

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Joseph Shao attended the Pastoral and Theological Education Convention in Barcelona, Spain on February 11-17, 2012 with his wife Dr. Rosa Shao. On Feb. 12, he conducted a workshop entitled “Church and Theological Education” at the venue - the European Chinese Seminary.

NEW CLASSROOMS NEEDED!

BSOP has run out of classrooms! Starting this March, construction will begin on the fourth floor to add five classrooms. The project will cost seven million pesos. Please pray with us for the Lord’s provision.

ATA BOARD MEETING

Board members of the Asia Theological Association met at BSOP on February 1 to 4, 2012 for their annual board meeting.

The 21 participants were seminary educators, presidents or academic deans.

2012 ALUMNI OFFICERS

The new Alumni Association officers for 2012 are: Rev. Michael Lim (president); Rev. Samuel Tan (vice-president/events coordinator); Ptr. Esther Pan (Secretary); Ptr. Wilvic Elmer Huang (treasurer); Rev. Dr. Leonides Son (PRO); Ptr. Catherine Tan (Business Manager). New alumni will be welcomed on March 24, 2012 at the UECP Youth Center.

REV. WESLEY SHAO PROFESSORIAL CHAIR

As a memorial to the late Rev. Wesley Shao’s contribution to pastoral and theological education, a Professorial Chair has been set up in his name to provide living allowances to those who excel in pastoral or research achievements.

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gentleness”). It should be noted that “gentleness” is not equal to “softness” or “compromising”, but is a manner and tone wherein the other party could feel comfort rather than being forced or coerced. It’s also a tone that is inviting the other party to share and open up. In other words, it brings in “openness” and “positiveness”, as opposed to being forced to close up or to turn down.

CONVERSATION full of grace

In a recent *BSOP in Focus* bulletin (September 2011), Dr. David Chang shared on “Verbal Pollution”. He listed some verbal pollutants recorded in Ephesians 4:25-32 --

- Lies (v.25) – bringing deception and falsehood and finally loss of trust.
- Anger (losing one’s temper more particularly) (v.26-27) – that gives Satan a foothold upon us.
- Unwholesome Words (v.29) – which is ultimately deception and falsehood.
- Bitterness (v.31) – bringing negative feelings and views damaging to one’s mind, health and relationship with others and with God.

Perhaps the best and most positive way of combating these destructive verbal pollutants is to speak in a way that our conversation is “full of grace.” Hence, here are some suggestions for doing this.

Let’s practice to speak, at least four kinds of words to others (there can be more):

- Praising words - be concrete & real (just try to find some

real things to praise; we can always find some if we are willing to open our minds to observe and carefully read others). We can first start with words of praise to God, then to ourselves (yes, we can & should be able to say some gracious words to ourselves!) and then to others. Asians (especially Chinese) tend to be particularly inadequate in this area as we have been taught since childhood not to praise or be praised lest we would get proud. However we are actually taught in the Bible to always praise (just check in the book of Psalms and we can find numerous texts on this).

- Thankful words for what has been given or done to us, again, first to God, then to ourselves and then to others.
- Affirmative words that comment on the feelings, motivations and/or positive actions of others or of ourselves. However, we should not affirm sin, falsehood, or unrighteous matters.
- Appreciative words for the positive aspects of a person, or for his/her behavior or acts of kindness, generosity, and many other virtues.

Remember, grace is grace, we don’t need to always keep records or remind others of some past deeds, e.g., yesterday she/he wasn’t that nice or was impolite, etc.

A simple practice is to take 30 seconds to think of our colleagues, family members and/or partners and then say to him/her some gracious words for one minute. Observe what happens during that day to him/her. You’ll be amazed at the positive effect it can generate!

Let’s make “Conversation full of Grace” be the fond memory of all who serve or study in BSOP!

