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## **Committing a Noteworthy Year (CNY) to Divine Providence**

*“Deut 33:26,27 says,  
“There is none like unto the God of Jeshurun,  
who rideth upon the heaven  
in thy help, and in his excellency on the sky.  
The eternal God is thy refuge,  
and underneath are the everlasting arms:  
and he shall thrust out the enemy from before  
thee; and shall say, Destroy them.”*



This new year of 2021 will go down in history as a memorable year. We noted that about this time last year, our nation was made aware of a deadly and contagious virus that was affecting people in Wuhan, China resulting in many deaths and quickly spreading to many other countries. The rest is history, as today, it has adversely affected more than 200 countries with more than 106 million people infected and 2.3 million deaths worldwide. It has drastically changed the way we live, work, study, interact, travel, do business, eat, worship and play(leisure) as well. Many are not able to travel for work or leisure and it will be a kind of a new normal (or abnormal) in due time that we will have to learn to accept or to get used to.



How do the Chinese community normally celebrate the Chinese New Year (CNY)? Culturally the Chinese people place great importance on the arrival of a new year as it spells the commencement of a new season of life, the arrival of Spring, normally called 春季 (chunji) especially in the villages of

China and Taiwan, is hoped to bring in the new blessings of prosperity and health for the family in the new year.

It is an opportune and seasonal time for a happy celebration as an extended family, normally with delectable food, family interaction and festive goodies and fun. Gatherings like the CNY eve reunion dinner with meaningful interaction to renew ties with our loved ones, has a vital social and emotional importance for the Chinese community. These social norms that

enhance emotional bonds run deep in Chinese culture and tradition. It is occasions like this that enhance and cement family ties and build relationships across families, and for many generations to come.

However, this year, many may not get to travel hundreds (or even thousands) of kilometres to get back to their original homes (老家) to be with family in the villages of China for this special season as they normally would do. Some may be all ready to doll up with new clothes and shoes (and now maybe the new masks and sanitizers too), looking forward to receive red packets of money from loved ones and oranges with well wishes after home spring cleaning.



But 2021 will be different in many ways. With the raging pandemic still spreading in many countries, we are not to take for granted the low community transmission here, needing to be vigilant and observe all the necessary safety precautions. The festivity will therefore be curtailed and our visits to other families is limited to 2 homes per day, keeping household gatherings and dinners to 8 persons in Singapore and maybe much less in other countries like Malaysia and Hong Kong. It will be a silent *Lo Hei*

(raw fish dish) for many, which is necessary and prudent for our own safety and that of our families.

In some cases, some foreign workers who are working overseas are not planning even to return home this year, as we witness from those working in Singapore, who are from our neighbour, Malaysia across the causeway, or some from Indonesia, Myanmar, (pray for them in their crisis) Philippines or Thailand where the pandemic situation could be serious. The Malaysian government has declared a nation-wide emergency and their on-going MCO (Movement Control Order) with certain restrictions is still seeing more than 4000 new COVID19 cases each day and more than 240,000 people affected, with almost 900 deaths so far. We need to pray for them and the safety of our brethren and churches there. Many nations have a vaccination programme to reach a herd immunity hopefully in the next 3 to 4 years globally. By the third quarter of this year is the targeted plan for Singapore and we pray that it will be possible and effective, and we look to the Lord (Psa 20:7). We have more than 155,000 vaccinated so far and we are making good progress. Can we make Singapore safe again? Only the Lord knows and the timing too as He wills.



For the first time for many in living memory, this CNY will be different and a quiet affair, and even the traditional convivial *Chingay* procession with its colourful parades, scintillating lights from the different troupes and the nostalgic and loud lion dances have gone online. The much-awaited light up in Chinatown is cancelled too for safety reasons.

But yet there is cause to give thanks to our gracious and merciful sovereign God. God has preserved and blessed us with his covenant mercy for He has given to us peace and safety in many ways in Singapore. He has protected and preserved our family, our churches and our nation and given to us health and strength, along with jobs to support our family. We are also able to worship Him corporately as a gathered church as taught in the Bible (Heb 10:24,25, Psa 122:1) with safety measures, where many countries are still under some form of a lockdown. We need to continue to be on the alert and resilient and to take all necessary precautions seriously as the virus is still present in the community. God is our Refuge and our strength in times of great distress, but we have our human responsibility too to fulfil all righteousness (Isa 41:10, Phil 4:13).

*Psa 55:22 says, Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.*



The fact that we have breath in our nostrils is cause to give thanks and we need to number our days and apply our hearts unto wisdom. (Psa 90:12). We have learnt from this pandemic of the brevity of life and the nearness of eternity as we live in momentous times.

Let us remember the covenant faithfulness and goodness of the Lord and offer joyful praise and thanksgiving tangibly to our Almighty Jehovah this CNY (which is also Committing a Noteworthy Year) and always throughout the entire year.

If we **Pause** to **Think**, we have **Cause** to **Thank**. Let us live for the Lord and for His glory even in tumultuous days. Have a Christocentric and safe New Year in the Sovereign Grace of our Lord.



Jack Sin

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**More Anniversary Greetings  
from Local & Overseas  
Brethren**

Blessed church anniversary Ps Jack.  
May God bless and keep His church.  
May the truth and grace of Christ be  
lived out and proclaimed in Sovereign  
Hope.

**Rev Nathaniel Tan**  
**Hebron BPC, Singapore**

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Praise God for using you all greatly for  
Sovereign Hope BP Church.

May the Lord keep using you and your family for His mission work far and  
near, Dr Jack.

**Rev Paul Sokha**  
**BP Church of Cambodia**

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I thank God for all these 3 years of work in the will of our Saviour, May God  
richly bless you and your church and give you more years so that you can  
reach souls who need the word and the salvation that Christ did on the cross  
for all those who still do not know Him.

