



Sharing of  
HKBTS Ministry  
2011-12



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



## The Launching of the "Faith, Hope, and Love Project"

Joshua Cho



### The Disciple Community That Has Received the Call to Mission

In HKBTS's Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving Worship Service held in February last year, I declared with a prayerful and thankful heart that HKBTS would launch the "Faith, Hope, and Love Project" in the next five years. I pray that God will equip the Seminary with theological wisdom leading us to become a disciple community. I also pray that we continue to experience the mighty power of Christ Jesus' resurrection so that we show forth faith, hope, and love.

One of the main features of the "Faith, Hope, and Love Project" is the continuation of the Baptist spirit of pioneering, evangelism, and mission. I am convinced that a seminary well equipped with theological wisdom must also be a disciple community that exercises hospitality, the practical expression of faith, hope, and love. A disciple community that practices hospitality and one that is marked by faith, hope, and love is also a disciple community ready to receive the mission call. In fact, such a disciple community must stride out to churches, to the world; it must face our churches, face the world. Such a community will surely serve our churches, serve the world.

We continue to learn new ways to grow in faith, hope, and love as we strive to become a disciple community that has received the call to mission. We have clearly seen God's purpose: God has called and commissioned each of us to proclaim His purpose that all nations of the world may be free to enter God's kingdom. To be God's disciple community we must be filled with faith. We must

experience anew God's presence in the world, shoulder God's call to mission and bear witness that God's mission is to proclaim the reign of God with the firm belief that God can lead men to face the future. We as a disciple community must be filled with love, knowing that although the world is flooded with vice and wickedness, God's love will triumph. God loves the world and His love far exceeds human love. He goes so far as to give away His only beloved son as His gift of grace to the world. At last, we must also be filled with hope as we anticipate that God's new reign will soon come. Meanwhile, we will neither be dejected or discouraged in face of a world that resists God or an environment that is dreadful.

I look back to the end of 2010, when I was invited to join The Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization held in South Africa. God touched my heart through this congress. I was astonished by one important insight! Not only did I once again receive our Lord Jesus Christ's call to mission, I needed to work hard together with the faculty team as we begin to develop a direction of mission in theological education so that the Seminary can participate in the mission ministry of God's kingdom.

Mission is one of the important components for the direction in which the Seminary is heading. In the past days and under God's leading, we have increasingly realized that we are a disciple community with a call to mission. We pray that we can be part of God's mission so that all nations can be made disciples of our Lord. The Seminary's Mission Dynamic Resource Center

reengaged in mission education last August. Rev. Pak Loh was appointed as the Director and was joined by our two teachers, Dr. Eric Kwong and Dr. Alexander Mak, this past January to promote the Seminary's mission ministry. The center will nurture mission talents, do research study on mission and provide resources. Also, it will seek to build stronger partnership with churches, mission bodies and missionary organizations.

Besides, I had the opportunity to have personal exchanges with missionaries and staff workers in several mission bodies. Hence, I heard the mission experience of frontline mission workers and learned from their lives in ministry. They included missionaries to Thailand and Africa from China Evangelistic Mission Ltd., those from Enoch Society for Care of the Aging (an organization caring for the elderly in Mainland China), overseas missionaries of Hong Kong Baptist Church, missionaries from Canadian Baptist Ministries of Ontario and Quebec, Canada, and the Chief Executive of Cedar Fund. Furthermore, I shared my life testimony with students from the Mainland who joined intensive courses organized by the two organizations, Institute in Basic Life Principle (Hong Kong) Ltd. and Haggai Leadership Training Institute, which use our campus as the teaching venue.

Apart from teaching lessons, through the chapel hour, group sharing, seminars, conferences and exchange visits, the Seminary led students to have an in-depth reflection on mission with the understanding that mission is an important vocation of a disciple community. I pray that God will guide and shape individually each member of this group of students who have dedicated themselves to love God with all their hearts so that they can be used by God. May they serve our churches in the future and proclaim the truth of God to the world.

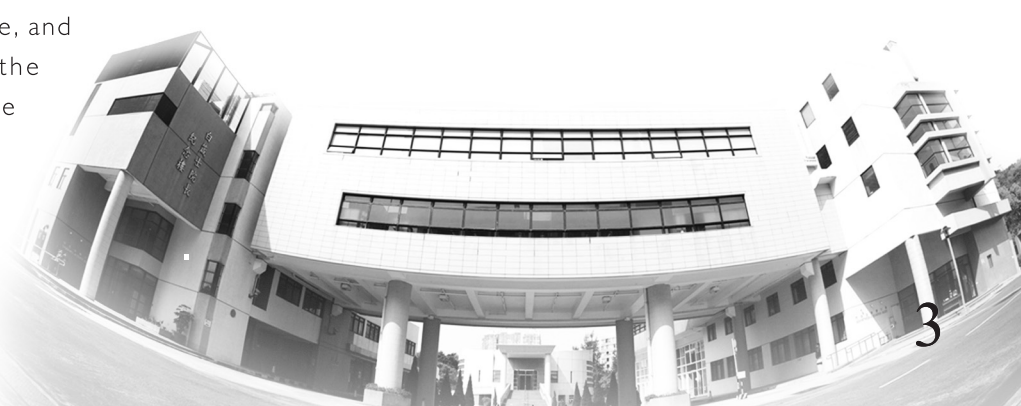
### **Launching the Doctor of Theology Program**

Another main feature of the "Faith, Hope, and Love Project" is the development of the Graduate Studies Program as we launch the Doctor

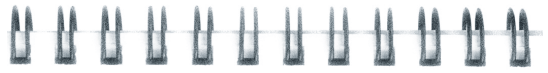
of Theology Program.

