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# The Ties That Bind :

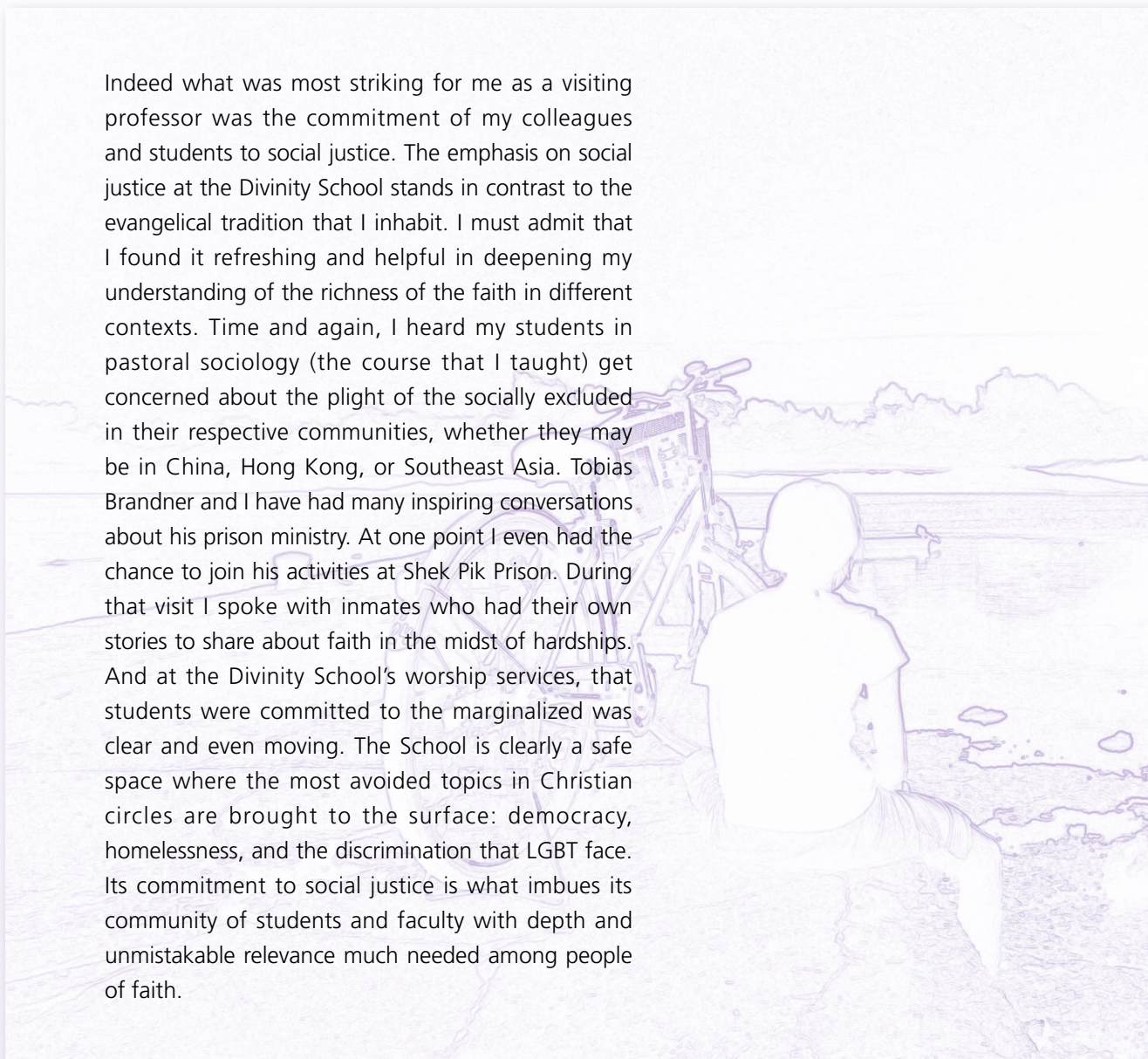
## Reflections of a visiting professor

Dr. Jayeel Cornelio



Too often religion is associated with the transcendent. Its narratives are most compelling when they set people's hopes on the future. But for sociologists, the power of religion is more subtle than this. It lies in its ability to bring people together. *Religare*, the Latin root word of religion, encapsulates this idea of binding. Religion has the resources to bind people to its rules and norms. But even more importantly, religion has the power to create and solidify community. Thus the endurance of religion rests upon the continuity of the community. This is why for the classical sociologist Emile Durkheim, the most elementary function of religion is the celebration of people's most cherished virtues, often couched in the mystery of rituals and worship. Along the same lines, religion, for Daniele Hervieu-Leger, is a chain of memory that brings people of the past, present, and the future together.

