

Sharing of
HKBTS Ministry
2013-14



香港浸信會神學院



Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary



The President's Sharing

Joshua Cho



Throughout the 2013-14 school year, HKBTS has been following God's leadership to equip outstanding servant leaders for our churches and respond to the challenges of the contemporary world. An outstanding servant leader must understand the heart of Jesus Christ and have theological wisdom. Unlike cognitive thinking, theological wisdom is a kind of practical rationality which allows the thoughts, emotions, and actions of Jesus Christ to become the blueprint for our own thoughts, emotions, and actions.

"Hospitality" is one of the many aspects of a successful servant leader. Since 2009, HKBTS teachers and students have been learning to practice hospitality and have worked to become a community that embodies the ideas of love and hospitality. These elements can be seen in the "synergy" between teachers as they work together to find the connections between one another's areas of study. They seek to find ways that one teacher's area of study is complementary to that of another teacher.

From Hospitality to Integral Christian Mission

Not only do we practice hospitality within the disciple community, but we also extend our hospitality to strangers by actively seeking out street sleepers, marginalized young people, and prison inmates so that we can share with them the love of Christ. These kinds of strangers are not limited to Hong Kong but also exist in Mainland China, Asia, and in different corners of the world. Every summer our teachers and students go to the Mainland and overseas in order to visit different communities and to demonstrate to these strangers the love of Christ with hearts full of hospitality. Loving our neighbors is truly putting integral Christian mission into practice.

"Integral Christian mission" can also be carried out in situations where we engage in an exchange with mainland scholars and in the field of business ethics when we challenge people to stand up for justice in a culturally pluralistic society, to establish an equal partnership, and to build a harmonious community. In late 2013 and early 2014, upon the invitation of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, I presented a paper in the international forum on "Christianity and Constructing a Harmonious Society" in Beijing and in a seminar on "Religious Charity and Social Concern" in Liu City, Wenzhou, respectively, to exchange views with mainland scholars.

In Hong Kong, which is a business-oriented city, it is our pleasure to share with lay Christians in the





business sector the fruits of our studies in business ethics and to encourage them to practice hospitality in society and to genuinely testify to the lively power and joy of the Christian gospel. In November 2013, I was invited to be the keynote speaker in a forum on “Doing Business with a Mission” organized by Fullness Social Enterprises Society to share how Christians and the church expand the meaning of “hospitality”. Additionally, this May, HKBTS and two other organizations co-hosted “the Christian Economists Forum 2014 — Money, Finance, and the Christian Faith”, which was organized by Hong Kong Economy and Business Strategy Research Center, the University of Hong Kong. In the forum, Dr. Wong Fook-kong, Professor of Old Testament, presented a paper entitled, “Between Prosperity Gospel and Monasticism: A Biblical Perspective on Wealth and Spirituality”. He seeks to help lay Christians reflect that a true witness of Christ neither blindly goes after success nor warily avoids the world. Instead, one should lead a spirit-guided life through which the gospel of Christ can be seen.

From Hospitality to the Pastoral Theology of Forgiveness

In the context of hospitality, we learn to accept a wrongdoer with a heart of forgiveness. This is an extension of the study and practice of “hospitality” which the seminary community has been learning to do in the past four years and it is also a kind of pastoral theology from “hospitality to forgiveness”.

Speaking in a message entitled, “A Forgiving Community” in the Opening Convocation 2013-14, I shared with teachers and students the forward direction of the seminary. In the Gospel of Matthew chapter 18, Jesus Christ gives us a model: Before the Gentiles and the tax collectors responded to his message, Jesus had spent time relating to them. From this we can see that generosity in forgiveness, which goes before any gradual change in the wrongdoer, can give rise to genuine justice, a transformation of relationships, changes in men’s heart, and a community of peace. We hope that through in-depth study and practice, the Seminary’s pastoral theology will be further strengthened. While HKBTS is becoming a forgiving disciple

community, we also seek to nurture both a forgiving culture and a forgiving expectation in our churches.

In the first morning chapel service in the spring term, I continued to exhort the seminary’s teachers and students on the topic, “Spiritual Care and Mental Wellness”. Spiritual care is a kind of pastoral care that opens up the mystery of God. Focusing on man’s spiritual needs, it seeks to nurture the man-and-God relationship and help man to have communion with other men. Spiritual care is different from psychotherapy or counseling. Using their own specific tools and methods, psychotherapists or counselors explain the experience of a psychiatric patient in a professional language so much so that the voice of the patient may be lost. As for those offering spiritual care, they see that spiritual wellness and spirituality are related. By using holistic care they are willing to encourage people to seek God, meaning, purpose, value, and hope in life through understanding and listening to the patient’s spiritual experience and reflection of faith.

