Redevelopment News | Autumn 2014 Issue No.5



# we build · we share · we are



#### We Build

We handed over the site of the Methodist International Church, Hong Kong (MIC) to the contractor for demolition on 3rd July 2014. It is expected that the redevelopment works will take three years to complete. We hope that brothers and sisters of MIC will be worshipping and developing more ministries to serve people of different languages and cultures in the new building in August 2017.

The redevelopment works are not just pertaining to the construction of a building, but a spiritual house. "You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:5) A spiritual house is not a physical building made of bricks, wood or stones designed by an architect. A spiritual house is made up of believers of Christ who together build the house.

During the redevelopment, the congregations of MIC will be worshipping in SKH Tang Shiu Kin Secondary School. As the Revd Howard Mellor has mentioned, we have to learn to be Disciples of Christ there. In the past, the congregations with different languages worshipped at different places. Now we all come together to worship God in the same place, though at different time slots. We do hope that this get together can strengthen us as a group to build this spiritual house with one heart. Together we commit ourselves to be living stones (Christians with vitality), to be holy priests (holy intercessors for races of different languages and cultures), and to be spiritual sacrifice pleasing to God (people having renewed minds that will be able to discern God's good, pleasing and perfect will). This does not apply only to the congregations of MIC, but to all members in each and every local church of The Methodist Church, Hong Kong. We should all continue to commit ourselves to build our local churches into God's spiritual houses.

#### We Share

After the redevelopment, besides housing the worships, fellowships and learning facilities of MIC's congregations, the new building will also house the Conference Office, and provide space and facilities for laity training, social services, missions and pastoral care.

To share the space, it is just natural to share the redevelopment expenses. But what I value is our sharing together the mission of the Church. For example, MIC and Chinese Methodist Church, Hong Kong, are both located in Wan Chai. This community will experience more changes in the years to come: old buildings will be demolished to be replaced by luxurious high rise buildings that will be used as service apartments and commercial offices, cheap local restaurants will be displaced by high class restaurants......

How should we join hands to serve our neighbours in this community?

Hong Kong is a metropolitan city. Apart from Chinese, people of different races are living here, some temporarily and some treating Hong Kong their home. The Bible teaches us to treat these people well."Do not mistreat or

oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt." (Exodus 22:21) In fact, our ancestors were once foreigners here, fleeing to Hong Kong from the Mainland because of the political change. Hong Kong is originally

a "borrowed place". But now, many have settled here. Today, people of different races are staying in Hong Kong, so are a new generation of Chinese migrants from the Mainland. Living in the same city, should we not show concern for and help one another? Being members of the Christian Church, we deeply believe that we are all God's creation and we are brothers and sisters. It is the mission of MIC to serve people of different races and languages, and it should also be the mission of each and every Methodist local church. Let us come together and share in this mission and responsibility.

## We are One

TSW

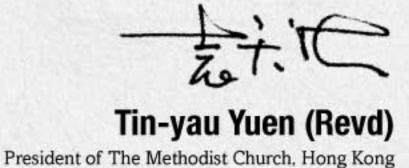
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We always emphasize that The Methodist Church, Hong Kong as a whole is a church, with brothers and sisters worshipping at different local churches. Redeveloping MIC is not just the business of the congregations of MIC. It is the project of the entire body, The Methodist Church, Hong Kong. In the past, there were many times when we built or purchased church premises. We experienced the spirit of one whole family striving together to achieve the goals. The fund raising process of the redevelopment of MIC will not only draw us together to work towards our goals, but also allow us to experience more deeply that we are one church and one family.

Owing to differences in languages and cultures, the relationship of MIC and our other Chinese local churches has not been close in the past. However, through various ministries, like the sacred music festival, we are now much closer. We hope that more young people from MIC will also join the Methodist Youth Celebration in September. Moreover, apart from the Chinese version of the Conference Newsletter, the congregations of MIC are also given the English version now so that they will know more about the ministry of the Conference. When we accomplish the

redevelopment of MIC, the Conference Office and the training facilities will move into the new building. I am sure brothers and sisters of all Methodist local churches will have ample opportunities to come to the new building, to meet and make friends with members of MIC.

Let me conclude with the lyrics of the well known hymn: "We are one in the bond of love, We have joined our spirit with the Spirit of God, Let us join our hands that the world may know, We are one in the bond of love."





# We have started reconstruction

It has been an exciting few months here at MIC! It was a bitter-sweet process for us to leave behind the old MIC building with so many memories of our experiences of God there; but we also were happy to finally start making the journey towards redevelopment.

We had deeply meaningful final services there, and then in the last few days before we handed over the building, some of us left our mark in the form of handprints.

That same week, workers began to get the framework ready for the hoarding that would surround and secure the sight. Today, the hoarding is erected and things are happening!





We let our neighbors know that we've moved, but not far. (We're only a 5 minute walk away!)



Our next big step was moving into TSK Secondary school opposite the entrance to Queen Elizabeth Stadium. It has been a busy summer with five (5) services in the Chapel and Student Activity Centre, plus Sunday School, Lydia Livelihood, and leadership development, but it's been great to see everyone start to find their place at the school.



TSK has a big basketball court with plenty of running space for the young people, as well as plenty of seating and picnic tables for fellowship. We look forward to September when we will start to have services in the main hall, and our congregations from Duke of Windsor and Fortress Hill will make the move to TSK. We especially look forward to Worldwide Communion Sunday in October, when for the first time in many years all of the different MIC congregations will be able to celebrate Holy Communion together. We are grateful to God and to the sacrifices of the many people who are making all of this possible!



### We Build, We Share, We are ONE! Walkathon around The Peak

All brother and sister from every Merhodist Church are encouraged to join in fellowship and fund raising for the new MIC and Conference office. It just takes about an hour to walk along the scenic and smooth path at the peak, and is suitable for both the old and the young. No minimum donation is required. All are welcome!

19th October 2014 (Sunday) Date: Time: 2:30pm(1st Lot) 3:15pm (2nd Lot) Venue: Peak Circle Walk

(Please enquire at your local church for registration.)

Heritage & Pilgrimage A Revival Meeting for all Congregations (Conducted in Cantonese)

At this time when we celebrate the 130th Anniversary of the Methodist Church and the 40th Anniversary of the union of Tsun To Kung Wooi and Wei Li Kung Hui, let us follow the footsteps of our founding fathers, move forward with firm conviction and grasp every opportunity given by God to face the crisis of our times.

11th October 2014 (Saturday)

Sanctuary, Kowloon Methodist Church Date: (40 Gascoigne Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon) Time: Venue:

Speaker: Revd Lo Lung Kwong

## **Victory Upon Victory** Worship and Praying Meeting for Children (Conducted in Cantonese)

Make our children prayer warriors, and enjoy being close to God through praying! Children from kindergarten to primary school are welcome to join and worship God through singing and dancing!

Date: 11th October 2014 (Saturday)

Venue: Church Hall, Kowloon Methodist Church (40 Gascoigne Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon)

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can. 7

JOHN WESLEY



# Offerings can be made by:

**Crossed Cheque** 

payable to 'Methodist International Church, Hong Kong'and send to 271 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

**Direct Deposit** 

to 'Methodist International Church, Hong Kong', HSBC HK A/C #048-054605-001. Please forward the bank pay-in slip for our records.



