

HONG KONG CATHOLIC LAY MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

(2009/2010)

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Background

1983

The Hong Kong Catholic Church sent lay missionary, Jessica Ho to Tanzania, East Africa through the Maryknoll Lay Missionary Program.

1985

Jessica returned to Hong Kong after completing her service of two and half years. Through her efforts of sharing her mission experience, there was a growing awareness and interest in responding to the call to mission by some young adults. Jessica was encouraged to establish a local association to facilitate the sending of Hong Kong lay missionaries to other local churches.

1986

Jessica invited a group of lay people, missionary sisters and priests to form a planning committee to help in establishing the Hong Kong Catholic Lay Missionary Association.

1987

Bishop John B. Wu approved the establishment of a Lay Missionary Association in Hong Kong.

1988

The Association was incorporated in Hong Kong under the Companies Ordinance as a charitable organization. At present, we are the only Catholic lay missionary association in Hong Kong facilitating mission abroad.

1990

Since 1990, 11 lay missionaries have been sent to Africa and Asia. Three of them are still on mission.

Lay Missionaries	Years of Service	Mission Countries
Cecilia HO	(1990-1993)	Zimbabwe
Rose WAN	(1994-1996)	Mauritius
Michelle CHEUNG	(1994-1996)	Mauritius
Imelda LAM	(1994-1997)	Kenya
Eunice LO	(1994-1997)	Kenya
Rose YIP	(1996-2001)	Cambodia
Lucia WONG	(1996-present)	Cambodia
Stephanie CHAN	(2000-present)	Cambodia, Kenya
Wendy LUI	(2004-2008)	Cambodia
Cissy YIM	(2006-2008)	Cambodia
Philomena LAU	(2006-present)	Thailand

Aims

1. To respond to the call for full and active involvement in the Church's life and mission as lay people serving in other local churches.
2. To respond to the needs of the poor and the marginalized, collaborating with them and helping them to recognize their worth and dignity and their God-given potential.
3. To help the people to whom they are sent to become self-reliant and missionary minded.

Special Activities

1. To recruit and help people prepare for service in areas of needs in other local churches.
2. To help applicants discern whether an overseas lay missionary assignment is the right step for them.
3. To provide the applicants with an orientation to missionary service through formation in theology, mission spirituality, mission area study and health care etc.
4. To make contact with mission areas seeking the service of lay missionaries, and to facilitate the lay missionary's choice of work and location.
5. To keep in contact with returned lay missionaries, helping them to readjust to, and share their mission experience with the local church.

Personnel: Executive Committee, Advisors and Members

Executive Committee:

President	:	Jessica HO
Vice-President	:	Eunice LO
Secretary	:	Lawrence POON
Treasurer	:	Joshua AU YEUNG
Formation	:	Salome LAU
Publicity	:	Catherine WONG
Councilor	:	Terence WONG

Advisors:

Rev Dominic CHAN, Vicar General	Rev Renzo MILANESE, PIME
Rev Sean O'CEARBHALLAIN, SJ	Rev. John CIOPPA, MM
Rev Jack SULLIVAN, MM	Rev Giovanni GIAMPIETRO, PIME
Sr Michelle REYNOLDS, MM	Rev Paul KAM
Sr Ophelia Lui	Mr Benjamin YU, Barrister-at-law

Lay Missionaries on Mission:

Lucia WONG	(from 1996)
Stephanie CHAN	(from 2000)
Philomena LAU	(from 2007)

Members:

AU YEUNG, Joshua	LAU Yuet Hung
CHAN Kwong Yin	LAW Po Ping
CHAN Stephanie	LEE Sai Kit
CHEUNG, Michelle	LEUNG Po Kin
CHOI Wai Ha	LO, Eunice
HO, Jessica	PO Wan Fong
LAM Sau Ching	POON, Lawrence
LAU, Philomena	WONG, Catherine
LAU, Salome	WONG, Lucia

The Hong Kong Catholic Lay Missionary Association was incorporated under the Companies Ordinance on 15th April 1988. Until October 2010, the Executive Committee has held 225 meetings.

ANNUAL REPORT

1. LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Twenty First Annual General Meeting was held at the Resurrection Church, Kwun Tong on 1st November 2009. The following motions were passed in the meeting: confirmation of the minutes of the Twentieth Annual General Meeting, confirmation of the annual report (2008-2009), the confirmation of the financial report and the appointment of Ms Lim Lai Mei, Certified Public Accountant as the Honorary Auditor of the Accounts of the Hong Kong Catholic Lay Missionary Association. Following the Annual General Meeting there was the mission formation session on “Journey of Evangelization: Sowing the Seeds (Acts 18)” delivered by Rev Giovanni Giampietro, PIME.

2. CONTACT WITH OVERSEAS MISSIONARY ORGANIZATIONS

2.1 Jessica Ho and Eunice Lo were responsible for the contacts with the missionary organizations in Africa and Asia respectively. We have been in contact with the following representatives of the receiving communities to follow up related arrangements for our lay missionaries.