Furthermore, I also hope that teachers and students of the seminary respect and understand the life experiences of each person when engaging in spiritual care. This calls for empathy toward the often foreign experiences of that person when we enter into that person’s world and into the deepest aspects of his experience. We have to put our empathy into practice over a long period of time. In the process, we have to learn to put aside our own viewpoints and value systems while we seek to understand the person’s experiences. Through our focused imagination and by standing in that person’s shoes, we can feel as if we had experienced it ourselves. When we and the care recipient learn to feel and think together and entrust the matter and the needs to God in prayer, together trusting in the guidance and help of Jesus Christ, we will then be able to reconstruct the meaning of the event. To take a step further, we will then be able to adopt a new viewpoint and make a new response. From this we can see that empathy can initiate a change in life as we and the care recipient together can experience God’s grace manifested in the transformation of our lives.

Morning Chapel Corporate Worship and Spiritual Formation

In this way, teachers and students of the Seminary together explore theological wisdom as we are willing to learn hospitality with a heart of love and forgiveness, put into practice the integral Christian mission, and take pain to exercise our empathy by learning to enter into someone's life as a spiritual caregiver. Furthermore, we will then live out the biblical teaching of hospitality and enhance the practice of our spiritual life. When we become such a disciple community, it is also natural for us to regard spiritual formation highly.

Besides studying different subjects such as the Bible, theology, history, ethics, leadership, education, and evangelism in the classroom to receive multi-dimensional exercise and training in ministerial preparation, our students also need to receive the nurturing of their character and spiritual lives. The morning chapel service which takes place three times a week is a crucial part in the formation of students' character and spiritual lives because it allows them to experience community worship and offers a time for spiritual exercise.

During the morning chapel service, singing is the physical expression of our spiritual lives. When the preacher experiences God's love, in the time of joy or agony, he will be able to sing in the soul. He will sing with his body and his vocal cords. Similarly, he can also sing with his emotions, reasons, and feelings. This is to put our spiritual lives into practice. This life practice is a kind of life testimony, testifying to an intimate relationship between man

and God. This is also a kind of practical wisdom because in the singing experience, the singer gets to understand the heart of Jesus Christ more and he seeks to follow Christ's emotion, attitude, thought, and Christ's way of doing things.

Preaching is also a very important part in the morning chapel service. The seminary seeks to train our students to be preachers "who walk the walk and talk the talk". We encourage them to preach with life and vitality, to be a faithful herald, a pastor who listens and serves brothers and sisters, and a prophet who speaks out the truth. To preach with life and vitality, a preacher must first build up a spirituality that fosters preaching that affects the lives of the congregation. That is to say, the preacher must be willing to be a fool who bears the cross of Christ, not to conform to the pattern of the world, but to faithfully and humbly preach Christ and His cross, inviting people into the renewal and transformation of life.

Every school year, there are over 80 morning chapel services which nurture our spiritual lives day after day, molding us into a worship community and enabling us to have a beautiful hour of spiritual discipline, singing praise to God, and receiving God's word of truth. In the 2014-15 school year, Miss Grace Chan and Dr. Annie Mok will join our HKBTS family. Both of them are knowledgeable and gifted in worship, church music, and education. I am certain that they will further strengthen our faculty team and reinforce students' training in the areas of church music and spirituality.

Retrospect with Thanksgiving Prospect for Progress

We are pleased to report that for the 2013-14 school year, there were a total of 347 students enrolled in the Seminary's degree programs. Student enrollment included

189 students in the Ministerial Preparation Program and 158 in the Christian Studies program of our Lay Theological Education Department (LTED). During the previous school year, 76 new students were admitted to these two programs while 61 students graduated from these programs. As for our certificate and diploma programs, LTED has on average 378 students every quarter while the Distance Education Program has 310 students on average every quarter.

1. Ministerial Preparation Program

• Enrolment Steadily Increasing over the Last Five Years

We thank God for the outstanding students that He leads to study in the Seminary's Ministerial Preparation Program and for the fact that their numbers have been continually increasing over the past five years. We are also thankful for the support and trust of our Baptist churches because you not only are pleased to recommend brothers and sisters called by God to apply for study at HKBTS, but you are also responsible for shouldering the cost of theological education so that we can join together to equip pastors and ministers from generation to generation for the betterment of the family of God.

