



2015-16

Ministry: Retrospect & Prospect



香港浸信會神學院

Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary





Sharing from the President

Joshua Cho

In Hong Kong society today, the church needs to think about and discern many issues, such as the disparities and antagonism between the rich and the poor, the needs of the teens, the appeal for righteousness, pastoral care for the homosexual, and also issues related to politics, economics and livelihood. In the past academic year, we adopted “Christian education” as the focus of our teaching and learning in response to these needs. Christian education is different from the kind of education sought after by modern society. The purpose of contemporary education is to “produce knowledge.” The purpose of Christian education is not so. It encourages people to “seek after knowledge” in order to serve others and to repair the brokenness between humans and that between human and nature, and then integrate anew their relationship. The seminary is an institution that teaches both knowledge and also relationship and love. In other words, the more knowledge a seminary student has, the deeper will be his relationship with God. When they have an in-depth relationship with God, they will also have a greater understanding of the world’s condition, and then they will be able to manage every kind of inter-personal relationship with wisdom and with love. As pastors of tomorrow and workers of the times, seminary students will



have to learn to examine different events under the guidance of the Holy Spirit so that they can discern truth from falsity, right from wrong, and make appropriate judgments and responses.

In the opening convocation of the Fall and Spring terms of the 2015-16 school year, I spoke on the topics “Edification: Building the Community of Christ’s Love,” and “Edification: How to Discern It,” consecutively as a mutual encouragement to our teachers and students. Teachers continued the discussion of discernment in the morning chapel and the Spiritual Formation Day. Moreover, we thought carefully about the issue of homosexuality from the perspectives of the Bible, church history, and pastoral care. Furthermore, regarding some of the more controversial issues in our society, our teachers have made great efforts to participate in the discussion. Despite our limitations, as it is not possible for us to be familiar with every issue, it is our hope that we seek to face the problems and needs of our society and strive to show our concern by taking part in them.





On the other hand, the characteristic of HKBTS's ThM class is its seminar format of learning, which pays attention to independent thinking and the rigorous training of discernment. This is most practical to many students who are presently pastors and engaging in shepherding a church. A pastor needs to have sufficient abilities in discernment to find out whether a lay Christian's way of thinking or mode of doing thing is in line with the Christian faith, so that he can offer sound advice. Moreover, the studies conducted by ThM students can encompass practical areas, for example, looking at preaching or mission from biblical and theological perspectives.

Looking back over the past six years, the seminary has laid greater emphasis on preaching, mission, pastoral care, edification, and discernment. We hope to succeed and continue with these emphases and develop still further in the direction of practical theology in the days to come.

This year HKBTS has stepped into its 65th anniversary and we adopted "Magnify the Lord the Almighty · Inheriting the Baptist Heritage across Boundaries" as its theme. It expresses our aspirations: Whether in stable or tough times, we are willing to magnify the Lord – our God the Almighty, to cultivate faithful pastors serving God and men; we also succeed our Baptist heritage, going across boundaries of worldly differences and allowing generation after generation to take up the torch by stepping onto the right path.

On April 24, the 65th Anniversary Thanksgiving Worship Service and Concert was held at the Academic Community Hall. On this festive occasion, all teachers, students, alumni and co-walkers of the seminary altogether lift up our praise to the Lord with a thankful heart. Although the song, *Magnificat*, sung by the seminary choir was a difficult number and our students have limited musical experience,



the God who empowers people enabled the choir members to sing with one heart this beautiful and touching melody. The success of the concert also helped us see that God is pleased with the truthful singing of this group of seminary students.

From September 12 to 15, the 65th Anniversary Academic Symposium and Academic Lectures will be held with “Christian Education” as its theme. The symposium will be held on the first day with five speakers exploring from different perspectives; the academic lectures will be held in the following three days in chapel when Dr. Lim Teck Peng, Associate Dean of Trinity Theological College, Singapore, will be the speaker.

Regarding training pastors and research talent from Mainland China, HKBTS has taken a more active role in recent years. Last December, I was invited to deliver a speech and gave lectures at Nanjing Union Theological Seminary, exchanging views and learning with pastors and leaders from all over the country. Beginning in early 2015, four outstanding pastors and seminary teachers from Liang Hui came to HKBTS for further studies. In the new 2016-17 school year, two more new students from the mainland will come to learn with us.

