



# 香港浸信會神學院

## Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary



Today's Students, Tomorrow's Pastors.  
Today's Seminary, Tomorrow's Churches.

# Newsletter

## November 2008



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## Word from the Acting President

# A Seminary of Prayer: We Put Prayer into Practice

*Joshua Cho*

### **A New Beginning**

Many a time man lives in sin, separated from God and unable to experience God's presence. From our reading of scriptures or from what we experience in our daily lives, we know that men and women continually sin against God. From the beginning of Genesis, we see human seeking to become gods instead of listening to the one true God.

The situation has become more obvious today. Modern society is flooded with falsehood, drowning our senses and dampening our ability to tell right from wrong. For as long as we can remember, we have been misled by lies such as "man is born innocent," and "man is rational." We are asked to believe that men and women are born with a preference for peace, and that they can be self-contained, not needing to depend on others or trust in God. We are told that if we want to be happy, we must satisfy all our desires. If nations want to create peace and prosperity, they need to use power, especially military might. Believing all these claims, men and women like to put everything under their control, but it is a pity that they become entangled with this and that kind of sin, unable to become aware of God's presence in the world he has created. As a result, men and women become separated from God and feel that God has abandoned them.

However, God is offering us his love. He has sent Jesus Christ to save the world, proclaiming the gospel of repentance, leading people back to the right track. Jesus Christ proclaims, "The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:15) What God's proclamation and judgment bring is not destruction but a new life and transformation. Each person needs faith to experience this new beginning. We need faith to experience a new beginning.

### **The Grace of Judgment**

If we have eyes of faith, we can see that

God's judgment brings new beginnings and that God's righteousness and mercy stir up a heart to repent. God's judgment requires that we repent from treacherous violence. This is like a man who has been afflicted with some malignant disease and the whole body is covered with horrible tumors that need to be removed one by one. The removal of these tumors is bound to bring about pain, but this process leads to a new life.

Considered from this angle, repentance is the determination to forsake the world with its deceit and lies: acknowledge the self-righteous lies and mistakes of the past; dispense with bad habits, overcome desires and forsake idols. Repentance is the determination to face the true light and experience God's redemption. It may be likened to one who gets lost in a forest at night and becomes scared. Suddenly, a rain storm breaks the silence. The fool just stares at the lightning, making him to be even more scared; the wise man would use the brightness of the lightning to find a way to escape from the forest.

A wise person knows that as long as God's grace remains, nothing is impossible. When a wise man or woman feels trapped by the temptations of the world and its false customs does not know where to go, he or she will kneel down and pray, calling out to God: "Lord, help me! ... Yes, Lord, but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." (Matthew 15:25-27) This is the approach that a person must take: He or she has persistently and constantly to ask God for help.

This is why, if we want to live in God's grace, we need to face the true light, reflect on our lives and repent wholeheartedly, asking the Lord to show mercy and help. When we begin to experience sin's control and have experienced the despair resulting from guilt and hatred, we need to confess and repent together, accepting the grace and forgiveness of God's judgment. Whenever we are willing to confess our sin, sin at once loses its grip on us.

No matter what the nature of sins we have committed and no matter in what situation we find ourselves, God's arms are still stretching out to embrace us. In the shining light of Christ's presence,

God's judgment is an invitation beckoning man to experience true happiness and to know freedom through repentance.

### **The Gift of Prayer**

To set out on the road of happiness, to accept God's invitation and to inherit the grace of freedom, we respond to God in prayers. Jesus prays in response to the Father, calling his disciples to pray. We must always pray to God.

A pilgrim once asked Abba Agathon, "Which of the virtues calls for the most human effort?" Agathon replied, "Prayer." He has pointed out to us that prayer is the prime virtue over all. Virtue is a totality of sight, senses, thought, action and existence, while prayer is a kind of virtue, allowing man to open himself to God's grace. The practice of prayer is to be present in God's grace as a means of growing in God's love. Therefore, in life where a person is bound to meet with many levels of difficulties, he needs to pray unceasingly. The practice of prayer is a man's long-term effort and battle until the day when he returns to his heavenly home; Satan also knows most profoundly that as long as he successfully impedes a man or a woman from praying, this person cannot advance.

However, the virtue of prayer cannot be achieved by man's efforts. Prayer is a gift of God's grace. When someone prays, God is present with him. This is God's grace, not the result of any human effort. In contrast to the length, height, breadth and depth of God's grace, man's effort becomes insignificant. All the good deeds a person does (such as faith, love and prayer) are God's gifts. All that man can do in response to God's love is faith; salvation is made possible through faith.

Our response to God in faith and God's grace are closely intertwined. Man's response and God's grace alternate in the sphere of prayer. Prayer and life must be like the body and its shadow, being always together, harmonious and of one accord. Otherwise, man's own effort without God's help is futile, and as our daily living will swallow us up so that we cannot draw closer to God.

The words of the apostle Paul reveal his understanding of how our prayers open us to experience God's grace. He says in Romans 8:26-27: "The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. The God who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will." Paul's meaning is that not only does the Spirit help us when we do not know how to pray, but when we pray, he also gives us the words to pray for our needs. When we are praying to experience God and to believe in him, God will be present in our midst. Real prayer takes place when a person looks for God; prayer becomes the means by which we respond to God's grace. If we look for God, he will manifest himself to us; if we embrace God, he will stay with us.

### **A Seminary of Prayer**

We have had such an experience: we lost our way in a dark forest, feeling scared. But then, there is a sudden rain storm breaking the silence. In the brightness of lightning, we see a way before us.

During the past two to three weeks, illuminated by the light of Jesus Christ's presence, we have been called to repent, to fly to freedom, and to set out on a fresh new direction. I joyfully behold and gaze on our Seminary's new road stretching out before us. I see teachers, students and staff drawing together looking for God and asking God to manifest himself to us as we all embrace God, asking him to stay with us.

• **Spiritual Formation Camp (Aug 20-21)** The theme for this year's camp was "Listen ...," the purpose was to allow each of us to learn to be waiting silently and listening in God's presence just before the school term begins. In our hymn-singing sessions, teachers and students took the initiative to come close to God, resting on his bosom and listening attentively to his voice. In the prayer session, students prayed freely and honestly for the Seminary and for all members of the Seminary community in times of trouble. Our students knelt and prayed to God: "Our Lord God, help us, have mercy on us!"

• **The Seminary-wide Prayer Meeting (Aug 28)** What is special about this semester is that we have advanced the Seminary-wide Prayer Meeting to the beginning of the school year. We deliberately designated the third chapel for everyone at the Seminary to devote ourselves to pray to God, making our Seminary a place of renewal and prayer. This reflects our desire to make the inner life of the Seminary our first concern as we set out in a new direction with a new vision and purpose: We bow before God knowing he is our only reliable guide.

Before the prayer meeting, we called together all the staff so that we could share with them our dreams and plans for the Seminary's future development, urging them to join us as we go forth with God beside us no matter how strong the winds or how high the waves. This is what we all can see: HKBTS is like a ship and we are all on board and are in need of a heart of unity as we cleave together breaking the waves to advance. In face of all kinds of difficulties, we are just like the Canaanite woman, kneeling before Jesus and asking in humility, "Lord, help me! ... Yes, Lord, but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

• **Morning Prayer Meeting (beginning Sep 3, 8:00-8:30 am every Wed and Fri)** The first Morning Prayer Meeting of the school year was led by Dr. Desmond Choi, who made the adjustment of new students his major concern. The second meeting was led by M.Div. 2 students who prayed for the spiritual atmosphere of the Seminary. The third meeting was led by Dr. Wong Fook-kong, with the purpose of praying for the M.Div. 3 students.

What made me especially feel touched was, on the afternoon of the first Morning Prayer Meeting, new students from M.Div. 1 took the initiative to show concern about the many levels of difficulties the Seminary faced recently and about its urgent needs. We talked for an hour and a half, sharing the challenges and praying to God for the future of the Seminary.

• **The Seminary Silent Prayer and Fasting Meeting (beginning Sep 4, 12:30-2:00 pm every Wed)** The theme for the first meeting was "Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus, Confession and Prayer." The content included a PowerPoint presentation, hymn-singing, silence and meditative prayer. Beginning with PowerPoint in the first half hour, individual participants were to be silent and did meditative prayer, then students led the following hour of hymn-singing and Bible reading. There were over 70 people from the faculty, students and staff joining the

meeting, seeking God's illumination and examining their hearts in God's presence, and confessing their sins before God and praying earnestly for God's guidance. The theme of the second meeting was "God's holiness" with over 80 faculty, students and staff present.

Sitting in their midst, I could see: We revered the true light, made sincere confession and received enlightenment so that we could ask God for help and mercy. Together we confessed before God, repented for our sins and received God's grace in judgment and God's forgiveness. We were willing to confess our sin so that sin would completely lose its grip on us.

• **New Students' Sharing at Morning Chapel (beginning Sep 11)** This school year we have invited new students to give a testimony of how God has called them to full time ministry. Through their stories, we hope to see the work and grace of God through our different life paths and so give glory to God. Three students from M.Div. 1 program shared their testimonies and recounted how God led their families to change, accepting their decision to study in the Seminary. After that, Dr. Desmond Choi led us to pray, asking God to mold them to be God's crack troop and faithful, righteous servants. We truly desire to know the will of the Holy Spirit who "intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will" (Romans 8:27).

### **My Prayer**

In these few years I am increasingly led to pray. God teaches me how to pray; my fellow co-workers teach me how to pray as a community. I think about prayer; I study and write about prayer; I put prayer into practice. We as a seminary community pray together. I increasingly understand: Despite difficulties, each one being bigger than the other, we must continue to pray; if we stop praying, it will be hard for us to advance. I increasingly understand: God grants our beloved Seminary grace so that it can be a seminary of prayer. I dream and see that our Seminary is not only a seminary emphasizing academic competence of the faculty and students but also on a community committed to prayer. My hope and fervent prayer is that: Our prayer life and our daily life will become like the body and its shadow, being always together, harmonious and of one accord. In prayer we look for God, embrace him and invite him to stay with us. Our seminary is not only a seminary of prayer, but also a hymn-singing seminary as we keep on singing out the wonderful work that God has done in our midst.



## Explore the New World

### The Seminary-wide Prayer Meeting: Commence the New School Year and Explore the New World with Prayer

For the first time, the Seminary-wide Prayer Meeting was advanced to be held on the third chapel in the new school year. This is because we hope that all the faculty, students and staff will begin the new school year with prayer, asking the Lord to use us, a group of weak and lowly people, to explore how the new world built on this piece of land can continue to glorify him.

In the meeting, we heard four scriptural passages: Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 44; Ephesians 2:13-18; Mark 4:35-41. Then, we all prayed earnestly for the Seminary after each scriptural reading. In the final prayer session, we spread out, holding hands and encircling the chapel to form the shape of a ship. Hearing the prayer of Acting President, Dr. Joshua Cho, we echoed in our hearts that the Lord would instruct and lead the whole seminary community and grant us the strength to sail forth, breaking the waves.

Before the prayer meeting, our Acting President, Dr. Joshua Cho, met with all the staff to encourage everyone to do our best in our own posts even when we face difficulties. We must continue to trust in God and to walk with the Seminary as it actively repairs the damage on the one hand and keeps advancing on the other hand.



The chaplain, Rev. Brian Lam, led the meeting as all the faculty, students and staff prayed for our proper position in God's plan. They also asked God to lead us to meet with all the challenges and changes, and asked God to prepare a new president after God's heart.

