

香港浸信會神學院



Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary



Sharing of
HKBTS Ministry 2012-13

President's Sharing



Joshua Cho

Path of Growth

— New Responsibility, New Chapter

Without noticing, I have been President of the Seminary for four years. In these years, God has revealed His glory to us through His sustaining love. I stand in awe when I behold all that He has already done. Though the Seminary faces many challenges in today's chaotic, stress-filled world, we refuse to give in to despair. Neither will we lose sight of our vision and direction for theological education. All the difficulties the Seminary encounters will only remind us to have hope in God as we carry out with great care what God has entrusted us to accomplish. We dedicate our soul, integrity, and wisdom to the equipping of excellent servant leaders for the churches of the present and the future.

Hospitality: The Mark of a Disciple Community

Four years ago, teachers and students

in the Seminary began to focus on the practice of hospitality in the love of Christ as a significant direction in our move forward. At the Opening Convocation Service in August 2009, I preached a sermon, entitled "The Unity of Hospitality," to point out that hospitality is a central biblical theme and challenged the entire Seminary community to unite and make a concerted effort to become a community united by love and care for one another. We reminded one another that hospitality is the soul of Christian mission. I also pointed out that the practice of hospitality begins with the Seminary community but must extend to the churches. The vocation of pastors and ministers is to train the laity to practice hospitality to strangers. Believers must take the initiative to share the great love of God beyond the walls of churches.

Synergy: One Big Classroom

This kind of hospitality is manifested as our teachers practice synergy. I am inspired as I see our teachers teaming up with one another to share their particular expertise in a certain field of academic study. They come together as yoke fellows as they engage in interdisciplinary studies and pool their knowledge to meet the challenges of our churches and society. This interdisciplinary approach is a powerful, practical way to practice hospitality and build community. The result is a unified force far exceeding the effort of teachers working in isolation. This unified approach not only helps students integrate theological knowledge but also serves as a model team work for their future service in the world. Watching professors interact, our students come to see how love, passion, and life encounter all

play a significant part in knowledge building. Even as we emphasize synergy, our teachers are becoming *synergoi*, that is, a group of workmen working together with one accord under God.

To work together with one accord, teachers must take the lead in discerning the mind of Christ Jesus. Such wisdom is *theologia*. In Philippians 2:5, *theologia* is defined as “having the mind of Christ Jesus.” This means that we come to understand Jesus’ thoughts, feelings, and ways of doing things so that we internalize “the mind of Christ.” It is important that our curriculum helps students come to understand the mind of Christ through their study of Bible, Theology, Church History and Christian Ethics as well as through training in the Pastoral Ministry. Students’ lives will come to reflect the mind of Christ as they teach, go about their daily lives and witness to those they meet. *Theologia* will transform Practical Theology so that Mission, Preaching, and Pastoral Care are renewed and transformed. *Theologia* will empower us to cultivate servanthood and shape faithful leadership. This explains why the Seminary in recent years has focused on nurturing our students to become excellent servant leaders who strive to know the mind of Christ. We are committed to move in this direction.

Preaching: The Preaching with All Our Lives

In the 2010-11 school year, the Seminary began an effort to strengthen further student training and practice in the preaching ministry. This was also the time when we began to reflect on the implications of *theologia*. I had great expectations that our teachers and students would strive to proclaim the Word of God and its intention both in word and in deed. It was my strong hope that teachers and students at HKBTS would offer good service each time they preach. Such preaching would be like a feast that is not all fancy delicacies but food to enrich the soul. It is the

Seminary’s desire that our students become preachers attuned to real life, those who “walk the talk” and “walk the walk.” We expect our students to be “Heralds of the Gospel” as they faithfully share the Good News in their future ministries. We want them to be “Shepherds,” attentive listeners and caregivers to the brothers and sisters at their churches. We want them to be “Prophets,” proclaiming the truth in love and upholding the truth in action.

Mission: The Heart for Mission

The Great Commission is a manifestation of *theologia* and is the very heart and soul of hospitality.

It was at the Seminary’s Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving Worship Service that I announced the launching of the “Faith, Hope, and Love” Project. One of the main goals of the Project is the Seminary becoming a mission-minded disciple community, ready to receive the challenge of Christian Mission in our generation. In the past two years and more, our teachers and students have expanded their knowledge of mission. Through morning chapels, special times of sharing and articles published, we have given our students an overview of Contemporary Mission and helped them learn about Local Mission. We have also reflected on Integral Mission. All of these efforts have been to cultivate a spirituality of mission among teachers and students. Even though not everyone trained by the Seminary will enter the vocation of missionary, yet each can have a heart for mission. We believe that no matter where our graduates go or in what church they serve, they will find ways to engage in mission. After all, the call to do mission as laid out in the Great Commission is the very heart of the church, especially of Baptists throughout history.

