

P7-P9 /

Holding baptism and communion services in correctional institutions

Church youth care for the children of inmates





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香港基督教更新會 The Hong Kong Christian Kun Sun Association Ltd

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Rev. Chow Wing Fu

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household.

Ephesians 2:19

This article 'Words from the Chairman' should be published around the Double Ninth Festival. 'Alone in a foreign land as a stranger, I miss my family even more during festive times; I know my brothers are climbing high places, but one person is missing among them.' (Wang Wei, 'Remembering My Brothers on the Double Ninth') This well-known poem about missing family has touched the hearts of countless wanderers throughout history. Modern people, with technologies like video calls and rapid transportation, might not resonate deeply with the feelings of homesickness expressed in the poem due to relatively loose human connections. However, there is still a group in Hong Kong that feels 'homesick during festive times,' namely those who are incarcerated. Only when we lose something do we realize how precious it was. I believe most inmates, whenever they think of their families, aspire to change so that when they are released, they can live well with their loved ones.

However, as Paul pointed out: 'For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.' (Romans 7:18 NIV). If lives do not change, the 'freedom' regained can easily be lost again. Therefore, our prison ministry is 'addressing both inside and outside.'

The 'inside' refers to changing the lives of inmates through evangelism and religious classes; this has been our ongoing mission. Thank the Lord, after a period of pause, we can once again hold baptisms, and there have been quite a few participants. We hope that these inmates who decide to be baptized will grow continually in their spiritual lives under God's grace and our pastoral care, enabling them to live new lives and become new creations in God's family. We also hope that some inmates will aspire to serve and become shepherds after their release. For us, this is a great encouragement and something to be grateful for.

The 'outside' refers to our efforts over the past several years to develop outreach ministries, with two key focuses being the hostel and family ministries. Families are a crucial support for incarcerated individuals, especially important for the successful 'rehabilitation' of released inmates; therefore, we strive to strengthen the families of inmates. However, due to some released individuals not completely reconciling with their families, or having difficulty adapting to social life after long sentences without family support, these individuals need our hostel ministry for care. The hostel not only provides accommodation but also offers 'close' pastoral care. Our efforts have been recognized by others; recently, a Correctional Services staff expressed appreciation for our hostel ministry.

The results of the hostel ministry have been very good, but it has been running at a loss, accumulating a significant deficit. The board of directors has discussed this issue, concluding that in order to care for 'families' in need, we must continue this ministry despite the greater financial pressure it may place on our organization.

Although we have been under economic pressure, we still see God's various provisions and the support from many churches and brothers and sisters for our ministry. We hope everyone will pray for our ministry and the necessary funds (especially for the hostel ministry).







Thanksgiving reflection on holding baptism and communion services in correctional institutions

Part 1

M. Ben Leung

Ministry Officer



For several years, the pandemic has restricted religious activities within correctional institutions. We are very grateful that on April 21 of this year, we received approval from the Correctional Services Department to hold a communion and baptism service at the Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre for the inmates.

While we were excited, we were also very nervous because the Correctional Services Department has very strict requirements regarding the entire ceremony, including the process, utensils, bread, and grape juice, all of which needed to be applied for in advance. All relevant units had to prepare thoroughly beforehand.

On the day of the event, the Correctional Services Department's designated chaplain, Deacon Paul Wat, supervised the entire process and provided the utensils for the communion and baptisms. Our chairman, Rev. Chow Wing-fu, presided over the communion and baptism ceremonies. Since it was close to Easter, we invited the Cheung Sha Wan Peace Evangelical Centre to hold an Easter evangelistic meeting before the communion and baptisms.

Everyone arrived on time, and after prayer and a briefing, we entered the facility. A total of 43 inmates attended, and the brothers and sisters from Cheung Sha Wan Peace Evangelical Centre prepared games, songs, and testimonies for the inmates, making them more engaged. Pastor Stephen Chan shared a message titled 'Who is the Winner in Life?' and issued a call, resulting in more than ten inmates deciding to believe in the Lord.

