

I Plant by Faith



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Bold Faith | Brett Hilliard, Senior Pastor

He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance. ACTS 28:31

With all boldness. We want to respond to the opportunities that God has opened for us with nothing less than bold faith, believing Him for something greater than we can imagine, and something that will stretch us into the supernatural.

Without hindrance. We want to remove all possible barriers for people to believe in Christ, ensuring that the church can continue to impact the greatest number of lives possible, both in breadth and in depth. Our current facility has been an amazing blessing for us, but increasingly it is becoming a limiting hindrance.

And so we have launched this BOLD FAITH campaign with an unprecedented goal of securing a permanent facility so that even more lives can be impacted by Jesus Christ.

The epicenter of the church began in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago. It steadily moved westward to Europe, where Christian faith became the norm for hundreds of years. It then crossed the Atlantic to North America, which has led the Christian movement for the last few centuries.

But in the last 50 years, there has been an unprecedented shift. Never before in all of history has there been as much spiritual interest in Asia. The harvest truly is plentiful! The gospel is setting up its base in Asia, and we as a church want to be fully supportive of welcoming and catalyzing this historical opportunity.

I sincerely hope you will be a part, and not miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. In fact, we need you to joyfully join in, as we develop a BOLD FAITH in our God, who brings hope and healing to the people of Hong Kong.

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Cultivate Generosity

*Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.
2 Corinthians 9:6-11*

God has given me a passion to see men and women grow in their faith, particularly in how they view money, as control of money has been a struggle in my own life. For the last 20 years I have had the privilege to share and teach at churches in Hong Kong on what I have learned that the Bible says about money. The Bible says very clearly that generosity is a key sign of spiritual maturity. God Himself modeled generosity. He showed His character as a giver in that He gave us His only Son's life to pay for our sins and bring us back into relationship with Him. He wants us to be like Him. How do we cultivate generosity? First we need to know from His Word what role God has and what role we have. Scriptures say God is the owner, controller and provider of all the treasures, time and talents that we have on this earth during our lifetime. He doesn't just want to see us give Him a 10% tithe, but to see how we use 100% of what He has provided us dedicated to His glory. Our worship then is essentially the recognition of God's sovereignty and ownership of all we have. It is most fitting that giving should have been ordained to be an integral part of the worship of God.

One way for God to make people like Himself is to teach them to give. In order to give, He gave us the ability to earn money and then save money. He has designed us to be stewards. A steward is someone entrusted with another's wealth or property and charged with the responsibility of managing it in the owner's best interest. Our responsibility as His stewards is to invest our savings into His kingdom so that we will see more souls in eternity.

Thus God gave us money as a tool to help us learn to be good stewards by showing generosity. He gives us the opportunity to be more like God himself. Yet He gives us a choice. We don't have to be generous and can choose only to receive, but that means we miss out here on earth and eternity on many rewards and blessings. Acts 20:35 says, "It is more blessed to give than receive." We also miss out on intimacy with God because as we seek to know what He wants us to invest in, we grow closer to Him. What we also must realize is that we will be held accountable at the end of our lives for every penny He has entrusted to us.

When I look at how Americans handle money, we see people living beyond their income and piling up debt. Their lifestyle decisions preclude having funds to give. What I have noticed in my students in Hong Kong over the years is that their parents invariably taught them to save (by spending less than they earn), but didn't often teach them to give. What results is a significant amount of hoarding. Both over-spending and over-saving lead to missed opportunities for blessing from investing in His Kingdom and a reckoning against us for not doing what He desires (as the Parable of the Talents reminds us).

In the 1919 book *Money, the Acid Test*, author David McConaghy likens the acquisition and use of money to swimming underwater. When we breathe in we are acquiring. When we breathe out we are spending or

So why do we hold so much . . . for so long?

giving. What we hold in is saving. When we hold our breath underwater too long we are hoarding. If we hold our breath underwater too long, we can die physically. If we hold our savings too long and in too great a quantity, we can die spiritually. Hoarding usually indicates that we have succumbed to materialism. Materialism leads us to reduced reliance on God to provide, a false perception of control and power, and an increased distraction of time spent caring for our possessions.

So why do we hold so much of our breath for so long? One reason is because we have fears of not having enough in the present or future to provide for our family or ourselves. We fear not keeping up with our peers in our lifestyle. We begin to take on God's roles of ownership, provision and control. We think we need to lay up lots of treasure on earth, but they do neither us nor the Kingdom of God any good. Christ tells us to lay up treasure in heaven for eternity. The farmer who laid up treasure in his barns for himself on earth was bankrupt in the hereafter.

As a father of five kids, I have experienced these fears myself as my annual income or savings has risen and fallen over the years. This causes me to be unthankful, discontent and lacking trust in our God. My fears can cause me to hesitate when God wants me to live generously. What drives this fear? A spirit of scarcity that there is not going to be enough to go around.