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 |

Enrolment in The Ministerial Preparation Program

| School Year | Enrolment |
|-------------|-----------|
| 2009 - 10 | 119 |
| 2010 - 11 | 129 |
| 2011 - 12 | 147 |
| 2012 - 13 | 180 |
| 2013 - 14 | 189 |

• Commissioning Graduating Students into The Ministry Fields

Looking back over the year 2013-14, we are grateful to God for leading 52 new students to enter the Seminary. With a grateful heart, we offer 30 graduating students to God who has allowed them to successfully finish their studies. This new force goes forth from the Seminary and is commissioned to serve in different fields of ministry. Not only have we seen God's call in leading in these new students to pursue their studies but we have also witnessed the unfailing faithfulness and grace manifested in our graduating students. As the Seminary commissions these graduating students into the field of ministry, we hope to continue to be a source of support for this group of ministers, and we pledge to help them to remain faithful to God's call and act as God's vessels.

• Encouraging Character Formation and Spiritual Development

We encourage our students to take strength from the Bible and their theological knowledge and to receive multi-dimensional training in the pastoral ministry. But there is also an emphasis on nurturing the character and spirituality of the seminary community as a whole. The Seminary's teachers and students attend the morning chapel service together over 80 times a year. These morning chapel services are rich and diversified in content and are a manifestation of the worship and spiritual formation of the whole community.

During the past school year, in addition to morning chapel services which help shape students' spiritual lives, we continued to promote the



Graduating Students' Sharing

"I am grateful to God that these past four years of learning and training have enabled me to broaden my horizons and have inspired my thoughts so that my spiritual life has been renewed and I have gained so much experience and the ability to conduct theological reflection. All this comes from the grace of God."

"I will step into the ministry field trembling with excitement because the path that God wants me to take is often long and difficult to tread. However, the path is full of hope. On this path I will not feel lonely because God is making use of HKBTS to enable more and more ministers who will go along this path shoulder to shoulder with me!"

"The life of a seminary student is not easy. However, walking along with us are good teachers and faithful friends. I will never forget the gracious love of the Seminary! It is never too late to serve God. At such a golden age, I can still fill my life with rich colors and fascinating patterns."

"In Christ, we have come to meet at HKBTS. How amazingly wonderful is such grace! By coming to meet one another we become connected and bonded together, mutually affecting each other in our pilgrimage."

development of the theological education of discipleship in which the seminary chaplain and each of our teachers make appointments to meet with and care for each and every student of the Seminary. It is through the spiritual formation groups, the morning prayer meetings, lunch time silent prayer meetings, and other various activities run by the Student Union that we seek to strengthen the pastoral care of our students.

• **Bonding between HKBTS and Churches**

A crucial part of the theological program is the field practicum which allows students



to gain experience and put into practice what has been learned in the classroom. We must thank our churches and parachurch organizations for providing practicum opportunities for our students. During the past academic year, our students experienced their field practicum in 90 different churches or organizations. President Cho and members of the faculty visited different churches to lead in 22 spiritual revival and evangelistic meetings, to attend 20 important ceremonies, to preach in Seminary Sunday Worship Service at 47 churches, and to give lectures and talks in 81 churches or organizations. These meetings enable the Seminary to serve our churches and enhance and deepen our understanding of each other's ministry and needs. Moreover, the Full-Time Ministry Seminar and The Experiencing Seminary Students' Life Camp were held in last October and this March respectively to help brothers and sisters to seek God's will in their lives.

Additionally, President Cho presented papers at the following seminars last November, December, and this February: the "International Forum on Christianity and Constructing a Harmonious Society", organized by Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; the Academic Conference on "Christianity and the Dream of Rejuvenation of the Chinese Nation: The Status and Function of Christianity on the Construction of Chinese Culture", organized by the Center for Christian and Cross-Culture Studies, Zhejiang University; the Meeting of Fellowship of Theologians, Taiwan Theological College and Seminary; the Seminar on "Religious Charity and Social Care" at Wen Zhou, organized by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. In April, President Cho went with co-workers at the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong on an exchange visit to Myanmar and Northern Thailand. Soon afterward, the group went to Beijing and Shanghai for another exchange visit.

