



be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 24 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. 25 Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 26 No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer. 27 Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. 28 The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. 29 Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this. 30 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended into heaven, seated at the right hand of the Father, who is suffering even to the point of death, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father, but he will return to judge the living and the dead. 31 Therefore, endure hardship as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 32 You may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, if you endure hardship. 33 It is a worthy saying: If we died with him, we will also reign with him. If we endure, we will also reign with him. If we do not deny him, he will deny us. 34 If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself. 35 Before God, it is not worth quarreling about words, for it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. 2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 16 Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. 17 Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. 19 Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who calls the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness." 20 In a large house there are not only of gold and silver and precious stones, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. 21 If you are of the latter, be purified and prepared for the noble purpose. 22 Flee from idols, because many are engaged in worship with a godless heart. 23 Do not let anyone lead you away and be deceived by their doctrines; they will lose their reward.

2014-15

Ministry: Retrospect & Prospect



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





Reflections from the President

Joshua Cho

Having been the Seminary's President for more than six years, I thank God for walking with me all these years, leading the Seminary to continue focusing on upholding the most basic mission of theological education — to enable students to gain theological insights and to nurture their spiritual lives. As a result, they have the ability to practice self-reflection and apply what they have learned according to the needs of the church and contemporary needs, and they can also spread the gospel far and wide. Through God, the HKBTS disciple community increasingly grows as the morning chapel services held three times a week serve as the soil that helps to cultivate the spirituality of teachers and students. The content of the morning chapels includes teachers' preaching (serving as students' models), new students' testimonies of God's call, graduating students' "graduate sermons" and a time of prayer as the whole seminary community prays for one another, for Hong Kong, Mainland China, and different parts of the world. Through the sharing of outside speakers from diverse backgrounds and expertise, students learn to respond to current social issues,



explore the theological thought of church leaders in the Mainland, and think seriously about how to put Christian ethics into practice.

Pastoral care was our last year's learning objective. In the August Opening Convocation, I preached a sermon entitled, "To Be Filled with Compassion," taken from Mark 1: 40-45 as I exhorted teachers and students to be filled with compassion towards those in need by making a sacrifice to enter into the lives and experiences of others. This is an important part of "empathy" in pastoral care and a kind of "hospitality" towards strangers. This spring term, I continued with another sermon on the Lord's Prayer entitled, "A Prayer of Petition", in the hope that teachers and students could reflect on the relationship between pastoral care and praying persistently as the Lord's Prayer talked about the things above and the redemption of life.

I am thankful for the learning and growth of the whole disciple community and also for the fast development of the Master of Theology Program of our Graduate Studies Program. Both the strengthening of the faculty team and the improvement of the curriculum design have





accelerated its development. Meanwhile, along with the upgrading of the teaching and learning practices of our two basic programs: Bachelor of Theology and Master of Divinity, application for admission into the ThM class has correspondingly increased. The admission figure rises in part because a group of outstanding students from HKBTS who expect to go on further studies in their alma mater and partly because the program attracts a good number of outside students whose aim is to pursue academic excellence. The number of students presently taking the ThM Program has come close to 40 and the ratio between those coming from HKBTS and those from outside is more or less half and half.

On the one hand, acting on the foundation of serving Hong Kong churches, HKBTS is willing to take a step further and serve churches in Mainland China. After making contact and having had exchange visits for a few years, HKBTS and mainland churches have established a relationship of mutual trust. In spring 2014-15, China's National

Committee of the Protestant Churches and the Christian Council recommended an excellent pastoral worker to come to HKBTS to enroll in the Master of Divinity Program. In the 2015-16 school term, they will send two more pastoral workers to take the Doctor of Theology Program and engage in research and study. We are willing to make greater commitments to be involved in the training of mainland pastors' and theological education personnel.

Since its establishment in 2013 up until August 2015 when the new school term begins, there is a grand total of 4 ThD students. I thank God for bestowing upon us a mature and proficient teaching staff who enable us to offer the ThD Program at the right timing. Looking to the future, not only will we train faithful pastors one generation after another through our basic programs, but we will also allow local and overseas students to do in-depth studies by offering the Graduate Studies Program to help build a solid foundation for pastors who seek

further equipping, renewal, and development in their pastoral ministries or educational ministries.



