



mic@TSK Herald

循道衛理聯合教會國際禮拜堂



New Beginnings

Methodist International Church Hong Kong (MIC) warmly welcomes Reverend Eden J. Fletcher as their new Senior Pastor. Reverend Eden talks to us about the new church building and his ministry in Hong Kong. Please visit MIC Facebook page for more of the conversation.

What was your first impression when you visited the new building?

I was really excited to actually get into the building. I had seen the plans, drawings, artist impressions and looked at the building from the outside so to get inside was really quite awesome. The thing that strikes you about the inside at the moment is the sheer amount of concrete everywhere - staircases, walls, floors and ceilings! How did we manage to build without concrete in the past? I was only allowed on three levels so we started in the basement which is absolutely cavernous with seemingly very high ceilings - here will be the youth space and a hall for worship seating 200. We then walked up to the main sanctuary level with its balcony. The most striking feature of this space and possibly the whole building is the enormous cross which dominates the interior space and will be shining out at night onto the street. The empty cross makes a really bold statement about who we are and what we believe as Christians as we seek to follow the risen Christ.



for which MIC and MCHK have sold properties, realised many of their assets and raised cash to fund the new building. The Methodist people are being utterly amazing in their incredible generosity. God is really stretching us in faith to fulfil this great vision – and I believe 100% that God will not disappoint us.

How is God working in your life?

My goodness - I shall be fifty this year(!), a Christian for 35 years and yet in so many ways I feel as if I am only just beginning with God, as if I am still just now taking the first few steps of faith! Despite years of theological training and 20 years of ordained ministry, there is still so much more to learn of God and God's ways. I am so excited by all that God has yet to reveal to me. Coming to Hong Kong was not remotely on my agenda or in my sights a year ago, yet God called and God appointed and I absolutely believe that God will equip me. I am so thrilled to be here and hungry for what God wants to do in my life and the life of MIC. I am reading, praying and trying to be completely open to all that God wants and longs to do in my life.

What is the best thing about working in Hong Kong at MIC?

Where do I start? I am probably the most blessed Methodist Pastor in worldwide Methodism! I live in a great place in Hong Kong from which I can walk to the office. I work with an amazing team of really hard working and committed staff. The team is committed to the Lord Jesus Christ, MIC and seeing God's Kingdom come. As you know, the team has been working as a skeleton staff for a few months now without any complaints. They have simply stepped up and taken on more and different tasks. As a church, we owe them a great debt. I hope that very soon we will be able to appoint a new associate minister, a youth minister and a children/family worker. I love the MIC church family, they have been so kind and welcoming of me. It is certainly the youngest church I have ever pastored, I have moved from being one of the younger members of the church back in the UK to now being one of the older members! The work is exciting as we prepare for the move back into the new building but there are many challenges too. We long once again to grow the church for we have the wonderful life-giving message of God's love in Christ that we want so many more of Hong Kong folks to hear and receive. We earnestly desire to see God's Kingdom come.

Revd Eden J. Fletcher



What's next?

The building is rising up, presently as I write, the 15th floor is being completed and we anticipate that by the end of April 2017 we will have reached the top! Now of course we must decide on the interior furnishings and fittings.

Does it surprise you that MIC and the Methodist Church Hong Kong (MCHK) are taking such a bold step in constructing this building?

No, it doesn't! My first visit to MIC was in 2011 when Reverend Professor Lo invited me to attend a conference. I was so thrilled and delighted to hear of the entrepreneurial spirit of MCHK and all that the church is committing to. I went back to the UK hugely encouraged and enthused for my own work. MCHK has a boldness and courage that is simply inspirational. I think MIC has been encouraged by that boldness in this joint venture. This is a huge and costly project - one



Sharing by "Faith Warriors"

We are grateful to God for giving us the opportunity to share with you about our participation as "Faith Warriors" fundraising program to support the Redevelopment Project of the MICHK and Conference Building. At the age of 60, and having received our pensions, we expected to take life easy and start to enjoy our leisure of retirement. Around the same time, our church appealed for offerings through the "Faith Warriors" fundraising program. We thought to ourselves that we would not be able to afford to contribute \$40,000 each over a two year period. We did not have much faith at the time. After giving further thoughts to our financial situation despite our retirement, we felt that we were comfortable and did not lack anything, though we were by no means wealthy. MICHK is a part of the Methodist Church Hong Kong and is also a community that we should be serving. We were also reminded by the Bible passages that many of our Christian forefathers sold their possessions to support the building of the church. With all these considerations, we then decided to take a step in faith, to follow the principle of tithing, by committing \$80,000, being one-tenth of our remaining pension sum of about \$800,000, to the "Faith Warriors" program. To be honest, at the time we had doubt about our affordability of our commitment. However, we trusted in God's provision so by faith we made this offering. We firmly believed that God's grace and reward would exceed immeasurably what we wish or ask for.

