



Awareness Foundation: building peace through education

www.awareness-foundation.com



Embrace Peace Day, Hong Kong 2018

Embrace Peace 2018

Walk for Peace on Earth

We are blessed to have two "Awareness Ambassadors" in Hong Kong: Angel Hon, a leading figure in public relations, and St. John's Anglican Cathedral. Together, they created and hosted Embrace Peace Day.



The starting point for the Walk for Peace on Earth

This November, The Revd Nadim Nassar (Executive Director), Reem Issa (CEO) and Huda Nassar (Director for the Middle East) were invited to go to Hong Kong to participate in the Embrace Peace Day 2018 celebrations. The Awareness Foundation was the beneficiary of the event.

The day began with an hour's "Walk for Peace on Earth", beginning and ending at St. John's Cathedral in Central. More than 200 children and adults took part.

As we walked, we regularly stopped to pray and sing in English and Cantonese. As we passed by, many Hong Kongers

engaged with us, asking questions about the Walk.

This was a wonderful start to the Embrace Peace Day celebrations, an opportunity to spread a message of love and peace as well as to have some fun.

Special thanks are due to Angel Hon and PR Network, St. John's Cathedral (Hong Kong), All Saints Cathedral (Western Kowloon) and Holy Trinity Cathedral (Eastern Kowloon), the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui, and Hop Yuen.

We look forward to returning in 2019 to Walk for Peace on Earth at the start of the next Embrace Peace Day.



The first to reach the halfway point at Victoria Harbour!



Angel Hon with the Awareness team



Singing and praying



A group of walkers from Hop Yuen (Holdings) Ltd, one of the event's sponsors



Walkers from Meinhardt, another of the event's sponsors

Embrace Peace 2018

Events at St. John's Cathedral



At the end of our Walk, we returned to St. John's Cathedral and made our way to a packed Li Hall for the second part of the day.

The Very Revd Matthias Der, Dean of St. John's Cathedral, welcomed us all and thanked everyone who had worked to make today such a success.

Awards were presented to everyone who had contributed to the day, either through giving up their time or through providing sponsorship for the different events.

We were greatly entertained by a short ballet around the theme of Peace performed by Tonia and Sylvie (photo, below).



主辦
Organizers

St John's Cathedral 聖約翰堂
Anglican Diocese of Hong Kong Island
Hong Kong Shing Tung Yau Tai

HKSJK All Saints' Cathedral
香港聖公會諸聖堂

HKSJK Holy Trinity Cathedral
香港聖公會聖三一聖堂

受益人
Beneficiary

awareness
Foundation

擁抱和平

香港校際T恤圖案設計比賽

"Embrace Peace" Hong Kong Inter-Secondary School T-shirt Pattern Design Competition

2018

得獎作品將於當日以時裝秀演繹
Winning T-shirts designs will be showcased at Fashion Show on event day

比賽現已接受報名，歡迎香港聖公會轄下中學學生參加！
Applications are now open. All students from HKSJK Secondary Schools are welcome!

活動目的 Aims
透過設計T恤圖案，提高學生對和平社區的關注。
To raise students' awareness toward a peaceful community through designing the t-shirt pattern.

截止日期 Submission deadline
學校組: 2018年9月14日
School: 14 Sept 2018
個人組: 2018年9月20日
Individual: 20 Sept 2018

獎項 Prizes
卓越設計獎 Design Excellence Awards (x20)
最積極參與學校獎 The Most Active Participation School Awards (x3)
獎狀乙張 Certificate
獎座乙個 Trophy

賽果公佈 Result Announcement
比賽結果將於2018年10月5日或之前公佈，得獎者及所屬學校將獲另函通知。
得獎者將獲邀出席2018年11月17日，由香港聖公會聖約瑟堂、香港聖公會諸聖堂及香港聖公會聖三一聖堂聯合主辦的擁抱和平日，並在當日活動中接受嘉許獎狀。(活動詳情有待公佈)
Results will be published on or before 5th October 2018. Winners and their schools will be notified individually and will be invited to and awarded on Embrace Peace Day on 17th November 2018, jointly organized by HKSJK St John's Cathedral, HKSJK All Saints' Cathedral, HKSJK Holy Trinity Cathedral. (Further event details will be announced.)

更多比賽詳情，請登上
For more details, please visit

擁抱和平 2018 Embrace Peace 2018

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A major element of Embrace Peace Day was a T-shirt design competition for secondary schools, with the top twenty designs being selected by a jury comprising fashion designers Walter Ma and Lulu Cheung, actor Simon Yam, actress/singer Kathy Chow, art director Karen Chan and singer Andy Leung. The winning entries were then showcased on Embrace Peace Day in a Fashion Show.



The Fashion Show with the winning T-shirt designs

HKSKH Provincial Clergy Breakfast

Thursday 15th November 2018

by Huda Nassar

We were invited by The Rt Revd Andrew Chan, Bishop of Western Kowloon, to attend the regular Communion and Breakfast attended by clergy from across the Anglican Province of Hong Kong.