The ThD program is not just a degree program but is also closely related to Christian mission and the Seminary's integral mission. As a seminary shouldering the Christian mission, we not only commission our graduates to the mission fields worldwide, but we also expect to develop teaching talents and experts for the vast threshing floor in South East Asia. The development of this program is a further step for the Seminary to join the mission ministry for God's kingdom. Hence, we will strengthen our ties with Baptist churches and seminaries in South East Asia and those countries with limited resources, such as those in West Africa. We will accept their seminary teachers and preachers to come to Hong Kong to study in the ThD program on our campus. After graduation, they can devote themselves to theological education in their own countries or to the pastoral ministry, mission, or other evangelistic ministry. Our strategy is to nurture local pastors or Christian scholars who will go back to their own countries to nurture local ministers. These ministers in turn will then be empowered to further equip their congregations to proclaim the gospel of Christ. This is an alternative form of the practice of Christian mission, a missional approach that will yield multiple harvests.

In the meantime, I believe that theological wisdom ought to be applied to real life situations and that theological education must be ready to respond to our churches and the society. As we face the world, we must do more analysis, thinking and writing regarding the reality of the churches. The ThD program aims to nurture a new generation of scholars and preachers to lead the church to respond to challenges of our pluralistic society. This is an integral mission which calls for a joint effort of our churches and the Seminary to fulfill. This integral mission is also a kind of Christian mission and is closely connected with the mission we are already enthusiastically practicing.



Looking back over God's leading in the past year, I thank God for prompting our disciple community to have different kinds of learning and growth in every aspect. He has embraced us with His grace and love. Not only has He enabled us to march forward in the direction of mission but He has also led us to launch the ThD program which marks as a new milestone in the Seminary's development. I pray that God will continue to lead the Seminary, enabling us to help students build a solid foundation on the Bible, allowing them to mould their character and spirituality based on His word. We seek to nurture them to become preachers, testifying to and proclaiming God's truth, and ministers of the gospel who are equipped to serve our churches, crossover to society and face the world.



## Prayer

Thank God that He has blessed HKBTS with a group of outstanding students and sent us a strong and sturdy faculty team. Pray that God will continue to lead the Seminary as we continue to develop so that HKBTS can serve our churches today and in the future. I also pray that God will bestow on me the spiritual power and sufficient strength in the heart so that I can serve the almighty God and glorify His name.

## Thanksgiving

## Retrospect with Thanksgiving Prospect for Progress

We are pleased to report that for the 2011-12 school year, there was a total of 321 students enrolled in the Seminary's degree programs. Student enrollment included 147 students in the Ministerial Preparation Program and 174 in the Christian Studies Program of our Lay Theological Education Department (LTED). In this past school year, 77 new students were admitted to these two programs while 35 students graduated from the programs.

### Ministerial Preparation Program

#### • **Diamond Jubilee Joint Programs Graduation Ceremony**

Our unprecedented Joint Programs Graduation Ceremony, made up of the Main Campus Programs, Lay Theological Education Department (LTED), and the Distance Education Program (DEP), was held on November 27 at Wan Chai Elizabeth Stadium. It was not only the final celebration activity of our Seminary's Diamond Jubilee Anniversary but was also an expression of the Seminary's strong unity. In the graduation ceremony, Rev. Chow Lien-hwa delivered the message. A joint choir, including 14 Baptist churches and our own Seminary Choir, performed Dr. Cainan Mui's composition, "A Prayer

of Thanksgiving." The composition was written especially for HKBTS.

In this school year, fifty six students (including those diploma and certificate students of the same level) graduated in the degree program and a total of 292 students graduated in the non-degree diploma and certificate programs. We thank God for a strong sense of thanksgiving, celebration, and praise at this special service, attended by nearly 3,000 friends of the Seminary. Both the Seminary and the graduates were thrilled and greatly encouraged.

## Graduating Students' Sharing

“In our pilgrim journey toward God, HKBTS is an unparalleled station. It has given me knowledge of wisdom, close and genuine friends, spiritual mentors and a cloud of witnesses so that I cannot only see the vision that God gave me but also have access to the spring that will not go dry.”

“I thank God for His grace to lead me to

complete four years of theological equipping. I am grateful for the teachers' systematic guidance and patience in teaching so that I can establish a good foundation for my life of ministry. May God bless me with a teachable spirit so that I will continue to receive His teaching in the road of ministry ahead to enable myself to 'correctly handle the word of truth' and to have a good life witness.”

“Looking back over my four years of seminary study, unforgettable were the days and nights of dormitory life, unaccountable were the scenes of laughter and tears in the classroom and uncountable is the gracious love of our heavenly Father. I must thank God and thank all our teachers and also every one of the fellow-students walking alongside me. From you all, I have learned how to be Jesus' disciple. However, this is only the beginning. I pray that God will continue to lead and protect us and that we altogether can be faithful to this calling!”



