

michk Herald

循道衛理聯合教會國際禮拜堂



for Unto us
a Child is Born
Isaiah 9:6

Building on the rock

It was in 1841 that Captain Charles Elliot of the British Royal Navy declared Hong Kong island a 'barren rock'. Rock it most certainly is but today, hardly barren! Quickly it became a flourishing port and centre for trade. It was a stepping off point for missionary activity in China and Japan.

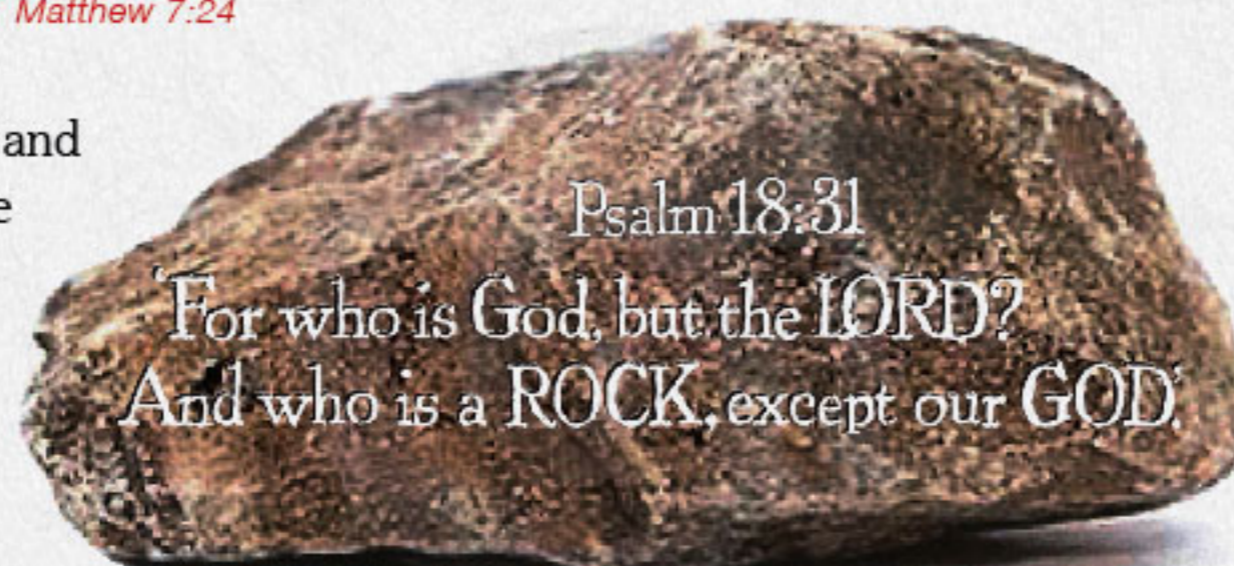
If we were back in 1841, a short walk from our MIC site down Queen's Road East towards the traffic lights, would bring us to the shore. If we were to walk further down, along QRE to the Hopewell Centre, we would be paddling in the sea! It was at this edge of Wan Chai, beside the garrison barracks, that the Wesleyan Methodists were granted the plot of land on which now we build.

Hong Kong has all the qualities of a rugged mountain that emerges out of the sea. It is therefore not a surprise that we find ourselves building on the solid rock. After digging the soft earth away, the construction firm excavating the site hit granite, a very hard rock, which will provide solid foundations for the new building.

Jesus told a parable about the man who built on rock.

'Everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock' *Matthew 7:24*

We build on rock in two ways, on physical rock and spiritual rock. Millions of years ago, in the white heat of a volcanic intrusion, the granite was formed. This created a hard rock resisting erosion from wind and weather. Such rock becomes a solid foundation for our building.



Alleluia! We do not need to drill down to create foundations. There is no doubt we are, from this December, constructing a building on solid rock.

We also build on the Lord Jesus Christ, the rock of our faith, who we celebrate this Christmas and New Year. He is the one who can bring stability and peace to our lives. As we build on the foundation of Jesus' teaching and follow the manner of his life, we shape lives which enable us to flourish and grow as people. As we celebrate Christmas and move into 2016 we need to reflect on whether, and how, we are building on Jesus Christ, the rock of our faith.

The psalmist often refers to God as 'our rock', solid, dependable. The early Christian preachers also used the idea of Jesus as a rock. In the book of Acts, Peter refers to Jesus as the 'cornerstone', a word which may be translated 'keystone', the stone at the top of an arch which keeps the whole structure in place. Millions of people today find Jesus to be the dependable, faithful, merciful Saviour, a rock on which to build for a lifetime.

Blessings to you this Christmas and New Year

Howard Mellor

Revd Dr G. Howard Mellor



He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief cornerstone. *Acts 4:11*



For I'm Building a People of Power



I have been to many Ground Breaking ceremonies in the past. They tend, in Britain, to be simple affairs with a few people, a prayer said and the first spadeful dug. The Ground Breaking for our Methodist International Church and Conference Building was nothing like that!

Arriving at the site, we made our way carefully down ladders inside a scaffolding tower, down and down over 30 feet below the street level. We were met with the vista of a cemented floor, a wonderful stage with a colourful back drop and a row of 12 gold spades, all bedecked with red ribbons. This could only happen in Hong Kong!

What took me by surprise, was the overwhelming sense of the presence of God in the midst of this deep building site. The site had been prayed over by generations of Methodists and I knew that of course, but even with steel columns rising out of the ground at the perimeter of the site, and many girders holding everything in place, it was clear that this was still Sacred Space.



The service, carefully drafted, with prayers and hymns, led by the choir, keyboard and brass instruments was deeply moving. There was many a tear in the eye of people who had worshipped for years at MIC, mine too! Of course the service was well led by President Sung Che Lam, Past Presidents and many of those involved in the design and development of the new building.



