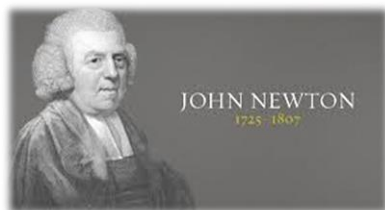


Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar #04-06, Singapore 409022
Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
Website: www.sovereignhopebpc.org
Rev Dr Jack Sin: 91160948 (hp) / jacksin710@gmail.com
Elder Loke Tat Luen: tlloke822@gmail.com

250th Anniversary of the Hymn: Amazing Grace

On 1 Jan 1773, an amazing hymn was composed and so this month we mark the 250th anniversary of this hymn Amazing Grace composed by John Newton.

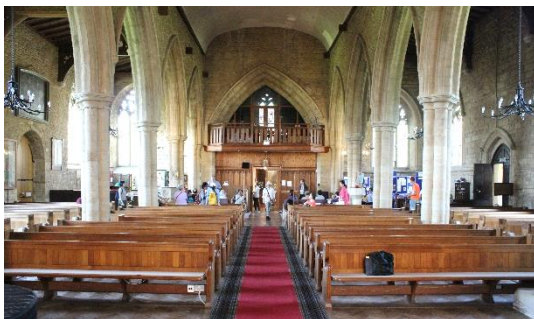


I remember singing this hymn at Toa Payoh Methodist Church in the 1970s at the MYF. I was playing the guitar then as a young secondary school boy brought by Sharon, my second sister and it ministered to my heart.

Visit to Newton's Church



In May 2017, we led the Puritans (England) & Covenanters (Scotland) Reformation Tour. As part of the itinerary, we visited at Olney the St Paul and St Peter Anglican church when John Newton was the Curate for many years in Buckinghamshire, and the nearby museum as well. It was here that the song was popularized as he and William Cowper (the famous composer who wrote God Moves in a Mysterious Way and was depressed and almost suicidal once) composed the Olney hymns in 1779. Later by the



will of God, it went viral and travelled all over the world. Even Billy Graham used it in his crusades and it was also sung at America Got Talent and even in the White House and many concerts and singing contests too.

History and Background

Rev John Newton (1725-1807) was a slave trader making good money when the Lord convicted his heart of sin during a stormy ride on the treacherous sea in March 1748 which he feared. **He was thoroughly converted, and it changed the direction of his life, and he served the Lord and is a godly man of much prayers.**

Chris Armstrong recalled

“At first Newton was convinced that he had sinned too much to have any hope for God’s forgiveness. Yet when the storm did not recede and he really felt he would soon meet his God, he at last clung to Scriptures that taught God’s grace towards sinners, and he breathed his first weak prayer in years. As he was later to recall it, this was “the hour he first believed.”

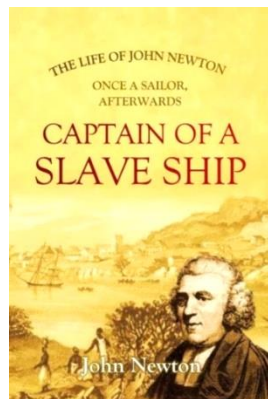
That is why you have in one of the stanzas,

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come,

Tis Grace have brought me safe thus far, And Grace will lead me home.

There were many other hymns that John composed but nothing beats the heart felt poignant words of this global Christian hymn that has convicted and comforted sinners and saints for 250 years.

John was a good friend of William Wilberforce and encouraged him to abolish the slave trade that he was involved in some years ago and it was finally abolished in 1772 by the sovereign will of God.



Ending Well in Life

Chris Armstrong wrote,

"Over the fireplace in his vicarage study at Olney, where he would always see it as he prepared for Sunday services and mid-week meetings, he placed a plaque reading, in large letters, as follows:

"Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable (Isa. 18:4), BUT Thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the Lord thy God redeemed thee (Deut. 15:15)."