Retrospect with Thanksgiving Prospect for Progress

We are pleased to report that for the 2014-15 school year, there was a total of 349 students enrolled in the degree programs. Student enrollment included 208 in the main campus theological program and 141 in the Christian Studies Program of the Lay Theological Education Department. In this past school year, 77 new students were admitted to these two programs while 68 students graduated from these programs. As for the certificate and diploma programs, LTED had a student enrollment of 325 every quarter on average while our Distance Education Program had 342.



1 Main Campus Theology Program

Reflections from Graduating Students

- I am grateful to my heavenly father to allow me to learn at HKBTS as this has indeed been a great blessing! Not only was it studying and learning theological knowledge, but what is more important was the molding of my lifestyle. Through knowing God, I come to know more about myself as my life has been renewed and transformed. I can also see how much I myself need God! Thank God!
- I thank my gracious Lord to safeguard and lead me to return to my alma mater for further studies. After two years of study, my knowledge in the Bible and theology has kept increasing, and I also experience continual growth in my spiritual formation as I keep experiencing God's grace and faithfulness in the process. I am willing to be of use to God all my life and serve Him faithfully!
- In just four years, I came to experience what the words "putting into practice" and "discipleship" mean. That is to say, to put Christ's teaching and examples into practice according to biblical truth and to instruct lay people to be "the Lord's disciples" together. How I put what I have learned into practice at church and in this generation is going to be my future challenge and responsibility.
- Thank God for allowing me to be a member of the HKBTS's disciple community and my alma mater is a place where I have been trained to be a pastor. I thank all my teachers for their patience and tolerance. I am thankful for my fellow students' love and care that allowed me to be built up and trained. All my gratefulness remains in the bottom of my heart.
- Gracious Lord, in these three years of hard study, thank you for encouragement from teachers, fellow students, and my family. As I am going to step onto the ministry field, I will



remember President Cho's encouragement: "You are a prophet, to proclaim the word of God. You are a servant, to wash others' dirty feet."

- Patience of our teachers fills my heart with gratefulness . . . Such an encouraging remark from you, "You have made tremendous progress!" enables my dropping hands and sore legs to pull myself together.
- Throughout the whole process of further studies, I felt the pull of God's gracious hand, otherwise I could not have been able to step over such difficult hurdles . . . The greatest gain is the enhancement of my expository preaching ability and the widening of my spiritual vision. I pray that in the years to come I can serve God more effectively.
- Although coming across a great many challenges on the path of my pastoral ministry, in my seminary study I can see from my teachers' life testimonies that those who follow Jesus Christ the Lord can live out a life of beauty and goodness. From now on this will be an encouragement in the heart, reminding me, "You can do it as

they can also."

- Throughout my studies, it was like God who sent his ministers — President Cho, teachers, fellow-students, staff — to guide me to know God with their lives and knowledge so that I learn to be a humble person myself. What I have learned in these four years is unforgettable and will benefit me for life. I must thank my gracious Lord!



Theological Education: Main Emphasis and Direction

HKBT's main campus theology programs include Bachelor of Theology, Master of Divinity, Master of Divinity (Further Studies), Master of Religious Education, Master of Pastoral Counseling, Master of Christian Studies, Master of Theology and Doctor of Theology. In the 2014-15 school year, there are 208 students, amongst which 56 are new students and 38 are graduating students.

The above reflections from our graduating students make their teachers who have nurtured them feel pleased and also give encouragement to those churches and the brothers and sisters who have supported theological education over the years. This group of graduates who are just stepping onto the path of ministry will act as shepherds who work for God their entire lives. They are the fruit born out of a joint effort between the Seminary and churches. We hope to continue praying for them and together be a backup force in their lives.

The reflections from our graduates testify to God's unwavering calling, goodness, and faithfulness in their lives and exemplify HKBTS's main emphasis and direction in theological education.