Major Events during the 2013-14 School Year

2013

| Date | Event |
|------|--|
| Aug | 6-8 Faculty Retreat Theme: "Burden and Dream" |
| Aug | 13-15 Spiritual Formation Camp Theme: "Before Here and Now" <div data-bbox="322 380 1282 862" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="322 884 1282 1041">Just before the school term began, all the faculty and students attended the Spiritual Formation Camp. The theme was "Before Here and Now". In this 3-day-2-night camp, participants learned how to manage difficulties, restructure their value systems, and lead productive lives in our disciple community. Thank God for His presence which allowed everyone to experience peace in their spirit and the renewal of the whole community.</p> |
| Aug | 27 Opening Convocation for The New School Year In the Opening Convocation, President Cho delivered a sermon entitled, "The Forgiving Community," from Matthew 18:12-35 to exhort all the faculty and students. <div data-bbox="651 1086 1296 1523" data-label="Image"> </div> |
| Aug | 28 Convocation Academic Lecture |
| Aug | 29 Campus-wide Prayer Meeting The Seminary's Campus-wide Prayer Meeting has recently been increased to four times every year. It gives us a chance to meditate on God's words, learn to serve one another with prayers, keep watch over the Seminary and our churches, and intercede for the needs of society and the world. |
| Sep | 27 Faculty and Student Outing |
| Oct | 8-10 Baptist Heritage Week The Baptist Heritage Week is held every October to enhance students' understanding of faith, tradition, and the history of Baptists. The theme this year was "Baptist Faith and Polity" with three of our teachers: Dr. Nathan Ng, Dr. Eric Kwong, and Dr. Vincent Lau as speakers. |
| Oct | 20 Parents' Day Theme: "A Changed Life" |
| Oct | 20 Full-Time Ministry Seminar |
| Nov | 12 Campus-wide Prayer Meeting |

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| Nov | 17 | <p>Joint Programs Graduation Ceremony</p> <p>The Main Campus (62nd), LTED (14th) and the Distance Education Program (13 rd) joined together to have the Graduation Ceremony held at Wan Chai Elizabeth Stadium. We invited President Jeff Iorg, President of Golden Gate Theological Seminary, to preach. We are grateful to God that around 2,200 guests attended the ceremony and together we offered thanks and praise to God.</p> |  |
| Nov | 20 | <p>Student Union Handover Ceremony</p> | |
| Dec | 23 | <p>Christmas Worship: In Praise of the Lord</p> <p>The Worship Service was jointly organized by the Seminary and the HKBTS Alumni Association. Its theme was “In Praise of the Lord”. This was the day when all the faculty, staff workers, and students offered praise together and worshiped God in the memory of the birth of our Savior. It was also a day of celebration as alumni came back to have a homecoming reunion. The attendance of our alumni once again broke all former records. The number of overseas alumni who returned was especially high. We offer thanks to God in gratitude for this beautiful hour.</p> |  |

2014

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| Jan | 13 | <p>Opening Convocation of The Spring Semester; 3 New Members Joined the Faculty</p> <p>Dr. Lam Kit-chun, Adjunct Professor of Practical Theology (Economic and Business Ethics), Mr. Peter Hsu Chung-yu, Missionary-in-Residence and Lecturer of Practical Theology (Missiology), and Mrs. Jeri Hsu, Missionary-in-Residence, joined the Seminary’s faculty.</p> | |
| Jan | 14 | <p>Spiritual Formation Day</p> | |
| Jan | 16 | <p>Campus-wide Prayer Meeting</p> | |
| Jan | 23 | <p>Student Union’s AGM</p> | |
| March | 5-6 | <p>Experiencing Seminary Life Camp</p> | |
| March | 20 | <p>Campus-wide Prayer Meeting</p> | |
| March | 25-27 | <p>Mission Week</p> <p>The theme for this year’s Mission Week was “Local Churches and Mission Partnership”. The speakers were Rev. Raymond Lo, Rev. Pak Loh, and Mrs. Wance Chan. During this three-day seminar, we explored the cooperation between the local churches and our various partners in missions.</p> |  |
| April | 8-10 | <p>Expository Preaching Week</p> | |