When I feel fear, I recall a verse I have memorized: "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be

content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Hebrews 13:5

As I recite this verse I am reminded of how big a promise God makes with that word "never." Never will I leave you or forsake you means He will always meet my needs. Then I recall that God has always kept His promises throughout the Scriptures. A God like that is really big and there is no reason for Him to change now. Then, without the fear, I am free to be the steward He wants me to be with bold faith goals.

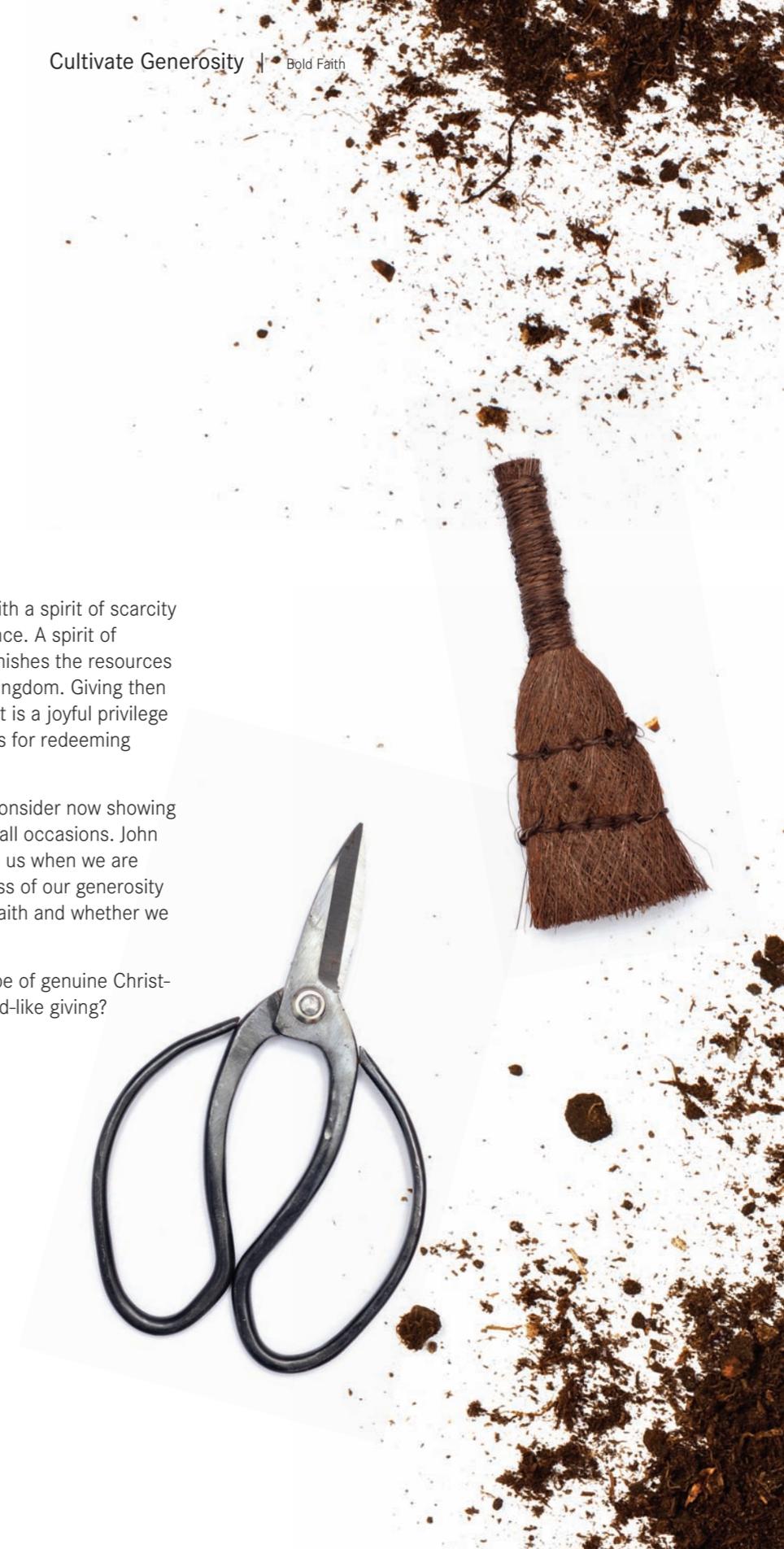
Rick Warren said, "The size of your God determines the size of your goals." Paul reminds us of how big God is in the Law of the Harvest in 2 Corinthians 9:6-11: "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously... And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work ... Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

When I sow sparingly I show I have a small God and timid faith. When I sow generously, I show I have a big God and bold faith. To grow us, God lets us decide how we use money and how much He will bless us. If we want big blessings this verse promises them when we

give generously. Instead of living with a spirit of scarcity we can live with a spirit of abundance. A spirit of abundance realizes that God replenishes the resources of those He sees investing in His kingdom. Giving then becomes much more than a duty; it is a joyful privilege to have a part with God in His plans for redeeming the world.

