



# 澳門聖經學院

## Macau Bible Institute

February 1990



While sipping our fourth cup of Chinese tea, the Principal of Macau Bible Institute (MBI) asked my teammate, Dennis Ahern, and me to join the teaching faculty in Macau. Feelings of inadequacy immediately flooded my mind. How could I ever use Mandarin to teach? I'm too young and inexperienced. What do I have to impart to the students? Yet, I also thought, what a privilege and honor to share my life with Chinese Christian leaders! I apprehensively agreed to join the Faculty in September of 1984.

Teaching at the Bible Institute has been a learning experience. Chinese has a proverb which says both the teacher and student may learn together. This has been my experience for the past five years. I think that I have learned more than my students. I clearly remember teaching my first Greek class. The previous two weeks I had spent hours looking up the Chinese translation of the terms for verb, noun, participle, present tense, aorist tense, etc. That day my tongue felt as big and awkward as a cube of dou fu (Chinese bean curd). The strange Chinese sounds of those technical words laboriously limped out of my mouth.

Teaching Chinese students has helped me more deeply understand Chinese culture in general and its contemporary differences. Chinese may have black hair and eat with chopsticks but each locality and each generation has its distinct sub-culture which must be taken into consideration in training a Chinese disciple.

In the book of James (3:1) the author admonishes Jewish Christian leaders to be careful about taking up teaching responsibilities. Being a teacher places a person in a very responsible role which students will follow. This concept is even further developed and deepened in the Chinese context.

The Chinese language has a saying which expresses the responsibility associated with the importance and influence of a teacher. This saying says that a teacher is the perfect model which every individual should emulate. My immediate reaction is, "Who is worthy of this position?" In a Chinese context, a teacher does not have the luxury of saying, "Do as I say, but not as I do." Since you as teacher are the standard (not some theoretical concept), your lifestyle must back up your teaching. I have learned that Chinese are more impressed with who a person is than what he professes.

To be honest, after graduating from seminary, I had no desire nor interest to be a teacher. After receiving nine years of upper graduate training, I had no desire to be a communicator of information (teacher) in an educational institution. The ministry at MBI has allowed God to change my viewpoint. I have experienced the thrill and meaningfulness of pouring my life into other's lives — Chinese Christian brothers and sisters. My teaching and language skills probably have been embarrassingly lacking, but it has indeed been an honor to share my life with my students.

Since my coming to MBI in 1984, I have observed many signs of the Spirit growing movement of the church in Macau. I am convinced that MBI has been raised up of the Lord to further strengthen and promote God's kingdom. By God's grace, may MBI continue to train students to be leaders in not only communicating God's truth, but moreover in using their Christ-like lives to impact others. I consider it an honor and a responsibility to join in the Spirit's movement in Macau and be part of MBI's ministry team.

\*\*Special thanks is given to Rev. Paul Mayhugh for teaching NT Greek and exegetical studies of NT books.

## 1. NEW PROGRAMMES OF STUDY

At a time of rapid changes both in Macau and Hong Kong, the church needs to make the training of theological students and lay people relevant to the times. In view of this, starting from the academic year of 1989-90, MBI revises the programmes of study, aiming at integration of biblical knowledge, theological insight and practical ministry experiences so that our students are well prepared for their future ministries.

We have a 4-year Bachelor of Theology, a 4-year Diploma of Theology, a 2-year Diploma of Chris-

tian Ministries, and a 1-year Diploma of Discipleship. Please continue to pray for MBI training. May the Lord use such training to equip evangelists, pastors and missionaries for the 21st century.

## 2. LAY TRAINING PROGRAMME

MBI provides training for lay people on the popular level. Local Christians are welcome to take our evening courses and attend special seminars. They can also take the Diploma of Discipleship Extension Course in two years, so that they become Jesus' disciples and disciple-makers for Christ.

MBI also started a Daily Devotion Campaign jointly with the Macau

Scripture Union to encourage Macau Christians to build up their daily devotional life. We hold a monthly meeting where speakers are invited to expound the message of the book for the month and Christians are given the chance to share with one another their growth in the Lord.

## 3. MBI OUTREACH PROJECTS

### \* GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF CHINESE MINISTRIES

The Macau Mission Center, the outreach department of MBI, hosted a Graduate Institute of Chinese Ministries in the summer 1989. The course is designed to help seminary students from various theological schools in the West understand Chinese ministries through the

## Dedicated to God

Rev. And Mrs. Benhur Sunkoo Lee are missionaries from Seoul Korea. They arrived in Macau on December 3 1988. In an interview with Rev. and Mrs. Lee, they shared their witness and their heartfelt concern for Chinese ministries.

### Q. Rev. and Mrs. Lee, would you first introduce yourselves to us?

A. Both I and my wife, Elizabeth, were born and raised in Korea. We are fortunate to be born in Christian homes. After turning to Christ, my father became a changed man and led the whole family to the Lord. Now my father is a Salvation Army Chaplain, and my brother is an elder in the Presbyterian Church. My father has been a great influence in my life. Elizabeth's brother is a pastor of the Presbyterian Church. Elizabeth's great-grand parents were faithful Christians and they influenced the family a lot.