The campus design of HKBTS is modeled after the outside of a ship. To us, HKBTS is a ship sailing forth. In the meeting, the Acting President led us to pray to the one who has always been with us during the storm and the waves so that we do not forget his orders and promises and that he would continue to lead us as we sail forth.





“How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?” (Exodus 33:16)

“Our hearts had not turned back; our feet had not strayed from your path. ... Awake, O Lord! Why do you sleep? Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever.” (Psalm 44:18, 23)

“For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.” (Ephesians 2:14)

“Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, ‘Quiet! Be still!’ Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, ‘Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?’” (Mark 4:39-40)

“O Lord, forgive our little faith, forgive our disbelief, forgive our rebelliousness, forgive us that we forget about you. Lord, we sing praise to you for you are our Lord, our captain, leading us to continue to sail forward!”

“At the beginning of the school year, you teach us to pray always. We pray that you help us and have mercy on us, helping us to destroy the dividing wall. You are the king, and we bow before you, help us once again see how real it is to trust in Jesus so that we see how he calms the wind and the storm.

Our Lord of power, we love you and follow you forever.”

—quoting from the final prayer session



# Voices of Our Graduates

(Ministerial Preparation Program)



## The Seminary's Fifty-seventh Graduates

Teachers, students and staff of alma mater offer our sincere wishes:

Wish that on today's or tomorrow's road of ministry,  
you and I do not seek vanity of the world but the glory of God;  
Wish that facing today's and tomorrow's hardship and challenges;  
you and I do not ask for a life without darkness but ask God  
to let our lives burn with flames shining brightly;  
Wish that in today's and tomorrow's vast field of ministry,  
you and I seek not to segregate ourselves by setting boundaries  
but rather lean against one another, shoulder to shoulder,  
we are in unison — not to look back with our hands to the plow.

Three years of study is full of grace. This three-year period is only the doorway stage in my life. At the moment when the program comes to an end, all the burden of study can be laid aside; yet on my back, there is still my special cross which has helped me shoulder all the burden and workload throughout these three years. On this cross is carved a scripture verse which has prompted me to step onto the road of consecration: "And all humankind will see God's salvation." (Luke 3:6) May the Lord Jesus guard my heart so that I can take up his call and continue learning to serve God and man.

**Fong Wai-hung** (M.Div.)

Thank God that he has given me grace to complete my study in HKBTS. I wholeheartedly thank and esteem my teachers. I also thank my wife who has always accompanied me as I minister in the name of the Lord. Both my seminary and my family have been overwhelmed with God's love.

**Sou Ka-fai** (Th.M.)

"Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? . . . Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'" (James 4:14-15) I hope that I can respond to all of God's grace in the same way.

**Cheung Chi-yee** (M.Div.)



In HKBTS, I have witnessed the Heavenly Father molding his servants through the lives of teachers and fellow students. Similarly, he keeps molding his seminary through the lives of each individual student and teacher. Thanks for the instruction of all my teachers: Your lives are the best teaching material that God has given us.

**Ko King-hung** (M.Div.)

Thanks for the grace of God's call.  
Thanks for the instruction of my teachers.  
Thanks for the generous acceptance of my fellow students.  
For what has happened to the seminary lately, I sigh with regret.  
Hope that these three years of experience can be converted into a dynamic ministry in my church.  
Witness my Christ's profound love,  
glorifying his holy name.

**Cheung Ma-shan** (M.Div.)

Thank God for his presence,  
help and support, and for offering me strength,  
enabling me to complete my studies. Thank God  
for the arrangement of ministers and soulmates  
to stand by me, encouraging me to persevere  
whenever I have wanted to quit. Thanks for my mother  
church for so much support and affirmation along  
the way. Looking back at the path I have taken, I  
must say it has all been God's grace.

**Ho Siu-fan** (M.Div.)

"The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold,  
but the Lord tests the heart." (Proverbs 17:3)  
I thank God for sculpting my life.  
I thank my teachers for shaping my life through their lives.  
I thank my co-walkers: My wife, my daughter, my pastors and  
ministers and all my Christian brothers and sisters.  
"Whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."  
(Romans 14:8b)

**Kwok Wai-kit** (M.Div.)

These three years of  
seminary training have enabled me  
not only to acquire knowledge, but has also  
helped me look upon God in faith.  
I truly thank my family, all my teachers, my  
mother church and my practicum church for their  
support, encouragement and supplication.  
Your love has enabled me to be greatly  
encouraged. I am earnestly grateful for you all.

**Lee Tak-yin** (M.Div.)

Thanks for the instruction and care  
from the President and all the teachers and staff.  
Thanks for the nurture and support from my mother church.  
Thanks to my parents and family members who have shown  
me every concern and met my every need.  
I thank my wife for her unconditional love and sacrifice.  
Thanks for the silent supplication and accompaniment of prayer-partners  
and co-walkers.  
Finally, I must thank the Lord who has called me to serve him.  
I earnestly pray that I can be faithful in whatever he entrusts  
me and that I can remain faithful to him until my death!

**Chan Wing-yip** (M.Div.)

Three years ago, when I first came  
to study in HKBTS, I was trembling and anxious yet  
thankful and full of expectation. Now, as I graduate,  
I realize that these same feelings have increased  
throughout my three years of training and have intensified  
as I have changed my identity from student to minister. I must  
thank God for his gracious love, my call and the opportunity he  
now offers me; I also must thank all my teachers for their  
wholehearted teaching, concern and encouragement.

**Chiu Sin-yung** (M.Div.)

"He has showed you, O man, what  
is good. And what does the Lord require of  
you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk  
humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)  
My hope is that my Father God will bless me. May  
your word be fulfilled in me and help me to be a workman  
who does not need to be ashamed. Amen.

**Hu Mei-wah** (M.Div.)

"Above all else, guard  
your heart, for it is the wellspring of life."  
(Proverbs 4:23)  
"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they  
will see God." (Matthew 5:8)  
Pray that God blesses us with wisdom to  
guard our hearts and to see him with a  
pure heart, and to be workmen who do  
not need to be ashamed.

**Ma Siu-mei** (M.Div.)



God's grace is  
immense. Thank God for  
blessing during my seminary study:  
Amidst the depth and breadth of my  
study, he taught me that he is the only true God.  
Amidst the hectic busyness of my  
ministry, he let me realize that he is my loving pastor.  
Amidst all the difficulties and dangers of life, he let me  
realize that he is my Counselor.  
In my life, he has let me realize that he is  
my Lord and my sculptor.  
Just because I have come to know him, my life  
has become more abundant.

**Poon Kam-ha** (M.Div.)

I truly thank God for  
enabling Seminary teachers, staff  
and students to become the nutrients of my life. These  
three years of seminary training have been an important  
adventure in which God has shattered, refined and  
expanded my life. He has shattered my pride so that I  
have learned to trust him; he has refined me and rid my life  
of many impurities so that I can learn to be a more holy and noble  
instrument; he has expanded my spiritual horizon so that I  
come to learn to be a minister with vision by viewing  
things from different levels. Finally, I hope and pray that  
HKBTS can affirm its mission of cultivating workmen for  
God's kingdom.

**Sae Kang-chaiya, Jesse** (M.Div.)

"Be shepherds  
of God's flock that  
is under your care, serving as  
overseers — not because you must  
but because you are willing, as God  
wants you to be; not greedy for money,  
but eager to serve; not lording it over those  
entrusted to you, but being examples to the  
flock. And when the Chief Shepherd  
appears, you will receive the crown  
of glory that will never fade away."  
(1 Peter 5:2-4)

**Wong Wai-tak** (M.Div.)

"Brothers, I do not  
consider myself yet to have  
taken hold of it. But one thing  
I do: Forgetting what is behind and  
straining toward what is ahead."

(Philippians 3:13)

**Yim You-tsz** (M.Div.)

I thank God for enabling me  
to have "co-walkers" in the Seminary!  
Our teachers have shown every concern to instruct us,  
sharing what they have learned and experienced, making us  
aware of our inadequacy and challenging us to try hard to  
continue learning as long as we live.  
The servant spirit as revealed by our teachers and students has  
humbled us and has encouraged me to be an unashamed workman.  
Thank God that each life on the Seminary campus makes  
me determine to spend my whole life bearing witness to  
God's grace!

**Wong Chor-yung** (M.Div.)

Three years have  
passed by. Without my  
knowing why, this poem has  
popped into my mind: "It was this day  
last year right at the front door of this house, I saw  
your face which was as red as the cherry blossom  
surrounding us. But now you have gone afar while  
the cherry flowers remain blossoming as before in  
the spring wind." Besides, even while the "faces"  
in the Seminary change every year, I too have gone  
through constant changes. As we grow older, physical  
changes are inevitable on the outside, however; the changes  
on the inside have astonished me. I am deeply aware that it is  
the hand of God which has sculpted me — this unworthy clay  
instrument — through the instruction of the teachers in  
the classroom and their life testimonies outside, and it  
has also patiently molded my spiritual life. Although  
today I have not learned the lesson well, the lives  
of my teachers have left a deep imprint on my  
heart and that has become a great reminder and  
encouragement to me. Thank you, my teachers!

Thank you, my Lord God!

**Wong Mui-ling** (M.Div.)

Thank God for his grace which  
has given me strength to complete my  
four years of study. Although the process  
is tough, suffering produces perseverance,  
character and hope. May my life become an  
instrument fit to fulfill God's purpose. May  
I always give the glory to God!

**Yuen Wai-yi** (M.Div.)

I thank God for his grace to complete my study. I thank my wife, Sze-wan, for her patience and support in the past six years. Throughout these six years, I have come across many good teachers and students who have helped me increase my knowledge and widen my horizon.

**Lam Chi-keung** (M.P.C.)

○ Lord! Thanks for choosing me, saving me and calling me. In these four years, I have deeply experienced your grace, presence and power! ○ Heavenly Father! For all these, I offer you my gratitude and praise! I pray that the grace of the Lord will continue to bless HKBTS, especially bless our professors and staff so that God's name will be exalted and God's love, propagated!

**Au Yeung Pui-king** (B.A.P.S.)

On the road of ministerial preparation, learning is of course my primary responsibility but in order to complete my course of study I have to rely on the instruction and encouragement of my teachers, the support and concern of my family, the prayers and supplication of my mother church and the friendship and intercession from Christian brothers and sisters.

Of course, what is the most important is God's accompaniment. For all these, I must give thanks to God's grace.

**Chan Yuen-fun** (B.A.P.S.)

**Home** — Teachers, students, staff are as close as family members.

**Knowledge** — The Seminary has always been a treasury of knowledge.

**Being taught** — This is where I have been taught and where I have grown as a whole person.

**Transform** — My life has thus been transformed.

**School** — What I will miss and what will be treasured is campus life. Over the past four years, whether standing on a mountain top or finding myself down in a deep valley, I can always find footprints of the Lord, myself and my co-walkers in both places. That is why I must give them my heart-felt gratitude as I bid farewell to my alma mater.

**Kwok Fung-king** (B.A.P.S.)

My four-year part-time further studies has not only reminded me to minister faithfully and learn to listen attentively to master practical counseling skills but has also helped me realize my own limitations. Therefore, I will try harder to learn to depend on God, submit to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I thank God for his grace!

**Wu Hung-kwong** (M.P.C.)

Today I am preparing to leave Nin Ming Road.

Thank God for allowing me to study in a seminary dedicated to cultivating students' spiritual lives and upgrading their knowledge and character. Thank God for allowing me to be taught by teachers who can be both model pastors and model scholars.

Thank God for allowing me to have found spiritual co-walkers in HKBTS.

I hope that one day I will once again step on the campus on Nin Ming Road.

**Chan Suk-yin** (B.A.P.S.)

BA1, being ambitious, I could not wait to swear to "burn myself" as an offering to God.