### • Planning to Offer the ThD Program

After discussing the idea for three years, the Seminary decided to set up the ThD Preparation Committee in this past January. At that time, Dr. Andres Tang, Dr. Wong Fook Kong, and Dr. Sam Tsang were invited to draft a program proposal. In April and June, the ThD Program Proposal was approved both by the Faculty Meeting and the Board of Trustees. The ThD Program will begin in spring 2013 and application for admissions already started in August.

In offering the ThD Program, the Seminary responds to three areas of need: (1) To take up the responsibility and respond to the churches, our

society and the world: HKBTS seeks to nurture a group of scholars and preachers who demonstrate theological wisdom and the ability to pursue interdisciplinary studies. They will be equipped to help our churches become more aware of the political, economic, and cultural situations of our society and the world. That means they will be ready to voice out the Christian truth to this generation. (2) To practice Christian mission: Through our ThD program, we will make good use of our outstanding faculty and all our learning resources, train up theological talents locally and regionally, and prepare educational talents and professionals for the vast harvest field of South

East Asia. This will allow us to improve and expand our mission ministry at HKBTS through our ThD program. (3) To store up teaching talents for the next generation: The ThD program intends to equip teaching talents, especially in practical theology — in the areas of missions, religious education, life counseling, and church music. We seek to nurture good teachers who are competent academically and with admirable Christian character.



A strong faculty team of members who are academically competent and who demonstrate good character is the prerequisite for the ThD program. We thank God for His preparation and guidance in strengthening our faculty team who is now at a high level of ability and maturity. This allows the Seminary to reach a new milestone as we can now assume new responsibility in our theological ministry.

• **Striving to Develop the Direction for Our Mission Ministry**

We seek to heighten students' awareness of mission through classroom teaching, small group sharing, seminars and conferences. This year, the Seminary organized the Baptist Mission Week (March 27-29) and invited Dr. Brian Stanley from the University of Aberdeen to speak on the theme "Reflection and Hope in Baptist Mission." The Morning lectures held on our main campus were of the theme "Turning Points in Understanding the Great Commission." The Evening Lectures held at Immanuel Baptist Church focussed on the theme "God's Mission and Ours." Dr. Stanley's sharing and insights certainly broadened our students' horizon

and allowed them to exchange views about Baptist mission and update their ideas of mission



In the campus the Mission Department of the Student Union organized lectures to engage fellow students in mission learning. In the past year, the Mission Department organized lectures that included "Situations of Post-Catastrophe Japan after March 11" presented by Mr. Fung King-ho, our alumnus and a missionary to Japan; "Understanding Local Indonesians Ministry" by Rev. Lin Tat-kit, Executive Director of Hong Kong Baptist Mission; "Understanding Local Thai People's Ministry" by Rev. Lam Chun-hung, pastor of Kowloon City Swatow Baptist Church; "Understanding Ministry to Japanese Residing in Hong Kong" by Pastor Mitsumasa Shiba of the Hong Kong Japanese Christian Fellowship; "How to Promote Mission Ministry in Chinese Churches" by Rev. Chan Shun-kam, Director of Mobilization, Hong Kong Region of China Evangelistic Mission, Inc.; "The Afghanistan Experience and Cedar's Theological Concept of Integral Mission" by Dr. Chan Nim-chung, Chief Executive of Cedar Fund.

Also, through the morning chapel hour, students had opportunities to meet with missionaries from Hong Kong and several different countries, and to learn more about the conditions and needs of contemporary mission fields. They were challenged to pray for missionaries and for those people in various ethnic communities who have never heard about Jesus. Visits took place outside the Seminary. Our teachers and students went to visit a local Korean church in October last year. This June, before immersing themselves

in the summer practicum, a group of students and teachers went for two cultural exchange visits in China. One, organized by the Mission Department of the Student Union, went to Zhong Shan (June 1-4) and the other, organized by our Seminary choir, "The Hill Singers," visited Wuhan (June 5-12).



• **External Connection: Closer Ties with Baptist Churches**

In last school year, students did their practicum in 86 churches or Christian organizations where they applied what they had learned, allowing God to mould them and polish them. President Cho and the faculty team visited different churches to lead in 23 spiritual revival and evangelistic meetings, to attend 22 important ceremonies, and to preach in Seminary Sunday Worship Service at 39 churches. Such were the opportunities for the Seminary to serve our Baptist churches. Through the Seminary Sunday, we could relate closely with local churches and deepen our understanding of each other's mutual ministries and needs. Moreover, the "Talk on Full Time Ministry" and the "Experiencing Seminary Life Camp" were organized to enable those seeking God's will to consider whether to go into full time ministry, and to know more about HKBTS.

In the past school year, God provided to our teachers the opportunities for Bible Study leadership in churches on top of their leadership in various spiritual revival meetings, evangelistic meetings, and Seminary Sunday Worship Services. From September through October 2011, five Biblical Studies teachers conducted the Kwun Tong Bible Conference co-sponsored by Kwun Tong Baptist Church. Our teachers also led the Wan Chai Bible Conference co-sponsored by Wan Chai Baptist Church from May to June 2012 for five successive






Sunday afternoons. Such Bible Conferences have become effective ways by which we can visit churches in different districts and to serve with them. We especially treasure our friendship of the churches and fellow pastoral co-workers. We have been impressed by how Christian brothers and sisters thirsted for God's word and responded enthusiastically to the conference speakers.