The Seminary is committed to develop its curriculum in the areas of Pastoral Care and Christian Education. We want to be sure

that both fields of study are grounded on a solid biblical foundation and that students should take root on the foundation of *theologia* so that they know “the mind of Christ.”

The Path of Growth: A New Responsibility, a New Chapter

In June last year, a small group of five men was formed by the Board of Trustees to begin exploring the Seminary’s corporate status. Thanks to God’s grace, after a year’s effort and consultation, a related motion was passed in the Seventy-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong in May. With trust and support of local Baptist churches, the Seminary applied successfully in June to the Hong Kong Government to be registered as a corporate body. Formerly, HKBTS was a branch ministry managed by the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong. Since its inauguration in 1951, the Seminary has experienced sixty-two years of development and has now reached a new height. There has been an improvement in the teaching and learning quality of the programs of study. Program standards have been appraised and approved. A doctor of theology program has been successfully launched. Overall, the quality of the Seminary academic studies has

made a breakthrough so that it is both our challenge and our responsibility to stride onto a new stage of development. Moreover, in our modern society there is a call to honor the rule of law and insist on accountability. Being a seminary of considerable size, HKBTS also needs to shoulder its legal responsibility as a corporate body.

At present, HKBTS’s decision to be registered as a corporate body can be seen as a sign of her growth, an indication of her acceptance of God’s call to greater responsibility, and a signal that God is about to write a new chapter in the Seminary’s history. We are grateful for God’s leadership in the past and continue to remember all our ancestors and sages of the past. We remember the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong, local Baptist churches, and all our Christian brothers and sisters who have walked with us every step of the way. The Seminary will continue to be faithful to the task entrusted to us by God to provide well-grounded theological education for those called to ministry. We will make every effort to maintain strong bonding with the churches as together we experience faith, hope, and love endowed to us by God.

Retrospect with Thanksgiving Prospect for Progress

As we look back over 2012-13 school year, we have had a total of 350 students who were enrolled in the Seminary's degree programs. Student enrollment included 180 students in the Ministerial Preparation Program and 170 in the Christian Studies Program of our Lay Theological Education Department (LTED). In the past school year, 74 new students were admitted to these two programs while there were 57 graduating students. As for the certificate and diploma programs, LTED had a student enrollment of 520 every quarter on average while our Distance Education Program had 297.

1. Ministerial Preparation Program

• Enrolment Steadily Increases

We thank God that He has not only granted us a group of outstanding students, but He has also led more students to study in the Seminary's Ministerial Preparation Program. In fact, the enrolment in the past few years has increased steadily. Now, we pray that our Lord will grant us the strength and wisdom to nurture these students. We also ask God to lead more Baptist churches to shoulder their part of the important responsibility in theological education. The challenge is that together we will equip a new generation of pastoral workers for the family of God.

Enrolment in Ministerial Preparation Program

School Year	Enrolment
2009 - 10	119
2010 - 11	129
2011 - 12	147
2012 - 13	180

8 Study Programs in the Ministerial Preparation Program

1. Bachelor of Theology
2. Master of Divinity
3. Master of Divinity (further studies)
4. Master of Religious Education
5. Master of Pastoral Counseling
6. Master of Christian Studies
7. Master of Theology
8. Doctor of Theology

• 37 Graduating Students Entering the Ministry Field

Looking back over last year 2012-13, we are grateful to God for leading 47 new students to enter the Seminary. It is with grateful hearts that we offer 37 graduating students to God who has allowed them successfully to finish their studies. This new force goes forth from the Seminary and is committed to their fields of ministry. The Seminary prays that these graduating students will remain faithful to God's call throughout their lives and asks that they will continue to support one another on their paths of ministry.



- **Nurturing Students' Character and Spiritual Growth**

HKBTS lays emphasis on the holistic theological equipping of its students. Apart from training students both inside and outside the classroom in multiple ways, we also highlight nurturing students' character and spiritual lives. In the past school year, we continued to stress disciple-making as the central goal of theological education. Either the chaplain or one of the faculty will meet with our students individually, personally caring for each student. In addition, it is through the spiritual formation groups, morning prayer meetings, morning chapels, noon-time silent prayer meetings, and various activities organized by the Student Union that students' character building is further strengthened. All this enables our students to be a group of ministers who have the ability for continual spiritual renewal and growth.



