Testament, presented two papers "The Appropriation of Isa 6:9-10 and the Parable of the Sower: A Synoptic Study of Citational Patterns" and "Pauline Authority in the Letter to Philemon: Identifying the Theological Underpinnings of Paul's Persuasive Discourse" at the International Meeting organized by the Society of Biblical Literature in Helsinki from July 21 to August 3. And he is also a Visiting Scholar-in-Residence at the Regent College, Vancouver, from September to December.
- **Dr. Andres Tang**, Professor of Christian Thought (Theology and Culture), wrote a book, *On Ordinary Christian Practices* (Hong Kong: InPress Books, 2018), which was published in October.

Alumni News

- Alumna **Apple Ho Tsz-mei**, (class of 2018) was married to Mr. Choi Yuk-chi in a wedding ceremony held at the Heritage Baptist Church on June 18, 2018.
- Alumna **Law Siu-bo** (class of 1993) was ordained as a pastor by the Kwai Chung New Life Temple on October 7, 2018.
- Alumnus **Lau Yuk-keung** (class of 2007) was ordained as a pastor by the Fanling Baptist Church on October 21, 2018.

Lay Theological Education Department

Certificate Program in Christian Studies

It is a part-time evening program. Upon completion, students may apply for credit exemptions when enrolling the diploma / Bachelor programs. The department is now recruiting new non-classified students; such students may then apply to transfer to become registered students in August.

Lay Theological Training Diploma / Certificate Program

January-March Quarter (enrollment has already begun; auditing is welcome)

Subject	Lecturer	Venue	Date / Time
Temperament and Ministry	Mr. Tsang Hong-lin	Applied Theological Education Centre	Class A: 7/1 – 4/3 Mon 7:15 - 9:45 pm (4/2 class suspended; 8 lessons) Class B: 10/1 – 7/3 Thur 7:15 - 9:45 pm (7/2 class suspended; 8 lessons)
Understanding and Transforming Negative Emotions	Ms. Wan Mei-yee	Mongkok Education Centre	26/2 – 16/4 Tue 7:15 - 9:45 pm (8 lessons)
Bible Book Studies (NT): Hebrews	Rev. Chung Chi-kwong	Mongkok Education Centre	3/1 – 28/2 Thur 9:30 - 12:00 nn (7/2 class suspended, 8 lessons)
From Reading the Bible Creatively to Reading the Living Bible	Rev. Au Pak-ping	Mongkok Education Centre	10/1 – 7/3 Thur 7:15 - 9:45 pm (7/2 class suspended; 8 lessons)

All the classes above are conducted in Cantonese.

For inquiries or registration, please call 2711 2552, email ltedinfo@hkbtn.edu.hk or enroll online at www.hkbtn.edu.hk/lted.

Distance Education Program

Exploring Truth • Reflecting upon Faith • Equipping for Ministry

Student Recruitment: Diploma programs will begin in March 2019, while certificate programs can be joined at any time.

Correspondence 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 can gain a better understanding of the Bible.	Secondary school leavers with their church pastor's recommendation	March and September	March semester : <i>Hong Kong:</i> February 10 <i>Overseas:</i> January 10 September semester : <i>Hong Kong:</i> August 10 <i>Overseas:</i> July 10
Diploma in Christian Studies Program	Designed for equipping students for ministry, the program helps students strengthen their foundations in the Christian faith and doctrine.			
Higher Diploma in Biblical Studies / Christian Studies Programs	Further studies for students having completed 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, guiding students to study each book of the Bible systematically.	All are welcome	Register at any time	

Elective students: Students may choose subjects offered in the correspondence courses according to their own personal interests. For details, please log on to the Distance Education web page at www.hkbtn.edu.hk/dist.

Online Program	Program Description	Date of Commencement
Online Version Online Certificate in Old Testament Studies Program Online Certificate in New Testament Studies Program	* Students can read and download learning materials and course work directly from the website. * Upon completion of the coursework, students may upload it for the tutor to mark and provide comments. * Time-saving, quick and efficient.	* Students may join the program at any time with fee concessions. * A trial study of the online program is available here: http://elearning@hkbts.edu.hk

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

Pastoral Continuing Education Centre

Courses and talks offered from October to December 2018

Course / Talk	Lecturer	Date	Time
Church Management: Promoting Financial Offering and a Sound Church Financial System	Rev. Leung Ting-yik	8/10	9:30 am - 4:30 pm
Quality Children's Ministry in the Church	Dr. Helen Mui	15/10, 22/10, 29/10	2:00 - 5:00 pm
Environmental Protection and Ecological Theology	Prof. Ho Kin-chung	5/11	2:00 - 5:00 pm
Bible and the Handicapped	Dr. Sarah Shea	12/11, 19/11, 26/11	2:00 - 5:00 pm
A Study of the Book of Parables in the Book of Enoch	Dr. Clement Shum	3/12	2:00 - 5:00 pm
Songs of Accents: A Spiritual Pilgrim Based on the Story of Captivity and Return	Dr. Tony Sher	10/12	2:00 - 5:00 pm

Fee concessions:

- (1) *Early Bird Enrollment*: those who have enrolled and paid the course fee a week before the course begins will have a course fee reduction of \$20. (This concession cannot be used with other discount offers.)
- (2) A 10% discount for graduates from HKBTS degree programs, pastors of Baptist churches and students in our Lay Theological Education Department;
- (3) A 20% discount for valid cardholders of HKBTS Alumni Association members;
- (4) A 50% discount for full-time seminary students.

