

Conclusion

Foreign missionaries came preaching in the Chinese city of Hong Kong, the fact itself has manifested the integration of the Western and Eastern cultures. Among the 44 big and small religious congregations, some settled here long ago, such as the Jesuits, Franciscans, Salesians, Sisters of St Paul de Chartres, Canossian Sisters, Paris Foreign Missions Society, Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions, Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Marist Brothers, and Helpers of the Holy Souls, etc. They have been running social services like schools, hospitals, and care homes, as well as printing business. In terms of the architectural designs of the churches, there are both Western-style buildings such as the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and St. Teresa's Church, and Chinese-style buildings such as the Holy Spirit Seminary and the chapel converted from Kam Tsin Wai Cheng Hon Pang Ancestral Hall. Both flexibility and tolerance of cultural differences can be seen in the small city. The foreign missionaries not only introduced Christianity to Hong Kong, but also passed on knowledge and values. These interactions with the traditional Chinese beliefs and cultures, allowing Hong Kong to integrate both cultures in various aspects, obtaining a unique perspective that is hard to find anywhere else.

More than 100 years ago, the missionary work in Hong Kong started on Hong Kong Island and spread to the South and to the East. It gradually expanded to the rapidly growing Kowloon Peninsula, obtaining good results in various districts, such as Tsim Sha Tsui, Sham Shui Po, Kwun Tong, and Kowloon City. In New Territories, where traditions were highly valued, missionaries had to adopt to the different lifestyles of the long-standing rural communities. With the aid of Chinese-style church buildings, localisation of the liturgy and integration of traditions, missionary work has been growing in this ever-changing environment. The historical fragments reviewed in this booklet are just a glimpse of the missionary work that has been done throughout the century. Hopefully, through reviewing the historical traces of these missionary activities, we can gain a deeper understanding of the spirit of the foreign missionaries. These missionaries of different nationalities not only responded to the call of God, but also cooperated with their Chinese counterparts to reach out for spiritual exchanges with deep respect to the Chinese culture.