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Sunday November 16 2003

Former dean quit over 'nightmare experience'

Simon Parry

The former dean of St John's Cathedral has spoken about the 'nightmare experience' that made him decide to resign and leave Hong Kong.

Christopher Phillips, 57, stood down as dean in September after a turbulent five months during which police at one point were called to the cathedral grounds on Mr Phillips' behalf.

The details of the incident, which involve alleged criminal offences by a man, cannot be revealed by the Sunday Morning Post because of legal restrictions.

Mr Phillips, 57, dean of St John's for 15 years, has been replaced by the Very Reverend Stephen Sidebotham, who was called out of retirement by the archbishop after having first been dean of Hong Kong more than 20 years ago.

Speaking from Cambridgeshire, England, where he is staying with friends, Mr Phillips said: 'I was the victim of a very unpleasant experience that nobody should be put through. It was a nightmare.'

'I decided to take early retirement because I had been unwell for some time, suffering from depression. I did not retire just because of this incident, but it was perhaps the last straw.'

Although he has resigned from his position in Hong Kong, the former dean remains a minister and is continuing his convalescence in Britain.

When he is fully recovered he is expected to take up a position with the Church of England, according to the Mr Sidebotham - possibly as a parish priest.

Mr Phillips' departure from Hong Kong was not known to most cathedral worshippers until his resignation was announced in September, and many were upset at not being able to say goodbye.

The cathedral is now collecting tributes to Mr Phillips from worshippers and colleagues as clergy prepare a celebration of his work as dean.

Mr Phillips was particularly admired for his work with community groups.

The Reverend Paul Kwong, spokesman for Archbishop of Hong Kong Peter Kwong Kwong-kit, stressed that Mr Phillips had resigned of his own accord and there had been no pressure for him to step down. 'He certainly wasn't asked by His Grace to leave. It was nothing to do with the archbishop,' Mr Kwong said.

Mr Sidebotham said cathedral staff had co-operated with police when they were called to the cathedral grounds and afterwards had received no complaints from any officers or officials.

Mr Phillips was the victim of an alleged criminal offence during the incident and there is no suggestion that he himself was involved in any criminal activity. Nobody has been convicted of any offence in relation to the incident.

**NOW READ THE PROPHECY THAT LED TO THE ABOVE
EVENT - ISSUED JULY 26TH 2002**

**PROPHECY UNTO ST.JOHN'S CATHEDRAL AND
ST.ANDREW'S CHURCH**

“Thus saith The Lord God, Creator of Heaven and Earth and Bringer of the Latter Rain, directly unto St.John's Cathedral and St.Andrew's Church; yea, saith The Lord, I AM The Holy Spirit and speak expressly unto you this Day.

Behold, ye sanction the sodomites and commune with them in My Holy Name, and I Love Judgment, saith The Father by The Son.

From henceforth, ye are under Judgment, for you have not done that which is right in My Sight, saith The Lord; nay, ye have been blinded by the world, and have not warned these Lost Ones to desist from their sin, so I require them by your hands, saith The Father.

If ye refuse to warn the Hong Kong church of The Sodomites, and their women, working those things together that are not convenient, even to warn them of My Word in the New Testament, that Word that ye know so well, saith The Spirit, and continue in commune with their sin, then I will sift St.John's Cathedral and St.Andrew's Church, and will burn out the chaff from the wheat, and ye yourselves will not go forgotten.

I will bring in New Shepherds who will hearken unto My Word, saith God The Son, and will scatter My True Sheep unto them, and leave your congregations with the chaff that will be burnt, if ye refuse to warn the church of The Sodomites in Hong Kong to desist from their evil way.

I AM The Lord God and will not be mocked; nay, I will begin this Judgment in advance as a Sign and a Wonder, that ye may marvel that I have not changed, and verily it is I that speaketh unto thee both today, even unto you Dean and unto you Vicar, even for the Arch Bishop also, for you have charge over My Sheep, yet ye betray Me with your silence and your commune with these overt people of that sin which I hate.

I say unto you both and all, Watch, for this My Word will Stand from henceforth, until you have heeded

and done that which I Command, and if thine answers are nay Lord, we don't believe this is from You God, then their sin will have been retained by you and I will recall this when ye Pray unto Me, for these are verily My Days of Judgment, for I do New Things in the earth, and My Judgment on your churches will be felt long and deep to the parting of the ways.

I leave you with a way to escape saith The Father in Heaven, by The Judgment of My Word, for My Direct Signs unto you will come with speed, so, Go To Now, and Behold, and then do that which is Right, even by My Living Word, and Preach The Truth unto the church of The Sodomites in Hong Kong, and I will be with you to confirm The Word. So saith The Creator and Saviour, even the Trinity of God, by His Son Jesus The Christ and Messiah of all. Thus saith The Amen."

July 26th 2002

(Hong Kong's largest gay Christian group holds monthly meetings at St. John's Cathedral, Central)

Hong Kong Blessed Minority Christian Fellowship is formed by a group of gay christians. All christians, including gay, lesbian and bi-sexual are welcomed to join us.

Fellowship

Our fellowship meets first Sunday of every month from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Li Hall, St. John Cathedral, Central, Hong Kong.

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