Community, I have to admit, is the beauty of the Divinity School of Chung Chi College. It is for this reason that its students, faculty, staff, and even alumni are in an ongoing conversation of what it means to be Christian in this day and age. While I was part of it for only one semester, my stay was long enough to discover the richness of its religious heritage. To be sure, every seminary or theological faculty has its own heritage. But in my view, the Divinity School is unique because of how it fosters greater commitment to the cause of its community.



Indeed what was most striking for me as a visiting professor was the commitment of my colleagues and students to social justice. The emphasis on social justice at the Divinity School stands in contrast to the evangelical tradition that I inhabit. I must admit that I found it refreshing and helpful in deepening my understanding of the richness of the faith in different contexts. Time and again, I heard my students in pastoral sociology (the course that I taught) get concerned about the plight of the socially excluded in their respective communities, whether they may be in China, Hong Kong, or Southeast Asia. Tobias Brandner and I have had many inspiring conversations about his prison ministry. At one point I even had the chance to join his activities at Shek Pik Prison. During that visit I spoke with inmates who had their own stories to share about faith in the midst of hardships. And at the Divinity School's worship services, that students were committed to the marginalized was clear and even moving. The School is clearly a safe space where the most avoided topics in Christian circles are brought to the surface: democracy, homelessness, and the discrimination that LGBT face. Its commitment to social justice is what imbues its community of students and faculty with depth and unmistakable relevance much needed among people of faith.

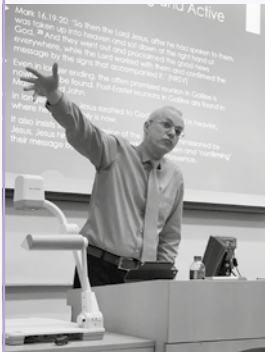


I wish to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues, friends, and students at the Divinity School of Chung Chi College. It was not difficult for its people to offer what they could for the success of its weekly services, fundraising events, and outreach activities throughout the semester. At the same time, I found it inspiring that even though I was new and only temporary in the community, I was readily accepted as one of their own. In their own ways they have embraced me in the relationships in which I was initially a stranger. The many informal fellowships, conversations, and meals all convinced me that the Divinity School was in fact my home. Months after I have left Hong Kong, partnerships that were forged then continue on. I have, for instance, hosted Victor Chan for his engagements in Manila. Tobias Brandner and I are involved in a project that investigates religious life in the penal system in the Philippines.

In the spirit of justice, mercy, and peace, that strangers are brought into its fold is precisely that which sets the Divinity School apart from other communities. Its religious vision is radical, one that pursues inclusion. And so may the ties that bind its people together be their source of strength and hope. If religion were indeed a chain of memory, then I have no doubt that the Divinity School is creating powerful memories for its people to carry on what we have all been called to do: *to love justice, to do mercy, and to walk humbly with the Lord our God.*



## Public Lecture by Prof. Markus Bockmuehl



Prof. Markus Bockmuehl (Dean Ireland's Professor, University of Oxford; Guest Professor, Institute of Sino-Christian Studies) delivered a public lecture on "The Problem of the Absence of Jesus in the New Testament" on March 22, 2019 in LT8 Yasumoto International Academic Park, Chung Chi College, CUHK. The lecture was co-organized by the Divinity School of Chung Chi College, Centre for Christian Studies and Institute of Sino-Christian Studies.

