

September 2023

Dear Prayer Partners,

Since 1932, Evangel Seminary has gone through ninety years under the grace of God. Due to the epidemic, we have postponed the entire 90th anniversary celebration for one year. This year's October anniversary will be our 90th anniversary thanksgiving celebration. For this reason, I entered the new school year with great excitement and gratitude. From Guangzhou to Kowloon Tong, and then from Kowloon Tong to Mei Foo Sun Chuen, the faithful Lord never changes or casts a shifting shadow. He has called us, all the co-workers of the seminary over the generations, who were unworthy and yet being entrusted with the important task of training the ministers of the Lord of the era, and for this we cannot cease our praise and thanksgiving to Him.

Nowadays, under the massive wave of immigration, Hong Kong churches and seminaries are generally facing the challenges of declining number of participants and financial constraints. But praise to our Lord, He still sent to us a total of 53 new students for our degree program this year, including:

- Full-time Ministry - 15 Master of Divinity;
- Advanced Pastoral Training - 1 Master of Theology; 2 Doctor of Ministry;
- Lay Ministry - 7 Master of Arts in Biblical Studies;
- Advanced Programs - 8 Postgraduate Diploma in Biblical Studies; 4 Postgraduate Diploma in Christian Education;
- Advanced Programs (Online Study) - 16 Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies;

During the past summer vacation, I had the opportunity to preach the Word of God in three cities in Australia. Thanks to the grace of the Lord, in addition to meeting many alumni who are still serving faithfully in their positions, I also met some alumni who have entered their retirement years. They all cared about the needs of their mother school. What's even more precious is that some Christians, whom I have never met, said that they learned about the current situation of the seminary



from the prayer letters of Evangel Seminary and often prayed for us. Such remembrance in the Lord urges me to write every prayer letter more seriously. (By the way: if possible, please try to receive our correspondences by email. Not only can this save a lot of manpower and resources, but it can also help to avoid the increase of workload due to the requirement of filling in customs declaration forms for every letter in some areas. I hope you will understand.)

In addition, I would like to share with you something that I am grateful for. Through the efforts of our board of directors and some professionals in the church, we have successfully applied to increase the plot ratio of the old campus (59 Cumberland Road, Kowloon Tong), which will greatly increase the value of this land. This is truly a wonderful blessing from the Lord. I hope I can share more detailed information with you at the celebration of the sale of this land in future, so that we can praise and glorify God together. But before the old campus is sold, we still have to face heavy pressure of monthly payment of interest. Therefore, let's pray together for the sale of the old campus.

Moreover, please continue to remember us in prayers:

1. Please pray for the celebrations of the 90th anniversary, including the “Walk the Gospel in the Community” gathering on August 27th, Rev. Dr. David Pao’s talks on “Devotion, Devotion to Jesus” on September 1st & 2nd, the thanksgiving gathering and dinner on October 8th, followed by a trip to Holy Land for alumni from October 10th to 21st. In addition, among others, we are producing a special publication on the 90th anniversary. We sincerely hope that God will accept all our gratitude wholly offered to Him.
2. Please pray for the financial needs of the seminary. Given the facts that the two old campuses in Kowloon Tong have not yet been sold, the bank interest over the past half year has risen tremendously, coupled with the increase in our general expenditure (the deficit in 2022-2023 exceeded HK\$3 million), etc., in the long run, all these factors will place a heavy financial burden on the seminary. We ask the Lord to prepare the right buyer for us at the right time. Just as He has done wonderful things for us in the past, we pray that we will once again experience His deeds that far exceed our imagination and request.



3. Please pray for the development of our overseas ministry. Since a large number of Christians have recently immigrated to the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and other places, our board of directors and our faculty are actively planning to launch overseas certificate courses so that lay Christians can receive training in the Bible, theology, ministry skills, spirituality, etc. so that overseas Chinese churches can be more strongly established.
4. Not only does the seminary have to face the challenge of the impending retirement of the President, but also the fact that several teachers will reach retirement age in the coming few years. Therefore, please continue to pray for us to find suitable teachers and pray for our faculty-in-preparation program that we are about to launch.
5. Finally, for this new school year, please pray that the Lord will move freely throughout the entire campus so that we can continue to grow spiritually.

Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to you all for being the supporters of Evangel Seminary over the years. I sincerely invite you to attend the 90th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service to be held at Evangel Seminary at 4:00 pm on October 8th (Sunday). We have invited two former Presidents to come back and host this thanksgiving gathering. Rev. Dr. John Hsu will be the speaker of the thanksgiving service; Dr. Maureen Yeung Marshall will share how she experienced God's work while serving in the seminary.

Thank you again for your prayers.

Together we serve,

KWOK Man-chee
September, 2023