

Hong Kong Adventist College

HONG KONG ADVENTIST COLLEGE. A coeducational boarding school on the senior college level operated by the South China Island Union Mission on a 40-acre (16-hectare) site not far from Kowloon City, Hong Kong. In 1993 it had an enrollment of 197 (secondary and college students) and a staff of 40.

Hong Kong Adventist College developed from the first Seventh-day Adventist school taught in the Chinese language. In 1903, near the close of the Ching dynasty, Ida Thompson, one of the first SDA missionaries in China, opened in Canton what came to be known as the Bethel School for Girls, and a few months later E. H. Wilbur established a school for boys. Both were taught in Chinese on the elementary level, and both were situated immediately outside the South Gate of old Canton. The boys' school was closed for a time, but in 1915 A. L. Ham reopened it under the name of Sam Yuk School (Threefold Education School), with 12 students. By 1914 the Bethel Girls' School had been relocated in Tungshan, a suburb of Canton; in 1917 the boys' school also moved.

In 1920 Ida Thompson, who had been absent for a time, returned and resumed her position as principal of the Bethel School. By 1922, when coeducation had become accepted in China, the two schools merged as an intermediate school called the Sam Yuk Middle School (listed in *Yearbooks* as Cantonese Intermediate School; later as Canton Middle School). It served the Kwangtung, Hakka, and Kwangsi missions.

Instead of dividing the six-year secondary course into three years of junior and three of senior high school, the Sam Yuk Middle School divided the course into four years and two years, to give students who stopped at the junior high school level a more adequate education. The last two secondary grades offered training in various fields to meet the student's individual interest or talent as well as the denomination's need. Graduates were thus prepared for either higher education or employment. Later, farms, factories, and science laboratories were added, preparatory schools were established, and ministerial, business, and home economics courses were set up. In 1935 the institution, then called the Canton Training Institute, came under the direct supervision of the South China Union Mission, which aimed to raise the school to a higher educational level and enlarge its services.

When the Canton Sanitarium and Hospital was built on the school grounds, overcrowding resulted, and it was decided to find a more suitable place for the school that would allow for development. In 1937 about 40 acres (15 hectares) were purchased, and construction began on a completely new campus in the Clear Water Bay area, about seven miles (10 kilometers) from the central business districts of Hong Kong.

The new campus had not been completed when the Sino-Japanese War reached Canton, making an immediate move necessary. This move marked the beginning of a decade of uncertainty and constant moving. For two years the school occupied a large rented mansion in Sha Tin, Kowloon. Then in September 1939 the school, renamed the South China Training Institute, was able to operate at its new home at Clearwater Bay. But two years later, when war came to Hong Kong, the school was again moved, this time to a place called Lao Lung,

in the interior of Kwangtung province. After World War II lack of transportation kept the school in the interior until the summer of 1946; then, because of the damage done to the campus at Clearwater Bay, the institution returned for a year to its former crowded site in Tungshan, in Canton. Finally, in 1947 the school returned to its home in Clearwater Bay, where it has since remained.

The school continued to grow, and a new curriculum was set up at the beginning of the 1958—1959 school year, the faculty was enlarged, and facilities added. In 1962, when a complete collegiate curriculum was introduced, the name of the school was changed to South China Union College.

In 1970 the constituents of South China Island Union Mission decided to combine South China Union College and Taiwan Missionary College in Taiwan to form one college under one administration, with the name South China Adventist College for both campuses. For legal and other reasons, even though these two campuses continued to be under one administration, in 1973 the name of the college was changed back to South China Union College for the Hong Kong campus, while the Taiwan campus was renamed Taiwan Adventist College.

In 1981 the constituency of the South China Island Union Mission separated the secondary and college sections and adopted the name of Hong Kong Adventist College. The college was subsequently registered and approved by the Education Department of Hong Kong as a postsecondary institution.

In 1982 the college established an affiliation with Loma Linda University, which enables students on the Hong Kong campus to receive B.A. degrees in religion or theology granted by Loma Linda University. In the same year, the college received full accreditation from the Board of Regents of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

In 1991 the affiliation agreement was transferred from Loma Linda University to La Sierra University.

During the 90 years of the school's existence thousands of young people have enrolled in its classes. Through the years students from this school have held key positions in denominational work.

Principals/Presidents: Ida Thompson, 1903—1922; E. H. Wilbur, 1905—1911; A. L. Ham, 1915—1917; H. B. Parkers, 1917—1922; A. L. Ham, 1922—1925; L. C. Wilcox, 1925—1928; A. L. Ham, 1929—1931; L. C. Wilcox, 1931—1934; M. Y. Sum, 1928—1929; H. S. Leung, 1934—1938; Paul Quimby, 1938—1939; C. A. Carter, 1939—1941; H. S. Leung, 1942—1949; T. S. Geraty, 1949—1950; H. S. Leung, 1950—1952; T. M. Lei, 1952—1953; D. W. Curry, 1953—1962; Samuel Young, 1962—1968; M. D. Lee, 1968—1970; D. K. Brown, 1970—1972; W. K. Nelson, 1972—1973; Samuel Young, 1973—1978; Charles H. Tidwell, Sr., 1978—1981; Wong Yew Chong, 1981—1983; Eugene Hsu, 1983—1986; Rudolf E. Klimes, 1986—1989; Handel Luke, 1989—1991; Roger P. W. Li, 1991— .