- **External Connection: Link up with Baptist Churches**

In the past school year, the Seminary arranged students to have their practicum in 86 churches or Christian organizations in order to apply what they had learned and to accumulate more practical experience. President Cho together with the faculty went to different churches to conduct 14 spiritual enrichment meetings and gospel meetings. They have also attended 25 important

Graduating Students' Sharing



“Three years of pottery making have ended and it is a new beginning. We must give up our identity as seminary students and yet we are about to take up the challenging role of God’s ministries. We have ended our student days and yet we are about to embark on a new voyage of learning without boundaries. After graduation, I am compelled to rely on God for continual self-renewal and seek to imitate Christ all my life.”

“In the course of studying for these three years, God has enabled me to see

ceremonies and have conducted Seminary Sundays in 43 churches and seminars in 89 churches. We thank God for the different opportunities we have had to serve our Baptist churches. Through the seminary Sunday, the Seminary and the churches can come to a mutual understanding of one another's ministries and needs. Moreover, the Seminary organized the Full Time Ministry Seminar and the Experiencing Seminary Life Camp in October last year and March this

year respectively. The seminar and camp are designed to help those brothers and sisters who seek God's will or consider going into full time ministry.

Besides, President Cho, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Hong Kong Theological Education Association in October last year, led the "Exchange Meeting for Presidents and Academic Deans"; In November, Dr Cho also attended the Thanksgiving Ceremony of the Sixtieth Anniversary of Nanjing Union Theological Seminary at which time there was the Inauguration of the Seminary's New Campus. In March this year, Dr. Cho attended the annual meeting of the Association for Theological Education in South East Asia. In October last year, President Cho traveled to Singapore where he visited the Singapore Baptist Convention, Baptist churches and theological education organizations. In June this year, Dr. Cho went to Malaysia to speak in a Spiritual Enrichment Meeting held at a local Chinese church. Then he went on to U.S.A. to visit the alumni and Baptist church pastors in Los Angeles and San Francisco. While there, he spoke in retreat meetings for pastor and ministers and delivered Sunday sermons in different churches from late June to early July.

my own weaknesses and inadequacy. As a result, I have learned to rely on Him all the more. The love and concern of my teachers and fellow-students have made me see the grace of the Heavenly Father. After submitting the very last course assignment, I experienced an unspeakable feeling of loss. This made

me keenly aware I have such fond feelings for the Seminary, teachers and fellow-students!"

"Having quit my job two years ago, I entered HKBTS to know more about God and men. This has been a precious life experience for me. The seminary's outstanding teachers and staff workers, together with the loving fellow-students, have provided me with many sweet memories in my life. I have not graduated, for theology is the study of a lifetime. Who then dares to say he 'has graduated'?"




Major Events in 2012-13 School Year

In 2012

August	1	Dr. Freeman Huen, Assistant Professor of Practical Theology (Social Ethics) and Dr. Anna Lee, Assistant Professor of Old Testament joined the faculty team	
	7-9	Faculty Retreat Camp Theme: Building and Understanding Partners	
	21-23	Spiritual Formation Camp Theme: Sketch of a Seminary Student's Life	
	28	Opening Convocation	
	29	Opening Convocation Lecture	
	30	All Seminary's Prayer Meeting	
September	13	<p>A Reflection Meeting on National Education</p> <p>The Student Union invited three teachers to engage students in theological reflection on the issue of national education. Teachers and students exchanged views on the issue and together had a time of discussion and prayer. It is hoped that this exploration will heighten students' social concern and increase their ability to reflect on this current situation so that they can respond wisely to it.</p>	
October	21	Parents' Day Theme: "The Path of Grace"	
	27	Full Time Ministry Seminar	
November	8	All Seminary's Prayer Meeting	
	25	<p>Joint Programs Graduation Ceremony</p> <p>The Ceremony was an occasion to celebrate with graduates from the Seminary's Ministerial Preparation Program, Lay Theological Education Department and the Distance Education Program. President Joshua Cho exhorted graduates through his graduation address, entitled "The Gospel of Jesus Christ: An Integral Mission."</p>	
December	17	<p>Christmas Celebration: Prince of Peace</p> <p>The Christmas Worship Service was jointly organized by HKBTS and the Alumni Association. This year's theme was "Prince of Peace." On this day, the entire seminary community came together for this special worship. The group included teachers and students, staff and alumni who together offered up their worship to God and commemorated the Savior's birth. This is also a day of celebration when alumni return to the alma mater for their annual reunion. In recent years, a large number of alumni have made it a tradition to meet old friends on this special Christmas celebration.</p>	