For the congregations of MIC this has been, since we left the building, a hard eighteen months and a time of loss. However standing in the depth of what will become the basement of the building with a youth room and one of the worship halls, was a moment of hope... a real conviction that this new building will rise to the Glory of God and the ministry of the Methodist Church, Hong Kong. It will be a building inhabited by a people of power, seeking to worship and serve God in this community and across Hong Kong. There was a real sense of Alleluia! about the event which will accelerate our determination to support the redevelopment generously and sacrificially. Praise God for the event and thanks to all who enabled it to happen.

Revd Dr.G Howard Mellor

Walkathon 2015

This year's Walkathon was held at 3pm on 15th November (Sunday) at the Ma On Shan Waterfront Promenade. There were about 3000 people participating in the event, half coming from eight secondary schools, primary schools and kindergartens of our church. We would like to thank all of them, especially those teachers, students and parents from our schools who were eager to support despite the wind and the rain.

The Launching Ceremony was held in the Ma On Shan Methodist Primary School. Music performances and talent shows added colour to the lively atmosphere. There was a bazaar selling fine gifts and delicious food. They also had inflatable bouncers and playing areas for the kids. Everywhere was full of fun and laughters and every one enjoyed the occasion very much.

Special thanks to Ma On Shan Methodist Church, the Hong Kong Methodist Women's Association, Ma On Shan Methodist Primary School and Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service, whose support and assistance had made the occasion a success. May all the glory and praise be to God! See you next year!



Alleluia! Rejoice!

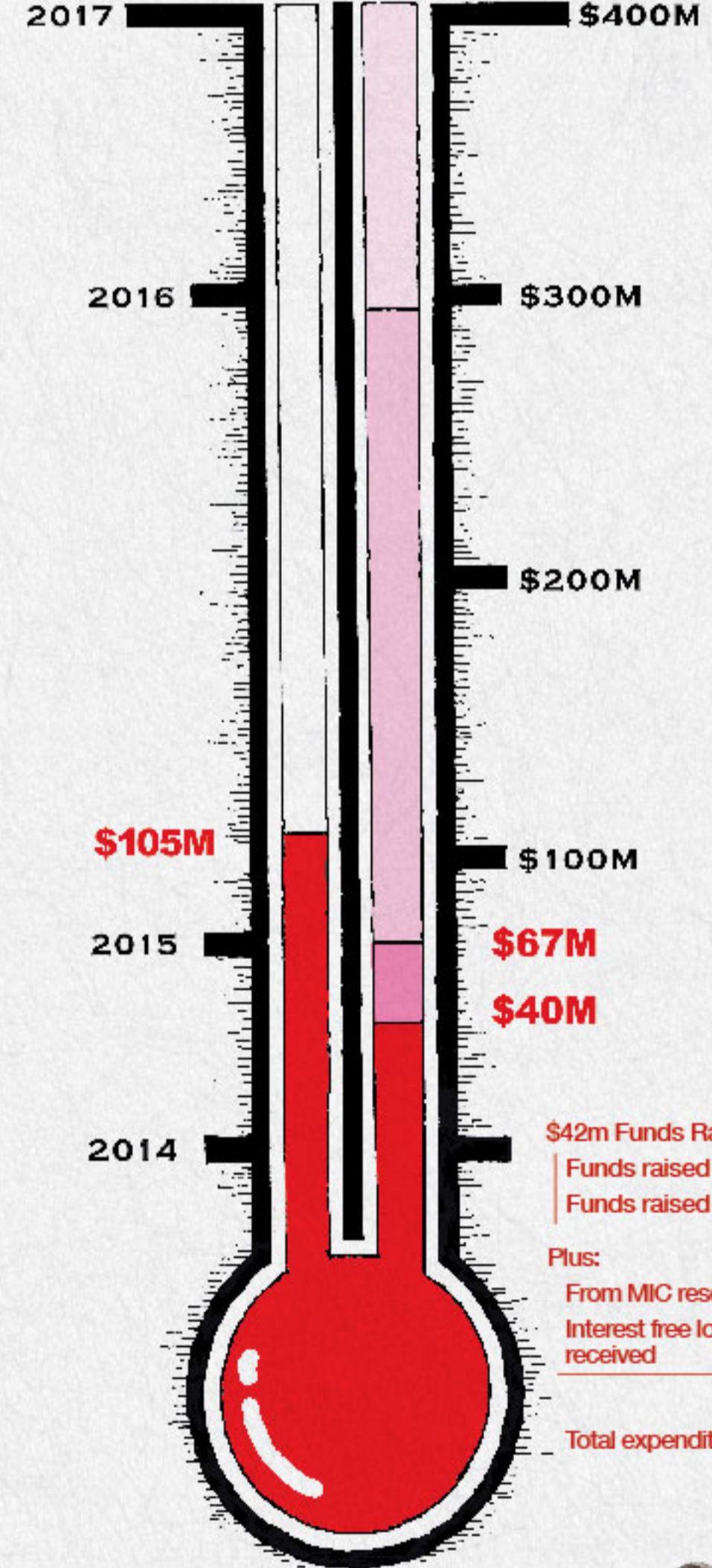
We have raised \$105million for the redevelopment!

\$42m in gifts, \$18m from the MIC reserve and \$45m in loans from MCHK churches. Our Walkathon monies are yet to be added to the total. These are all signs God is with us in the fund raising.

The good news is that we can pay all our bills for 2015 (\$67million), but expenditure in 2016 will need a further \$200million. That is a big call but with generous, even sacrificial, giving, the financial commitment will be met. Praise God we are on time, within budget and raising significant funds. Alleluia again!



MONEY RAISED ● MONEY SPENT



*Figures as of 25/11/2015

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'.

