

Baptist Union of Great Britain Hong Kong Response Project Newsletter 19 – March 2025

To Integrate for God's Mission



It was so amazing to worship God in Cantonese, our mother language, at the Cantonese Worship and Prayer Meeting at Teddington Baptist Church in London on 11 January 2025. There were nearly 70 participants joining the service in person and around 100 viewers online. We saw healing tears when hymns and prayers touched the

hearts of participants. Thank God for providing us such a precious encounter!

Thank you very much for all the preparation and support from Teddington Baptist Church. Their Deacon, Boaz, a Hong Konger, shared his journey and struggles in his life in the UK. His sharing was so real and touching, which is posted below.



Story Of Boaz

Thanks to HK response project for inviting me to share how God led our family to a new home in UK!

Everything is the grace of God! Before coming to the UK, a missionary couple with over 15 years' experience in UK suggested us to integrate the life of the local church and adopt the mentality of going on an "adventure trip" as a family to face new challenges and difficulties together, as in long run, there will be better spiritual growth than entering a recent cultural (Hong Kong, Chinese) church.



When we came to the UK in the summer of 2022, we went to a Baptist church nearby on the first Sunday as it is similar in theology to the churches that we have been growing in HK. It's really a great experience for my family worshiping in an old church building! Then God guided us miraculously to pass by the current church, Teddington Baptist Church (TBC) when we were discussing whether the church was suitable for our family to grow up. When we saw the stylish design of the atrium of TBC, which exuded a vitality, we thought it is worth to try to experience one more church...

It is a wonderful adventure on that Sunday! The brothers and sisters greeted us kindly at the door of the church. The minister's sermons were powerful and clear, and we felt fresh and energetic! It happened to be Emmaus project's fellowship lunch that day. We didn't expect to be warmly entertained for the first time at the party. Some HongKongers who were already in TBC also welcomed us warmly. During the meal, I had a detailed chat with one of the deacons. His enthusiasm and dedication to God deeply impressed me as a deacon in HK! At the end, the minister also served us his home-made apple pie and invited our family to be guests at his home the next Sunday, which really warmed our hearts! The following Sunday, we had a dinner with the minister couple to exchange some views on faith which we couldn't resist his hospitality, so we decided to stay at TBC!

In the next few weeks, different brothers and sisters in the church invited all HKers one after another and gathered at their home. They even brought precious tableware from their travels to Asia many years ago and tried to cook Hong Kong meals, hoping to serve a group of guests in the most comfortable way possible. All HKers were really grateful and warm for this sincere hospitality!

Later, due to my participation in life group and Emmaus project, I participated more in various activities of the church. I became more aware of the needs of the church and had a deeper understanding with the brothers and sisters in the church. Therefore, we joined the church for about half a year and accepted the invitation to join the church as another UK "home"!

The following year, the TBC minister left, and the church needed more brothers and sisters to get involved! At the time of the election of church deacons, the church deacon invited me to join the deacon board. I have been worried about my language ability. I have always been a person who cannot speak clearly. I can't even speak some words in my native Cantonese clearly/precisely. There has never been a script for leading worship, praying, or even being the chairman of a wedding in HK. It will be much more difficult to lead brothers and sisters in English to pray and worship! I especially pray to the LORD whether I can take up the position of deacon and asked God to give me intelligence, wisdom, and especially language skills so that I could use them in church... God finally plucked up my courage to stand for election, and finally I was favoured by the members of trust are elected to become a deacon.

The challenges and difficulties are still large even with the accumulation of experience as we are grown up in another culture and mother tongue. But when I think of the Western missionaries and church leaders who came to Hong Kong to learn Cantonese, lead and actively serve in the churches in Hong Kong, their Cantonese is certainly not as "pure" as the locals, but their spiritual

life and testimony had greatly edified and blessed the church to this day! God made me understand that I need to rely more on the Lord and serve the church with humility, learning, initiative and enthusiasm, because if I continue to serve solely by relying on my past service experience and methods in a different culture, it will most likely fail! You can only get half of the result with twice of the effort!

To be honest, it is a blessing to be able to serve at TBC now! The first is God's protection and guidance, and the second is the tolerance and patience of brothers and sisters! Now I am still working hard to improve my language skills. When leading worship, I have to prepare every word in advance and devote more time to practise. I hope it will not be so hard for brothers and sisters to listen! And what God inspires me to say and share can spread to the hearts of brothers and sisters like a flowing pipe!

Next Online Prayer Meeting

Tuesday 13 May, 2025 - 7-8pm



Let's pray together for Hong Kong parents. Many Hong Kong parents feel so many challenges to maintain good relationships with their teenage children, especially when both parents and children are adjusting to the new culture and environment in the UK. Guiding children to grow in faith is another big challenge, let's support each other by prayer!

Register: <https://forms.gle/s7Ezb5J4a1dkGxqv5>



Please mark your diaries on 9 July (Wed), 9 September (Tue) & 12 November, 2025, 7-8 pm to join our bi-monthly prayer meeting.