	22	<p>Christmas Caroling at Hong Kong Cultural Center</p> <p>Upon receiving an invitation from the Hong Kong Cultural Center, the Seminary's Choir sang Christmas hymns at the atrium. We thank God for giving us the opportunity to sing hymns testifying to Jesus Christ's great love of salvation to such a diverse group of local citizens at this time of city-wide celebration.</p>	
--	----	---	--

In 2013

January	1	Dr. Jonathan Lo, Visiting Assistant Professor of New Testament, joined the Seminary's faculty team	
	15	Spiritual Formation Day	
	24	Annual General Meeting of the Student Union	
March	6-7	Experiencing Seminary Life Camp	
	21	All Seminary's Prayer Meeting	
	30	<p>Evangelism at Stanley Prison</p> <p>A team of teachers and students went to Stanley Prison to lead three evangelistic meetings. Over 100 male inmates, including 30 expatriates attended. We thank the Christian Kun Sun Association for all the liaison work so that our students could show their concern and serve this marginal community. The team shared the gospel message through ice-breaking games, hymn singing, testimonies, the gospel messages, and group sharing. Students were available to answer inmates' question about the Christian faith and pray for their needs.</p>	
April	23, 25, 30	Expository Preaching Week	
	28	<p>Concert of Praise</p> <p>The Concert of Praise was held at The Academic Community Hall of the Hong Kong Baptist University. The theme was "The Eye of Faith." The content included presentation by the Joint Seminary Choir, musical instrument performances, recitations, faith testimonies, monologues and sacred dance. A sermon message was presented by Dr. Eric Kwong. A total of 700 people were present that evening as together we sang praise, offering up to God our sacrifice of praise from our lips and our hearts.</p>	

May	1	A motion concerning the Seminary's corporate status was passed during the Seventy-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong	
	9	Commissioning Ceremony of Graduating Students	
	23	A Sharing Meeting with the President's Council; Awards Presentation Ceremony	
	27 – June 3	<p>A Journey of Love to the Mainland by the Hill Singers</p> <p>Mrs. Helen Wan led the Hill Singers on an eight-day trip to the Mainland. The choir visited churches, a gospel drug rehabilitation center and a youth training center where they shared their testimonies of faith and inspiring church music with the local people. We thank God for protecting them throughout their trip, enabling them to gain experience and knowledge as they served God through their music ministry.</p>	
June	4	The Seminary was successful in its application for certification as a corporate body according to the Companies Ordinance of the Companies Registry, HKSAR	
	8-10	<p>A Cultural Exchange Visit to Yingde</p> <p>Led by Rev. Eric Kwong, the team included our teachers and students, together with pastoral workers and church members from three Hong Kong churches. The team visited churches in Yun Ling Zhen, Han Guang Zhen, Yinghong Town and Yingde Town. Participants had opportunities to exchange thoughts and to pray with local Christians. The trip certainly deepened their understanding of the religious policies and history of churches in China.</p>	
	10-12	<p>A Mini-global Conference</p> <p>The Seminary and International Orality Network jointly organized a mini-global conference, entitled "Contextualizing Theological Education in Oral Contexts."</p>	
July	18	A Thanksgiving Dinner for Celebrating the Seminary to be a Corporate Body was held together with the Inauguration Ceremony of the Seminary's First Board of Trustees	

2. Lay Theological Education Program

The Lay Theological Education Department is established to train and equip lay people. Through diversified programs of study, the Department carries out the mission of the kingdom of God in churches and in the workplace. We walk beside a group of lay people, with a variety of church backgrounds but with a common commitment to serving God. We help them build mature spiritual lives, master ministerial skills, and respond to the challenges of the times.

LTED offers nine programs of study including the Masters and Bachelor of Christian Studies Programs and other diploma and certificate programs with a particular ministerial emphasis. We continually review and revise the content of our programs so that they meet the needs of our churches and the society. We thank God for His preparation as each year new adjunct lecturers join our faculty team, giving new impetus to our programs. They provide role models of faithful Christian servants and bring with them a wealth of knowledge. They not only broaden students' horizon as students are equipping themselves to serve in their churches or workplace but also stimulate students in search for a better life and spiritual growth.