- **Dual Emphasis on Knowledge and Spirituality:** The Seminary emphasizes that students must lay a strong foundation in Biblical and theological knowledge and nurture a good moral character and the spiritual life of the entire community. The focus of our theological education is placed on molding pastors who have a good spiritual life, theological wisdom, and the ability for self-renewal.
- **Individualized Pastoral Care:** We promote discipleship theological education so that each student is cared for and gets encouragement from our two chaplains and our teachers. Also, our students receive further pastoral care through the Morning Chapel, Spiritual Formation Group, Morning Prayer Meeting, and the Noon Time Silent Prayer Meeting.
- **Learning and Practicing within a Disciple Community:** Being a “disciple community” as we follow our Lord Jesus Christ, the whole seminary together learns to be Jesus' disciples. We humble ourselves, learning to forgive each other and to discern together the heart of Christ, putting his teaching into practice and proclaiming his truth to the world.
- **The Preaching of Life:** The Seminary focuses on training students to be preachers, encouraging them to master preaching so that in their future ministry posts, they can act as “shepherds”, “heralds” and “prophets” who voice out and uphold the truth.

Interconnection between the seminary and our churches

Church practicum is an important part of our theology programs as it allows our students to gain practical experience and put what they have learned into practice. We thank our churches and para-church organizations that provide practicum opportunities for students. In the past year, students were arranged to do their practicum in 103 churches and organizations. President Cho and our faculty team went to different churches, leading 24 spiritual enrichment and evangelistic meetings and attending 25 important ceremonies. They also went to 42 churches to lead the Seminary Sunday service and to other churches and organizations to lead an additional 119 seminars. These meetings provided opportunities for the Seminary to serve our churches and enhance and further an understanding of each other's ministry and each other's needs. In addition, the Seminary conducted a Full-Time Ministry Seminar and an Experiencing Seminary Life Camp during last November and this past March in an effort to help brothers and sisters who have a heart for serving God full-time and who want to know more about our study programs.

Apart from leading different meetings in Hong Kong, President Cho was invited to be the speaker of the 110 Anniversary Spiritual Revival Meeting of the Macau Baptist Church last October; speaker of a seminar organized by the Far East Broadcasting Associates of Canada this January. Furthermore, President Cho went to Toronto, Vancouver, Los Angeles and San Francisco to pay a goodwill visit to alumni and Baptist pastors. He was invited to speak at a retreat camps for pastors, a graduation ceremony of a seminary, and in some other seminars for pastors.

Major Events in 2014-15 School Year

In 2014

August 1 **Two new members joined the faculty team**

Grace Chan, Associate Chaplain and Lecturer and Annie Mok, Visiting Assistant Professor of Education and Music, joined our ministry team.

August 12-14 **Faculty Retreat Camp** **Theme: “Fun and Forgiveness in Teaching and Learning”**

August 21-23 **Spiritual Formation Camp** **Theme: “From God’s Call to Community”**

Every year, students look forward to this camp which is held before the school term begins. Through silence, worship, listening, and meditating on God’s words, students reflected on the relationship of God’s call and community as they learn to live in a disciple community.



August 26 **Opening Convocation for the New School Term**

At the Opening Convocation, President Cho gave a sermon message entitled, “To Be Filled with Compassion”. Quoting Mark 1:40-45, he exhorted teachers and students.

August 27 **Opening Convocation Lecture** Dr. Tony Sher, Assistant Professor of Old Testament, spoke on the topic, “On Earth as in Heaven: A Jewish Scholar’s View on the Sabbath”.

August 28 **All Seminary Prayer Meeting**

September 26 **Outing for Teachers and Students**

September 30 **Special Noon Time Prayer Meeting**

In the Morning Chapel and Noon Time Prayer Meeting, all the seminary teachers and students prayed for God’s care and guidance for Hong Kong society and our churches in regard to the “Occupy Central” movement.



October 14-16 **Baptist Heritage Week**

The theme for this year’s Baptist Heritage Week was “The Origins and the Early History of Baptist Churches in Hong Kong”. The speakers were Dr. Nathan Ng, Associate Professor of Christian Thought (Church History), and Dr. Lee Kam-keung, Professor, Department of History, Hong Kong Baptist University.