Afterward, Pastor Chow Wing-fu conducted the baptisms, calling on those who had decided to believe in the Lord to participate. He led 15 participating inmates to stand and publicly affirm their faith, which was both solemn and moving! The staff called out the names of the inmates being baptized one by one, asking them to leave their seats and line up, and Pastor Chow baptized them individually. The process was simple yet solemn, undoubtedly becoming a mark in the hearts of the inmates, symbolizing their union with the Lord in His death and resurrection. The staff handed the baptism certificates to the welfare officer, who then passed them to the inmates after security checks.

Pastor Chow continued with the communion service, inviting all who had been baptized to participate. Twenty-four inmates raised their hands to join in, focusing earnestly on their faith and examining their sins to avoid defiling the holy sacrament established by the Lord.

We are sincerely grateful for every inmate who participated, and we pray that the Lord helps them walk a different path of renewal. Additionally, there is an inmate at the Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre who was sentenced to life imprisonment and has expressed a desire to be baptized since deciding to believe in the Lord five years ago. Unfortunately, during the pandemic, the Correctional Services Department did not permit any activities involving food or drink, so we could only encourage him to wait patiently.

Thank the Lord, the Correctional Services Department finally approved the baptism for him on April 9, 2025. On that day, our Missionary (Honorary), Rev. David Lau, conducted the baptism. Although a communion service could not be held simultaneously, the inmate was deeply moved to have Rev. Lau, who has been patiently caring for him, personally baptize him. Through this sacrament, he felt God's love and forgiveness more profoundly!

Part 2

Rev. Mya Lee

Senior Ministry Officer

One day during visits at the Lo Wu Correctional Institution, the institution's director informed us that on May 26, KSA would hold baptisms and a communion service for the inmates, and several groups of inmates would be allowed to attend.

With excitement, we began to receive registrations from the designated groups. The ladies inside responded enthusiastically, and within a week, we had 55 people registered (including 21 for baptism). Everyone was eagerly looking forward to that day!

On the afternoon of May 26, four of our staff members, along with Deacon Paul Wat from the Correctional Services Department, entered the arranged room to wait for the baptism and communion ceremony to begin. When all the inmates from each group gathered, those who had registered for baptism proceeded in the prearranged order. At the moment I sprinkled water on each of their heads in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, almost every inmate was moved to tears; the scene was incredibly warm and touching!

Following this, the communion ceremony took place. Although each session proceeded quickly, the participating inmates and staff deeply felt the presence of the Holy Spirit and were inspired. Heavenly Father always remembers His children and their needs; His love endures forever!

We sincerely hope that more remanded inmates and more convicted inmates will turn to Him! In the difficult days of imprisonment, may they experience God's presence and help!



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Baptism Testimony

Agnes



I was born in Hong Kong in 1991 and became a Catholic due to my family's background. I attended Catholic schools from kindergarten through high school. When I was in fifth grade, a huge change occurred in my family: my father's business failed, my parents divorced, and I began to rebel. My grades plummeted, and I stopped going to church.

During that time, I often questioned God, asking why other children could be so happy and joyful, with their parents attending their graduation ceremonies, while I was left alone! I was very angry and doubted whether God existed. If God was real, where was He? Why would He allow such unfortunate things to happen to me!?

It wasn't until the summer of the year I went to study in Australia that a miracle happened. My elementary school math teacher came to visit me. I arranged to go out with her on a Sunday, and she surprisingly said, 'Let's first go to church for worship.' I was shocked that a non-believer would suggest going to church and even willing to accompany me! I asked her

why, and she simply said, 'You are a believer; of course, you should go to church on Sunday.' I thought maybe it was time for a change. Later, I returned to church and participated in some services.

In September 2021, while in a friend's car, we were stopped by the police. The most shocking thing was that his car contained drugs, and as a result, both my friend and I were arrested. Due to social movements and the COVID-19 pandemic, the case was delayed until March 2023 for trial. During the bail period, I met my current husband, and we had a daughter.

On July 3, 2023, I was sentenced to five years in Lo Wu Correctional Institution. I was devastated! I immediately applied for an appeal; I felt it was very unfair! My friend had already pleaded guilty and said the drugs had nothing to do with me... I cried and cursed God, asking why my daughter had to grow up without her mother so soon after her birth!? I went on a hunger strike for a week and received psychological counseling in the institution, as I suffered from postpartum depression.

