

MIC@TSK

mic Herald

循道衛理聯合教會國際禮拜堂

Finishing Strong

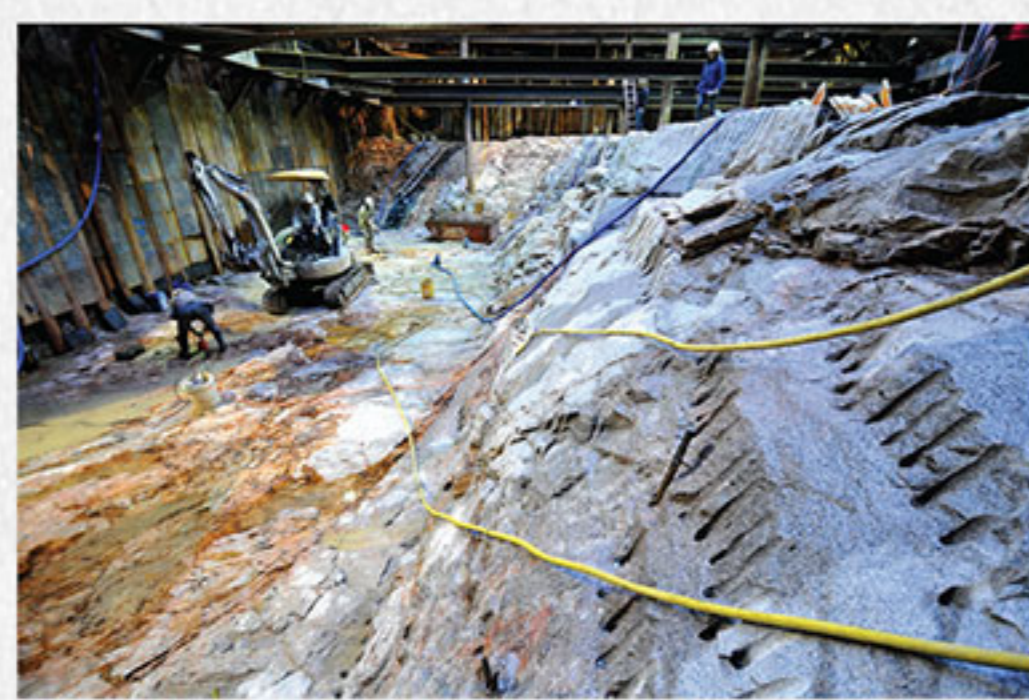
With annual revenue of over US\$32 billion, Nike is the biggest sports apparel manufacturer in the world. We see it everywhere - clothing, sports grounds, publicity billboards and of course worn by celebrities. But did you know that Nike was the ancient Greek goddess who personified victory? The ancient story of Nike claims that Nike flew around battlefields rewarding the Victors with glory and fame, symbolized by a wreath of laurel leaves. In the ancient world winning - coming first - whether in battle or in sporting events like the Olympiad was everything. There were no silver or bronze medals for second or third places, only the wreath of laurels for the victor whose victory drew divine favour from the gods.

St Paul was well aware of the ancient world's obsession with competition and winning, of courting the divine favour of the gods. Along with other biblical writers St Paul likened the Christian faith to running a race. Competitors needed to prepare well, to have courage and stamina and endurance not only to compete but to win: *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. (1 Cor 9: 24).* And of course for Paul, the prize was not a mere perishable laurel wreath handed out by Nike, but the crown of eternal life bestowed by the King of Kings which is imperishable.

I always remember my sports teacher telling me that when you run a race, especially a long race, as you see the finish line approach, don't slow down but speed up, draw up all your energy and sprint to the finish so as to win. We have been running a long race to prepare for and build the new MIC and