When he died, Newton left behind the epitaph that remains today on his gravestone. It returns to this same twin theme of slavery from sin and unmerited

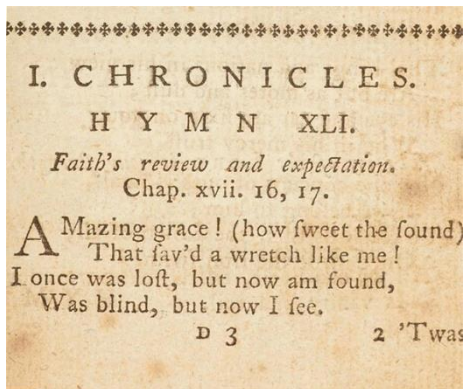
redemption:

We have a good example for us to emulate that we may hopefully end well too in our lives one day as the Lord leads.

Take sometime today in your quiet moments and meditate on the lyrics of this hymn again and maybe someone need to hear it and be saved or even revive and come back to the Lord for those who may have backslided and need to return to Christ in faith and repentance.

Only eternity can tell how many souls were saved by these life-giving lyrics of this hymn through the Holy Spirit.

"John Newton, clerk, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long laboured to destroy."



Conclusion

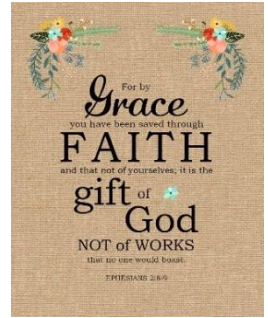
Never despise the potent sound words of a God honouring hymn as you sing them on Sunday in corporate worship.

It is sometimes even more powerful than a sermon and has the transforming power in awakening hearts when placed in the hand of a gracious and holy God.

Do not miss sabbath worship on Sunday and sing from your hearts to worship God each time you have the opportunity and serve the Lord with your time talents and treasure like John Newton while you still have breath in your nostrils

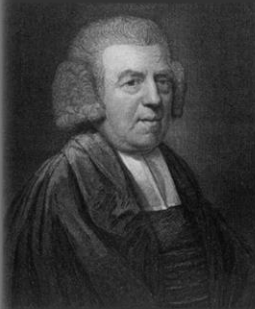
Col 3:16,17 says, *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”*

Something not just to note in the new year but to ponder, praise God, give thanks, sing, pray and reflect. Let us put the **Amazing** back into **Grace** again.



Eph 2:8,9 and Isa 45:22

Jack Sin



**“I am not the man I
ought to be,
I am not the man I wish
to be and I am not the
man I hope to be,
but by the grace of God,
I am not the man I used
to be.**

John Newton

(1725-1807)
author of *Amazing Grace*

evangelicalbible.com



SOVEREIGNHOPE
bible presbyterian church

**An Invitation to rejoice with us!
5th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, 5 Feb 2023, 10am**

*The Witness of the Church
in Dangerous Times*

(Acts 5:29-42)

*Guest Speaker:
Rev Philip Heng*

**Kindly inform Dn Yue Kay (+65 97450311) by 25 Jan 2023
if you are attending as lunch will be provided.**

**Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar,
#04-06, S(409022)**

Website: www.sovereignhopebpc.org



A sharing from the Heart at Watchnight Service on 31 Dec 2022 - by Rachel Wee -

Thank you, Pastor Jack, for giving me the opportunity to share the gratitude to the Lord with you all tonight on this last day of 2022.

Thank the Lord for His abundant grace! I have been edified spiritually through Pastor's messages on Sundays and prayer meetings. In life, I also thank Pastor, Angie and all the brothers and sisters for holding us up with prayers and supporting us through love, especially your love, acceptance, and prayers for my son Jireh.

In the process of life, there are joys and sorrows, and sickness of the mind and body. Every time it comes, it will bring us pain and sorrow. Proverbs 17:22 says: *A merry heart doeth good like a medicine, but a broken spirit drieth the bones.* This verse changed my heart, suffering is a blessing in disguise. I understood it turned out that we suffered all these things, and God wanted me to learn lessons through suffering, to get better blessings. Thinking of this, always found the lost joy in my life. In a Hokkien song, my favourite is "祂不放弃我" (The Lord will never leave me), and I often sing it repeatedly.