You only do what you believe. So consider now showing bold faith and living generously on all occasions. John Piper says "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." The boldness of our generosity demonstrates the strength of our faith and whether we are truly satisfied in Him.

What better evidence could there be of genuine Christ-like living than that of generous God-like giving?



Is Bigger Biblical?

Bold Faith is a broad initiative to evangelize the world starting here in Hong Kong and it includes the establishment of a permanent premises for Island ECC. The Elders' prayers and plans focus on purchasing a facility larger than we currently rent.

While the Old Testament describes in great detail the size and adornment of both the tabernacle and temple, the New Testament does not indicate the size or other details of any structure. The term "church" is historically associated with the people and then became known as the place where they gathered. We are commanded in Matthew 28:19 - 20 to do the following:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to observe all things commanded you and I am with you always, even to the end of the world." This commission is both as individuals and as a group while most other commandments are individually focused.

So how do we best fulfill this command? Over the ages there have been many answers. We believe that making disciples and teaching requires equipping us all with the spiritual insights and the inspiration of the Word.

Does this require a larger church facility? When you started attending Island ECC it was its current size or smaller, so why bigger?

Our belief is that our ability as an evangelical church to minister to and equip our current and growing congregation to seek more souls for Jesus will be multiplied through facility expansion.

We hear frequent stories about families who have brought their child or children to Kids Club and have been touched by the Holy Spirit. You may have heard

similar stories about the impact of Island ECC programs including attendance at our regular services. There are more stories we want to add to the glory of God.

Do similar relationships with the Lord develop in smaller facilities? Yes, absolutely but the Lord has made Island ECC grow for His purpose and we sense He continues to lead us in this direction.

Does this growth require we "own" our own premises? (We recognize that God owns everything and we are stewards, so "own" is in the common use of the word.)

Again we believe that the answer is yes. Our early history as a church was like the Israelites, we simply wandered around the Island rather than the desert. However as we have grown, our need for a larger space grows as well.

Can we continue to lease? Yes, but like any tenant we are subject to cost increases and uncertainty about continued tenancy.

Can we establish "satellite" sites? Yes, but we heard from many congregants that they prefer a more "together" approach. Yes, however we believe that having a larger congregation in one place will have a powerful effect when we gather in worship. Our Christmas Eve service and Renew Conference last year is a great example of the amplifying impact of followers of Jesus praising His Kingdom in a larger facility.

Finally, we recognize only the Lord working in the hearts of our congregants will raise the \$1 billion plus amount required. We understand the mathematics of the goal and see the miracle necessary through our Bold Faith.

Please pray that we all can participate in this miracle.



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INSIDE SCOOP

Immeasurably More

Bold Faith in Worship

Leora Caylor | Director of Worship and Creative Communications

The 17th and 18th of June will forever be seared on our hearts as worship leaders. Even though nearly three months have passed since our Renew Conference at the Sunbeam Theatre in North Point, Jeff and I continue to stand in awe of and remember the way God moved in our spirits and unleashed new vision for us that weekend.

The theme of the conference was *Immeasurably More*, based on one of my favorite verses from Ephesians (3:20), “Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us.” We prayed for every person in attendance to walk away energized with bolder prayers, dreaming bigger dreams, and worshiping God unabashedly with faith-filled expectation. Even our promotion for the conference was themed around these questions: What are you

hoping for? What are you dreaming about? What stirs your spirit and keeps you up at night? What ignites a fire in you? A holy passion? Do you listen to those who say, “It’s impossible. Not in your wildest dreams...”? Or, do you listen to the One who is able to do immeasurably more?

After months of planning around what we believe was a purely God-inspired idea, we opened the doors to the Sunbeam Theatre and waited in hopeful anticipation as nearly 800 people moved towards their velvet-lined seats.

When the clock struck zero, the room went pitch-black and a hush settled over our church. We began to play the song, “Immeasurably More” while Ara, bathed in a white spotlight, stole the stage and our hearts with the dance she choreographed specifically for the occasion. Our plan all along was for our church to stand and join us with their voices during the final choruses, and it was in these first moments of our church singing in unison that God began to further expand my vision towards what our church could look like in the future, where He might want to take us as a worshiping body in the coming years, and just how meaningful it was to have a space large enough to hold all of our hearts and voices together.

Yes, worshiping God from a hilltop or a valley is beautiful. Worshiping God at our kitchen sinks, during our daily commutes, in small circles and from our knees, at night all carry supernatural weight and honor the Spirit of God. However, there is something powerful and extra-ordinary about the masses worshiping in one, unified voice, with one purpose in mind.

Through our experience at the Renew Conference, we feel like we

got invited to a pre-released movie trailer for the next chapter in Island ECC’s epic story on earth. Because we got to see and experience how different it feels to have a space large enough to house our growing and thriving church. We got to experience how different the sound quality was, how the atmosphere was enhanced and influenced by purposeful lighting and creative elements, and just how differently people respond depending on their setting and environment. And we believe environments matter to God; why else would He create skies, sunsets awash in a hundred different colours, oceans teeming with neon fish, and mountaintops skimmed with snow?