October 19 **Parents’ Day Theme: “Of One Heart —Walking Together”**

November 1 **Full-Time Ministry Seminar**

November 13 **All Seminary Prayer Meeting**



November **16 Joint Programs Graduation Ceremony**

The Seminary's Main Campus (63rd), Lay Theological Education Department (15th), and Distance Education Program (14th) held their Joint Program Graduation Ceremony at Elizabeth Stadium. There were 62 graduates from the degree programs (or graduates of diploma or certificate from the same programs), together with 286 graduates from the diploma and certificate programs. We thank God for leading approximately 1,600 guests to attend the ceremony and offer praise and thanksgiving to our Lord together with us.

November **20 Handover Ceremony of Student Union Executive Committee Members**

December **22 Christmas Worship**
Theme: The Savior's Light Shines over All the Earth

It was jointly organized by the Seminary and the Alumni Association. Thank God for leading a great many alumni to return to their alma mater for a reunion. Together we offered up to God our praise and worship and prayed with one heart for all nations, Hong Kong society, witnesses of our churches, and the development of the Seminary.

In 2015

January **7 Spring Term Began**
Spiritual Formation Day Theme:
"Worship Is Spiritual Discipline"

January **13 All Seminary Prayer Meeting**



March **1-2 Alumni Bible Reading Camp**
Theme: "The Peacemaking Pastors"

The Alumni Association for the first time organized an "Alumni Bible Reading Camp", providing a group of alumni the opportunity to come back to campus and to have a quiet retreat and take lessons together.

March **4-5 Experiencing Seminary Life Camp**

March **10-12 Belote Lectures Overall**
Theme: "Being with God: On Prayer, Service, and Mission"

We invited Dr. Samuel Wells, a renowned Christian ethicist, to speak on the meaning of "Being with God" from eight dimensions and then put them into the practice of prayer. Both the morning lectures and the evening talks were well attended. We thank God for allowing our teachers and students to have the opportunity to share and reflect on the concepts of "being with" and "prayer" with so many fellow ministers present.



April 19 Spiritual Revival Concert 2015
Theme: "Unbounded Grace"

Being held in the Hong Kong Pui Ching Primary School Hall with the theme "Unbounded Grace", the concert featured performances by the Seminary choir, the alumni choir, Servant (the Students' Worship Team), Men's chorus group, mixed chorus group, hand-bell group, students' testimonies and a scriptural message by Dr. Wong Fook-kong.



June 13-15 An Exchange Visit to Huizhou

A team of 36 people led by our teacher Dr. Eric Kwong went to visit two churches in Huizhou. Students worked together as they conducted an evangelistic meeting, children's Sunday School, Sunday Worship Preaching, Giving Testimonies for God, Care and Visitation. We thank the local church for providing the opportunity for our students to join these meetings and learn to serve and to exchange with local Christians and pray together with them.



May 7 Commissioning Ceremony for Graduating Students

May 16 Exchange Meeting for the President's Council

May 21 Award Presentation Ceremony and the Inauguration of the Seminary's Board of Trustees

June 1 All Seminary Staff Retreat

June 15 The Memorial Service for Rev. Samuel Tang

The Memorial Service was held at Tsim Sha Tsui Baptist Church and together we thanked God for Rev. Tang's life testimony and shared our fond memories of our third president who himself was a faithful servant of God and nurtured innumerable pastors throughout his lifetime.



2 Lay Theological Education Department

Lay Theological Education Department (LTED) is located in Mongkok where the social situation became very tense during the “Occupy Central” movement. Incidentally that period was when our new school year was just beginning, a large number of students passed through the education center for lessons. However, as the center was close to the center of the occupied area, street conflicts in the vicinity were frequent. It was difficult to predict what would happen each day. To guarantee students’ safety, all class lessons were relocated to the Applied Theological Education Center in Christian Building at Prince Edward. Rearrangements of the classrooms in the two centers had to be made. Through full cooperation and close coordination between our staff, the lessons in the first quarter proceeded smoothly.

