



mic Herald

循道衛理聯合教會國際禮拜堂



Building on Foundations

Jesus had some advice to all who would build a structure. Build on the rock was his wisdom, avoid the sand, or it will collapse when the typhoon comes! The



new Methodist International Church and Conference Building is definitely built on rock – solid granite with veins of quartz.

But of course we are not just erecting a building but creating a place of grace and hospitality, a sacred space. This raises the question: what sort of foundations are required for such a building? Here is my response:

Light to the World – The Advent candles at the headline of this issue remind us of the focus of our faith - Jesus, the light of the world, who we celebrate this Advent and Christmas. Jesus comes with grace and truth to shed light in a world of chaos, political division, social upheaval, racial antagonism, violence and war. It was a dark world then and it is a dark world now.

I have previously indicated that the redeveloped MIC building will be a beacon church. It will shine the light of Christ in the community, pointing to faith in Christ, nurturing people in discipleship, caring for the community and standing for justice. In that sense it will be a beacon in Hong Kong and beyond.

Streams of Grace – Another foundational concept relates to a key design feature of the Church with its shaped, flowing design. It captures the key Methodist belief that God's grace flows to all human kind. Streams of grace which embrace all people from many countries which make up this International Church which proclaims the grace of God for everyone.



Wonder, Love and Praise – right through the scriptures there is a sense of mystery in speaking about divine things. God is the one who brings all things into being, gives humankind a desire for worship and from the beginning offers steadfast love and a call to right living and justice. Responding to God in Christ leads people to embrace God's love and to come in humble trust rejoicing in God's forgiveness and mercy. Worship offered in praise of God, with organ, band and piano, choral music and song will ring through all the sanctuaries of this new building.

The Word of God – is honoured and preached. Creative communication and relevant preaching will be at the heart of the new MIC. Christianity is a religion of the book, the *biblio*, the Holy Bible. Part of the Methodist heritage has always been to search out how to make biblical teaching relevant to the issues of the community, something which will be honoured week by week.

The Cross is Central – to the design of the church and the heart of the faith. Shining into and from the building it is a stark reminder of God's saving grace for all humankind. It shines also as a prophetic sign of that humble self-giving love which triumphs over selfish desire and sin.



Hospitality – and accessibility are key to the design, so we have two main kitchens and almost every floor has a pantry to provide refreshments and snacks for those who come for fellowship and meetings. Table fellowship was very important in the ministry of Jesus.

Thanksgiving – I also want to convey my thanks to you all for the enthusiasm for this project, for your constant prayers and generous giving. It is a tribute to the faith and vision of many people that we are now less than 15 months from turning this structure into one echoing to praise and worship, mission and ministry. Rosie and I have been privileged to be part of this for the last five crucial years. We look forward to joining you at the opening of the new building in 2018.

God bless you until then.

Howard Mellor

Revd Dr Howard Mellor



We asked a few folks from the MIC congregation from the oldest member to Sunday School children, CIA teens, Bible readers, greeters, church staff, former minister and future minister to tell us one thing they will miss about Howard and Rosie:



"Rosie is such a great help to Sunday School and we had such fun together at the Philippines mission trip. I will miss Howard's humour and sermons."

Tina Ku

"We will miss their open-mindedness, friendliness and Freddy the Frog"

Liana & Samara Chaplain

"What I shall miss about Howard and Rosie is Howard's culinary skills, especially his three fish bake - delicious, but more especially the love and joy they both have for life, for Christ and for MIC."

Eden Fletcher

"Pastors like you are rare, soooo kind-hearted and knowledgeable; Dearest Howard and Rosie, I will miss your guidance, wisdom and warm embrace."

Paul Mak

Jacob: "I miss about they teaching the children."

James: "I miss them as they won't come back. I hope they have fun in England."

James and Jacob Malcolm-Bengey

"I miss the simple joy of being in their presence, sharing a cup of tea and deep meaningful conversation, which somehow always ended in hysterical laughter!"

Marybeth Asher-Lawson

"I will miss their gentle and kind sense of humour...especially about Politics!!!"

Andy Neilson

"I will miss the parties and their love and care for our church and for me. We all love both from the bottom of our hearts"

Margret Vanderslott

"The thing I will miss about Howard is his leadership. He has been our Moses - leading us physically as we wander in the wilderness (ok 4 years instead of 40, and SKHTSK school instead of the Sinai desert) and guiding us spiritually. He's even leaving before we arrive in the promised land of the new Church building - although thankfully, unlike Moses, he will be returning to see us when we make our grand entrance."

Stephen Clark

"The thing I would miss the most about Howard and Rosie is their friendship. Throughout the years they are like my family members, just like Marybeth was like my aunt and we all are like family. Howard and Rosie has devoted themselves to serve God, yet they are so down to earth and see all of the staff as equal."

Leona Lo

"They are very nice and happy to have met them."

Stanley Lam

Alleluia! Rejoice!

Up to 14 November 2016, we have raised \$253million from donations, loans and sale of assets. The cash balance in the project account is about \$140million, we need another \$197million cashflow to cover the overall \$450million construction costs.

\$83m Funds Raised:

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|-------------------|---------------------|
| Funds raised MCHK | \$71,814,624 |
| Funds raised MIC | \$11,373,659 |
| Sub-total: | \$83,188,283 |

Plus other income:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| MIC reserve | \$18,325,000 |
| Sale of assets by MCHK | \$102,720,000 |
| Interest free loan received | \$49,370,617 |
| Sub-total: | \$170,415,617 |

Total funds: \$253,603,900

Expenditures: \$113,113,307

Cash in bank: \$140,490,593

Walkathon 2016



This year's Walkathon was held at 3:15pm on Sunday, 30th October at Tsing Yi Promenade. There were over 2,000 people joining the event, about half of them were teachers, students and parents of our schools.

This year's highlight was the newly included City Orienteering Competition, which attracted 67 teams of over 200 participants. We'll raise at least \$280,000 from the game. We would like to congratulate the Open Group Champion, Lai Yiu Methodist Church; Secondary School Group Champion, The Methodist Lee Wai Lee College; and the Family Group Champion, Asbury Methodist Kindergarten & Day Nursery!



Offerings can be made by:

Crossed Cheque payable to 'Methodist International Church, Hong Kong' and send to Room 1302, Methodist House, 36 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, 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.

John Wesley in his sermon on 'The Use of Money' (1744), urged Methodists to:

Gain all you can - with 'honest wisdom', 'honest industry' and without demeaning others.

Save all you can - live carefully and simply, 'not wasting God's gift'.

Give all you can - 'that you may give good account of your stewardship'.