Three months later, a fellow inmate introduced me to Pastor Lee from the Kun Sun Association. Pastor Lee visited me every month, comforting me and explaining the gospel, helping me understand my faith clearly. In May 2024, the High Court notified me of my appeal date. I was filled with hope, but the appeal failed, and the original sentence was upheld. I was very sad and fell into despair again! Pastor Lee came to see me the day after the verdict and invited me to join the Kun Sun Association religious class. Through testimonies and songs during the activities, my heart felt more and more peace. Once, we sang a hymn called 'Return Home,' and I cried, but a voice told me, 'Don't be afraid; I have always been here.' I began to believe in God's reality more deeply; this was another miracle God gave me.

While in prison, besides attending the Kun Sun Association's religious class, I also listened to Christian programs on the radio. I felt increasingly stable in my heart, reflecting on my life, and learning to rely on the Lord. I handed all my worries over to God. I believe that God has always been present; it only matters whether we truly believe in Him.

I decided to be baptized on May 26, 2025, at Lo Wu Correctional Institution to express my affirmation of faith and my willingness to follow the Lord for my future.

From a Wayward Teacher to a Pastor

Rev. Joseph Wong

Everything Started with Imprisonment

Over ten years ago, after being arrested, I was filled with fear, constantly singing, "Your grace is sufficient for me every day... Jesus, to gain You," and praying repeatedly. God's peace came upon my heart. One night in a police station's cell, my heart of repentance began to rise. The next morning, I was taken to court and then sent to Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre. As a teacher, I truly felt unaccustomed and terrified. When I lost control, lost help, and lost everyone around me, I realized that my life and security depended on God; this reliance on Him was cultivated during that time. Due to the nature of my case, I faced considerable pressure in prison, but God protected me in every way. Even when I was

oppressed, insulted, and worked hard without complaint, it was God's discipline and shaping of me.

God always has good intentions. I saw a Bible from the Kun Sun Association with the cover that read: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19 NIV) This scripture jumped out at me; I knew it was God's message for me. At that time, I was placed in a protective group.

Everything Started with a Miracle

While in custody, God gave my church's pastor a vision of me "walking in the desert with a cactus." He said it meant I was bringing God's living water to a dry and barren land to preach the gospel. This reflected the current situation of being unable to attend religious classes in the protective group. I began to study the Bible and preach. Every day, many inmates prayed, read the Bible, and sang hymns with me. Many miracles occurred among



those who repented and believed in the Lord—some had their charges dropped, some received lighter sentences, and some wished to leave gangs to follow Christ… It was because of God that miracles kept happening, and many inmates came to faith. Even non-Christian correctional staff, when new inmates arrived, would tell them after their orientation, "Go to the gospel table (the table where we read the Bible and pray together), go and repent!" God's works are marvelous! In the following year, I led many people to faith.

Everything Started with a Calling

From remand to bail, people continually suggested that God seemed to want me to pursue full-time ministry. On the day of my sentencing, I sat in the defendant's area. As the judge delivered the final verdict, I saw Jesus standing before me, reaching out His right hand and saying, "Don't be afraid!" I felt peace. The judge declared the charges upheld, and I was immediately sent to Shek Pik Prison. I continued to preach the gospel, and miracles continued to follow me. I often interacted with the Lord; the Holy Spirit would wake me up every morning for prayer, and God's presence was truly wonderful. At that moment, I began to have a strong desire to become a pastor.



I started attending religious classes, where Pastor John Lo from the Kun Sun Association and several volunteers served us. Each week, besides eagerly anticipating family visits, I looked forward to the Kun Sun Association's religious classes, where I could hear messages from God's servants and devotional books brought by the pastors. The volunteers would accompany us thoughtfully in discussions. Additionally, Pastor Lo helped me apply for funding from the Kun Sun Association to complete some theological courses. These words and love from God deepened my repentance and reflection, strengthening my resolve regarding my calling.

