

Care to Climb

One autumn morning in 2011, I returned to Ying Wa along the Mid-level escalators after a meeting in Central. When I reached Mosque Street, I saw the escalators ahead were closed due to some repair works. As I was gathering my strength for the uphill journey, my mobile phone rang.

I was told the long-awaited and thrilling news that our school redevelopment project had made through the government's latest Resources Allocation Exercise (RAE). That meant passing a significant milestone in the project and we were able to proceed to another stage of work. Months and years of our hard efforts had paid off!

After the initial excitement, I realized also the challenges and difficulties yet to come. The way ahead would be just like the uphill journey I was about to embark on - God certainly has specific timing for the news.

In the 90's, the exchanges between education institutions in Hong Kong and the Mainland became more and more frequent. During one of these exchanges, the East China Normal University presented a gift to their Hong Kong counterparts. It was a beautiful piece of Chinese calligraphy with the characters '祇要肯攀登' ('If only you care to climb'). This very meaningful phrase suddenly came to mind when I was making my uphill journey and provided me with very good food for thought. Yes, if we care to climb, we can reach our goals despite the winding and rugged path.

Despite the good news, I still worried whether I would have enough energy, abilities and perseverance to meet the challenges ahead. God's words through the prophet Habakkuk were most comforting - "I'm singing joyful praise to God. I'm turning cartwheels of joy to my Saviour God. Counting on God's rule to prevail, I take heart and gain strength. I run like deer. I feel like I'm king of the mountain!" (Habakkuk 3:18-19, The Message)

Space for Transformation is a well-chosen theme for the school redevelopment project. Through the process, we do not just go through transformation in physical space but also mental and spiritual space. Knowing that we are among the very few projects approved by the government, we thank God and at the same time treasure the opportunity. We learn good lessons on humility and compassion.

It is my sincerest wish that upon the completion of the project, we do not just build a

school for the future but a school with a solid foundation in Christian values, total trust and a heart of gratitude. Its walls will be firm and stout and thus fencing out fear and human weaknesses. The door will be inviting and open into the joyful and colourful school life together with limitless opportunities. Its windows will let in God's heavenly light so that people within are always inspired and enlightened. People in Ying Wa will be connected not just in the cyber space but also mental and spiritual space. Besides green areas with trees, flowers and plants, seeds of love and faith will be sown so that affection, compassion, appreciation and acceptance will be in full bloom. Through the process of reflection and transformation, all who are nurtured in Ying Wa will be fit to dwell with the Lord with a humble heart to serve and the inner beauty to shine. We lift this beautiful vision to the Lord and let's strengthen our grip so that those who come after us will find us faithful.