Besides the regular curriculum, we also offer a number of topical seminars. In the past school year, 11 such seminars have been conducted with a majority of which being held during students' spiritual formation sessions. Sharing from pastoral workers and professionals enrich students' understanding and knowledge of different ministries and allow them to reflect upon the contribution of these ministries. It is through these seminars that brothers and

sisters come to know more about LTED programs. For example, "From Children Books to Spiritual Nurturing," and "Teaching Infants to Know Truth through Gospel Magic" are popular seminars especially designed for Childhood and Early Childhood Ministry Programs. "No Difficulty in Communicating with the Depressed" focuses on meeting the needs of the elderly and understanding their conditions. "How to Be Mentors to Young People" guides youth workers to explore how they can fulfill this demanding role.

Thank God for His grace, in 2012-13, we have an average of 690 students participating in our programs every quarter; and the total number of people attending our programs and seminars this year was 1,838. A total of 230 students graduated this school year. We appreciate students' effort in their study while juggling busy schedules and pray that God will continue to lead each of our graduates to serve Him faithfully in their churches and workplace as they follow the Lord's footsteps closely along life's way.

Nine Programs of Lay Theological Education Department

1. Christian Studies	Certificate / Diploma / Bachelor / Master
2. Lay Theological Training	Certificate / Diploma
3. Women Theological Training	Certificate / Diploma
4. Elderly Ministry	Certificate / Diploma
5. Youth Ministry	Diploma
6. Childhood Ministry	Certificate / Diploma
7. Early Childhood Ministry	Certificate / Diploma
8. Mission Ministry	Certificate / Diploma
9. Church Administration and General Affairs	Certificate / Diploma

Number of Graduating Students 2012-13

Master of Christian Studies Program	1
Bachelor, Diploma and Certificate of Christian Studies Program	19
Non-degree Diploma and Certificate Programs	210
Total	230



Graduating Students' Sharing

“Thank God for enabling our eyes to see again, my occluded ears to hear and my mouth to utter thanksgiving and edifying words that impart grace to those who hear. Now, relying on God’s help, I can imitate Christ our Lord and try to see people and things around me with the mind of Christ. I can treat people with a tolerant attitude, cast no judgment and refrain from being a brawler. I am amazed to find that the world is so beautiful.”

“This program of study has enabled me to broaden much of my theological perspective and helped me reflect on my faith along the way. My mind is being renewed day by day. Thank God that He and I have become increasingly intimate in relationship and my faith in God has become more robust.”

“These few years of study have helped me build up a discipline of my willpower so that I can put into practice my commitment to God and be faithful to what God has entrusted me. Thank God for the opportunity of such an equipping that teaches me to learn with a heart of humility and sincerity, and build up my spiritual life so that I can be used by God.”

“In the course of further studies, I witness the passion of the lecturers, staff and students that have encouraged me to advance toward my goal step by step. When I came across hardships and felt lonely, I would look at my fellow students who were working hard beside me. They won my respect. As a result, I would work extra hard.”



Thank God for His walking beside us all along, leading the way forward and providing our needs in the past. Pray that God will continue to use each of our study programs so that brothers and sisters can be trained and equipped to take root on the foundation of biblical truth. As a result, they can have a good life testimony in the society, in the workplace and in the church, and communicate the Christian gospel which is full of kindness and hope to the world which is in turmoil and chaos.

**Thanksgiving
Prayer**

3. Distance Education Program

The Distance Education Program has entered its fifteenth year. So far we have launched 8 correspondence and on-line study programs. Our students come from Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas and enrolment has averaged around 300 each quarter. On October 19, we will have a thanksgiving and sharing meeting. All are welcome as we gather to offer up our praise to God.

DEP has adopted a teaching and learning mode that is a breakthrough. It goes beyond traditional mode of learning. In addition to targeting general Christian lay people as our training objects, we have also launched the "special training" ministries. These ministries are designed to care for communities with different learning needs and offer them opportunities to do further studies in theology. This year, the Certificate Program in New Testament Studies of the Spiritual Light Project has entered into its fourth year. This program of study is co-organized by the Seminary and the Christian Ministry to Visually Impaired Persons. The Opening Convocation together with a Reunion for Graduated Students was held on April 14. It was a unique opening convocation as we not only had new students coming on board but also our graduates who came for a reunion shared their hardships and the benefits of their studies in the program. New students were much encouraged and reminded that

they should rely on the Lord as they break through the vision barriers while striving to finish the three years of study ahead. In the Joint Programs Graduation Ceremony last year, 11 visually impaired students graduated. What a touching scene!