We thank God for leading us through the past 65 years and pray that God will continue His leadership as our churches and HKBTS will be closely united to light up the torch together in this age to pierce the darkness with His light.

Thank God for the Early and Late Rains over the Past 65 Years

From 1951 to 2016, God has led HKBTS on a lengthy journey in His grace. We have walked past a countless number of high mountains and valleys over these 65 years, but we know for certain that each of these steps testifies to God’s grace, and the early and late rains promised by God have always helped nourish each of our hearts at the seminary. We offer up to God our praise and thanksgiving, and our heartfelt thanks to our churches, and to all our brothers and sisters in the Lord. We extend our gratitude to you for your presence and support to us all these years. We also thank you for testifying with us to God’s leadership and gracious kindness to the seminary.

Looking back over 2015-16 school year, there are 325 students who received training in our degree programs, which include 198 students in the Main Campus Program and 127 students in the Christian Studies Program of the seminary’s Lay Theological Education Department. In the past school year, 62 new students have been recruited while there are 51 students graduating from these two programs. As for the diploma and certificate programs, there are on average 311 students in programs run by LTED and 340 students in our Distance Education Program each quarter.

1 Main Programs

The Seminary’s Main Programs comprise programs in Bachelor of Theology, Master of Divinity, Master of Divinity (Further Studies), Master of Religious Education, Master of Christian Studies, Master of Theology and Doctor of Theology. In 2015-16 academic year, there are a total of 198 students while there are 34 new students and 23 graduating students.

Sharing from Graduating Students

“I thank the Lord for molding me these past four years so that I can be true to myself. God has enabled me to understand



myself more deeply and I have also understood more clearly God's calling. As I am about to leave the warm family of the seminary to step onto the shepherding path which is filled with challenges, I am convinced that God's grace is sufficient for me, for His power is made perfect in my weakness. May the Lord use me who is unworthy in response to the needs of the present generation and enable me to lead people to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ."

"I thank my Heavenly Father for pruning my broken branches and repairing my weaknesses through training in the seminary so as to build up my life. Now, as I am leaving the seminary, I ask the Lord to keep looking after me and help me become his unashamed workman."

"Studying in HKBTS is to walk on God's path of grace. Here, teachers impart knowledge and teach me about spiritual formation and growth. Along with my fellow students, we keep improving one another through active discussion with and learning from each other. As a result, my understanding of God, of people, of myself and of the world has all been deepened. For all these blessings I offer thanks to God!"

"I must thank God for letting me enter into HKBTS to be theologically trained. To my surprise, what I received far exceeded what I could have imagined. Instruction from teachers, walking with fellow students, and friendship with staff of the seminary have all enabled me to experience an unforgettable three-and-a-half years."

"Looking back over these few years, I thank God for allowing me to have a breakthrough in knowledge and vision. What is particularly precious and I greatly appreciate is to see that despite facing many challenges in life, our teachers faithfully fulfil their teaching responsibilities, being faithful to what God has entrusted to them. They walk what they talk and mold us with their own life examples."

"During my three years of study, in addition to God's grace which I have found everywhere, I have also experienced unlimited encouragement and care from our teachers. I also thank my fellow students for their presence and encouragement, for my family and friends for their support and prayers. Memories and blessings of these three years will long be remembered in my heart and they will become admonition and strength for my future ministry."

Emphases of Theological Education: Edification and Discernment

The direction and emphases of HKBTS's theological education in recent years are as follows:

- **Importance of Both Knowledge and Spirituality:** An emphasis on enabling students to build a solid foundation on the Bible and theological knowledge and on cultivating the character and spiritual life of the whole community.
- **One-on-one Shepherding Care:** To foster a disciple training theological education as each student receives individual care and encouragement from the Chaplain or a teacher.
- **To Learn and Practice in the midst of a Disciple Community:** Teachers and students together form a disciple community by following the example of Christ to learn to be his disciples, practice his teaching and proclaim his truth to the world.
- **Practice Hospitality:** Learn to practice hospitality in God's love by being a loving, unified community, not to forget that the vocational call of a pastor is to lead the church to receive neighbors and strangers and share with them the love of Christ.
- **Life Proclamation:** Train students to be a preacher. Admonish them to put his preaching into practice with the whole of his life. In the future he needs to serve as a shepherd, a herald, and a prophet.
- **The Spirit for Mission:** To advocate and help students to re-examine integral mission and to cultivate a spirit for mission. The seminary community becomes a disciple community dedicated to the goal of local and foreign mission, trusting that the nature of the church is to do Christian mission.
- **Pastoral Care:** To attach importance to the practice of forgiveness, the exercise of an attitude of empathy and a holistic spiritual care. To associate the intimate relationship between pastoral care and praying unceasingly.

In the 2015-16 school year, HKBTS took edification and discernment as the teaching focus. An important implication of "edification" is "building the community of Christ with His love." "Discernment" is a truth-seeking process which seeks the truth that will set people free. In the nurturing of pastors, the seminary not only emphasizes knowledge of the Bible and theology, but also the cultivation of a relationship of love. We hope to cultivate pastors to have theological wisdom who can discern the will of God in this confusing age and who can handle problems that people face with wisdom and a heart of loving care, bringing about a person's transformation by means of the truth of God.

HKBTS and Churches: Practicum and Service

Practicum is an integral part in seminary studies and we thank our churches and Christian organizations for enabling our students to absorb ministry experience. In the past year, students were arranged to have practicum in 97 churches. President Cho and our faculty team have conducted 25 evangelistic or spiritual enrichment meetings, attended 22 important ceremonies, conducted Seminary Sunday in 36 churches and 111 lectures in churches or organizations. Thank God for allowing the seminary to have the opportunity to serve our churches and to deepen the mutual understanding of each other's ministry and needs. Besides, the Full Time Ministry Seminar and the Experiencing Seminary Life Camp were held in October and March respectively for those brothers and sisters dedicated to serving God full time to seek God's will and to know more about the seminary's programs of study.

In addition to conducting different meetings in Hong Kong, President Cho was invited to Nanjing Union Theological Seminary to speak on the topic, "Narrative Ethics," to leaders and pastors from different regions of China's Liang Hui in November and December. In May this year, President Cho was invited to be the speaker at the Worship Service of the 77th AGM of The Baptist Convention of Hong Kong with "Walking with God" as the topic.



Major Events in the 2015-16 School Year 2015

Aug 1 Ms. Josephine Lee joined our faculty team to be the lecturer of church music.

Aug 4-6 Faculty Retreat Camp with “Enjoy Theology” as the theme.

Aug 18-20 Spiritual Formation Camp

All of the seminary’s faculty and students joined the camp before the school term began. The theme was “Re-ordering” as three teachers took turn to lead students to reflect upon the re-ordering of the church, seminary life, and our own ministry while on the second day, there was a life coaching demonstration.



Aug 25 Opening Convocation Ceremony

During the ceremony, President Cho exhorted teachers and students by speaking on the topic, “Edification: Building a Community of Christ’s Love.”

Aug 26 Inaugural Lecture of Professor Nathan Ng

Dr. Nathan Ng has been promoted to Professor of Christian Thought (Church History) in the new school year. The Inaugural Lecture was held on August 26 and the lecture topic was “Reflecting on Contemporary Challenges to Christian Orthodoxy from History.”

Aug 27 All Seminary’s Prayer Meeting



Sep 18 Outing for Teachers and Students

Sep 18 Two Teachers Being Awarded Gold Medallion Book Awards

Professor Nathan Ng has been awarded the Gold Medallion Book Award for the Best Academic Book in the Seventh Gold Medallion Book Awards organized by the Association of Christian Publishers Ltd. in August. The book Dr. Ng has written is *Blurred Demarcation: Rethinking Christian Rules Which Determine Orthodoxy and Heresy*. Dr. Freeman Huen has translated Stanley Hauweas’ *Prayers Plainly Spoken* into Chinese. He has been awarded the Gold Medallion Book Award for the Best Translator of a Non-academic Book in the same event.