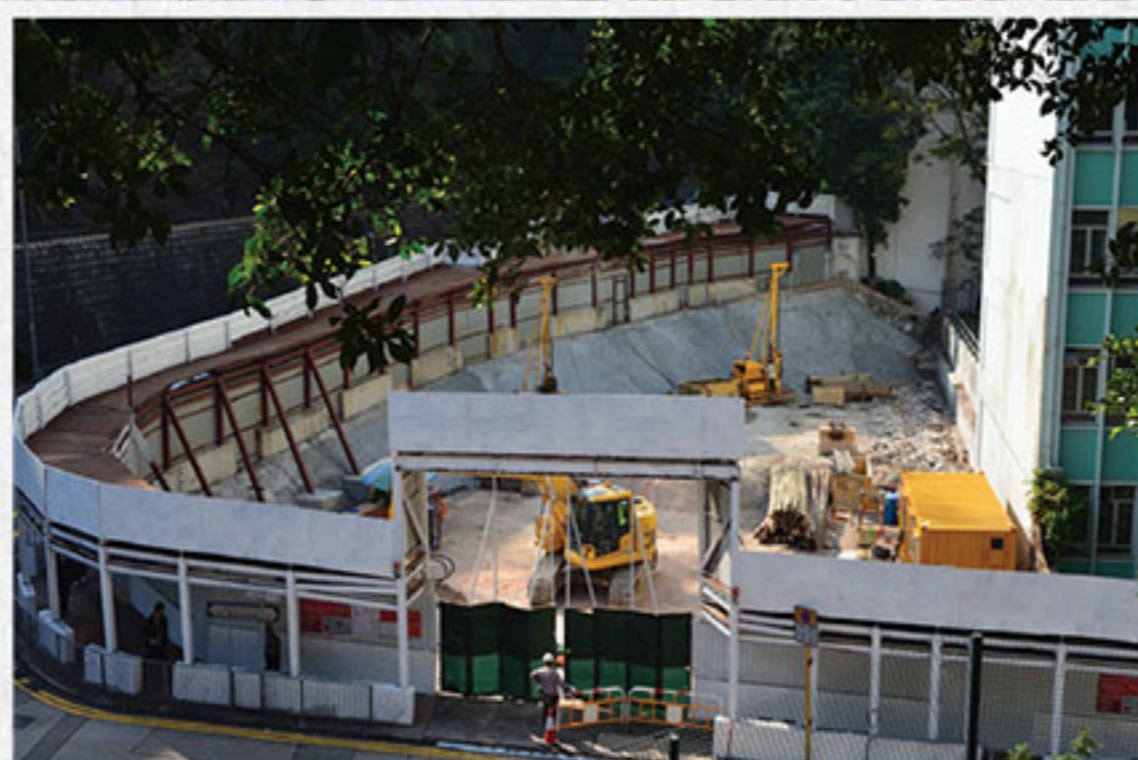
Construction of G/F - Jul 2016



It's these rocks where the foundation laid on



Foundation and Superstructure works - Jan 2016



Demolition works completed and started Excavation and Lateral Support works - Feb 2015