President Cho went to North America in August 2011 and April 2012 to visit our alumni and Baptist church pastors and to speak in spiritual revival and Bible study meetings. He also made connections with Princeton Theological Seminary and other academic institutions. President Cho was re-elected Chairperson of the Hong Kong Theological Education Association for the third consecutive year. He was invited to be the speaker at the Graduation Ceremony of Truth Theological Seminary (USA), Lutheran Theological Seminary (Hong Kong), Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary, and Macau Bible Institute. President Cho was also invited to speak at the Fifth Gold Medallion Book Awards Ceremony last September and to speak at the Seventy-Third AGM of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong in May 2012.



# Major Events in 2011-12 School Year

## In 2011

August	1	Re-Opening of Mission Dynamic Resource Center	
August	9-11	Faculty Retreat Camp	
August	15-17	Spiritual Formation Camp	
August	23	Opening Convocation	
August	23-26	<b>Diamond Jubilee Belote Lectures</b> Professor Thomas Long, the esteemed American Grand Master of Preaching, spoke at the Diamond Jubilee Belote Lectures. Professor Long explored and demonstrated in depth the relevance of the preaching ministry. Every day, we were pleased to see an enthusiastic audience of 200 pastoral workers in the morning session. The lectures offered a precious opportunity for our teachers and students to learn from him and to understand how they can improve their own preaching skills. There was a large group in attendance including many pastoral workers, and teachers and students from other seminaries.	
September	5	<b>Three of our teachers being presented Gold Medallion Book Awards</b> Dr. Sam Tsang's book, <i>Judges Characterized: Stories of Leadership, Women and Family</i> , won the Gold Medallion Book Award for "the Best Author(s) of Academic Books." Dr. Andres Tang's translation of John Caputo's book, <i>Philosophy and Theology</i> , won the Gold Medallion Book Award for the "Best Translator of Academic Books." Dr. Wong Fook Kong won the Gold Medallion Book Award for the "Best Author of Church Ministry II (in the non-textbook category)" in the Fifth Gold Medallion Book Awards Presentation Ceremony last September.	
Sep	11-	<b>Kwun Tong Bible Conference</b>	
Oct	9		
November	27	<b>First Joint Programs Graduation Ceremony</b>	
December	19	<b>Curtain-Raising Ceremony of the "Alumni Corner"</b> The Alumni Room was moved to the third floor of the Students Activities Block and was renamed the "Alumni Corner." The new location will not only serve to provide information for our alumni and students at the same time, but it will also provide our alumni a comfortable and spacious meeting venue. This will facilitate the Alumni Association to build closer relationship with students on campus.	



## In 2012

January	17	Spiritual Formation Day
February	29-	Experiencing Seminary Life Camp
March	1	
March	1	“Higher Diploma Program in Biblical Studies” launched by DEP
March	27-29	Baptist Mission Week
April	1	“On-line Certificate Program in Old Testament Studies” launched by DEP
April	10-12	Expository Preaching Week
May	6	Annual Concert of Praise



The Concert of Praise was held at the AC Hall of Hong Kong Baptist University with the theme, “Only God Can Satisfy.” The content included a performance by the Joint Seminary Choir, instrumental numbers and solo recitals. The Rev. Timothy Lau delivered the sermon. The 800-strong congregation participated in the worship through joyful praise.

May	6-	June 3	Wan Chai Bible Conference
May	16		Commissioning Ceremony of Graduating Students
May	24		Awards Presentation Ceremony
June	1-4		Zhong Shan Mission Trip
June	5-12		“Hill Singers” Exchange Visit to Wuhan
June	11		Approval of Launching the ThD Program by the Board of Trustees

## 2 Lay Theological Education Department

LTED seeks to promote theological training for Christian believers. Through diversified programs of study, LTED equips Christians to shoulder their vocational duties and fulfill their share of God's ministries as "priests" in their churches or workplaces. This is all a part of our goal to work together to invite more people into the kingdom of God.

At present, LTED provides 9 programs on different levels, including mainly certificate, diploma, and also bachelor and master degrees. We frequently review the contents of our curricula to ensure that we are meeting the needs of the churches and our society. We have also revised and refined the academic structure of our curricula as we adapt to the tempo and pace of the students receiving training. Besides biblical and theological subjects, other subjects offered last school year included "Harmonious Interpersonal Relationship in the Workplace," "Job and Suffering," "A Life Tempered by Experience — Communication, Discovery and Growth," "Applying Life Coaching to Pastoral Care." Besides, upon the recommendation of the committee members and our staff worker, we revised the names of the core subjects in the "Lay Theological Training Program," which is our earliest program. We decided to revise the course names making them simpler and clearer for today's students. We thank God for His provision. We not only have a team of faithful teaching faculty and adjunct lecturers,



but we also have church pastors and co-workers in Christian organizations who have come on board as lecturers and further strengthen our teacher team. The different areas of knowledge and experience that these lecturers bring to LTED have enriched our curricula, and have broadened students' horizons, inspiring their spiritual growth.

Besides offering programs of studies, LTED also organizes various topical seminars. In the past year, a total of 13 topical seminars were held to provide students with an understanding of various kinds of ministry and to promote LTED programs to the church public. November last year was the first time that the Joint Programs Graduation Ceremony, including the Main Campus Programs, LTED, and Distance Education Program, was held. The ceremony was a strong testimony not only to God's grace and blessings that bestowed on the Seminary and the graduates but also served as the climax of the Seminary's Diamond Jubilee celebration.