Nadim, Reem and I began the day by joining the clergy and staff of the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (Anglican Province of Hong Kong) for Communion at St. Andrew's Church in Kowloon. The service was in English.

After the service, we went to the church's wonderful hall for the Clergy Breakfast. This is a time for breaking bread, for fellowship and for discussion. Usually, a guest speaker gives a short talk.



Nadim gave a presentation about the situation in the Near East, especially in Syria. He presented copies of his first

book, "The Culture of God", to Bishop Andrew and to Bishop Timothy Kwok, the Bishop of Eastern Kowloon.

Then I spoke about our programmes, Little Heroes and Ambassadors for Peace, and the great impact they were having on the children and young people who took part. I told the clergy that we came with the voices of the Christians in the Near East, to tell them what life is like now in the region and to ask them to support their brothers and sisters in Syria and Iraq.



Reem talked about our PAX media programme and how the Hong Kong



clergy could support our mission. This was Reem's first time in Hong Kong as a representative of the Awareness Foundation, and the Clergy breakfast was a wonderful way for her to meet so many of our friends there.

We were delighted by the enthusiastic, caring response of the Hong Kong clergy, who were keen to learn more and to find a way to help.

I should like to thank Bishops Andrew and Timothy, and all of the clergy of Hong Kong, for making us feel so welcome and a part of their community.

Embrace Peace 2018

Ambassadors for Peace, 16th & 17th November

by The Revd Nadim Nassar

Following the success of our Ambassadors for Peace programme in the Near East, we were asked by The Very Revd Matthias Der, Dean of St. John's Cathedral, to hold the very first Ambassadors programme in Hong Kong.



Hong Kong is very different from Syria or Iraq. There is no fighting, no clashing armies or militias, no power cuts or economic sanctions. But in Hong Kong there is a real need, just as there is in the Near East, for the young people there to be empowered and equipped for healing their communities through peacebuilding and reconciliation.

But why would a world city like Hong Kong, the place with the largest number of skyscrapers in the world, a GDP of \$48,829 per capita and the seventh-highest life expectancy on the planet, need help with peace and reconciliation?

Hong Kong is an incredibly polarised society, with many different opinions regarding the relationship between Hong Kong and China. This causes tension and economic uncertainty. The Christians of Hong Kong find themselves in a perfect position to work with their neighbours, especially the young, to promote a culture of acceptance and love.

We were thrilled to find that 49 men and women, aged between 16 and 41, had come to learn to be Ambassadors for Peace. Participants came from across Hong Kong and from as far away as Taiwan, representing the Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic denominations. Many of those attending, both clergy and laity, had come from the three Anglican Cathedrals of Hong



Kong and other parishes.

Over two days, I taught with three professors from the University of Hong Kong. I was joined by Professor Simon Kwan for the first session, "Diversity & Difference", by Dr. Mary Yuen for "Belonging & Citizenship", and by Dr. Wai Luen Kwok for the final session, "The Art of Peacemaking". My three colleagues provided great cultural insight, which helped to put the day in context.

It was very inspiring to engage with the young people; the discussions we had were thought-provoking and they helped us to understand the situation there much better. At the end of this first step, the Ambassadors expressed their desire for further teaching and further engagement with us.

Embrace Peace 2018

Fundraising Gala Dinner, 21st November

Our Awareness Ambassadors, Angel Hon and St. John's Cathedral, joined together with our many friends and supporters in Hong Kong to hold a special fundraising event to support the work of the Awareness Foundation.



Wherever we go, our friends are mindful that we need resources in order to go on with our work at the Foundation.

This time in Hong Kong, Nadim and Huda attended a fundraising gala dinner for our ministry at the Hong Kong Club, which was fully sponsored by our friend Mark Tse. The dinner was supported by our Patron, Archbishop Paul, the bishops of Eastern and Western Kowloon, and the Deans of the three Cathedrals as well as many business people and distinguished guests from Hong Kong's cultural and artistic life.

Around 70 people came to support us and to provide some much-needed financial resources. The evening started with a short performance by a very talented choir (*photo, right*), followed by a speech given by Archbishop Paul, highlighting the importance of our work around the world and in Hong Kong in particular. Angel Hon showed a short film about our Peace Walk and Embrace Peace 2018.

During dinner, there was a silent auction with 11 lots, including items from Syria, Chinese calligraphy and paintings by well-known artists, jewellery and a painting by our Director (*photo, right*)!

Bidding was competitive for each lot, and everyone had a great time trying to secure their favourite items especially as Christmas is approaching. The Very Revd Samson Fan, Dean of All Saints Cathedral in Western Kowloon, was a key figure in encouraging people to bid, and he was most persuasive. Archbishop Paul handed the items to the winning bidders after personally making sure that they had paid up.

