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 循道衛理聯合教會國際禮拜堂

**'SO, what MAKES
 this NEW Building A
 Methodist CHURCH?'**

JOHN WESLEY

This provocative question was asked at the Methodist Conference this May. Revd Howard Mellor attempts to shape an answer.

To the Glory of God It will be a place of praise and worship from basement youth room to Sky Chapel! The design speaks of flowing grace, of pastoral care and it will be dedicated to the glory of God who has inspired this vision and prompted Methodists to support it.

Welcome It is fundamental to a Wesleyan thinking that all may receive the offer of God's mercy and love; all nationalities, creeds and colours. All are welcome in the orbit of God's self-giving covenant love. Therefore the entrance speaks of welcome, the design invites people in.

Engaged with community Wesley was renowned for his preaching - however he also opened orphanages, started schools, visited prisons and cared for the needy. Methodists ever since have sought to support the needy and so the Methodist's Social Services, with their care of people in Hong Kong, will work from this building.

Hospitality Wesley commended the Love Feast to his congregations - a time to share faith and enjoy food together. This notion of hospitality has been a very significant part MIC. Our new church will have two well equipped kitchens, so that we can have catering training and also regular celebrations and outreach events which include sharing a meal.

Learning Methodist members are encouraged to read widely and study the scriptures extensively. We seek to nurture people in Christian discipleship and bible study, offer skills training for domestic workers and courses for preachers and worship leaders. We expect to host regional conferences and consultations about God's mission in SE Asia.

Careful administration Methodists are methodical, that's how we got our name! The Conference office will be housed in this building offering pastoral care and diligent administration to ensure the smooth running of the Methodist church. Wesley would applaud that.

Sacramental Wesley attended Holy Communion daily. He was keen to bring people to the means of grace. Our flexible worship spaces will offer worship and the sacraments regularly. Methodists have an 'open table' and all who love the Lord are welcome to receive the blessings of the sacraments. We will also offer the sacrament of marriage and the celebration of lives lived well in the grace of God.

Nurture and prayer There will be a special prayer chapel on the ground floor accessible to all who wish to find a few quiet moments in a busy day. Special floors are being designed for young people and children, able to be used all the week.

In some ways, however, it will not resemble an early Methodist Church - there will be no stable at the back for John Wesley's horse! In every other respect this will be a Methodist church to the glory of God.



Howard Mellor

Revd Dr G. Howard Mellor



Meet Jacqueline Gourlay Grant

My name is Jacqueline Gourlay Grant and I came to Hong Kong in July 1990 for a sabbatical... the rest they say is history! Almost 25 years later with two grown up daughters and a three year old granddaughter, my cup is overflowing!

At first, living in Stanley I was asked to play organ for the Welsh regiment and soon I had a bawdy male voice choir rehearsing in my flat in Stanley Village Road every Monday night. When the army moved out I was choir leader for St Stephens Chapel for many years and a girl friend asked me to come and sing for a service at our church in 2002 and I found a congregation who loved me and accepted me for who I was. I tried to sit in the congregation at first, but the minister came rushing down the aisles asking if anyone could play the piano as

the organist hadn't turned up and I thought 'Oh lord, you want me to do this huh?' [big smile on my face] I believe that God is able to do abundantly above all that I ask or think and I am honoured to serve him. I am so blessed working with the choir, their enthusiasm and dedication to sing for the Lord is humbling and glorious! I particularly thank Sam and Aurie for their friendship and commitment to raising the bar for choirs!

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. Amen.



Jacqueline

Elderly Contributors Lead The Way



The Peace Fellowship Group of the Agape Methodist Church is a fellowship for seniors. Most of the members come from either the Tsui Ping Estate neighborhood or after they had previously joined the activities of the Agape Community Care Centre. They enjoyed their fellowship every Thursday morning. They have retired for a while already, some are now supported by their children, and some dependent on their own savings or Old Age Allowance from the Government. Though they do not have much, they are still willing to be Faith Warriors and offer with faith what little they have. There are a total of 20 seniors who have decided to live frugally so that they could contribute \$50 every month for four years to support the Redevelopment Project. What are the reasons behind it?



Grandma Suet Fong

Grandma Suet Fong is 88 and has been baptized and a member of the Agape Methodist Church for three years. Last year when she heard about the Redevelopment Project from the Pastor, she felt that it is a meaningful project. Not only did she sign up individually to be a Faith Warrior, she also joined other brothers and sisters in the Peace Fellowship in pledging an offering for the Project. She is looking forward to having more people worshipping in the new church building upon its completion. Grandma Suet Fong is also zealous in voluntary work, and is a hospital volunteer. Not only does she continue to pray unceasingly for her family and members of the church, she is now our Prayer Warrior and prays for the Redevelopment Project as well. We are so touched to see her supporting our project in three ways: both individual and group Faith Warrior and a Prayer Warrior.

Grandpa Fong is 83, and a mini-bus driver, supporting the whole family on his own. Recently he is suffering from serious lower back pain, and yet still has to take care of his chronically ill wife. Although he seems to be a quiet person, he could be very amiable and quite talkative once a conversation has started. He is very supportive of the Redevelopment Project as he thinks it is worthwhile to have more usable space for the church in such a densely populated Hong Kong community. Regarding his extra donation of \$50 every month in spite of his already tight living expenses, Grandpa Fong just shrugged it off and said casually that all you need to do is to spend a little bit less.

Grandma Oi Lan is 78, and has been a Christian for 6 years. Two years ago, she fell and got injured. But she managed to recover fully, and was thankful to God for that. When she first heard about the Redevelopment Project from the Pastor, she was a bit worried as she knew it would need a lot of money and the current economy environment is far from ideal. She was also a bit skeptical about the need to have such a big building, wondering whether there would be such a big congregation for it. However, after discussions with other members in the Peace Fellowship Group, she came to the view that, as children of God, they should support the Project, no matter what. She would rather skip "yum cha" and save up the money for the \$50 a month donation for the Project.



Grandma Oi Lan

This illustrates how important it is that we each make our contribution as Faith Warrior. Together we can reach the goal!

The Funding

We have begun well in our fund raising — but there is still a long way to go. We have to make sure we meet our required targets over the next four years.



MONEY RAISED MONEY SPENT

2017 \$400M

2016 \$300M

2015 \$85M \$77M \$37M

2014

\$38m Funds Raised:	
Funds raised MCHK	\$28,874,230
Funds raised MIC	\$8,076,073
Plus:	
From MIC reserve	\$18,058,457
Interest free loan received	\$30,338,270
Total:	\$85,347,030
Total expenditure	\$37,607,978

*Figures as of 18/8/2015

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.

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'.