LTED provides a diversified curriculum of study programs for students who come from different educational backgrounds. As many have been out of school for years and some are even close to retirement age, it is not easy for them to reintegrate into formal schooling. In light of this, last year we tried conducting a seminar on “Study Is Not a Game: The Basics of Self Learning” in an effort to help students master basic reading skills. Since students found it helpful, a similar seminar will be conducted for all new students this year. Additionally, to enable all the new students of our degree programs to master the basic knowledge and requirements of thesis writing, a lecture on “Research and Writing” is conducted every year to improve students’ writing abilities. Last year, the three-hour lecture was

video-recorded and then uploaded onto the LTED website to allow students to review and learn the content as their need requires.

Over the past school year, LTED has continued to provide 9 programs of study. Amongst these programs, training in the Bible, theology, and ministerial skills are undoubtedly important. Apart from that, in accordance with the expertise of our lecturers and the needs of individual ministries, new subjects are offered for different programs. Last year,



we offered “E-generation Care and Counseling”, “6A Character Education for Children and Infants”, “Pastoral Care to Cancer Patients and Families”. Our students enjoyed learning these subjects and their lives were enriched. They found what they had learned applicable to their personal lives and that they could bless the communities they served as a result.

Apart from offering different programs of study, various kinds of seminars are also offered. In the past year, 8 seminars, most of which were arranged to be held during the spiritual formation meetings, were conducted. Three of these seminars were open to all brothers and sisters from our churches to join. Not only do these seminars help us reflect upon our faith and broaden our horizons, but they also provide an opportunity for non-students to



know about our programs. Last year, we made a five-minute video recording to introduce a survey and highlight features of our study programs. The recording can be shown during an open seminar or in some other meetings so that our churches can have a more comprehensive understanding of our different programs.

In the 2014-15 school year, there were a total of 213 students who graduated with an average of 434 students participating in our programs every quarter and the total number of people attending our programs and seminars was 1,572. These numbers signify one individual after another who seeks to grow and be renewed. Our students who are willing to spare the time, effort, and money—and to exert themselves to learn and to serve—deserve our appreciation and encouragement. Pray that God will continue to lead each one of them to serve at church and in their workplace to bless many people and glorify His name.

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	Certificate / 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 2014-15	
Master of Christian Studies Program	3
Bachelor; Diploma, and Certificate of Christian Studies Program	27
Non-degree Diploma and Certificate Programs	183
Total	213

Selected Reflections from Graduates

“A variety of subjects enable me to have a more correct understanding of Christianity and the Bible; biblical studies helps me to learn more about biblical texts and their backgrounds.”

“It’s good to know God’s grace and being able to learn about the truth of the Lord is a double blessing; it is through systematic teaching from the Lord’s servants that I can examine my life and sort out life’s problems. I consider it a great grace, a double blessing. Let us continue to learn and grow in God’s grace together!”

“When I came across difficult times in my studies, many angels came to encourage me to continue on my way. I must thank my teachers’ teaching as many of the lessons were like listening to wonderful sermons. It is through my study that my life can be renewed.”

“During my study and my field practicum, I personally experienced and came to understand the needs of the elderly. Thanks to the seasoned experience of our lecturers and their patient and systematic teaching, I benefited a lot.”

Thanksgiving • Prayer

Thank God for His protection that all programs of study proceeded smoothly during the “Occupy Central” movement and that our staff could have a direct experience of the social situation up close. Pray that our Lord will continue to lead the development of our training ministry so that the LTED study programs can meet the needs of the times and nurture a group of faithful lay leaders.

3 Distance Education Program

At present, the Distance Education Program (DEP) has a total of 29 tutors who provide guidance to students in the diploma and certificate programs respectively. In the spring term this year, three alumni joined the tutor team of the Diploma in Christian Studies / Biblical Studies programs. They are responsible for the subjects "Stewardship", "the Book of Daniel" and "the Gospel of John" respectively. We thank God for preparing a group of tutors with competence and dedication. Despite their heavy ministerial duties at church, they are still willing to mark EDP students' assignments and to provide support for students' studies.