Sep 28 – Oct 4 Getting a Feel for the Feast of Tabernacles

The Student Union set up a tabernacle on campus. Through a number of activities, both teachers and students gained an in-depth understanding of the meaning of why God’s elected people observe the feast of tabernacles. Activities included a topical lecture, a morning prayer meeting, and a small group meeting.

Oct 13-15 Baptist Heritage Week

Prof. Curtis Freeman, a renowned Baptist theologian, was the speaker of the Baptist Heritage Week with “Post-apocalyptic Dissent: Powers, Apocalypse, and Resistance” as the overall theme. The 3-day morning lectures were held at HKBTS’s campus while the evening open lectures were held at Immanuel Baptist Church.





Oct 25 Parents' Day

Theme: A Community Sharing Both Joys and Sorrows

Oct 31 Full Time Ministry Seminar

Nov 12 All Seminary Prayer Meeting

Nov 15 Joint Programs Graduation Ceremony

The Joint Programs Graduation Ceremony of the Seminary's Main Program (the 64th class), Lay Theological Education Department (the 16th class), and Distance Education Program (15th class) was held at Elizabeth Stadium. This year there were 68 graduates awarded degrees or diplomas from the same degree program, together with 206 graduates from various diploma and certificate programs.

Nov 19 Hand-over Ceremony of the Student Union

Dec 21 Christmas Worship Service: All the Seminary and Alumni Praising and Celebrating the Lord's Coming

The Seminary and the Alumni Association co-organized the Christmas Worship Service. That day all the Seminary's teachers, students, staff and alumni worshipped God together and remembered the Savior's birth. The attendance of our alumni once again broke the record and we offered our thanks to God for these wonderful times together.



Major Events in the 2015-16 School Year 2016

Jan 11 Spring Term Began

President Cho exhorted teachers and students by speaking on the topic, "Edification: How to Discern It."

Jan 12 Spiritual Formation Day

Theme: Discernment

Jan 14 All Seminary Prayer Meeting

Feb 29 Alumni Association's Day Retreat

The theme for the Day Retreat was "Empowerment for Pastoral Workers" with Rev. Maak Hay-chun sharing topical messages.

Mar 2-3 Experiencing Seminary Life Camp

Mar 15-17 Mission Week

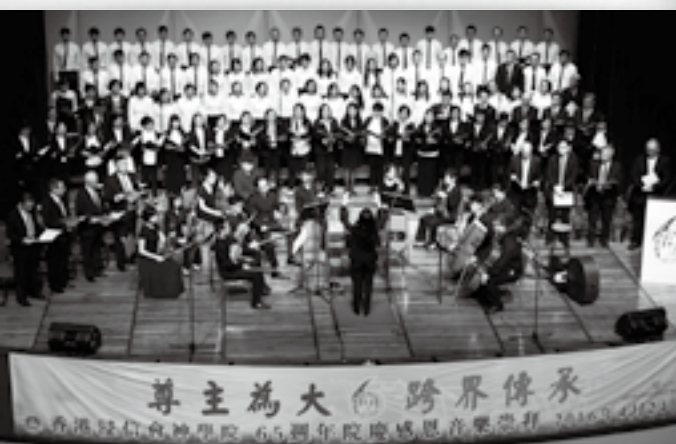
For three days in a row, the Mission Week was held at the morning chapel on the theme of “Christianity in China: 1954 to 2016.” The speaker was Dr. Philip Wickeri, Professor of Church History of HKSKH Ming Hua Theological College.



Mar 24 All Seminary Prayer Meeting

Apr 24 65th Anniversary Thanksgiving Concert and Worship Service

The 65th Anniversary Thanksgiving Concert and Worship Service was held at the Academic Community Hall of the Hong Kong Baptist University. The theme was “Magnifying the Lord the Almighty · Inheriting the Baptist Heritage across Boundaries.” President Joshua Cho gave a sermon message and there was the singing of *Magnificat* by the seminary choir, the alumni choir and some guest singers with music accompaniment by Con Arco Hong Kong. The conductors were Ms. Josephine Lee and alumna Choi Yin-ping.



May 5 Commissioning Ceremony of the Graduating Students



May 7 The President Council's Exchange Meeting

With more new members joining, the President's Council becomes even stronger. We thank them for their valuable ideas and well-informed suggestions relating to the development of the seminary backed up by their professional expertise and experience in different areas.

