



ASCENSION HOUSE

Areopagos | Tao Fong Shan

2018-9

A SPACE
FOR
MUTUAL HOSPITALITY,
TRUTH-SEEKING AND
TRANSFORMATION





TAO FONG SHAN

In Tao Fong Shan, we have always had the focus of presenting the Christian message in a language and expression according to and inspired by the context in which we are living.

Therefore, we stimulate talks, active spiritual life and practical work as ways to belong and grow together.

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*From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring'.
(Acts 17, 26-27)*

AREOPAGOS

In Areopagos, we believe that God is part of the life of all people; individuals, communities and cultures. God has never let anyone alone.

Therefore, in all cultural and personal narratives, we can find fingerprints, footsteps and glimpses of light and truth that God has left there to help us to find the Way, even if God is not far from any of us. All cultures and traditions can be a tool to find truth about God and about us.



ASCENSION HOUSE

Friends of Tao: Truth Seekers

Ascension House is a meeting point between East and West, between people of different faith or without faith, between people who actively seek religious truth and people, who are just searching insights in the truth about identity, meaning of life or other existential questions of life.





A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Ascension House is a home away from home.

A home for “Friends of Tao”, where people can grow, can seek truth and can share and find experiences and inspiration for their faith and life pilgrimage from each other.

Thus, we are becoming more whom we are, created to be in the image of God. Ascension House is a living part of the history and spirituality of Tao Fong Shan.

HOSPITALITY AS MISSION

Hospitality itself is a way of living the Gospel, being Gods Mission in the world. In offering an open home with shared meals and lives, we help and invite people to find their own space, their own identity and their own home in God.

Hospitality is a way of living, not a task or a job. Hospitality is a spiritual practice that creates strong inner space in our everyday life.

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Hospitality... means primarily the creation of a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. ...It is not a method of making our God and our way into the criteria of happiness, but the opportunity to others to find their God and their way.

Henri Nouwen.

Reaching Out: The Three Movements in the Spiritual Life. (1975 Doubleday. New York)

A WAY OF LIFE AT TAO FONG SHAN

Ascension House is a present continuation of the original vision of Tao Fong Shan, to bring people of different faith and traditions together in prayer, studies and dialogue.

Therefore, the volunteers are part of the spiritual and liturgical life at Tao Fong Shan, daily prayer, silence, meditation, retreat and service, and they invite their guests to take part in the same. Also the volunteers, as part of the greater community of Tao Fong Shan, take part in different practical duties and programs in order to make the ministries of Tao Fong Shan work and run smoothly.





AN OPEN, FREE AND SAFE SPACE

We want to create a safe and equal space of freedom, openness and transformation. In bringing people with different background together in an open and respectful dialogue, Ascension House wants to encourage and stimulate the searching of truth for each person living there, guests as well as volunteers.

Meeting others can be a challenge. However, with mutual respect and common vision, it is a way for growth and transformation. No mud no lotus.



HOST- GUEST DYNAMICS

The hosts here are in fact guests of Tao Fong Shan and Hong Kong. They are the "others", the "strangers", and the "guests". At the same time they are "people-at-home" and "hosts". We are both guests and hosts in this limited sojourning. We are both "co-wanderers" "co-nomads" even when we are at home.

This "otherness" is also in our own. We are "other" to the other. We are "other" to God. We are "other" to ourselves.

We are sedentary and nomadic, we are strangers and deeply joined in our strangeness, we are guests and hosts.

If there is one thing we share, it is our otherness.

If there is one thing we can recognize in the other, it is the secret that cannot be revealed or grasped.

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters.
Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so
doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without
knowing it
HEB 13,1-2

MUTUAL HOSPITALITY, TRUTH-SEEKING AND TRANSFORMATION



The mission of the church is not to sell or impose the Gospel to others, rather it is to live the Mission of God, to represent the truth of the Gospel in the way we treat each other and "the other". The Gospel is invitation to relationship, community and honor of the diversity of cultures and creation.

At the same time, living and sharing our lives and faith with others, we our self will discover new dimensions and get new insights in the truth about who we are and what we believe.

When welcoming guests, we welcome messengers from God to us. We meet God in each other.

We cannot grasp truth, but we can share a glimmer of sacredness on the way to seeking it. We are taking part in enriching every life-changing experience, to become a better host and also better guest in our life journey.