- Rev Terry Charlton, SJ, the National Chaplain of Christian Life Community, Kenya
- Rev Pier Luigi Siviero, PIME, Thailand
- Mr Herve Roqueplan, Country Director, New Humanity, Cambodia

2.2 Our lay missionaries, Lucia and Philomena representing the Association attended a meeting of ecclesial movements organized by the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference - Office of Evangelization (FABC-OE) at Pattaya, Bangkok from 24th to 26th January 2010. Nearly 60 delegates representing 25 movements from 17 countries participated in the event. The meeting brought together all ecclesial movements in Asia. At the end of the 3-day meeting, a team of five persons was elected to facilitate communication and mutual collaboration within the Catholic movement in Asia.



2.3 The president, Jessica was invited to attend the Congress of Asia Catholic Laity organized by the Pontifical Council of Laity from 31st August to 5th September 2010. The Congress was held in Seoul, Korea and the theme was “Proclaiming Jesus Christ in Asia Today”. The content included the two thousand years of the Church’s mission in Asia: waves of evangelization and martyrdom, the challenges of evangelization today, the vocation and mission of the lay faithful, Christian formation and lay missionary effort, Christian witness of the laity in different sectors of society, experiences of the laity in inter-religious dialogue, lay efforts in favor of the inculturation of the Gospel etc. Around 300 delegates from over 20 countries and 35 lay associations, ecclesial movements and new communities of Asia together with 20 bishops, 30 priests and numerous religious attended the Congress. It was an invaluable opportunity to share with each other and listen to the lectures on different subjects related to missionary and evangelization efforts.



Two thirds of the world population lives in Asia and at present three per cent are Catholics. Although being a minority, we are a creative minority full of vitality under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The laity in Asia, being part of the Body of Christ, the Church, are committed to witness to the Gospel in Asia. We, lay missionaries, are committed to spread the Good News through witnessing not only in Asia, but also in other parts of the world. We were honored to have been invited to attend the Asia Laity Congress and our missionary work is ever more affirmed. We hope through collaboration with other ecclesial movements, formation in raising mission awareness can be strengthened.

2.4 The United Chinese Catholic Biblical Association Meeting will take place on 11th-15th November 2010 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This is the first global Chinese Congress to reflect on the Apostolic Exhortation on the Word of God in the life and mission of the Church after the World Bishops’ Synod held in 2008. The Congress will gather representatives from Chinese Catholic communities from Hong Kong, Macau, China, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, USA and Europe. Our Association is invited to be one of the sharers to

address the topic on “The Bible Inspires Lay People to Serve as Missionaries Abroad”. Our lay missionary, Philomena Lau will represent us at the Congress.

2.5 The Executive Committee members met with Fr Paul Leung who returned to Hong Kong for a short break from Mongolia. We learned more about the culture and the needs of Mongolia through Fr Leung’s sharing and understood that lay missionaries can serve in many areas especially in education and in development work for street children.

3. LAY MISSIONARIES ON MISSION

3.1 **Lucia Wong** has been in mission for 15 years since 1996. She now serves as an education advisor and is responsible for providing technical and advisory support to the staff of New Humanity involved in the Education Program to enhance their capacity in providing quality services. She is mainly involved in early childhood care and education in 2 provinces, Kompong Chhnang and Mondolhiri.

During the Chinese New Year holidays, Lucia was invited to share and was interviewed at Tung Chung Catholic Primary School, Yuen Long Shung Tak Catholic English College and Tak Nga Primary School.

Lucia was asked to arrange two groups from Hong Kong to meet with the missionary organizations and understand their work in Cambodia. Parishioners of St. Andrew’s Parish were the first group to make the trip from 7th January to 17th January 2010. Another group of 36 students from the Yuen Long Shung Tak Catholic English College made their trip from 31st March to 8th April 2010.

Same as the last year, Lucia accompanied two Cambodian kindergarten teachers for a learning and exposure trip in Hong Kong in May 2010. They visited six kindergartens including St. Andrew Kindergarten, St. Thomas Kindergarten, Po Leung Kuk Kindergarten in Tsing Yi, Tsuen Wan Our Lady Kindergarten, St. James Kindergarten in Yau Tong and Lam Tin Yuen Yuen Kindergarten. Special thanks was sent to Rev. Paul Kam and Ms Sharon Kwan who arranged the school visits. They were also grateful for the hospitality of the host family.

3.2 **Stephanie Chan** was first sent to Cambodia in 2000. Since July 2004, she has been serving as a teacher in St. Aloysius Gongaza Secondary School established by the Christian Life Community Kenya and Hands of Love in Kibera slum, Nairobi, Kenya. A new school was built this year. Stephanie will continue serving in the school for three more years. Apart from working in the school, she serves as a volunteer catechist in Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish.