Venue: 8/F., Christian Centre, 56 Bute Street, Mong Kok, Kowloon

Registration: Application forms can be downloaded from the seminary's website, or you may enroll online at www.hkbts.edu.hk/pce/apply1.html

Inquiries: Please call 2768 5179 or email pce@hkbts.edu.hk

Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary Joint Graduation Ceremony 2018

The Board of Directors of the
 Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary
 Requests the honor of your presence
 at the Joint Graduation Ceremony Two Thousand and Eighteen
 at three-thirty pm on the eighteenth of November (Sunday)
 in the year of Two Thousand and Eighteen
 at the Kowloon City Baptist Church
 206, Argyle Street, Kowloon.

Student Recruitment for Spring 2018-19

Daytime Programs

Master of Divinity (7-year Part-time)

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

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

Master of Theology

Doctor of Theology

Deadline for Admission Application

November 30, 2018

First Day of Spring Term

January 14, 2019

Please log on to the seminary's website at www.hkbts.edu.hk/admissions for details.
For inquiries, please call 2768 5130.



Reply

I will support The Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary by

- praying for the Seminary's theological education ministry
 contributing \$_____ for
 Education Fund Campus Extension Project Others: _____

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(Mr / Ms / Rev / Dr / Mr & Mrs)

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

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Donation Methods:

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 Cash either deliver to the Seminary or direct deposit into our
Hang Seng Bank Account No. 787-471721-883
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(Same as signature on credit card)

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Card Expiry Date: _____ / _____ (MM/YY)

Amount: HK\$ _____ (Credit card donations are denominated in HK\$)

I do not wish my name and donation amount to appear in the Seminary's Newsletter.

- 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 in Hong Kong.
- Your personal data will only be used for issuing receipt and Seminary's administration purposes.
- Please tick the appropriate box ()
- For donation inquiries: Tel : (852) 2715 9511

Fax: (852) 2761 0868

Email: inquiry@hkbts.edu.hk

Thank you for your support !

DONORS REPORT FOR JUNE 2018

Education Fund (Church / Organization)		朱活平伉儷	300.00	無名氏	200.00
九龍城浸信會	285,550.00	何仲儀	1,000.00	無名氏	150.00
九龍國際浸信會	17,864.00	何錦燕	1,000.00	無名氏	137.98
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屯門浸信教會	500.00	洪坡拉	100.00		HK\$ <u>55,112.14</u>
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香港仔浸信會	27,991.52	梁明財伉儷	500.00		HK\$ <u>1,560.00</u>
香港浸信教會	117,250.00	梁麗嫦	300.00		
香港堅尼地城浸信教會	1,200.00	許鋒威	1,000.00	Distance Education Program	
柴灣浸信會	5,000.00	郭鳳瓊	500.00	鄭鵬程	300.00
將軍澳浸信會	1,000.00	陳偉倫	200.00	無名氏	444.00
深荃浸信會	500.00	陳麗英	500.00		HK\$ <u>744.00</u>
第一城浸信會	8,000.00	曾慶忠	500.00		
慈雲山浸信會	13,000.00	馮德華、鄧如玉	200.00	Theological Education for Filipino	
新希望浸信會	1,500.00	黃華娟	100.00	Leaders Program	
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置富浸信教會	3,000.00	楊謝金玉	3,000.00	星月餐廳	1,000.00
銅鑼灣浸信會	3,500.00	溫祥、黎琮珍	500.00	陳麗英	200.00
廣林浸信會	5,000.00	葉煥章	300.00	溫祥、黎琮珍	400.00
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無名氏	1,000.00	無名氏	3,000.00		HK\$ <u>3,550.00</u>
	HK\$ <u>603,799.52</u>	無名氏	1,000.00		
		無名氏	1,000.00	Campus Extension Project	
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					HK\$ <u>1,114,000.00</u>

DONORS REPORT FOR JULY 2018

Education Fund (Church / Organization)

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香港(西區)潮語浸信會	5,000.00
香港仔浸信會	13,689.40
香港浸信教會	117,250.00
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將軍澳浸信會	500.00
深荃浸信會	500.00
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基督教宣道會華基堂	2,000.00
啟聞基金	500.00
星月餐廳	2,000.00
無名氏	51,445.00
無名氏	1,000.00

HK\$ 492,678.40

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無名氏	4,000.00
無名氏	3,000.00
無名氏	1,000.00
無名氏	1,000.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	400.00
無名氏	300.00
無名氏	200.00
無名氏	39.47
無名氏	10.00

