




香港浸信會神學院
Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary



2019.11 Newsletter

A Sorrowful Season



Faculty Sharing

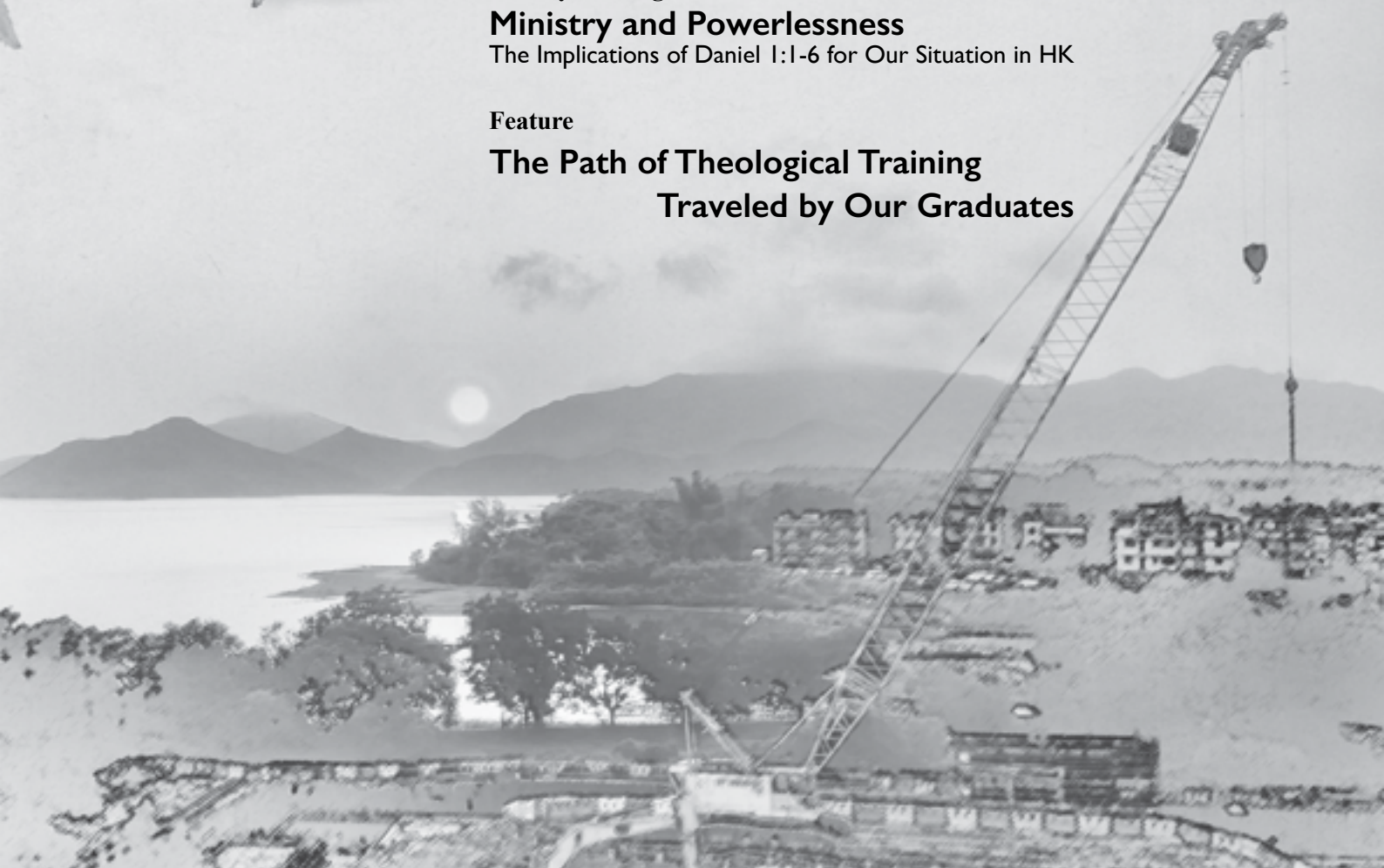
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A Sorrowful Season

Joshua Cho

Return of Sewage Pumping Station Issues

As the new school term began last year, my intuition told me that the coming academic year was not going to be an easy one.

In June of last year, *we learned about the government's plan to construct a major sewage pumping station just 5 meters away from the seminary's main entrance.* In fact, this delicate issue had been haunting us from as early as March 2009 when I had just taken office as President. Residents nearby took the initiative to approach the seminary, hoping to oppose the project jointly as a neighborhood.

The seminary was initially willing to fulfill our civil duties and accept the plan of having the station built near the seminary if in fact it was the most appropriate location for this public facility. However, as we investigated this issue, we found that the site selection by the Drainage Services Department (DSD) is not entirely justified. It is seemingly the result of a consideration of convenience rather than a thorough consideration of the best possible site for the pumping station. *Therefore, we urge the Drainage Services Department to consider another site to ensure that residents nearby are free from any adverse impacts and that the natural ecology of our beautiful bay will not be harmed.*

Part of the beautiful bay next to the seminary had been listed as "Site of Special Scientific Interest" for its unique geological feature. The large area of mangroves and wetland is more than just a natural habitat for wildlife such as chameleons, bats, egrets, mudskippers, etc. It is also a great holiday hangout for local Hong Kong people. The seminary has expressed our views to the government that we are willing to accept the pumping station to be built in close proximity if there are no other better options in site selection, and if the project can pass the environmental impact assessments. We have been communicating closely

with both residents nearby and the DSD throughout the years, and closely monitoring the progress of the project, in hopes of fulfilling our civil duties in supporting government administrations while striking a balance among the interests of all the different parties involved.



Escalation of the Problem

Comparing the different sites proposed by the DSD in 2009 and 2014 respectively, *the current plan proposed in 2018 has the most significant impact on the seminary in terms of the proximity and scale of the project.* The location of the pumping station has moved from 60 meters south of the seminary, as proposed by the government in 2009, to a significantly closer proximity of 5 meters north of the seminary in the recent 2018 proposal. The scale of the project has also been expanded from a design flow of about 12,500 m³ per day, as proposed in 2014, to about 20,600 m³ per day in 2018.

Should the 2018 proposal be given a go-ahead, we believe that irreversible and serious impact will be brought upon the teaching and living environment of our seminary, as well as upon the natural ecology and environment of the bay nearby.

Unresponsiveness of the Government

For many years, the seminary has communicated in a most "civilized" manner with the various administrations, merely expressing our views by official means of correspondence, instead of making our voices heard in the mass media and letting public opinion serve our purposes. When considering our experience in interacting with the government for the past ten years, we did notice a significant change in the attitude of the government in recent years.



Ten years ago, mail was sent and replies were typically returned quickly. *This time, however, no concrete or substantial replies have been received* since we learned of the updates to the project proposing that the pumping station is to be constructed just 5 meters away from our main entrance and, as recommended by our Campus Environmental Consultation and Development Committee, we have eagerly tried to liaise with the government through correspondence for more than a year. I have a feeling of a turn for the worse considering such circumstances.

Construction Work Is Destructive to the Body and the Mind

On top of all that, the property developer responsible for a major residential development project to build 9500 flats in Shap Sze Heung, has started the *initial preparation works such as building bus terminals and widening the roads nearby the seminary since mid-2018, causing a significant increase in air and noise pollution around our campus*. Students, teachers, staff and their families that reside in our dormitories are increasingly starting to suffer from skin, eye and respiratory problems. Those most seriously affected have chosen to move out of our campus to avoid the polluted environment. A rough estimate indicated that at least ten people in the seminary have been and continue to suffer from respiratory diseases during this period. I myself have had to live with a persistent cough for the past eight months since the beginning of 2019. I have spent many sleepless nights owing to my cough. It was so bad that it even caused my doctor to suspect me of having lung cancer; thankfully, a thorough examination carried out in the hospital recently ruled out that possibility.

Additionally, jarring vibrations have also become a part of the daily life of students and staff on the campus since May this year. Our bodies are intolerant of continuous strong vibrations from the construction work around the campus. Some teachers have had difficulties concentrating on their work with the extent and continuity of the vibrations while there were even students vomiting as a result.

Work Begins before Site Approval?!


From our observations since May this year, we have witnessed the construction work carried out on Nin Ming Road (approximately 5 meters away from the faculty dormitory) where government contractors have begun building a tunnel boring machine shaft for laying sewage pipes at the site selected for the pumping station while official environmental impact assessments are still waiting to take place. *This indeed causes concerns and suspicions that the government already started the advance works of the sewage pumping station even though its site selection has not yet been approved.* The seminary has therefore corresponded again in July with the Development Bureau and the Environment Bureau as well as twelve relevant departments, inquiring about the issue of constructing a pumping station 5 meters outside the seminary. It has been three months since the mail was sent and we are still eagerly waiting for their replies.

In summary, our teachers, students and staff are suffering physically and psychologically as the seminary faces challenges and an overload of stress from the proposed construction of the pumping station 5 meters outside our campus as well as the various construction works nearby by the property developer:

Surrounded by Loving Forces in Evil Days

Our beloved teacher and missionary, Rev. Dr. Jerry Moyo, passed away from illness in March this year and the entire community of our seminary grieved over our loss. In addition, several teachers and their family members were suffering from fatal illnesses during the academic year 2018-19. Meanwhile, both my parents had been admitted to the hospital one after another. What's more, the controversy of the "extradition bill" has been fermenting and intensifying in Hong Kong.

Saddened by Dr. Moyo's death, we have all tried to move on with our lives embracing *the hope of resurrection*. Though missing this great teacher makes us sad, alumni, students and



teachers of the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary (HKBTS) shall always remember deep in our hearts the message of “Transfiguration” which he had shared with us.

Hong Kong has seen unprecedented conflicts since mid-summer this year. Ongoing protests and violence have left our society at a difficult crossroads. Insults and bickering illustrate the widening social rifts in Hong Kong and some churches are facing the risks of splitting. Our teachers have not made any unanimous declarations or discussions during the summer. Yet we were all filled with the Holy Spirit and made appropriate responses in our own roles. I did wonder, “Is the theological knowledge which our teachers equipped their students with sufficient or relevant? How should our students deal with the current situation?” I asked our teachers these questions and they replied that they had no idea.