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|-----|-------|--|--|
| May | 3 | <p>Co-hosting the “Money, Finance and Faith” Forum</p> <p>The Hong Kong Economy and Business Strategy Research Center, HKU, organized the “Forum for Christian Economists 2014 – Money, Finance, and Faith”, and HKBTS joined the function as a co-hosting organization. President Cho made an opening speech and led the opening prayer at the forum. That day, Professor Wong Fook-kong presented a paper entitled, “Between Prosperity Gospel and Monasticism: A Biblical Perspective on Wealth and Spirituality”.</p> | |
| May | 5 | <p>Praise Concert 2014</p> <p>This praise concert was held at the Academic Community Hall of Hong Kong Baptist University. This year’s theme was “On Earth as in Heaven”. The contents included singing from the Seminary’s Joint Choir, the playing of musical instruments, the testimonies of faculty and students, dancing, and a message from Dr. Jonathan Lo. There were over 800 people present and we sang together joyfully from our hearts as we offered thanks to God in our songs of praise.</p> |  |
| May | 8 | <p>Commissioning Ceremony for Our Graduating Students</p> | |
| May | 22 | <p>A Sharing Meeting with The President’s Council; Installation of Directors’ Ceremony</p> | |
| May | 25 | <p>Topical Seminar on “Baptist Faith and Polity” Jointly Organized by HKBTS and The Tai Po Baptist Church</p> | |
| Jun | 3-10 | <p>A Trip of Love to The Mainland by The Hill Singers</p> <p>The Hill Singers, a Seminary’s Choir, went on an eight-day trip of love to the Mainland. Our students, led by their teacher, Mrs. Helen Wan, visited different places to give training and testify the gospel with songs. We thank God for His care and protection of our students who experienced God’s love on this trip. What they gained surpasses what they gave.</p> |  |
| Jun | 9 | <p>Seminar on “Theological Bifurcation and The Unity of the Church”</p> <p>HKBTS and the Koinonia of Chinese Christian Theologians jointly organized the seminar on “Theological Bifurcation and the Unity of the Church: Ethics in Theological Debate”. Dr. Freeman Huen presented a paper on the topic, “ ‘Patience as Method’ — John Howard Yoder’s Epistemology of Peace”.</p> | |
| Jun | 9 | <p>All Staff Retreat</p> | |
| Jun | 13-15 | <p>An Exchange Visit to Huizhou</p> <p>The visit was organized by the Missions Department of the Student Union. Led by Dr. Eric Kwong, a team of 30 teachers and students went with brothers and sisters from the Mong Kok Swatow Baptist Church to Huizhou, visited churches in Jiang Bei, Xiao Jin Kou, and Yang Tian. They also made a visit to a home for the elderly. Our students took part in various kinds of services, and they had an exchange with local Christians and prayed with them. Through the trip, they gained a deeper understanding of the development and needs of those local churches.</p> |  |

17-26 Graduating Students' Learning Visit to Nepal

Led by Rev. Pak Loh, Director of Mission Dynamics Center, a group of graduating students went on a learning trip to Nepal. While there, they learned to serve the local residents who were in need through the cooperation of parachurch organizations and local churches. This visit led our students to understand more deeply “the kingdom of heaven prospers on earth” and the concrete manifestation and importance of the ‘Integral Mission’.



2. Lay Theological Education Department

LTED's mission is to help lay Christians build a mature spiritual life capable of shouldering the duties and responsibilities of being “priests” through diversified programs of study which include training and equipping in subjects including the Bible, theology, psychological growth, and ministerial skills. We seek to walk with a group of lay Christians who come from different churches and have a heart to serve and enable them to offer more effective services to their churches and be a more powerful witness of Christ in their workplace.

During the previous school year, LTED has provided nine programs of various types of certifications, including certificates, diplomas, bachelors, and master degrees. In addition to biblical and theological subjects, we offer different types of subjects in different programs in order to meet the needs and interests of lay Christians. Newly offered subjects include “Spiritual Formation through Reading Psalms”, “Creative Teaching for Children”, and “Effective Enhancement of Self-Esteem for Infants and Children.” Thank God for preparing experienced and knowledgeable lecturers who greatly inspire our students. We also revised the content of the Certificate Program in Mission Ministry and three of its core subjects, namely “The History and Trend of Mission”, “Mission and Culture”, and “Urban Mission”, which are being

offered for the first time. In addition to classroom learning, we arranged two local cross-cultural field visits. Led by the teacher and a staff worker for the program, students went two fellowship groups: the “Fellowship of Love for Indonesians” and the “Getting to Know the Culture and Life of the Ethnic Groups in South Asia”. Through practical field visits and study, students get to experience different facets of the lives of different ethnic groups.

Besides offering programs of study, LTED also organizes various topical seminars. Over the course of the past year, a total of thirteen topical seminars were held. Most were conducted during the Spiritual Formation Meeting. Pastoral workers or professionals provided students with an understanding of the various kinds of ministry and helped them to broaden their horizons and visions. Amongst these seminars, four were open to the public in the hope that attendees would be encouraged to reflect on their Christian faith and that attendees would be given the opportunity to know more about the LTED program.

We are grateful to God that many brothers and sisters are so determined to grow spiritually, to serve God and men, and that they are willing to receive training in LTED programs. In the 2013-14 school year, the average number of students in our programs quarterly was 536 while the total number of people enrolled in the programs and in the seminars each quarter totaled 1,894. When the school year came to a close, 278 students had



graduated from our programs. 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 and to help them to act as faithful disciples of Christ and as messengers of peace by holding on to God's truth in this world which is in turmoil.



