

**NEXT
CHAPTER**

FAQS



What is Open: Next Chapter?

The Open Campaign began in 2017 when our KIBC made three-year faith commitments over HK \$92 million toward the construction of our new building. This was a great initial leap forward. Open: The Next Chapter is our three-year capital stewardship campaign to provide the remaining funds needed to build our new building.



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Do we still need to do this?

We were motivated to rebuild because of three needs. Our building structurally has reached its lifespan. It has served us well over all these years but is nearing the time when it will no longer be structurally capable of continuing without replacement. Buildings play an important role in reaching people for Jesus and for the Church gathering in worship, service, fellowship, teaching, and prayer. Church buildings are a tool that God has given us to carry out the work He has for us. Anyone who works with tools can tell you, if the tools are in great condition, the work is much smoother. If the tools are in disrepair, the work still may get done but it's going to be slower and more frustrating for those trying to use the tools. Sometimes we come to a point where we need to replace our tools. That is the case with KIBC's building. It needs to be replaced. Also, KIBC for many years had reached its capacity in almost every area of ministry. As we move into the future, KIBC will once again find itself in overflow capacity unable to provide the spaces needed to reach and disciple people in the good news of Jesus. Our new building will provide adequate space for all ministries. Finally, the most important reason we continue to pursue a new building is because God has led us to do so. It was God's idea and His leading many years ago that prompted the discussion and decision to respond to His leading and reestablish KIBC ministry in a new building structure. This leading has been confirmed by receiving our land premium price, much lower than anticipated, so the government approval has been granted. Thus, "we do not grow weary in well doing, for we know we shall prosper in due season" (Galatians 6:9) and accomplish this God-inspired goal.



Is this just a building campaign?

Its more than that. A building or capital campaign is focused solely on buying land, building, or renovating a building. Its project focused. Open: Next Chapter is priority focused looking at the bigger picture of what needs to be done to ensure we are accomplishing our mission in the best way possible. Clearly a new building is to be a key factor in our future ministry. How we then raise the funds is by challenging our congregation to “grow in the grace of giving” as the means God intends for His Church to fund the new building. As each of us who call KIBC their home prays, “God, what do you want to do through me in Open: Next Chapter, so others come to Jesus?” He will guide us into personal and spiritual growth that overflows in extravagant generosity.



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What are the goals of Open: Next Chapter?

Our first goal is 100% participation by our church family in the spiritual journey and discovery of what God wants to do through us. Our secondary goal is to meet our HK\$125 million need to fund our new building.



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What is the expectation of Open: Next Chapter?

Our prayerful expectation is for everyone to take the next step on the spiritual and generosity journey God has set before each of us. Yes, it will require God to wake our hearts to the lostness of our world, and for each of us to let God leverage our lives to build His Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven. These next three years are about growing in our walk with Jesus, personally and collectively as a church. If we all take a step forward in our spiritual journey, we will have achieved a church of people that have a heart to what God has planned for KIBC.



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What if I have already given to the building fund, are you expecting those of us to make another commitment?

First, thank you for your participation in Open. We are where we are today because of the generosity of our KIBC family. Second, yes, we are asking you to participate in the spiritual journey of Open: Next Chapter and respond as God leads. We knew at the outset that our re-development project would require more than one capital stewardship campaign to fund the entire project. Our primary goal is for 100% of our church family to prayerfully participate in Open: Next Chapter.

How do I prepare my heart for being generous?

First and foremost, you pray and seek God's direction on what He is asking of you. Prepare your heart to hear Him and then listen to what He says. Engage in personal reflection with God in this Journey Guide. Talk with your spouse, your family, or others about what this commitment will mean for this next exciting season of your life. Recognize that this may involve a struggle as you sense God's call to rearrange life priorities, spending habits, and give from stored resources. But don't be afraid, Luke 6:33 says, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you." Expect your commitment to grow over time from token, to generous, to sacrificial generosity. That is called gospel-centered generosity. Follow His leading. Finally, prepare to be amazed. We serve an awesome God and He is going to move in huge ways. We anticipate an unprecedented impact from our collective Open: Next Chapter commitments — something only God can do. Please mark your calendar for Commitment Sunday, November 21st, and prepare to experience a life-changing worship service that will forever be remembered as a defining moment for our church and our own faith.

Why do I need to make a three-year commitment?

Not only can making a commitment be an act of discipleship, but it is also a helpful tool for the church to ensure responsible financial planning. Setting an intention for giving over the next three years and sharing that intention with the church allow KIBC to make informed decisions about its financial investments in ministries, missions, and our building project. More importantly it demonstrates that you are all in with God using your life and resources to bring people to Jesus.