Edification

Our teachers returned to campus in August and joined the Faculty Retreat. The theme this year is “HKBTS’s Response to the Challenges of the Times.” The theme had been decided long before the “extradition bill” crisis started, yet it happened to be such a timely topic given the situation that our society is dealing with today. The faculty came to a consensus from God during the retreat, namely that ***we are to keep our focus on teaching, both in the seminary and in churches, so that the congregation may understand how to face the challenges of our society.*** Faculty members may stay true to their conscience and publish their thoughts accordingly. We believe the means of response does not have to be a joint declaration, and edification can also serve the purpose.

Foundation for “Down-to-earth” Faith Practices

After the Faculty Retreat, our teachers and students took part in the Spiritual Formation Camp before the new school term commenced. “Prayer” was chosen long ago as the theme of the camp by the Spiritual Devotion Department of our Student Union. Our teachers were a little upset before the camp, worrying that students may find the topic prayer being fairly “in the clouds” in the present time. However, our teachers

thought that ***prayer is the most “down-to-earth” faith practice at this time.***

The theme was explored in three different sessions, namely “What Is Prayer?” by our chaplain Rev. Brian Lam, “How to Pray for the World?” by Dr. Freeman Huen, and “The Theological Foundation of Prayer” by Dr. Sarah Shea. We all attended these talks with a grieving heart and put prayer into practice.

An evening prayer meeting was held in the second night of the camp, where the Student Union led us in a prayer for the different needs of this disciple community for the new school year, and the needs of the seminary were the last items on the prayer list. I was inspired and shared with our students how we have been consistently dealing with different major social issues (such as the “Container Terminal Labor Dispute,” the “Moral and National Education Controversy,” and the “Occupy Central Movement”) in recent years. I also shared with them how we may choose to respond in different ways to all sorts of controversies over major ethical issues arising from various tragedies and trials in life, but reminded them that ***prayer must always be the base of our action, and only on this base can we give appropriate responses.*** I hope they would understand that as each person in their own unique situation is faced with different problems, they would surely have different perspectives and considerations, and hence different response.

On that occasion, with consent previously given by Dr. Andres Tang, I disclosed what Dr. Tang was confronted with: he was experiencing emotional pain as his wife was dying. I then asked Dr. Tang to share with us his thoughts. Everyone went up to him and consoled him as the night wrapped up. I observed from afar and saw love and sincerity among us. Meanwhile, I noticed the empathetic Rev. Brian Lam, who lost a good friend coincidentally this very day ten years ago, was also quietly grieving. ***Life is full of such grievances, yet in them are also filled with God’s grace.***

Prudence and Practical Wisdom

In the Opening Convocation Ceremony on August 27, I spoke on the topic “Blessed Are Those Who Find Wisdom,” explaining that prudence is the first of all the four cardinal



virtues (prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance) as the other three virtues are closely tied to prudence. Without prudence, no right decision can be made. Without prudence, there is no knowing of what fortitude is. Without prudence, one knows not what an act of justice is. Without prudence, one does not know how to balance our lusts and desires, and keep our integrity in life. ***In the Christian context, prudence is practical wisdom (phronēsis), “having the same mindset as Christ Jesus” (ref. Phil 2:5-8). It is characterized by discernment through humility.*** With a humble heart, we can pray before God, learn his will and also pray and seek his will with others in the community. ***A humble person must pray before and after making any decisions.***

Two days later, the first All Seminary Prayer Meeting for the new school year was held. Rev. Brian Lam brought us to reflect on: who was present a year ago but was absent that day at the chapel. After we realized who left us and considered the current plight in Hong Kong, Rev. Lam shared with us the hymn “Von Guten Mächten” which was originally a poem written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer at the end of his life for his mother in late 1944. Part of the translated text is: ***“Still matters of the past are pressing our hearts and evil days are weighing down on us. ...God is with us at dusk and in the morning and most assuredly on ev’ry day.”*** Every word and phrase brings comfort to our weeping souls.

Theology Salon

Dr. Andres Tang and I demonstrated what a “theology salon” was at the chapel on September 3. The idea of holding a theology salon came from the annual meeting of the President’s Council in April. As churches are eagerly seeking for *theologia* (the wisdom of theology), we think about sending our teachers into local areas in the new school year, serving two to three local churches at a time by examining issues that concern all of them. Hopefully these issues are within the research and interest scope of our teachers, so it would not be too demanding for them. And the issues would be discussed in a conversational manner. I would act as the host with one or two teachers sharing their thoughts and interacting with the audience. ***This learning style is what I always refer to as “edification” where***

education is taking place in a steady, gradual and subtle manner. It can refresh churches and bring positive changes in society.

With the above ideas in mind, Dr. Tang and I attempted to have our teachers and students sample what a theology salon is like during the chapel. We had no idea that Rev. Lam would mention Bonhoeffer in the All Seminary Prayer Meeting when we were preparing for this “chapel version” of theology salon, and Rev. Lam definitely knew nothing about how Dr. Tang and I would have a conversation about Bonhoeffer at the chapel that followed. In the theology salon, Dr. Tang corrected the misconception of some people that Dietrich Bonhoeffer had played an important role in the assassination plot on Adolf Hitler. Dr. Tang also spoke on some important ethical ideas of Bonhoeffer, such as how he stressed the unity of the church and how the church should be united when facing social issues. We had a very meaningful exchange of views, but the time constraint of our chapel meeting prevented the discussion from reaching its full strength.

New Start of the New School Year

We hope our students would understand the unique perspective and thinking of the seminary through their first-hand experiences in the Spiritual Formation Camp, Opening Convocation Ceremony, All Seminary Prayer Meeting and the theology salon. We will keep on reviewing and reflecting. Now our teachers are also ready for churches’ invitations to hold a theology salon.

As classes started in August, I shared my thoughts in both faculty and staff meetings of how I had a heartfelt warmth in me: ***despite the sadness of the past academic year, the new academic year is a new start where the seminary will continue to meet and overcome new challenges.*** Even with the pumping station issue, social unrest, and death of dear ones, the seminary shall continue to turn our eyes upon God’s grace, focus on nurturing the next generation of pastors and faculty through edification, as well as living out the best of ourselves, and strive to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God.

Yes, we must walk humbly with our God, as this is of utmost importance!

Ministry and Powerlessness

The Implications of Daniel 1:1-6 for Our Situation in HK

Wong Fook-kong
Professor of Old Testament

Faculty Sharing

In August, I asked a group of Th.M. students whether they felt it was pointless to attend class, especially one about the world of the ancient Near East, at such a time. They replied yes, that they felt a disjunction between what is happening in Hong Kong and their class. To encourage them, I told them this story. It happened to me many years ago, in the mid-90s, when I was still a graduate student. My wife and I were good friends with another couple from Hong Kong. The husband and I were students at the same school and our wives were close friends. Unfortunately, his wife was diagnosed with a relapse of cancer and there was nothing the doctors could do to save her. I remember one day I called him but he was not in. His wife answered the phone and we talked for a while. Of course, I asked her how she was doing. She told me that if the last effort of medication did not work, she would surely die. And then she cried. I felt totally helpless. During those days, I, too, felt as if all the knowledge I'd learned was useless.



The fact is that we do not just feel powerless in the face of something as big as the turmoil in HK. There are also many situations when we are powerless to do anything. How should we deal with it? In this article, I want us to look at a person who was also in a totally powerless situation. How did he deal with it?

Daniel Was Faithful

The Book of Daniel has many historical questions and problems. I will not attempt to answer them this morning. I think the story was set at a time not long after Nebuchadnezzar's first invasion of Judah (598 BCE). It was certainly before the destruction of Judah in 587/86 BCE.

Daniel and the cream of Judah's society had been taken to Babylon. Jeremiah had prophesied in 605 BCE that Judah would be destroyed (Jer 25:9). Habakkuk also prophesied about the destruction of Jerusalem. The time of his prophecy is uncertain but I think it was also before Nebuchadnezzar's first invasion. The reason is that he depicted it as an unexpected event (Hb 1:5). This was no longer true after Nebuchadnezzar's first invasion. It was a hopeless situation. Babylon was an unstoppable power at this time and even God's prophets had prophesied about Judah's destruction. There was no hope for Daniel and his friends. There was no going back! The only news they could expect to hear was more bad news, about the final destruction of Jerusalem and Judah. *Daniel was a young man at this time. How did he react to this powerless and hopeless situation?*

Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the king's food (Dn1:8). In other words, he decided to be faithful to the LORD at this time. We do not know what other options he had but we know what options some people may take today in a similarly hopeless situation.

Give up his faith in despair. In view of our present situation, have you ever wondered whether prayer changes anything? Or, is trusting God by accepting a bad situation self-delusion? I have a friend who expressed disappointment with God when things took a turn for the worse in Hong Kong. I do not affirm his feeling. God has never promised that we will have a good time after becoming a Christian or that the world will become a better place.

Give up his life in despair. Some young people allegedly took their lives because of the current situation. This is a pity, for whenever there is life there is hope.

Act rashly or violently in despair. I was speaking at a youth camp recently and, of course, this issue came up. The youths said that they felt they needed to do something rather than accept their fate passively. I do not disagree with the need to act. But I told them it must be in line with their faith in the LORD.

Powerlessness could push us to do violent or rash acts we may not do normally, for example, getting angry with those around us because of personal failure. In my experience of working with emotionally challenged youths, the weaker ones were more prone to violence and outbursts because they felt they were being bullied.

Daniel...resolved to trust God and continued to live faithfully for God.

Thus, whenever we feel powerless, we should be aware of the state of our emotional and mental state. Is it affecting our faith? Is it causing us to lose interest in life? Are we getting more irritable and prone to emotional outburst? This is why I am alarmed by the state of Hong Kong today. Many protesters feel powerless and strike out in anger. The police feel powerless because it is their duty to keep order even if they are blamed for it. Furthermore, their families are also being harassed and put in danger. The government feels powerless because there is no way they could give the people all they asked for and there is no avenue for negotiation. When everyone feels powerless, it is a very dangerous situation. We are sitting on a time bomb of powerlessness.