Hoarding works - Sep 2014



Fixing external wall tiles - May 2017

22 storeys in full height - May 2017

Installation of door frames - March 2017

Erection of steel frame on the Sky Chapel - May 2017

Construction of balcony in the Main Sanctuary - Feb 2017

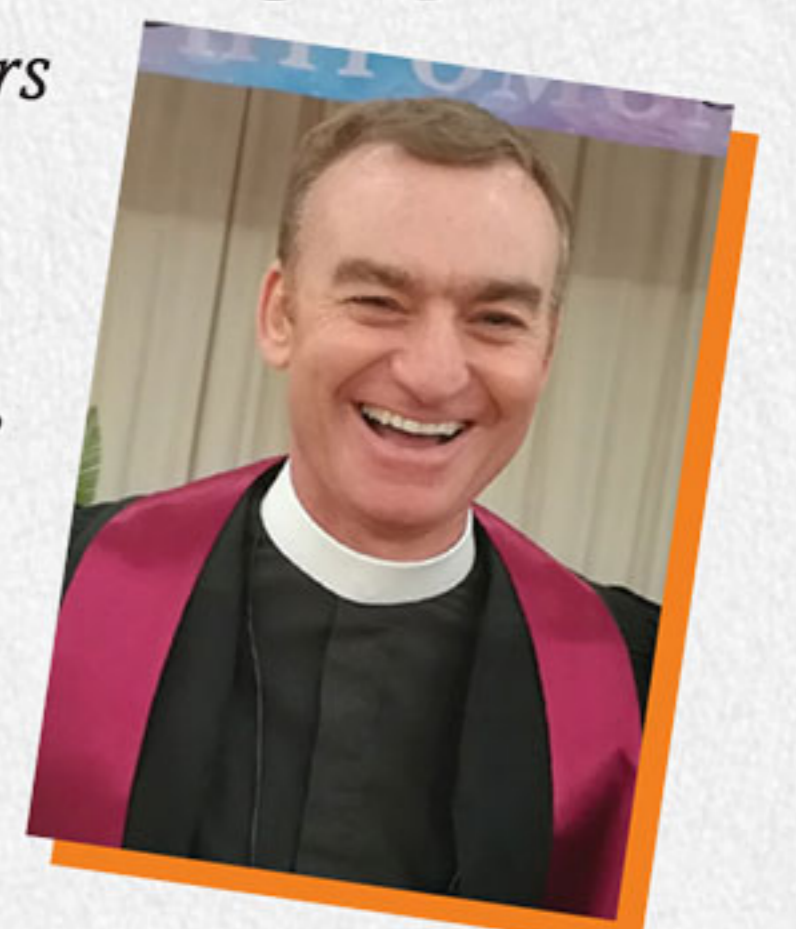
Concreting completed on 3/F - Aug 2016

Construction completed on 9/F - Nov 2016

Conference building. I suspect that some of us may even have gotten a little tired along the way because there has been much to do and much time taken up with meetings, planning and fundraising. However dear friends, the end is clearly now in sight. Very soon, the final roof piece will be installed, the bamboo scaffolding will begin to be removed and internal walls are already well on the way to completion. With the end now in sight it is time to dig deep, to draw on the deep wells of the Holy Spirit, to quicken the pace, to pick up our step and finish the race so as to win and finish well for the glory of God.

And as the writer to the Hebrew's reminds us we are not alone in this great endeavour for we are 'surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses' all cheering and encouraging us on to complete the building as part of our race of faith. So, *'let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. (Hebrews 12:1-2) and to God be all the glory.'*

Revd Eden J. Fletcher



Sharing by "Prayer Warrior"



The revival Prayer Movement of the church "Let us bless this House" began on January 3 last year. It is a series of 24 prayer meetings organized by our Church to pray for the redevelopment and funding of the project of MICHK and Conference Building. In the afternoon of the monthly Holy Communion, brothers and sisters of the whole Church gather together to pray and commit this important project to God.

It has been a year and a half since the commencement of the redevelopment project prayer meetings, and I am grateful that I was able to attend every one of them. What has motivated my continued participation is the power and support derived from prayers. The budgeted cost for the redevelopment project is \$450 million, which I thought an unreachable goal and questioned how our Church could possibly raise that kind of money. But now, we are only \$110 million away from the target as \$300 million has been raised in less than 2 years. Isn't that God's grace and that He has listened to our prayers?

A hymn I used to sing during Sunday school is often in my mind: "more prayers more power, less prayers less power, no prayer no power. We should pray consistently." Our church founder John Wesley got up every morning at four o'clock and prayed at a small table in the room. His prayer for the church throughout his life was known as the "power plant" for the revival of the church and the Methodist movement at that time. Our President, Revd Lam Sung-che said that he hoped the prayer meetings held every month for the redevelopment project would become a movement for the revival of the church. I also made a commitment to my heavenly Father that I would

participate in all 24 redevelopment project prayer meetings with brothers and sisters from different local churches to ask our Lord keep and guide the redevelopment of the new building.

There were obstacles that could have prevented me from attending the past 17 meetings. Last summer, I was to be absent from Hong Kong, thus could not be attend the July and August prayer meetings. I had to make changes to my itinerary and flights to enable my attendance. Thanks be to the Lord and I managed to depart after the July prayer meeting and come back before the August meeting. I faced another challenge in May this year. I had to chair the parish committee meeting as the chairperson on 7th May afternoon when the prayer meeting was to take place at the same time. I resolved this by starting the parish meeting earlier and left the second part of the meeting to the vice chairman. When I arrived the prayer meeting Rev Maria Lau had just started her sermon. As soon as the prayer meeting finished at 4:30pm, I dashed back to the Epworth Village Methodist Church for the parish committee meeting.

Among the 17 prayer meetings, the most unforgettable one was the one in April this year. After the meeting in SKH Tang Shiu Kin Secondary School, Revd Lam invited the participants to walk to the construction site which is located at the junction of Queen's Road East and Kennedy Road and prayed in front of the church building which had reached 20 storeys. When the party arrived, everyone started to praise the Lord, amazed at the new MICHK and Conference Building that stood right before us.

The reconstruction and fund raising project is not yet complete. Let's work hard together and support the project with our prayers and actions.



Mr Paul Tang (Right), the Prayer Warrior, and Revd Lam Sung-che



Photo frames commemorating MIC 124 years and Rev Eden 50 years

The "MIC Tenors" singing and dancing "Thank you for the music"

How well do you know your Senior Pastor quiz time

Rev Eden and "fruitful" MIC members

On 18 May 2017, MIC held a Fund-Raising Gala Dinner for members and friends at the Hong Kong Football Club to celebrate the church's 124th Anniversary and Senior Pastor Eden's 50th Birthday.

It was a great evening filled with laughter, fellowship, fruitful photo props and games. The highlight of the evening were musical performances by the church choir, the brave and courageous Three Tenors comprising of Rev Eden, Rev Ray and Paul Mak and stellar solo performances by Jacqueline Gourlay Grant and Paul Mak.

96 people attended the dinner and generously contributed HK\$180,000 for the Redevelopment of MIC.