DEP offers 8 programs of study which includes 6 correspondence programs and 2 online programs. Students can take the program and be equipped theologically without geographical and time constraints. At present, the average number of enrolled students is 342. Our students come from Hong Kong, Mainland China, and overseas, including Macau, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, England, U.S.A., Canada, Australia, Ireland, East Africa, West Africa, and Israel. Last Christmas and during this Lunar New Year, while returning to Hong Kong to visit their families, several students from overseas and Mainland China came to the Seminary to gather the teaching materials in person. They also brought with them new year candy and took pictures with DEP staff. In particular, a student living in a home for the elderly called us on the fifth day of the Lunar New Year; another student paid us a courtesy visit to greet us a "Happy New Year" during his new year vacation. Since we usually contact our students through the telephone or by email and seldom get the chance to meet them, we especially cherish these opportunities to get together.

In addition to seeking to nurture general lay Christians, we have also launched "Special Training" ministries for the visually impaired, the hearing impaired, and those in correctional institutions by providing them with the

opportunity for taking theological education. For example, the "Onesimus Project" is one which has entered the sixteenth year as DEP collaborates with the Hong Kong Christian Kun Sun Association to serve prison inmates who have come to Christ since 1999. At present, in this project, more than 50 students are taking the diploma and certificate programs and the accumulative number of graduates has reached 83.

Besides, the Theological Education for Filipino Leaders (TEFL), which was inaugurated in 2003, has had a total number of student registration of over 2,700 over these past twelve years. Courses are taught four quarters a year, and all classes take place on Sunday afternoons. Class enrollment has an average of 55. In April of last year, the fifth Graduation Ceremony took place with a total of 35 graduates. Two of them went back to the Philippines to take a full-time ministerial preparation program. In the first two quarters in 2015, courses on Greek, the New Testament, and practical subjects like church music will be offered.

Correspondence Program

Diploma in Biblical Studies
Diploma in Christian Studies
Higher Diploma in Biblical Studies
Higher Diploma in Christian Studies
Certificate in New Testament Studies
Certificate in Old Testament Studies

On-line Program

On-line Certificate in New Testament Studies
On-line Certificate in Old Testament Studies

Special Training Ministry

Onesimus Project
Spiritual Light Project
Heavenly Voice Training Project

Miscellaneous

Theological Education for Filipino Leaders

Graduate Sharing

“ Thank God that in different stages of my life, taking the programs of Diploma and Higher Diploma of Christian Studies helps me to meet the needs of my spiritual life and different spiritual needs of my life.”

“ Each of the subjects enables me to have a variety of lessons to learn and warnings to take note. They are very much worthy of review. Although I came across difficulties in my studies and doing the assignments and felt tired at times, God’s help and provision for my deficiency far exceeded what I actually needed.”



Thanksgiving • Prayer

We are thankful for a good number of DEP students who are willing to work hard at their studies for the purpose of serving their own churches and God who has granted us with a group of faithful tutors who are pleased to provide support for students’ studies.

We pray also for God’s leading DEP’s outreach service so that we can cooperate with more churches and Christian organizations to train lay people together. Pray that God will use DEP to go beyond traditional modes of learning so that more lay people can receive theological education without subject to time, their bodily and geographical constraints.

4 Applied Theological Education Center

The Applied Theological Education Center located at Bute Street, Mongkok includes the following two centers.

Pastoral Continuing Education Center

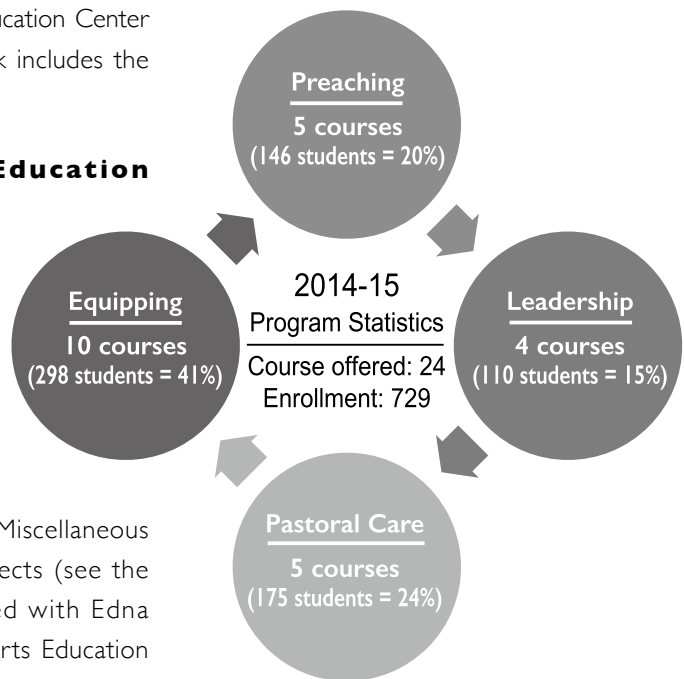
In the 2014-15 school year, the Pastoral Continuing Education Center (PCEC) offered 4 series of courses: "The Hermeneutic and Preaching Series", "The Leadership Series", "The Pastoral Care Series", and "The Individual-Equipping and Miscellaneous Series" with a total of 24 subjects (see the table below). We collaborated with Edna Wong Christian Worship and Arts Education Center to offer an exploratory course, "Art in the Church". It is hoped that these diversified courses can meet the great variety of needs of the pastoral workers.

