

Now to Him who is able

Years of plans and preparation are fast approaching reality!

“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...”

(Ephesians 3:20-21)

In these 7-weeks of our OPEN: Next Chapter, if we have allowed Him, he's been at work in us! We've ALL come to understand that God-sized vision requires God-sized sacrifice. The challenge to our entire church family has been 100% of our people praying and 100% participating. Everyone has been encouraged to give faithful consideration to the question, **“Lord, what do you want to do through me to accomplish Your will for our church?”**

Everyone Can

3-Year faith commitment

Sunday – November 21, 2021

While our journey begins with a 7-week emphasis, the duration will continue for the next 3 years as we carry out our faith giving commitments. Everyone is invited to bring their Open: Next Chapter 3-year Faith Commitment Card – an amount above and beyond our tithes and offerings – and dedicate it to the Lord together as an act of worship and praise. Without a doubt, this will be a faith stretcher for each of us! Not for one minute would we want to miss out on the power of God at work through His church – through Kowloon International Baptist Church! Look forward. Reach out. Sacrificially give. Be open.

What can I give

Scriptures say in 1 Chronicles 29:14: **“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your hand.”**

To determine a realistic starting point, we have to be aware of the total income and expenses that God has allowed each of us. It is critical if we are to have a handle on our finances.

Understanding my expense

Most people have no idea how much they actually spend every week. One option would be to look at expenses on personal entertainment, eating out, snacks, street food, and drinks (like Pacific Coffee).

Example: For someone who regularly orders (delicious!) coffee from Pacific Coffee on an average of 4 times a week, throughout say 40 of the fifty-two weeks in a year, they will spend approximately HK \$152 per week or HK \$6,080 during the course of ONE year. Over a 3-year period of time, that individual would have spent HK \$18,240. Should that someone so choose to cut back to half the amount – only 2 cups of Pacific Coffee (still delicious!) weekly – they could commit over HK \$9,120 during the course of our three-year Open: Next Chapter journey.

Most people will be very surprised to see how much income goes to times like snacks, quick foods from 7-Eleven, and drinks when dining out.



1 week	$\$38 \times 4 \text{ cups} = \152
1 year	$\$152 \times 40 \text{ weeks} = \$6,080$
3 years	$\$6,080 \times 3 \text{ years} = \$18,240$

What if instead...

only 2 cups of coffee weekly over 3 years

\$9,120 committed to Open:
Next chapter

Where am I?

By using the simple worksheet below, you will see the process of taking all household income, minus set expenses (which should include normal giving), in order to present you with a true number that should be left over each month. Filling this out, will enable you to know where you are, and what you could give over your normal monthly giving for the next three years (At first, you may want to do this on a separate sheet of paper).

1 Consider your monthly income

Income 1	<input type="text"/>
Income 2	+ <input type="text"/>
Other Income	+ <input type="text"/>
<hr/>	
Total Income	= <input type="text"/>

2 Consider your monthly expenses

(List out expenses on separate piece of paper)

Total Expenses

3 Total Income	<input type="text"/>
Total Expenses	- <input type="text"/>
Current Surplus	= <input type="text"/>

Of the current surplus, ask yourself what portion you could give to OPEN over the next three years. This shows what your starting gift can begin at:

\$ _____

“Take from among you a contribution to the LORD; whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as the LORD’S contribution...”

Exodus 35:5