

# mic **A**erald

循道衛理聯合教會國際禮拜堂

## Building Together

Let us be clear about one thing – this project will benefit all Hong Kong Methodists and is only possible if we commit together to undertake it. We have referred to the new building as the redevelopment of Methodist International Church (MIC), but that is only half the story, for it will be a facility for all Hong Kong Methodists; a house of prayer built to the glory of God.

Out of the rubble of the existing MIC will grow a bigger, stronger, flexible facility which will meet the needs of the whole Methodist community of Hong Kong. What we are working on, with Rocco architects, is a blueprint of the proposed building. We have the privilege of sharing together in making this a living, breathing, caring community, which shares faith and stands for justice. In the branches of the new 'tree' will be space and shelter for creative future ministry.

At the heart of this redevelopment will be a Methodist Church with multiple congregations using at least five different languages. However the desire to utilise this site to its full potential is a vision of the whole Methodist Church in Hong Kong.

It will be home for the Conference Office, the venue for Conference committees and boards, consultations and celebrations. There will be spaces for discipleship and learning, and the possibility of accommodation for the President of MCHK. So it is a joint undertaking by the Conference and MIC for the benefit of all Hong Kong Methodists.

In the past the Overseas Division of the British Methodist Church (the former Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society), handed over to the Conference many assets for the benefit of Hong Kong Methodists, not least of which was the Methodist Centre. Now is the time for the Methodist Church in Hong Kong to stand shoulder to shoulder with MIC and the Conference to undertake this significant task.

For some years now there has been a desire to develop this site, and we have now gained the permissions we need to proceed. The necessary preparations will take us to the summer of 2014 before we expect to move out of this building. We are committed to ensuring that the design and function of the new MIC and Conference building will meet present and future needs.



*This is a project for the whole Methodist Church and as President I call on 1,000 people, this March, to commit at least \$10,000 for 4 years to establish the basis of a credible fund going forward.*  
**Revd Yuen Tin Yau, President, The Methodist Church, Hong Kong.**

*The friends at MIC have caught the vision for the use of this site and this is the time to build in earnest. This should be the vision of all Methodists in Hong Kong, I call on you all to donate generously to the redevelopment of MIC.*  
**Revd Prof Lo Lung Kwong, Chairman of Coordination Committee, Redevelopment of MICHK**



*MIC members have committed significant sums towards the redevelopment. The donations range from \$20 to \$500,000. No gift too small, no gift too large. We covet your prayers and welcome your donations.*  
**Revd Canon Dr Howard Mellor, Pastor-in-charge of MIC**

It is proposed that half of the floors will be used by MIC and half by the Conference. There will be spaces for hospitality, Social Service provision, opportunity for

multiple worship centres of differing sizes, so that we can minister to congregations in English, but also in Tagalog, Ilocano, Putonghua, and Indonesian languages. We will have a dedicated suite for youth and children's work and places for varieties of meetings. The work will not just expand – it will become more diverse, reaching significant sections of this multi-national Hong Kong.

We are all in this together and, even though the burden is large, when we pull together it is possible. None of us can do this by ourselves but working together we can do it! This is the time to shoulder the burden, building together for the future. We pray you will join us in this exciting project.

*Howard Mellor*



# Introducing Virginia Wan



In the last issue we interviewed the architect of the Redevelopment Project. He is well known in the field of architecture and is seen to be the soul of the whole Redevelopment Project. For this issue, we would like to introduce a humble office lady who is completely ignorant of architecture. However, she has caught the highest publicity and she is seen in all meetings and events pertaining to the project (that is why this interview is also initiated and answered by herself). Ladies and gentlemen, here comes **Miss Virginia Wan, the Project Coordinator of the Redevelopment of MICHK** —

**Q : We heard that it was you who initiated to take up the post of Project Coordinator, why are you “so silly”?**

**A :** I have worked in the Conference Office for almost ten years as Assistant Executive Secretary of the Social Services Division. My profession is in fact in journalism. I had aspiration to be a reporter while at school. So I chose journalism as major in university and naturally became a reporter after graduation. The work of a reporter was very exciting and challenging, with lots of fun too. However, I had to work day and night that made it difficult for me to take care of my family as well. To be realistic, I changed to office work. Since then, I have been working in the office setting, immersed in piles of documents every day. Time flies and nine years have passed. I am so familiarized with my work that I really want a change. I prayed to God to open opportunities for me to learn something new and I shared this thought with my colleagues in a retreat. One day, I was caught by the Conference Office's recruitment of Project Coordinator for the Redevelopment Project, “Is it not an opportunity!” I had never thought of myself participating in the redevelopment of a building, not to mention a church! I believed that the whole process would be full of new adventures and interesting happenings. Although I was totally ignorant of architecture and I did not know whether I was competent, I finally got the courage and applied for the post.

**Q : Tell us something about your work?**

**A :** Before I started this job, I looked forward to seeing myself wearing a safety helmet with building plans in hand, walking through the site giving instructions. I almost ordered for myself a Hello Kitty safety helmet and a pair of Buzz Lightyear boots! However, in reality, I continue to be immersed in piles of documents. As I am the only paid staff helping for this project, everything under the realm of the Redevelopment Project falls within my duty list, including helping to follow up on the building plan design, project tender, fundraising and financing, and publicity and promotion, etc. Although I do not participate in decision making, I am involved in almost everything from liaison and communicating, drawing up documents to checking on work progress. My role is ever changing: I am a secretary, editor, translator and messenger at times; but when need arises, I will be doing the work of the boss, the engineer, the solicitor and the accountant.