We look forward to serving God and organising more fund raising events for this year including:



Opening hymn from MIC small group choir

24
September

Fundraising MIC Fellowship Lunch at TSK Hall

22
October

Methodist Churches Walkathon 2017

03
December

MIC Christmas Market at TSK Hall



Rev Ray and MIC members



The Three Tenors and fans



The fun fund-raising team



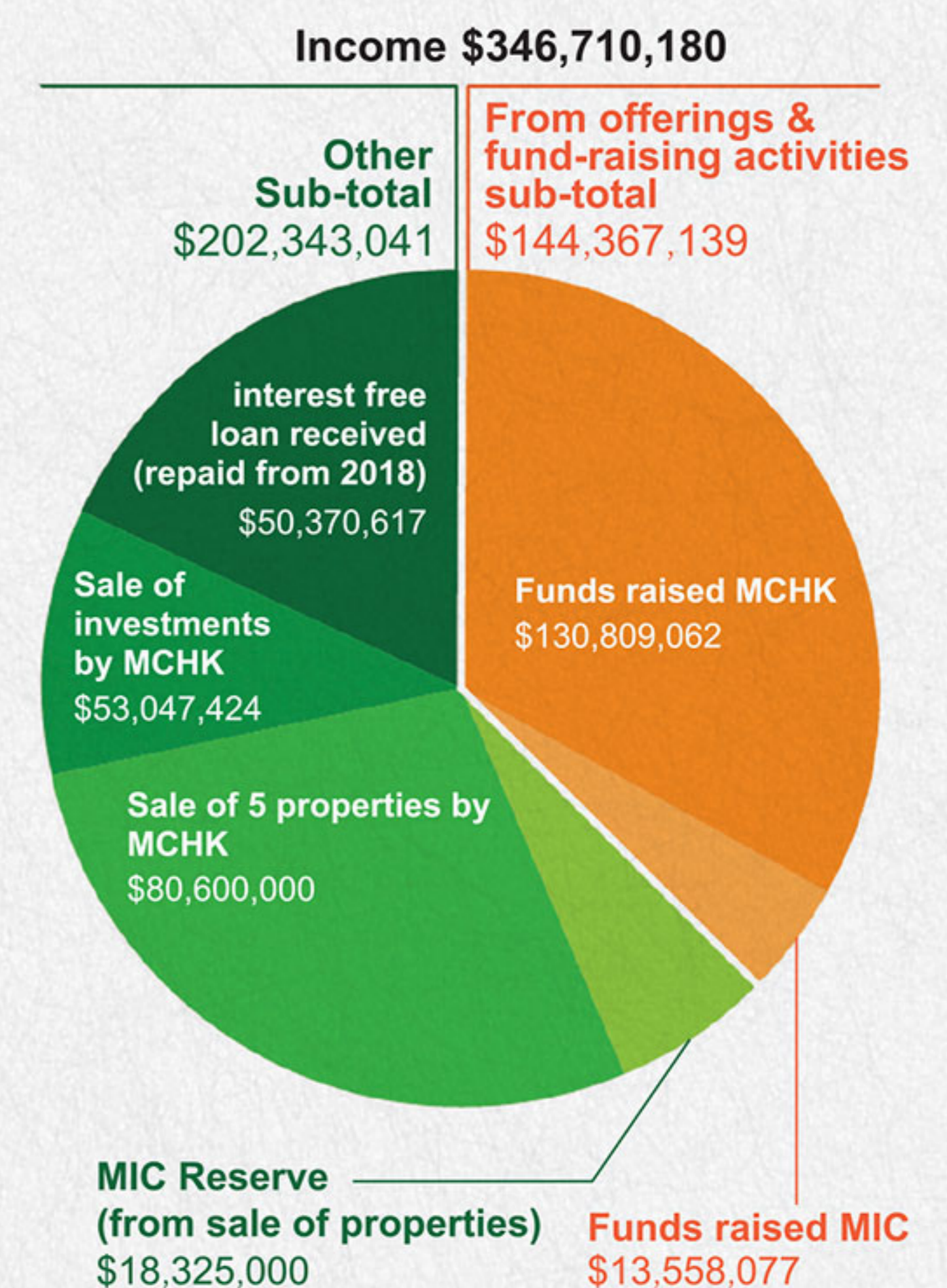
Looking forward to meeting mini Jane

525,600 minutes from Jacqueline

The oldest and youngest

Alleluia! Rejoice!

Up to 25th May 2017, we have raised \$346 million from donations, loans and sale of assets. With expenses of \$177,012,712, the cash balance in the project account is \$169,697,468. We need another \$104 million cash to cover the overall \$450 million construction costs.



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'.