Throughout these two years of fulfilling our monthly commitments, we experienced God's presence with us in every circumstance. We did not lack in anything and on the contrary we received God's abundant grace and blessings upon us. Just when we felt that "idleness will drain away our savings" as the balance of our pensions was diminishing, Albert started to look for a job to cover our living expenses. With God's grace and blessings, he found a suitable job very quickly with a reasonable salary. We both felt that being "Faith Warriors" was an experience of grace upon grace, giving us abundance and joy. Therefore, we have decided after this "Faith Warriors" fundraising program, we will participate in the "Tree of Life" and the "Brick Builders" fundraising programs. We hope that our offerings will be acceptable to God. We would like to share with you the following bible passage as an encouragement: "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

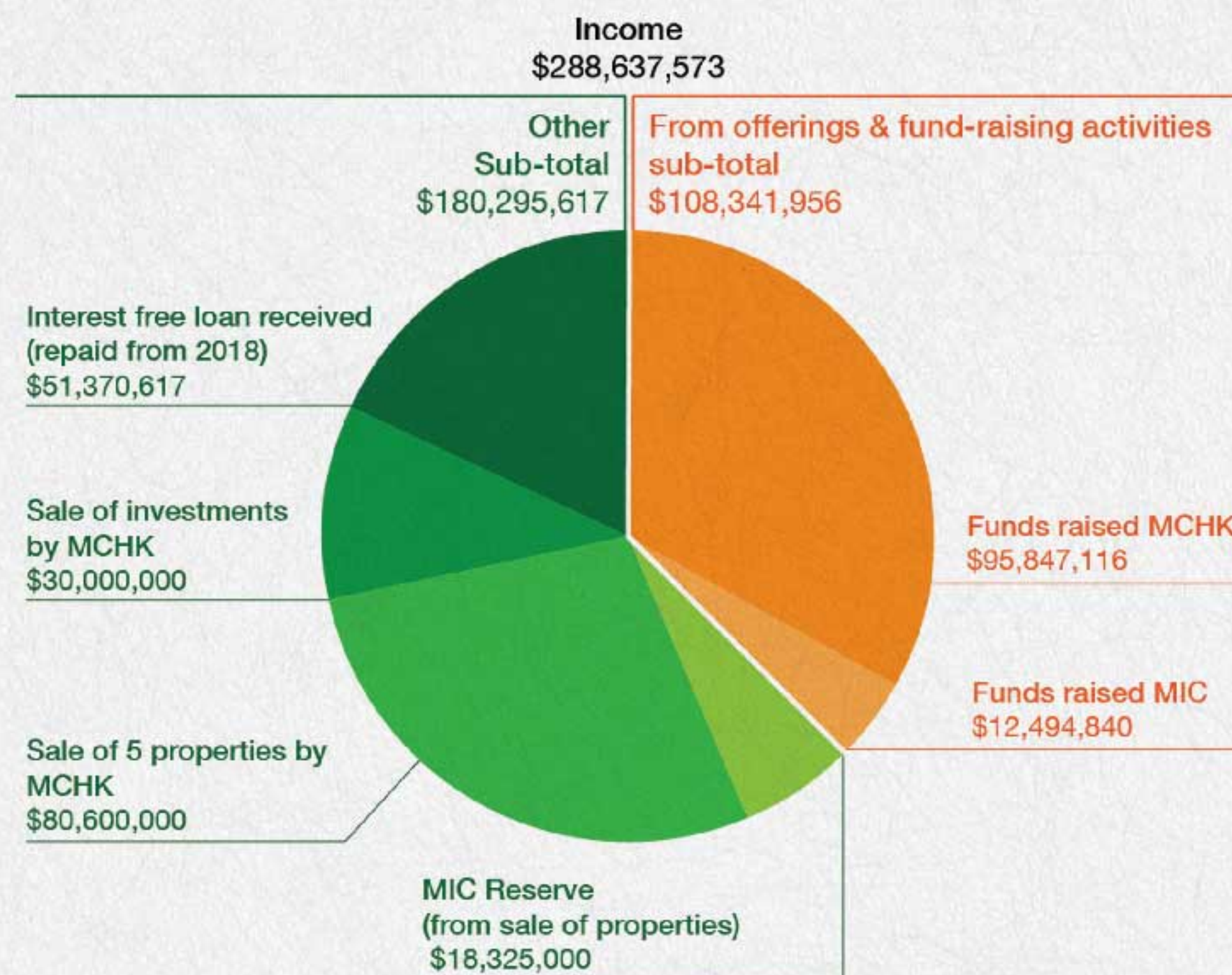
(II Corinthians 9:6-7)