HK\$ 41,449.47

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Campus Extension Project

李德祥	7,000.00
曹啟明伉儷	10,000.00
薛聲明	5,000.00
無名氏	100,000.00
無名氏	1,000.00

HK\$ 123,000.00

President's Council

無名氏 HK\$ 50,000.00

Lay Theological Education Program

杜桂鵬	2,400.00
蔡艷桃	500.00
HK\$	<u>2,900.00</u>

Distance Education Program

鄭鵬程	300.00
無名氏	444.00
HK\$	<u>744.00</u>

DE: Special Need Training Program

無名氏 HK\$ 6,000.00

Theological Education for Filipino

Leaders Program

星月餐廳	1,000.00
陳麗英	400.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	400.00
HK\$	<u>1,800.00</u>

TEFL Mission Trip

第一城浸信會	405.00
Aiken Bechayda	447.00
Ambet Ordinario	60.00
Amiel Arzagon	100.00
Arlene Magbanua	100.00
Avelino Mauricio	200.00
Cecile Bobis	50.00
Erlinda Beita	500.00
Esterlita Espina	200.00
Fe Fernando	500.00
Jessica Miah	2,000.00
Ligaya Punzalan	100.00
Lorna Rosaria	100.00
Magdalena De Gula	100.00
Nancy Daniel	100.00
Rose Adams	450.00
Leah Ordas	3,062.00
Anonymous	2,780.00
張智理伉儷	3,000.00
HK\$	<u>14,254.00</u>

Campus Maintenance and Repairs

鄒小寶	1,200.00
鍾陳麗玲	250.00
HK\$	<u>1,450.00</u>

SUMMER SHORT-TERM MISSION 2018

牛池灣竹園潮語浸信會	5,000.00	車麗珍	800.00	黃桂賢	300.00
顯恩浸信會	800.00	明蘭芝	500.00	黃國東	500.00
Grand Central Jewellery Ltd.	2,000.00	金夢艷	200.00	黃燦標	3,000.00
Hosanna International Co. Ltd.	35,000.00	柳國豪	500.00	楊寶華	700.00
Lai Po Ling	200.00	孫偉鴻	500.00	劉杜群	2,000.00
孔得發	300.00	袁淑霞	1,000.00	潘美琪	1,000.00
王嘉豪	1,000.00	馬淑珍	3,600.00	鄭發銀	500.00
司徒寶媚	3,000.00	區鳳鳴	200.00	鄭融穎	500.00
任惠蓮	1,000.00	張愛蓮	500.00	鄭麗娟	1,000.00
伍綺玲	3,000.00	張鳳儀	200.00	黎惠婷	500.00
伍翠霞	500.00	陳沛豪	1,500.00	黎嘉禮	200.00
何寶霞	500.00	陳美寶	100.00	黎慶華	200.00
吳惠芳	100.00	陳偉諾	1,000.00	盧月卿	500.00
吳艷嫻	5,000.00	陳凱茵	100.00	蕭寬容	2,000.00
李陳榮	100.00	陳嘉妍、白美英	1,500.00	鄭小慧	2,000.00
李凱詩	200.00	游志豪	1,000.00	羅綺君	1,000.00
李德祥	3,000.00	黃振華	1,000.00	譚敏兒	100.00
				HK\$	<u><u>90,900.00</u></u>

Financial Report

General Fund, 1 June - 31 July 2018

	HK\$
Income	6,189,687.28
Expenditure	<u>(5,771,838.54)</u>
Surplus / (Deficit)	<u><u>417,848.74</u></u>

**August 7-8, 2018
Faculty Retreat**

As the opportune time has come, the faculty members in the retreat this year reviewed the M.Div. programs in the Main Programs. All members sincerely and enthusiastically discussed the topic, seeking God's will and figuring out the best resolution for the benefits of the students.



**August 15-17
Spiritual Formation Camp**

Students and teachers came together for the Spiritual Formation Camp before the new school term began. This time the Camp aimed at preparing them spiritually to set off on the spiritual voyage in the coming academic year. The theme for this year was “κοινωνία” (fellowship / communion) with a focus on how to manage conflicts and bring about reconciliation in a community. Besides messages shared by teachers and group discussions, fresh graduates were invited to share with teachers and students their personal spiritual pilgrimage.



Precious Moments

August 28

Opening Convocation Ceremony

In the opening convocation ceremony, President Cho preached a sermon on the topic “*Communitas*.” Based on Colossians 3:1-14, President Cho exhorted all the teachers and students to pursue becoming a community of love, for love is the *sine qua non* (essential condition) of a disciple community.



August 29

Open Convocation Lecture

The speaker of the open convocation lecture was Dr. Lindsay Robertson, Associate Professor of Christian Thought (Theology and Philosophy) at HKBTS, who spoke on the topic “Beauty, Art and Being: Some Dimensions of Personal Identity.”