Selected Graduates' Sharing

"Before I studied in the program, I never thought that the content of each of the subjects could be so thorough and that it could prove to be so helpful in my ministry. In addition, the programs also helped me to make progress in my own personal life, my spiritual life, and my inter-personal relationships. Praise the Lord!"

"The content of the Certificate Program in Children's Ministry, which is both extensive and rich, enabled me to acquire many educational skills while also enriching and stimulating my spiritual life. I must give thanks to every one of my teachers for their devoted teaching."

"I find the Elderly Ministry Program very practical as I can really put into practice what I have learned ...; we have had the opportunity to learn and to conduct our field practicum, which really prepared the students for ministering to the elderly."

"The lecturers are experienced and guide us patiently and systemically. Their teaching is very helpful and has benefited me and my life."

The Nine Programs of The Lay Theological Education Department

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

The Number of Graduates 2013-14

| | |
|--|------------|
| Master of Christian Studies Program | 8 |
| Bachelor, Diploma and Certificate of Christian Studies Program | 23 |
| Non-degree Diploma and Certificate Programs | 247 |
| Total: | 278 |

This school year the Mission Ministry Program was successfully offered (in the past two years it was suspended due to insufficient enrollment numbers) and we see many brothers and sisters are willing to devote themselves to being trained to join the mission ministry. We give thanks to God for them! We pray that God will continue to lead the development of each of our programs so that our programs can aptly respond to the needs and challenges of today's churches and society.

Prayer and Thanks

3. Distance Education Program

The Seminary's Distance Education Program (DEP) was founded in 1998 and has now stepped into its sixteenth year. The vision of DEP is to equip lay Christians in theological education by breaking through traditional learning constraints. DEP has now offered eight study programs which include six correspondence programs and two online programs. DEP has now on average 310 students every quarter who come from Hong Kong and overseas, including Macau, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, United Kingdom, U.S.A., Canada, Australia, Ireland, East Africa, West Africa, and Israel.

Besides targeting lay Christians, DEP has also launched "special training" ministries to serve communities with special needs and economic difficulties by providing them with theological education. For example, the Onesimus Project is jointly organized by DEP in cooperation with The Hong Kong Christian Kun Sun Association Ltd. We are pleased to help those prison inmates who come to Christ in correctional institutions. There are over fifty Onesimus students currently taking our certificate or diploma programs.

The DEP's Fifteenth Anniversary Thanksgiving and Sharing Meeting was held on October 19, 2013 with the theme, "Thus far the LORD has helped us". In the meeting, a diploma program student served as the pianist while the program lecturer led the hymn singing session. Students in the special training project for the hearing impaired

"sang" along using sign language as their tutor sang a hymn. A student in our Onesimus Training Project for prison inmates shared his testimony in a letter while one of our staff (recorded as an audio file) read out his heartfelt wishes for the student. Lastly, a graduate recalled the happy and rewarding experiences he has had as he puts what he has learned into practice in his church ministry.

The 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

Online Program

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

The Special Nurturing Ministry

1. Onesimus Project
2. Spiritual Light Project

Others

The Theological Education for Filipino Leaders



Our Current Students' Sharing

“In 2011 when I saw the “Diploma in Christian Studies Program”, I regretted joining the program so late. I just believed in God without totally committing myself to Him, and I had walked past many deep and secluded valleys in the past. Now that I can steadily and systematically study the word of God, I am truly thankful to God for His grace. I must thank HKBTS for the DEP educational platform which has enabled me to build and strengthen my foundation of faith, and to make great breakthroughs in the way I study the Bible.”

“I thank God for supporting me with His grace and leading me to consecutively finish the Diploma in Christian Studies Program and the Higher Diploma in Christian Studies Program! In our church, which is a Chinese church in Dublin, Ireland, there are eight brothers and sisters taking the DEP. This enables us to study the difficult issues together, share among ourselves, and apply what we have learned.”

We thank God for using DEP to find a way out of the constraints of traditional learning methods so that many lay Christians can be theologically equipped even though they cannot physically attend courses. Thank God for granting DEP a group of committed tutors who mark students' assignments and provide them with helpful advice and guidance. We pray that God will lead the development of DEP to join hands with more churches and parachurch organizations to nurture lay Christians together.

Prayer and Thanks



4. The Applied Theological Education Center

The Seminary's Applied Theological Education Center located at Bute Street Mong Kok accommodates the following two program centers: The Pastoral Continuing Education Center (PCEC) and Edna Wong Christian Worship and Art Education Center.

