

non-repeatability of concrete things were blunted, dissolving its figuring and transforming potential. Secondly, the mass media nourishes the sensitivity and adaptability of its audience to foreign civilizations and traditions, framing a “pluralistic” worldview. However, this quality exaggerates the inner plurality and skepticism to one’s own culture and tradition, making it difficult to acquire self-identity. A flattened society “cooled” by mass media seems to be elastic, but loses the power to operate the depth memory and can hardly differentiate between experience and fantasy. Encountering the “Popperized” eschatology it seems that one either turn to Cynic nihilism or desperate anxiety. Life loses the joy of its own. But theology is to be true to this joy. It grows from the meaning and “cultural memory” of the simple life-world. Theology must through this joy stand firmly on this life-world, so that it may resist the invasion of the “cooling system”. Through the critical dialogue with cultural sciences, theology may help cultural reality maintain its depth dimension, i.e. extending its “cultural memory”.

This multi-dimensional theological methodology

takes interdisciplinary cooperation as a premise. Its aim is to repair the integrity of the world experience, which includes diversity in itself. The structural transformation of theological language started from the 1980s till today. Interdisciplinary research plays an important role in it. After Wolfhart Pannenberg’s “Offenbarung als Geschichte” and Jürgen Moltmann’s *Theologie der Hoffnung*, *The End of the World and the Ends of God* shows the brilliant theological minds in serious consideration of the domestication of eschatology under the new historical and scientific circumstances, and establishes a new signpost of an attempt to resist all cheap “2012” thoughts: domestication of eschatology is to repair the integrity of world experience in joy.

1. Editorial note: EPR refers to the phenomenon that the subatomic world cannot be described accurately by atomic mass. This is discovered by A. Einstein and two young scientists B. Podolsky and N. Rosen in 1935.

Academic Exchange

The Visit of Prof. Steven B. Bevans



The renowned Catholic theologian Steven B. Bevans, S.V.D., Louis J. Luzbetak Professor of Theology and Mission, visited Hong Kong to deliver lectures in early Jan 2011. Our institute was producing the Chinese version of his great work *Constants in Context* (co-authored with Roger P. Schroeder, S.V.D.) then. So we took this opportunity to invite Prof. Bevans to visit our institute. We introduced him the recent development of Christian studies in China and we both hoped for further cooperation in the future.

The Visit of Virginia Theological Seminary



On 23 May 2011, our guest professor John Yieh of Virginia Theological Seminary visited us with a group of faculties and students. They were on a study trip in Asia. Our research fellows Dr. Jason Lam and Dr. GAO Xin introduced them the works of our institute and the development of Sino-Christian theology movement. They were impressed by the present situation of Christian studies in China.

The Visit of Catholic Bishop of Guwahati in India and Representative of Taize Community

On 8 Jun 2011, Catholic bishop Thomas Menampampil of Guwahati in India, who was the candidate of Nobel Peace Prize, and Han Yol of Taize community visited us. Bishop Thomas showed concerns and interest in the dialogue between religions of China and Asia. Director Daniel Yeung suggested them various proposals through conference and seminars for enhancing the dialogue.

The Visit of Taiwan Scholars

On 9 Jun 2011, 5 scholars from Taiwan led by Prof. Wang Chen-Main from the Graduate School of History, National Central University visited us. Director Daniel Yeung introduced them the main works of Tao Fong Shan: contemplation, study, dialogue. The visitors were interested in our works and recognized the contribution of Sino-Christian theology in translating and interpreting Christian classics.

The Visit of Young Faculties from Seminaries in Mainland China

On 11 Jun 2011, a group of 21 young faculty members of different Mainland theological seminaries from different provinces visited us. Director Daniel Yeung shared with them the development of Sino-Christian theology and the works of ISCS. Some visitors responded that they had a deeper understanding of the theology nourished in the humanity faculties in China and recognized its contribution to the

construction of the theory of Chinese Christianity. They also expect us to enhance the dialogue and cooperation between universities and the church.

Foreign Exchange of ISCS Research Fellow

Our research fellow Dr. Jason Lam had been staying at the University of Birmingham as a visiting



lecturer during Jun to Jul 2011. He was doing research there and was invited to deliver a lecture on "What is Sino-Christian Theology?". Dr. Lam also took the opportunity to visit some of our Tao Fong Scholarship Overseas Students in Europe and several cooperating partners, including Prof. David F. Ford at



the University of Cambridge, Prof. Michael Welker at the University of Heidelberg, Prof. Jürgen Moltmann at the University of Tübingen and Prof. Hans Küng at

Stiftung Weltethos. He introduced them the recent development of Sino-Christian theology and explored the possibilities of further cooperation.

Academic Activities

Lecture on "The Mamzer Jesus and his Birth"

On 9 Mar 2011, ISCS invited Prof. Bruce Chilton to deliver a lecture for visiting students and visiting scholars. Prof. Chilton is a renowned scholar in early Christianity and Judaism and the Bernard Iddings Bell Professor of Religion and the Executive Director of the Institute of Advanced Theology at Bard College. The lecture is entitled

"The Mamzer Jesus and his Birth". The participants of the seminar were benefited a lot from the lecture.



Retreat Camp for Graduate Students from Mainland in Hong Kong



On 1 Apr 2011 ISCS hosted the 7th "Retreat Camp for Graduate Students from Mainland in Hong Kong". More than 40 students and scholars from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University, China Graduate School of Theology, Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary, and the visiting scholars and students at ISCS attended the event. ISCS resident professors Prof. He Guanghu (Renmin University of China) and Prof. Gao Shining (China Academy of Social Sciences) delivered lectures on "Cancer and Rebirth: the relationship between Roman Empire, Western Culture and Christianity" and "Know and Be Known: Chinese Society and Christianity". Our distinguished professor Prof. Milton Wan responded to the lectures. Students were greatly inspired.

International Conference on the Problem of Enlightenment in the West and East

The Institute of European and American Religion and Culture, Wuhan University hosted an international conference on the "Problem of Enlightenment in the West and East" during 11-12 Apr 2011. Scholars from the West and East joined the event. They included Prof. ZHAO Lin (director of the hosting institute), Prof. Steward Brown (Dean of the Divinity School, University of Edinburgh), Prof. SUN Xiangchen (Dean of the School



of Philosophy, Fudan University). Our distinguished professor Dr. Milton Wan and research fellow Dr. Jason Lam were honoured to be invited. They respectively presented papers on "Kinship Love and Trans-kinship Love: Hierarchical Relationship in Chinese Culture and Freemason Brotherhood in the Age of Enlightenment" and "Enlightenment Continues: From Autonomy to Theonomy?".

"Is Asia Pacific?" International Conference



During 13-15 May 2011, our research associate Dr. GAO Xin attended the international conference on "Is Asia Pacific? Interreligious Encounters, Peace-building and Theological Inventiveness in today's Asia" organized by the Xu-Ricci Dialogue Institute at Fudan University. She presented a paper on "Conversion of the Soul: Christianity and Paideia". Scholars from Mainland China, U.K., Hong Kong, Japan and Korea attended the conference and had a fruitful discussion on the issues of religious pluralism from various dimensions.