Beginning 1999, the "Onesimus Project," jointly organized by the Seminary and the Hong Kong Christian Kun Sun Association, has entered into the fourteenth year as it targets prison inmates who have come to Christ while in correctional institutions. At present, there are more than 50 students taking the certificate and diploma programs. On January 10, Sing Tao Daily conducted a special interview of prison inmates. Ah Yuk, who studied very hard, received a commendation in an award-presentation ceremony run by the Hong Kong Correctional Services Department. Being in the first class of the Onesimus Project since 1999, Ah Yuk has completed the Certificate Program of New Testament Studies, the Certificate of Old Testament Studies, and the Diploma Program of Biblical Studies and continues to take the Diploma Program of Christian Studies. DEP is pleased to serve different Christian communities with fee concessions and is willing to help those with economic difficulties. We welcome churches or Christian organizations to collaborate with us to set up cooperative partnerships.

DEP regularly organizes topical seminars to broaden students' horizon. In the past school year, we conducted two such seminars. Dr. Anna Lee led the seminar, entitled "The Prophet Who Loves Reading the Bible: Application of 'Intertextuality' as Viewed from Zechariah" and Dr. Freeman Huen led the seminar, entitled "Forgiveness vs Justice." These public seminars are designed for Christian brothers and sisters and the participants' response has always been enthusiastic. We give thanks to God for His grace in using these seminars.



Besides, the Theological Education Program for Filipino Leaders (TEFL) was inaugurated in early 2003. Courses are taught four quarters a year, and all classes take place on Sunday afternoons. Class enrollment has increased from an average of 40 each quarter in 2003 to about 55 at present. There have been a total of approximately 2,111 student registrations in these ten years. Three degree programs, the Master of Divinity, the Bachelor of Theology Program, and the Bachelor of Pastoral Studies Program, were launched in 2008, 2010 and 2012 respectively and with 7, 30 and 7 students respectively in these programs. The Diploma in Church Music Program was launched in the fourth quarter in 2012 with an enrollment of 21 students.

Correspondence Program

1. Diploma in Biblical Studies Program
2. Diploma in Christian Studies Program
3. Higher Diploma in Biblical Studies Program
4. Higher Diploma in Christian Studies Program
5. Certificate Program in New Testament Studies
6. Certificate Program in Old Testament Studies

On-line Program

1. Certificate Program in New Testament Studies
2. Certificate Program in Old Testament Studies

Special Nurturing Ministry

1. Onesimus Project
2. Spiritual Light Project

Miscellaneous

Theological Education Program for Filipino Leaders

Graduating Students' Sharing

“You have brought your ministry to China’s north western frontier cities Four years of study in DEP has changed our (including that of our church) narrow concept of the Christian faith, abolishing the old denominational prejudices, and leading our ministerial team to forsake preaching which tends to see the tree but not the wood.”

“Staying inside an icy cold prison

and yet, I have had the opportunity to take the DEP diploma program. It is indeed a demonstration of God’s grace! In the process, God has enabled me to be molded and equipped while deepening my understanding of God and yearning for Him. Therefore, wherever and whenever I am, I pray that God will use me, a lowly vessel, to provide light and salt as I pass on the gospel of Christ to those who are lost.”



Thank God for leading DEP into its fifteenth year and thank God for the beautiful teamwork that we have. Pray that God will pave the way for our ministry and provide us with all that we need.

Thanksgiving Prayer

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 2012-13 school year, the PCEC provided pastoral workers the following four areas of pastoral ministry courses:

The Hermeneutic and Preaching Series: Courses include the Old Testament category ("Psalms and Wisdom Books: Materials for Preaching," "The Prophet from a Conquered Nation: Book Study on Jeremiah," "Ezekiel: Vision of the Future") and the New Testament category ("The Pastoral Heart of Paul: The Pastoral Theology in Paul's Epistles" and "A New Perspective of a Servant: Interpreting Jesus as a Servant in Luke's Writings," a course jointly organized with Virtue and Wisdom Link Books Ltd.) Then too, we have launched a course, "The Re-examination and the Challenge of Discipleship," and are also offering a new set of discipleship material for students' free use. The course, "The Biblical Foundation of the Public Vision of Church Ministering," is helpful for students seeking to develop a public vision with biblical foundation on strategies for church ministry.