In Memoriam

David, Ester, Matthew Cheung

His departure signals the passing of a pastoral generation in Chinese-Filipino Protestantism. For decades, Rev Wesley Shao was the pastor of pastors, among whom I am one. My contemporaries and I sat to hear his sermons and traveled with him to distant places to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. I observed his private early-morning devotional time in the small Library room above the church office in the old UECP chapel building on 1242 Benavidez Street. He and his son Joseph attended my pastoral ordination on that Sunday afternoon in December 1989 -- even as many trembled and shunned the streets while Honasan's troops were staging a coup against the Cory Aquino government. A few years ago when I paid a pastoral visit at his residence, he revealed that he prays for me everyday. Rev. Wesley Shao was a blessing to me -- in so many ways. Likewise, no doubt, to countless others. I, we, thank the Lord for sending His servant to us once upon a time.



Rev. Wesley Kho Shao
April 28, 1917 – January 4, 2012

Danny Liuson

Pastor Shao's teachings have and will always be in my heart. While serving at GCF Ortigas, I had always been known as a pastor who was very willing to go to hospitals and funeral visits. This has largely been because of the influence and teaching of Pastor Shao. His life and teachings will always be an inspiration to me and to my fellow BSOPians.

Ana Ong

As we bid farewell to our beloved Rev. Wesley Shao, he will always be remembered in our hearts. His teachings and life experiences shall be our reminder to do well in our ministries no matter what the circumstances we are in. May we be faithful to God's word, just as Rev. Wesley Shao in his lifetime put God's word first before anything else.

The Lord called home our beloved President Emeritus, Rev. Wesley Kho Shao, on January 4, 2012. Born in Tongan, Fujian, China, he reached the ripe old age of 96 and served the Lord for over fifty years, even after retiring. Rev. Shao was an able educator, devoted husband and father, and prayerful pastor, first of Davao Evangelical Church (1953-63) and then of the United Evangelical Church of the Philippines (1964-87). Based on his 1993 autobiography *祂創始祂成終 (He Creates, He Completes)*, here are the highlights of his life:

Juliet Lee Uytanlet

Could not help crying when I heard the news. I know he's in heaven with all the bliss and joy. But somehow I feel the loss of a great man of God. Further, I hope we will all be found faithful as Rev. Shao has been to us. I will never forget one of his lectures when I was still in BSOP. He talked about hurts and pains. He said that we should never nurse and never rehearse the pains to avoid feeding on them but give them all to God and seek forgiveness and reconciliation. It's not that we will really forget but as Bruce Bradshaw said, "it is remembering them well." Looking back, his teachings have impacted me and continue to help me in the ministry. Praise God for his life and his ministry. He has been an inspiration and encouragement to me.

Jerry Yaokasin

I always looked forward to his Pastoral Ministry class. His vast experiences and godly wisdom have greatly influenced his students. His sermon, "The Miracle of Five Loaves & Two Fish" is a classic. He will surely be missed.

1917 April 28 — born to Shao Zi Mei 邵子美 and Xu Yi Si Tie 許以斯帖, the last of nine children

1934 — saved and called during John Sung's evangelistic meeting in Xiamen

1940 — enters Fujian Christian College 福建協和大學

1944 — graduates *Summa cum Laude* with (AB) degree in History

1945 — teaches at Quanzhou Pei Yuan High School 泉州培元中學

1947 — marries Too Siu Pao 杜秀寶 and teaches at Westminster High School 培元中學 in Manila, Philippines

1949 — Studies at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan, where he receives the Master of Divinity degree

1953-87 — pastor of DEC and UECP in succession ; UECP Pastor Emeritus (1987)

1979-81 — acting President of BSOP

1985-90 — sixth President of BSOP

1990 — President Emeritus of BSOP

Final Rest for Nonagenarian Alumnae

Ptr. Phoebe Lim Siu Hong, who graduated in 1965 from BSOP, passed away on December 21, 2011. Born in Xiamen, China on September 15, 1920, Ptr. Siu Hong dedicated her life to teach at St. Stephen's High School and to preach the gospel and shepherd God's flock at Makati Gospel Church after her retirement from SSHS. BSOP and Makati Gospel Church jointly conducted the Funeral Service for her on January 12 and the Committal Service at Loyola Memorial Park on January 13. We will miss her smiling face, humorous jokes, caring spirit, and great example as an alumnae who loves to read and teach God's word.



Ptr. Phoebe Lim Siu Hong
September 15, 1920 — December 21, 2011