

Baptist Union of Great Britain

Hong Kong Response Project

Newsletter 9 – January 2023



Sharon Shek writes on building a multi-ethnic church:

Ethnicity will always be an important topic in this century as globalization, immigration and human rights issues are developing to a very concerning level. Local churches are multi-ethnic churches. We have different nationalities in one church. I know a church which contained 24 nationalities. I cannot imagine how difficult it is to get such a big number of people from different cultures and languages together. And how difficult for a minister to know all the nationalities. Behind the people, there are different stories, different core values, different mindsets and habits. Most people will guess the country where people are from on sight; however, it's not accurate. For example, when people see yellow skin and black hair, they will recognise them as Chinese but they could be Japanese, Korean, Malaysia Chinese, mainland Chinese or Hong Kongers. These people come from totally different backgrounds - they have different stories, eating habits, languages, life styles, thoughts etc. They might mind that people wrongly recognise their nationalities because of their history. It might cause some trouble and sadness if you recognise them wrongly. To understand the stories behind people and knowing them is not easy. It takes time!



In January, the Baptist Union held a conference on the topic of 'Successfully building multi-ethnic church'. I was involved, with speakers about multi-ethnic communities in the church and Bible. It's so important to make a Kingdom of God in our church community. I shared that, if we want to know more about the people, we need to take some time to find out about them and their history. Knowing about them is the first step of building a multi-cultural church. People from other countries can help if you can spend some time and listen to them. Also, prepare your congregation to accept the differences between the nationalities, which is the heart of God to love everyone in this world.

Good news

“What can we do to welcome and help the strangers?” This is a common question of churches. And I have been asked it many times. Sometimes, we can only answer generally, for example, speaking slower, sharing the daily essential tips, listening to their stories etc. However, sometimes it really depends on the situations and needs of each family.



Recently, I preached and spoke in Watnall Road Baptist Church. I was so happy to see a Hong Kong couple there. Even though there are only two Hong Kong families, not many, Simon Robinson (in the picture), the minister of Watnall Road Baptist Church, welcomed them so well and the sister there spent time to take care of them. Also, they invited an experienced local pastor who can speak in Mandarin (Hong Kongers know Mandarin even though they speak in Cantonese), who helped the Hong Kongers to know about the Gospel. The husband of the couple did not have a good impression of church in Hong Kong and did not believe in Jesus. But when he experienced the true love of church and felt the welcome, as well as the sharing of Gospel, he decided to follow Jesus and get baptised. He said, “If I did not come to this church, maybe I will not believe in Jesus. However, I experienced the love of this church. I know Jesus’s love is real.” What is the presence of Jesus? I can say that we are the means of sharing the presence of God. Sharing the love of Jesus and helping people know the love of Jesus. Watnall Road Baptist Church is one of the good examples.

Please pray!

1. Pray for peace and strength of Hong Kongers’ adoption in local society, realising that the difficulties they face are sometimes hard to speak about. Praying that God’s love goes into the heart of Hong Kongers and pray for their well-being.

Next Step

1. Invite Sharon Shek to preach or hold a bilingual service in your church. Please contact at sshek@baptist.org.uk
2. Share your experience and stories of welcoming Hong Kongers. Please send me an email.
3. We encourage you to hold a Welcome Course and we will have a 30 minute sharing on 24 February. If you are interested in it, [please use this form to share your details.](#)