I met my wife while studying in Seoul Theological Seminary and we dedicated both our lives to God in response to his calling to Chinese ministries. I had previously served as an army chaplain for three years, later ordained in Korea Evangelical Church, and had two missionary trainings for one and a half year before we left Seoul for Macau.

### Q. What brings you to Macau?

A. Good has guided us and put a burden for China in our hearts. When I was studying at Seoul Theological Seminary, I met some Chinese seminary students. They challenged me with the evangelization of the Chinese people. I still remember the day when three young men — a Chinese student, my friend and myself — prayed together and dedicated ourselves to missionary work. Now, the Chinese student is pastoring a church in Australia; my friend is working as a missionary in Taipei. And here I am in Macau. God also gave Elizabeth a burden for the Chinese, and she encouraged me a lot. We received this confirmation from God and then prepared ourselves for missionary work.

The Korea Evangelical Church has long prayed for sending missionaries to China. Last year, they invited Dr. Thomas Au-Yeung, the Principal of

MBI to speak to our church. Then the hope of sending missionaries began to materialize. The Church appointed us as their missionaries, and we received missionary training.

### Q. How do your parents respond to your becoming missionaries?

A. They feel that it is their honour and pleasure to have their son and daughter working for God. They are very supportive in sending us abroad as missionaries. My mother encouraged me, saying that if I become a missionary, I have to give my whole self, even my life, to work in the mission field. She taught me the real attitude of a missionary.

### Q. What do you think about Macau?

A. Macau is a small place with a lot of people. We feel that the power of Satan is very strong here. Many people worship idols and burn incense both at home and in temples. But, on the other side, we see the work of the Holy Spirit actively manifesting in this place. The Christian churches are being revived and Christians are reaching out to evangelize the people of Macau. Praise the Lord our Saviour Christ! We can also reach a lot of people coming from Mainland China. There are a lot of ministry opportunities. We have seen the vision of mission in Macau!



● Rev. And Mrs. Benhur Sunkoo Lee in Macau.

Macau window on the Chinese world. The Director of the Institute is Rev. Dennis Ahern, a missionary of the Conservative Baptist Mission and a Th.M. candidate at Fuller Theological Seminary. He has done missionary work in Macau for a number of years, concentrating on

evangelistic work among the new immigrants from China.

This year, the Institute ran from June 1 to 30. We had six students from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. We studied together in ministry for three weeks, with lectures on the history of Christianity in China and on contemporary Chinese culture, life and thought. Students also had discussions with Macau co-workers from various churches, and were involved in visitation and personal evangelism among the new immigrants in the evening. One of the students was instrumental in leading three Hakka girls to Christ. At the close of the course, the students all affirmed that the visitation and practical ministry portion was their own personal highlight.

The fourth week course culminated with travel in Guilin, China. During a visit in a village not far from Guilin, we had to walk through rice fields. Students watched the peasants walking in the mud fields and the rice being harvested. This had a tremendous impact on the lives of the students and they become open to the Lord's leading. Please continue to pray for these young men and women; and Lord willing, we will host another institute in 1991.

**\* CHILDREN'S MOBILE LIBRARY**  
Children in Macau have very little meaningful recreation. Moreover, there is virtually no place apart from churches where children in Macau have access to Christian literature. With this need in mind, the Mission Center started the Children's Mobile Library to provide a meaningful extracurricular activity for them, increasing their general knowledge and knowledge of the Lord Jesus. If these children show interest, Bible correspondence courses are available to follow them up, and the Children's Library might also be a good opportunity to reach children's families.

The Library started service in May 1989. Every Sunday afternoon, we set up the Library at two places - a small playground next to the Military Club, and an open space in Hak Sa Wan area - for two hours at each

place. In addition to books, we also have audiotapes of dramatized Bible stories which the children could listen through headphones. Each time there are over 100 children using the Library. It is always a great joy to us when we hear a mother or father read stories of Jesus to their children. Praise be to God!

Special programmes have also been held as part of the Library service. A variety show and another carnival were held in November and December 1989 respectively. More than 900 children and their parents participated. We thanked the Lord for giving us this opportunity to witness the Lord in the Macau community.

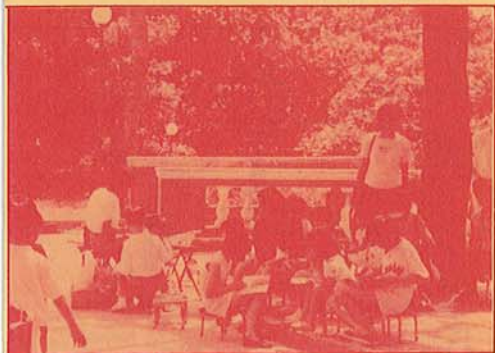
#### • Children's Mobile Library at the playground.



As the library operation is dependent on dry weather, we hope to have a large vehicle in the future to house the library and to provide some shelter for the children. Due to a limited supply of bible story tapes in the market, we plan to produce some ourselves to meet the demand. We also need more manpower in operating the library and in conducting correspondence course. Please remember the Mobile Library in your prayers.