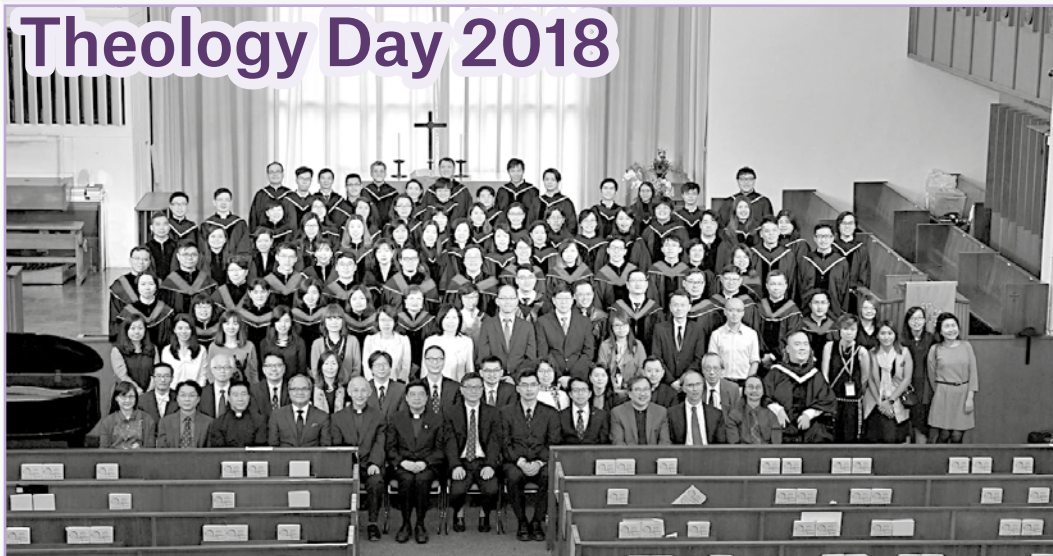


## News about Recruitment Exercise for Next Director of DSCCO

The recruitment exercise for the next Director of the Divinity School of Chung Chi College was closed on December 20, 2018. 5 applications were received. Two consultation sessions with students, graduates and teachers were conducted in October and mid-November 2018. The chair of Theological Council explained and answered all the questions related to the process of this search. The audience was encouraged to share their expectations and hope in the new director. The second and third meetings of the Search Committee were held on January 22, 2019 and February 28, 2019. After careful and thorough deliberation, Prof. Francis C.W. Yip was shortlisted and interviewed by the Search Committee. The candidate met with students and graduates on March 14, 2019 at Chapel, President Chi-tung Yung Memorial Building. A separate session with teachers was held on Apr 15.



# Theology Day 2018



Theology Day Celebration 2018 was held on November 3, 2018 at Chung Chi College Chapel. On that day, celebration for the Degree and Diploma programmes were held together. More than 800 people including guests, friends, pastoral workers, teachers, alumni, students and their family members participated in the Thanksgiving Service. It was our honor to have our alumnus, Rev. PO Kam-cheong, Associate General Secretary, The Hong Kong Council of The Church of Christ in China to deliver the sermon. This year, we have 86 degree graduates and 15 diploma graduates. We also welcomed our new batch of students for this academic year 18-19: 87 in degree programmes, and 15 in the diploma programmes. The Thanksgiving Dinner after the Service was held at Chung Chi College Staff Club and a total of 24 tables were arranged for more than 300 participants.



## Summer Camp for Sacred Music and Worship

A Summer Camp for Sacred Music and Worship was held from July 22 to 27, 2018 with more than 200 participants. The camp was jointly organized by our School, Chung Chi College Chaplaincy Office and Hong Kong Church Music Association.



## Seminar on Prevention of Sexual Harassment in Churches

The Divinity School was invited by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) to co-organize the "Seminar on Prevention of Sexual Harassment in Churches". The Seminar with over 60 participants was held on October 12, 2018 at the LT3 of YIA, CUHK. Church leaders from The Roman Catholic Church, The Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China, The Methodist Church, The Baptist Church and The Salvation Army, and other denominations and members from para-church organisations attended the seminar.

## The 23rd Chuen King Biblical Lectureship

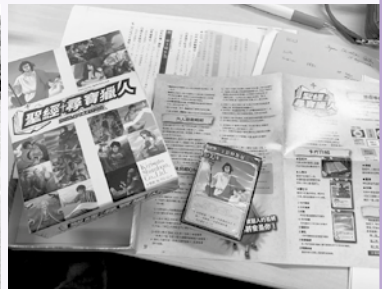


The 23rd Chuen King Biblical Lectureship was held on October 14, 2018 at Divinity School Chapel. Professor J. Cheryl Exum, Emeritus Professor of The University of Sheffield delivered lectures on the theme "The Song of Songs: Love, Desire and Romance in the Bible". Around 150 participants joined the event.