In the 2011-12 school year, the quarterly average number of students in our programs was 646, while the total number of people



enrolled in the programs and in the seminars each quarter totaled 2,128. When the school year came to a close, 259 students graduated in our programs. We are convinced that our Lord is pleased with our students' diligence in their studies and their dedication in their ministry. It is our prayer that God will continue to lead each of our graduates to serve Him in their own churches and in their workplaces, as they experience more deeply God's faithfulness that will further enrich their abundant life in Christ!

Nine Programs in LTED	
1. Christian Studies(Certificate / Diploma / Bachelor / Master Degree)	
2. Lay Theological Training(Certificate / Diploma)	
3. Women Theological Training (Certificate / Diploma)	
4. Elderly Ministry (Certificate / Diploma)	
5. Youth Ministry (Diploma)	
6. Children Ministry (Certificate / Diploma)	
7. Early Childhood Ministry (Certificate / Diploma)	
8. Mission Ministry (Certificate / Diploma)	
9. Church Administrative Affairs (Certificate / Diploma)	

Number of Graduating Students 2011-12	
Master of Christian Studies Program	7
Bachelor, Diploma and Certificate of Christian Studies Program	15
Non-degree Diploma and Certificate Programs	237
	259

## Sharing from Some of Our Graduates

“These few years of study have enabled me to recognize what true knowledge is. All the learning in this world is but to discover the mystery of God’s creation. However, the value of this learning cannot be compared with the value of learning to know God, understanding the meaning of our own existence and finding God’s will. I am glad to have set foot on this path and to discover the utopia of human knowledge.”

“Ever since I began to study in the Seminary, my life has been full of challenges . . . the bombardment against and the reshaping of my Christian faith has turned my monotonous life into a colorful one.”

“To know God is a life-long pursuit, and to be of use to God is the practice of a life in faith. May the Lord continue to use me, such an insignificant person, to proclaim His grace and love!”



## Prayer

The Diamond Jubilee Joint Programs Graduation Ceremony allowed students from all of our programs to gather together and call us all to have a heart for HKBTS despite our background differences. The ceremony serves as an important milestone of the Seminary in “unification.” Pray that God will help us as we continue to walk shoulder to shoulder in cooperation and in coordination. This will allow us to bring out the best in each of our particular areas of responsibility as we nurture God’s workers for His kingdom. May each of us be the light and the salt in our family, workplace, churches and the society as we are united and dedicated to the ministry of the gospel that we believe.

Thanksgiving

### 3 Distance Education Program

It is the vision of DEP to break through the traditional learning pattern and the constraints of time and space to equip students in theological education. The average number of students enrolled each quarter is 280. Besides targeting lay Christians, DEP has also launched “special nurturing” ministries to serve communities with special needs and economic difficulties, providing them with theological education.



In the “special nurturing” ministries, we join hands with the Christian Ministry to Visually Impaired Persons (CMVIP) to launch the “Spiritual Light Project.” Up until now, we have already organized three classes for the Certificate Program in New Testament Studies. This year’s eleven students will graduate with the First Certificate of Old Testament Studies Program. Throughout these four years, this group of students has pressed hard to study through correspondence curriculum materials, textbooks in Braille characters, tutorial lessons and topical seminars, and they learn through the assistance from CMVIP and computer assisted tools. We respect these students and are moved by their attitude of learning. We also collaborate with the Hong Kong Christian Kun Sun Association to set up

the “Onesimus Project” for prison inmates who have come to know Christ while serving their sentence in correctional institutions. At present, the number of students has increased from 30 last year to 40 this year. Last year, in the Diamond Jubilee Joint Programs Graduation Ceremony held in November, the family members of some graduates, who were still in the correctional institutions, received the diploma on their behalf. When we saw the cheerful and joyful faces of their family members, we could only give God our unceasing thanks for them all.

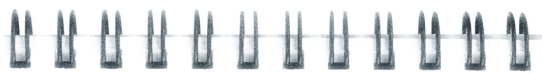
To make it more convenient for lay Christians to study, DEP has launched the On-line Certificate Program of Old Testament Studies this April. It is our plan to offer the on-line teaching and learning medium and develop it as a platform for students’ learning. This is part of our effort to serve effectively the learning communities locally and in the Mainland. Apart from developing the on-line learning pattern, we also launched the Higher Diploma Program in Biblical Studies early this year. Through this new program we seek to serve those who have completed the diploma program and wish to engage in in-depth Bible studies.

To broaden students’ spiritual horizon, DEP regularly organizes topical seminars. In



the past academic year, we held two seminars entitled "Disorder in the Church? Reflecting on the Church's Nature from the Salvific Activities of the Triune God" and "Interaction between the Growth in Character and the Quest for Spirituality: Taking Life Examples from Martin Luther and John Calvin." These seminars were presented by Dr. Andres Tang and Dr. Nathan Ng respectively. These seminars and many others designed for brothers and sisters from all churches, often receive enthusiastic responses from the attendants. We are thankful to God for using the seminars.

