

Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary



Annual Report for the year 2000

Ministry of the year 2000

1. New School Term in the Sai O New Campus

In February 1999, God blessed us with a smooth move from Homantin Hill Road to the new Sai O campus. On January 1, 2000, the Dedication Ceremony and Thanksgiving Worship Service was conducted to the glory of our Lord by the Hong Kong Baptist Convention on behalf of the seminary. We prayed that God would sanctify our new campus and that it would be used to provide quality theological education in ways that are pleasing to Him.



President Kong, Faculty and new students

This fall, we began to offer the Master of Theology Degree Program. We currently have admitted eight students of a high caliber to this program. This is a historical milestone in the seminary's development of continuing education and opens a new dimension and era of advanced theological education for Baptist in this part of Asia.

In this new school year, there are 14 students admitted to study in our Master of Divinity Program, 8 to our Master of Religious Education Program and 11 to our Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies Program. There are 6 students enrolled in the Master of Pastoral Counseling Program and another 6 in the newly

established Higher Diploma in Religious Studies Program. There is also one non-classified student. We thank God for entrusting all these students to our seminary. Looking to God's grace, we continue to try our best to equip future ministers for our churches.



President
Rev. Alfred Kong

2. Fresh Graduates in Ministry

In May, 47 students completed their studies. We pray that God will guide these Christian soldiers to join various kinds of ministries and to fight the good fight for the Lord. The Graduation Ceremony was held on November 19 at Kowloon City Baptist Church. God has blessed each and every graduate in countless ways. We prayerfully place them all in the mighty hand of God.



Sai O Campus

3. Church Music Training Ministry

From January through July, we held many different training courses in music, such as organ playing, music rudiments, song leading and vocal training. We also held many concerts, including the seminary's annual concert in April. The theme for the concert was "Millenium Praise - Thy Kingdom Come". Many came to praise God with us in that concert. In late July, we also organized a music training camp for choir conductors with 88 participants benefiting. Altogether 2,066 people participated in the above mentioned activities.



Choir Conductor Training Camp



The Graduates



Psalms among Psalms
by Dr. Samuel Tang



Hill Road --
Academic journal of
HKBTS



Lay Theological
Education – Bible,
Church Music,
Christian Woman



Distance Education
Program

4. Publication Ministry

Apart from producing the HKBTS Newsletter which shares news about our present and future development, the seminary also issues a biannual academic journal, the *Hill Road*.

Our own faculty members write most of the essays. The themes for the two latest issues are “Worship Renewal: The Way to Go” and “Secret Codes of the End Time? The Study and Interpretation of the Book of Revelation”. In addition, we have also published two books in Dr. Samuel Tang’s Psalms among Psalms Series. They are *the General Introduction* and *the Hymns of Thanksgiving*. In October, we published our Academic Dean Dr. Jeffrey Sharp’s new book entitled *The Secret of Happiness: Sermons on Jesus’ Beatitudes*. It is hoped that through the publication of our professors’ works and research studies, we can help ministers and lay people develop both professionally and spiritually.

5. Lay Theological Education Department – Meeting the Needs of the Church

Since moving to Chung Kiu Commercial Building on Shan Tung Street in Mongkok, the Lay Theological Education Department has received the application of many more lay people to study in their courses. The total number of students in LTED increased to 1,968.

There are 5 degree programs, 6 diploma programs and 7 certificate programs that are offered by the Department. These courses and programs are designed to train lay leaders and to cater to the needs of churches in Hong Kong. The most popular programs are: Lay Theological Training Certificate, Christian Women Theological Training Certificate, Diploma in Youth Mentor Training, Diploma for Cell Group Ministry and Church Clerk Training Certificate. The average numbers of students are 92, 106, 74 and 81 respectively.

On July 16, a joint graduation ceremony was held for those who

graduated from the following seven programs: Lay Theological Training Certificate, Pre-theological Education Certificate, Christian Woman Theological Training Certificate, Primary School Christian Religious Education Certificate, Kindergarten Christian Education Certificate, Diploma in Cell Group Ministry and Diploma in Youth Mentor Training. All the 138 graduates had studied really hard to honor the Lord. We pray that they can apply all that they have learned and that God will be glorified in their lives.

6. Distance Education for Laypersons – Breaking through the Limit of Time and Space

To break through the limits of time and space, we provide opportunities for lay Christians to have access to theological education through our Distance Education Program. From early 1998 until September 2000, 251 students have already enrolled in courses offered by the D.E. Program. These students come from 136 churches and many different denominations.

Apart from those in Hong Kong, students are from all over the world – Taiwan, Macau, America, Beijing, England, Japan, Thailand and Australia. Besides, we also have the Onesimus Training Program, designed for prison inmates who have come to Christ in prison and who would like to know more about the Bible and Christian faith. Seven such students began studying for the Certificate of Bible Studies (New Testament) last April. A year later, they all finished the course and were awarded certificates this July. In addition, the D.E. Program is now making its programs and courses available on the Internet, providing yet another convenient means for lay Christians to study God’s word in depth.

7. Offerings and Financial Situation of the year 1999-2000

For the year 1999-2000, the total sum of donations the seminary received was HK\$8.064 million, and the total expenditure for the past year was HK\$20.78 million. We believe that the

effective development of theological education depends heavily on the guidance, encouragement and support of local churches and individual Christians. In light of the ever-growing opportunities to serve the community, we urge churches and individuals who are concerned about Baptist theological education both to pray for our financial needs and to support us by donations.