The Hermeneutic and Preaching Series: Besides courses like "The Study of the Book of Romans", "Theology of the Pentateuch", we offered "The Art of Preaching" to help students integrate communication skills and methods for delivering speeches in order to make preaching at the pulpit more effective.

The Leadership Series: In addition to the course, "Self-management for Pastors and

His Relationship with Co-workers", which was conducted by a veteran pastor who talked from his own experiences about the authority of the senior pastor, team work, and the stress in the role of a pastor, we also offered courses like "The Highly Effective Communication: NLP" and "Flexibility: Making Ministry Work More Effective" to upgrade pastors' ministerial skills.

The Pastoral Care Series: According to Hong Kong population projections, from 2011 to 2041, the child and young adult population will decrease while the population of the elderly



will increase from 13% to 30%. The problem for the churches will be relatively more acute. Besides offering courses like, “High Quality Children Ministry in the Church” and “The Flourishing Youth Ministry”, to help pastors to mold a new generation of godly people, we also offered “Shepherding and Outreaching to a New Generation of Retired People” and “To Embrace Old Age with Love”. As for the latter course, we adopted the concept of “Holistic Healing” in an effort to understand how to shepherd and care for terminal patients by visiting the hospice home, the mortuary, and the place where family members of the deceased bid farewell to the physical remains.

The Individual-Equipping and Miscellaneous Series: Along with the impact of the China-Hong Kong conflict and the controversy concerning political reform, our churches need to help lay Christians to understand and reflect on Christian ethics and thus strengthen their powers of discernment. The course, “What Is (Not) Christian Ethics?”, that we offered was particularly popular among

pastors and lay leaders. We have to give thanks to God for the course, “The Church Calendar and Spiritual Formation”. Coming across a flight delay, the teacher informed our staff worker who in turn told students to come to class and to download the lesson content on the Internet to take a self-study while waiting for the teacher. At last, all was in God’s hands and everyone enjoyed the lesson which was conducted on schedule. To God be the glory!

When we plan our courses, there must be many considerations and challenges as each individual pastor and the situation of each of the churches varies and also our courses must meet the changing needs of the times. We will continue to adhere to our conviction that we must: Set our focus on expository preaching, with shepherding and care as our emphasis and keep a balance between being academic and yet practical as our goal. We attach importance to co-walking with church pastors with the hope to help strengthen their readiness to correctly handle the word of Truth and to fill them with the power of putting their beliefs into practice.

Thanksgiving • Prayer

O Lord, looking back over the past, your grace is sufficient! Thank God that you always bestow upon us grace in our deficiency, and grant us the right time, the right teacher, and sufficient number of students so that our courses can be successfully conducted. Pray that God will give us the vision and continue to lead us forward when we probe what kind of equipping pastors need to have and think carefully about the design of our courses in the future!

Edna Wong Christian Worship and Arts Education Center

According to the Bible's account, we can see that whether in the Old Testament world or in the new heaven and new earth in eternity, we always make use of all the senses and diversified media to create dialogue and pray in corporate worship. We call on artistic forms to express our emotions for a more thorough method of communication. Arts education can deepen and enrich

Christians' worship experiences and lives. It is in response to such a need that the Edna Wong Christian Worship and Arts Education Center was founded. Over the years, in addition to offering the music training courses that are popular with our churches, the Center has also offered subjects in the areas of drama, dance, literature, tele-visual and electronic media, church floral art, and design and use of church building.