On Monday, I made three phone calls. These three people were suffering, one had unbelieving husband who is unfaithful, one sister in Christ had cancer, and other one was my elder brother. He

耶稣是主是光 (祂不放弃我)
 la-so si chu si kng (I boe pang khi goa)

耶稣是我的主 不离不弃的主
 la-so si goa e Chu bo-li bo-khi e Chu

不论遇到大风大雨
 bo-lun tu-tioh toa-hong toa-ho

我要倚靠祂
 goa beh oa-kho I

耶稣是我的光 生命真理的光
 la-so si goa e kng si-mia chin-li e kng

祂的杖 祂的竿
 I e koai I e ko

都会安慰我
 long e an-ui goa

因为祂是耶和華
 In-ui si Ia - ho - hoa

祂与我同在
 I kah goa tang-chai

经过洪水和幽谷
 keng-koe ang-chui kah iu-kok

祂毋放弃我
 I boe pang-khi goa

had an eye operation and had suddenly lost his eyesight. When I talked to them, my heart was extremely sad, and my tears kept flowing. Although they are in suffering, I firmly believe that the Lord's love for them will never leave! In Psalm 28:7, "The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped; therefore, my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song will I praise him." In the process of life experience, this scripture often encourages me. So, I can comfort their weak hearts with the love of God.

Our children live in rebellion and unhappiness. What a sad, painful, and heavy burden for Joseph and me. Whenever we are extremely helpless, God's words come to my mind again, "Isaiah 55:8-9 *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than Your thoughts*", Psalm 103:11 "*For as the heavens is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.*"

I feel more deeply that the edification, blessing and unfathomable rich grace of the Lord's will are hidden in the suffering. The Lord said that He has already counted all my hairs. Without the Lord's permission, none of them would fall out, nor would any of them turn white or black. Yes, everything that happens in our life would not happen if the Lord had not allowed it. What I want to thank the Lord more this year is the realization of pride in my life and the destruction of my disobedience. The Lord also used everything that happened this year to let me give up on myself again and let the Lord take full control. Thank the Lord for everything. Glory to the Lord.

Rachel Wee

***First NBC of
2023 with a
lively
discussion
on 2Sam 16.
Come and
learn with us
on the first
Friday of the
month!***



Lord's Day Programme for January - March 2023

The Deliberate Christ-Centred Church in Action

(Book of Ephesians)



JANUARY

- 1 Divine Calling of a Believer (1:1-12)
- 8* Character of the Church (1:13-23)
- 15 Changed from Darkness to Light (2:1-10)
- 22 Progress of the Church (2:11-22)
- 29 Fullness of the Church (3:1-12)

FEBRUARY

- 5 **5th Anniversary Thanksgiving**
The Witness of the Church in Dangerous Times (Acts 5:29-42)
- 12* Functions of the Church (3:13-21)
- 19 Conduct of the Church (4:1-16)
- 26 Steps for Effective Witness in our Lives (4:17-32)

MARCH

- 5 Divinely Transformed Living (5:1-21)
- 12* Guidelines for Healthy Marital Relations (5:22-33)
- 19 Rules for Family Relationships (6:1-9)
- 26 Divine Protection for Spiritual Combat (6:10-24)

SOVEREIGNHOPE
bible presbyterian church

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Memory Verse

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Lord's Day Sunday Worship Service! We are so glad you are here to worship with us. If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor is away this morning ministering the Word and conducting the Lord's Supper at Gospel Light BPC. He will be back for the Sunday School class.
3. Preacher Mok is our Lord's messenger this morning on "**Changed from Darkness to Light (Eph 2:1-10)**", the new quarterly series on "**The Deliberate Christ-Centred Church in Action (Book of Ephesians)**".
4. Pastor is speaking next Sunday, the 1st day of the Lunar New Year, on "**Progress of the Church (Eph 2:11-22)**".
5. Come and learn at our weekly Sunday School classes after the worship service:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith – Pastor
 - Studies in 1 Chronicles – Dn Kwong Leen
 - Practical Reflections from Ephesians – Dn Yue Kay & Paul Kong
6. We are commemorating 5 years of blessed ministry of Sovereign Hope BP Church as follows:
 - **Thanksgiving Lunch Fellowship on Saturday 4 Feb 2023** at Changi Beach Club. All church members and regular worshippers are invited but **MUST REGISTER with Dn Yue Kay.**
 - **Thanksgiving Worship Service on Sunday 5 Feb 2023**, 10am at our church premise.
7. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on Basic Theology, and the book of Joshua. Join us for a time of profitable learning
8. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church.
9. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 3 Mar 2023, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
10. We need willing hands and hearts to assist in the weekly cleaning of the premises. Do let Dn Yue Kay if you are available to serve in this area.
11. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB Account 392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**