

**Baptist Union of Great Britain**

**Hong Kong Response Project**

**Newsletter 18 – January 2025**



**Nick Hudson shared about**

**“To Integrate for God’s Mission”**

### **Second Online Prayer Meeting Highlights (20 November 2024)**

Our second online prayer meeting was a truly inspiring gathering. We were honoured to have the Revd Nick Hudson, pastor of Wokingham Baptist Church, share his journey of trying to build a welcoming church for Hongkongers. Although an unexpected illness prevented Nick from attending, his heartfelt message was read by Londy, moving everyone with its practical wisdom and hope. Below is a summary of Nick’s powerful sharing.

#### **Welcoming Hongkongers to Wokingham Baptist Church**

In December 2021, two Hong Kong families attended a family Christmas event at Wokingham Baptist Church. Their return after Christmas marked the start of a transformative journey. As many Hongkongers relocated to Wokingham and the surrounding areas, our church embraced this unique opportunity to build relationships, adapt to change, and reflect God’s love. Over the past three years, our congregation has grown significantly, enriched by the presence and contributions of our Hongkonger members.

#### **Foundations of a Welcoming Church**

The biblical vision of a multi-cultural Church underpins our mission. From Acts 2:1-12’s depiction of the Church’s multi-cultural inception to Revelation 7:9-10’s vision of a heavenly gathering of all nations, we are called to celebrate diversity. This journey of inclusivity hasn’t been without challenges, but strong leadership and open hearts have fostered overwhelmingly positive responses. We are inspired by the Lausanne Movement’s concept of ‘Diaspora Mission’, which emphasizes partnering with believers who migrate to the UK. Through this partnership, we aim to empower them to share their faith within and beyond their communities, revitalizing the Western Church’s mission.

## **Building a Welcoming Church**

To address practical needs, we launched initiatives like *The Welcome Course*, which has been attended by over 120 people across four courses. We also organized follow up sessions covering essential topics such as taxes, NHS services, driving, mental health, and housing. These sessions were led by church members and volunteers who freely offered their expertise.

To enhance accessibility, we added Chinese-language content to our website and created bilingual resources like preparing Chinese/English Bibles and information cards. Recognizing the importance of celebrating culture, we marked events like the Mid-Autumn Festival and Lunar New Year and commemorated June 4th with reflection and prayer. Hospitality also played a significant role, with shared meals and opportunities for Hongkongers to share their culinary traditions.

Listening to Hongkongers' voices has shaped our approach. Their input has guided us in providing bilingual resources, inviting participation in leadership discussions, and encouraging involvement in church ministries. Cantonese-speaking small groups have flourished, and one of our most exciting developments is the launch of our first Cantonese Alpha Course, led by a team of Hongkongers. This program recently led an elderly participant to commit to Christ, a moment of profound joy.

We have also advocated for Hongkongers in the wider community, partnering with organizations to create support networks and speaking positively about their contributions. Initiatives like a planned group for isolated seniors highlight our ongoing commitment to their well-being.

## **Looking Ahead**

Reflecting on this journey, we are humbled by how much we have gained. The presence of Hongkongers has enriched our community, strengthened our faith, and broadened our understanding of God's Kingdom. As we move forward, we remain committed to fostering an inclusive, multi-ethnic church that reflects God's love for all. Together, we look to the future with gratitude and hope.

### Judy and Tenny's Testimony



During the meeting, Judy and Tenny, who relocated to the UK in September 2023 and are now active members of Wokingham Baptist Church, shared their testimonies. They expressed heartfelt gratitude for the church's warm welcome and service to the community, which inspired them to commit fully to the church family. Their stories are a reminder of the transformative power of love and acceptance in building God's Kingdom.

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### Looking Ahead to 2025

We are excited to try to build up regional hubs for Hong Kongers across the UK. We will continue to connect local pastors and Hong Kong communities in different regions and launch various kinds of gatherings and webinars to foster integration among Hong Kongers and local congregations, creating spaces for faith and fellowship. Here's what's coming up:

- **12 January 2025:** Cantonese Worship and Prayer Meeting (Hybrid mode)  
Location: Teddington Baptist Church in London
- **8, 15 and 22 February 2025:** 'Vocabularies in the Bible' Webinar for East Midlands Hongkongers
- **25 February, 4 and 11 March 2025:** 'Vocabularies in the Bible' Webinar for South West Hongkongers
- **March, May, July, September, November 2025:** Bi-monthly online prayer meeting
- **2nd Quarter Onwards:** More initiatives to be announced soon!

**Stay tuned for updates as we continue to grow together in faith and community. With God's guidance, we look forward to a year of meaningful connections and shared blessings.**

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### Prayer

- Pray for the ministers from Hong Kong. Pray for the healing inside their heart and pray for opportunities to serve.
- Very excited that our project will be extended for another two years and include Wales. We will start up some hubs with Hong Kong congregations and local pastors. Please pray for wisdom and love, hope we can walk along in the future.

If someone wants to know more about the project or need support. You are welcome to get in touch at [SShek@baptist.org.uk](mailto:SShek@baptist.org.uk) or [LChan@baptist.org.uk](mailto:LChan@baptist.org.uk)