

## To Guard Your Conscience with the Utmost Courage--A Year-End Report

Dear friends and supporters,

May peace be with you all in 2021!

Our office has been moved to the current place for two years. Although there are quite a few problems, such as, water leaking in the toilet and unreasonable complaints from neighbours, the location, size and environment of the office are convenience and good, and therefore, we renew a two years contract with the landlord. We do hope that our venue can be used by the Lord to serve different people and NGOs. Please do contact us if you want to use our venue. This year we have a deficit of more than a million Hong Kong dollars, and 400,000 Hong Kong dollars out of it is caused by the ups and downs of the share market. The loss is by no means a small amount in a circumstance that we do not have stable income and donation. Even so, we still work hard to disseminate hope in Hong Kong despite the fiscal austerity.

New initiatives have been launched this year. Among them, “*Pastors as the Watchman*” is published quarterly which aims to provide a theological response to current affairs. We work with two organizations to offer the “Overcoming Trauma Support Program”. In order to nurture our young people, we invite the youth to participate in our work. For instance, the latest issue of the quarterly publication “*Sze*” (Reflection) with a theme of “Good Night, Hong Kong” is planned and implemented by Dereck Shun Hin LAM, a first year seminary’s student. Unavoidably, some plans have to be postponed due to the pandemic, including the “Overseas Ecumenical Internship Program” and the “Connecting Christian District Council Members Program”. Hopefully, these programs with fresh and fruitful ideas will be unfolded later.

This year is the first time that the HKCI failed to receive the Nethersole Fund. This is such a heavy blow to our hard-working co-workers, but we are thankful that God always leaves a door open to cheer us up, as many friends from Hong Kong churches, overseas Christian organizations, and numerous individual members continue to support our work in varied ways. Their trust on us is an indispensable motivation for our work.

Wai Yin LAI, social ministry officer, left his position in mid-July 2019. We are more than grateful for his 3-years dedication. He had generously made countless contributions to the HKCI without expecting anything in return. On the other hand, we are pleased to have Siu Hang LAU joining us and he is responsible for the "Overcoming Trauma Support Program".

In this year, we have experienced a lot of changes, such as, the sudden outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementation of the National Security Law in July, the postponement of the Legislative Council elections, the disqualification of legislators, the dismissal of Cable News staff, the arrest and imprisonment of protestors. “What else can we do in order to protect freedom and dignity of Hongkongers?” We do not have an easy answer, but we promise to guard our conscience with the utmost courage, to be in solidarity with one another in the utmost sincerity, to witness every possibility with the utmost creativity. We sincerely invite you to participate with us as one of the witnesses of this city.

Let us remember all the Hong Kong children who are dead, in custody or in exile, as well as those physically and mentally wounded and scarred.

Lap Yan KUNG (Honorary General Secretary of HKCI)

Translated by Chole AU YEUNG

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- Cash deposit to The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, our bank account is 196-035927-001

Please mail the transaction record / bank pay-in-slip / crossed cheque together with personal information to us.

Office address: Room 901, 9/F, Wing Lee Industrial Building, 54-58 Tong Mi Road, Mongkok, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

E-mail: [info@hkci.org.hk](mailto:info@hkci.org.hk)

## “Mom, Carrie Lam is not our God but the Heavenly Father.”

**The Hong Kong Christian Institute’s ( HKCI ) 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was successfully held on November 29, 2020. In accordance with the tradition of the AGM, there was a short sharing forum and worship before taking councils. The theme of the forum that day was “It is such a headache to be parents nowadays : encountering challenges under authoritarianism”. The two speakers were Chiu Tat Wong, a political cartoonist, and Yuen Ling Mok, a pastor. Wong was the father of a son and a daughter, while Mok was the mother of two sons. The four children of these two families were studying in elementary school. The two guests shared ideas and practices of nurturing children during the current situation in Hong Kong. They also shared the impacts of current affairs on their children.**

Mok mentioned that she had learned much as a parent from the current social movement. She found that it was difficult to “lie” to children, especially in matters that had to do with emotions. For example, no matter how hard she wanted to restrain her rage and sadness before them, her sons could still sense her mood. It was a struggle to explain how her emotions were affected by the social environment or to decide how deeply she should share her thoughts with them. It was worth noting that when adults’ thoughts and emotions seemed to have reached a dead-end, children could lead them out of the darkness. Mok remembered that there had been a time when she and her husband had been saddened by the events disseminated on TV, and one of their sons had said to them: "Mom, Carrie Lam (the Chief Executive of Hong Kong) is not our God but the Heavenly Father.” At that moment, she was relieved and felt as if the wounds had been instantly healed.

Mok worked in schools, and she had witnessed how many frontline educators were still hoping to influence others’ lives with their own under the current circumstances. Yet the reality was that the regime was stepping up its authoritative rule. Both students and teachers were burdened with their respective fears. She tried her best to convince herself to face everything calmly. At the same time, she had to get herself prepared for a scenario in which she would no longer be able to continue her ministry to children in school. She believed, however, that being unable to do certain work did not mean that she could not work at all. Christians and people of this era should be adaptable to changes.

Wong was a political cartoonist who teaches in the university. He said that the National Security Law had a great impact on his political cartoons, since the usual ways of thinking about a drawing needed to be adjusted accordingly. This change made him feel afraid, as he now realized that Hong Kong had lost its freedom. Yet, one of the crucial impacts of the Anti-Extradition Law movement on society was that Hong Kongers had adopted different means to express their creativity by making symbols, which were not available before, to voice out. He felt that it was tragic when people’s voices were restricted in a society where they could not express opinions freely. At the same time though, it was predicted that the tragedy also led to more critical thinking and creativity.

Despite being “super peaceful, rational and non-violent”, Wong still chose to continue making political cartoons, attempting to voice out and challenge the status quo within the limited space. It was not because he was brave to do so, but because he still believed that people in this society should protect and support each other. Therefore, he continued the work even if he was afraid during the creation process. He asserted that the connection between Christians must become one of mutual support so that amid their fear, they knew the community would support every follower who was willing to speak up.

Speaking of raising children in the contemporary environment, Wong trusted that every child had space to grow which was beyond the control of parents. Hence, he would not persuade children who was the bad guy and who was the good guy in society. but instead would nurture them to discern right from wrong, hoping that they could make judgements on their own. He believed every generation had its specific context and issues, and children would naturally come up with solutions and gain the ability to tackle problems, which was not something that adults could worry about or even do for them. Wong quotes a good example. Our society has long criticized youngsters of every generation, for what in the eyes of their elders has not been acceptable. Nevertheless, the Anti-Extradition Law Amendment Bill movement has revealed that many of the strengths of Hong Kongers are lived out by the youth, who were once thought to be inferior, less capable and competitive than older generations. In the current situation, therefore, Wong still has faith in going with the flow and coaching children by example when it comes to nurturing the younger generation, leaving room for them to grow and think independently.

Content organized by Ka Han HO, Ming Yee MAK

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HKCI's AGM 2020