May 26 Awards Presentation Ceremony and the Inauguration of the Board of Directors Ceremony



June 3-10 Visits to Northern Thailand

Through the summer mission experience, our students were able to know ECHO's ministry in Chiang Mai, Thailand as they paid visits to churches and the schools, villages, and farmers supported by the Upland Holistic Development Project. Through the visit and exchange with local gospel partners, our students gained an in-depth understanding of the meaning of “integral mission.”



2 Lay Theological Education Department

In the 2015-16 school year, LTED has continued to provide 9 programs of study. Besides training in the Bible, theology, and ministerial skills in these programs, we also offered new subjects in accordance with the expertise of our lecturers and the needs of individual ministries. Last year, we offered “Learning and Growth through Games for Infants and Children,” “Children’s Spiritual Cultivation and the Psychology of Growth,” “Emotional Intelligence and Mental Health,” “Doing Mission in the Workplace,” “Relational Evangelism,” “Interpersonal Relationship and the Art of Communication,” “Personal Growth and Leading a Life of Joy.” Our students enjoyed learning these subjects and their lives have been enriched. They find what they have learned applicable to their personal lives and that they can bless the communities they serve as a result.

a two-year higher certificate program to allow students to complete the program half a year earlier. As such, they can plan ahead according to their own needs and make arrangements for further studies in other areas after graduation. Moreover, the subject names in the Elderly Ministry Program have been used for many years. In view of this, on the condition that the program content remains unaffected, we have updated the course titles with more attractive sounding names. For example, “Caring for the Elderly, You, Me, She and He (God),” “Developing Your Interests in Ageing through Creative Activities.” We now also provide a one-year basic certificate program in the Elderly Ministry Program in addition to the original two-year intermediate certificate program so as to attract more people to take the one-year program in their preparation for serving the elderly.

In addition to providing individual programs, we also often organize various seminars. In the past school year, we organized 6 topical seminars and three of them were open to our churches. Through sharing from pastors and professionals in these seminars, the horizon and vision of brothers and sisters could be broadened and their understanding of various ministries deepened. The attendants would also get to know the diversity of our LTED programs.

In the 2015-16 school year, there were a total of 176 students who graduated with an average of 417 students participating in our programs every quarter and the total number of people attending our programs and seminars was 1,459. These numbers signify one individual after another who takes his faith seriously and who seeks to grow and be renewed. Our students are willing to spare the time and effort—and to exert themselves to learn and to serve. Pray that God will continue to lead each one of them and pleasingly accept their faithful service.



We continue to renew and optimize the content of our non-degree programs. Meanwhile we are also reviewing the school system as a whole in an effort to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters so that they can choose what subjects to take in a flexible manner. In the past school year, some system modifications have been made in individual programs. For example, after streamlining the program content of the Youth Ministry Program, we shortened the original two-and-a-half-year diploma program to

Selected Reflections from Graduates

“In taking the Counselling Program, not only did I study and learn, it also helped me untie the knot in my heart and overcome my bereavement. In the process, I experienced God’s leading everywhere. I thank and praise God!”

“In the classroom, I sometimes participated, sometimes joined the discussion, sometimes asked questions, sometimes talked fervently, sometimes remained quiet, sometimes felt at a loss. But no matter what happened, there was Jesus who exhorted me tenderly, renewing my life.”

“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 lecturer and his patient and systematic teaching, I benefited a lot.”

“Thank God that the program helped put colors into my life! My personal growth, ministry, spirituality and life as a whole have been edified.”

“During my 7-year part-time, evening study, I have experienced falling in love, getting married and being a new parent. There was tension between time and personal efforts. The process was filled with difficulties and bitterness. Through thick and thin, I carried on, knowing that as I concentrate on the pursuit of understanding more about my Christian faith, I had to spend time. Now that I have finally graduated, I will not cease to learn but rather seriously respond in line with principles in faith to all kinds of problems that arise in my daily life.”