Our Wish List

Just like kids at Christmas, Jeff and I have a wish list. With the sky as our limit, we dream of a venue that can comfortably seat 1,500 people (not because it’s about the number itself, but because 1,500 people actually translates to 1,500 souls, spirits, hearts, minds, brothers and sisters). We dream of a venue that has ceilings high enough to allow for the sort of sound quality that stirs people on a creative and emotional level. Not because worship is about our emotions, but because we serve a creative God, the very Author of music and the Conductor of angelic symphonies. We dream of a less divided venue, large enough that we don’t have to schedule five different bands every Sunday (as we do now); a stage large enough that we can combine our team’s skills and efforts to create music that is both inspiring and excellent. We dream of a venue that inspires both our church, and also the larger Hong Kong community. And we dream of a worshiping environment, and an energy and level of engagement, like we experienced at the Sunbeam Theatre.

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INSIDE SCOOP

Rooms of Grace

Albert Ng

/ Pastor, Equipping and Care Groups

When I first came to Island ECC, I stayed quiet. I came to the Sunday service and left without making any connections with other people. I felt like a guest visiting someone's home without the host knowing I was there.

It wasn't until I joined a Care Group that Island ECC became my home – my spiritual home. I was no longer a stranger. I found friends who I looked forward to meeting with regularly. Together we had fun. We talked, we shared, we studied, we prayed, and we cried. Instead of asking why I “have to” join a Care Group, I am so thankful that I “got to” be in a spiritual community. What a blessing!

Now, fast forward a decade, and I'm in charge of the Care Group ministry!

I love the big Sunday service. It is a joy to sing to the Lord with a huge group of believers, and study the Word together. I also love the small, Care Group environment. It is a place to know and to be known. Care Groups are where “the church” becomes personal.

Having led this ministry for a while now, I have the privilege of visiting and learning about many Care Group communities in our church. I see seekers become believers; young believers grow in their spiritual maturity; and people rise up to serve and to lead. I see friendships being developed; people locking arms to face life's challenges together. I see people fall in love, get married and have babies. I see God's love in action. Jesus said, when we love one another, we show the world that we are true disciples of Him (John 13:35). This is called community. This is called discipleship.

Many of our Care Groups meet in homes. However, given the living conditions in HK, more and more Care Groups are meeting at church. It is truly a moving scene when I walk the floors and see so many groups meeting at church. Some of them are laughing, enjoying fellowship, some studying, and some praying for one another. I praise God for the way He is working in these groups.

As more and more Care Groups are being formed on a continual basis, my dream is to provide enough rooms to make these “spiritual homes” possible. The fact is, while we celebrate the birth of many more groups, we struggle to find suitable rooms for them. Some people see “rooms” as “facility” and “expenses”. I see “rooms” as channels of God's grace, enabling brotherly love and spiritual development.

The same is true for our Equipping Ministry. On a typical Sunday the church is so full of different ministries that we struggle to find enough rooms to host our Bible Study classes. I feel bad when people are hungry for God's Word and “space” is the only reason why we can't honour such a desire.

As we dream and pray BOLD prayers, I am especially excited about the possibility for a future venue to allow for even more “channels of grace” (translation: rooms) so that more and more people can gather and dive into God's word and presence.

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INSIDE SCOOP

Growth Management

Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished.
1 Chronicles 28:20

Jacqueline Ronan

/ Director of Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry is currently operating in the 633 King's Road premises, taking the whole 9/F, with additional classrooms on the 10/F and 11/F. For several years, Kids Club attendance numbers have grown on average about 10% annually. During this time, we have added new classrooms, additional floors, and reconfigured existing 9/F classrooms to meet the needs of our growing numbers of children.

In addition, we have undergone significant curriculum changes in the Preschool and Elementary areas. We moved away from traditional classroom configurations to small group settings for better 1:8 to 1:10 leader/child ratios. We are intentional about maintaining small group relationships for age-appropriate learning and friendship building, with the benefits of large church environments for “live” storytelling, worship, engaging Bible videos and games. We have seen the fruit of ministry, with children running on to the floor with smiles on their faces, looking for their friends and leaders, and parents telling us how much their kids love coming to church.

We have managed growth with existing facilities as best as we can. It is a challenge for space with limited configuration of facilities, and weekly lines for the elevators. These lines can wrap around the 9/F corridors as hundreds of children, parents and volunteers congregate near the elevators after service every Sunday. Even with the addition of the 3pm Kids Club program, the morning services still remain packed with children and parents.

Children's Ministry is a major advocate for a permanent premises. We want to alleviate overcrowded

classrooms. We want hallways wide enough to accommodate hundreds of kids, parents and volunteers who attend Kids Club. We want to be closer to the ground floor for easier access to stairs entering and exiting the building. We want toilets specifically designed for preschool age kids. We are always mindful of safety and security measures, especially in our current physical premises.