Blessings. and much affection from us, we  
are blessed to see and know you and your  
wife at the 20th ICCG Congress ...

Praise the Lord.

**Eld Samuel Pacheco**  
**Gethsemani Church of Concepcion, Chile**

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Blessings on your church 3rd anniversary.

May doors open, may hearts be transformed and may souls be saved... May the Lord bless you and strengthen your hand as his leader servant.

***Dr Patrick Foo  
Singapore***

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It is indeed an honour and privilege to be present for this joyous celebration of 3 years of ministry for the Lord. Thank you for the books and calendar. May your church continue in His Good Works and may all glory be unto Jesus Christ our Lord!

***Dn Kong Kian Haw  
Emmanuel BPC (Jurong West),  
Singapore***

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Thank You  
for Rejoicing  
with us!  
To God be  
the Glory!

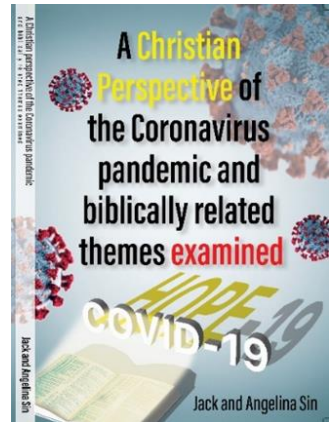
**An Overview of  
“The Christian Perspective of the Coronavirus Pandemic and Biblically  
Related Themes Examined”  
by Rev. Jack & Mrs Angie Sin.**

*Introduction:*

All over the world 2020 was a difficult year for many. Some people lost their loved ones and some people lost their jobs, business or their livelihood. The whole world was filled with fear and distress because of the possible spread of Covid-19 throughout the year. However, the Christian perspective is totally different from the worldly view as we noted in the content of this book as “we walk by faith not by sight” (2 Cor 5:7).

I’d like to thank God for the laudable efforts of Rev Jack & Mrs Angie Sin and for their timely exhortation to counsel, comfort and encourage the brethren throughout the world by writing this book called **“The Christian Perspective of the Coronavirus Pandemic and Biblically related themes examined which is relevant for all of us.** I have learned some important lessons by reading this book from a Biblical perspective and here are some of them as given below.

1. We need to ponder the Truth and to take the right precautions, understanding the seriousness of this Pandemic, overcoming or avoiding unreasonable fears. “You will know the Truth and the Truth will set you free” (John 8:32).
2. As believers we are not to be the victims of this pandemic; rather we have a grave duty to show the love of Christ to our fellow humans by praying for them and by sharing the message of hope and salvation.
3. Suffering during the pandemic is not meant to put us down; but to build up our faith and to grow in deeper communion with Christ.
4. As believers we know nothing happens by chance but by the choice of God in our lives “All these are the beginning of sorrows” and this gives us peace and comfort in this crisis (Mat24:1-24).
5. This Pandemic reminds us that we cannot live for nor rely on the temporal pleasures of this world, but we look forward to God for the eternal Salvation for our Souls.



6. Our priorities must be put on high above and we should keep up our spiritual and mental health by trusting in the Lord as a covenant family in the midst of this health crisis.
7. Nature declares the glory of God and we need to study the Bible deeper during the pandemic, which explains God's plan for His covenant people even in the midst of the pandemic.
8. We need to distinguish the fear of God and the terror of death because the fear of the Lord leads to life –Proverbs 19:23.
9. We need to seek what is the will of God or the purpose of our lives during this Pandemic. Certainly, God has a purpose for everything, even in trying times.
10. Finally, we need to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. This would be a needful, practical aspect for every human, for our lives are in the hands of God.

*Conclusion:*

The book of Exodus recorded 10 plagues sent by the Lord to Egypt. Those plagues had a purpose to warn and to redeem the people of Israel from the hands of Pharaoh. This Covid-19 Pandemic (and this timely book written on it) could be a similar spiritual reminder, to help us to turn back to the Lord in faith and repentance of sins and to seek his grace in eternal Salvation. I would heartily recommend this book to everyone to read it.

*Pastor Babu*

*New Covenant BPCI, Bangalore, India.*

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***Comments on the Pandemic book from the Netherlands***

Your book has arrived and all the bulletins with it. Thanks so much for all this. You have the gift of saying things clear and bringing the truths of the Bible close to readers. Thanks for your spiritual and biblical guidance. The pandemic is also spreading a spiritual virus o which the devil can and does make use of, turning into a virus that moves us away from God and His Word. Your book helps to battle that virus.

*Prof Herman Selderhuis*

*President*

*Theological University of Apeldoorn, Netherlands*

## Memory Verse

2 Kings 22:2 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD,  
and walked in all the way of David his father,  
and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.

## Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor Jack speaks today on **“A Jewish King & the Covenant of Revival” (2 Kings 22:1-20)**, continuing the 2021 Jan – Mar sermon series on **“An Appraisal & Understanding of Biblical Revivals”**. The Lord’s Supper will be served.
3. Pastor Jack speaks next Sunday on **“The Valley of Dry Bones Revived” (Ezek 37:1-14)**.
4. Sunday School classes continues in church after the worship service:
  - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
  - “Rules for Walking in Fellowship by John Owen” – Dn Choo Siang
  - Studies in Leviticus – Dr Kwong Leen
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren.
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The Feb prayer list is available from Dn Choo Siang.
7. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class meets on the first Friday of the month at 7.30pm in church on the study of 2 Samuel. Do come and join us for a time of learning God’s Word.
8. The Pandemic book can be purchased through Dn Yue Kay (Hp: +65 97450311) or via email at [sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com](mailto:sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com).
9. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
10. 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**

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