BA2, my horizon being widened, my life mentors cheered me up and encouraged me.

BA3, joining the theological marathon, co-walkers and good friends running forward with me.

BA4, being prepared to complete my theological study, when I first started serving in the ministry field, what I find is that all has been due to the grace of God.

**Fung King-ho** (B.A.P.S.)

God has been leading my study and preparation in the past four years. I follow my Lord with pleasure. I have experienced the testimonies of all my professors, the in-depth prayer and sharing among my fellow students, and expanded the depth of my Christian faith through a broad exposure to knowledge and reflection upon my faith. Thank you, Lord!

**Kwok Kin-sau** (B.A.P.S.)

“Though the fig tree does  
not bud and there are no grapes on the  
vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields  
produce no food, though there are no sheep  
in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will  
rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.  
The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like  
the feet of a deer; he enables me to go on the heights.”  
(Habakkuk 3:17-19) “How can I repay the Lord  
for all his goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of  
salvation and call on the name of the Lord.”  
(Psalm 116:12-13)

**Kwong Yee-man** (B.A.P.S.)

Thank God. All is  
the grace of God!  
Throughout these four years, his “hand”  
has never left me but accompanied  
and led me every step of the way.  
I will continue to go forth and his presence  
enables me to “courageously” walk forward.  
It is because he says, “Never  
give away a courageous heart!”  
May I always take with me “courage,” “faith,”  
“faithfulness,” “perseverance” and “joyfulness”  
to serve God all my life!

**Ng Yin-ching** (B.A.P.S.)

○ Lord, help me  
follow you all my life, guard me  
to look for you in everything I do,  
affirm me always to look up to you,  
teach me to know how to revere you,  
and lead me to fully submit myself to you.  
Whether I turn to the right, or to the left,  
pray that I will hear your voice saying,  
“This is the way; walk in it!” Amen.

**Tang Wai-ling** (B.A.P.S.)

In these few years  
of my study, I have come to know  
God’s wondrous deeds all the more.  
Without God’s protection and leading,  
it has not been easy to go through. It is  
through many different experiences that I have  
come to realize the renewal of our life of  
ministry, remind myself to treasure all  
that God has given me and to have a  
heart of gratitude.

**Yung Chi-wai** (B.A.P.S.)

To Grow amidst Struggles  
Struggle→Response→Growth→Struggle  
My struggle: Both are rational and emotional:  
To quit or to continue my study, to face up  
to or to evade, or to refuse or to accept  
I have chosen to grow!  
Behind my struggles there is God’s grace,  
which is ever present.  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer says, “A minister’s life  
is made complete only through reading,  
meditation, prayer and facing struggles.”

**Lin Sim-wah** (B.A.P.S.)

Days of My Study  
Prayer and laughter fill my  
room, and people’s concern about me  
has warmed my heart.  
There have been loving concern and  
encouragement from teachers and fellow students.  
In the process, I have experienced how life affects  
life and how it can shine with brightness.  
There is a time for tears and a time for laughing. The taste of  
life has been enriched with the sweet, the sour,  
the bitter and the peppery hot.  
The grace of God will ever be remembered in my  
heart so that I am empowered to step onto the  
narrow path with sweetness in my heart.

**Ng Pui-sze** (B.A.P.S.)

What I have  
got in these four years — is  
more than what I have paid;  
I only see God’s hand leading  
the way — I only pray to be an  
unashamed workman.

**To Siu-chung** (B.A.P.S.)

If God is willing, all  
things are possible;  
Even if otherwise, still all is grace.

**Wong Wing-chi** (B.A.P.S.)

My vision before  
seminary training: My sheep were found  
on mountain side, roaming on hill-tops.  
My response: Here am I. Send me!  
Training in the Seminary: We are clay. The Lord is the  
potter. We are God’s work in the palm of his hand.  
Retrospect over the past five years: Unceasing gratitude  
Prospect: Ministering with God, putting my vision  
into practice, leading people to Christ.

**Yuen Kam-chuen** (B.A.P.S.)

While our graduates have just stepped on a new path, a group of new students entered the campus, taking a bold step forward in faith in their ministry life.

## Please Pray for Our New Students

- Master of Theology : Liao Ying-nien, Wong Mui-ling  
Master of Divinity : Cheung Lin-sang, Cheung Wai-keung, Chu Wai-leung, Koo Wai-hung, Liu Pui-yee, Mak Wai-yin, Ng Wai-leung, Ngan Lai-hing, Sin Tak-yin, Tam Ka-man, Tong Hon-sun, Wong Mun-lun, Wong Woon-yin, Wong Yin-chau, Kam Ho-yan, Lee Yin-shan, Lok Wai-kwok, Tsang Ka-man, Tsui Kwok-leung, Yau Tak-wah, Yip Yan-wing  
B. A. in Pastoral Studies : Feng Ka-cheong, Fong Ming-kit, Ip Pak-hou, Lam Wai-chu, Law Ming-yuen, Lee Yu-hoi, Leung Chi-kwong  
Non-classified Student : Lee Sau-lai

**“Whom have I in heaven but you?  
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.”**

— Psalm 73:25



*Teachers and new students took a photo after the Opening Convocation*



## A Reflection on the Handling of **Historical Data** and **Statistics** of Hong Kong Churches from a Study of Hong Kong Denominations



**Nathan Ng**

*Associate Professor of Christian Thought (Church History)*

From July 2006 to June 2007, I contributed articles for the "Tracing the Origins of Hong Kong Churches" series in *Christian Times*. The purposes of these articles are to search for the origins of the faith and doctrines, traditional rituals and ceremonies, denominational structure of today's Chinese churches in Hong Kong. Within the series, the introduction of the historical roots of each denomination drew the most attention. This suggests that the Chinese church members tend to be rather confused and do not have a clear understanding as to why so many denominations exist. They hope to know these denominations better in order to clarify the complicated relationships among them. Upon the request of a publishing company, I decided to produce a book entitled *A Survey of Hong Kong's Ten Denominations*. This book is a comprehensive exploration of the origins and development, faith and polity and the up-to-date overall situations of ten major denominations in Hong Kong.

To complete the study, I set out to collect all the historical information and statistical data, carefully study many periodicals and annual reports, and make contact and visit various major Christian denominations. Through the process of researching and writing this book, I have got a better grasp on the ways each major denomination in Hong Kong handles historical data and statistical figures. In this article, I would like to share briefly the phenomena I have discovered. Although I contacted only ten denominations, they are all having a sizable church community with a good number of denominational churches and each having a rather big congregation

and each denomination provides a wide range of social services. This reflects significantly the overall picture of Christian churches in Hong Kong.

### **I. Hard Facts of Denominational History**

It is true that all of Hong Kong's major denominations have fairly detailed records of their own origins and development, but there are cases when the data presented are inconsistent and contradictory, and the given historical descriptions are vague and lopsided. The reasons can be classified into the following two categories.

#### **(I) Deficiency of Historical Data**

When a Chinese church was founded, it was mostly run by western missionaries, and when they left, they took home with them the missionary records. Furthermore, as there was a lack of interest in preserving historical data, many historical documents were lost and subsequently past historical facts can by no means be reconstructed. For example, the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong (BCHK) was founded in 1938. At first, there were only three independent churches: the Hong Kong Baptist Church, Cheung Chau Baptist Church and Aberdeen Baptist Church, together with three gospel centers at Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon City and Hung Hom respectively. A significant milestone in the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong came when it was joined by a group of Swatow churches. However, I could not find any records to reveal exactly when this group actually joined BCHK. No one whom I contacted could give an accurate date for Swatow churches' joining. What I can be sure is that

this must have taken place in or before 1955 when the annual general meeting of BCHK was held at Kowloon City Swatow Baptist Church.<sup>1</sup>

If the development of a denomination or a church is simple and clear, despite poor documentation in the past, its historical facts can somehow be deduced. However, there exists complex evolution in the history of many Hong Kong churches, making it hard to trace back the true origins. For example, the Hong Kong Lutheran Church and the Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church had branched out from the same denomination but got separated before the 1970s. That is why some of the earliest churches of the Hong Kong Lutheran Church can now only be found in the Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church's history. This may sound odd to those who do not understand the subtle historical development involved.<sup>2</sup> Another example, the Tiu Keng Leng Church was regarded as the very first church founded by the Christian and Missionary Alliance Churches Union of Hong Kong. Today there are three different churches, which are C. & M. Alliance Ling Yan Church, C. & M. Alliance Hau Tak Church and New Rennie's Mill Alliance Church, each claiming to be related to or as an extension of this church. Their intricate relationship can hardly be sorted out without going through historical records.

## (2) A Lack of Historical Study

For reasons of keeping the records in archive or regarding them as confidential, the first hand records of churches are usually not open to the public so that outsider researchers are denied access to them. In such cases, to get to know the history of a denomination or a church, one can only resort to secondary sources such as an annual bulletin or report. However, when these historical records are compared and closely examined, one sometimes finds that the churches themselves do not have a comprehensive understanding of their own history causing the records to appear vague and contradictory. For example, the *Twentieth Anniversary Publication of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong* recorded that when BCHK was founded, the Hong Kong Baptist Church had 1,530 members, while Cheung Chau Baptist Church had 25 and Aberdeen Baptist Church

had 223 with a total membership of the churches being 1,778.<sup>3</sup> It is a pity that in the subsequent Fortieth, Fiftieth and Sixtieth Anniversary Publications, that figure was mistakenly written as 1,178.<sup>4</sup> This clearly shows that this mistake passed down from generation to generation.

Another common problem in handling secondary sources of information has been to do with the principle or the way of handling the historical records varies from one person to the next, often causing readers to feel confused. How should we fix the date of a church's founding: the day it was open for ministry or when it was formally founded as a church? In case when the religious organization that set up the church ceased to provide subvention or moved elsewhere, how then should we fix the date of its establishment? For example, the Hong Kong Baptist Church used to claim its history to begin with the founding of Queen's Road Baptist Church in 1842 but that church was closed soon after its founding. Although some western missionaries tried to keep the church running from 1860 to 1865, it was not until 1880 that regular church meetings were formally resumed.<sup>5</sup> On the contrary, the C. & M. Alliance Hebron Church, originating from the Hebron Church founded in 1915 in Nan Hai, Guangdong and later moved to Hong Kong due to a change of political regime in China in 1949. However, since the church was reconstructed in 1962 and joined the Christian and Missionary Alliance Churches Union of Hong Kong, it was regarded as a more recently founded church and was even placed on the church list below those churches founded in the fifties. Obviously, the former's founding date is based on that of its predecessor while the latter is not. Of course, how a church's predecessor should be reckoned is a question worthy of further investigation. In the historical development of the two churches mentioned above, the assets and polity of the old have not been continued in the new church. It is the ministerial staff and church membership which have been continued. In this case, can we say the new church is a direct continuation of the old one?

It is interesting to note that the two churches mentioned above are members of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong and the Christian and Missionary Alliance



Churches Union of Hong Kong respectively, and yet their seminaries handled their histories in just the opposite way. Applying the principles of continuation of the ministerial staff and church membership as evidence of a hereditary relationship, then we can establish that the predecessor of the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary owned by the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong is the Guangdong and Guangxi Divinity School founded in approximately 1870 in Guang Zhou, Guangdong Province. The Divinity School was closed down as the Communist regime took power and moved to Hong Kong where it resumed in 1951 under the name of the Divinity School of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong and in 1963 was renamed Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary. As for the seminary linked with the Christian Alliance Church, its predecessor was Alliance College founded in 1899 at Wu Zhou in Guang Xi province and renamed Alliance Bible College in 1938. It moved to Hong Kong in 1949 and was renamed Alliance Bible Seminary in 1955. On the surface, the historical development of the two seminaries was rather close, yet the former took 1951 as its founding year without including the history of its predecessor, while the latter claims it to have begun in 1899, since it includes the history of its predecessor.<sup>6</sup>

## **2. Statistical Data of a Denomination**

In the last twenty years, the Hong Kong Church Renewal Movement Ltd. has conducted a large scale census of local churches every five years, noting in detail different data like the number of people attending church meetings, male to female ratio, age distribution, level of education and occupation; and giving us an impression that the numerical records of Hong Kong churches are fairly complete. However, my experience gained from this study suggests that the general condition is not so ideal.