We know that we have missed opportunities with first-time families, because of overcrowding on the 9/F during the morning services. And at this time, this is beyond our control.

We are investing into the future of Hong Kong's community through our children. We believe God is leading us to plan for double streaming, or multi-site ministries. We feel led to scale the ministry and keep our consistent pace as a leading English speaking international church implementing full-scale Family Ministry strategies. We want to take the land and expand our tents. We want to outreach to schools and strengthen our presence. We believe our church body has a natural gifting for children's ministry. Our volunteers are engaged and vibrant. They enjoy investing in, and loving our kids. We believe in significant parent-church partnerships. We want to do this for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ and we know that our time is limited.

Each child, including those growing up in our Kids Club, will decide by the time they leave the 5th grade, whether they will follow Jesus Christ. We want to make sure that in partnership with our parents, we have done everything possible, to prepare our children for this important ministry milestone. Bold Faith!

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STORIES OF BOLD FAITH

When I went through a time of darkness a few years ago, I felt accepted and supported at Island ECC. Having participated in different Christian conferences and seminars around the world, I've only found this church as my home. Here I could be open and honest with others safely, without worrying about being hurt. In the future with a new location, I'm sure our church can continue to bless many in the city and become a lighthouse in Hong Kong!

/L

Through Island ECC, and especially through the Indonesian Fellowship, I came to know the Lord Jesus. I was a Muslim before. Now, my life is meaningful because of Jesus, and I find that the Indonesian Fellowship is the place where I've grown spiritually.

I experience fellowship with sisters in Christ, we encourage one another, love one another, learn the Word and worship God together. It has been life-changing, and has given me the tools I need to maintain my personal relationship with God every day. Of course there are distressing circumstances or problems that come up in my life, but I can feel God's presence and His strength.

When Riani shared about the Bold Faith Campaign in our Fellowship, I didn't think anything. I just prayed that God would give me the bravery to share some of my own blessings with the church. I started to pray, counted my salary and arranged my income and expenses. As a domestic helper, I only have enough for me and my two daughters in Indonesia. But, I believe it is God who gave me the desire to be involved in the Bold Faith Campaign, even if only a little. It is also strengthening my faith. God bless the Bold Faith Campaign and Island ECC!

/L

After some prayerful consideration, I decided to pledge my car to the Bold Faith campaign. It's almost brand new. In negotiating with the used car dealer, when I mentioned that the proceeds were going to my church, I got a 20% better price! God delivers and He is present everywhere!

/N

Island ECC feels like home to me, and everyone who attends feel like family. When I first arrived in Hong Kong, I was looking for a Christian church and found Island ECC online. After browsing the website, I found an online testimonial from someone who had visited the church before and loved the experience. I made the decision to begin attending Island ECC, and have grown to really love church life, the experience, and how I never feel pressure here. God is gentle in spirit and I feel that same gentleness at Island ECC. On my first Sunday, the Ark Dragon Boat Team was advertised in the services. It seemed interesting, so I decided to join in 2012. The people I met at The Ark knew I was new to Hong Kong and that I had some problems with the language, but they really reached out to me and made me feel comfortable. They asked how I was doing, helped me with my English, asked what I needed and supported me financially. Most of all, it was clear they really cared for me, prayed for me and made me feel loved. I am moving to a new country soon, but will always be thankful for my family at Island ECC, who have given me the Bold Faith I need to make this next move in my life. /A

When I was introduced to Island ECC, I had no expectations at all. But week after week, my doubts and frustrations were calmed. I had never experienced at other churches what I've experienced here. I was baptized a year ago and will never say that being a follower of Christ is boring! While the circumstances in my life haven't changed, I have!

/S

Attending Island ECC had a huge impact on our life. My husband and I relocated to Hong Kong in Spring 2008 and started to attend the Church. Even though we attended church, neither of us had a strong personal relationship with Christ at the time. As new expats in town and experiencing low tides in our marriage, we were in need of authentic love, community, and Christ's redemptive power in our relationship.

Pastor Rick and Jane walked with us during the more critical period in our marriage. They offered their time, prayers and counseling which helped us to overcome the crisis. We appreciated their carrying this ministry and hope God will continue to use them with others.

It was at Island ECC that we came to know Christ as our Lord and Saviour; and we are eternally grateful. Our gratitude goes to Brett, Rick, Kathy and all of the co-workers at Island ECC for their amazing work and love for us. So after 8 years, we have departed Hong Kong as new creatures in Christ.

During those years, we came to love the Bible and took every wonderful opportunity to know God's Word. All the sermons, classes and particularly, the Precept Inductive Bible Study made us grow and change immensely. And, what a huge testimony, we are more equipped to share the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Even my mother came to know Christ as a result of sharing our faith. She is now passionate about her personal relationship with Christ and helps others live transformed lives. Also, we are spending a good amount of time with our son and will never forget the teachings of Pastor Brett and Rick on how to positively impact and build up our relationships and our family for goodness and God's glory.