During the holidays, the Kun Sun Association sent gifts and flyers and held evangelistic meetings, allowing me to tangibly experience the love of the Lord Jesus. At one Christmas evangelistic meeting, listening to the brothers and sisters performing a play and singing "With Your Love for Me," with the lyrics: "With Your love for me, I know I am valued and cherished as a person," I was moved to tears. God's love was revealed through them, and I knew I had to respond to His calling.

A year before my release, a pastor prayed for my wife (who was then my girlfriend) and saw a vision concerning me: God said He was prepared for me. In the same week, a prison chaplain came to see me at Shek Pik Prison and said that after my release, he could arrange for me to study theology and train me to become a servant of God. At that time, I expressed my willingness, and a scripture flashed in my mind: "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my

sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life." (Matthew 19:29 NIV) At that moment, I was deeply moved to tears.

After my release, I entered a seminary to study for a Master of Divinity and simultaneously learned to serve in church. During this process, God gave me a vision for building the church, and my seminary teachers and mentoring pastors inspired me. Over the next several years, I began to establish the church and engage in pastoral ministry. I am very grateful that in June 2025, the church ordained me as a pastor.

I will fulfill what God has entrusted to me according to His will, seeking the lost sheep and nurturing the next generation of servants. I also hope to return to prison to serve and lead more inmates to the Lord.

Thank the Lord for His promotion, and thank the Kun Sun Association for their years of dedication, allowing a wayward teacher, cleansed through prison, to become a pastor. Glory be to the Lord! I also thank God for giving me a wonderful and like-minded wife and a lovely son; everything is God's grace."

Church youth care for the children of inmates

Church youth care for the children of inmates

International Baptist Church





Our youth group (Fuse IBC for youth aged 13-17) have always tried to give back to the community around us, with fundraising done on a yearly basis for various NGOs. When Rev. Esther Tung from the Kun Sun Association came to our church for a talk, with the help of our youth leader, we realized that there was a need for kids whose parents are incarcerated. As young people too we couldn't imagine ourselves in their positions, and we quickly agreed to fundraise for them. Our initial target was to raise \$20k. Our youth leaders entrusted us to come up with ideas on how to raise money. So we brainstormed and came up with a few ideas to raise money through a walkathon, bake sale, garage sale, as well as a bear painting session.

The walkathon involved participants to walk at least 10km any trail they wanted but they needed to send us their gps proof of kilometres to confirm they walked and sponsors would sponsor by the kilometre. A few participants ended up walking even up to 20kms.

For the bake sale we baked cakes for sale. We also brought out items from home to be sold in a garage sale.

Finally we arranged a unique event of bear painting which involved purchasing some plastic bears and some paint. Donors were given a bear to design and paint in whatever way they liked. In the end they could keep their painted bear which ended up becoming a piece of art!

In the end the outcome was beyond our expectations! With the help of our generous donors, we were able to raise \$40k, double the amount we had planned.







捐贈者可以設計和塗裝他們的啤啤熊,隨心所欲。最後,他們可以保留自己 親手繪製的啤啤熊,這最終成為了一件藝術作品!

這對我們的青年團體來說是一個非常有意義的項目, 最終的結果超出了我們 的預期!在慷慨捐贈者的幫助下,我們成功籌集了4萬元,這是我們計劃金額 的兩倍。



感恩與代禱 Thanksgiving & Prayer

感恩王祖興博士今年6月加入本會,出任總監(對外及更生事務)一職,加強對外合作,讓社會人士認識監獄事工的重

Grateful for Dr. Andrew Wong joining us in June as Director (External Affairs and Rehabilitation Services) boosting partnerships and public awareness of prison ministry's importance.

同工及更生人士在2025懲教署專職教士會議中分享專題「更新家庭:從棲身之所到 家庭復和」;請記念更生人士重建家庭重融社會之路。

Colleagues and rehabilitated persons shared "Renewing Families: From Shelter to Restoration" at the Correctional Services Chaplains' Conference. Pray for their family rebuilding and societal reintegration.