Daniel, on the other hand, resolved to trust God and continued to live faithfully for God. But how did he go about doing it?

Daniel Was Peaceable

There is a lively discussion of *why Daniel refrained from the king's food*. After all, he did not seem to mind learning Babylonian language and literature. Also, he did not seem to mind being given a foreign name. In this he was similar to people like Joseph (Zaphenath-Paneah), Esther, Mordecai, and Zerubbabel, who were all given foreign names. These foods were the same food eaten by the king (1:5), so it was an honor given only to the elite group that Daniel and his friends belonged.

Possible answers: Perhaps Daniel thought the food was offered to idols. However, if so, the vegetables might also have been offered to idols. Perhaps the food included meat that was forbidden by the Mosaic Law. This is possible, but why refrain from wine as well? Perhaps it was a statement of his identification with the other captives, who ate mainly vegetables and drank plain water.

The word "defile" (יִחַסֵּל) appears only a few times in the Old Testament. It refers to defiling by blood, which is linked to sin in Isaiah 59:3 and Lamentation 4:14. I think it was because Daniel thought they contained unclean meat. Maybe Daniel refused wine as well because people around him were getting drunk and living wantonly. Daniel wanted to keep sober and disciplined.

His moral stance was firm, but he went about his decision in a reasonable way. He did not just insist on not eating the king's food. He consulted the chief eunuch who was in charge of them. Although the latter did not agree to it, he did not forbid them either. Next, Daniel consulted the steward who was directly in charge of their daily needs. Instead of insisting on his way, he requested for a 10-day trial of his diet. This made it easy for the steward to agree to his request. Daniel was aware that these people could not do as they liked. They were under authority just as he and his friends were under their authority.

Daniel's faith was strong and firm, but it was not confrontational.

Daniel's faith was strong and firm, but it was not confrontational. Just because he chose to live for God did not mean that he clashed with those around him who did

otherwise. This is not just the case in chapter 1 but is consistent throughout the rest of the book.

Daniel Is a Viable Example

But does it work? The reason some powerless people choose violence is that they feel being nice does not work. Violence at least gives them a sense of power and control. Here I do not want to discuss the place of violence in politics. What I want to say is that there is another way of dealing with powerlessness.

Contrasting models: Many Christians look to Elijah as an example of someone who stood firm against Ahab and Jezebel. However, at this time there was also Obadiah, who saved 100 prophets from Jezebel by hiding them in a cave and feeding them bread and water (1Kgs 18:13). Similarly, many of us look to Dietrich Bonhoeffer as an example of someone who stood against Adolf Hitler. However, at this time there was also Oskar Schindler who saved 1,200 Jews by hiding them in his factory. I am not totally discounting the need for confrontation, but I want us to take note of another viable and powerful model of serving God.

... I want us to take note of another viable and powerful model of serving God.

Daniel is one such example, but he is not the only representative of this non-confrontational model. Joseph was the vizier of Egypt. As a result, he saved many people, including Egypt, from the famine. Ezra and Nehemiah were high ranking officials in the Persian Empire. As a result, Ezra was able to teach the Jews God's words and Nehemiah was able to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Esther was a queen (or someone of a lesser rank) of the emperor. As a result, she saved the Jews in Persia from annihilation. God used them to save many people and accomplish his works. They were non-confrontational but not at all useless.

Moreover, "the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God" (Jas 1:20 ESV). This does not mean that we should never get angry, especially in the face of injustice. We

should be. But we cannot depend on the power of anger to produce the righteousness of God. ***In such an emotional situation as it is now, what we will most likely produce is not justice but scapegoats, sacrificed to appease the people's wrath.*** This is not justice but more injustice. In the US a criminal can request to be tried in another state if he thinks he will not get a fair trial in his home state because the people are clouded by anger towards his crime. The fact is that seeking justice in a highly complex situation like now requires a cool head and a lot of work. It won't happen until everyone calms down and considers the evidence on both sides.

Conclusion

Coming back to my experience with powerlessness at the beginning of this sermon, what helped me was the realization that we are all at different levels of powerlessness in such situations. The least powerless should be doctors, especially those specializing in treating cancer. However, they were powerless to save her, too. Even Albert Einstein would be powerless to help her, but does that make Einstein's knowledge of physics useless? No, it was useless to save her, but it is absolutely crucial for many other things. Similarly, my Bible knowledge was useless in saving my friend's wife, but it can be useful in other matters. The reality is that we are not powerless. We are just not omnipotent. In most instances we are at different levels of powerlessness with regard to the situation. No one knows how all these things will end. What is certain is that regardless of how they end, whether according to our wish (whatever it is) or not, we will encounter other situations where we feel powerless. Therefore, we must learn to handle powerlessness in a productive, healthy manner.

...we are not powerless. We are just not omnipotent.

** This article is adapted from the author's sermon preached at the chapel service of Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary on September 4, 2019.*

The Path of Theological Training

Traveled by Our Graduates

With God's calling, our brothers and sisters in Christ joined the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary (HKBTS), and stepped onto the path of theological training. Along the way, there is much more than studying Bible and theology, refining their pastoral skills, and developing their spiritual characters. Our students have also learned through the "hidden curriculum" of their fellowship and interactions in our disciple community, experiencing God's love and healing in addition to reflecting on their relationships

with God, others and the community. They also strive to deepen their faith by seeking understanding as well as living out that faith. May they continue to remain true to their original aspirations, keep their mission firmly in mind and become good ministers and pastors.

Now let's take a moment to listen to the graduates of our Main Programs from this year who would like to share their reflections on the theological training they received.

Feature

Words *from Our* B.Th. Graduates



Chan King-chung, Jones

Thanks to the Lord for giving me the chance to study at HKBTS, so I can learn not only about biblical and theological knowledge, but also how to be a neighbor and God's servant. I have learned a lot from our teachers' words and deeds; and I have experienced how to celebrate and commiserate with other classmates, through supporting each other with words and prayers. What I have learned and achieved at the seminary will become the basis for my service in the future.

Kwok Chi-chiu

Although the theological training in these four years has taught me many things, I discover that there is still a lot that I do not know. I recognize my ignorance and vulnerability, and it teaches me to be humble and look upon the grace of God. Thanks to all our teachers who teach us with patience and effort, care about us and walk with us. I am grateful to be a member of HKBTS family! Each member is unique and different; through them, I know more about what a community is. How great to have you all!

Lam Kar-ho

Thanks to our Heavenly Father for guiding me to join HKBTS. There are seniors who are good witnesses of life at the seminary. During these years of study, I have found in their lives the richness of God's grace and the unexpected joys of being the people of God. I wish that we may continue in passing on such unexpected joys!

Lee Chun-kwan

Thank God! He has called, led, prepared the way, and guarded me according to His unfailing love from the very beginning. He can even use a weak and incapable human like me without hindering His work. May our God, who is and who was and who is to come, accomplish what He intends in my life, so that I could proclaim His righteousness and salvation every day.

Lee Ngar-wing

My life at HKBTS lasted more than three years and was fruitful but I leave with mixed feelings. In that time, I learned theology and Bible studies with great breadth and depth, and learned how to put love into practice. I have a beautiful fellowship with both the teachers and students—together we have faced death, groaned in prayers and learned the lesson of entrusting our lives to God. These lessons are more impressive and precious than any of the knowledge I gained from books alone. We must respond to our Lord's call and follow Jesus's example, proclaiming the gospel throughout all the towns and villages, and being determined to "follow the Lord's will, and remain true to our original aspiration."

Ng Yuk-chun

Thanks to our Heavenly Father for leading me to receive training at HKBTS. I gained much more than I could imagine. The guidance of teachers and the fellowship among students made my four and a half years of study unforgettable. May God assist me to live out the Word, serve others humbly for my whole life, and be a good and faithful servant, facilitating more people to encounter Jesus Christ. Amen!

San Yung-yung

Thanks to our Heavenly Father for leading me to receive holistic training at HKBTS! Thanks to every teacher for their attentive teaching and their life examples. I will surely remember the instruction of the President and our teachers at the Commissioning Ceremony: study the Bible faithfully for life, take no shortcuts, and never forget that "I am a preacher who has to spread the gospel and do every good work."

Tsang Wing-shan, Emily

It is all out of grace that I am being transformed from a lost lamb into a pastor who has been chosen to bring people to repent and turn to the Lord! I have experienced difficulties, frustrations and failures during my four years of seminary life, but the Lord has taught me that "my grace is sufficient for you" (2 Cor 12:9) through these events! Being called to work for the Lord is God's gift to me, which I have never imagined! Everything is grace!

Yu Fung-kam

My four years of theological training at HKBTS have been full of abundant grace. May all glory be to the Lord. May the Lord make my life His conduit which not only receives His blessings but also passes them on to others. I am determined to follow Christ faithfully through the Holy Spirit throughout my life. I wish to be His worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

Words *from Our* M.Div. Graduates



Chak Hoi-yan

Thanks for my teachers' instructions; now I understand that there is no absolute view in exegesis; and to get approved by the Lord, we have to strive our best for Him (2 Tm 2:15). Thanks for the grace of our Heavenly Father for He enables me to finish this four-and-a-half-year program despite all the hardships.

Chan Man-ching

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.” (2 Cor 4:7 NIV) Thanks to God for shaping my life along the way. He help me learn and grow through various experiences, so that my life is continually being renewed, and increasingly I rely on and obey God. May this jar of clay be used by God for the rest of its life!

Chan Tin-sang

This is a great blessing to be taught and shepherded by the seminary faculty after my years of ministering in the church. This experience has become a source of strength for my future ministry. While studying continuously at the seminary, God reminds me to remain true to my original aspiration when serving and shepherding fellow believers. Thanks for the teachers’ efforts. I will keep this in mind.

Fong King-yan

There are those who seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge; that is Curiosity.

There are those who seek knowledge to be known by others; that is Vanity.

There are those who seek knowledge in order to serve; that is Love.