Island ECC really sets the standard for Christ's church here on earth. It is a model of excellence. Although we are now back in US, Island ECC and the brothers and sisters are never far from our thoughts. /C+G

Note: C and G share this story as a testament to the wonderful work of God. At the time that they relocated to the U.S., they intentionally made a generous and sacrificial contribution to the Church's Building Fund, now known as the Bold Faith Campaign.

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. COLOSSIANS 1:13-14

I was born again a little over 5 years ago at Island ECC and I owe everything to Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior; for, without Him, I would still be a slave to the world, a pawn of Satan, and spiritually dead. I am the epitome of Colossians 1:13-14, and, every morning for the last three years, I have reminded myself of that very fact. It is simply the greatest promise I have ever known.

My parents were never married and I was raised by my Mum and only saw my Dad on alternate weekends. I did not grow up in the church, and I can honestly say that I heard the Gospel for the first time when I was 27 years old, after I moved to Hong Kong.

I was in a very unhealthy relationship when I moved to Hong Kong, and after that ended, I really hit rock bottom. Around this time of despair, God introduced me to my wife. She was the first Christian friend I ever had and she was instrumental in getting me to church for the first time in over 15 years. It was at that service where I first heard that I could become a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17), and that my old self could be put away and a new and unique creature could be born. I was overwhelmed by this truth and by the God who would choose to do this for someone as despicable as me. That morning, I broke down and wept for what seemed like hours, desperately trying to wrap my mind around how this could be. I wanted to know more. I wanted faith.

A few months later I received Christ and made Him Lord over my life, but this was just the beginning. I knew I needed to change but I had no idea what this meant and I knew I wasn't going to be able to do it on my own. God needed to re-wire my brain, change my appetites and purify my desires.

It took me over a year and becoming single again, but eventually I joined Men's Fraternity and signed up for the Pure Desire track, which has changed my life in more ways than words can describe. Not only was I surrounded by mature Christian men who disciplined me, but I also found a platform and audience where I could confess my sins, without condemnation or shame, to brothers who understood what I was wrestling with and could help me understand my true identity in Christ Jesus and how that sets us free.

It was in Pure Desire that I first understood God's plan for marriage and began to understand that love is a commitment and a choice. I was able to put healthy boundaries in place and align my expectations with Scripture and pray accordingly, and, over time, get to a place where I could be in a relationship again. My girlfriend and I got back together and were married just over a year later in the summer of 2014.

I have learned that the God of the Bible is ALWAYS faithful and is to be trusted. I rest on the premise that, if He created the heavens and the earth and everything in it, surely He not only knows best, but He can also cause anything to come into existence according to His will.

The new creation that I am today was brought into existence by God to be used as a living stone in His church, for my benefit and, ultimately, for His glory. This requires submission and sacrifice and for the individual stone to bear, in some part, the weight of the collection of stones around it.

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I have never been skeptical of the Bold Faith campaign because I know that its success or failure depends on God and that gives me great comfort. That being said, both my wife and I have been challenged to make greater sacrifices in terms of prayer, time, service and finances all because we trust that no matter what the outcome, He has us in the church, as members, for a reason and we want to partner with Him regardless of how He wants to use our resources. We are merely stewards after all!

I love being a part of Island ECC and I believe God is doing great things in our church. I trust the leadership and believe God has given them the desire to expand the reach of Island ECC within the local community and that He will give us the tools and resources necessary to do so in His timing.

He knows what we (individually and as a church) need before we ask and He invites us to commune with Him in prayer to prepare our hearts for all that He has in store for those who love Him.

/R

Our Lord has always spoken to me quietly, with outcomes beyond my control, or with irrefutable logic. The call to join Island ECC's Bold Faith Campaign has been no different.

Judging by the questions raised during the Town Hall meeting, I was like many in the congregation skeptical about the motivations behind the desire to find a permanent property and alarmed by the sheer audacity of the amount of money required to realise this dream. I've felt that as an investment professional in the property field, I've seen my fair share of vanity projects. I've felt that as an institutional fundraiser that the quantum of fundraising target was unachievable and beyond comprehension.

I've also wished that my Church could remain safe and quaint. In fact, I've often looked fondly at the "good old days" when Island ECC still moved around from the convention centre to hotel ballrooms and back (circa 2002, when I joined).

I expressed my concerns to Pastor Brett and Phil over a few meetings and breakfasts. Their responses? They shared the dream with me and I was incredibly inspired. They explained to me the extensive accountability structures in our church and the robust church governance. They shared with me the fact that over HKD 100 million has been raised already, a huge testimony to God's blessings and people's generosity.

Then they invited me to join the campaign team.

After much prayer and reflection, I was not able to come up with any logical reason why I shouldn't. What was my desire for Church to remain small all about? That's not the Holy Spirit in me speaking. Who better than the ultimate cynic to join the team? If I'm such a hot shot property guy and fundraiser, who better to support? As James 2 points out, **faith without works is dead.**

I've now taken the leap of faith. And already I know that deep in my heart it's been the right decision. The Lord has spoken!

