

Baptist Union of Great Britain

Hong Kong Response Project

Newsletter 3 – January 2022



Sharon Shek writes:

HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR!

Lunar New Year is the biggest Festival for Chinese and Hong Kongers every year. Lunar New Year is the first month of the Lunar calendar, and in 2022 it is on 1 February. Lunar New Year is also called ‘Spring Festival’, where everybody blesses each other for a good start. Lion Dance and firing cracker are the traditional actions with the meaning of ‘kick out all the bad luck’.



In Hong Kong, families would reunite in the New Year. But it’s interesting that they do not visit each other on the third day of New Year as it’s the ‘day of argument’. To avoid the argument, they do not visit on that day.

The seventh day of new year (7 February) is called ‘Humans’ Day’ which is the birthday of everybody and blesses everybody with a happy birthday. If you visit the family and you are a child or single, you are given red packets for blessing.

This is a good opportunity to visit the Hong Kong families in the UK in the Lunar New Year and you may taste the traditional food, new year cake and carrot cake. It’s yummy! And, you can bless them for a good health. (身體健康, the pronunciation is “Sun Tai Gien Hon”) Another very traditional blessing is 恭喜發財 (the pronunciation is “Gong Hei Fa Choi”), which is a blessing of wealth. Some of the Christians do not use this for blessing as they think that the biggest

wealth is in heaven, and we should not be greedy. However, if a local Brit speaks “Gong Hei Fa Choi” to them it’s funny and full of sense of humour. Let’s make some time to visit a local Hong Kong family between the Lunar new year. (It starts from 1 February 2022)

Good news

1. On 17 December 2021, we held a webinar about the UK tax system. There were 576 watchers on that day and over 3000 views until now. Thank you very much for Mr Vincent



Lim’s explanation about the system and answering many questions. Many of the Hong Kongers’ feedback said that it was informative and reduced their confusion. They would like to have other webinars about the general essential needs.

Please pray!

1. Needs of Hong Kongers: Pray for the flights between Hong Kong and the UK. Because of Covid, the flights are not stable and some of the flights have been cancelled. Many Hong Kongers cannot get on the flights and their plan to come to the UK will have to be delayed.
2. Pray for connections with some Cantonese speakers to give information in webinars to help the Hong Kongers. And, please contact us if you know some Cantonese speakers who can offer webinars about NHS system, education system, housing or other useful information.

Next Step

1. Get more information and resources from our new website **The Baptist Union of Great Britain : Baptists Together Hong Kong Response** . And spread out the QR code of our website.
2. Invite Sharon Shek to preach or share about the project in your church. Please contact at **ssh@baptist.org.uk**
3. We would like to encourage you to register as a Hong Kong-welcoming church by registering at **www.baptist.org.uk/hkregister** and you will receive our newsletter and updates.