—Bernard of Clairvaux

Ho Ching-man

Thanks to the Triune God for letting me know more about Him, and letting me learn how to follow Him over these past three years. He has helped me realize my inadequacy, making me more determined to be faithful to Him. Thanks for the instructions of our teachers, and their living witness which patiently guides us to become faithful servants. Thanks to my classmates for their company during these years. Thanks for the prayers and support of the church’s brothers and sisters, as well as the unlimited patience and tolerance of my family. In the future road of ministry, may I trust in God, be faithful to Him and obey His will for the rest of my life.

Ho Yin-ling, Eva

I am grateful for our Heavenly Father’s love, and the support of the leaders of my mother church and my husband so that I can study at HKBTS. The teachers’ scholarship and their fatherly and pastoral hearts have impressed me along with the dedication of the staff! This is another wonderful grace for me to make friends with a group of kind-hearted classmates and experience the joy of unity in diversity!

Lam Suk-yi

Thank God, for He and the HKBTS companions walked with me over the last three years in my ups and downs, sharing our happiness and sorrows. Thanks to our teachers for their instructions and to all the staff for their efforts. Thanks to my husband, my family, and the brothers and sisters of my church for their prayer and support! May I uphold the teachings of the Bible with the seminary motto: be God’s worker who does not need to be ashamed!

Lau Wing-kee

Thanks to God for His mercy, grace and guidance so that my faith could be renewed through deep reflection. He let me learn what pastoring is through our teachers’ words and deeds. Also, He grants a wonderful fellowship between our teachers and our fellow students, so we could share our sweetness and bitterness, and encounter His grace together. Thank God!

Lee Lap-man

A seminary student learns about God for life, and an empowered preacher is for preaching.

May I always *see* that I am *seen* by the Lord so that I can *see* others’ needs. May the sheep that we serve become a community that *see* both the Lord and the others.

Leung Pik-yu

Thank God! It is entirely by His grace that I eventually completed this three-year theological degree. Because His gracious hands affirmed me, I can travel this path with increasing confidence and tranquility. I also thank Him for enriching my life through theological knowledge and our teachers’ and students’ beautiful living testimonies. In the midst of this increasingly chaotic generation, I pray that the faithful Lord will continue to protect us, affirm us and shape us so we may become His humble and faithful servants for life, witnessing the almighty power of Christ’s gospel.

Li Jiangyong

Thanks to God, for giving me a chance to meet our teachers here. O dear teachers, I am incredibly grateful to be your student! “He who teaches me for even a day is respected as my father for life.” Thank you for influencing me through your lives, enabling me to grow in grace and love.

Li Xuelei

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (2 Tm 2:15 NIV)

Lui Lok-mun, Cheryl

Thank God for guiding me to join this loving family! With genuine encouragement and support from our teachers and classmates, my knowledge increases, and my spiritual life grows. Thank God I really enjoyed His grace in these three years; this is truly a memory for life. May the Lord lead my way and let me be His faithful servant.

Ng Pun-pun

Thank God; with His grace, I started with the lay theological education program and eventually entered full-time pastoral training! This path of serving God is a lifelong journey of learning. Thanks for the nourishment of the seminary! Thanks for the teachers' instructions through their words and deeds! The way they live their faith has impressed me. I am finally graduating. May God continue to teach me, guide my ministry, and enable me to stand firm in the faith, bearing faithful witness to Him.

Tang Hok-chun, Michael

“Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, ‘children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.’ Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.” (Phil 2:14-16 NIV)

Wong Fung-ye

Three years of learning passed as quick as a flash; meanwhile I have grown a lot! The Lord not only broadens my understanding of Him, but also leads me to know myself more deeply and to learn to read others and myself. Apart from teaching us knowledge, our teachers' lives set an example for us—I have been unknowingly influenced by them. I think this is what the life journey of a disciple is like: life affects life.

Wong Tak-ching, Eric

Thank God for turning a new page over in my life. I miss the days of rushing to complete assignments most from my four-year seminary life. Conflicts raised when doing group assignments are often the best learning opportunities. The lesson of learning humility lies in the struggle between self-giving and face-saving. May the Lord's will be done and any of my prejudices be removed. My lifelong desire is to look upon the Lord's cross and walk toward it.

Words *from Our* M.C.S. Graduates

Tam Sok-ye, Louisa

The three-year M.C.S. program has ended swiftly for me. Although I miss the seminary and the teachers, I must start the ministry that God has given me. Amazingly, the gospel has transformed my character—I used to be afraid to communicate with my colleagues, and brothers and sisters in Christ. However, now my heart is full of peace and joy from God, ever empowered through ministry!

Wong Ka-ho, Eric

Since being accepted by the seminary until my graduation today, I can claim not even one detail of the process as something I “deserve”; this is entirely out of the protection and guidance of the merciful Triune God. I am thankful and I am offering thanksgiving!

Wun Lo-shing, Daniel

But I have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from me. For I am God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for me to do. But the Lord said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

Yung Hoi-man

This is a journey filled with grace. If God did not send me His angels, this impossible mission would not be completed! I would like to thank every teacher, classmate and friend who gave me a hand.



Words *from Our* Th.M. Graduates



Ng Lung-fei

The purpose of theology is for people to know God, and become a member of the evangelical community. The more we know God, the more we can obey His will. The more we are determined to follow God's will, the more we need courage. Since we acknowledge that there is only one Lord, we must carry our crosses and move forward by our faith toward Jesus Christ—although we may even not know what our crosses will be.

Sharing from our Graduates

My HKBTS Hidden Curriculum



Jones Chan and Dr. Andres Tang

Chau during my first academic year where I first met my fellow students. And here I am now writing a graduation reflection. Thinking back on these four years, I have learned a lot and also experienced God's grace.

Concern for Others

What I have learned and been equipped with in the past four years is not only knowledge about the Bible, theology, church history and practical skills, but also lessons which I learned from my seminary life—usually referred as the “hidden curriculum” by our teachers. I remember in my early days at the seminary, senior students would always enter our dorm rooms for whatever reason, and start chatting. They demonstrated to me by their example that student life at the seminary is like exactly what is said in Philippians 2:4, “Let each of

Kwong Wai-chi, Richie

My graduation wish:

May our lives be lights shining before people,
Remember the Word of our Lamb of Redemption and
Resurrection
Whose unceasing aroma spreads in the age of reform,
And hold firm to our mission in anticipation of the Heavenly
City.

Jones Chan (B.Th.)

you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (ESV) Since then, I also often talked and shared with junior fellow students at the seminary, understanding their study needs, listening to their problems in life, and then remembering their needs in my prayers.

What I have learned and been equipped with in the past four years is... also lessons which I learned from my seminary life—usually referred as the “hidden curriculum” by our teachers.

Learning by Serving

Aside from that, I also benefited from serving at the seminary. I was serving in the Spiritual Formation Department of the Student Union, and as I prayed in public more often, I gradually realized that the terminologies I used in prayers were repetitive. So I read many different devotional books and tried to use various prayers in my devotion, learning how to pray to the Triune God with various wording from the past intercessors. This widened my spiritual horizons and added color to my relationship with the Lord.

Trusting God in Difficult Times

I also experienced God's grace during these four years. During the second semester of my third year, in addition to the

heavy work load of assignments, I was experiencing financial hardship. There were also other matters combining to wear me out physically and mentally, and I could find very little strength to do anything. I was feeling very low, even my fellow students and teachers began to worry about me.

During the study recess, at around 2 am in the morning, I was alone in the dorm living room, gazing at the Christian Theology assignment in front of me, while some other matters sprang to mind, and I was overwhelmed by a sudden surge of strong emotions. At that time, I kneeled down and prayed to the Triune God, telling Him all the challenges I was facing one by one. Tears rained down as I was praying.

God did listen to my supplication. After that night, God responded to all the issues I mentioned in the prayer one by one at the right time. The difficulties in my studies were easier to manage, as the work load was lessened gradually

after I submitted the assignments one by one. As for my finances, through donations from brothers and sisters, God gave me enough provision for my tuition fee and living expenses for that semester. God also guided me through the rest of my struggles.

While it is not possible to list all that I experienced in the past four years, these have become foundation for my future full-time ministry. As I enter my new mission field, I will still remember to “look not only to [one’s] own interests, but also to the interests of others.” When faced with a problem, I will stay determined as I once was and fight courageously. When encountering difficulties, I will remember to depend on the Triune God and trust that He will guide me through step by step. Only in this way, what I learned and gained from the seminary will not be in vain.

My Precious Serendipity

Eva Ho (M. Div.)

When we decided to leave the mission field that we were serving at the time, my husband and I felt the need for comprehensive training in theology, so we applied for theological studies overseas. Much to our surprise, however, the Heavenly Father brought my whole family including my husband and our children back to Hong Kong. After our return to Hong Kong, I was planning to study an online theology course to accommodate my family needs. Yet I remembered what Rev. Dr. Moye said, so I first prayed and sought God’s will. Eventually, God guided me to study a full-time course at HKBTS, where I experienced the best three years of my life!

Challenges before Joining HKBTS

After leaving Hong Kong for nearly seven years, our family returned to Hong Kong in mid-2015. We had to start all over again—reengaging in a church, finding a home, settling the children’s schooling (at the time we met an influx of “doubly non-permanent resident children” reaching their schooling age, and hence high competition), work arrangements for the transitional period, etc. These were all immense challenges for us. Nevertheless, by God’s great grace, we were able to tackle these swiftly. Our children were just over three and less than one year old respectively when they left Hong Kong. For them, Hong Kong was a foreign land; it was merely the root of their parents. Fortunately, with the help of the school and teachers, they quickly adapted to the new environment.

Abrupt Culture Shock

A year later, just as I thought I was completely engaged in the life and culture of Hong Kong, even understanding the new slang and expressions used by the local newspapers and social media, yet this middle-aged returnee-missionary who entered HKBTS and was learning with mostly younger fellow students, suddenly came to be aware of the generational differences deep down in our culture, language, thoughts and values. This led to an unexpected and unprecedented culture shock that struck my heart! Not to mention that I had left school and had been working in the commercial world for over 20 years before serving full-time away from Hong Kong. I was completely disconnected with academics, and was clueless about the new technology and learning tools. Looking at the overwhelming amount of unfamiliar books, articles and terminologies, I was so frightened and baffled that I had no idea what to do!



