To the Faculty and Staff of Hong Kong Adventist College,

In a time of so much uncertainty, it is common to look for a sense of reassurance as well as sources of strength. As King David reminded us in Psalms 27:1, “The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom will I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom will I be afraid?” Let us all look upon our Lord Jesus Christ for His strength and mercy for which will help us to endure through this difficult time.

I would like to express my gratitude to our faculty for adapting to the new online teaching mode. I understand that this has been a learning curve for most of us because we are new to conducting classes online. I really appreciate the faculty and staff for your willingness to step into this new arena to continue meeting our students’ learning needs during this COVID-19 outbreak. Your efforts will not be forgotten.

I pray that God’s spirit will be with you and your family as we journey through this turmoil together. I also pray that this outbreak will subside soon, so that our campus will once again be filled with students participating in learning activities and interacting with their faculty and peers.

In Christ,

Dan Cheung, PhD
President of Hong Kong Adventist College
The college had been exceptionally quiet, since the suspension of all face to face classes. The only noise we heard around the campus was made by the birds. On February 25, 2020, it was one of those beautiful warm and sunny days with occasional soft cool breezes, when we received a message from Helen Chan, daughter of the late Dr. Chan Shun that she and her mother would like to visit the campus.

They couldn't have picked a better day to come weather-wise. Although it would have been great to see the lively side of the college when it was filled with students, the sense of serenity and peace that the campus conveyed was definitely welcoming.

Helen brought along her 97 years old mother Mrs. E. Shung Chan to visit the campus and particularly the Bayview Seventh-day Adventist Church. The late Dr. Chan Shun, who created Crocodile Garments in 1952, was a respectable philanthropist who donated funding to build King Huy Hall.

"It has been a really long time since my mother visited this church. My mother doesn't go out much these days. Her eyes lit up when she heard that we were going to visit Bayview Church."

The Academic Dean, Dr. Barbara Choi, the Associate Academic Dean, Dr. Corjena Cheung, and the Finance Manager, Mr. Hosea Yeung greeted these two special guests at the parking lot and gave them a tour of the newly renovated church. Both Helen and Mrs. Chan were impressed with the new design of the church and the beautiful view surrounding it.

Dr. Barbara Choi read a short Bible scripture to Mrs. Chan and the meeting ended with a special prayer. The group went on and had a nice stroll around the campus before the two departed. It was such a beautiful visit. The smiles on their faces conveyed to me that they will likely come visit again.
Festival of Piano Music in the Far East and its Antipodes

by Mrs. Rena Phua

Krakow, Poland
Feb 22 – March 4, 2020
Krakow Academy of Music

D irector of HKAC’s Music Programme, Mrs. Rena Phua was invited to be guest speaker during the Festival of Piano Music from the Far East and its Antipodes. She presented a lecture recital on the 25 Feb, 2020 at the Chamber Music Hall at the Krakow Music Academy.

While there, Mrs. Phua presented seven piano pieces from the Southeast Asia in the 21st Century, showing the latest musical trends and styles, as well as, advanced musical techniques on the keyboard. Mrs. Phua also gave two days of Piano Masterclasses at the Academy on 23rd & 27th February, as well as performed in a joint concert with her Polish counterparts.

It was a fruitful trip establishing a relationship with this famous Music Institute in Poland. Krakow Academy of Music offers degrees from the Bachelor and Master degree level up to a Doctorate (Ph.D.) in Music Performance.

Rena was able to have a discussion with the Professor and Head of Piano of the Academy on the possibility of HKAC students furthering their graduate studies in Poland, provided they pass the entrance audition required to establish a standard of performance.
It has always been a highlight of my career when I get to present my research findings to my fellow researchers and scholars. After all, a research project is not completed until the results are disseminated. I was invited to present at the 6th World Nursing and Nursing Care Congress in Switzerland on March 11, 2020.

When I accepted the invitation in October 2019, little did I know that I would face such a dilemma of whether or not I should go to Switzerland. I had been closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19 in Europe and contacted the conference organizer about whether the conference would be postponed. Because the number of incidents in Switzerland was less than Hong Kong's at that time and the conference was going to be held as planned, I got on the airplane.

The theme of the conference was "Pathways to Pioneering Nursing Care" to showcase the most recent innovations, trends and key concerns adopted in the field of nursing and health care. According to the program schedule, the conference had attracted a large number of presenters to present a wide variety of healthcare related topics. However, less than 50% showed up because of COVID-19. Nevertheless, I was glad to be among this brilliant group of people to share our research and expertise.

The topic I presented was "Barriers, Motivators, and Long-term Adherence to Yoga versus Aerobic/ Strengthening Exercises in Older Adults with Knee Osteoarthritis" based on a long term follow up study that I collaborated with my former colleagues at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing.

The presentations went well, and we all got extra time for discussion. Before leaving for Switzerland, I was informed that my return flight was cancelled and had to take a later flight back. After returning to Hong Kong, I was informed that I needed to be home quarantined for 14 days, as a precautionary measure. I hope my next conference experience will be a little smoother...
There were many reasons I was compelled to go to Hong Kong Adventist College to become a Student Ambassador, but none of them were extremely satisfactory. Logically, it was a great opportunity to learn about a new culture, and to serve the church that has helped raise me. Emotionally, it was what my grandmother wanted me to do before she left. But for myself, there was no extreme drive to go to Hong Kong from Canada; I chose it because it felt like I was supposed to do so.