The Leadership Series: Tension in human relationship in church ministering is often a big problem for ministerial workers. To meet such a need, we offer courses such as "Promoting Healthy Church Development," "Wise Management, Easy Ministering," and "Loving and Contending in the Church." These courses enable ministerial workers to benefit from the teaching of experienced scholars and senior pastors and they also receive a source of inspiration and assistance from them.

The Pastoral Care Series: The courses, "Introduction to Bereavement Counseling" and "Pre-marital Counseling," were taught by lecturers with ample front-line working experience. As a result, students can know more and learn more about the methods and skills needed to care for fellow Christians. "Creative Use of the Bible in Teaching and Learning," jointly organized by PCEC and Chinese Bible Teaching Ministry Ltd., was taught by senior Christian education lecturers with a content rich in variety and especially helpful to children's ministry. Besides, the course "The Identity and Service of Resting in Peace" helps our busy ministers to take "rest in peace" and to make rest and renewal a part of the rhythms of their ministry.

The Individual-Equipping and Miscellaneous Series: Exploring issues of the current and social situation, such as "A Pastor Nominated for LegCo: Political Participation from the Baptist Perspective," "Contemporary Politics and Church Relations in China," and "How to Face a Funeral Conducted in Taoist or Buddhist Ritual." All such topics are timely for pastoral workers in today's church and society. Courses like "A Guided Tour of Music: What Modern Church Music Really Is," "A More Beautiful Worship," "The Objectives and Design of a Church Worship Service," "Pastoral Theology: Personal Spirituality of a Pastor," and "Understanding Myers Briggs Personality Types" are helpful in strengthening ministers' personal equipping, in meeting the needs of their church ministry, and in reflecting upon a person's mind and personality.

Statistics of Courses Offered in 2012-13

Category	No. of Courses (hr.)	Student Registration (9/2012-8/2013)
1. Shepherding	7 (45)	362 (47%)
2. Leadership	5 (42)	73 (9%)
3. Pastoral Care	5 (42)	114 (15%)
4. Equipping	9 (45)	227 (29%)
Total	26 (174)	776 (100%)



We hope that these four series can cover the four categories of the ministerial vocation. A survey over 2012-13 school year, the number of courses is the same as last year but the class hours have increased substantially from 126 hours to 174 hours, an increase of 38%. As for the student registration, there is also an increase of 14%, from 680 last year to 776 this year.

Thank God for leading two Christian organizations to co-organize courses with the Seminary so that we can serve God and men together and gain precious experience. We also thank God for providing us with suitable lecturers to teach courses in different categories. We pray that God will continue to use these faithfully serving lecturers and that many of those pastors and ministers who are willing to be re-equipped will be empowered with added strength.

Thanksgiving Prayer



Edna Wong Christian Worship and Art Education Center

The Lord has been abundantly manifesting Himself through creation, revelation, and incarnation. In response, God's people must react according to His will as we particularly observed in the Pentateuch and the book of revelation on multi-media and in an all round way. Worshipping God is an action of the whole person. Edna Wong Christian Worship and Art Education Center was founded on this ideal of "God-man" interplay. Over these last few years, we have launched courses in music (the dimension of hearing), art (the dimension of vision), dance (the dimension of touch), drama (the dimension of multiple senses), and electronic media (dimension that involves all the senses). Our purpose is to nurture Christians as they learn to enrich the contents and consolidate the expression of the worship service by means of various art forms.

In the last school year, the Center, as always, has acted in concert with the Christian Studies Program (major in Church Music) of the Lay Theological Education Department by offering courses covering the areas of worship study, the development of church music throughout the ages, and hymnology. We seek to provide more training in the application level such as vocal / music theory integrated class, vocal classes of different levels, a study in appreciation for the lyric in hymns, and chorus workshop. In the mean time, we offer courses that are complementary with the above mentioned courses. For example, there are courses such as "Theology and Application of Floral Art in Worship," "Choral Skills in Hymns with a Cantonese Operatic Melody," "Training to Be a Pianist or Organ Player," "Traditional Opera and Folk Art" (Gospel Operatic Cantonese

Songs). We offer an average of more than 10 classes of different subjects with a student registration of over 500.

