



MIC@TSK

michk erald

循道衛理聯合教會國際禮拜堂

Dying Seeds, Servanthood, and New Life

Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me."

John 12:23-26 (NIV).

If you cut open an apple horizontally, you can see the 'star' inside, made from the 5 seed pockets. Each of those seed pockets contains 1 to 4 seeds, depending on the variety of apple. Each one of those seeds can produce a new tree that grows new apples containing more seeds. This means that within each apple seed there are an infinite number of apples.

Jesus reminds us that his life is much like the seed; it must first go into the ground and die in order to be able to produce infinitely more life. In giving his life on the cross, Jesus gives life to the world. From his death and resurrection, we too have the gift of new life.

Jesus' words are not just about his own death and resurrection. They are also an invitation for us to follow Jesus by dying to self and being raised to newness of life. Like Jesus, we can only fully share our life with others if we are willing to let go of the parts of our lives that we love more than God.

Dying to self or letting go of our familiar or comfortable life is not easy, though. Those of us who have seen the corner of Queen's Road East and Kennedy Road in Wanchai where our beloved church once stood can testify to this truth. The ground is bare. The sounds of our life there have stopped. The emptiness is vast. Our three-year time in the tomb has begun, and every day we long for new life to appear on that site.

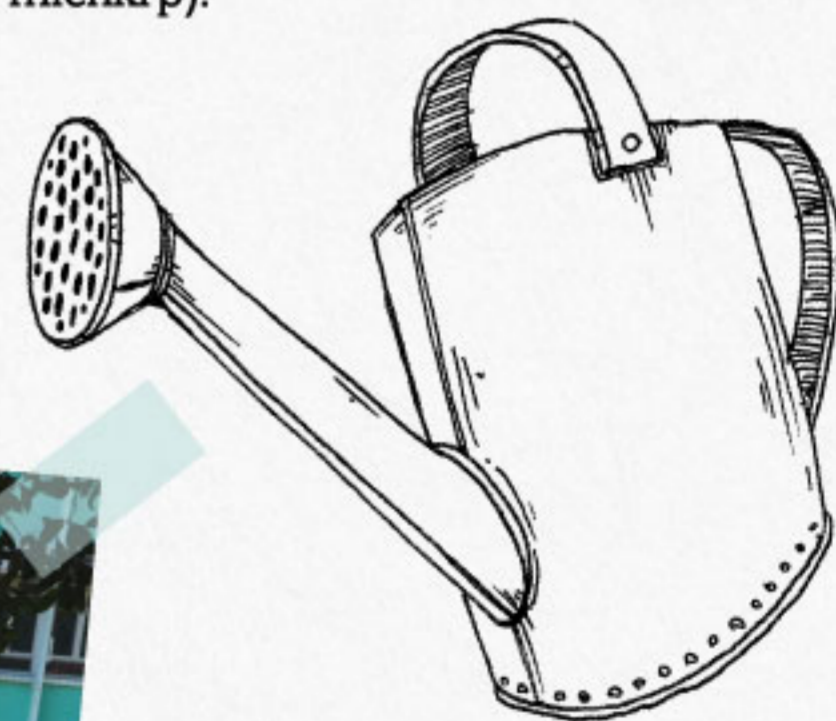
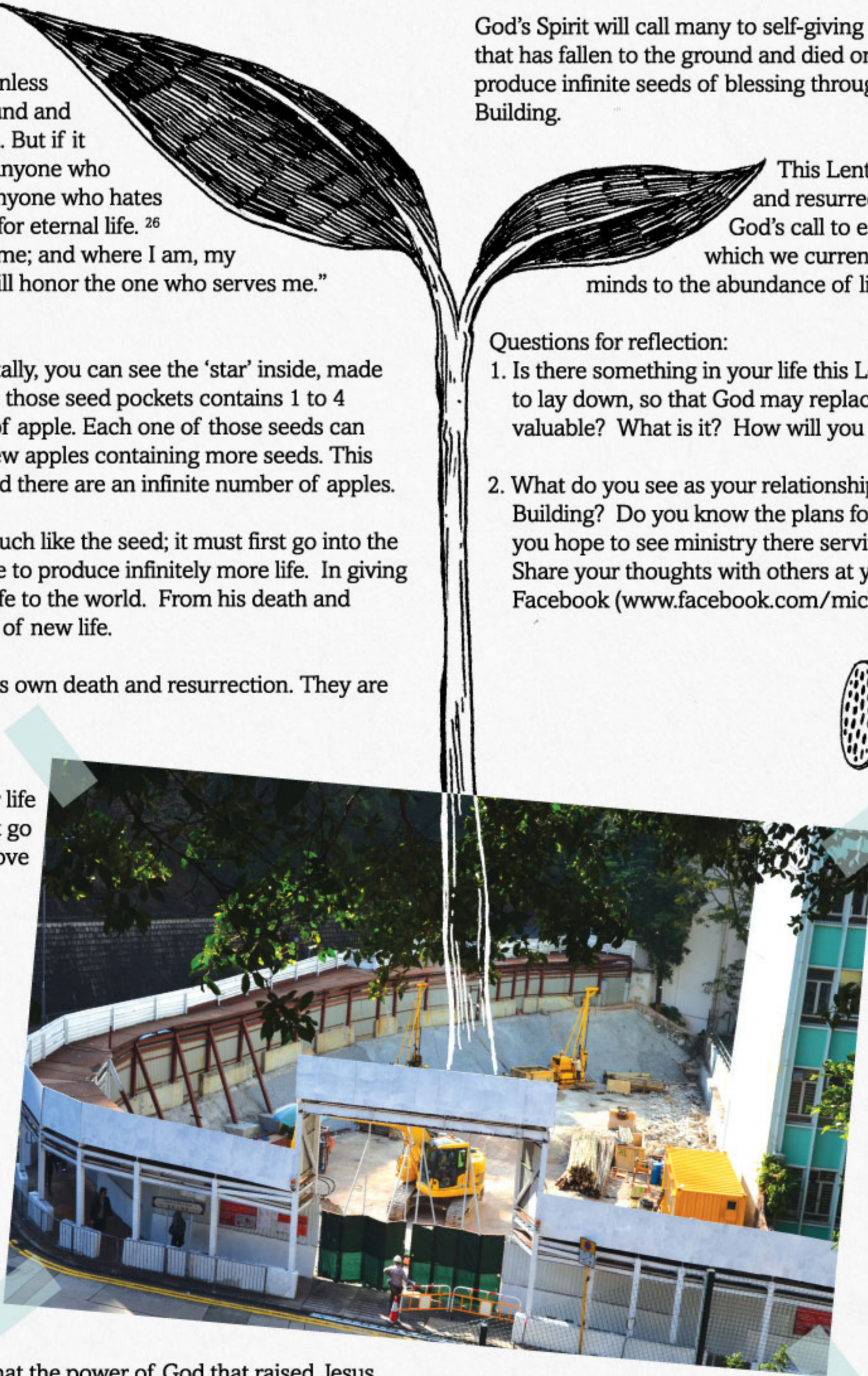
This Lenten season, we believe that the power of God that raised Jesus from the dead will also raise our church to new life. We live in faith that