### **(1) Insufficient Statistical Investigation**

Although many large local denominations have published their annual reports setting out the various developments and statistical data of the past year in detail, there are a number of denominations which do not make regular investigations or keep numerical records of their member churches. The two denominations, Assemblies of God Ministry and Pentecostal Holiness

Church, each with a total membership of over 10,000, are typical examples. When I asked for the figures of church service attendance and church membership, they could not immediately provide those figures; however, they were helpful in collecting the required information for the completion of my study. Besides, this is also true to individual churches. For example, the International Christian Assembly offers a number of worship services in different languages, but it does not have a membership system as the Filipino or Indonesian domestic helpers only stay temporarily in Hong Kong causing the attendants' mobility rate to be fairly high and making it hard to count its members. Meanwhile, since it does not register the church attendance, when I asked the church about the figures, it only gave a rough estimation of about 3,000. Similar conditions can be seen in other English-speaking churches, such as the Methodist International Church, Hong Kong.

Even if a denomination or a church does have a regular statistical survey, the data collected may not be altogether reliable; this may be due to inconsistency in the statistical principle followed, resulting in figures that are far from accurate or misleading. For example, some denominations still keep those members who have passed away, emigrated overseas or lost contact in the membership list and so their total membership remains abnormally high. I have found according to this principle that the average church attendance of the member churches of one denomination being only 4,100 while its total membership is as high as 14,000. To reflect the real condition, the Diocesan of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Office has recounted its members in recent years cutting the figure from 30,000 to 10,000. According to some reliable sources, some churches in Hong Kong would include the attendance of its local and overseas branch churches when counting its regular church attendance so as to give a much higher figure than the actual one.

### **(2) Obstacles in Handling Figures**

Although some denominations have statistical figures, the way they handle those figures has sometimes set up obstacles for academic research. A typical example is that for confidential reasons they refuse to disclose the figures I asked for. For example, although



one denomination publishes its annual report and announces its statistical figures of the past year, when asked about the related information, the General Secretary of that denomination refused to provide those figures saying that they were confidential. That is why in my book *A Survey of Hong Kong's Ten Denominations*, nine denominations have the latest figures up to 2007 while the denomination I mentioned has the figures only up to 2006. Of course, there may be changes that one may not want to disclose to outsiders, such as internal strife and conflict in the church or a sudden drop in church attendance. Many denominations or churches are inclined to keep them a secret, and in fact, I came across this phenomenon for quite a few times during my study.

Besides deliberately keeping some figures secret or confidential, there are unintentional mistakes too, such as errors in copying or in simple calculation, which give obstacles to a study. One of the obvious examples can be seen in comparing the figures of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong in the last two years. According to the annual report, the total average Sunday service attendance of member churches in 2006 was 38,969 whilst it was 35,618 in 2007, does that mean the church attendance of Hong Kong Baptist churches are on a drastic downfall? A drop of 3,351 in church attendance in a year's time would certainly be a crisis worthy of special attention. However, a simple comparison of the figures between member churches shows there has been a numerical growth in most churches, and so what actually is the problem? Upon closer observation, it was found that the church attendance figure of Aberdeen Baptist Church in 2006 had been mistakenly written as 8,536 and a follow-up investigation showed that it should be 875, a difference of 7,661. Taking away this miscalculated figure, there is an increase of 4,310 in the total of average church attendance of Baptist churches from 2006 to 2007. What a different, much more optimistic picture it shows as far as church growth is concerned!<sup>7</sup> It is fortunate that this is an obvious mistake that can be easily spotted but it is hard to estimate how many minute errors there are that cannot be easily verified.

### **3. Reflection and Suggestions**

The past history of a denomination or a church is the key to an understanding of its past church growth, helping us to know ourselves better, learn from the past and know more about the present. On the other hand, statistical figures are the evidence to master today's development and an important reference for evaluating the present and planning for the future. From the above discussion, there is still much room for improvement for Hong Kong churches in these two aspects. Here, I venture to make the following two appeals:

#### **(1) Acknowledge Historical Study of a Denomination**

Within the parameters of our ability, a denomination or a church should try its best to properly preserve historical documents as some historical data, once lost, can never be reconstructed; even worse is that the errors and confusion would perhaps linger, unable to be rectified. This is especially so given that the development of some of the churches in Hong Kong is rather complicated, there is a need for more elaborate historical records to make clear the intricate relationship involved. If the church space is too limited to preserve the collection of historical data, it is advisable to scan those documents and convert them into computer documents, or better still, donate them to a denominational seminary and put them in the archives.

Furthermore, the church should spare more resources for the study of its history so that a more accurate and detailed history can be compiled and written out. If possible, develop unified principles for handling historical data can avoid confusion, for example, to stick to the same principle of either to count the founding date of the earliest predecessor or only the date of its moving to Hong Kong. I understand that it is hard to change certain traditional practices, as it is impossible to say that the Alliance Bible Seminary has only a history of sixty years, just as it is hard to accept that Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary has had a long history of over 140 years. Perhaps every church organization should try hard to list out in detail the date when it was first founded and the date it moved to Hong Kong as this is a more useful way to clarify historical facts.

## (2) Acknowledge Statistical Figures of a Denomination

To accurately master the real condition of and facilitate the study of Hong Kong churches, each of the churches should collect numerical data such as to count the church attendance and the amount of offerings received weekly and then the denomination to which the church belongs collects the data and does a statistical analysis every year. In case the statistical records are lost, it is often impossible to retrieve them. To count the figure correctly, a church should design some accurate and reliable ways to do their calculations: (i) Have someone to do the head count in the middle of the meeting; (ii) every one present records one's attendance; (iii) use modern technology such as the electronic membership card to do the counting. I once heard that a pastor of a big church only does a rough estimation of the service attendance and the number of its members. As a result, the actual attendance of over 100 becomes 300 whilst a church membership of over 600 becomes 400. This kind of calculation should be avoided. In doing the head count, churches should follow a unified standard to enable a fair comparison and avoid being misled. For example, church attendance should only include that of the mother church while attendance of branch churches should be listed out separately. Also for the church membership, only the active participating members should be counted; those who have passed away, migrated or lost contact over a long period of time should be deducted from the total.

As the church is a big family and we are its household members, I do not understand why those figures as church attendance and the number of church members would be considered to be confidential. This act of not disclosing statistical figures impedes the study of the Christian churches in Hong Kong. It is hoped that this denominationalist mindset will gradually diminish. As for the unintentional errors in statistical figures, we hope that every denomination and every church will do a better job in proofreading as some delicate errors can be detected only by those concerned people who have sufficient reference material to verify. Otherwise outsiders can have no way to make out where the trouble lies.

- 1 "Twenty Years' History of The Baptist Convention of Hong Kong," in *Twentieth Anniversary Publication of The Baptist Convention of Hong Kong*, ed. Chung Yan-kwong et al. (Hong Kong: The Baptist Convention of Hong Kong, 1959), 7.
- 2 For example, in the "Report on the Founding of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong" written in 1954, there were a total of 15 churches and the one listed as "Taipo Market" is today's Hong Kong & Macau Lutheran Grace Church.
- 3 See Tam Hei-tin, ed., "The Statistical Table of the Annual Number of Members of Hong Kong Baptist Churches over the Past Twenty Years," in the appendix of *The Twentieth Anniversary Publication of The Baptist Convention of Hong Kong*, 12; the total number of Baptist members can be found in "The Statistics of Members of Baptist Churches in Hong Kong and Kowloon by Year," in *The Twentieth Anniversary Publication of The Baptist Convention of Hong Kong*, 36. Dr. Lau Chun-pang of our Seminary had pointed out this problem earlier, see Lau Chun-pang, "Dr. Lam Chi-fung: The Maker of Hong Kong Baptist Education Enterprise — A Preliminary Exploration of His Ideas on Christian Education" (Baptist Heritage Week handout, Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary, 2007), 1, footnote 1.
- 4 See "The General Ministry of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong," in *The Fortieth Anniversary Publication of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong*, ed. Leung Sau-yan et al. (Hong Kong: The Baptist Convention of Hong Kong, 1979), 8; Pang Hok-tang, "A Brief Golden Jubilee History of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong," in *The Golden Jubilee Special Publication of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong*, ed. Kai Ying-chung et al. (Hong Kong: The Baptist Convention of Hong Kong, 1989), 16; "The History and a Brief Introduction of the Ministry of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong," in *The Sixtieth Anniversary Publication of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong*, ed. Kot Man-wai et al. (Hong Kong: The Baptist Convention of Hong Kong, 1999), 16.
- 5 See the publication of the former Senior Pastor of the Hong Kong Baptist Church, Rev. Lau Yuet-sing, *The History of Hong Kong Baptist Church* (Hong Kong: Hong Kong Baptist Church, 1941, 1<sup>st</sup> ed.; 1996, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.), 63.
- 6 That is why in 2001 the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary had its fiftieth anniversary while the Alliance Bible Seminary had its centennial celebration in 1999.
- 7 See "The Statistical Table of the Ministry of Baptist Churches in the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong, 2006," in *The Annual Report of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong, 2006* (Hong Kong: The Baptist Convention of Hong Kong, 2007), the appendix after page 272; and "The Statistical Table of Baptist Churches in the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong, 2007," in *The Annual Report of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong, 2007* (Hong Kong: The Baptist Convention of Hong Kong, 2008), the appendix after page 288.



## Academic Affairs News

### 1. Mrs. Tse Ng Toa-kit, Honorary Library Advisor, Has Retired

Mrs. Tse Ng Toa-kit (Dr. Tse Chi-wai's wife) retired at the end of September. The Seminary wishes to express our hearty thanks to Mrs. Tse for her ten years of service in the Seminary as Honorary Chief Librarian and Honorary



Library Advisor. Mrs. Tse, an alumna of the Seminary, served as an honorary administrative personnel and bore the responsibility of leading and planning for our library. She contributed greatly, especially during the process of our moving to the Sai O campus (1998-99) and expansion of the library (2005-06). Mrs. Tse loves library work and is a respected, well-liked staff in our midst, serving the Lord unreservedly. We hope that both Dr. And Mrs. Tse will visit us often in the future and pray that God will continue to bless their family and lead them into fruitful ministries in the future.

### 2. Convocation Lecture

Every year a Convocation Lecture is held to encourage and foster an interflow of ideas between faculty and students. This year's lecture took place on August 27 and was delivered by Dr. Nathan Ng, Associate Professor of Christian Thought (Church History). Dr. Ng spoke on the topic, "A Reflection on the Handling of Historical Data and Statistics of Hong Kong Churches from a Study of Hong Kong Denominations."

### 3. Academic Seminar

The first Academic Seminar was held on September 18 and the speaker was Rev. Harry Lucenay, pastor of Kowloon International Baptist Church. Rev. Lucenay's address was entitled "Giving Your Family Faith."