The Pastoral Continued Education Center

The lecturing hours of Pastoral Continued Education Program are generally scheduled on Mondays in order to facilitate pastoral workers as they try to make good use of their holidays and seek continued education to advance their knowledge and skills. Courses offered will vary from a minimum of one section (i.e. three hours) to a maximum of three sections (i.e. nine hours). Although the lecturing hours are generally not too lengthy, the course contents are very helpful for our pastoral workers who are working in less than ideal contemporary pastoral conditions. The high enrollment rates and positive feedback testify to the courses' effectiveness.

Since 2009, the Seminary has revitalized the PCEC. Over the past five years, a single staff worker has devoted herself to this task and has accumulated a lot of experience.

She is beginning to grasp the essence of the needs of the pastoral workers in the areas of spiritual renewal, ministry skills, and the development plan for the church. More and more creative and relevant courses are offered every quarter which can be a great help to the pastoral workers who need to apply what they have learned in an ever-changing ministry.

Last school year, PCEC offered the following four series of lectures: The Hermeneutic and Preaching Series, The Leadership Series, The Pastoral Care Series, and The Individual Equipping Series.

The Hermeneutic and Preaching Series: Courses offered include: "The Ideal King in the Books of Samuel — Messiah", "The Prophet Who Loves Studying the Bible — The Application of Inter-textuality as Seen from the Book of Zachariah", "An Analytical Study of David's Story: The Journey from a Shepherd Boy to the King", and "The Expository Preaching from the Book of Daniel". Additionally, there were new courses, such as the "Selected Study of the New Testament Apocrypha: The Didache" and "The Origin and Evolution of the Passover" which is a study of the festivals of the church. These



courses were well received in particular because pastoral workers often neglect these issues.

The Leadership Series: Courses include “Pastoral Theology—The Ways to Pastoral Success”, “Turning Mission into Result: Effective Planning, Organization, and Mobilization”, “Methodical Management Makes Ministry Easy!”, “Church Planting and the Mission of the Church”, and “Church Revival and the Dynamic of Spirituality”. It is our hope that exploring different dimensions will give insight and aid to pastors and ministers, whether they are newly appointed or experienced, and enable them to be leaders with wisdom so that God can use them in His good works.

The Pastoral Care Series: Courses that explore different issues and correspond to different age groups, such as “The Changing Youth Phenomena and Youth Ministry”, “Life Education and a Reflection of Growth in Life”, “A Preliminary Stage of Displaying Individual Growth Training”, “The Application of Christian Positive Psychology to Pastoral Care”, and “Pastoral Care and Outreach to a New Generation of Retired People”. Responding to some other challenges in

pastoral care, we offered courses about extramarital issues, such as “Pastoral Thought on Extramarital Relationships”, “The Service of Prayer of Deliverance” that deals with the problems of demon possession, and “Beginning with Logo Therapy: Co-walking with the Dying and the Bereaved” which deals with caring for those who are mourning.

The Individual Equipping Series: Courses include “A Preliminary Study of Public Theology” which deals with how theology looks at public and private life, society, and church; “How Do Grassroots Families Manage to Make a Living?” which deals with how the church cares for grassroots families; “Caring Needs Church Music,” and “A Workshop on ‘Understanding Your Teaching Style’” deals with upgrading one’s individual skill sets.

Statistics of Courses Offered in 2013-14

| Category | No. of Courses (hr.) | Student Registration (8/2013-7/2014) |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Shepherding | 8 (45) | 161 (28%) |
| 2 Leadership | 4 (24) | 81 (14%) |
| 3 Pastoral Care | 8 (51) | 226 (40%) |
| 4 Equipping | 5 (18) | 104 (18%) |
| Total: | 25 (138) | 572 (100%) |

We thank God that we can offer support to pastoral workers by means of various kinds of courses and workshops that we offer and participate in. We ask our Lord to grant us wisdom so that we can create diversified courses to meet the needs of contemporary pastoral workers and churches. We also pray that our Lord will prepare for us lecturers and speakers so that we can work together to determine the course content that is the most practical and suitable for pastoral workers.

Prayer and Thanks

The Edna Wong Christian Worship and Art Education Center

In this postmodern century, the field of communication has been greatly expanded. The founding of the Edna Wong Christian Worship and Art Education Center is our response to help lay Christians utilize this

potential. For over ten years, the Center has offered courses on music (the hearing dimension), art (sight), dance (touch), drama (multiple senses), and electronic media arts (all the senses). We seek to nurture lay Christians to enrich the content and the expressive ways as they use media in their worship services

by means of various art forms for our churches.