Precious Serendipity

Faced with these seemingly colossal challenges and a sense of powerlessness and frustration, I remembered Dr. Moye's words, "Teachers at HKBTS are not only knowledgeable academics, but also have the hearts of pastors who are willing to help students in all aspects." However, as a full-time mother who was studying during the daytime, my hours on campus were fully used to attend lectures. If it was already a stretch to even spare time to go to the library, how would I have time to speak to teachers? I could only pray to God in silence as I did not want to graduate with only a stack of books and notes alongside a list of half-understood academic terms! I prayed that God would give me the chance to speak to most of the teachers at least once before I graduated.

Three years passed by, and I truly enjoyed every chapel service and lesson at HKBTS, as well as the relationships I built with fellow students and the staff. What I was more thankful for was being able to speak to different teachers and staff in person, however much or little, and sharing about our lives! They listened, taught, guided, evaluated, shared and walked with me; they gave me the courage to open up my fragile life that I dared to cry, to face and deal with issues, wrongdoings and

traumas in my early life, and to learn to accept my limitations, so that I know how to make the right choice, and focus on only what I could do. Time flew by during these three years; I truly thank my Heavenly Father that, through the help of my teachers and the work of the Holy Spirit, my broken life was healed and freed time and time again, so that I could experience the unconditional acceptance and love from our Lord Jesus Christ ever so deeply!

...through the help of my teachers and the work of the Holy Spirit, my broken life was healed and freed time and time again...

I thank my Heavenly Father for His calling, the generosity of my mother church, and the support of my fellow brothers and sisters, my husband and my children that enabled me to study at HKBTS where I could learn new knowledge and reflect on myself, my beliefs, and my conduct. I pray that God would forgive my sins and iniquities, and examine my thought and being, and help me live out what I believe! At your will, Lord, may I be Your worker who does not need to be ashamed for the rest of my life!

My Path of Theological Training

Fong King-yan (M.Div)

Responding to God's call to vocational ministry, my wife Wing-mui and I commenced our theological training together at HKBTS in August, 2016. Time flies, and now I am stepping onto the road of full-time ministry. Looking back at the three years that swiftly flew by, I wonder what marks has the God of grace left behind. To describe these three years, I would say that the path of theological training I traveled was one that was unknown and perilous, yet loving and fruitful. Had it not been for God's keeping and protection, I dare say that I would not have been able to step onto this path.

The Unknown Path

"Unknown" was how I felt having to deal with changes in my daily life. From working full-time to studying full-time, I needed to establish a disciplined routine and adapt myself to a student's way of living. Meanwhile, the requirements of different courses were extremely difficult for someone like me, who was never much of a diligent student. Besides, I had to get to know someone or something new in both classrooms and the dorm.

The change in identity as a seminary student meant that I had to deal with expectations from others as well as myself.

The Perilous Path

There are "perils": when spending more time focusing on God, I saw my true self including a sinful nature even as God taught me with His word. Although I became more knowledgeable in theology, that did not help me become more obedient to God. On the contrary, with the heavy workload of my study, and the competing demands from different aspects of my life such as studying, family, and services, I was prone to fall into the trap for pursuing mere academic achievement. With



King-yan with his wife Wing-mui and his child Jeremy

such a distorted motivation, my faithfulness for serving the church was eventually affected, and my family responsibilities were neglected. It consequently led to a breakdown in my relationship with God, and myself trapped in a vicious cycle of sin without even knowing. God finally became an object of intellectual study.

The Loving Path

However, God's gracious hands have never left me on this unknown and perilous path. It is God who showed me my constraints. Having constraints is not a bad thing, and realizing one's constraints allows one to be aware of one's own incompetence. That said, accepting my own limitations was difficult as I had to face how incapable I was. But do not our own limitations help us see more of God's grace? When we are faced with our inadequacy, is that not the time to humble ourselves and rely on God? Whoever can live without accepting God's grace? Once I repented and turned to God, I gave up on the thought of being the lord of my own life, accepted my constraints and let God be my Lord again. I also prayed to the Holy Spirit to strengthen me, and to help me, by His grace, faithfully trust the God of creation, salvation, and hope. Thanks be to God, whose love I have been deeply immersed in, so that

I could understand how beloved I am. I need not care about how others look at me. All I need is to turn my eyes upon Jesus.

Thanks be to God, whose love I have been deeply immersed in, so that I could understand how beloved I am.

The Fruitful Path

On the other hand, God put me and my family in this loving community of faith. He has granted me numerous companions, who keep me company while we learn to live together and love each other. Together, our lives were full of laughter and tears as we shared and prayed and learned to accept each other. *I am grateful to God for all those who have walked alongside me; through their company I can see God's presence.* They fueled me with much power and made my journey on this path a fruitful one.

Last but not least, I must thank God for giving me my best companion and wife, Wing-mui. Her sacrifices and support let me focus on my study with a peace of mind. And it was through her that God gave us our boy, Jeremy, in 2018. May my family live up to what Jeremy's Chinese name ("Living-Word") reminds us, to live out His word.

Faith-Seeking-Understanding

Michael Tang (M.Div)



Seeking Answers in Faith

In my admission interview, I remember President Cho asked me why I would like to study at the seminary and what I expected of the study. The primary reason for my application was, of course, the Lord's calling upon me. As for my expectations, I was hoping to find answers to a few questions I had in mind through studying at the seminary. A couple of questions,

as I vaguely recall, were "What is church? How should a church be?" and "What is fellowship? How should fellowship be?" These questions arose while I was serving the Lord and growing in faith. As young and theologically unequipped as I was, I thought the seminary must be the place that holds the answers to my queries and that I could find them here.

Three years of learning have passed since then and I am graduating. Model answers to my questions were found, of course. Or perhaps, I acquired the methodologies, at least, to find such answers. Were my expectations of studying at the seminary fulfilled or achieved, however? Probably not.

Raising Many More Questions

While some may say that the seminary is a place where answers are found, I would say, otherwise, that studying here has helped us learn how to raise more questions than answers. For example, the answer to my question of "What is church?" could be somewhat like: "It is established by Jesus Christ to bear witness on earth to His Kingdom." However, elaborating on, we must, at least, keep on asking "Why should the church be His witness?" "What is His Kingdom like?" "How to bear witness?" "What causes the church to fail in bearing witness?" "How does the church bear witness in a society like Hong Kong today?" and so on. The list could go on and on as more questions seem to emerge from every answer.

...studying here has helped us learn how to raise more questions than answers.

A Never-ending Seeking Journey

Initially, I was here to seek answers and solutions to my questions when I first entered the seminary. Now at the end, I am leaving with more questions than ever in my mind. Yet I am neither frustrated nor disappointed. In fact, I am leaving the seminary with much anticipation and excitement, as I realize that the Christian faith is “living”; it allows us to explore, make mistakes, repent and restart in a never-ending journey of inquiring and seeking. The Christian faith does not give us merely “model answers,” nor is it a unified religion with a single dimension. It is not even being authoritative and leaving no room for questions and queries. It is more like **a process of “faith seeking understanding”**: *as we first believe, questions can be raised to seek further understanding; as we understand more, our faith is reinforced, and further questions arise; and the entire process loops on as we persist.*

On one hand, upon finishing my three-year program, I am leaving the seminary, like the end of a chapter, bidding farewell to my identity as a student and about to start my new chapter as a pastor. On the other hand, studying at the seminary itself has, in fact, already turned over a new leaf for me. Theology has granted me a new perspective to look at the world, the church, and the brothers and sisters in Christ whom I am serving. My journey of asking more questions and seeking more answers is just beginning.

Last but not least, I must give thanks to the loving and faithful Triune God, who has called me to be His servant and let this sinner play a part in His great plans. It is also the Lord who sent me teachers, staff members, fellow students and companions, who were so humble, faithful, and sincere in keeping me company through my ups and downs during the past three years. May the Lord of justice who grants us hope reveal His power and drive the darkness out of the dark age of today, free us from the nets and attacks of the evil one. Let us see the light and not be disheartened, and grant us renewed strength to run the race set out for us.

How do I learn to “do theology”?

Eric Wong (M.C.S.)

Looking back on my more than three-year student life at the seminary, I realize that theological training has helped me not only in gaining knowledge, but also in strengthening me in serving the church. Through the teaching of the seminary, I come to understand that **we, as creatures of God, are obliged “to contemplate, to preach and to witness God with the utmost earnestness,” for it is the true purpose of our creation.** For the Christian community, theology is important because it is all about how we know God and the others around us.

Knowing God

A profound realization came to me when I tried to perceive the notion of “God is love.” If we regard such notion as a mere proposition and thus explore its meaning metaphysically, we will always stumble into the realm of philosophical dilemma with no answer in sight. Only when we enter into a relationship by interacting with others in real life, can we genuinely “get a taste of” this mystical truth that derives from the eternal inner relationship of God (namely, immanent Trinity). In other words, the notion of “God is love” is never for our minds to explore; such a notion of God indeed has nothing to do with

us. If we treat this confession of faith as the yardstick of life, on the contrary, we will be able to live out, through our interactions with others, the concrete substance and significance of the notion of “the Triune God is love.” I still remember a powerful statement that a teacher once told me: “HKBTS trains pastors, not scholars!”



Eric Wong and his fellow students

HKBTS trains pastors, not scholars!

Knowing the Others

More importantly, theology not only helps an individual become more aware of God, who is transcendent, and yet

present, but it also has an influence on the relationship between an individual and others (other people and the created world). During these three years at the seminary, God has made me understand that God's creation is diverse and vast, so we must learn to appreciate and be considerate of the others. By the grace of God, I had opportunities to share my theological knowledge and learning experiences with my fellow students year after year, and through such sharing I realized the diversities among all of us.

Frankly speaking, learning theology has never been easy, because its object of study is the Trine God whom we cannot fully comprehend. For some students, learning theology is indeed a harsh job, because there is no guarantee that one can master theology just by spending more time on it, for it involves different areas of study and history; these ABCs (borrowed from the signature "pet phrase" of Dr. Andres Tang, referring to basic knowledge) have become an obstacle for many students in studying theology.