### 4. Baptist Heritage Week

This year's Baptist Heritage Week was held from October 14 through 16 in the morning chapel. The theme was "Snapshots of the Early Baptist Leaders in China and Hong Kong III." The speakers were Dr. Jerry E. Moye, the Seminary's Emeritus Professor, Dr. Nathan Ng, Associate Professor of Christian Thought (Church History) and Dr. Vincent Lau, Assistant Professor of Practical Theology (Christian Ethics), who speaking respectively on the contributions of Dr. Carter Morgan, Missionary Timothy Richard and Missionary Issachar Jacox Roberts.

### 5. Graduation Ceremony

The Seminary's Fifty-Seventh Graduation Ceremony will be held on November 30 (Sunday) at the Sai O campus.

## Fifty-Seventh Graduation Ceremony

Held at the Sai O Campus  
on November 30, 2008

The Board of Trustees of the  
Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary  
Request the honor of your presence  
at the Fifty-Seventh Graduation Ceremony of  
the Seminary  
at 3:30 pm on the thirtieth of November  
in the year of Two Thousand and Eight  
in the campus of Hong Kong Baptist  
Theological Seminary  
1 Nin Ming Road, Sai O, Sai Kung North

## From the Chaplain

*Rev. Brian Lam (Chaplain)*

### A Chaplain Is Who?

Who is the Chaplain? I am the present chaplain at the Seminary and there were a few other ministers who have served as our chaplain. The question "Who is the Chaplain?" is rather easy to answer. On the contrary, the question, "A chaplain is who?" is by no means an easy question to answer. On quite a few occasions in the past when people knew that I was HKBTS's chaplain, they became curious and were eager to know what my job was about.

Some would ask whether I would be slothful in the seminary since there would not be too many patients needing my cure. Usually I would give them a light smile and simply explain the difference between a hospital chaplain and a seminary chaplain. The work of a hospital chaplain involves paying visits to patients and their families and also caring for the emotional and spiritual needs of the medical personnel. On the other hand, a seminary chaplain is responsible for the spiritual formation of those on the seminary campus.

Then, some would go on to ask further questions: There are over ten seminaries in Hong Kong laying stress on spiritual formation, why is it that not every one of them has a chaplain? Moreover, is it not true that the seminary teachers teach by

word and by deed, so would they not also care for the students?

Therefore, the question, "A chaplain is who?" is one that I myself have never stopped pondering. A seminary chaplain is responsible for the spiritual formation on campus. However, obviously, many teachers work together to nurture the spiritual lives of students. I am the one responsible to coordinate and implement this ministry. For example, in HKBTS students are required to join their Spiritual Formation Group every month. This year we have nine groups led by nine teachers, and I am just one of them.

The spiritual formation work on campus also includes our staff workers. For example, every Monday after lunch, there is the staff prayer meeting. I attend almost all of their meetings. The staff workers take turns and only occasionally do I lead. Thank God that there is a small core of staff members who faithfully and persistently turn up to lead the prayer meetings.

The seminary chaplain is who? The chaplain is responsible for coordinating and implementing the spiritual formation on campus, especially in the visible curriculum. As for the hidden curriculum, such as individual care and instances when life brings changes to someone's life. This is an important ministry that I look forward to talking about in the future if there is opportunity.

"The chaplain is who?" is the question I myself keep asking and waiting as I seek to serve the Lord God.

## Admissions and Registration Office

*Mandy Chung (Registrar)*

This summer we were very busy. Just when we were about to go on a vacation, the new school year began. Incidentally, the school year began on the very day when a major typhoon hit Hong Kong.

Let me tell you about our new crop of students. This year we have thirty one new students: 2 in the Master of Theology program; 21, the Master of Divinity program; 7, the Bachelor of Arts in the Pastoral Studies program and 1 non-classified student. The composition of these new students is worth noting. For example, of the students in the Master of Divinity program, 14 are full time students and 7, part-time. The majority full time students have years of working experience and have a family while the part time students look young and energetic although they worked full time on a church staff. The will and plan of our Heavenly Father who called his children to full time ministry is unique for each person. I pray that our Father will bless our new students, giving protection and peace and helping them adjust to the Seminary's study style. Pray that by relying on God they can overcome all their difficulties and soon immerse themselves in the joys of campus life.

In fact, the preparation work for the beginning of the school year was not easy due to the last minute switching of class

teachers and the re-arrangement of time table had to be done in great haste. Thank God for his provision. Although we were busy putting things in place and we had to shorten the spiritual formation camp held right before the school year due to a major typhoon's approaching, we still felt students' enthusiasm and their passion and love for the Seminary as the school term began. Seeing that everything went smoothly, I was deeply touched!

When the Chaplain, Rev. Lam, and I were considering of a theme for next year's student recruitment, we agreed that we were all together on God's road. This is the case for those brothers and sisters being called to full time ministry and so is HKBTS. Being God's sons and daughters, upon what should we rely as we step forward? Would it not be the simple, pure heart of faith? That is why the theme, "The Leap of Faith," was finally confirmed and next year's Seminary Annual Concert of Praise will also use this theme. We pray that God will continue to direct and bless us!

On November 15 (Saturday) this year, we will continue to hold the Student Recruitment Talk 2008-09. This half-day talk is designed for those brothers and sisters exploring full time ministry or considering full time seminary training. There will be numerous sessions including conversation with seminary professors, sharing and praying with seminary students in search for God's guidance, and of course, a short message, a time of hymns singing and praise and an introduction of HKBTS's programs.

## Lay Theological Education Department

*Choi Yim-to (Associate Director)*

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." (Proverbs 22:6) This is the instruction God gave the Israelites and it applies to us as parents, teachers and instructors in children's ministry, since teaching children is our sacred responsibility! To help our churches and families face the challenge of a new generation of child-rearing, we have organized a seminar and workshop on "A Little More Love in the Family—A Family-based New Blueprint for Cultivating Children" on April 19. That day more than 500 people turned up, and from this we can see that ministers and lay people are concerned much with the issue of child-rearing.

This October, we launched the Childhood Ministry Diploma / Certificate program to provide a holistic and systematic equipping for those interested in ministering to children in the church or in school. There was an enthusiastic response with over 80 people (mostly female) enrolling in the program. Students are from different backgrounds, mainly instructors in children's ministry in church, a number of kindergarten or primary school teachers, and of course, parents wanting to be better equipped for good parenting. The good response is pleasing and encouraging. We hope that God will use this program to provide his people with holistic training, to promote their continual growth, and to allow them to bless their families and community and especially bless

the children whom they minister and nurture. After all children are the future of the church and our society!

It is indisputable that the Hong Kong population is ageing. As early as 2001, we established the Elderly Ministry program to provide a holistic and systematic training for those interested in ministering to the elderly in our churches and in the broader society. In the past seven years, almost 200 students have graduated from the program. This year we have over 40 students enrolled in the program. In fact, quite a number of Christian organizations provide service for the elderly, serving them with love and dedication. This year in September, Gospel For The Aged Ltd joined with China Alliance Press in the launching of "Book Donation Project of Hope" and donated over 50 books and AV items to LTED as reference materials for students and lecturers in the Elderly Ministry program. We are most grateful for their donation. With their affirmation and support, we are all the more eager to train Christian leaders so that they continue to care for and minister to the elderly, proclaiming the gospel of Christ to them.

We hope that in the future we can have more such opportunities to cooperate with churches and Christian organizations, to support one another in theological education for the good of those who love God and let God's name be glorified!



## Student Union

**Chong Pui-kit** (Chairperson)

“Be in Unison to Build, Be Connected to the HKBTS Family” is the theme around which each of the activities organized by the Student Union is aimed at driving home a feeling and an atmosphere of home-coming. Home ought to be a place of security; home ought to be a place of comfort; home ought to be a place of belongingness. As the summer vacation comes to an end, we once again return to our home.

In the first half of the school year, the Spiritual Affairs Department conducted several kinds of meetings such as the morning prayer meeting, the day of silent retreat and topical prayer meeting. On May 21, a fasting prayer meeting was held as a special response to the Sichuan earthquake and there was enthusiastic participation from the faculty, students and staff. Prayer allows our unity with God to be manifested. In the coming half year, a seminary silent prayer and fasting meeting will be held each Wednesday at noon. The theme will be confessing our sins. All the seminary faculty, students and staff can come together to pray so that there can be unity among us all. Our HKBTS will become our family of prayer.

Earlier, the Mission Department has arranged a series of mission ministries. In June a group of students paid a visit to a correctional institution, and another group of students took a short-term mission trip to the Mainland. Both visits yielded good results, and the latter group would share their valuable experience when they meet later. In the coming half year, the Mission Department will organize additional sharing meetings to hear about different mission ministries and opportunities to increase our students' exposure and broaden their horizons about missions. Since this is the world of our Heavenly Father and we must not limit our own vision but free ourselves to touch and know more about God's cherished world. Our HKBTS community will become a missions family.

Ever since the “Self-service Snack Bar” was set

up half a year ago, it was popular among commuting students and those in the student quarter. Then, on May 7, the Daily Living Department helped collect students' opinions and the information gathered played an active role in facilitating mutual understanding between students and the Seminary. In the next half year, the Seminary will continue to launch activities that foster exchange and relationship-building between students and the faculty. October 12 will be the annual Parents' Day on which the whole department will be mobilized to serve students' parents, family and friends who will be given the feeling of coming home. The department is eager to continue to enhance the quality of life experience of students and the faculty in the HKBTS family. We are sure our HKBTS will continue to be more of a warm and harmonious family.

Thanks to the silent, dedicated effort of the Secretary Department, the publication, *Spiritual Wind*, provides an important platform for exchange between students and the faculty. Through words in black and white, the newsletter publishes students' hopes as they share from the heart and interpret their observations of the HKBTS family to enhance further our understanding of one another. The upcoming issue will be published in the near future and we wait for you to dance with the written words. We expect that our HKBTS will become a family of deeper passion.

There are so many projects at HKBTS. In the past, HKBTS's Student Union did not have its own logo. This year, we have finally come up with a logo design, and if approved, we will have a series of stationery items marked with a Student Union logo. It is our hope that they will strengthen our sense of belonging to HKBTS.

The Student Union is dedicated to continue to enriching, taking initiative and enabling HKBTS to be the family for the students, the faculty and staff, a family with Christ in our midst. We earnestly hope and pray that all the faculty, students and staff will undividedly “Be in Unison to Build, Be Connected to the HKBTS Family.”



## Faculty News

- **Dr. Andres Tang**, Professor of Christian Thought (Theology and Culture), presented a paper “Colin E. Gunton’s Metaphorical View of Theological Language” on June 23 at the Tenth Academic Conference organized by the Hong Kong Theologian Fellowship. Moreover, his articles, “Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s and Mou Zongsan’s Readings of Martin Heidegger” appeared in *Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Sino-Theology* published by Chung Yuan Christian University, Taiwan in 2008; “The Kingdom of God and Globalization: Jürgen Moltmann’s Theological Perspective” appeared in *Jian Dao* 30 (July 2008) and “Holy Scripture as the Vessel of God’s Gracious Word” in *Conversations: A Forum for Authentic Transformation* 3 (August 2008) respectively.

- **Dr. Vincent Lau**, Assistant Professor of Practical Theology (Christian Ethics) spoke on the subject, “The Social Role of Hong Kong’s Christian Organizations from the Perspective of John Howard Yoder” at the Ministry Development Meeting organized by Breakthrough Ltd. on September 9.
- **Dr. Nathan Ng**, Associate Professor of Christian Thought (Church History) has written an article entitled “The Struggles and Models from Early Christians: Exploring ‘Pastoral Ministry’ in the Chinese Church Context from the Historical Perspective” published in *Defining Pastoral Ministry in the Chinese Church Context* by the Divinity School of Chung Chi College, the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2008. Moreover, his book *A Survey of Hong Kong’s Ten Denominations* has just been published by Harvest Press.