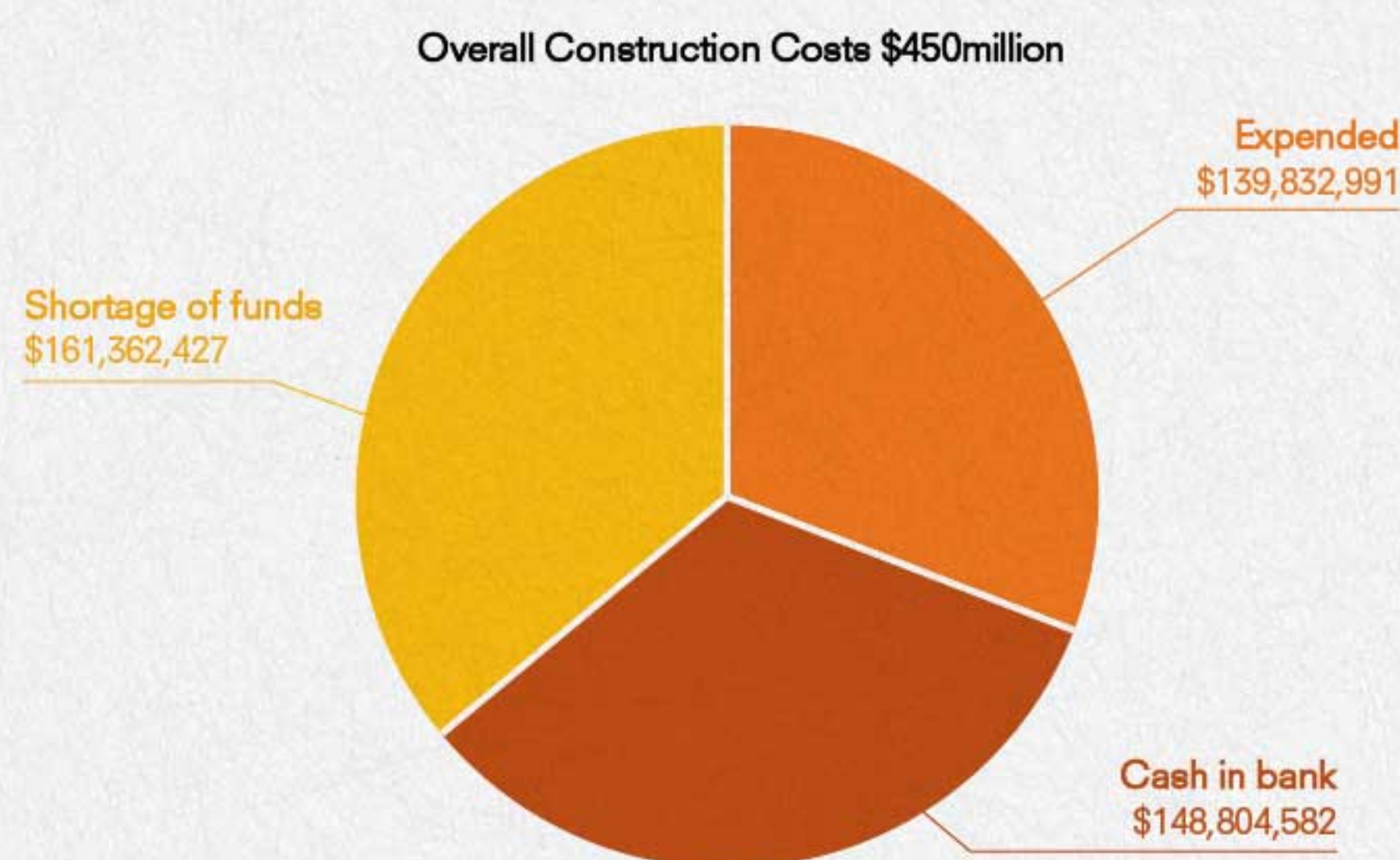
Mr. Albert Chung and Mrs. Chung Sham Wai Ping
Epworth Village Methodist Church

Alleluia! Rejoice!

Up to 22nd February 2017, we have raised \$288million from donations, loans and sale of assets. The cash balance in the project account is \$148,804,582. We need another \$162million cash to cover the overall \$450million construction costs.



Remarks: funds from the Room Dedication Scheme not yet booked.



The Room Dedication Scheme has been launched in January 2017, if you wish to have your special message of thanksgiving or remembrance etched in the rooms of the building, please visit our website at www.methodist.org.hk/rdev/miccob or facebook page at www.facebook.com/michkrp for the details.



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'.