In June, local Baptist church members are invited to join us on our “Golden Jubilee Study Trip to the Holy Land.”

In October, we will be holding a “Know More About HKBTS Carnival.” All are welcome to come and learn in a lively way the vision and mission of our seminary. Through this carnival, we hope to challenge individual Christians either to respond to God’s calling to full time Christian ministry or to receive lay theological education to be more effective witnesses for Christ.



Baptist Faith:
Its roots & distinctiveness



The Dynamic of
Baptist Faith & Heritage



OT Expository
Preaching Workshop



Continuous Witness
Training



ecampus –
computerized
learning



WebPages
www.hkbts.org.hk

Our Outlook in the Coming Year

1. Ministerial Training Programs

In addition to full time programs in Th.M., M.Div., M.R.E. and B.A.P.S., we also offer the Master of Pastoral Counseling Program and the Higher Diploma in Religious Education Program for in-service church ministers and Christian organization workers. With a diversified curriculum structure, we are committed to providing quality professional training for those in the pastoral ministry. Not only do our programs provide students with knowledge and practical skills, they also place great emphasis on students’ spiritual growth and well being.

2. Golden Jubilee Celebration

The seminary will celebrate its Golden Jubilee Anniversary in 2001. We have planned a series of programs in praise of what God has done for the seminary.

In February, we will have the “Golden Jubilee Belote Lectures” with Dr. Alister McGrath speaking on the theme “Biblical Spirituality.”

In April, there will be a Golden Jubilee Banquet held at the Hong Kong International Trade and Exhibition Center, located conveniently in Kowloon Bay. We will also be holding the “Golden Jubilee Thanksgiving Celebration Concert” in which the seminary will join with local churches and individual Christians in worship and praise of our Lord.

3. Establishment of Baptist Archive Center

At this special time of our Golden Jubilee Anniversary, we would like to commemorate the founding fathers of our seminary for their effort and spirit in developing theological education. Thus, we will set up a “Baptist Archive Center,” and we are raising funds for this worthy cause. The archival center will collect and preserve the seminary’s historical documents, pictures, relics and artifacts. Furthermore, the center plans to help individual Baptist churches, whether big or small, to write their own church history. This will be an invaluable opportunity for church members to recount God’s blessings and record the labor of their forerunners.

4. Publication Ministry – to Publish Books in Series

Apart from the publication of the half-yearly journal *Hill Road*, the seminary will also publish at least two books in Dr. Samuel Tang’s Series on Psalms among Psalms and one in the Baptist Faith and Heritage Series. To mark the Golden Jubilee Anniversary, the seminary will publish a *Pictorial History of HKBTS: 50 years in Pictures*. The Faculty Publication Series will also continue to be published. Books on spiritual formation and the research findings in specific areas of academic study will also be published.



HKBTS 1951-2001

5. A Course on “Creativity and Inspiration in Artwork”

Our Lay Theological Education Department and Mr. Choi Kai Yan have co-organized a course on “Creativity and Inspiration in Artwork” which seeks to heighten an awareness and appreciation of the value of art within local churches. The popular Church Clerk Training Certificate will continue to be offered.

6. Preparation for an expansion of Extension Courses

Next year, we have decided to set up another campus extension that accommodates a church music resource center (to run church music training courses) and a pastoral counseling resource center (to provide pastoral counseling service to believers). This new facility will also be used for a variety of art and recreational training programs.

7. Theological Education for the Visually Impaired

In addition to the courses offered at present and the development of Internet programs, the Distance Education Program is preparing customized program materials for the visually impaired. It is indeed a big step towards the seminary’s educational goal of including all fellow Christians in theological training.

8. Establishing “Pastoral Center” for Ministers and their Spouses

In the coming year, the seminary will set up a “Pastoral Center” at our Sai O campus, and we will soon be recruiting members for this center. The center will organize cross-denominational courses, workshops, seminars and spiritual formation retreats, as well as discussion forums for ministers and their spouses. The first meeting to inaugurate this center will be the “Golden Jubilee Old Testament Expository Preaching Camp” led by Dr. Samuel Tang, who will speak on the book of Daniel. It is expected that

about 90 church workers will participate in this camp. A great variety of professional training courses will also be offered to pastors and ministers who desire to do better work in the service of God and His people.

Your Response

“Seminary students today are ministers tomorrow.” Indeed, Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary cannot work alone in its mission to enable our seminary students to be God’s front soldiers, to support an academically excellent faculty, to provide a high quality, diversified curriculum and to keep our campus well equipped with all the necessary educational facilities. We need the loving concern, the prayer support and the financial provision of Christian churches, organizations and individual brothers and sisters. We appeal to you and your church or organization to contribute to theological education for the benefit of our future ministers and for churches where they serve.

Items for Your Response

Our organization is willing to support Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary in the following manner:

- To pray for the ministries and the staff members of the seminary
- To support the seminary’s financial needs
- Amount of donation: _____
 - Operating Fund
 - Financial Assistance for Students
 - Others (Please specifies: _____)
- Inquiry on Programs and Courses Offered, Course Name: _____

Name of Church: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Address: _____