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 2015-16

Master of Christian Studies Program	1
Bachelor, Diploma, and Certificate of Christian Studies Program	27
Non-degree Diploma and Certificate Programs	148
Total	176

Thanksgiving Prayer

Although under all kinds of pressures in life, many Christians insist on further studies for the sake of their faith and ministry needs. For them we give thanks to God. 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, Distance Education Program offers 8 programs which include 6 correspondence programs and 2 online programs. Students can take these programs without any time or space constraints. The present number of students registered for study every quarter is on average 340. Students are from all over Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas which include Macau, Malaysia, Japan, Britain, United States of America, Canada, Australia, Ireland, East Africa, West Africa and Israel.

Presently, we have 28 tutors giving guidance to students who take the diploma and certificate programs. This fall term, one of HKBTS's alumni will join the tutor team to help out in the Higher Diploma in Christian Studies Program. The subject he teaches is missiology. We are thankful to God for preparing a group of competent tutors who have a heart for instructing students. Besides engaging in their own heavy pastoral ministry, they are still willing to mark students' assignments and provide support for their studies.

Apart from training lay Christians, we have also launched the "Mainland Ministry" and "Special Training Ministry" as we care for communities with their different needs and do our best to provide them with opportunities for theological studies. At present, the service targets of our "Special Training Ministry" are Christians who are visually impaired and hearing impaired, as well as those coming to Christ in correctional institutions. This January, the tutorial session for the last two subjects of the fourth class of the Certificate in New Testament Studies Program of the Spiritual Light Project, jointly organized by DEP and Christian Ministry to Visually Impaired Persons was held at the latter's center. After the session, there was a time for tea and refreshments in which the tutor could listen to students' sharing about their bitter and sweet experiences in taking the program. Meanwhile,

they are also able to encourage one another during this informal time. Students hope to successfully graduate this November and then go on to take the Certificate in Old Testament Studies Program.

Since 1999, in cooperation with The Hong Kong Christian Kun Sun Association Limited., the Onesimus Project has been offered to lay Christians in correctional institutions to take theological studies. This project has been running for 17 years. There are more than 50 Onesimus students taking certificate and diploma programs and the accumulative number of graduates has reached 90. In March this year, in further developing the Special Training Ministry, we have collaborated with Beauty of Grace Foundation Limited to set up the Philemon Training Project to embrace training the marginalized and the disadvantaged. We are now enrolling new students.

Moreover, to broaden students' horizon, DEP organizes two open topical seminars each year. The topics of the two seminars in the past year were "Jewish and Christian Views on the Doctrine of Election" and "An Educational Program Beginning and Ending with Fearing Yahweh" with Dr. Wong Fook-kong and Dr. Tony Sher as the speakers respectively. These open seminars are organized for lay Christians from our churches as well, and the response of the attendees has often been enthusiastic. We are thankful to God for making good use of these seminars.

In addition, the Theological Education for Filipino Leaders Program, which was inaugurated in 2003, has a total number of student registration of 2,894 in these thirteen years. Courses are taught four quarters a year, and all classes take place on Sunday afternoons. Class enrollment has an average of 55. Presently, three graduates go on to take the full time ministerial training program at Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Correspondence Program

Diploma in Biblical Studies Program

Diploma in Christian Studies Program

Higher Diploma in Biblical Studies Program

Higher Diploma in Christian Studies Program

Certificate Program in New Testament Studies

Certificate Program in Old Testament Studies

Online Program

Certificate Program in New Testament Studies

Certificate Program in Old Testament Studies

The Special Training Ministry

Onesimus Project

Spiritual Light Project

Heavenly Voice Training Project

Philemon Training Project

Others

The Theological Education for Filipino Leaders

Thanksgiving Prayer

Thank God for leading DEP to develop its ministry and to be able to cooperate with various Christian organizations to jointly train lay Christians. We pray that God will continue to use DEP, which offers a breakthrough in traditional patterns of learning so that more lay Christians can receive theological training without being subject to time, physical and regional constraints.

Sharing from a Graduate

“As this program of study increases my knowledge of the Christian faith and deepens my insight of Christ’s salvation, I am greatly thankful for God’s deliverance. But on the other hand, the more I learn about the Bible, the more unenlightened I find myself to be. ... Therefore, the greatest admonition I gain out of the course is “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” Even if there is a lot in the Bible that I do not understand, I am convinced that Christ is my only Savior. Trust and obey as well as putting God’s teaching into practice in everyday life is the ultimate purpose of my studying the Bible.”