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What should I include in my Open: Next Chapter commitment?

In Open: Next Chapter, we are challenging you to grow in the practice of giving. As you consider your 3-year financial commitment to Open, you will want to factor in the following: (1) it will be over and above current giving, (2) it will require sacrifice, (3) it will be given by faith, (4) you will have 3 years to fulfill your commitment. The Commitment Section of the Journey Guide was designed to help you be led by God in figuring this out.



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What if I am currently experiencing financial stress or hardship?

If you are currently struggling with unemployment, or if you are carrying the heavy load of substantial debt, we are here for you. An excellent resource for you is Financial Peace University, a course that helps you develop a plan for taking control of your finances. As you work to overcome financial barriers to giving, consider that giving isn't about what God wants from you; rather it's about what God wants for you. Open: Next Chapter is fundamentally about a heart change - one that is only accomplished by surrendering our lives completely over to God - and that looks different for all of us. Ultimately, we would like for 100% of us to be a part of Open: Next Chapter so that we can all be supporting, loving, encouraging, and praying for one another through this spiritually stretching season at KIBC.



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If we are committing to Open: Next Chapter, how will this affect our normal giving and offerings?

We are more focused on everyone at KIBC seeing their giving as an integral part of the discipleship process and then being challenged by God to take a next step. The bulk of this Journey Guide is focused on helping us dig into some key Biblical principles that guide us in this area as we follow Jesus. This is our first priority—100% participation in the process. Whether we're just starting in our giving journey or we're very committed givers, we all have a next step to take and room to grow in this area. So, on Commitment Sunday fill out our Open: Next Chapter 3-year commitment card which will be "over and above" your regular giving to KIBC. It doesn't help us if you shift giving from your annual giving to Open: Next Chapter.

Isn't giving to other charities the same as giving to the church?

As followers of Jesus, God calls us to give first to His church for the work of the body of Christ. At KIBC, we know firsthand that the church changes people. Giving directly to specific causes help people in need and that is awesome, however, the gospel of Jesus transforms for all of eternity and causes a redemptive lift that is experienced practically in this life. When you give to the church, you are investing in people who will be transformed and will in turn transform our world. Open: Next Chapter then is about the vision for our church and our personal discipleship in giving as followers of Jesus. We believe that the local church is one of the most compelling missions to give towards, and we would really love for you to join in on Open: Next Chapter. And when you give to KIBC you are participating in our outreach to many organizations. Check out the Missions Section for how KIBC is partnering with others to reach our world and meet physical needs. If you are ready for it, this is a perfect time for you to put a stake in the ground and make this a priority. We need you on the team!

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Can you define sacrifice?

A simple definition is: Giving up something I want, something I need, something that represents security? Most likely your commitment will come from excess income, decreasing spending, liquidating assets, generating more money through use of time and talent, and through sacrificing something. Basically, it is deciding upon what I can give up, do without, postpone, or alter in order to give to KIBC over the next three years.

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What does the slogan “Not Equal Giving, But Equal Sacrifice” mean?

It recognizes that we all have different financial capacities, so we can't do a fair share approach to giving, that would be more than what some could give and far less than what other could give. But we all can find the ground level when it comes to sacrifice. Everyone sacrificing is the goal. So from the smallest gift to the largest gift, every person can say, “This gift is sacrificial for me.”

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Is it Ok to make a commitment to give an amount that I don't have right now?

Yes! That is called faith and it pleases God (Hebrews 11:6). In fact, the Macedonian Christians who were living in poverty insisted on giving to the struggling Christians in Jerusalem, so much so, Paul said of their giving that they “gave what they were able, and even beyond their ability” meaning they committed by faith future resources.



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Is sacrifice of money a biblical practice?

Absolutely - The book of 2 Samuel quotes King David as saying, "I will not present burnt offerings to the Lord my God that have cost me nothing." The essence of sacrifice is that it COSTS us something. This type of giving is pleasing to God, because it demonstrates our reliance and faith in Him, and that is when BIG things begin to happen. Mary broke the alabaster jar of perfume upon Jesus that was worth one year's worth of wages. Jesus commended the widow who gave her last two coins. When Zacchaeus said he was giving half of all he owned, and repaying back those he had defrauded, Jesus said, "Salvation has come to this household."

What if I tend to take a rational approach to decision-making?