## Visitors

Three representatives from the Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary visited HKBTS on June 24. They included the President, Dr. Tsai Rei-yi, the Dean of Academic Studies, Dr. Liu Kuang-chi and Director of Academic Development Center, Dr. Wu Chang-shing.

## Distance Education Program

The new diploma programs will begin in March 2009 while the certificate programs may begin at any time

Name of Program	Program Description	Admission Requirements	Date of Commencement	Registration Deadline
Diploma in Biblical Studies Program	Through an in-depth study of a specific book of the Bible, students are trained to do systematic hermeneutics and Bible study.	Secondary school leavers with church pastor's recommendation	March and September	For the semester beginning in March: Hong Kong: February 10 Overseas: January 25
Diploma in Christian Studies Program	Designed for equipping students for ministry, the program helps students strengthen their foundation in the Christian faith, doctrine and theology.			For the semester beginning in September: Hong Kong: August 10 Overseas: July 25
Higher Diploma in Biblical Studies / Christian Studies Programs	Further studies for students completing the certificate program.	Completion of the Certificate program and with church pastor's recommendation		
Certificate in N.T. / O.T. Studies Programs	Introductory programs in Biblical studies, leading students to study a Bible book systematically.	All are welcome	Register at any time. Concessions in fees are available. Students can begin at any time.	
<b>Elective students:</b> Students can choose part of the subjects offered in the correspondence courses according to their own personal interest. For details, please log on the “Distance Education” website.				



On-line Program	Program Description	Date of Commencement
<b>On-line Certificate in New Testament Studies Program</b>	An introductory program of an individual Bible book study with a choice of either the traditional Chinese or the simplified Chinese versions. It is a diversified program providing an on-line resource room as well as a platform for communication between tutors and students.	Students can begin at any time with fee concessions. Trial study of the on-line program is welcome: <a href="http://distance.hkbts.edu.hk">http://distance.hkbts.edu.hk</a> The User ID for the traditional Chinese version: 04YM0001 Code:guest The User ID for the simplified Chinese version: 04YM0002 Code: guest

## Topical Lecture

Topic	: <b>To Dance with God and Man: The Real Meaning of Christian Ethics</b>
Speaker	Dr. Vincent Lau [Assistant Professor of Practical Theology (Christian Ethics)]
Content	: Since people in general think that ethics is problem solving, they wrongly conclude that Christian ethics is problem solving. In fact, the true meaning of Christian ethics is about the relationship between God and man.
Date	: November 22 (Saturday) 2:30 - 4:00pm
Venue	: Applied Theological Education Center (8/F, Christian Building, 56 Bute Street, Mong Kok)
Registration	: Free, for reservation, call 2768 5105 or email to <a href="mailto:deinfo@hkbts.edu.hk">deinfo@hkbts.edu.hk</a>

## The Eighth Graduation Ceremony

Date	: November 2 (Sunday)
Time	: 3:00 pm
Venue	: Sai O campus

For enquiries, call 2768 5105 or log on our website [www.hkbts.edu.hk/dist/](http://www.hkbts.edu.hk/dist/)

## Lay Theological Education Department

I. Student Recruitment into Diploma / Certificate Programs in Christian Women Theological Training (auditing is also welcome)

The following courses are offered in the October to December quarter:

Course Name	Lecturer	Venue	Date / Time
Spiritual Gifts and Ministry	Mrs. Sun Chan Yuk-ngor	Hong Kong Grace Baptist Church	Sep 30 - Nov 11 class suspension on Oct 7 (Tue, 6 lessons) 9:30 - 11:30 am
Pastoral Care and Communication Skills	Dr. Yu Kam-lan	Hong Kong Grace Baptist Church	Nov 18 - Dec 23 Class suspension on Dec 9 (Tue, 5 lessons) 9:30 am - 12:00 n
The Multi-Dimensions of the Bible	Ms. Chan Po-hung	Mong Kok Education Center	Oct 14 - Nov 18 (Tue, 6 lessons) 9:30 - 11:30 am
Counseling Process and Skills	Rev. Ng Shuk-yin	Applied Theological Education Center	Oct 14 - Dec 2 (Tue, 8 lessons) 9:30 am - 12:00 n
Bible Book Study: Jonah	Ms. Chan Wai-suet	Mong Kok Education Center	Oct 9 - Nov 6 (Thu, 5 lessons) 9:30 am - 12:00 n
Spiritual Formation	Ms. Lai Ka-yin	Mong Kok Education Center	Nov 13 - Dec 18 (Thu, 6 lessons) 9:30 - 11:30 am
Old Testament Survey	Rev. Au Bak-ping	Mong Kok Education Center	Oct 30 - Dec 18 (Thu, 8 lessons) 9:30 am - 12:00 n
Bible Book Study: Job	Mr. Barry Wai	Mong Kok Education Center	Oct 3 - Nov 21 (Fri, 8 lessons) 9:30 am - 12:00 n
Personality, Temperament and Ministry	Dr. Alfred Kong	Applied Theological Education Center	Oct 10 - Nov 28 (Fri, 8 lessons) 9:30 am - 12:00 n

## 2. Student Recruitment into Lay Theological Education Training Program

Courses offered in the October to December quarter:

Course name	Lecturer	Venue	Date / Time
Christian Church History	Mr. Leung Wing-sum	Mong Kok Education Center	Oct 6 - Nov 24 (Mon, 8 lessons) 7:15 - 9:45 pm
Word Becomes Flesh: The Study of Gospel Situations	Rev. Lau Shu-sum Guest Lecturer: Dr. Chan Nim-chung	Mong Kok Education Center	Oct 6 - Nov 24 (Mon, 8 lessons) 7:00 - 10:00 pm
Ways and Means of Evangelism	Rev. Liu Tak-hon	Mong Kok Education Center	Nov 17 - Jan 19, 2009 Class suspension on Dec 22, 29 (Mon, 8 lessons) 7:00 - 10:00 pm
The Making and Growth of a Church Leader	Rev. Chung Chi-kwong	Mong Kok Education Center	Oct 14 - Dec 2 (Tue, 8 lessons) 7:15 - 9:45 pm
Ministry to the Elderly	Rev. Lam Yim-fong	Mong Kok Education Center	Oct 14 - Dec 16 (Tue, 10 lessons) 7:30 - 9:30 pm
The Many Faces of Death	Rev. William Lam	Mong Kok Education Center	Oct 9 - Nov 27 (Thu, 8 lessons) 7:15 - 9:45 pm
Creative Communication Skills in Public Speaking	Mr. Cheng Kai-chi	Mong Kok Education Center	Nov 20 - Jan 29, 2009 Class suspension on Nov 27, Dec 25, Jan 1, 2009 (Thu, 8 lessons) 7:00 - 10:00 pm
Principles of Hermeneutics	Ms. Lee Chun	Mong Kok Education Center	Oct 3 - Nov 28 (Fri, 8 lessons) 7:15 - 9:45 pm

Tuition Locations: **Hong Kong Grace Baptist Church** (2/F., 108 Java Road, North Point)

**Mong Kok Education Center** (10/F, Chung Kiu Commercial Building, 47-51 Shan Tung Street, Mong Kok)

**Applied Theological Education Center** (7/F., Christian Building, 56 Bute Street, Mong Kok)

For inquiry : call 2711 2552 or log on our website: [www.hkbts.edu.hk/lted](http://www.hkbts.edu.hk/lted) to download an application form.

## Publication News

*Hill Road* (issue 22) will be published in December with "Forgiveness" as its theme. There will be five theme articles: "Forgiveness and Reconciliation in the Mosaic Laws" (Wong Fook-kong), "The Faith to Forgive: A Perspective from Luke's Gospel" (Poling Sun), "Forgiveness as the Cornerstone of Church Unity: A Study of Paul's View of Forgiveness in Colossians" (Clement Shum Shiu-lun), "A Discussion of Hauerwas on the Virtue of Forgiveness of the Christian Community" (Ip Wai-hoi), and "Forgetting and Forgiving: Miroslav Volf's Theological Perspective" (Andres Tang). There will also be several miscellaneous articles and book reviews. For subscription or inquiries, call the Publication Office at 2768 5168.



## Alumni News

- Alumnus **Lee Man-chung, Samuel** (class of 1992) and Fong King-leung (class of 2002) were ordained pastors by Tai Po Baptist Church on August 17.
- Alumnus **Mok Fai** (class of 1991) will be ordained pastor on November 23 by Yiu Tung Baptist Church.



## A Talk on Full Time Ministry

Theme : **“A Leap of Faith”**

Date : November 15, 2008  
 Time : 2:30 - 8:00 pm  
 Venue : HKBTS's Sai O Campus  
 1 Nin Ming Road, Sai O, Sai Kung North  
 Fee : \$50 / person  
 Deadline : November 12  
 Inquiry : 2768 5130 by phone or  
 admissions@hkbts.edu.hk by email  
 Website : www.hkbts.edu.hk

### Program Schedule

2:30 pm — Registration  
 3:00 pm — Introduction of Study Programs/  
 Student Affairs/Field Practicum  
 4:00 pm — Meet with Professors  
 5:15 pm — Worship, Praise and Short Message  
 6:30 pm — Pray in Small Groups  
 7:15 pm — Supper, Sharing with Our Students  
 8:00 pm — The Program Ends



## Reply

I will support The Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary by

- praying for the Seminary's theological education ministry  
 contributing \$\_\_\_\_\_ for  
 Educational Fund     Others: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mr / Ms / Rev / Dr / Mr & Mrs)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Methods:

- Crossed cheque** payable to  
**"Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary"**  
 **Cash** either deliver to the Seminary or direct pay-in to our  
 Hang Seng Bank Account No. "242-026144-003"

- Credit card:**     VISA     MASTERCARD

Cardholder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: HK\$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Credit card charges are denominated in HK\$)

- Monthly Autopay** by Bank Account or Credit Card —  
 autopay form will be forwarded to you
- Please send cheque or bank deposit slip with this reply to the Seminary at 1 Nin Ming Road, Sai O, Sai Kung North, N.T., Hong Kong.
  - Receipt will be issued and donation is tax-deductible.
  - Your name and donation amount will appear in the Seminary's *Newsletter*. If you do not wish them to appear in the *Newsletter*, please tick the right box.
  - Your personal data will only be used for issuing receipt and Seminary's administration purposes.
  - For donation inquiry: Tel : (852) 2768 5113 or (852) 2715 9511  
 Fax: (852) 2768 5102

Thank you for your support !

