

September 2022

Dear Prayer Partners,

Thanks to the grace of the Lord, our fall semester of 2022-23 has started on August 29 and face-to-face lessons were resumed. Under the fifth wave of the epidemic, even if students are diagnosed or have to be quarantined, video recording of the lessons or online learning can still be arranged. With God's grace and the aid of facilities and technology, we can adjust and cope with sudden changes smoothly.

In view of the forthcoming demolition of our old campus, a "Farewell to 59 Cumberland Road Thanksgiving Gathering" was held on September 9 at 59 Cumberland Road. Since the purchase of the current new campus in Mei Foo in 2018, we are grateful to have better development in terms of facilities and enrolment of students. As the entire relocation plan for the new campus costs HK\$450 million in total, we are thankful to the Lord that we experienced a miraculous event at the end of last year, in which a body of Christ was willing to purchase the old campus at 15 Cumberland Road and then offered it at no cost for the use of the Hong Kong Theological Seminary. As a result, our monthly loan interest to the bank was reduced from the original HK\$600,000 to about HK\$300,000. However, we still need to sell the old campus at 55 and 59 Cumberland Road, so that we can pay off all the loans as soon as possible. This will facilitate us to make better plans and preparation for the future development of Chinese theological education. Given the advices from experienced professionals and with the approval of the Board of Directors, we decided to demolish the current buildings at 59 Cumberland Road before selling it. We hope to complete the entire demolition before the Lunar New Year. In other words, only a vacant site will be sold at 59 Cumberland Road to reduce the risks that may arise during the sale process. Other benefits of selling a vacant site are:

- Reduce building maintenance and spalling accidents that may hurt people;
- Site without buildings does not need to pay rates (approximately HK\$300,000 per year can be reduced);
- If other non-Christian religious bodies purchase the site, they need to re-apply to the Town Planning Board for religious use (this will reduce the interest of non-Christian religious buyers);
- Buying a vacant site, as compared to one with existing buildings, will make it easier and faster for buyers to apply for a 25.75% tax rebate with the Inland Revenue Department, which makes the site more attractive to potential

buyers.

At the “Farewell to 59 Cumberland Road Thanksgiving Gathering,” on September 9, Mr. Thomas Loong, our Emeritus Professor of Biblical Studies, shared the message of Ecclesiastes 3:1-16 with the title of “A Time to Demolish.” Thank God that 150 persons participated in this historical event. Toward the end of the gathering, we stood together on the beautiful lawn of the campus and ended the gathering with the seminary anthem and motto. Everyone was so grateful for the beautiful place that God had given us over the years, and it was truly a beautiful and grateful day to recount our memories.

Please continue to pray earnestly for the seminary:

#### 1. 2022-23 Enrolment Status

There are 71 new students enrolled for this school year, including:

- Full-time ministry - 15 Master of Divinity (full-time); 2 Master of Divinity (pastoral training);
- Advanced Pastoral Training - 1 Master of Theology; 1 Doctor of Ministry; 5 Master of Arts in Expository Preaching;
- Lay Ministry - 8 Master of Arts in Biblical Studies; 4 Master of Arts in Christian Education;
- Advanced Programs - 13 Postgraduate Diploma in Biblical Studies; 2 Postgraduate Diploma in Christian Education;
- Advanced Programs (Online Study) - 18 Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies; 1 Higher Diploma in Christian Studies and 1 Certificate in Christian Studies.

In addition, a total of 23 new students were admitted to the Worship Studies Programs in January this year.

In this rapidly changing time, pray that we will continue to hold fast to the Biblical truth, while at the same time effectively training workers for the needs of this age.

#### 2. Flooding Incident

After the flooding of the campus on July 21, there is still a lot of aftermath work that needs to be dealt with. Some of the facilities and installations, after being soaked in salt water, were damaged immediately. Yet, there may exist other damages that have not emerged for the time being. The insurance claim process



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is complicated, we need to ask God to have mercy and grace on us.

I would cordially invite you, after reading this prayer letter, to take a moment to offer your prayers for Evangel Seminary. Thank you for your prayer support.

Together we serve in Christ,

KWOK Man-chee  
September 2022