/B.C.

18

ARCHITECTURE

Dream Building

Bernard Chang

/ Bold Faith Building Committee Lead

The Bold Faith Building sub-committee is composed of professionals such as architects (like myself), planners and surveyors to take lead on the following:

- **Developmental Reviews**
- **Building Searches**
- **Feasibility Studies**
- **Master Programs & Cost Analysis**
- **Design, Documentation & Construction of the Building**

Outlined by the Island ECC Elders Board, our prayerful goal is for our Church to be able to accommodate a congregation of 7,000 people by the year 2020. To meet this projection, we plan on purchasing our own building with a floor area of around 17,000m² with a site area of about 2,000m². This includes a main worship space of 1,500 seats, a second worship space, a multi-purpose hall with other meeting areas, classrooms, offices and supporting elements.

As a start, working with the Elder Board and different ministries, we need to verify usage and organize function in order to establish detailed program facility requirements on the building (*Schedule of Accommodation*)*. Getting a site on Hong Kong Island to accommodate our dream is a challenge. We established a number of scenarios about where our church's future ministry and programs can be housed (see Spatial Organization Diagrams^). The Schedule of Accommodations and Spatial Organization scenarios

together will form the blue print for the future home of Island ECC, and direction for the site search.

The search for a permanent property began in 2015. A number of buildings in various locations on Hong Kong Island have been identified and analyzed.

Because of sizeable floor area requirements, the committee has been focusing on buildings with large footprints like industrial/office and theater buildings. **One approach is to convert and renovate the building to become a church, like our current establishment at 633 King's Road.** A more comprehensive option is to redevelop the site for a new building, a bespoke church for our congregation and ministries. So far, the team has studied three industrial /office buildings in Shau Kei Wan and Wong Chuk Hang, and one theater in North Point. One building located in Shau Kei Wan matches our requirements; it can either be converted or redeveloped. This building is currently occupied by a single tenant with a lease until 2018, however the team will check its availability when the time comes.

Another approach is to work with the landowners and property developers as "partners" in developing a new building with church components integrated as part of residential or commercial projects. With one developer, three projects located in North Point, Quarry Bay and Sai Wan Ho have been discussed. Because of their site dimensions and development constraints, they can't accommodate the major components like worship halls and ministry(s) meeting areas as required. We will continue our dialogue with the properties developers for other opportunities on the market.

The time we spend preparing for this bold move of faith can be overwhelming. Then I remind myself, in prayer, don't focus on moving the mountain, but the Mountain-mover Himself. This is comforting and encouraging at the same time. We worry about the problems, but forget His promise; if God is pleased, He will make it happen.

All that said, our search continues; we pray God is pointing us in the right direction as we move forward with Bold Faith.

* To establish the Schedule of Accommodations, our team meets with each ministry and helps them to complete program surveys, outlining the specific requirements, patterns and preferences.

^ Gross floor area is the area of the building, excluding car park and building services area.

A TESTIMONY

In one meeting with a property developer, the project manager showed us a residential project which had been submitted to the government for approval. The podium (base of building) is wide and tall enough for a worship hall. However, there are a few columns in the middle which are not ideal for assembly (usually column-free). It was such a pity, we wished that those columns could be relocated or transferred (structural term). The manager paused; he then called his assistant to bring in the latest submission drawings for double-checking. When we saw the drawings, we were all amazed – those columns had been transferred to the sides, allowing a column-free worship hall! God is with us on this!! Although we didn't pursue this project because of its limited floor area, we have been blessed during the process.

During another meeting, the same property developer shared that his son has been attending Island ECC the past several weeks. After sharing the church's building expansion intentions, his son graciously offered his knowledge on finance to help with the Bold Faith Campaign and met with Phillip Chin.

The son later wrote, saying "Thank you for sharing your insights on Christianity and sharing some of your personal experiences on building a relationship with God. Despite the short conversation we had, I learned a great amount from you on faith and going forward building a close relationship with God and working for God's Kingdom is something I would certainly like to continue exploring."

God is at work in bold and amazing ways!

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION DIAGRAM



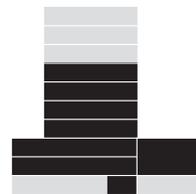
A Church owns and develops the whole site

- Church portion
- Site built to full development potential
- Extra floors to be rented out in the meantime, and allow growth in time.