The Theological Education Program for Filipino Leaders (TEFL) was inaugurated in 2003. Courses are taught four quarters a year, and all classes in TEFL take place on Sunday afternoons. Class enrollment has increased from an average of 40 each quarter in 2003 to about 55 at present. There has been a total of approximately 1906 student registrations in the ten years since the program began. Three degree programs, the B.A. in Theological Studies Program, B. A. in Theological Studies Program and the Master of Divinity Program, were launched in 2008, 2010, and 2012 respectively and with 7, 29, and 7 students respectively in these degree programs. In the fourth quarter this year, the Certificate in Church Music Program will be launched.



## Prayer

We thank God for using DEP and are thankful for this group of students who are constantly pressing forward. We pray that God will enable DEP to spread far and wide both through correspondence and the Internet, and ask Him to continue to bestow on us His grace and power as we are developing the degree program.

## Thanksgiving

## Sharing from a graduate

“Looking back, when I first applied to study in DEP, I was recovering from a serious illness. As I thirsted for an inner peace and for God’s word, I had to face the fact that my knowledge of the Bible and my life of faith were both weak and shallow. I enrolled to study in the DEP to study the Bible and received the course materials regularly. In the process, I have discovered the joy of studying the Bible and theology. That has allowed me to recover steadily and my studies have become the fountain of strength, helping me once again face my everyday life and work. For this, I must thank God and HKBTS!”

## 4 Applied Theological Education Center

The Seminary's Applied Theological Education Center located at Bute Street Mongkok accommodates the following two program centers:

### Pastoral Continuing Education Center

In the 2011-12 school year, PCEC organized a total of 21 courses. Student enrollment this year has reached 680, an increase of 9% over that of last year. Apart from the planned courses, three training classes were added: (1) A full-day talk, jointly organized with Kowloon City Baptist Church, on the theme "A Model of Fellowship Bible Church" presented by Dr. Gene Getz with Rev. Abel Lam, and Dr. Alexander Mak, Assistant Professor of New Testament at the Seminary, as respondents. (2) A course on "A Discipleship Training Program on the Formation of a Godly Life" conducted by Rev. Abraham Chiu, pastor of Crosspoint Church of Silicon Valley. (3) Out of a consideration for those ministering in English speaking churches, we offered for the first time an English course "Using Biblical Theology for Preaching the Bible" taught by Dr. Lindsay Robertson, the Seminary's Associate Professor of Christian Thought (Theology and Philosophy).

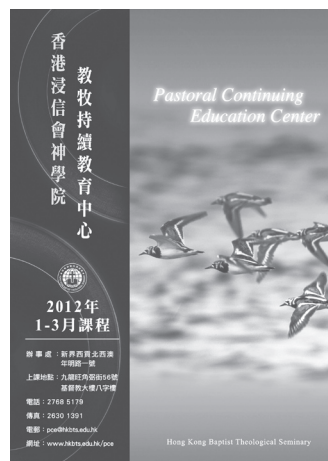
The PCEC program consists of four series covering four areas of pastoral ministry:

- 1. The Hermeneutic and Preaching Series:** Courses offered included: "Hermeneutic and Preaching of Narrative Texts," "Judges and the Modern Church: Hermeneutic and Preaching," "Beyond the Big Fish: Reading Jonah from the Literary Perspective," and "A Preliminary Exploration of *Macabee I*." These courses aim to enhance the effectiveness and dynamic of the preaching ministry for ministers.
- 2. The Leadership Series:** We launch courses like "Resolution of Conflicts, Turning Crises into Opportunities," "Challenges and Opportunities in Ministering Colleagues in the Workplace," and "The Study of Stem Cells and Human Cloning: The Challenge to Christian Ethics from Biotechnology" to assist ministers in responding to different ministerial situations.
- 3. The Pastoral Care Series:** Courses like "Playing with Creative Ideas," and "The Origin, Concept and Practice of Life Education" were offered to guide ministers to help young people to have an in-depth experience with our Lord in a creative way as they build a solid Christian view of life.
- 4. The Individual-Equipping Series:** The series aims to lead ministers to acquire a new vision and new spiritual perspective of ministry through courses like "Making Use of Church History in Caring Ministry," "Church and Politics: Reflecting on the Church and Political Participation," and "Imitation of Christ: The Fragrance of Nine Spiritual Fruits and the Spiritual Qualities of Ministers."



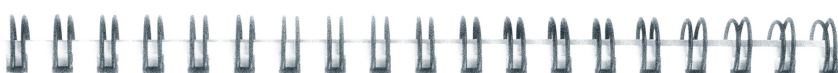
We hope that these courses will give support to ministers who are able to fit these courses into their particular time schedule by meeting their spiritual needs and by fostering the development of their ministerial skills and strategy in church development while they continue to devote themselves to their ministry. The courses are conducted three quarters (Jan-Mar, Apr-Jun, Sep-Dec) a year, with a break during the summer time. The courses offered each quarter over the past three years were mainly short-term and practical-oriented. However, due to the time constraint of the lecturers and pastors, class hours could not be extended even though we receive requests from students. In the

future, we will record class lecture and upload class notes for those students who are unable to attend class lectures to access the materials so that they can be equipped and participate in continuing education in a flexible and convenient way. As for English speaking courses, we will continue to explore such a need.