# Japan Study Tour



Professor Tobias Brandner, Dr. Marina X. J. Wang and Rev. Wong Ka-fai led a group of 25 students to churches, seminaries and universities in Kobe and Tokyo, Japan, for the summer course on "Special Topics on Christianity and Society: Study Tour to Japan" from May 24 to 31 2018.





## In Dialogue with Prof. Jürgen Moltmann



A seminar was jointly held by The Institute of Sino-Christian Studies and our School at Yasumoto International Academic Park on April 23, 2018. The World-renowned theologian Prof. Jürgen Moltmann was in dialogue with theologians in Hong Kong like Prof. Jason Lam (ISCS), Prof. Kwok Wai-luen ( HKBU), Prof. Lai Pan-chiu (CUHK). Prof. Francis Yip, our Associate Director, was the moderator of the seminar.

Profs. Lam, Kwok and Lai presented their papers titled “On the Subject of Hope: A reflection on the proximity between Theology and Philosophy in Moltmann’s Thought”; “The Chinese Church and its mission: A dialogue with Moltmann’s Ecclesiology” and “In Dialogue with Moltmann on Ethics of Hope” respectively. Prof. Moltmann responded to each of their papers and Prof. Milton W.Y. Wan concluded the seminar.



## Campus Tour

Our School arranged a campus tour for Prof. Jürgen Moltmann. Accompanied by Prof. Francis Yip, Prof. Moltmann greatly enjoyed the beauty of the Tolo Harbour viewed from the Pavilion of Harmony at New Asia College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The pavilion commemorates the neo-Confucian concept of the “union of heaven and humanity”. He also visited the chapel of the Divinity School of the Chung Chi College before the seminar. Prof. Simon S.M. Kwan explained to him the architecture and design of the Chapel and YCT Building.



## Ervad Homyar Nasirabadwala's visit



Zoroastrian priest (Ervad) Homyar G. Nasirabadwala Ervad and his wife Nilufe visited our School on January 9, 2019. Prof. Nancy Tan and Dr. Leo Li led a tour for them to our School Chapel and showed them around. Prof. Tan and Miss Li Kwong Ping accompanied the couple to travel around campus in the Chinese University of Hong Kong including the Chung Chi College, New Asia College and Lee Wo Shing College. Zoroastrianism was originated in Ancient Persia more than 3000 years ago and was known as the oldest religion in the World which is still active today.



## News for Walkathon 2018 & 2019

### Walkathon 2018

To raise fund for "Optimisation of Theology Building", a walkathon was held successfully on March 11, 2018. More than 250 participants joined our event. Rev. Dr. So Shing Yat, Rev. Chan Hin Cheung, Rev. Lo Lung Kwong, Mr. Timothy Chan, Mr. Choi Hon Ping, Dr. Jayeel Serrano Cornelio, Dr. MyoungYang, Prof. Xie Zhibin were the honorable guests in the opening ceremony.

Bazaar market, mini music concert and a big bowl feast were held on the same day. The participants had a great time. From the overwhelming support from our participants, donors, alumni, students and teachers, the School raised altogether HKD \$1,165,412.60. This amount raised doubled our original target of HKD\$ 550,000.



### Walkathon 2019

Participants including our professors, lecturers, donors, alumni, students took part in the walkathon. It started at 3:30 pm at Lingnan Stadium. The finishing line was at Theology Building where our participants were greeted warmly by the stalls of our charity bazaar and a Mini Music Concert, all set up by our students and staff. After the Thanksgiving service, we had a big-bowl feast. The total amount we raised was \$ 1,098,109.24.



