

# Baptist Union of Great Britain

## Hong Kong Response Project

### Newsletter 14 – January 2024



Sharon Shek writes:

## Understanding

In the last newsletter, we talked about how if we want to help we need to understand. To understand more about Hong Kong migrants, at the beginning of this year, I introduced a song, “Leaving the place that I was born” which made by HK Teen Voice, who are some Hong Kong youths expressed the feeling of immigration. [Click here to watch it on YouTube](#) or click on the QR code



The song gives us some more understanding of the feelings of moving to new place: leaving the place we have lived for many years, many friends and places, much memory and stories of our hometown. All of these formed our lives and whole bodies. Moving to a new place, many dreams about the future combine with complex feelings. We want some company in the afraid moments.

The lyrics itself gave us some insight into their heart. How does our faith respond to it? How can we pray for them? What Bible stories or Bible verse can comfort and give them power to go though the feelings? How do our pastors, brothers and sisters walk alongside them? These are the direction of reflection of having congregations with Hong Kongers. Of course, we know the feelings of migrants from other countries would have similar feelings and experiences.

Let’s look at some of their feelings. Even this song is not a worship song and not from Christians, it gave us some insight of understanding. I picked some meaningful lyrics, could you stay a while for listening, feeling and understanding the lyrics and pray when you read it?

‘Leaving the Place I was Born’ is a Cantonese song with English subtitles, and was composed and written by a group of migrated teenagers from Hong Kong. It is a valuable opportunity for Hong Kong teenagers to show their own feelings and thoughts about the move.

The project was organised by the Community Hub for Hongkongers in Wakefield. It was delivered by the Castleford Together Project, as part of the Teen Voice programme. The Castleford Together Project is run by Castleford Heritage Trust and funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

Introduction of “Leave the Place I was Born”  
Credit to: the Community Hub for Hong Kongers in Wakefield

- *Starting all over is truly a hard way, wish you would always share by my side.*
- *I feel lost in challenges, leaving my friends, leaving my school, time to fly high, time to say goodbye. Don’t be afraid, going your way.*
- *Making believe that I’ll make it my dreams. I’ll be somebody that bringing some changes.*

- *Don't be afraid, going your way. Always stay true to my beliefs, to my dreams. With my dreams, I will thrive.*
- *Leaving the place that I was born, together we find our Utopia. You'll be my guide, wonderful place, grateful each day. Reaching the stars, soaring the sky.*
- *Don't be afraid, going your way.*
- *Still remember my old place!*

Looking at the lyrics and listening to the song, we can understand that they have their dreams and want to have something change, also they want to contribute to the society. But they feel it is hard to adopt to new environments. Walking on the new road with fear, worry and frustration. Sometimes confused but still carrying the brave going on the road ahead. Sometimes tired but still working hard to find a way. The one that catches me most is the crying for someone be their side, someone be the guide, someone lead them to their dream. Carrying much that is unsure, dealing with loss, finding their way, I can say they are brave. They are very brave to walk on the road but they need companions. Can our faith be their companions? How can we bring God into the feelings, hearts and lives?

## Can we pray with the Saint Francis' prayer, let God tell us!

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

### **Prayer**

What can I pray for you and your ministry? What I can support you?  
You are welcome to get in touch at [SShek@baptist.org.uk](mailto:SShek@baptist.org.uk)