God's Spirit will call many to self-giving love and sacrifice, so that the seed that has fallen to the ground and died on that corner will eventually produce infinite seeds of blessing through the new MIC and Conference Building.

This Lenten season, as we ponder the death and resurrection of our Lord, we consider God's call to each one of us to let go of the life to which we currently cling, and open our hearts and minds to the abundance of life that Jesus offers.

Questions for reflection:

1. Is there something in your life this Lent/Easter that God is calling you to lay down, so that God may replace it with something infinitely more valuable? What is it? How will you set it aside in the coming days?
2. What do you see as your relationship to the new MIC and Conference Building? Do you know the plans for the use of that building? How do you hope to see ministry there serving the needs of Hong Kong? Share your thoughts with others at your church or on our project's Facebook (www.facebook.com/michkrp).



Revd Marybeth Asher-Lawson



An invitation to join the team?

We have the privilege and opportunity to be part of the team that, with God's help, build the new Methodist International Church and Conference building.

Yes – you can be involved as we unite to pray and give for this remarkable project.

In the past, earlier generations of Methodists have built churches and facilities which today we use for our mission and ministry in Hong Kong. Now it is our turn. Already the site is cleared and the excavation is underway for the basement. Now is the time for us to dig deep in faith and generosity to support this project.

Sign up today to join:

Prayer Warriors committed to interceding for the project, its wise development, safe working and good decisions as it passes the various stages of permissions from relevant government departments. God is listening - let us join to pray.

Faith Warriors who are generously making sure the funds are raised for the work of the church. We have begun well but there is much more to do. God has blessed us – let us be generous.

Please include me as a Prayer Warrior, willing to pray regularly for this project. Name: _____

Please sign me up as a Faith Warrior, able to give generously to this project. Church: _____ Email: _____

Please detach and hand in at your church or send to Virginia Wan, Conference Office, 9/F Methodist House, 36 Hennessey Road, Wan Chai.