## Global Network of Research Centres for Theology, Religious and Christian Studies

The third meeting of the Global Network of Research Centres for Theology, Religious and Christian Studies on the theme of Religion and Family took place at the Divinity School of Chung Chi College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and at the Institute of Sino-Christian Studies, Tao Fong Shan for the period January 17-20, 2019. Participants discussed how religion and family interact in their respective field of research or in their cultural context. 23 Senior Professors from Germany, Switzerland, South Korea, United State, Jerusalem, Peking and Hong Kong joined the meeting. Prof. Michael Welker, the Founder, delivered a welcome speech on "Past, Present, and Future of the Global Network". Dr. Milton Wan, delivered the Opening Lecture on "Globalization on Fire, Pondering on Global Network, Religion and Family"



## Institute for Advanced Study in Asian Cultures and Theologies (IASACT)



Funded by the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, IASACT has been administered by the Divinity School of Chung Chi College since 2015. IASACT 2018 was extended to 3 days longer so that participating scholars could arrive earlier and have more time to adapt to the campus environment. This year 12 scholars from Asian universities and seminaries, with nationalities ranging from 10 countries including Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, United Kingdom and Vietnam. There are two scholars from the Mainland China who are doing their research programs in Australia and the United Kingdom, and one scholar from the Philippines who is doing his Ph.D. program in Singapore. IASACT was successfully held from June 14 to July 14. It started off with the Opening Worship on June 18, and on July 13, IASACT culminates with a farewell lunch at the Staff Common Room. The scholars had the opportunities to visit Sheng Kung Hui Bishop House and Hong Kong Museum as well as exploring the city during their stay in Hong Kong. Two lectures were presented by Prof. Lee Yeong-mee from Graduate School of Theology, Hanshin University, Seoul and Prof. Jeane Peracullo, who was one of the mentors this year from De La Salle University in the Philippines.

A speech "Heteroglossia: Intellectual Quest in a Multilingual Discursive Context" was presented by Dr. Sonia Wong at the Open Ceremony of IASACT 2018.

## The Christian Study Centre on Chinese Religion and Culture (CSCCRC) and The Society for the Study of History of Christianity in China (SSHCC):

In order to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of CSCCRC, Round Table Lecture on "Should we still discuss Chinese Theology in China today?" was held on May 5, 2018. Many topics like "Foreseeing the future of CSCCRC", "Bible and Context", "Theology and Religious Dialogue", "Sinification of Christianity", "Theology and Context", and "The Context of Hong Kong Churches" were discussed at the Round Table Lecture.

Rev. Lo Lung Kwong, the former Director of CSCCRC, Prof. Lai Pin-chiu, Chief Editor of *Ching Feng*, Dr. Wang Xiao Jing, Associate Director of CSCCRC, Prof. Jason Lam, Academic Director of Institute of Sino-Christian Studies, Prof. Kwok Wai-luen, Assistant Professor of Hong Kong Baptist University attended the round table lecture. A thanksgiving worship was officiated by Rev. Samson Fan, Dean of HKSXH All Saints' Cathedral.

## Pastoral Programme

### The 12th Annual Pastoral Conference

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Pastoral Conference with the theme “Biblical Teaching in the Coming Days” was held during October 23-24, 2018. This is the result from a year-long project entitled “Biblical Teaching and Church Education”. Scholars and local church pastors were invited to share their feedbacks and views with the participants. More than 70 pastors and church leaders joined the conference.



## Resource Centre of the Contemporary Christian Studies (RCCCS):

The 16<sup>th</sup> Summer Academic Exchange Programme was held from July 22 to August 18, 2018 for Master degree and Doctoral degree students in Christian Studies from Mainland China. For the first two weeks, 48 participants attended intensive lectures to ground their knowledge on Christianity. These lectures included “Introduction to Old/New Testament” and “Introduction to Christian Ethics and Dogmatics”. The following two weeks were for individual supervision.



## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

(Sept 2018 to  
Mar 2019)

### Director in News

Prof. Ying Fuk-tsang resumed his duty as Director of the Divinity School after his sabbatical leave in 2017/18.

Prof. Ying was invited to present a paper titled "The Rebirth of Christian Higher Education in Post-war Hong Kong: a Case Study of Chung Chi College" at the Ninth Fu Jen Academic Catholica International Conference: Catholic Universities: Spirit, Ideals, History, and Current Situation from May 4 to 5, 2018.

Prof. Ying was invited by the Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan to deliver a speech on the China Factor and Hong Kong Christianity on May 11, 2018.