Among the courses, the vocal / music theory integrated class and different levels of vocal subjects are taught in groups of 5, 6 or 10 students according to students' level. This is conducive to closer interaction between the teacher and students. Music skills are imparted as well as the teaching and learning to provide devotion for the soul and consciousness while singing praise to God. Through the process of such a direct and more personalized ways of teaching and learning, students not only make progress in singing skills, but their dedication and passion for ministry are also heightened. We are pleased to see some of the students take an active part in church music ministry posts after completion of the course.

Besides, in the 2012-13 school year, the center co-hosted the Seventh Church Music Camp for Undergraduate Students. The camp was organized by Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong and planned by MusiCall and the Singing YMers, Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong. There were a total of over 250 participants among 11 teams of Christian choirs and orchestras from 9 local tertiary institutions (Hong Kong Baptist University, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Lingnan University, The University of Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, City University of Hong Kong, The Open University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Shue Yan University and the Hong Kong Institute of Education), together with members from the Singing YMers, Hosanna Chanters, Resonance Chanters, and MusiCall. Besides, there were nearly 200 tutors, speakers, meeting masters and mistresses, and demonstration performers. The camp lasted for four days. Many pluralistic activities had been carefully arranged for participants. Through topical seminars / workshops on church history and worship studies, diversified music training items (choral skills, vocal music, seminar concerts, choral singing in a mega-choir), spiritual formation exercises (spiritual



enrichment worship, individual and group devotional), experience of communal living (group discussion, sharing in a group), multi-dimensional workshops (including life-long reading practice, social concern, opera, music teaching and learning, conducting, percussion and dance), participants came to experience a grand banquet that would upgrade their ministry quality and broaden their vision.



We thank God for humans to be endowed with the gift of the artistic faculty and pray that He will prepare teachers qualified and called to teach the courses offered by the Center. The result will be that the horizon of our churches will be broadened. Students will discover how art can serve the church, enrich our worship lives and strengthen their power to communicate the gospel in fresh ways. We also pray that God will lead us to explore the possibility of providing a great variety of art courses befitting the needs of our churches.

Thanksgiving
Prayer

Publication

Faculty Writing

The first volume in the "Church and Culture Series," entitled *Ancient and Modern Preaching: Classical, Biblical and Modern Rhetoric in the Pulpit*, was written by Dr. Sam Tsang (Associate Professor of New Testament). It was published in October 2012.

The second volume in the "Christian Spirituality Series," entitled *Seasons of Our Lives: Spirituality of Poetic and Wisdom Literature*, was written by Dr. Wong Fook-kong (Professor of Old Testament). This volume was published in November 2012.

The academic journal, *Hill Road Journal*, is published bi-annually.

The theme of Issue 30 is "Mission".

The theme of Issue 31 is "Public Theology".



Chinese / English Newsletter (published quarterly)

Library Resources

The size of the total collection of our Rankin Memorial Library had reached 135,291 items. The collection includes Chinese and English

books, audio-visual materials, CD-ROMs, periodicals, full text electronic journals, bound periodicals, and historical

documents of Baptist history. From August last year to July this year, the number of books checked out was 22,361.



Snapshots of Students' Lives in 2012-13



September 5, 2012 Morning Chapel: Sharing about an Exchange Visit to Wuhan by the Seminary Choir, "Hill Road"



November 22, 2012 Thanksgiving Day: Feasting Together



January 24, 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Student Union: Casting Votes Together



May 8, 2013 Morning Chapel: Sharing from Graduating Students from the BAPS Program



May 23, 2013 Awards Ceremony: A Vote of Thanks by the Student Representative

HKBTS Needs Prayers and Offering Support from Churches

Please pray for our students, teachers and staff workers: Pray that the Lord will help us count on Him resolutely in our learning and ministry, to grow together in faith, hope, and love, and to surmount all kinds of challenges by being unyielding in the Spirit.

Please pray for HKBTS: Thank for God's grace to enable HKBTS to be certified as a Corporate Body. Pray that He continues to lead us

forward to a new stage of development. Pray also that He will help us to be faithful stewards of all that is entrusted to us, giving a good witness to His faithfulness on the path ahead.

Ask God to lead Baptist churches to join together to support 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. Particularly, ask God to lead Baptist churches to support HKBTS in the coming year with their faithful offerings.



Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary Limited

Address : 1 Nin Ming Road, Sai O, Sai Kung (North),
New Territories, Hong Kong

Telephone : (852) 2715 9511

Fax : (852) 2761 0868

Email : inquiry@hkbts.edu.hk

Webpage : <http://www.hkbts.edu.hk>