At the time, Hong Kong’s protests were beginning to escalate, and it seemed like I was going into a World War I zone. However, it did little to deter my determination to go. I had already bought the tickets, told everyone I would be gone for a year, and I had made promises that I would be there.

My spiritual life before this point had grown weaker by the day, as I grasped at straws of faith. Growing and learning in a largely atheist city had worn me down, as I developed my dreams, personalities, and social circles based on an atheist outlook, largely without God. I prayed in desperation a week before I left Canada, telling God, asking him, to change me in this one year that I would be in Hong Kong. It was going to be the last chance I would give Him to save me, and He did.

Serving as a Student Ambassador, I was shocked in the first few months of my arrival to Hong Kong that there were so many worship sessions conducted each day. These were worship messages that I was charged with delivering to my fellow college students and roommates. I felt grossly inadequate for the job. Because of my inadequate understanding and faith in the Bible and in the Lord, I felt like I was the least prepared Student Ambassador.

Therefore, I also felt that I could contribute the least in my Student Ambassador capacity. Because of these feelings of inadequacy, I tried my best to make up this deficit with what I had to offer; my hard work and my determination. I began reading the Bible every single day on my own and prayed frequently for wisdom, for knowledge, for love, and for mercy. I began to speak more to my roommates through my experiences and offered them the option to pray to God for help, when they seem to be out of options.

As I prayed more and read the Bible more often, I saw changes in myself. I became healthier, more spiritual and more relaxed as a person. Although these changes could be acquired with ease elsewhere at another time in my life, these were all the changes that I required then and there. I was in a time in my life where I had experienced emotional and spiritual turmoil, and I did not know how to fix the situation or overcome it.

God however, was able to lead me to the solution. He gave me a solution that I did not understand at first, but became increasingly clear, as I looked back in time and saw its effects. Like many choices I have made in life, big or small, this experience has helped contribute in building my character, and my walk with God.

Photograph in this article:
Carina Sun-Yee Yuen (front row far left in navy blue HKAC tee shirt), Pastor Ben Seo (Second row far left), Ms. Kat Ma (Third row far left), with fellow HKAC Student Ambassadors and College Students, January to early February 2020, HKAC Mission Trip to Mindoro Islands, the Philippines.
Mr. Chiu Yat Kan (Sam Yuk Form 1 to form 3, 1958–1961) and his family visited the HKAC Clear Water Bay campus on a foggy, rainy Sunday afternoon on March 8, 2020. We met up in the cafeteria where they ate lunch.

Mr. Kan showed me two photos of himself as a young student, beside the original front gate and in front of the HKAC administration building. In both photos, he is with his mother. After secondary school, he went to university in Taiwan. His wife, Ms. Tsai Ya Lan, is from Taiwan.

For approximately ten years, Mr. Chiu Yat Kan and his family lived in New Zealand, where his daughters, Ka Wing and Ka Huen, went to school. They recently revisited New Zealand to reminisce and see friends and places they knew.

Back in Hong Kong, Mr. Kan spent his career with the Hong Kong government’s Agriculture department. According to him, since that time, the separate Agriculture, Fisheries, and Conservation departments have merged into one organization.

Since Mr. Chiu Yat Kan and his family now live in Hong Kong, we hope they will visit again sometime, perhaps in spring, summer or autumn this year or in future years, when the weather will hopefully be sunny with clear blue skies!
Ms. Yuen Kam Tai (SYMS, 1999-2001) and Mr. Chiu Him Philip Poon (SYMS, 1999-2000), who are engaged to be married, visited the HKAC campus on April 23, 2020. They were fellow classmates years ago. Even though they ended up going to university in different countries, they managed to stay in touch with each other through the years. Mr. Poon lives not far from the campus and last visited two years ago. It was a joyous occasion for them, during their April visit, as the couple will be married on campus in November 2020! It’s always heart warming and lovely to witness a happily-ever-after story from our campus alumni!

On May 4, 2020, we were pleased to see Mr. Chi Ho Yam and Ms. Ling Yi Hung, both HKAC 2010 alumni, visit our campus to capture a few scenic photos. Mr. Yam is employed as a nurse. The joyful couple were recently married and revisited the Clear Water Bay campus to take self portraits in the midst of lush, spring, floral foliage!
**HKAC Spring 2020 Campus Vistas**

*Photos by Jenifer Shiu*

- A wise owlette graces a tree near the HKAC front gate
- Gardener Li plows out green bushes to aerate soil
- Springtime blooms near one of the HKAC dormitories
- Violet and red flowers adorn the HKAC front gate
- Student Ambassadors and College Students play ball
- HKAC Administrative Building garden in spring
- SYMS building, lawn and garden on a sunny day
- Giant palms and cheerful bougainvillea sprays
- Two students walk to the front part of the campus