3.3 **Philomena Lau** has been sent to northern Thailand since August 2007. She works with PIME priests in the mission in Ngao, Lampang Province. She teaches children in 6 centres. She goes to each centre once a week and four of the centres are in the hills. It takes several hours for every trip to the hills.

4. FORMATION AND PROMOTION OF MISSION AWARENESS

4.1. Mission Spiritual Formation Program

Through formation, we hope to increase the sense of mission of laity. The theme of the mission spiritual formation program in 2010 was “Joy for the sending community and for those who are sent”. It included a series of four sessions. The details were as follows:

<u>Mission Spiritual Formation Program</u> Joy for the Sending Community and Those Who are Sent			
Date	Topic	Speaker	Venue
14/3	Overseas Mission: Community Participation (Phil 1:7)	Rev Giovanni Giampietro, PIME	St. John the Baptist Church, Kwun Tong
16/5	Overseas Mission: Christo-centric (Phil2:5)	Rev Giovanni Giampietro, PIME, Philomena Lau	
5/9	Overseas Mission: With Christ’s passion (Phil 3:8)	Joshua Au Yeung	
7/11	Overseas Mission: Source of Joy (Phil 4:4)	Rev Giovanni Giampietro, PIME	Resurrection Church, Kwun Tong

4.2. Exposure Trips

The exposure trip to northern Thailand where Philomena Lau, our lay missionary, serves was arranged in December 2009. Eleven participants joined the trip. Philomena was there to welcome them and arranged for them to attend Christmas liturgies and celebrate Christmas with the local people. They all had a fruitful and life-giving experience. They wrote articles to Kung Kao Po and our newsletter to share their experiences.

Another exposure trip to Cambodia has been arranged in December 2010. Five participants will join the trip. Our lay missionary, Lucia Wong will arrange for them to meet with missionaries of various groups.

One of our advisors, Fr Paul Kam Po Wai had arranged three gatherings for the youth on “Overseas Evangelization Exposure Formation” aimed at planning short term exposure trips for one or two months. Ten of the 20 participants attended all three gatherings.

4.3 Newsletter

The Association published two issues of the newsletter this year. The main contents were:

Issue	Main Contents
Issue No.1 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharing of exposure trip to Kenya - News of lay missionaries - “Evangelization in Asia by Catholic Laity” Meeting organized by FABC - Introducing the Spiritual Formation Program 2010
Issue No. 2 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharing by lay missionary, Lucia Wong - News of lay missionaries - Sharing of exposure trip to Northern Thailand - “Congress of Asia Catholic Laity” Congress organized by Pontifical Council of Laity

4.4. Kung Kao Po Column: “On the Mission Journey”

Between October 2009 and May 2010, articles contributed by Stephanie Chan, Lucia Wong, Philomena Lau, Wendy Lui and participants of the exposure trips were published in the Kung Kao Po Column: “On the Mission Road” every second week to share mission experiences and reflections.

5. RETREAT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

On 18th September 2010, the Executive Committee members had a one-day retreat at the Holy Spirit Seminary guided by Rev Benedict Lam. Rev Lam led the Executive Committee members to reflect on the Gospel of Mathew, chapter 10, what Jesus told his apostle and disciples when he sent them off on mission. The quiet time for praying was a time to experience God’s love and to deepen our relationship with God.



6. THANKS FOR SUPPORT AND DONATIONS

The Association is very grateful to the following persons and organizations for their support and assistance:

- Bishop John Tong for his support and blessing
- The advisors for their continuous support and valuable advice
Special thanks to Rev Giovanni Giampietro, PIME for being the speaker at our mission spiritual formation program, to Rev Sean O' Cearbhallain, SJ for offering mass each month for our Association and lay missionaries, and to Rev Dominic Chan, V.G. for arranging a free subscription of Kung Kao Pao to our lay missionaries.
- Rev Benedict Lam Cho Ming for being the retreat spiritual guide for the Executive Committee members
- Resurrection Parish for providing rooms to the Association for Executive Committee meetings and the Annual General Meeting
- St. John the Baptist Church for providing room for the mission spiritual formation sessions in 2010
- Ms Lim Lai Mei for helping as the Honorary Auditor of the Association's Accounts
- The donors for their generous donation:
 - Tak Nga Secondary School
 - CHOI Hon Yu, Lorraine
 - Rev John CIOPPA, MM
 - HO Oi Chu, Jessica
 - Rev KAM Po Wai, Paul
 - LAM Pui Hing, Imelda
 - LAM Sau Ching
 - LAU Kwok Pik, Philomena
 - LEUNG Po Kin
 - LUK Fung Chu
 - PO Wan Fong, Rebecca
 - POW Yuk Sang
 - TANG, Eunice

“Some give by going, others go by giving.” By sharing with and serving our brothers and sisters in Christ, we are being the living witnesses of God's love.