更新會栽培的一位更生人士分享與家人復和的歷程

A rehabilitated person from the Kun Sun Association shares her family reconciliation journey.



出席者大合照 Group photo of attendees

「感謝祢, 感恩同行」聚會於10月1日順利舉行。當 日約90人出席,同工、義工、奉獻者、更生人士和 支持我們事工的牧者,弟兄姊妹共聚,同來數算上 帝的恩典。

We are grateful for the successful "Give Thanks, Journey Together in Gratitude" gathering, with about 90 attendees, including donors, volunteers, pastors, support groups, and rehabilitated persons, celebrating God's blessings.

感謝主,同工帶領香港退休公務員會義工在中秋節前探訪在囚及更生人士家庭。聖誕將到,期盼更多囚友報名參加本會 「天使樹聖誕行動」,讓更多囚友家庭得到關懷和支援。

Thank God, our team and Hong Kong Retired Civil Servants Association volunteers visited prisoner and rehabilitated persons' families before Mid-Autumn Festival. With Christmas approaching, we hope more prisoners join our "Angel Tree Christmas Campaign" for family care and support.

Pray for the November 11 volunteer training on "Understanding Fraud Types" to better support inmates with this background.

請記念14/11-17/11 阿尼西母更 生人士團隊短宣,探訪台中山區 原住民家庭。

Pray for the Onesimus Rehabilitated Team's mission, November 14-17, visiting Taichung mountain indigenous families.

在經濟壓力下,感謝主帶領我們 6月21日的賣旗籌款,得到許多 的支持;求主記念我們聖誕禮物 包的經費籌募,願愛心禮物幫助 所員認識主。

Despite economic challenges, we thank God for the strong support at our June 21 flag-selling fund-raiser. Pray for our Christmas gift package fundraising, that these loving gifts help inmates know Christ.

請記念11/11 義工訓練班,主題是「認識不同詐騙種類」,讓我們藉此更懂得幫助這背景的所員。



香港基督教更新會 2025年 1 - 6 月份財政報告

KSA Financial Report for the period from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025

收入I	Income		港幣HK\$
{ - =	奉獻 Donation 宿舍租金收入 Hostel Rental Income 其他收入 Other Incomes 賣旗收入 Flag Day Income		3,065,297 487,548 87,808 1,010,575
總收入	Total Income		4,651,228
	_		
支出 E	Expenses		
1	行政費用 Administration Overheads 事工費用 Ministry Expenses 賣旗支出 Flag Day Expenses		964,810 3,609,695 93,347
總支出 Total Expenses			4,667,852
7	本期事工不敷 Ministry Deficit for the period		(16,624)
ā	扣減 2025年指定基金備用 Less Accumulated Reserve of Designated Funds for 2025		83,865

備註:上述報告未經核數師覆核,只供參考。

本期累積事工不敷 Accumulated Deficit for the period

The above reports presented without auditor review that the figures are only for reference.

奉獻方法Ways to Donate

奉獻港幣\$100或以上者,將獲免稅收據。Tax-deductible receipt will be issued for donation of HK\$100 or above.

- 1. PayMe / 轉數快 FPS
- 2. 銀行入帳 Bank Transfer 存入本會匯豐銀行帳戶 416-4-010375 Deposit to our HSBC account 416-4-010375
- PayMe / 轉數快、銀行入帳奉獻:請附上付款憑證及提供聯絡 資料以 Whatsapp / 電郵 / 傳真 / 郵寄至本會,以便發出收據
- Donating via PayMe / FPS & Bank Transfer : Please notify us with payment proof (e.g. screencap) by WhatsApp / Email / Fax / Post for receipt issuance.
- 3. 支票 Cheque 以劃線支票寄回本會,抬頭「香港基督教更新會有限公司」 Crossed cheque made payable to "The Hong Kong Christian Kun Sun Association Ltd."
- 4. 捐款易電子平台 E-Donation Platform
- 5. 每月自動轉帳 Monthly Autopay 下載自動轉帳授權書 Download the authorization form



PayMe



(100,489)

轉數快 FPS



中銀捐款易平台 **BOC Donation Platform**



自動轉賬表格 Auto-payment form

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