### Statistics of Courses Offered in 2011-12

	Category	No. of Courses (hr)	Student Registration (9/2011-8/2012)
1	Shepherding	6 (24)	177 (26%)
2	Leadership	7 (39)	143 (21%)
3	Pastoral Care	7 (36)	220 (32%)
4	Equipping	6 (27)	140 (21%)
	Total	26 (126)	680 (100%)



## Prayer

Thank God for blessing us who are involved in planning and promoting the PCEC ministry. May God continue to bless our humble service for pastoral ministers all to His glory. Pray that God will help our lecturers in the new school year to prepare teaching materials relevant to the needs of our ministers. Pray that God will prepare the hearts of students who can put what they learn into practice and that they will be renewed by God's grace.

Thanksgiving

# Edna Wong Christian Worship and Arts Education Center

In the 2011-12 school year, more than 10 theoretical-based and practical-oriented courses were offered. Registration exceeded 500 students.

The course, "Floral Art Theology and Application in a Worship Setting," is worth mentioning. At present, the act of floral arrangement on display in church worship services considers style and scale according to the traditional approach and lacks the



understanding of worship theology and the consideration for the important festivals of the church year. This being the case, this course explores how floral arrangement can be used to enrich worship services through

the studies of church history, rituals, and visual art and not to be subject to individual experience or the availability of flowers at the market.

The most popular music courses offered by the Center are Lyric Appreciation of Hymns, Vocal and Instrumental Music (such as electronic organ playing) Training, Music Appreciation and Analysis, Learning Music Theory and Score Reading, Training of Chorus Singing Skills and Conducting. The teaching of these courses is based on formal western, music theory and they are designed to be put into practical use in the church. We apply high standard for the

use of music in church worship to counter the popular culture of consumerism and the mentality of putting music into quick use like eating the instant noodle. We observe that the students' horizon is broadened as teachers explain and demonstrate these principles in class.

At this time, we are happy to report the course, "The Art of Ethnic Folk Songs," (especially Cantonese opera gospel songs) has been well received by women of all ages and the retired people. The interaction between teacher and students has been so successful that a fellowship is formed outside of the classroom and the group gives performance in the public that uplift the spirit of the participants.



Looking to the future, we plan for our Center to continue to collaborate with LTED in offering all kinds of church music ministry courses. In the meantime, we will attempt to develop more art subjects in different categories to stimulate the community of lay Christians to integrate multiple art forms into church worship services and into other ministries.



## Prayer

Thank God for the gift of art. We pray that God will send us many more suitable teachers to be able to offer a wide variety of courses that will broaden our churches' vision, open their hearts to see that art can serve our churches, enrich our worship experience, and strengthen the proclamation of the gospel!

## Thanksgiving



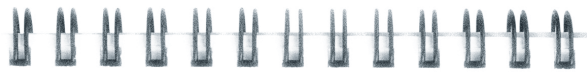
## 5 Learning Resources

### Library Resources

Up to the end of July this year, the size of the collection of our Rankin Memorial Library had already exceeded 121,000 items. Our holdings include over 96,000 Chinese and English books, over 12,000 audio-visual items, 750 CD-ROMs, 1,300 periodicals and full text electronic periodicals, 5,400 bound periodicals, and 6,500 books and music scores available at the ATEC in Mong Kok. Throughout the year, we received different books and periodicals as loving donations from Christian brothers and sisters. This means we can shorten the time that borrowers need to wait as we have more multiple copies of books in our circulation. This year we have processed a total of 3,956 items of books and audio-visual materials. The total number of books in circulation has also slightly increased to 22,298, a rise of 3.8 % from last year.

On the surface, the library ministry is by nature "regularized" and "static." However, we constantly face difficulties to ensure that the library functions smoothly and orderly. We thank God for a sense of His protection and guidance year after year allowing us to continue to experience His grace in our work.

It is anticipated that this rich and resourceful treasure house of knowledge can help our teachers and students in their teaching and learning, while providing our alumni and Baptist ministerial workers with sufficient support in their continuing education and ministry service.



### Prayer

Pray that our Lord will continue to be with us as we build up the library and face the challenges of the new school year. Since our Seminary will offer the ThD Program in spring 2013, pray that God will help us as our library co-workers not only offer services that will meet the requirements of the new program, but also continue to learn to become unashamed workmen in our posts.

Thanksgiving

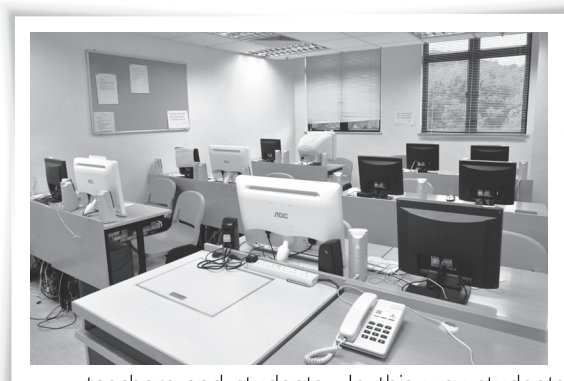
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## Information Technology Facilities

Information technology facilities are crucial for the learning, teaching, communication and operation of the entire seminary. In the last school year, the IT staff worked closely with DEP staff to set up a new on-line learning system, based on a Moodle (shared software). It took us some time to understand the basic operation of the system, the internal server, and the structure of the computer programs. We then modified the system to set the designated task formats to

benefit the operating needs of DEP. We then edited and wrote a suitable report for the system. We thank God for leading the staff of IT and DEP to work together to complete this vital task.