4 The Applied Theological Education Center

The Seminary's Applied Theological Education Center is located at Bute Street in Mongkok and occupies the 7th to 9th floors of the Christian Building. It accommodates the following two centers:

The Pastoral Continued Education Center

Courses are held every Monday on the 8th floor. Last September, owing to construction piling nearby, the noise produced caused much nuisance to teachers and students. Contingency measures had to be taken by moving classes

to the Dance Room on the 9th floor and classrooms in the 7th floor. Thanks be to God for helping us solve the problem through our effective utilization of classrooms. Things have returned to normal by early November.

In 2015-16 school year, we offered for pastors the following four series with a total of 24 courses:

The Hermeneutic and Preaching Series: In response to hermeneutics, evangelistic preaching, current political and social situations, we offered: "Good Kings? Bad Kings? – Solomon in

the Eyes of the Author of the Books of Kings," "Theological Discourse That Is Out of Touch with Reality and Public Faith That Is Down to Earth," "A Brief Discussion of *Sibylline Oracles – Chapter Five*," "Communicators of Good News – Proclaiming the Good News as a Whole Person," and "Old Testament Prophets and Politics."

Leadership Series: To help pastors integrate their conviction of faith, personality, ministry and team work, we offered: "How a Pastor with 'Integrity' Is Forged?" "Understanding MBTI (Myers-Briggs Types Indicators)," "Conflict Resolution," and "Leadership Practice."

The Pastoral Care Series: Senior lecturers shared their experience



in shepherding, counselling and clinical pathology. They discussed and reflected on various issues together with students. These courses included “Children’s Ministry: Keeping up with the Times,” “No Problem in Shepherding Young People,” “Pastoral Care for Divorced Brothers or Sisters,” “Application of Positive Psychology to Pastoral Care,” “Walking with the Dying and Bereaved,” “Understanding the Integration of Trauma Healing and the Christian Faith,” and “Dancing with Emotion and Stress.” Amongst these courses, there is a strong demand for courses on children’s ministry, youth ministry and bereavement counselling, as can be seen by the large number of students enrolling for these types of classes.

The Individual Equipping Series: In the

class lesson on “Meditation on the Passover Feast,” the lecturer demonstrated the program arrangement of a Passover meeting through a scene already set up. After the course “A ‘General Education of Mainland China’ for Pastors,” students organized a tour group on their own to visit the Mainland and Macau to put into practice what they have learned. Besides, three HKBTS’s teachers were invited to speak on Christian ethics from different dimensions and they helped students reflect on a few current issues. Furthermore, “A More Beautiful Worship Service,” “How Christians Should Look at Yoga and Zen Meditation,” and “Contemporary Apologetics” were offered with a view to enabling pastors to better equip themselves for challenges in ministry.

Courses offered in 2015-16

Category	No. of Courses(hr)	Student Registration (8/2015-7/2016)	
Hermeneutic and Preaching	6 (30)	116	(20.8%)
Leadership	4 (24)	89	(15.9%)
Shepherding	7 (57)	222	(39.7%)
Equipping	7 (45)	132	(23.6%)
Total	24 (156)	559	(100 %)

Thanksgiving Prayer

We thank God for the support and encouragement from pastors. We feel encouraged and touched to see pastors undertaking further studies with a heart for enhancing God’s ministry, particularly on Mondays, which is their holiday, and then to hear them enthusiastically inquiring about the date of the next course. We pray that God will enable the lives of His servants to get the help and encouragement needed so that they can re-enter the ministry field once again with renewed vigor and strength.

Edna Wong Christian Worship and Arts Education Center

Today's Hong Kong Society is following a trend that is effect-oriented or task-oriented by being utilitarian or emphasizing taking the fastest way in the shortest period of time. Some of our churches seem unavoidably to follow such a trend too. This is the challenge that Edna Wong Christian Worship and Arts Education Center is now facing. Nevertheless, arts should develop gradually over time through accumulative craftsmanship. Therefore, what we have been working hard at is to grasp and find the right timing and the right target people to receive training.