**Financial Report**  
**General Fund, 1 April 2008 - 30 September 2008**

	HK\$
Income	12,664,131.71
Expenditure	14,710,709.68
Deficit	<u><u>(2,046,577.97)</u></u>

DONORS REPORT FOR APRIL 2008

Education Fund (Church)

Lay Theological Education Program

又新浸信會	6,000.00	李國洪	100.00	杜桂鵬	500.00
上水浸信會	16,666.00	沈許婉昭	2,000.00	無名氏	100.00
上環浸信會	2,000.00	招志強伉儷	1,000.00	楊美蘭	780.00
大埔浸信會	10,000.00	胡文恩	300.00	蕭桂娥	1,500.00
大埔國際浸信會	750.00	徐詩雅	300.00		HK\$ <u>2,880.00</u>
元朗浸信會	16,000.00	馬錦泉伉儷	500.00		
牛池灣竹園潮語浸信會	1,000.00	崔燕琼	2,000.00	Distance Education Program	
佐敦道浸信會	750.00	許鋒威	400.00	Ernest & Sylvia Ho	2,000.00
沙田浸信會	7,000.00	陳麗英	500.00	何惠珍	10,000.00
赤柱浸信會	3,000.00	馮德華	300.00	何鏡煒伉儷	3,000.00
旺角浸信會	30,000.00	黃華娟	100.00	無名氏	1,000.00
紅磡浸信會	3,500.00	葉煥章	300.00	鄒小寶	1,000.00
香港仔浸信會	30,883.50	劉永生	300.00		HK\$ <u>17,000.00</u>
香港浸信教會	88,300.00	劉建紅	600.00		
香港聖尼地城浸信教會	1,200.00	蔡志強伉儷	500.00	Local Filipino Program	
海怡浸信教會	5,000.00	鄭非兒	300.00	各菲律賓浸信教會	7,224.00
粉嶺浸信會	33,000.00	鄧炳光伉儷	1,000.00	張智理伉儷	5,000.00
荃灣浸信會	40,000.00	龐凌玉珍	500.00	陳麗英	200.00
基磐浸信會	3,000.00	羅佩珊	100.00	蕭桂娥	300.00
清水灣國際浸信會	500.00	羅凱慈	1,000.00	溫祥、黎琮珍	400.00
第一城浸信會	6,250.00	關德華伉儷	140.00		HK\$ <u>13,124.00</u>
愛群道浸信會	5,000.00	溫祥、黎琮珍	500.00		
置富浸信教會	1,500.00	天國人77	50,000.00	Annual Concert	
蓮頭塘浸信會	1,100.00	無名氏	20,000.00	觀塘浸信會	HK\$ <u>2,000.00</u>
筲箕灣國語浸信會	500.00	無名氏	10.00		
筲箕灣潮語浸信會	25,000.00	無名氏	300.00	Dr. Carter Morgan Memorial Scholarship	
銅鑼灣浸信會	3,000.00	無名氏	400.00	北角浸信會路得女傳道會	300.00
廣源邨禧年浸信會	10,000.00	無名氏	400.00	清水灣國際浸信會	500.00
錫安浸信會	10,206.00	無名氏	300.00	Hing Sun & Betty Luk	10,000.00
觀塘浸信會	2,659.00	無名氏	500.00	Jonathan Chiu	4,000.00
鑽石山浸信會	7,500.00	無名氏	1,000.00	Kwan & Jean Au Yeung	2,000.00
基督教宣道會華基堂	500.00		HK\$ <u>100,150.00</u>	Peter & Ivy Chow Family	1,000.00
基督教宣道會觀塘堂	11,700.00	陳黃謙素	US\$150.00	Richard & Cynthia & Natasha Claypole	5,000.00
	HK\$ <u>383,464.50</u>			Ricky & Dianne Lam	100.00
Chinese Indep. Baptist Church-S.F.	<u>US\$540.00</u>	President Council			HK\$ <u>22,900.00</u>
		譚日旭	HK\$ <u>2,000.00</u>		

Education Fund (Donor/Organization)

Hill Singer

Mr. & Mrs. John Dockerill	3,000.00	Scholarship and Bursaries		馬頭圍基督教會	HK\$ <u>2,000.00</u>
江耀全伉儷	3,000.00	香港(西區)潮語浸信會	5,000.00		
何譚惠如	2,000.00	陳巧貞	1,000.00		
吳國傑伉儷	500.00	愛子	200.00		
呂志華	1,000.00		HK\$ <u>6,200.00</u>		
李勝球伉儷	5,000.00				

**DONORS REPORT FOR MAY 2008**

**Education Fund (Church)**

九龍城潮語浸信會	50,000.00
上水浸信會	16,666.00
上環浸信會	2,000.00
大埔浸信會	10,000.00
牛池灣竹園潮語浸信會	1,000.00
以馬內利浸信會	7,000.00
北角浸信會	120,000.00
佐敦道浸信會	750.00
沙田浸信會	7,000.00
旺角潮語浸信會	4,000.00
紅磡浸信會	3,500.00
香港仔浸信會	25,104.70
香港浸信教會	88,300.00
香港堅尼地城浸信教會	1,200.00
恩典浸信會	10,000.00
荃灣浸信會基石福音堂	2,500.00
基督浸信會	1,000.00
彩坪浸信會	49,461.11
深水埗浸信會	29,638.00
置富浸信教會	1,500.00
銅鑼灣浸信會	3,000.00
觀塘浸信會	1,801.00
基督教宣道會華基堂	500.00
基督教豐盛生命堂	4,500.00
<b>HK\$</b>	<b><u>440,420.81</u></b>

黃少娟	2,000.00
黃華娟	100.00
黃楹方	100.00
楊月梅	500.00
葉煥章	300.00
劉永生	300.00
劉建紅	600.00
劉福全伉儷	500.00
鄭非兒	300.00
鄧炳光伉儷	1,000.00
薛聲明	2,000.00
謝金玉	900.00
龐凌玉珍	500.00
羅佩珊	100.00
羅凱慈	1,000.00
關德華伉儷	140.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	500.00
無名氏	23.70
無名氏	300.00
無名氏	400.00
無名氏	300.00
無名氏	1,000.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	3,000.00
無名氏	500.00
<b>HK\$</b>	<b><u>77,163.70</u></b>
	<b><u>US\$500.00</u></b>

<b>Distance Education Program</b>	
Ernest & Sylvia Ho	2,000.00
何鏡煒伉儷	13,000.00
鄒小寶	500.00
	<u>15,500.00</u>
<b>Local Filipino Program</b>	
Cityone Baptist Church English Congregation	1,677.00
Grace Filipino Baptist Church	350.00
Grace International Baptist Church	510.00
IBC Filipino (HK)	670.00
Shatin Bapt. Ch. Eng/Filip Ministry	309.00
The Shepherds Baptist Church	310.00
Tuen Mun Filipino Baptist Chapel	353.00
Araceli Cambel	50.00
Daisy Anas	60.00
Johah Domingo	100.00
Yun Wai & Annie Ho	5,000.00
Phoebe Wong	100.00
張智理伉儷	5,600.00
趙啓迅伉儷	10,000.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	400.00
<b>HK\$</b>	<b><u>25,489.00</u></b>
<b>Annual Concert</b>	
中華傳道會活道堂	1,000.00
<b>HK\$</b>	<b><u>1,000.00</u></b>

**Education Fund (Donor/Organization)**

梁氏有限公司	10,000.00
禧年行基金有限公司	35,000.00
Mr. & Mrs. John Dockerill	3,000.00
Savio Wong	3,000.00
江耀全伉儷	3,000.00
何譚惠如	2,000.00
吳國傑伉儷	500.00
呂志華	1,000.00
李錦霞	500.00
胡文恩	300.00
胡路雲	500.00
徐陳佩瑜	500.00
徐詩雅	300.00
許鋒威	400.00
馮德華	300.00

黃福	
<b>President Council</b>	
譚日旭	2,000.00
<b>Scholarship and Bursaries</b>	
香港(西區)潮語浸信會	5,000.00
溫恩智執事伉儷助學金	20,000.00
無名氏	19,660.00
愛子	200.00
<b>HK\$</b>	<b><u>44,860.00</u></b>
<b>Lay Theological Education Program</b>	
杜桂鵬	500.00
李燕珊	100.00
蕭桂娥	1,500.00
<b>HK\$</b>	<b><u>2,100.00</u></b>

<b>Overseas Short Term Mission &amp; Field Education</b>	
基督教會立基堂	6,600.00
紅磡浸信會	3,000.00
Cheung Yat Hong	500.00
Cheung Yuen Wai	500.00
Chow Chun Fa	1,000.00
Ho Yee Ming	5,000.00
Lam Ting Hei	1,000.00
Lau Kwok Wa	200.00
Yim Chiu Chi	500.00
吳國權	200.00
張婉兒	100.00
謝國禮	500.00
譚偉源	500.00
<b>HK\$</b>	<b><u>19,600.00</u></b>

DONORS REPORT FOR JUNE 2008

Education Fund (Church)

九龍城浸信會	165,000.00
上環浸信會	2,000.00
土瓜灣浸信會	25,000.00
大埔浸信會	10,000.00
元朗浸信會	16,000.00
牛池灣竹園潮語浸信會	1,000.00
以馬內利浸信會	3,500.00
尖沙嘴國語浸信會	100.00
佐敦道浸信會	750.00
沙田浸信會	7,000.00
紅磡浸信會	3,500.00
香港仔浸信會	25,760.90
香港浸信教會	88,300.00
香港堅尼地城浸信教會	1,200.00
香港懷恩浸信教會	15,000.00
粉嶺浸信會	4,000.00
基磐浸信會	4,000.00
富亨浸信會	1,000.00
愛群道浸信會	6,000.00
置富浸信教會	1,500.00
銅鑼灣浸信會	3,000.00
灣仔浸信會	210.00
觀塘浸信會	1,872.00
基督教宣道會華基堂	500.00

HK\$ 386,192.90

徐詩雅	300.00
許鋒威	400.00
勞敏研	100.00
馮德華	300.00
黃華娟	100.00
葉煥章	300.00
劉永生	300.00
劉建紅	600.00
鄭非兒	300.00
鄧炳光伉儷	1,000.00
謝金玉	900.00
龐凌玉珍	500.00
羅佩珊	100.00
羅凱慈	500.00
關德華伉儷	140.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	500.00
無名氏	300.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	1,000.00
無名氏	300.00
無名氏	112.30
無名氏	400.00

HK\$ 18,752.30

President Council

譚日旭伉儷	2,000.00
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HK\$ 2,000.00

Education Fund (Donor)

江耀全伉儷	3,000.00
何譚惠如	2,000.00
吳國傑伉儷	500.00
呂志華	1,000.00
林偉俊伉儷	1,000.00
胡文恩	300.00
胡永定、何惠珍伉儷	2,000.00

HK\$ 14,200.00

Scholarship and Bursaries

香港(西區)潮語浸信會	5,000.00
香港浸信會女傳道會聯會	8,000.00
香港浸信會聯會	1,000.00
愛子伉儷	200.00

HK\$ 14,200.00

Lay Theological Education Program

07-08幼兒基督教教育證書畢業同學	2,700.00
信徒宣教證書課程畢業同學	3,000.00
婦女神學訓練文憑課程同學	160.00
賴美艷	500.00
蕭桂娥	1,500.00
杜桂鵬	500.00

HK\$ 8,360.00

Distance Education Program

Ernest & Sylvia Ho	2,000.00
何鏡璋伉儷	3,000.00
專題講座會眾	680.00
鄒小寶	1,000.00

HK\$ 6,680.00

Local Filipino Program

New Beginnings Christian Fellowship - HK	1,521.20
九龍菲語浸信會	105.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	400.00
張智理伉儷	5,000.00

HK\$ 7,026.20

Dr. Carter Morgan Memorial Scholarship

荃灣浸信會	5,000.00
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HK\$ 5,000.00

Overseas Short Term Mission & Field Education

澳門浸信會	5,000.00
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HK\$ 5,000.00