To thank him for his support, Nadim presented the Archbishop with a signed copy of his book, and at the close of the evening Dean Matthias thanked everyone for their generosity and he stressed that the three Cathedrals and the Dioceses are committed to continuing the peace work started by the Awareness Foundation on this visit and to supporting the work of the Foundation globally.

We are very grateful to Angel, The Revd Will Newman, the Bishops and Deans, and all those who made Embrace Peace 2018 such a wonderful success.



Mark Tse receiving the Embrace Peace 2018 plaque from Bishop Andrew Chan.



The silent auction lots



Nadim presents his painting to the winning bidder



Dennis Wong receiving his winning lot from Archbishop Paul

HKSKH Welfare Council

29th November

The Revd Nadim Nassar was invited by Dr Jane Lee to spend a day at the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council, speaking to their staff on "Building Peace in the Communities".



The Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council provides services for children, youth, families and the elderly to "transform lives so they may be lived in abundance."

Nadim said, "This was a day of interactive talks about peacebuilding in communities that suffer from tension and polarisation. How do we build peace in such communities?"

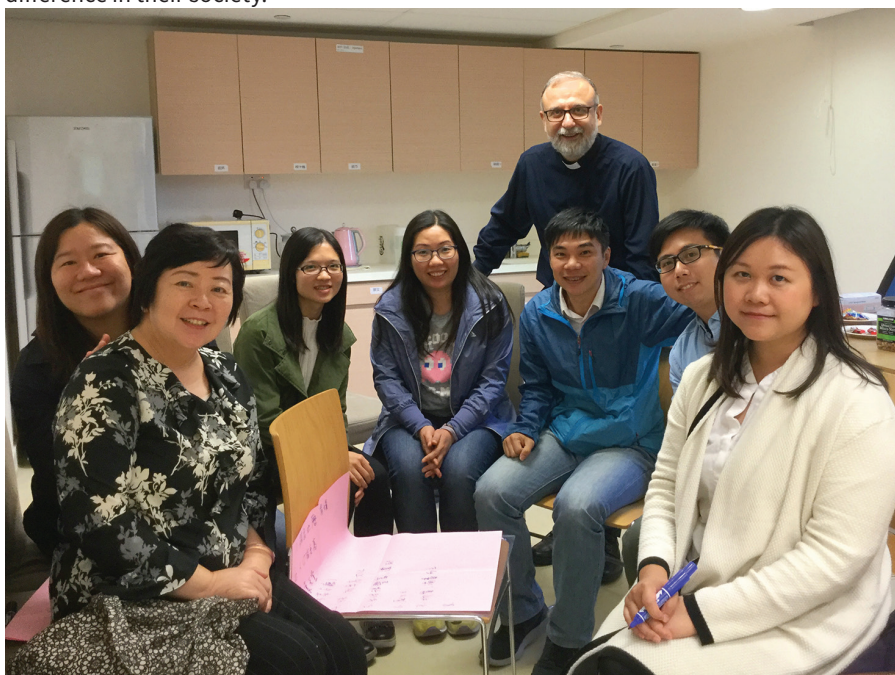
Nadim divided those present into five groups to discuss the characteristics that make Hong Kong unique, the challenges that Hong Kong faces, and what projects could help to build peace there.

We talked about the role of NGOs, and the important role of youth in providing a better opportunity for peace and reconciliation in Hong Kong.

The projects they suggested were thoughtful and realistic. Nadim said, "I was really impressed by the depth and the enthusiams of everyone to make a difference in their society."



Nadim with the day's organisers





Preaching

The Revd Nadim Nassar was invited to preach at St. John's Cathedral in Central Hong Kong on Sunday 18th November and at All Saints Cathedral in Western Kowloon on Sunday 25th November (Christ the King).

This was Nadim's first experience of preaching at a Cantonese service.



Christians in Central

Whenever we go to Hong Kong, a speaking engagement at Christians in Central at St. John's Cathedral is a tradition. Christians in Central is the Cathedral's outreach programme, open to the public and the business community in the area. The event features a shared lunch and a talk by a guest speaker.

This year, Nadim was invited by Mrs K C Too to speak on "The Culture of God and the Cultures of the World". Nadim presented Dean Matthias with a copy of his book, "The Culture of God".



Interfaith

Father Will Newman invited Nadim, Reem and Huda to come and speak about the peacebuilding work of the Foundation at a special interfaith activity at St. John's Cathedral.

People from all faiths, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Sikh, Muslim, Bahai, and Christian, took part in an afternoon of discussion and music.

It was very interesting to hear how the different faith groups live in Hong Kong and to learn about the interaction between them.



How to support us

Please visit <https://www.awareness-foundation.com/donate-1> to donate through our website or to find details on how to transfer funds to us. Please send cheques, made payable to "Awareness Foundation", to the address of the Main Office, below.

United States

In the US, please post checks, made payable to "Awareness Foundation America", to Steve Taber, 1170 Green Street, San Francisco CA 94109



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