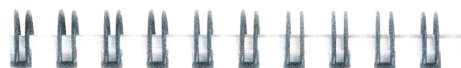
Having gained such an experience, the IT staff is now setting up a similar system for the Main Program to assist in students' learning. We hope to open up a new, on-line channel for teaching and learning, and this can be an effective channel of communication between



teachers and students. In this way students can learn more effectively by means of the computer:

Besides fulfilling our main responsibility for software, hardware and network management, the IT Office also assists in the daily operation of the Seminary in other areas. For example, in the last school year, we assisted the General Office to set up an on-line program in place of the meal coupons for our staff to indicate the days in a month that they take lunch in the canteen. We also cooperated with the Students' Affairs

Department to develop an on-line system for students to take attendance in the morning chapel hour. This system has just been completed and is in effective use in the new school year.



## Prayer

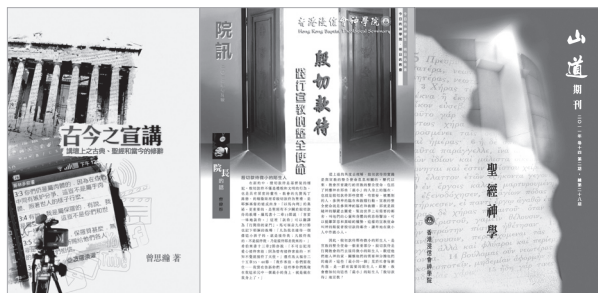
Thank God for leading us in the work of the IT Office in the past school year. Pray that God will continue to lead us as we work closely with other departments in fulfilling the goals we have set for next year. We also pray that God will be present with us and guide us as we provide support to our professors, students, and staff, and assist them to use the computer facilities more effectively in their teaching, learning, and daily work.

## Thanksgiving

## 6 Publication

Teachers of the Seminary, in addition to dedicating themselves to teaching and ministering to our students, also devote themselves to doing research and writing for the Chinese churches and the theological circle. In the past few years, our teachers have written a total of 45 books and have become the most productive faculty team in the area of writing among Hong Kong seminaries. Some of these books were published by local Christian publishers and others were published by the Seminary's own publication office.

As for the "Spiritual Theology Series," besides *Friendship of Heart and Spirit: A Pathway of Spiritual Theology* (Joshua Cho) published in 2009, the other three books, *Seasons of Our Lives: Spirituality of Poetic and Wisdom Literature* (Wong Fook Kong),



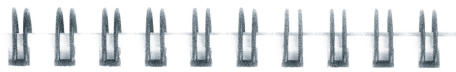
*Spiritual Warfare: An Integration of Biblical Basis, Psychotherapy and Spiritual Healing* (Alexander Mak), and *Living out the Truth: The Spiritual Pursuit of Martin Luther and John Calvin* (Nathan Ng), have been completed and are ready to be published in 2012-13.

The "Church • Culture Series" is another series of the Seminary's publication. The first volume in the series is *Ancient and Modern Preaching: Classical, Biblical and Modern Rhetoric in the Pulpit* (Sam Tsang) which has just been published in early October. Another volume

in the series is *The Church with an Alternative Culture* (Andres Tang) which will be published next year. Others such as *Discipleship against Culture: The View of John Howard Yoder* (Vincent Lau) and *Globalization and the Gospel* (Eric Kwong) will be published in 2013-14.

The Seminary's *Newsletter* and *Hill Road* are yet other important publications of the Seminary. We publish the Chinese and English *Seminary's Newsletter* every quarter. It is intended to share on a regular basis the development of our theological education ministry with local and overseas churches, alumni, and our brothers and sisters in Christ. *Hill Road* has been published for fourteen years and is a biannual academic journal featuring a special theme for each issue. The themes of our recent issues include the following: "Baptist for 400 Years—Heritage Revisit," "Family," "Biblical Theology," and "Spiritual Theology." *Hill Road* is like a garden, to be tended with care. We thank God for

His watering and planting. It is a journal that has gained respect within the Chinese theological circle.



## Prayer

The staff members in the Publication Office thank God for His continuing faithfulness as He supports and guides us. His assistance day in and day out reminds us to serve God faithfully and joyfully in our literary and publication duties. We must serve God faithfully and be always on full alert to seek His guidance and direction. We pray that God will use each one of the books and journals published by our Seminary so that they bring honor to our Lord and can be used for His glory.

## Thanksgiving

## HKBTS needs your prayers and support

### 1. Please pray for our students:

Pray that God will guide each student's learning and allow them to offer themselves as stones to be chiseled by God. May they also be shaped through the love, encouragement, and guidance of teachers and fellow-students. Pray that God will also bestow on them bodily health, protect their family, and supply their daily needs so that they want nothing.

### 2. Please pray for our alumni over the years:

Ask God to protect and care for our alumni, increasing their wisdom and strengthening their ministries so that they can serve God faithfully in their various fields of service. May our Lord consolidate their spiritual influence

and rekindle the hearts and minds of each of these men and women servants. May the strong be humble, the hurt be consoled, the tired be strengthened so that together our alumni serve with one heart and mutually support and love one another in the Kingdom of God.

### 3. Ask God to lead Baptist churches together in support of theological education ministry:

HKBTS needs the faithful prayers and economic support to fulfill the tasks which God has entrusted to the Seminary — to nurture future ministers for the churches. Ask God to lead Baptist churches to support HKBTS in the coming year with their faithful offerings.



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