Prof. Ying visited Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, Kaohsiung, Taiwan on June 12, 2018. A seminar on "Umbrella Movement and Hong Kong Christianity" was held in which two presentations were given by Prof Ying and Dr. Roger H. M. Cheng.

Prof. Ying presented a paper at the "International Symposium on May Fourth Movement and Chinese Religions" organized by the Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica, Taiwan on November 22-24, 2018.

From December 10 to 15, Prof. Ying visited Tainan, Chiayi and Kaohsiung. He first delivered a public lecture at the Department of Theology, Chang Jung Christian University. Later, he visited Tainan Theological Seminary and signed the MOU on CPE training with St. Martin de Porres Hospital. Lastly, Prof. Ying concluded his trip with the Annual Theological Lecture organized by the Holy Light Theological Seminary.

He also presented a paper at the Conference on "Christianity and Social Activism in Chinese Society" organized by Center on Religion and Chinese Religion of Purdue University from February 24 to 26, 2019.

### Prof. Nancy N. H. Tan

Prof. Tan presented a paper entitled, "From Shamhat in Gilgameš to Gomer and the Female Prostitution Figures in Hosea 1-3." on 31 July 2018, at the International Society of Biblical Literature, Helsinki.

### Prof. Tobias Brandner

Prof. Tobias Brandner organized a seminar on the newest edition of the World Christian Encyclopedia with its author Prof. Todd Johnson. Several invited scholars on Christianity in China discussed the encyclopedia entries on China and Hong Kong on November 15, 2018.

From November 29 to December 2, Prof. Brandner conducted a research at the Manila City Jail and the New Bilibid Prison in the Philippines. This research is part of a Direct Grant funded research on prisons in Southeast Asia.

From December 10 to 15, Prof. Brandner was invited as visiting scholar to Egerton University, Nakuru, Kenya. He gave a public lecture on Christianity - China - Africa and conducted seminars with postgraduate students.

Together with the Centre for Christian Studies, he organized an international conference of the Global Network of Research Centers for theology, religious and Christian studies. 22 scholars from the U.S., Europe, South Africa, and Korea attended the conference on "Religion and the Family", was held at the Divinity School from January 17 to 20, 2019. With some of the participants of the global network meeting, he led an academic exchange visit to four universities in Shanghai (January 20 to 24, 2019): Fudan University, Tongji University, Shanghai Normal University, and East China Normal University.

He represented the Divinity School at a mission consultation meeting of the Presbyterian Church USA in Chiang Mai, Thailand from January 27 to 30, 2019.

He also attended a working group meeting on contextual theology in Jakarta from March 1 to 3, 2019.

### **Dr. Leo K. H. Li**

Dr. Leo Li contributed as mentor and facilitator during the ATESEA Theological Union (ATU) Doctoral Colloquium held on July 3-4, 2018 at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong.

### **Dr. Marina X. J. Wang**

Dr. Marina Wang attended the Yale-Edinburgh Annual Conference on the History of the Missionary Movement and World Christianity at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, from June 28 to 30, 2018.

Dr. Wang was invited to be one of the main speakers at the International Conference on Baptist Studies VIII: Baptists, Gospel and Culture, at Baylor University, US, from July 18 to 21, with the title "'More Christian, More Chinese, and More Efficient": Herman Liu and the University of Shanghai (1928-1938)'. Dr. Wang also attended and presented a paper at the Ecclesiastical History Society Summer Conference: The Church and the Law, at the University of Cambridge, UK, from July 24 to 26, with the title 'Protected by the Constitution or the Treaties: Christian Missions, Native Churches, and the Abolition of the "Unequal Treaties" during the Anti-Christian Movement in China (1922-1927)'. During the AGM of the Ecclesiastical History Society on July 25, Dr. Wang was awarded the 2018 Ecclesiastical History Society President's Prize for the best paper given by an early-career scholar in the year's conferences. The title of her awarded paper is "Western Establishment or Chinese Sovereignty?: The Tientsin Anglo-Chinese College during the Restore Educational Rights Movement (1924-1927)".

She attended and chaired session at "Sino-Western Cultural Exchange and the Development of Christianity in China: A Conference in Celebration of the Bicentenary of Ying Wa College" in Hong Kong Baptist University on October 12-13.