DONORS REPORT FOR JULY 2008

<b>Education Fund (Church)</b>				<b>Distance Education Program</b>	
上水浸信會	16,666.00	許鋒威	400.00	Ernest & Sylvia Ho	2,000.00
上環浸信會	2,000.00	陳麗英	1,000.00	何鏡煒伉儷	3,000.00
大埔浸信會	10,000.00	馮德華	300.00	杜少琼	500.00
大埔國際浸信會	750.00	黃華娟	100.00	胡永定、何惠珍	20,000.00
小西灣浸信會福音堂	3,000.00	葉煥章	300.00	袁佩珍	500.00
牛池灣竹園潮語浸信會	1,000.00	劉永生	300.00	梁玉笑	500.00
以馬內利浸信會	3,500.00	劉建紅	600.00	鄒小寶	1,500.00
尖沙嘴國語浸信會	4,000.00	鄭非兒	300.00		<u>HK\$ 28,000.00</u>
佐敦道浸信會	750.00	鄧炳光伉儷	2,000.00		
沙田浸信會	7,000.00	謝金玉	900.00		
青山浸信會	11,000.00	鍾建偉	6,000.00	<b>Local Filipino Program</b>	
紅磡浸信會	3,500.00	龐凌玉珍	500.00	Faith Fellowship Baptist Church	360.00
香港仔浸信會	32,990.30	羅佩珊	100.00	IBC Filipino (HK)	790.00
香港浸信教會	88,300.00	羅凱慈	500.00	九龍國際浸信會	590.00
香港堅尼地城浸信教會	1,200.00	關德華伉儷	140.00	張智理伉儷	5,000.00
粉嶺浸信會	33,000.00	溫祥、黎琮珍	500.00	陳麗英	400.00
基磐浸信會	1,000.00	無名氏	1,000.00	溫祥、黎琮珍	400.00
第一城浸信會	6,250.00	無名氏	500.00		<u>HK\$ 7,540.00</u>
銅鑼灣浸信會	3,000.00	無名氏	300.00		
樂滿浸信會	6,000.00	無名氏	400.00	<b>Dr. Carter Morgan Memorial Scholarship</b>	
灣仔浸信會	4,020.00	無名氏	300.00	尖沙嘴國語浸信會	50,000.00
觀塘浸信會	3,146.00	無名氏	200.00	粉嶺浸信會	50,000.00
基督教宣道會華基堂	500.00	無名氏	500.00		<u>HK\$ 100,000.00</u>
基督教豐盛生命堂	4,500.00		<u>HK\$ 30,240.00</u>	Westminster Baptist Church	1,395.00
	<u>HK\$ 247,072.30</u>			Joseph K. Scott	10.00
Chinese Indep. Baptist Church-S.F.	US\$ 540.00	<b>Lay Theological Education Program</b>		Lounette Templeton	100.00
		Fellowship in Savior's Honor	2,130.00	Marcia B. Collins	30.00
<b>Education Fund (Donor/Organization)</b>		婦女神學訓練證書課程06班畢業同學	1,200.00	Marjorie C Dean	50.00
方敬亮	5,000.00	李轉美	100.00	Mary Holcombe	25.00
江耀全伉儷	3,000.00	杜桂鵬	500.00	Mary M Williams TTEE	100.00
何譚惠如	2,000.00	無名氏	39.00	Robert C. Scott	10.00
吳國傑伉儷	500.00	蕭桂娥	1,500.00	Vivian D Hurt	25.00
呂志華	1,000.00		<u>HK\$ 5,469.00</u>		<u>US\$ 1,745.00</u>
林威烈	1,000.00				
胡文恩	300.00	<b>Scholarship and Bursaries</b>		<b>Music Camp</b>	
徐詩雅	300.00	香港(西區)潮語浸信會	5,000.00	真理基石浸信會	2,000.00
		愛子伉儷	300.00	基督教尖沙咀潮人生命堂	3,000.00
			<u>HK\$ 5,300.00</u>		<u>HK\$ 5,000.00</u>



DONORS REPORT FOR AUGUST 2008

Education Fund (Church)

上環浸信會	2,000.00
大埔浸信會	10,000.00
元朗浸信會	16,000.00
牛池灣竹園潮語浸信會	1,000.00
以馬內利浸信會	3,500.00
尖沙嘴國語浸信會	1,000.00
竹園浸信會	1,000.00
佐敦道浸信會	750.00
沙田浸信會	7,000.00
旺角浸信會女傳道會	2,000.00
香港仔浸信會	25,524.30
香港浸信教會	88,300.00
香港堅尼地城浸信教會	1,200.00
恩典浸信會	10,000.00
荃灣浸信會	40,000.00
基磐浸信會	1,000.00
愛群道浸信會	5,000.00
置富浸信教會	3,000.00
銅鑼灣浸信會	3,000.00
廣林浸信會	2,000.00
觀塘浸信會	1,724.00
觀塘國語浸信會	10,000.00
宣道浸信會佐敦堂	3,000.00
基督教宣道會華基堂	500.00
基督教宣道會觀塘堂	6,335.00
	<u>HK\$ 244,833.30</u>

Education Fund (Donor/Organization)

Mr. & Mrs. John Dockerill	10,000.00
江耀全伉儷	3,000.00
何譚惠如	2,000.00
吳國傑伉儷	500.00

呂志華	1,000.00
林婉嫻	220.00
胡文恩	300.00
徐詩雅	300.00
張啓明伉儷	1,000.00
戚廣雄	500.00
梁志華	1,000.00
許鋒威	400.00
黃華娟	100.00
葉煥章	300.00
劉永生	300.00
劉建紅	600.00
鄭非兒	300.00
薛聲明	2,000.00
謝金玉	900.00
龐凌玉珍	500.00
羅佩珊	100.00
羅凱慈	1,000.00
關德華伉儷	140.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	500.00
黃英	500.00
無名氏	300.00
無名氏	400.00
無名氏	300.00
無名氏	1,000.00
無名氏	500.00
無名氏	3,200.00
無名氏	10.00
無名氏	100.00
無名氏	500.00
	<u>HK\$ 33,770.00</u>
Frances Wong	<u>US\$ 500.00</u>

Lay Theological Education Program

年長者事工基礎文憑課程畢業生	1,300.00
杜桂鵬	500.00
婦女神學訓練文憑課程畢業同學	1,100.00
蔡艷桃	1,000.00
蕭桂娥	1,500.00
	<u>HK\$ 5,400.00</u>

Distance Education Program

Ernest & Sylvia Ho	2,000.00
何鏡煒伉儷	3,000.00
鄒小寶	500.00
無名氏	1,000.00
	<u>HK\$ 6,500.00</u>

Local Filipino Program

張智理伉儷	5,500.00
溫祥、黎琮珍	400.00
	<u>HK\$ 5,900.00</u>

Scholarship and Bursaries

香港(西區)潮語浸信會	5,000.00
愛子伉儷	300.00
	<u>HK\$ 5,300.00</u>

DONORS REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2008

Education Fund (Church)

Lay Theological Education Program

上環浸信會	2,000.00	徐詩雅	300.00	香港浸信會幼稚園教育協會	5,000.00
大埔浸信會	10,000.00	張啓明伉儷	500.00	杜桂鵬	500.00
大埔國際浸信會	750.00	許鋒威	400.00	蔡艷桃	1,000.00
牛池灣竹園潮語浸信會	1,000.00	馮德華	300.00	蕭桂娥	1,500.00
牛頭角浸信會	11,000.00	黃華娟	100.00	嚴樂欣	200.00
以馬內利浸信會	3,500.00	葉煥章	300.00		HK\$ <u>8,200.00</u>
尖沙嘴浸信會	184,608.10	劉永生	300.00		
尖沙嘴國語浸信會	1,000.00	劉建紅	600.00	Distance Education Program	
沙田浸信會	7,000.00	鄭非兒	300.00	Ernest & Sylvia Ho	2,000.00
旺角浸信會	3,998.90	鄧炳光伉儷	1,000.00	何鏡璋伉儷	3,000.00
紅磡浸信會	7,000.00	謝金玉	1,800.00	鄒小寶	500.00
香港仔浸信會	33,130.70	龐凌玉珍	500.00		HK\$ <u>5,500.00</u>
香港浸信教會	88,300.00	羅佩珊	100.00	Local Filipino Program	
香港浸信教會顯理福音堂	4,500.00	羅凱慈	1,000.00	張智理伉儷	5,500.00
香港堅尼地城浸信教會	1,200.00	關德華伉儷	140.00	溫祥、黎瑛珍	400.00
粉嶺浸信會	4,000.00	溫祥、黎瑛珍	500.00		HK\$ <u>5,900.00</u>
基磐浸信會	1,000.00	無名氏	300.00	Dr. Carter Morgan Memorial Scholarship	
深水埗浸信會	2,943.50	無名氏	500.00	尖沙嘴浸信會	HK\$ <u>59,000.00</u>
慈雲山浸信會	8,000.00	無名氏	1,000.00	Mrs. Sue Mau Memorial Scholarship & Bursary	
置富浸信教會	1,500.00	無名氏	300.00	冒懷慶	AUD <u>3,000.00</u>
銅鑼灣浸信會	3,000.00	無名氏	221.00	Hill Singer	
觀塘浸信會	2,521.00	無名氏	400.00	柳慧敏	100.00
基督教宣道會華基堂	500.00			高貴琪	300.00
	HK\$ <u>382,452.20</u>	Connie Pong K. L.	USD <u>200.00</u>	羅凱慈	500.00
				羅麗斯	500.00
				無名氏	300.00
					HK\$ <u>1,700.00</u>

Education Fund (Donor/Organization)

Scholarship and Bursaries

江耀全伉儷	3,000.00	愛子伉儷	<u>300.00</u>		
何譚惠如	1,000.00				
吳國傑伉儷	500.00	Edna Wong Christian Workship and Arts			
呂志華	1,000.00	Education Centre			
李錦霞	1,000.00	勞鑄鏗	160.00		
胡文恩	300.00	蘇雅妍	160.00		
			HK\$ <u>320.00</u>		

Year 2008 Hill Singer Short Mission - United Kingdom

大角咀浸信會	4,500.00	容志偉	4,000.00	劉健仁	4,000.00
基督教會立基堂	2,000.00	莊培傑	3,000.00	劉詠君	4,000.00
Yan Yu Qing Alisa	100,000.00	許雅欣	1,000.00	劉錦卿	1,000.00
何寶霞	3,000.00	陳永業	3,300.00	羅凱慈	500.00
吳國傑	300.00	馮潔英	700.00	溫張蓮	3,000.00
李志豪	4,000.00	鄔寶寶	4,000.00	李國雄	2,108.85
李秀嫻	4,000.00				<u>148,408.85</u>

# Precious Moments



## July 4-6 Summer Church Music Camp for Baptist University Students

The camp was jointly organized by the Seminary and the Chaplaincy Office of Hong Kong Baptist University with 170 participants. The theme was "Take My Life" and there were talks, spiritual revival meetings and a final concert.



## August 20-21 Spiritual Formation Camp

The camp was held before the school term began with the theme "Listen ...." Thank God for allowing students to come before God to learn to look up to God, wait for him and listen to his voice before immersing themselves in their studies.



## August 26 The Opening Convocation

The Opening Convocation signified a new beginning and a new journey. Speaking on the topic "the Gospel of Peace," Professor Joshua Cho, Acting President, encouraged students, using Ephesians 2:13-18.



## August 27 Convocation Lecture

Dr. Nathan Ng, Associate Professor of Christian Thought (Church History) was the speaker on the topic "A Reflection on the Handling of Historical Data and Statistics of Hong Kong Churches from a Study of Hong Kong Denominations."



## September 11 Mid-Autumn Festival Tea Party

The Daily Living Department of the Student Union held a tea gathering in the campus canteen where the teachers and students sat below the colorful paper lanterns for a time of fun and games.



## September 18 Academic Seminar

This year's first Academic Seminar began with Rev. Harry Lucenay, speaking on the topic, "Giving Your Family Faith," based on his own experience providing our teachers and students with many practical suggestions.