

The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,  
Union Theological Seminary, New York

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 6

Finding Aid for

**Loren E. Noren Papers, 1962**

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Basic Table E - KOWLOON

	Memb	Finance			S. S.			Church Premises		
		Cap	Current	Self	TR	SS	VBS	Perm/Apt	Own/Rent	Seat Cap
<u>LUTHERAN</u>										
174. Diamond Hill	305	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
175. Eternal Life	126	40	5000	20%	5	150	---	Apt	Rent	90
176. Faith	514	25	13000	50%	4	120	100	Apt	Rent	200
177. Hung Hom	332	36	11000	30%	24	1080	500	S-C-H-O-O-L		
178. Kowloon City	230	13	3000	10%	9	152	---	Apt	Rent	170
179. Lai Chi Kok	243	21	5200	30%	4	80	60	Apt	Rent	100
180. Ngau Tau Kok	128	25	3300	Yes	10	250	---	R-O-O-F-T-O-P		
181. Shek Kip Mei	178	8	1400	Yes	9	200	---	R-O-O-F-T-O-P		
182. Tai Hang Tung	16	75	1200	Yes	6	150	---	R-O-O-F-T-O-P		
183. Truth	359	50	18000	20%	6	90	---	Perm	Own	1000
184. Wong Tai Sen	192	15	2800	Yes	8	270	---	R-O-O-F-T-O-P		
Total	2623		63900		85	2542	660			

Urban Church Growth in Hong Kong, p. 38 Loren E. Noren, 1962.

Credit to MRL 6: Loren E. Noren Papers, box 1, folder 1,

The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Elizabeth Beller, July 2013  
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

**Summary Information**

Creator: Loren E. Noren, 1918 – [1992?]  
 Title: Loren E. Noren Papers  
 Dates: 1962  
 Abstract: Written report based upon findings of extensive survey conducted by Loren E. Noren on the state of Christianity and urban churches in the then British colony of Hong Kong during the years 1958 – 1962.  
 Size: 1 box, 0.25 linear feet  
 Storage: Onsite storage  
 Repository: The Burke Library  
 Union Theological Seminary  
 3041 Broadway  
 New York, NY 10027  
 Email: [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu)

**Administrative Information**

- Provenance:** Originally part of the independent Missionary Research Library, these records were moved with the MRL to the Brown Memorial Tower of Union Theological Seminary in 1929. In 1976 the records were accessioned to the Burke Library archives with the closure of the MRL.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu), or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible. Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, MRL 6: Loren E. Noren Papers, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

**Biography**

Loren E. Noren was an American missionary of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Societies stationed in the Canton and Hong Kong regions of China in the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century. Noren attended Ottawa University in Kansas and Andover-Newton Theological School in Massachusetts. Noren received a Master of Sacred Theology from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Through his association with Union Theological Seminary and the Missionary Research Library, Noren published part of his STM thesis work in the MRL's *Occasional Bulletin* Volume 12, Issue number 7 (September 22, 1961.)

Noren also undertook and was involved in numerous studies of the state of urban churches in Hong Kong. At the time of his studies, Hong Kong was a British colony undergoing significant population, sociological and economic changes in the aftermath of the multiple chaotic historic events which befell the city including the Japanese invasion, World War II and the subsequent Chinese Civil War between the Communists and Nationalists. Prior to his time in Hong Kong, Noren was stationed with his wife and family in the Swatow region of China. According to a newspaper article published in the Oak Park *Oak Leaves* paper on May 27, 1954, Noren and three fellow missionaries were detained by Chinese Communists and held in solitary confinement for months. The men were released in January of 1953. The experience did not deter Noren from his work as a missionary. In 1954 he was appointed Secretary-Treasurer of the American Baptist Mission in Hong Kong.

Noren employed significant use of surveys and questionnaires in his study published in 1962. The result is a statistically significant survey and report on the numbers of Christians within the city and region of Hong Kong, the change in population since the previous report published in 1958 and the initial report conducted in 1955.

Noren is believed to have died in 1992.

Sources

Missionary Noren to Speak Sunday at First Baptist, Oak Park Oak Leaves, May 27, 1954.

Noren, Loren E., "A Study of United Missions and Interboard Committees," *Occasional Bulletin* from the Missionary Research Library, September 22, 1961, Vol. 12, No. 7.

**Collection Scope and Content Note**

The collection includes a published and bound report outlining the findings of Noren's survey as well as questionnaires studying and outlining the state of the urban churches of Hong Kong in 1962. This report contains detailed and specific information on the population of churches in geographic regions of the greater Hong Kong area, information about specific populations broken down by denomination, and comparative information on the growth and/or decline of each congregation's population and financial health. Also included is a Chinese/English glossary.

**Processing**

The collection was transferred from the designation MRL12: Ecumenical/World to MRL6: China due to the nature of the scope of the material.

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes.

**Further Sources**

Further material on Christianity and missionary work in Hong Kong and China can be found at Burke through the Missionary Research Library Archives:

<http://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke/archives/mrl.html>

Yale Divinity School archives also has extensive material on missionary work and the state of Christianity in China and Hong Kong: <http://www.library.yale.edu/div/divhome.htm>

**Contents list**

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Urban Church Growth in Hong Kong, 1958 – 1962