



Press Release

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Revised Chinese Union Bible promotion tour by Hong Kong Bible Society

The 'rejuvenation' of a Classic

The first revision of the traditional Chinese Union Version of the Bible in eighty-six years, called the **Revised Chinese Union Version** will be promoted to Chinese Christians and Churches in Australia during February.

The promotional tour, which is being coordinated by members of the Bible Society in Hong Kong and Sydney, will include four people who have all been involved in the project, which the Hong Kong Bible Society has been working on since 2000.

Rev Dr Chow Lien-hwa has ministered for more than 50 years in China. He is Vice President of Amity Foundation in China, Chairman of World Vision, Taiwan etc.. He has been involved in the translation of Chinese Bibles for over 3 decades and now he is acting as one of the Chief Editors of the Revised Chinese Union Version.

Rev. Leung Lam-hoi Lincoln is a retired senior pastor and well-known speaker, formerly chairman of the Hong Kong Chinese Christian Churches Union and Hong Kong Christian Council, President of Hong Kong Methodist Church, Chairman of Chinese Methodist Churches (currently General Secretary) and voluntary General Secretary of Hong Kong Bible Society (currently Honorary Director).

Dr. Joseph Hong is a translation consultant of the United Bible Societies and is experienced in coordinating Bible translation and revision projects in South East Asia and the Pacific Islands. Dr. Hong, born to a missionary family, holds doctorate degrees in translation and theology.

Mrs Mary Leung is General Secretary of the Hong Kong Bible Society.

Starting on February 22nd, the group will speak at Chinese language Churches and congregations in Sydney including Central Baptist Church, Wesley Mission's Chinese Congregation, Burwood Chinese Presbyterian Congregation and the Evangelical Free Church of Australia. The group will also visit the ACT.

A history of Bible translation in China is attached.

For more information:

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Revised Chinese Union Bible:

The rejuvenation of the Classic

- 1804: The first ever Bible Society, the British and Foreign Bible Society, was established with translating the Bible into Chinese as one of its earliest mission.
- 1807: The first Protestant missionary to China, Rev. Robert Morrison, was sent to China. Morrison was supported by BFBS to start the translation.
- 1823: One of the first Chinese Bibles, *Shen Tian Sheng Shu* (also known as the Morrison Version) was published. It became the firm foundation for subsequent revision and new translation of Chinese Bible.
- 1919: The famous Chinese Union Version was first published in Shanghai. It was a joint effort by BFBS, American Bible Society and the National Bible Society of Scotland, as well as many missionary societies. Gradually, CUV becomes the standard version of Chinese Bible with very high acclaim. Up till now, it has nourished over 70,000,000 Chinese Christians in over 3,000 Chinese churches globally.
- 1950: Chinese Bible was first printed in Hong Kong. The decision to remove China Bible House in Shanghai and establish Hong Kong Bible House was thought to be a temporary measure to respond to the rapid change of China's domestic condition. Eventually, Hong Kong became the supply centre of Chinese Bibles, serving Bible Societies all over the world. Hong Kong Bible House was later renamed as Hong Kong Bible Society.
- 1984: Revision Committee of the Chinese Union Version was established after a series of consultations in the region. Three principles of revision were: 1. Minimal revision, revise only where necessary; 2. Keeping the original style of the Chinese Union Version; and 3. Updating according to today's language usage and habit of expression.
- 2000: The United Bible Societies handed over the revision project to Hong Kong Bible Society to lead and coordinate the revision project.
- 2006: *The New Testament - Revised Chinese Union Version* was launched. Within 20 months, over 10 reprints were needed to meet widespread demand.
- 2007: *The New Testament with Psalms & Proverbs - Revised Chinese Union Version –Youth Edition* completed! This edition also contains special topics like: Internet addiction, love and friendship, and characters from the Bible to serve as references for young people.
- The whole Bible with all 66 books is expected to be published, in 2010.

