

In Tough Times We Walk Together

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The Anti-Extradition conflicts which began in June 2019 and the COVID-19 epidemic starting in February 2020 have brought a wide range of difficulties affecting all sectors of the Hong Kong community.

People in Hong Kong are now challenged by the issues of health and the prevention of infection, by unemployment and livelihood problems, the restrictions on social interaction and the need for distancing, as well as the economic downturn and continuing political controversies. These crucial issues and the many negative consequences have confronted Hong Kong and brought predicament to the whole community.

When many people are struggling with the impacts of this predicament, some Christian organizations which receive government's subvention are relatedly stable. Most of the services can basically operate as usual with no unit having to close down, no wages cut and no lay off of staff. Nevertheless, the recent situation developing in Hong Kong reminds us that we should not recognize ourselves as service providers, but we are both a servant of God's love and a companion of the people of Hong Kong. When the whole community of Hong Kong seems overwhelmed by pessimism and the atmosphere of powerlessness, we should not only articulate the stability of our business but to discern how to walk together with the people in these tough times.

In such a tough time, I believe that Hong Kong can be strengthened by the faith, hope and love given by God so it is possible to explore for a way out. The teachings of the Bible inspire us with the conviction that faith encourages the people who are living in a difficult reality to have perseverance to live out their belief, that hope enables the people who meet with challenges to guard and strive for their ideals, and that love empowers the people who are suffering from blame and anger to exercise virtues and to be transformed from being self-centered individuals to showing mutual care and support.

I realize that the recent predicament has brought worries and anxiety to the Hong Kong community and may further damage their confidence. I think the churches and Christian organizations in Hong Kong have to undertake

a significant responsibility, that in whatever situation, we are still one part of the community. We in the same boat with the Hong Kong people. The Christian emblem of a vessel with the cross of Jesus encountering a restless sea reminds us that, despite the challenges like strong winds and waves, the presence of Jesus Christ will bring us through. I invite all the Hong Kong Christians to affirm the spirit of the emblem of a vessel with the cross of Jesus so that we will have faith, hope and love to walk together with the Hong Kong people towards a bright future.