Over the course of this past school year, student registration exceeded 1,000. Among the courses on offer, the vocal courses continue to be the most popular. In courses like the vocal/music theory integrated classes, different levels of vocal subjects/chorus

training, and traditional opera and folk art (Gospel Cantonese Operatic Songs), we find teachers and students working in close communication throughout the teaching and learning process as they enjoy in-depth exchanges of ideas. A student from a vocal class shared the following message at church:

“The teacher conducts the class in a lively way. Besides introducing the correct methods of vocalization and demonstrating how to discern incorrect vocalization, he also allows us to listen to different songs and we repeatedly practice singing with etudes. The class has widened our horizons and also helped us to strengthen our basic singing skills!”

The Center continues to work together 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 beginning levels of vocal/music theory integrated class, vocal classes of different levels, a study in appreciation for the lyric in hymns, and chorus workshop.



In cooperation with the Pastoral Continued Education Center, we invite experts from Spiritual Theology, visual art, dance, electronic media, and music to work together to offer an exploratory course called, "Art in the Church". We hope that more pastoral workers and lay leaders will be inspired to worship God and spread the gospel in creative ways.

Furthermore, the Center continued to co-host the Church Music Camp for Undergraduate Students. The camp was organized by Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong and planned by MusiCall and Chinese YMCA Choir. This was the eighth year that the event has been held. Participants came from thirteen Christian choirs and orchestras came from ten local tertiary institutions, together with CYMCA Choir, Resonance

Chanter, and the MusiCall Orchestra. There were over 300 participants, without counting the tutors, lecturers, leaders, and demonstration performers. It was a four-day-three-night training camp with "Hey! Sing! Sing for Hope" as its theme. Through topical seminars/workshops on church history and worship studies, diversified music training items (choir conducting, opera, percussion, vocal music, orchestra music, and seminar concerts), spiritual formation (worship meetings, individual and group devotionals), corporate life experiences (group discussions and sharing), multimedia workshops (including social concern, dance, and the appreciation of poetry), participants came to experience a grand banquet that would upgrade their ministry quality and broaden their vision.

Praise the Lord to bestow upon man all kinds of senses to enable all-sensory communication and interaction with God and men.

Thank God for preparing teachers of a wide variety of subjects to teach our courses.

Pray that our Lord helps us seek ways to enable art to serve our churches, enrich our worship lives, and enforce the power of gospel communication.

Prayer and Thanks

The Seminary's Publication

Our Faculty's Writing

Christian Spirituality Series 3
Living out the Truth: The Spiritual Pursuit of Martin Luther and John Calvin was published in November 2013

Author: Dr. Nathan Ng (Associate Professor of Christian Thought [Church History])



Our Academic Journal, *Hill Road Journal* (published biannually)



The theme of issue 32: Baptist Faith and Polity



The theme of issue 33: Peacemaking

Chinese and English *HKBTS Newsletter*

(published every quarter)



Library Resources

The holdings of our Rankin Memorial Library are 141,132 items which include Chinese and English books, audio-visual items, CD-ROMs, periodicals and full text electronic periodicals, bound periodicals, and the Baptist History Collection.

From August 2013 to July 2014, the total number of books in circulation is 20,340.



Snapshots of Students' Life

Sep 27, 2013
Teachers-and-Students' Outing



Sep 18, 2013 Celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival: Teachers-and-Students' BBQ



Dec 24, 2013 Christmas Caroling at Ma On Shan District



Nov 28, 2013 Thanksgiving Day: Offering Thanksgiving with Songs of Praise



Dec 16, 2013 The Master of Theology Class: Teachers and Students Lunch Together

HKBTS needs your Prayers and Support

Please pray for our students: Pray that God will grant our students understanding and spiritual wisdom. That He can help every one of them to experience His faithfulness and provision throughout the learning process and that He can help this year's graduates to be faithful in their ministry and overcome any difficulties.

Please Pray for HKBTS: We are grateful to God for leading them to study and be trained in the Seminary. Pray to God that He will help the Seminary to be faithful to what God has entrusted to us and that the faculty may display His grace and guidance through their teaching and the pastoral care they provide to students.

Please ask God to lead Baptist churches to support Theological Education Ministry: In prayers and through financial offerings, please ask God to lead Baptist churches to support Theological Education Ministry so that the Seminary can fulfill what God has entrusted to us by nurturing future ministers and pastors for our churches. Also ask God to lead Baptist churches to support HKBTS in the coming year with their faithful offerings.



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