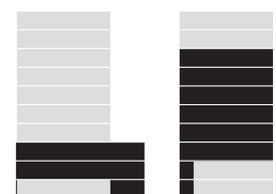
B Joint Development by Church + Developer

- Church portion
- Developer's portion or non-church portion as potential growth by buying or renting



C Joint Acquisition with Developer/ Long-Lease Rental

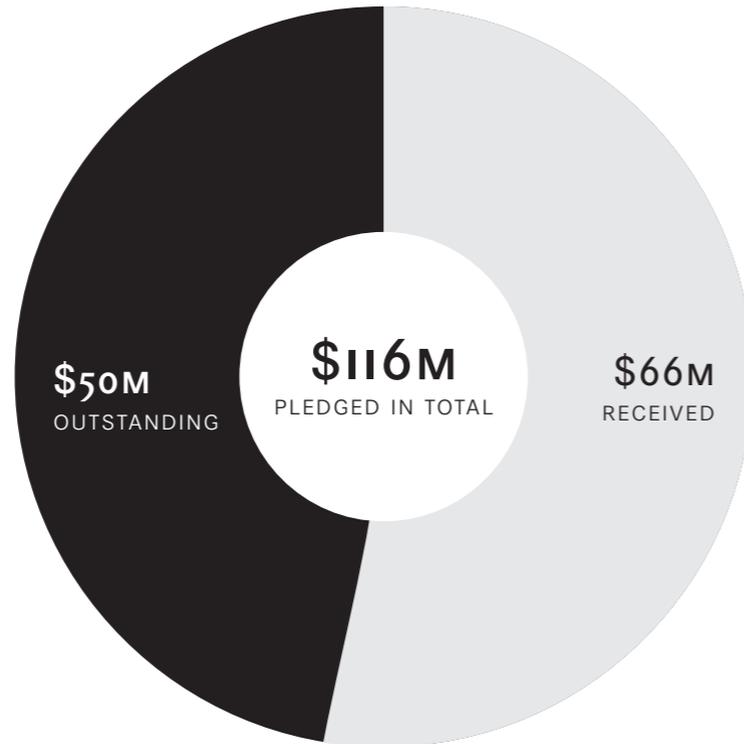
- Church portion
- Church partakes at planning stage with developer at agreed price or long-lease rental
- With growth potential on same site + custom-designed church



D Church in two or more buildings and/or sites

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BOLD FAITH PLEDGES AND GIVING AS OF
31 AUGUST 2016



FINANCIAL

The Fund

Karen Kwok
/ Director of Finance

Ways to Give

- GIVE A CASH GIFT**
This may include an increase in your regular giving, a bonus from work, rental income. Ask God to show you creative ways to give cash now.
- MAKE A 36-MONTH GIVING PLEDGE**
You can make a greater impact than you realise if you give over time. You will be amazed at how much you can actually give over a 36 month period. See on-line for registration.
- SET UP A BOLD FAITH AUTOMATIC BANK TRANSFER**
The easiest way to schedule your giving to your pledge is to set it up automatically at islandecc.hk/giving. It's safe, secure, and it makes it convenient for both you and the church.
- GIVE PROPERTY, STOCK, OR OTHER ITEMS OF VALUE**
Some of you may want to liquidate assets in order to give to the BOLD FAITH campaign.

FOR EASY ONLINE GIVING: ISLANDECC.HK/BOLDFaITH

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THE TEAM

Who's Who

Phillip Chin
/ Executive Director

Island ECC is delighted to assemble a distinguished Bold Faith Committee with members from different backgrounds, experiences and expertise. Many of the committee members have had leadership positions at Island ECC or other churches, and moreover have successfully led similar church building initiatives.

We are at the beginning of the Bold Faith journey, which we believe will be transformational for the congregants, donors, staff and church leaders in achieving the vision for permanent premises in Hong Kong.

Senior Pastor Brett Hilliard launched the Bold Faith Campaign in 2015 working closely with the elders on the strategic direction of the church. I will lead the building project to execute the vision and see the church into its new home.

Building Sub-Committee

The Building Sub-Committee is led by Bernard Chang, along with Helena To, an experienced architect for commercial and church building projects.

The building team has developed the Schedule of Accommodations for the church's future premises following a comprehensive review of the church ministry needs. Additionally, the team is leading the search for potential sites, provide design brief and feasibility studies.

Communication & Prayer Sub-Committee

The committee is blessed to have Gary Morris to lead the Communications and Prayer Sub-Committee, with spiritual guidance from the elders. In support of our congregations' prayers for Bold Faith, a group of Island ECC staff lift up corporate prayers for this miracle on a monthly basis.

Finance Sub-Committee

Karen Kwok, along with Kevin Wei, will provide the financial model, building cost analysis, financial market and projections, mortgage and payment options, and will report on donor performance, risk management, cash, control and forecasting.

Fund Raising Sub-Committee

Led by Benjamin Cha, Henry Shih and Jeff Ryan who are well experienced with extensive networks to set the fund raising strategy. They are responsible for the execution of the activities and communication to donors with a biblical approach.

IT Sub-Committee

Ross Li will provide the technical and development planning for the future site.

Legal Sub-Committee

Charles Chu, who has faithfully served the church for over two decades, will provide legal counsel and assistance, such as consultation, documentation, liability assessment and legal proceedings.



I will go before you. ISAIAH 45:2

the
BOLD FAITH
CAMPAIGN

PRAY FOR
UNIFIED PASSION + UNHINDERED FAITH
+ UNPRECEDENTED GENEROSITY