Knowing the Community

Moreover, I now more deeply realize and experience the importance of community. The gifts that God gives each of us are never the same. What God expects of us is to be good and faithful servants, making good use of the gifts we received from Him (that is, to truly become ourselves); instead of competing and comparing with each other, we should accept and help each other. The Holy Spirit often reminds me to put myself into "the shoes" of others so as to identify their perplexities, and then use appropriate methods to help my fellow students to comprehend and understand; this attests to the fact that God is powerful and loving; driven by our love for each other, the Holy Spirit works among us. As long as we are longing for Him, though we all have different limitations, restraints and personalities, He will help us through various people, events, and things.

In addition to the theological teachings, the community life as well as the interactions at the seminary (the "hidden curriculum" of the seminary) allow me to practice and live out what I have learned. A heartfelt thanks to the Trine God, our teachers, fellow students and staff! Amen.

Remain True to *Our Original Aspiration* and Keep *Our Mission* Firmly in Mind

Li Jianguyong (M.Div.)

Remain True to Our Original Aspiration

I remember well that when I first came to HKBTS, the faculty soon arranged for us mainland students to introduce ourselves. On that occasion, I spoke of my own intention of studying at HKBTS as *striving to become a good preacher, delivering solid messages at the pulpit and shepherding my fellow Christians well*. In the past two and a half years, my goal has always been clear. Holding on to the belief of "remaining true to our original aspiration and keeping our mission



Li Jianguyong and President Joshua Cho

firmly in mind," I have been working hard and progressing on these five aspects: spiritual, moral, intellectual, physical and communal.

Cultivating Theology

By the grace of God, I have had the opportunity to learn from many pastors and teachers during my days at HKBTS. HKBTS has provided an excellent environment for us to learn and to live, so that we can concentrate on our study, making continual progress in self-improvement and theological knowledge. Through such learning, we are able to get a grip on different theological thoughts, and seek to integrate and transform them into a kind of contextual theology appropriate to the Chinese church.

It is particularly worth mentioning that during my study at HKBTS, I have developed a keen interest in systematic theology, especially the methodology of knowing God and the world through the nature of Trinity (economic Trinity and immanent Trinity). Besides, I also had the opportunity to delve into different theological theories, such as creationism, providence,

anthropology, Trinity and eschatology, etc., and gained some insights. Our teachers interpreted the Christian doctrines from the perspective of "diversity and unity" that allowed me to understand the formation and development of Christian doctrines from various levels. In this diversified and open academic environment, students respected each other even though we may have different opinions and perspectives. It is a feature of HKBTS that allows different voices in theological thinking: seeking unity in diversity and respecting diversity in unity.

It is a feature of HKBTS...seeking unity in diversity and respecting diversity in unity

Building Relationships

HKBTS places great emphasis on our relationship with God. In this big family, we entrust ourselves to God, and ask God to guide us and be with us. In addition, the most common saying on the HKBTS campus is probably "community," because we are a big family, where we as

"saints joyfully come together in the fellowship of Christ's love, and whether from east or west, together study the Word." While studying in Hong Kong, I have bonded with our teachers and fellow students in joy. Our teachers not only taught us how to know God and do theology in the classroom, but have also led us by example, motivating us with their own humble spiritual lives to become good pastors.

Be a Good Pastor

All in all, I am very grateful to be able to study at HKBTS. Thanks to God for letting me meet my teachers and have them walk with me on the same journey. "The road ahead is long and has no ending; yet high and low I will search with my will unbending." I believe that under the guidance of God, we will certainly become good preachers.

Finally, may the Triune God bless the HKBTS family, so that each of our fellow students can become a witness for the Lord in this age, and be the light and salt of the world, practicing the Word of Christ!



Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary

Student Recruitment for Spring 2019-20

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 29, 2019

First Day of Spring Term

January 13, 2020

Please log on to the seminary's website at www.hkbts.edu.hk/admissions for details.

For inquiries, please call 2768 5130.

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



The sixty-eighth class of graduates 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 transition smoothly 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**:

Master of Theology:	Chan Chung-hong, James Lee Ka-man, Fanny Zou Zixian	Chang Wai-ching, Maggie Wong Ka-ho	Fong King-yan Wun Lo-shing, Daniel	Kwok Lai-yee, Ellie Yuen Ka-kiu
Master of Divinity:	Au Chung-yan, Mary Ho Sze-nga Li Yuen-yuen Qu Xiaoning	Chan King-chung Kung Ying-ying Lo Mei-li Shek Sau-wan	Cheung Tsz-wai Lam Kar-ho Ng Wai-ying Tin Chi-chung, Joe	Chow Dick-hong Lee Yick-kwan Ng Yuk-chun Yip Ka-yan
Bachelor of Theology:	Chan Ho-sing Man Yee-van	Kan Yuet-wah Ng Wai-yin	Kwan Wai-keung, General Ngai Ching-yiu	Lai Ho-yin
Master of Christian Studies:	Tang Chi-wai, John			
Non-Classified Student:	Hui Hing-fai	San Yung-yung	Tam Sok-ye, Louisa	Wan Chi-hin



The new students together with President Cho and the faculty members after the opening convocation ceremony

Academic Affairs News

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

The Opening Convocation Ceremony for 2019-20 was held on August 27, and President Joshua Cho preached a message titled "Blessed Are Those Who Find Wisdom." He pointed out that according to Proverbs 3:13-18, prudence is the first of all the cardinal virtues; in the context of Christianity, prudence is practical wisdom (*phronēsis*) which is to "have the same mindset as Christ Jesus." It is characterized by discernment through humility. By being humble, one is able to enter into God's presence and in prayer to seek His will and to discern His will alongside others in the community.

- **Opening Convocation Lecture**

The lecture was held on August 28. Dr. Jonathan Lo, Assistant Professor of New Testament, presented a lecture titled "The Outlook and Future of Historical Jesus Research."

- **Faculty Movement**

Dr. Clement Shum, Assistant Professor of New Testament, left his post in July. We thank him for his faithful service to the Seminary. May God continue to use him and lead him to step onto a new ministry path.

Dr. Benjamin Fung and Dr. Craig Ho joined our serving team in the fall of this academic year. Dr. Fung is now our Visiting Assistant Professor of New Testament. He obtained his Ph.D. at North-West University in South Africa. His research interests include the writing order of the Gospel of Luke, Pauline Epistles, and New Testament narrative accounts. Dr. Ho is now our Visiting Associate Professor of Old Testament. He obtained his Ph.D. at the University of Edinburgh. His research interests include the textual, literary, exegetical and theological issues of the Pentateuch and the Former Prophets, the Synoptic Gospels, interpretation of Jesus's parables. They will work with our faculty as a team for the missions of Christian education and research.

- **Joint Graduation Ceremony**

The Joint Graduation Ceremony of HKBTS for Main Programs, Lay Theological Education Department and Distance Education Program was held on October 20 (Sunday) at 3:00 pm at the Seminary Chapel on the Sai O campus. There were 49 graduates from the degree programs, and diploma or certificate graduates from the equivalent LTED program, together with 128 graduates from the diploma and certificate programs.

- **Full-Time Ministry Exploration Camp**

The seminary organized a Full-Time Ministry Exploration Camp from October 25 to 26 for Christians who want to explore the possibility of practicing ministry full-time. Participants got to hear others share their experiences of being called to the 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 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 November 5 to 7 (10:00-11:00 am) on the Sai O Campus. Its main theme was "A History of Baptists in Macau." The speaker, Dr. R. Lawrence Ballew, obtained his M.Div. from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, and Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of Saint Joseph in Macau. He is currently principal of the China Macau Theological Education Center and an adjunct professor at the Macau Bible Institute. The topics he discussed included "Exploring the Mystery that is Macau," "Lilian and John Galloway—A Love Story" and "Shucks to Galloways."

- **Main Programs Admissions for Spring 2019-20**

The Main Programs are now calling for applications for admission for 2019-20 (spring semester). Programs available include Master of Divinity, Master of Divinity (Further Studies), Master of Christian Studies, Master of Theology and Doctor of Theology.

The spring semester begins on January 13, 2020. The deadline for applications is November 29, 2019.

From the Chaplain

Rev. Brian Lam Chaplain

Who is present? Who is absent? —Hong Kong 2019

Each new school term at HKBTS starts with a Spiritual Formation Camp. And then, when school starts, the first three consecutive chapel services, in order, are the Opening Convocation Ceremony, Open Convocation Lecture, and All Seminary Prayer Meeting. The sequence implicitly reflects two lines of tradition that we have inherited—the academic and monastic traditions that derive from the seminary developmental history: seminaries were developed from universities which in turn evolved out of monasteries.

In the All Seminary Prayer Meeting held on August 29, I led the hymn “Von Guten Mächten,” which was originally a poem written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer in prison. I chose this hymn because two students coincidentally mentioned it in their respective sharings in the Spiritual Formation Camp. The chorus of the hymn is as follows:

*By loving forces wonderfully sheltered,
we are awaiting fearlessly what comes.
God is with us at dusk and in the morning
and most assuredly on ev'ry day.¹*

Therefore, I take “presence” as the theme of the prayer meeting.² When we as a faith community gather and pray together, we enter into the presence of God. I invited the congregation to divide themselves into prayer groups, each with three members, and share within their group briefly how and where they expect to perceive God's presence today. This helped us to be tuned into God's presence.

When we gather and pray, in addition to God's presence, there is also the presence of our community. We may easily notice the new teachers and new students among us. But are we aware that those familiar faces, the teachers and fellow students we already know, are together with us too? I asked the congregation, “Look at the teachers and students around you. After a summer vacation of nearly three months, did you find any changes in him/her? Changes in their body shape, face, or their hair style or glasses?

Sometimes we just look straight past the familiar faces. Can you see that they are present here and now?”

When we gather and pray, apart from becoming aware of the presence of God and of one another, we should also remember those absent. I asked the congregation, “Who are not among us?” The graduates left the seminary and are now in their ministerial fields. They are not among us. A teacher resigned and left us. Our respected and beloved Professor Jerry Moye rested in peace in March. Even though we may say there is a communion of saints, in actuality they are not physically present among us.