It will be tempting to give based on REASON. That would mean looking at my budget and figuring what I could afford - what's "reasonable." It doesn't take any faith to give by reason. Or, you could give based on REVELATION. Revelation asks, "How much am I willing to trust God?" When you make giving a matter of prayer, your decision becomes an act of worship.

Here are some simple steps to consider during this process:

- Think about ALL that God has done in your life since you have been part of the church, as well as how you've seen Him change others. Think about people you know who don't yet know God, and His love for them. Let it sink in that people need Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- Talk it over with God, both individually, and together with your spouse. Pray constantly, "God, I invite you to guide us."
- Discuss what sacrifice could mean for you. Pray, "Lord, what do you want to do through me to accomplish Your will in my church."
- Decide in faith and commit to sacrificially give at over the next 3 years to Open: Next Chapter.

So, what is an average gift?

There is no formula for determining that commitment nor is there an "average gift" kind of benchmark. Stewardship is not about "equal gifts but about equal sacrifice." Instead of measuring your gift by the dollar amount, use the "measures" below:

- Does this investment make a difference to me? Does this gift change me, change my whole commitment level?
- Was this a prayerful decision seeking God's will... did I even invite God to be a part of this decision process?
- Did I have a real conversation about this decision... with my spouse, children, family, church family, etc.?
- Did I learn something about commitment and giving? Did I take a step of faith that deepens my own discipleship?
- If everyone else in the church made a sacrifice equal to my own (in terms of commitment rather than dollars), would God be honored by that level of commitment/investment?
- Does this gift represent my best effort?

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What are stored resources?

Stored resources are the funds or assets you have other than income. You may want to explore unique ways you can give toward this campaign. For example, you may have savings, stocks, bonds, or other investments that you decide to gift to the church. You may have a boat, a vacation home, or a collection that you let go of. Or you may want to consider whether God is calling you to simplify your lifestyle in a way that frees you to give more to God. What would your life look like if you let go of some of the “stuff” you’ve been holding on to?

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What do you mean by “Faith Commitment?”

You most likely will start planning for your commitment to be an amount that fits within your budget. It will probably be a conservative amount that you believe you could give over the next three years. But it probably isn’t sacrificial, nor will it stretch your faith to make that kind of commitment. A faith commitment will require you to grow your commitment number by thinking through how you could alter your spending, liquidate assets, and postponed spending. Now you realize you are sacrificing for the Kingdom, and increasing your faith in God as provider and protector. As your commitment continues to grow, you come to Commitment Sunday (November 21st) and write a number on your card that will require three years of giving to fulfill that amount. It will require God to work in your life and circumstances to enable you to give that amount. You now realize you have to commit this amount by faith, believing God will enable you to fulfill your sacrificial commitment where you don’t know where all the money will come from, or when it will come over the 3-year giving phase.



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Can each member of our family make a separate commitment?

Yes – Even students and young children can learn the values of commitment, generosity, faith, and sacrifice by filling out their own commitment cards.



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If I make a faith commitment, but my circumstances change, how does that work?

We know that a lot can happen in three years! Your commitment is not a contract, but a covenant that is between you and God. We do, however, believe that “God is able to make all grace abound to you,” and we believe this will be the most prosperous season of your life in every way. But life happens, and we understand that you may need to adjust. Have faith and excitement as you expect great things to come your way.



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When does my faith commitment to Open: Next Chapter begin and end?

The Open: Next Chapter Campaign goes from December 2021 through December 2024. We will make our commitments on Sunday, November 21st; and bring our Missions Offering on Sunday, December 5th.



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What if I haven't finished by first commitment to Open?

God will guide you in your response. As you pray about what God wants you to do, He will lead you into a new commitment for Open: Next Chapter. It may include what you still have remaining in your original Open Commitment; it may include more. The key is to go through the spiritual journey asking God what he wants to do through you for Open: Next Chapter. Read the devotions, listen to the messages, work through the Journey Guide and God will be faithful to show you how to respond.

Conclusion

People Matter

In Kowloon, there are plenty of people, nearly 2.3 million of them. Each one of them is on the mind and heart of Jesus Christ. As an English-speaking congregation, we need to be aware that about 1.1 million people in Kowloon have some level of English. 90% of these people, by their own admission, claim to have no relationship with Jesus. That means 980,000 of these do not know Jesus.

Open is about connecting with the Next Chapter of God's vision for KIBC and Hong Kong.

It is about making a real difference in people's lives. It is about building a church that will exponentially multiply our effectiveness in touching and transforming hundreds of lives. It's about reaching out to our neighbors and the nations and making Jesus known. God will change people's lives through our giving as we invest the next 3 years, with the next 50 in mind.