

NEW YEAR MESSAGE
FROM THE LEADERS OF THE SIX RELIGIONS OF HONG KONG

As time progresses with the beginning of another year, we of the six religions reverently wish the people of Hong Kong good health and blessings, the fulfilment of their hearts' desires, prosperity in our society and stability in people's lives. As the saying goes, "Spring is the time of planning for the year". So at this time we should think ahead for the coming year.

This year is the International Year of Space. Space technology is progressing at a remarkable pace and, hopefully, will prove a boon to humanity. What most concerns us adherents of the six religions is that, whereas human beings have the knowledge and technology to conquer space, mankind has fallen into a deep moral crisis. People are torn by inner conflicts and are deeply despondent. Person-to-person relationships have lost their human quality; cruelty and violence are on the increase. There are frequently reported cases where wrongdoers have sunk to the level of savage brutality. Let us look into the causes of this in order to save people from a dreadful fate.

The nurturing of the moral nature of mankind is an urgent need and to this end raising the quality of education is indispensable. The time-honoured virtues of respect for teachers and deference to the elderly, affection for the old and caring for the young, enhancing righteousness and reducing greed: all these belong to the fundamentals of moral education.

It seems that the more society progresses, the more important traditional moral values become. The leaders of the six religions have always advocated moral education and character development. When in 1981 we drafted an outline for moral education and sent it to the Governor and the Education Department to be considered for implementation in the school educational programme, we were motivated by the same concern.

To this day we place our hope in the educational workers who will take up the sacred duty of nurturing the future leaders of society. This requires relentless efforts in order to overcome enormous difficulties. The young, who are still at school, should be taught to be industrious and forward-looking. To be respectful to their teachers is important, otherwise those who teach will become discouraged -- to the detriment of the quality of education. Less desirable aspects of society are rampant so that young people need to be doubly alert and should learn to discern what is right and wrong. They must not blindly follow the crowd or lose their direction in life.

Hong Kong Joint Secretariat for Colloquium of Religious Leaders

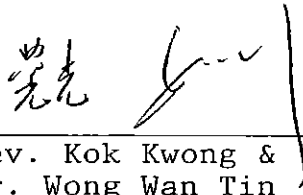
香港宗教領袖座談會聯合秘書處

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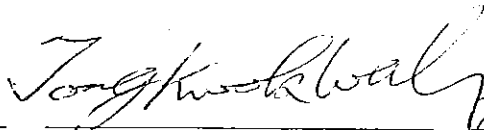
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On the international scene, we are pleased to see that the threat of nuclear destruction is noticeably reduced yet warfare has by no means ceased. We of the six religions ardently hope that those who are in power have the wisdom to resolve strife and the loving heart to dissolve animosity so that righteousness and peace shall prevail everywhere and happiness reign on earth.

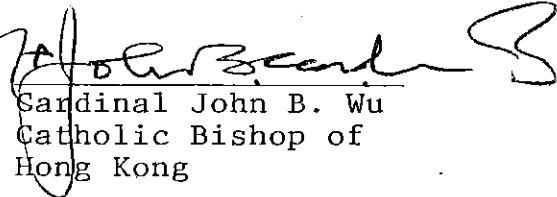
We offer this message to the citizens of Hong Kong and may we mutually support one another in making the new year a blessing for all



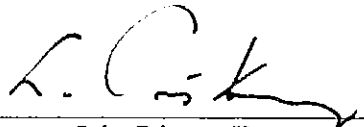
Rev. Kok Kwong &
Mr. Wong Wan Tin
President &
Vice President
H.K. Buddhist Assn.



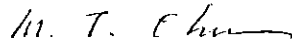
Mr. Tong Kwok Wah
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