She attended and presented a paper entitled "Chinese Churches, Christian Missions and the Abrogation of Unequal Treaties in the 1920s" at the conference on "The History of Christian Missions from the Perspectives of Globalisation" in Jinan University, Guangzhou on November 8-11. She attended and chaired a session at the conference on "One Belt One Road" and Maritime Anthropology" on November 16-18 in Xiamen University, Fujian.

She attended and chaired a session at The Ninth International Young Scholars' Symposium on 'Christianity and Chinese Society and Culture' in CUHK on December 6-8. She attended and served as discussant at the conference on 'Modern Education in China and its Impacts: A Historical and Philosophical Investigation' on December 7-8 in the Hong Kong Baptist University.

### **Dr. Christina W. Y. Wong**

Dr. Christina Wong contributed as mentor and facilitator during the ATESEA Theological Union (ATU) Doctoral Colloquium held on July 3-4, 2018 at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong.

Dr. Wong presented a paper at the Chinese Christianities Seminar of American Academy of Religion in Denver, during November 17-20. The title of the paper is "A Christian Women's Community in Canton, South China: Women's Work in Transnational Cooperation (1872-1938)."

She represented the Divinity School at a mission consultation meeting of the Presbyterian Church USA in Chiang Mai, Thailand from January 27 to 30, 2019.

### **Dr. Sonia K. Wong**

Dr. Sonia Wong attended the 2018 meeting of the Society of Asian Biblical Studies in Malang, Indonesia during July 16-20, 2018, and presented a conference paper "The Solomonic Kingdom as a Collective Narcissistic Discourse of the Imperialized Yehudites," on July 18.

In May and June 2018, with the support of R-portion, Dr. Sonia Wong visited Vanderbilt Divinity School (Nashville, TN) on behalf of the Academic Exchange Committee to meet with the Vanderbilt faculty, with a goal to forge an official partnership between the two institutes.

Dr. Wong attended Society of Biblical Literature 2018 Annual Meeting (Denver, CO) on November 17-21, 2018 and was invited to present a paper "The Umbrella Movement and the Bible" in the Minoritized Criticism and Biblical Interpretation Session.

### Prof. Alex H. H. Ip

A paper titled "Seeing our neighbor in light of the serious economic inequality in Hong Kong" was presented by Prof. Alex Ip at The Christian Forum for Reconciliation in Northeast Asia 2018 from May 28 to June 2.

Prof. Ip participated in the Colloquium on Material Culture and Ancient Religion. Religion and Empire: Agency and Intersecting Identities during July 16 to 29.

### Office in News

Prof. Simon S. M. Kwan and Prof. Kung Lap-yan are on long leave in the second term of academic year 2018-2019. Prof. Francis C.W. Yip acts as acting programme director of Master of Arts in Christian Studies during the absence of Prof. Kung.

Miss Esther W. K. Chan has taken up the post of Research Assistant since September 17, 2018 in the Centre for Quality-Life Education as the replacement of Miss Ma Wing Wa Trixie who left the School on September 15, 2018.

Prof. Tobias Brandner, Dr. Marina Wang and Rev. Ray K. F. Wong led a group of 25 visitors to churches, seminaries and universities in Kobe and Tokyo, Japan, for the summer course on "Special Topics on Christianity and Society: Study Tour to Japan" from May 24 to 31, 2018.

### Congratulations

Rev. Pong Kwan-wah (92 BD, 00 MTheol) was elected to be bishop of the Methodist Church in Republic of China on February 22, 2019 at the 56th Annual Meeting in Taipei.

### Obituary

Prof. Charles Kao, the third Vice-Chancellor of CUHK (1987–1996), passed away on September 23, 2018 at the age of 84. His funeral was held at the Hong Kong Funeral Home on October 8, 2018. It was attended by over 450 people. Rev. Ray K. F. Wong, Chaplain of the Divinity School was invited to officiate the funeral.

Dr. Vincent Shen (沈清松) passed away on November 14, 2018. The funeral service was held on December 14, at Fu Jen Catholic University in Taiwan.

Mrs. Sylvia L. Shen passed away on February 21, 2019 in the U.S. at the age of 93. She was the librarian in the Chung Chi Elisabeth Luce Moore Library. Her husband Dr. Philip Shen, the former Head of the Chung Chi College, passed away in 2004.