However, an overview of the responses from our churches over the past ten years seems to show that only the music courses have relatively widespread popularity while other courses are often neglected. That is why we will continue to do the best we can to help our churches to use a more comprehensive approach to various art forms. In the past school year, in the first lesson of many of our courses, prior to introducing the lecturer, the Center staff briefly described to students that art forms originally permeated worship meetings in the church. For example, worship leaders serve somehow just as the roles in a



drama in regard to their respective order of appearance, positioning, movement or stillness when involving verbal or bodily expressions in general or in particular worship sequence. Or in a worship service, when the presider is making a call to worship, doing the scripture reading, saying a prayer, or addressing new comers, he or she will take note of their tone, modality,

intensity and speed of their speech. This is similar to the expression requirements needed in drama. Besides, the congregation may stand, sit, kneel, look up or down, or raise hands. All of these bodily gestures are in fact basic elements of dancing. Furthermore, regarding the meeting environment, air conditioning, lighting, sound effects, choice of colors, and tone of the spatial setting are all part of the expression and extension of visual art, architectural art and the like. Such an introduction not only enhances students of different subjects to have a better appreciation for and arouse their interest in spirituality or even evoke their awakening.

Through the courses offered on vocal training, choral singing, conducting, hymn-text study, congregational music, music theory, chapel flower art, local-folk-art-opera singing, electric organ playing, together with the Inter-Collegiate Music Ministry Camp(IMMC) that the Center participated in, we have a total enrolment of over 1,300. The IMMC was presented by the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong and planned by MusiCall who led the Christian Choirs



and Bands members from ten local tertiary institutions to explore the significance of music in the church. Four days in a roll, participants learned through topical lectures, worship experiences, workshops, music lessons, lecture-concerts, spiritual revival meetings, and group activities. It was an eye-opener for participants who think seriously about the mission of learning and service.

Because of the interest aroused among our students and the teaching and learning experiences gained in the IMMC, we will not only carry on offering courses for Christian adults, but will also attempt to offer more courses for college students, helping them establish a well-built foundation of faith and value.

Thanksgiving • Prayer

Thank God for granting us senses and spirituality so that we are able to receive messages and express ideas and emotions. We also thank the Lord for allowing us to pass on knowledge and experiences from generation to generation, so that such knowledge and experience can be accumulated and transformed into artistic expressions, highlighting the sources of truth, goodness, and beauty — the glory of the Lord.

Pray that the Lord will bestow wisdom and power upon us so that we know how to worship the Lord and offer up what is the most beautiful.

The Seminary's Publication

Our Faculty's Writing

The first volume in the "Biblical Theology Series", entitled *Theology of the Pastoral Letters: Succession of Paul's God-Centered Vision*, was published in September 2014.

Author: Dr. Sam Tsang (Associate Professor of New Testament)

Academic Journal, *Hill Road* (published bi-annually)



Theme of issue 34: Spiritual Care



Theme of issue 35: Hospitality

Chinese and English Seminary's Newsletter (published quarterly)



Library Resources

The total collection of our Rankin Memorial Library, which includes Chinese and English books, electronic books, audio-visual materials, bound periodicals, and the archive of Baptist history in Hong Kong, has reached 146,974 items as of July 31, 2015.

From August last year to July this year, the number of books checked out was 21,049.



Snapshots of Students' Campus Life



2015.5.21

A singing performance during the award presentation and inauguration of the Board of Trustees Ceremony



2014.11.20
Handover of Student Union's Presidency

2014.9.11
Students playing basketball

2015.5.7
Student Union organized a farewell party for this year's graduates



2014.10.19
Parents Day: Come Papa & Mama

HKBTS Needs **Prayers** and **Offering Support** from **Churches**

To nurture tomorrow's pastors is both the prompting and commitment of you and HKBTS. Please continue to remember the Seminary and the needs of our students and keep up your good efforts to financially support theological education.



Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary

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

Telephone : (852) 2715 9511

Fax : (852) 2761 0868

Email : inquiry@hkbits.edu.hk

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