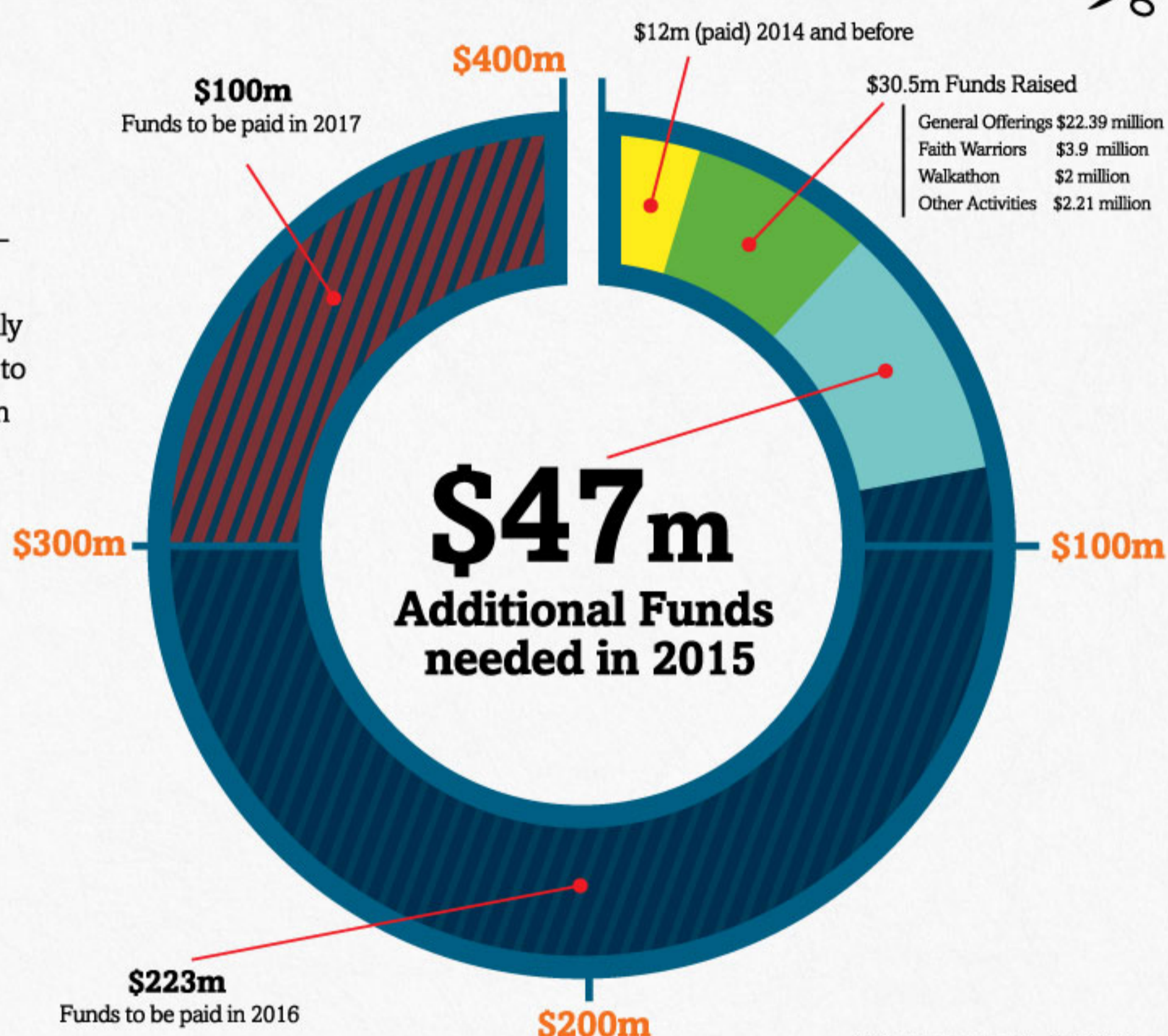
The Funding

We have cause for celebration for we have begun well in our fund raising. We are keen to plan ahead to complete the circle. There is a long way to go but we have 3 to 4 fund raising years to do it. People are being so generous – we have donations from \$20 a week to \$10,000 a year (and much more!). So think how you can join the many people giving generously and sacrificially to complete this circle. So far we have raised \$30.5 million and we will have to raise a further \$47 million to reach our target for 2015 of \$77.5 million. With generous faith and working together we can do it!



Revd G. Howard Mellor

'If this is the vision of God for Hong Kong Methodism, and I sincerely believe it is, then the funds will flow as God prompts his people.'



*Figures as at end - Feb 2015

For your prayers:

Praise God for:

- The vision for this building of grace.
- Its design being shaped by prayer and discussion.
- The 7 MIC congregations using 4 languages that have moved successfully to the TSK school and are using the new space beneficially.
- Committed clergy and lay leaders in the Construction Committee.

Ask God for:

- Wisdom in the detailed design of the new building.
- Energy as MIC set up each week for 7 Sunday congregations worshipping in four languages.
- Guidance in using the present opportunities for mission that the school affords.
- Inspiration for the whole of the Methodist Church Hong Kong as we prepare for the ministry enabled by the new building.
- Creative ministry empowered and enabled by the Holy Spirit.



Offerings can be made by:

Crossed Cheque payable to 'Methodist International Church, Hong Kong' and send to Room 801, 8/F East Town Building, 41 Lockhart 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.

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.

JOHN WESLEY

