

Joint Morning Session – “Faith and Vocation in a Time of Transition”

Moderator: Aaron Koh, CUHK

Faith and vocation are mutual concepts. Although life is a journey characterized by transitions, faith in Jesus gives meaning, purpose, and direction to a Christian’s life. Christians are part of something bigger than themselves. In this joint panel, each invited speaker will inspire and energize us by sharing their faith journey in matching God’s perspective with their professional accomplishments.

The Geo-spiritual Landscape of the Great Commission - David J Eason, The Rock Fellowship

No matter what the specific role or calling of Christians, academics, churches and organizations, it is necessary for all to have some idea of the shape and direction of God’s mission to the world. With an eye to history, the Bible and the contemporary situation, this paper gives outline to the strategic direction and geo-spiritual shape of the Great Commission as it reaches towards its culmination point.

David is an ordained minister and a co-founder of the Rock Fellowship. He is also Director of Mast Ministries and a member of the ministry team of AWANA HK. He received his MA in Religious History at St Mary’s University, Twickenham, and his BA in Theology at London Bible College. He was a mission worker in the Church of England. Currently, David is actively engaged with St Matthew’s Church in Dunedin, New Zealand, is researching various theology and religious topics towards ministry and writing outcomes, and teaching and speaking at the Rock Fellowship in HK.

No Bridge is Too Far to Build - Ruth Hayhoe, U of Toronto

Ruth will share her lifetime journey of bridge building across the Pacific from 1967 to 2002, in Hong Shanghai and Beijing. Inspired by the Christians she met, she pursued research to understand Chinese culture and history. Her faith was strengthened by an understanding of how Confucian values could support Christian faith, as illustrated by the work of missionaries such as Matteo Ricci and Timothy Richard.

*Ruth is a Professor at the University of Toronto. She served as First Secretary for Education, Science and Culture in the Canadian Embassy in Beijing (1989-1991), Visiting Professor at Nagoya University (1996) and Director of the Hong Kong Institute of Education, now the Education University of Hong Kong (1997-2002). Her recent books include *China Through the Lens of Comparative Education* (2015), *Canadian Universities in China’s Transformation: An Untold Story* (2016) and *Religion and Education* (2018). Ruth received the Silver Bauhinia Star from the Hong Kong SAR Government and the title of *Commandeur dans l’ordre des Palmes Académiques* from the Government of France in 2002. She has a PhD from University of London and also holds honorary doctorates from the Hong Kong Institute of Education (2002), the Open University of Hong Kong (2015) and Victoria University in Toronto (2019).*

Awana Ministry in Family and Parenting - Alex Ho, Awana Hong Kong

Alex will introduce the vision and mission of AWANA International in Asia as well as the philosophy and design of their teaching material. He will also share the success elements of AWANA and their strategies in engaging families to prepare their children for Hong Kong’s changing society in a changing time.

Alex is the Awana Commander at Shaukiwan Alliance Church. In 2008, he joined Awana HK as board chairman to establish their office to provide support for all Awana clubs in the city as well as Chinese-speaking churches in Macau, Malaysia, and Panama. Alex is a Chartered Engineer with over 30 years of experience in providing digital solutions for the architecture, construction and engineering industries in HK and beyond. He is currently working at a statutory body to facilitate the adoption of digital technology in HK.

Serving God through Social Work Education and Practice: an example of marketplace ministry - Ben H.B. Ku, HK Polytechnic University

In this presentation, Ben will share how he serves God and the Chinese people through Social Work education programme and practice in Hong Kong and China.

Ben obtained his Ph.D. from SOAS, University of London. He is Associate Professor, panel chair of Sociology, and Doctor of Social Work programme leader in the Department of Applied Social Sciences at HK PolyU, where he is also director of the PekingU–PolyU China Social Work Research Center and China Research and Development Network. In addition, Ben is honorary professor at China Youth University for Political Sciences, chief editor of China Journal of Social Work, and associate editor of Action Research Journal. He has written extensively on social work education, rural development, cultural politics, participatory design, social exclusion and marginality.

Bionic Human and the Future of Being Human - a course to complete - Arthur F.T. Mak, HKBU

As a biomedical engineer, Arthur has worked in orthopaedic biomechanics, rehabilitation engineering, and the mechanics of tissue degeneration and regeneration. How does his faith relate to his vocational goal of restoring human functions? What does it mean to be Christian as a curiosity-driven academic and a responsible professional? Arthur will share his reflections on these questions.

Arthur received his PhD from Northwestern University and M.A. from Westminster Theological Seminary. He taught at University of Pennsylvania before heading Biomedical Engineering at HK PolyU and CUHK for many years. In August 2019, Arthur was appointed Associate Vice President (Student Experience) of HK Baptist University.

How will Artificial Intelligence impact the 21st Century? - Anson Tang, HKPES

AI is changing the way we do business, the way we communicate, and how we make decisions in the 21st century. As machine-learning drives productivity in the marketplace, schools, and even churches, how will our values be impacted? In the next few years, blockchain technology will disrupt not only the banking industry, but every sector in society. As Christians, how should we embrace this ever-changing world?

Anson is Executive Director of BravoOnline and a youth pastor. A corporate trainer in coding, blockchain and A.I., he has delivered digital transformation training for MNCs, listed companies, SMEs, government, and NGOs in Asia. His current focus is online education. Anson is a HKPES board member.