Last but not least, nowadays in Hong Kong, “Who is absent?” is a question the faith communities cannot avoid in every Sunday worship service. Some church members are in the police force and may not be able to attend as they are on duty. Some members who are police may choose to be absent due to the hostile atmosphere inside and outside the church. Some brothers and sisters may have been arrested or under detention and cannot attend. And some members may have been injured and are under treatment in hospital; they are also consequently absent.

Who is present? Who is absent? When we gather for worship and prayer, may the Holy Spirit open our eyes to see who is present and who is absent.

¹ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “By Loving Forces,” trans. Hilmar H. Werner (2010) [translation on-line]; available from Berliner Tour Guide website (<http://www.berlinertourguide.com/dietrich-bonhoeffer-von-guten-maechten-translation-by-loving-forces.htm>); accessed 26 September, 2019.

² The structure of this prayer meeting is inspired by Samuel Wells, *God's Companions: Reimagining Christian Ethics* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2006), 130-135.

Admissions and Registration Office

Mandy Chung Registrar

The Start of the Fall Term and Enrollment for the Spring Term

The 2019-20 school year began amidst the social unrest in Hong Kong. This fall we have 33 new students: 9 in the Master of Theology Program, 13 in the Master of Divinity Program, 1 in the Master of Christian Studies Program, 7 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 the years to come at the seminary, they will encounter God, other people and themselves, and learn to be solitary as well as to get along with people in a group, and receive comprehensive education in bible knowledge as well as ministry skills, because these are the foundation for ministry.

The seminary organized a two-day, one-night "Full-Time Ministry Exploration Camp" on October 25-26 (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 about "Calling and Commissioning," 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 applications for admission for the spring term this school year (2019-20). For further details, please call our office or visit our website. The application deadline is November 29. The spring term begins on January 13, 2020. Church pastors, ministers, and brothers and sisters are welcome to audit courses offered during the 2019-20 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

Get Equipped and Serve Him Well

With the adversity Hong Kong has been facing for the past few months, social issues have become the centre of attention for everyone. Many are experiencing anxiety, confusion, sorrow, and anger, emotions which Christians are not any better immune to. Our enthusiasm in getting equipped to serve may thus be weakened. Understandably, there has been a significant drop in applications for our evening courses this year.

Nevertheless, we still received 12 applications for our "Master of Arts in Christian Studies Program" (M.A.C.S.) this year. All of the applicants are active disciple leaders,

including staff serving at Christian organizations and deacons in the churches. For the sake of their own spiritual growth and establishing a more secure foundation to serve, these applicants are committing themselves to their learning in the next four to eight years despite the present time of chaos and social unrest. Apart from getting equipped with biblical and theological knowledge, they may also further discover God's calling, and hopefully respond to the challenges presented here and now, playing the role of the salt and the light of our society.

The new students we have taken in this year for our M.A.C.S. program range from youths in their early 20s to those who are turning 70, with the majority falling into the middle-aged group. They may come from different stages of life and carry with them different spiritual experiences, but they definitely share the same determination, passion, and thirst for pursuing truth, while also being humble in learning and committed in serving. Let us share some of their thoughts and expectations here.

"I have been driving a Bible learning campaign in the church since 2011, and have only grown more and more interested in the Bible as I learn more about the Bible while discovering how incompetent I really am in biblical knowledge. I understand that proper theological and biblical training are essential in order to correctly handle the Word of truth. I believe that in order to fulfill the Great Commission, considerable effort must be put into learning the Word and taking up our teaching duty so as to do my best to present myself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed."

"As a father, I understand that teaching is the most important foundation of all, especially if we want to nurture godly offspring and train up successors in church. ...I'd really like to equip myself at the seminary so that God can use me in His kingdom."

"Having been involved in campus ministry as a university student in the past not only widened my spiritual horizon, but also inspired me to equip myself better with theological training. I thank the Lord for putting in me the ambition to serve and the desire to be equipped theologically. I hope this program not only allows me to step onto a path for long-term self-equipping, but also unveils God's calling."

"As tensions have risen in our society over recent years, I began to realize how I must become refreshed in faith in order to glorify the Lord and benefit others through serving. My friend and I established an online platform at the beginning of the year to share more religious information with the general

public. That really put me in a position where I feel urged to get equipped through formal theological education, and to become more knowledgeable biblically. That was why I enrolled in the program, hoping to better equip myself to face challenges in serving."

"It's been more than thirty years since I was converted and it is not until now that I realized how I had not studied the Bible well or really gotten to know God. Now I thirst for his Word and am willing to pursue Him. Looking forward to being equipped at the seminary, I long to get to know God and do His will, as well as devote my body, heart and soul for His use. ...I can totally relate to how vital it is to be well-equipped in order to serve the Lord well in His ministries."

I believe the Lord would approve of every heart that thirsts for Him and diligently pursues the truth. Despite hardships and challenges which they may come across along the way, as well as possible disputes among their peers, God's grace is sufficient for them in overcoming all these obstacles. They are going to experience His teaching in a deeper sense, be rooted and built up in His Word; their lives will be refreshed and renewed, passing on blessings to the church and society.

Distance Education Program

Peggy Tam Executive Officer (Administration)

Equipping Believers for Ministry Work

It seems that this has been a long summer. Through main streets and alleys, everything looks the same, yet our bodies, souls and spirits seem to have gone through baptisms of fire large and small time and time again. At such difficult times, I realize that only when we look upon the Lord could we find the source of hope, and only God's word could comfort our souls. I am thankful that God is using the Distance Education Program (DEP), so that across time and space, people can learn His Word.

At the blink of an eye, the 2019 fall term diploma programs began on September 1. We have 31 new students joining the DEP this term, enrolling in diploma and certificate programs. I hope that they will know more about God who loves us so dearly, and be strengthened to live as His faithful followers during their study. In the afternoon on August 24, the Student Orientation was held, and tutorials for the various courses were completed in the following two weeks. While the fall term diploma programs

are running, we now also welcome admission applications for the 2020 spring term programs. Certificate programs are open for application all year round. Brothers and sisters interested are welcome to enroll or make inquiries to us.

In May, DEP held its first topical lecture for the year: "Worship Life as the Public Testimony of the Church." Thanks to Dr. Freeman Huen's sharing and teaching, participants expressed that they learned a great deal. The second topical lecture will be held in the afternoon of November 30 (Saturday), on the 8th floor, Christian Centre, 56 Bute Street, Mong Kok, where Dr. Jonathan Lo, Assistant Professor of New Testament, will talk about "A Short Introduction to the New Testament Use of the Old Testament." All brothers and sisters interested are welcome, and you may contact the DEP office for inquiries or enrollment.

Lastly, our Joint Graduation Ceremony with Main Programs and the Lay Theological Education Department was held on October 20 (Sunday) at the Seminary Chapel on the Sai O campus. We have about 30 DEP graduates, six of whom are students of the Onesimus Training Project, co-organized by DEP and Hong Kong Christian Sun Sun Association. The objective of this project is to serve Christians in prison in Hong Kong. Other partnership projects include the Spiritual Light Project co-organized with Christian Ministry to Visually Impaired Persons (targeted at serving visually impaired Christians), and the Philemon Training Project co-organized with Beauty of Grace Foundation Limited (targeted at serving underprivileged groups). May God put these special training ministries into great use, so that Christians with specific needs can further equip themselves and become vessels that are pleasing to Him.

The development of DEP requires much more support. We sincerely invite you to support us with prayers and donations, so that more believers can be equipped to act as salt and light in witnessing the grace of God.

Student Union

Lee Ka-fai Chairperson

Bear a Good Witness to God

The annual theme of the Student Union (SU) for 2019 is "To Live out Faith in an Era of Turmoil." When the committee members of the SU discussed the theme, we

never thought of the turning changes that Hong Kong is facing these few months. As we are disciples of Jesus Christ, it is worthwhile for us to think deeply how we shall practice faith in such an era of turmoil and how we shall lead a life demonstrating heavenly values.

It has been almost a year since I received the baton of SU Chairperson. At the beginning, I was anxious whether I can take up the role well. As a leader, I am supposed to handle various unexpected situations. Making prompt and proper decisions in such occasions is not easy. In addition, there are a lot of other decisions, big or small, to be made. Sometimes I worry that should the decision be wrong, it may produce undesirable results, and that is why I sometimes seem to be indecisive. In fact, it is a time when I need to be more sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit, who reminds and guides me to make appropriate decisions. A good decision is not defined by the benefits it brings us. The benchmark should be: whether it would allow us to bear good witnesses to God.

I am thankful to work together with a great team of committee members. Although our members come from different classes, each with unique personalities, we are all willing to put aside our differences and focus on our own roles to serve all fellow students. We are united in heart, willing to work diligently and serving with hospitality. We are able to do so not out of our own will power or ability; in fact, we are compelled by Christ's love. Each of us has experienced abundant grace from God, and we thus actively respond to His love.

As we shall pass on the baton soon, I wish the members of the next SU committee would also put down themselves while serving the teachers and students of HKBTS. HKBTS always emphasizes that our teachers and students are a "disciple community." I wish each of our SU committee members would set a good example to others, and let our fellow students see what a "disciple community" is like in them. May they bear good witnesses whether in the aspects of study of theology or community fellowship. Let us be a growing community characterized by mutual support and encouragement. May God's providence be with all of our teachers and students. Amen.

Publication News



The seminary's biannual academic journal, *Hill Road* (issue 44), will be published in December with the theme, "**The Ministry of God's Word and Music in Worship.**" There are six thematic articles: "Message in Prayer: The Scripturalization of Prayer in Jewish Tradition" (Wong Fook-kong), "Hymns in the Book of Revelation" (Grace Yue-yan Chan), "The True Meaning of Worship: Re-evaluation of Christian Public Worship from the Biblical and Historical Perspectives" (Nathan K. Ng), "Church, Worship, and Preaching from the Perspectives of Gunton and Webster" (Andres S. Tang), "Proclamation in Worship" (Tsai Tzu-lun), and "Singing in Worship Services" (Sanson Lau). 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.