**Q : Can you tell us how you feel after over half year's work?**

**A :** I have to face different challenges every day because I cannot foresee what difficulties will arise each day. The work is somewhat stressful and I have to work long hours, but it provides great opportunity for me to meet different people, see different things and acquire different kinds of knowledge. These add much pleasure to the boring office work and are great benefits to me. What deeply impresses me is that in such a great project, if God is not with us, we cannot do anything. I am not just referring to the huge financial aspect that we need to rely on God's grace and provision, but in every single aspect, no matter how trivial, without God's blessings, our plan will meet different obstacles. Individual effort seems utterly insignificant against this boundless work. Only when we pull all people's strength together under the leadership of Jesus Christ as our Head can we make things happen.

**Q : What are your favourite pastimes?**

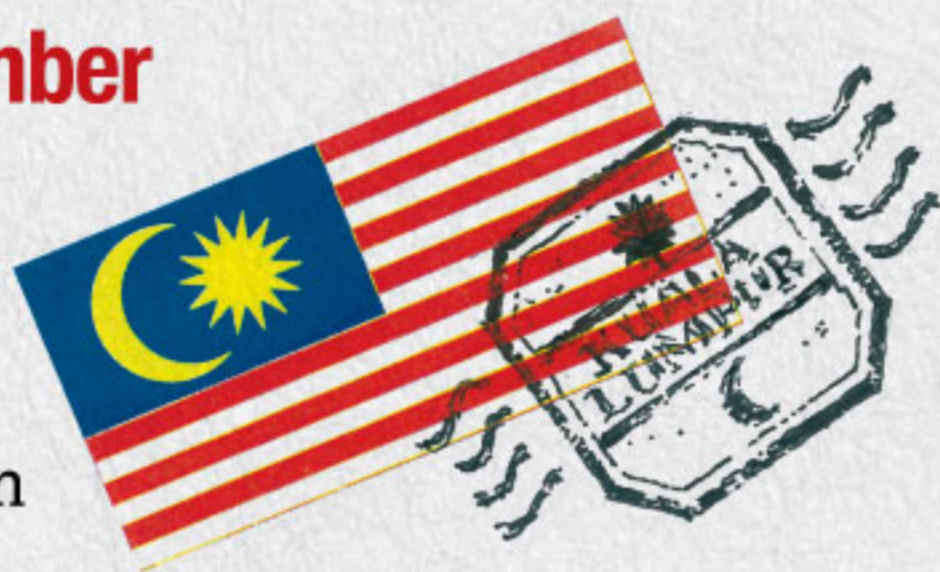
**A :** I like seeing movies and shopping. I am also developing my interest in bird watching. After retirement, I plan to go to different countries in the world bird watching. Certainly I have other hobbies but now I will leave most of my spare time to my two beloved sons because being with them is the happiest ever.



# Meet Stanley Lam

**A brief conversation with MIC's oldest member**

Stanley is MIC's oldest member, we're very thankful for his past service in our church council and attendance in church over the many years. Stanley was even married at MIC. And before his retirement Stanley took over a firm in which he travelled to the UK and Europe to sell goods.



said no I'm a Methodist, so I have to find a Methodist church. This church was first run by the British army, that's how I started coming to this church.

**Q : How long have you been coming to MIC?**

**A :** I think the first time I came here was 1947, right after the war. I came here to help my brother through university, because my brother was changing his course from Engineering to medical, so my father says medical takes a long time, so I have to help him out.

**Q : Where did you get married Stanley?**

**A :** I got married in this church in 1954, my whole family from Malaysia came over to attend the church.

**Q : What do you like about our church?**

**A :** I've been born as a Methodist, because my parents are all Methodists in Malaysia. My father was teaching in an Anglo-Chinese school which is a Methodist school. We are brought up in a Methodist area. This church is very good, because everybody is so happy to see you. I've made a lot of friends here, and the people are very nice. When my brothers asked why don't you go to a catholic church? I

**Q : What do you hope for in our new building?**

**A :** They will be combining the Chinese church and the English church together, we'll have the whole Methodist church in one centre. 12 stories upward will be for the Chinese church, then we'll have another section for the Malay church.

## A Prayer for the Redevelopment

Generous God, out of your goodness you have given your people vision and skill to prepare this house of prayer for mission and ministry. Empower and bless us all at this time of pledge dedication as we offer our gifts and tithes in your service and to your glory. Sanctify this venture of faith, inspire our planning, enable vision to be shaped into a building which, from its foundation and in its covering, from wall to wall, from roof to floor will be a beacon of your love and grace to all who seek your presence. Amen.

## Funding and Praying Challenge:

The joint Fund Raising Committee, with reps from every Methodist Church has challenged Methodists to give and to pray. That between now and 29 June we have at least

- 1000 Faith Warriors who will give at least 10,000 in each of the next four years.
- 3000 Prayer Warriors who are praying for the project and the mission and ministry of the whole Methodist Church.

In giving and in prayer we are Building Together for the work of God in Hong Kong. When we pull together so much more can be achieved.

## 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.



**Everyone shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which he has given you.**

Deuteronomy 16:17