#### • RESOURCE CENTRE OF AUDIO, VISUAL TEACHING AND EVANGELISATION MATERIALS

To spread the Gospel in Macau, we must think of effective ways to reach people who have long working hours, with one to two days off a month, and who do not have a high education. The use of tapes enhances the mobility of the Gospel, bringing the Good



Children's Mobile Library at the playground.

#### Q. What are you doing at present and what are your plans?

**A.** We are learning Mandarin at present, which I started learning when in Korea. But we hope to learn Cantonese later. Thank God because we have some advantages of being able to read Chinese characters and to understand Chinese culture; moreover, we look like a Chinese in appearance. So it is not too difficult to adjust ourselves to the Macau Chinese culture.

As for our plans, the first thing is to learn to be a Chinese in thinking and in behaviour. Then, we will continue to learn the Chinese language to share the gospel. We always look to God for his guidance. We will serve our friends as co-workers at MBI. We want to learn and serve the Chinese people.

I would like to take this opportunity to send greetings from the congregation of Korea Evangelical Church to the Macau Christians. They love the Chinese people and are deeply concerned for the evangelization of the Chinese. They are willing to work with the brothers and sisters in Macau for the spreading of the good news of Jesus Christ.

**Q. Thank you very much for sharing with us. May God bless you and your ministry.**

News to people's homes, and instead of Gospel tracts or Christian literature, video and audio tapes are ideal media to get the Gospel message across. Macau churches also lack resource materials for their Christian education programs. The Resource Center will provide gospel tapes, teaching materials for churches in Macau.

## THANKSGIVING:

1. We thank the Lord for our students as they grow and mature in the Lord. We also thank the Lord for our graduates, most of whom are serving in local Macau churches. We pray that each and every one of them be faithful servants of the Lord.

2. We thank the Lord for leading co-workers to join MBI:

\* Miss Cindy Lau joined MBI in August 1989 as a full-time academic staff, doing discipleship and lay training.

\* Brother Cheng Tze Sian joined MBI in mid-August 1989 as our general staff.

\* Brother Chang Chou Siong, who used to be our general staff, took up full-time studies in our Diploma of Discipleship programme. We ask the Lord to bless him greatly in his studies.

3. Praise the Lord for the guest lecturers who have been faithful in their teaching which benefited our students greatly. We especially thank Rev. Dennis Ahern and Rev. Paul Mayhugh, missionaries of the Conservative Baptist Mission, for teaching here. While they are going on furlough this academic year, we ask the Lord to renew their strength when they return to Macau.

We also thank the Lord for guest lecturers in the Spring semester:

\* Dr. Arthur Mak, who will be teaching New Testament Survey;

\* Dr. Huang Siau Kuang, who will be lecturing on History of Chinese Religions;

\* Rev. Lin An Kuo, who will be lecturing on Theology of Evangelism.

## \*COMMUNITY EVANGELISTIC RALLY

MBI Faculty, staff and students held a community evangelistic rally in the neighbourhood of a newly developed residential area where many new immigrants live. We brought the good news of Jesus to the kai fongs (neighbours) in an outdoor playground. About 500 gathered to

hear the message brought to them through songs, skits and testimonies. Churches in the neighbourhood took up the tasks of personal evangelism and follow-up. We experienced God's blessing and the joy of putting all gifts together for the cause of Jesus Christ. May God's name be made known in more unreached communities in Macau.

## INTERCESSION:

1. Please pray for MBI as we are still developing in our ministries. We ask the Lord to move brothers and sisters to join us as academic faculty, administrative staff and co-workers in outreach ministries.

2. Please pray for Rev. and Mrs. Benhur Sunkoo Lee as they are learning Mandarin. May the Lord give them strength and wisdom in getting into the Chinese culture.

3. Please also remember various Macau Ministries:

\* The Association of Macau Christian Churches has recently been established to promote closer Fellowship among Macau churches, and to encourage joint ministries.

\* The Association of Macau Christian Professionals is established to bring Christians in different professions together, encouraging Christians to be salt and light to Macau society.

\* MBI and some pastors are jointly planning on an outreach program to drug addicts in Macau — the Jesus' Family. They aim at reaching the 5,000 drug addicts and family to bring them new hope and new life through the gospel of Jesus Christ. They are in need of about \$20,000.00 initial expenses.

We ask that the Lord do great works in Macau, bringing large numbers into the fold.



### Notice:

## Change of Address

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:**

Please note the change of our Hong Kong mailing address:

Macau Bible Institute  
P. O. Box K-72053 Kowloon Central,  
Hong Kong.  
Tel. 3693066 Fax: 7237974

Contact Person: Rev. Paul Cheng



The Macau Bible Institute (Macau) address remains unchanged. We would appreciate if you could send directly to our Macau mailing address:

Macau Bible Institute  
5 Rua Nova a Guia,  
Merry Court, 2/F  
Macau  
Telephone number: 303454

**Administration Office  
Macau Bible Institute**

### Board of Directors:

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