Faculty News

- **Dr. Andres Tang**, Professor of Christian Thought (Theology and Culture), wrote an introductory article for the Chinese version of Eugene H. Peterson's book, *Where Your Treasure Is* (Taipei: Campus Books, 2019), which was published in May. His article "Engaging Karl Barth's Christology with Tiantai Buddhism" is collected in the book *Yearbook of Chinese Theology 2019*, vol. 5, edited by Paulos Huang and Thomas Xutong Qu (Leiden: Brill, 2019), which was published in August.
- **Dr. Jonathan Lo**, Assistant Professor of New Testament, presented two papers "The Conflation of Messianic Traditions in Mark's Composite Scriptural References" and "The Deconstruction of Race in Paul's Theological Rhetoric" at the International Meeting organized by the Society of Biblical Literature in Rome from July 1 to 5.

Lay Theological Education Department

Degree Program in Christian Studies

January-March 2020 (admission is now open; auditing is welcome)

Subject	Lecturer	Venue	Date / Time
Selected Reading of the Minor Prophets	Mr. Peter Koo	Applied Theological Education Centre	1/31 – 2/3 Mon 7:00 - 10:00 pm (2/7/1 class suspended; 10 lessons)
Introduction to the New Testament	Dr. Clement Shum	Applied Theological Education Centre	4/2 – 15/5 Tue 7:00 - 10:00 pm (24/3 class suspended; 14 lessons)
A Survey of Hong Kong Baptist History	Dr. Alex To	Applied Theological Education Centre	8/1 – 18/3 Wed 7:00 - 10:00 pm (29/1 class suspended; 10 lessons)
Introduction to the Old Testament	Mr. Stephen Sin	Mongkok Education Centre	9/1 – 12/3 Thur 7:00 - 10:00 pm (10 lessons)

Lay Theological Training Diploma / Certificate Program

January-March 2020 (admission is now open; auditing is welcome)

Subject	Lecturer	Venue	Date / Time
Introduction to the New Testament	Ms. Michelle Chan	Applied Theological Education Centre	Class A: 1/31 – 9/3 Mon 7:15 - 9:30 pm (27/1 class suspended; 8 lessons) Class B: 15/1 – 11/3 Wed 7:15 - 9:30 pm (29/1 class suspended; 8 lessons)
Ways out of a Blind Alley	Mrs. Christina Peistrup	Mongkok Education Centre	7/1 – 3/3 Tue 9:30 - 11:45 am (28/1 class suspended; 8 lessons)
Welfare Services for the Elderly: Policy and Type	Prof. Alex Kwan	Applied Theological Education Centre	7/1 – 3/3 Tue 7:15 - 9:30 pm (28/1 class suspended; 8 lessons)
Living a Quality Life	Mrs. Bianca Fung	Mongkok Education Centre	9/1 – 5/3 Thur 9:30 - 11:45 am (30/1 class suspended; 8 lessons)
A Study on Ephesians: The Blessing and Struggle of God's Beloved Children	Mrs. Christina Peistrup	Mongkok Education Centre	9/1 – 27/2 Thu 7:15 - 9:30 pm (8 lessons)

All the classes above are conducted in Cantonese.

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

Distance Education Program

Exploring Truth • Reflecting upon Faith • Equipping for Ministry

Student Recruitment: Diploma programs will begin in March 2020, 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 graduates with their church pastor's recommendation	March and September	March semester : <i>Hong Kong:</i> February 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.			September semester : <i>Hong Kong:</i> August 10
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		<i>Overseas:</i> July 10
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.hkbts.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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 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 2019

Course / Talk	Lecturer	Date	Time
Leading Worship: The First Step in Child Worship	Ms. Cazaria Choi	30/9, 14/10, 21/10	2:00 - 5:00 pm
Walk with Those in the Valley of the Shadow of Death: Self-preparation Workshop	Dr. Wallace Chan	11/11, 18/11	9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Learn to Pray and Worship through the Psalms	Dr. Victoria Kwok	11/11	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
The Issue of Global Climate Change: From the Perspective of Bible and Ecological Theology	Dr. Ho Kin-chung	18/11	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Fee concessions:

Those who enrolled and paid the course fee a week before the course begins may enjoy either the *Early Bird Reduction* or a *fee discount*.*

- (1) *Early Bird Reduction*: those who pay the full fee of the enrolled course may enjoy a reduction of HK\$20 (for 3-hour course) or HK\$30 (for 6-to-9 hour course).
- (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 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

* One cannot enjoy both the Early Bird Reduction and fee discounts. After the Early Bird concession period, please pay the full fee. For fee details, please see the Application Form (www.hkbts.edu.hk/pce).

Campus Extension News

The Extension Project of the Sai O Campus (Phase 3) under the "Faith, Hope, and Love Project" is in progress. We ask for your continuous prayers and support.

July The Commencement of the Foundation Works

The General Building Plan was approved by the Buildings Department.

Sept.-Oct. Finalizing the Building Designs (Civil, Electrical & Mechanical, and Interior Designs)

Nov. Tender Invitation for Main Contractors



Building Committee members with our administrative staff at the construction site



An aerial view of the new building's construction site

Financial Report

General Fund, 1 June - 31 July 2019

	HK\$
Income	5,961,378.57
Expenditure	<u>(6,352,158.61)</u>
Surplus / (Deficit)	<u><u>(390,780.04)</u></u>



Reply

I will support The Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary by

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DONORS REPORT FOR JUNE 2019

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DONORS REPORT FOR JULY 2019

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九龍國際浸信會	13,099.00	胡文恩伉儷	500.00	無名氏	444.00
九龍塘浸信會	5,000.00	倪承恩	13,400.00	HK\$	<u>744.00</u>
上環浸信會	6,600.00	殷振強伉儷	1,000.00	Lay Theological Education Program	
大埔主恩浸信會	1,250.00	曹啟明伉儷	400.00	杜桂鵬	2,400.00
大埔浸信會	12,000.00	梁明財伉儷	500.00	蔡艷桃	500.00
屯門浸信教會	500.00	梁錦松、郭詠文	1,000.00	HK\$	<u>2,900.00</u>
牛池灣竹園潮語浸信會	6,000.00	梁麗嫦	300.00	Theological Education for	
以馬內利浸信會	4,300.00	許鋒威	1,000.00	Filipino Leaders Program	
沙田浸信會	8,000.00	陳偉倫	200.00	第一城浸信會	10,700.00
香港(西區)潮語浸信會	5,000.00	陳喜謙	5,000.00	星月餐廳	1,000.00
香港仔浸信會	23,438.94	陳麗英	500.00	陳麗英	200.00
香港浸信教會	125,000.00	曾慶忠	500.00	溫祥、黎琼珍	400.00
香港堅尼地城浸信教會	1,200.00	馮德華、鄧如玉	200.00	HK\$	<u>12,300.00</u>
香港懷恩浸信教會	10,000.00	黃華娟	100.00	TEFL Mission Fund	
荃灣浸信會	55,000.00	黃嫻賞	50.00	Esterlita Espina	HK\$ 150.00
將軍澳浸信會	1,000.00	溫祥、黎琼珍	500.00	Campus Maintenance and Repairs	
深荃浸信會	500.00	葉煥章	300.00	楊美玲	300.00
富亨浸信會	1,077.00	劉永生、鍾梓萍	300.00	無名氏	500.00
圓洲角浸信會	7,000.00	劉建紅	100.00	HK\$	<u>800.00</u>
置富浸信教會	3,000.00	蔡慧英	200.00	Campus Extension Project	
銅鑼灣浸信會	3,500.00	鄧炳光伉儷	2,000.00	陳國權	1,000.00
樂滿浸信會	3,000.00	羅佩珊	100.00	黃國東伉儷	200.00
興田浸信會	1,000.00	羅凱慈	500.00	黃嫻賞	50.00
錫安浸信會	13,773.60	關志偉	100.00	鄒小寶	1,200.00
北角福音堂	9,000.00	關廣智、鄧慧然	500.00	無名氏	1,800,000.00
基督教宣道會華基堂	2,000.00	關德華伉儷	200.00	無名氏	3,000.00
澳門聖經學院	1,000.00	無名氏	5,300.00	無名氏	1,500.00
啟關基金	500.00	無名氏	4,000.00	HK\$	<u>1,806,950.00</u>
星月餐廳	2,000.00	無名氏	3,500.00	Ming Yee Theological Fund	
HK\$	<u>604,738.54</u>	無名氏	2,000.00	北角浸信會	HK\$ 100,000.00
Chinese Indep. Baptist Church-S.F.	US\$ 540.00	無名氏	1,000.00		
Education Fund (Individual Donor)		無名氏	500.00		
Mafalda	30,000.00	無名氏	500.00		
方志強	200.00	無名氏	400.00		
王紹良	700.00	無名氏	300.00		
王群	800.00	無名氏	200.00		
朱活平伉儷	300.00	無名氏	164.60		
何仲儀	1,000.00	HK\$	<u>90,314.60</u>		
何錦燕	1,000.00	William Chin	US\$ 2,463.00		



Faculty Retreat

August 6-8, 2019

The retreat's theme was "HKBTS's Response to the Challenges of the Times." Our faculty shared the same understanding that we should continue to focus on edification, helping the seminary students and local church members know how to respond to the challenges we face as a society.

Spiritual Formation Camp

August 14-16

Students and teachers came together for the Spiritual Formation Camp before the new school term began. The camp aimed at preparing them spiritually to step onto the path of theological training for the coming academic year. The theme for this year was "Prayer," so we examined what prayer is, how to pray for the world and the theological foundations of prayer.



Opening Convocation Ceremony

August 27

During the opening convocation ceremony, President Joshua Cho preached a sermon titled "Blessed Are Those Who Find Wisdom." Based on Proverbs 3:13-18, President Cho illustrated that prudence is the first of all the cardinal virtues; it is equal to practical wisdom in Christianity with its emphasis on discerning divine will through humility.



Opening Convocation Lecture

August 28

The speaker of the opening convocation lecture was Dr. Jonathan Lo, Assistant Professor of New Testament, at HKBTS, who spoke on the topic "The Outlook and Future of Historical Jesus Research."

Theology Salon

September 3

President Cho and Dr. Andres Tang held the first "Theology Salon" at the chapel, discussing the ethical thoughts of Dietrich Bonhoeffer in a conversational manner.