In the past year, we specially invited Ms. Lee Wing-yin who specializes in children's music education to join our teacher team, to be

responsible for designing and teaching subjects dedicated to training leaders and tutors of children music ministry in the church. In general, parents pay more and more attention to their children's pre-school and early childhood learning. In response to this phenomenon, by using the most recently compiled and published teaching materials we train our students to be leaders and tutors of children's music activities. In this way, they can contribute their talent and inject new elements into the activities to help the growth of children at their developmental stage. For two quarters we have offered the Children Singspiration Tutor Training, which is a study program combining those educational elements such as understanding the Bible,

character cultivation, and communal life experience through music and arts activities. Participants found the lesson atmosphere lively, the teaching materials usable, the expression of teaching multifaceted. On the whole, the program is practical and feasible. As a result, the center will launch advanced programs in turn in the future.

On the other hand, as a continuation of contributing our part in the church music ministry of the tertiary institutions, our center co-hosted the Tenth Church Music Camp for local Undergraduate Students. The camp was organized by Chinese YMCA of



Hong Kong and planned by MusiCall. Not only is the camp an important milestone of the church music ministry of the tertiary institutions, it also symbolizes the history of these more than ten years in which ten tertiary institutions set up the Christian choirs and bands one after another. Up until today, it has developed into a scale of serving more than 500 young undergraduates from different churches annually. In their golden age, these young Christians explore the meaning of church music from theological, biblical and devotional angles. They learn the idea and experience the process of putting the idea into practice. In the sharing meeting on the last day of the camp, many students gave an account of how they were filled with God's grace in the hearts and have resolved to continue to learn and serve God in the future. They hope that after completing their university education, they will take a step further to be the future successors of their church leaders.

Overall, the teaching and learning of the pre-school and pre-job stages will continue to be a focus of our program development. Besides, the widely popular courses on singing, and choral singing remain the subjects with the highest enrollment in the past year. Together with individual lessons on keyboard music, throughout the year the number of student registration was around 1,000. This figure is a slight drop from figures in recent years. As such, we consider offering new subjects, such as "A Hymnology Study", "The Development of Hymns in China," "Floral Art Practice at Church" and "Hymn Singing in Accordance with the Liturgical Year." We have also considered inviting music groups from the universities to come to class for educational demonstrations. Moreover, the educational content of our most sought-after singing and music courses will also be renewed. May the Lord's grace lead and guide our way ahead.

Thanksgiving Prayer

We thank the Lord for granting humankind with the faculty of art and are pleased to see human's artistic activities reveal the attribute of our creative Lord and testify that our Lord is the origin and ultimate destiny of truth, goodness, and beauty.

Pray that the Lord will teach humankind how to grasp the learning opportunity and master the method of spiritual formation.

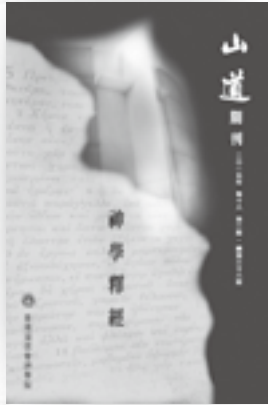
Publication

Faculty Writing

Theology of the Pentateuch, the second volume in the Biblical Theology Series, written by Dr. Wong Fook-Kong (Professor of Old Testament), was published in February 2016.



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



The theme of issue 36 is "Theological Interpretation."



The theme of issue 37 is "Witness of the People of God."

Chinese / English Newsletter (published quarterly)



Library Resources

The size of the total collection of our Rankin Memorial Library had reached 152,747 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 to July this year, the number of books checked out was 19,705.



2015-16 Snapshot of Student Life

Testimonies of God's calling from new students in the morning chapel: Blessing and encouragement from the seminary community after a student's sharing.



The Feast of Tabernacles: Understanding the meaning of observing the Festival of Tabernacles.



Seminary Choir: Singing Practice



Morning chapel: A thanksgiving sharing from the graduating class

HKBTS needs intercession and donation support from our churches and brothers and sisters.

Training tomorrow's pastors is the prompting and responsibility of you and me. Please keep remembering the needs of the seminary and our students and to play your part in our educational fund.



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