

# OBITUARY

The Rev. Paul Jefferies (1915-2002)  
*The First Dean of Chung Chi Theological Seminary*

Paul Jefferies was born in 1915 in Littleborough, Lancashire, and died in Sheffield in the 87th year of his life and in the 62nd year of his ministry—a ministry shared for all but the first six years by his beloved wife, Stella, who survives him.

In 1942, having trained at Wesley House, Cambridge and served a very brief spell as a probationer in Hanley, Paul set out for China with the Methodist Missionary Society and was catapulted into the Sino-Japanese War.

At Lingling, Hunan, having supervised many evacuees, he became one himself, travelling through and serving in Kunming, Weining and Chaotung, where he was ordained on January 14, 1945.

He served the South West China synod, at Chaotung, and Wanhshien. Hostilities over, he returned to Changsha, then a brief spell in Hankow and finally Ping-Jiang circuit (Hunan).

In 1946, in Changsha, he met a Methodist missionary, Stella Griffiths and two years later they married.

Paul had spent the intervening two years regularly walking a return journey of 140 miles through bandit-infested country from Pin-Jiang to Changsha.

The Red Army arrived in 1949. Eventually the family was evacuated to Hong Kong and from thence to Coventry (Edgewick), England.

In 1952, Paul was invited to return to Hong Kong, to work with the refugees flooding into the colony from China. Among many duties, he was

the supervisor of the Kwun Tong Methodist School of which the present Head of Theology Division, Rev. Lung-kwong Lo graduated.



Fluent in Cantonese and Mandarin, Paul was concerned that the church should take its place in the emerging Chinese language university and he became co-founder, lecturer and in 1963, became the first Dean of Chung Chi Theological Seminary.

After Hong Kong, another culture-shock-Glasgow, where the family arrived in 1966.

Paul ended his itinerant ministry with eight years in Lincoln, where the family moved in 1972, after which he and Stella retired to Sheffield. Not that Paul ever retired. He remained every inch a minister of the Methodist Church to the day he died.

Paul was quiet, painstaking, infinitely gentle and courteous, shy, hesitant, deeply private and utterly humble.

He concerned himself little with the future and less with the past. Today's joys and sorrows and a rock-like confidence in what God's tomorrow might bring were sufficient for him.

It was just the same as he approached his end—clear-sighted, calm, courageous, untroubled—embarrassed to be the center of so much attention, but content to be surrounded by those he loved.

*(Abbreviated and amended from the obituary written by Dr. Michael P. Wilson)*

神學組通訊



THEOLOGY DIVISION NEWS

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## Celebrating 40 years of Theological Education at Chung Chi

Rev. Prof. Lung-kwong LO  
*Head, Theology Division*

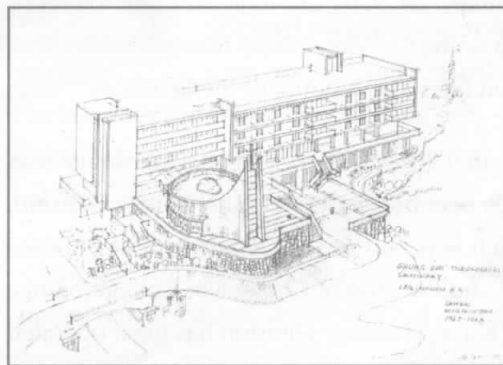
2003 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Chung Chi Theology Division.

It is a good opportunity for us to reflect on the past and to look forward to what is ahead.

As we go through the history and development of the Theology Division,  
let us express our gratitude to our gracious Lord for the wonderful guidance and bounteous blessings.

### ***The Unique Position of Chung Chi Theology Division***

Chung Chi Theology Division is the only theological faculty of a public university in China and indeed in Asia. Since the Division is an integral part of Chung Chi College, it is therefore an academic unit of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). However, as stipulated in the CUHK Ordinance, the resources for provision of theological education in Chung Chi College have to rely on private funds. This unique arrangement makes the Division a "private" space in a "public" University, a highly autonomous academic unit in a public funded campus.



### ***Foundation***

Courses on religious and theological studies commenced as part of the academic programme of Chung Chi College in 1957. This was actually inherited from the fine traditions