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Year End Reflections and Actions



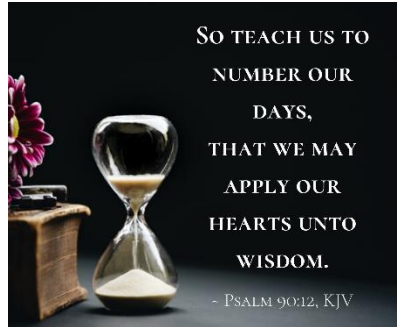
As we come to the end of 2023 soon, we need to soberly reflect and to learn to cultivate these 12 “Fuls” as the Lord enables us:

1. **Grateful** for everything God blessed us with, and always live with a heart of thanksgiving.
2. **Joyful** for every moment with our family and friends and church, despite the circumstances.
3. **Peaceful** in our dealings with others in the workplace and home, as much as it is within us.
4. **Faithful** in our calling and God-given duties in church and work and family.
5. **Watchful** for spiritual dangers and accidents and false teachings in these last perilous days.
6. **Fruitful** in all that we do with our commitment to the Lord as a testimony of His mercy and grace.
7. **Careful** in our walk in this treacherous world in the wisdom of God and by His strength.
8. **Mindful** of the faithfulness and goodness of our sovereign God and our tendency to stray away from Him.
9. **Purposeful** in our directions and goals in life with the glory of God as our aim in life.
10. **Dutiful** in fulfilling our responsibilities given by God, be it in the ministry or to our family or church.

11. **Hopeful** in the second coming of the Lord and living with fervency for the extension of His kingdom daily.
12. **Prayerful** for the needs of others and for the revival of our family, church and nation. in fervency and frequency.

Here are some things to ponder and work on thoughtfully as the Lord leads before the year 2023 is up.

Eph 4:1 and Psa 90:12.



Jack Sin

Pray for God's comfort and consolation upon Pr Mok on the homegoing of his wife, Carol.



Pray for the salvation of this Chinese worker at the CCK cemetery burial grounds who received a Chinese Bible from us.

Mission Team to India Report (31 Oct to 10 Nov 2023) - By Eld Jeffrey Cheong -

After an absence of almost 4 years, a 5-member mission team to India led by Rev Jack Sin with Mrs Angie Sin, Elder Jeffrey Cheong, Dn Paul Tan and Sister Peng Ha, returned to minister at 2 churches in Bangalore as well as visit a new church outreach at Hyderabad to minister there. It was a homecoming of sorts for some of the team members as they met up with many of the members of New Covenant



Church and Calvary Reformed Church in Bangalore. It was heartening and encouraging to see that many of them have continued to persevere and even grow in the faith despite the economic and social problems arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. It was especially gratifying to see the children who have grown up both physically and spiritually over the past 4 years.

The mission team left Singapore for Bangalore on 31 October. As the next day was a public holiday in Karnataka state, the team spent the day trying out the new metro system and visiting famous tourist sites like Cubbon Park and Lalbagh Botanical Garden. They also sat in an auto which brought them round many Government buildings like Parliament House, the High Court, Central Ministry Buildings and the residence of the Commissioner of Police.

The New Covenant BP Church Family Retreat began in the evening of the next day. The focus of the Retreat was on marriage and the family. Rev Sin spoke 2 messages on the ingredients of a covenant marriage and a healthy covenant family life while Elder Cheong



spoke on healthy communications for a healthy family life. Pastor Babu introduced the speakers and did the interpretation. A separate programme was arranged for the younger children during the Retreat.

A pastor's meeting immediately followed the conclusion of the Family Retreat where Rev Sin spoke on the 16th Century Reformation. About a third of the pastors present have not heard about the Reformation and many questions were raised to clarify the subject. The pastors hoped that Rev Sin would be able to return soon and conduct a 1 to 2-day seminar on the Reformation as the 2 hours set aside this time was far too short. The team was pleased to see that New Covenant BP Church had added a third storey to the church building over the past 4 years to reach out to pre-school children in the neighbourhood under the Kinderbees programme.



On Sunday, 5 Nov, the team went to New Covenant Church for worship. Pastor Babu chaired the service and did the interpretation with Elder Cheong giving the message on whether God or mammon is our master taken from Matthew 6:24. Rev Sin administered the Lord's Supper while Sister Angie ministered to the children separately. The team were greatly impressed by the fervency of the corporate prayer session

during the service. They saw how eager both the adults and children were hungry for the Word of God. This was in contrast to our churches back in Singapore with the lack of passion in our praying and with indifference to and minimal interest in the Word of God. Sadly, affluence has dimmed the appeal of the gospel in the lives of believers in more developed countries to their eternal regret.

The team managed to conduct a family seminar at Calvary Reformed Church in the evening. Rev Sin spoke on the Precepts of the covenant n family unit in the lives of Christians and how Christianity had elevated the status of women throughout the centuries. Pastor Lazarus chaired the service and also did the interpretation into Kannada. The message was well received with many of the members promising to obey the Biblical precepts to resolve many of their family issues they were experiencing.



On Monday, the team visited Covenant BP Church which had been established back in 2005. The team was impressed by the many pre-school children in Elim Preschool and their enthusiasm for both their secular and spiritual lessons. Some of the classes were already preparing for their Christmas presentations. That evening, the

team found out that the flight to Hyderabad for the next day had been rescheduled one day later. Instead of spending an extra day in Bangalore, the team decided to hire a vehicle to make the 650 km trip to Hyderabad. By air, by land or by sea, the gospel message could not wait for “it is the power of God unto salvation” (Rom 1:16). Hence early next morning, the team left on a 13-hour journey by car to Hyderabad.

The team was met by Pastor John Caleb at the hotel in Miryalaguda which is approximately 3 hours from Hyderabad. After a good night’s rest, the first meeting the next morning was a pastor’s conference at CALM Church. Once again, Rev Sin spoke on the Impact and Implications of the 16th Century Reformation and



its legacy. Again, many of the pastors had never heard of the Reformation and requested at least a full-day seminar to be held soon. Rev Sin also spoke that evening on the Elements of in Biblical revival from Eze 37. This was a well-received and timely message for the members. It had rained earlier that evening. But the rain stopped, and the team members managed by the grace of God to get back safely to the hotel by motor bike and auto.



The team visited the village chief the next day and were taken around the rice fields owned by the chief's family. All 3 members of the village chief's family are worshipping in CALM Church. In the evening, Sister Angie taught the village children some English songs before telling them of the tabernacle of God and the many pieces of furniture there.

This was followed by a time of games led by Dn Tan. Both the children and adults enjoyed themselves tremendously. In fact, some of the parents laughed so much that they were in danger of falling off their chairs. Pastor John Caleb mentioned that normally the parents do not attend the children's programme. Their participation was a tremendous encouragement to both him as well as the team members.



As the team concluded its ministry to India on 9 Nov, it made a stop at Pastor John Caleb's father's home and church to visit and have some sweet fellowship en route to Hyderabad Airport. The team made brief stops at Maria Cathedral in Nalgonda and a large dam which separates the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and supplied the water to these 2 states as well. We bid farewell to Pastor John Caleb and his wife Suzy at the airport.

As the team members took a small snack before boarding the plane, a couple (and Mrs Parul Saler)and their son observed our praying before the meal and asked whether we were Christians. This led to a discussion of Christianity and the family indicated interest in joining the Sovereign Hope service when they would be in Singapore for a short vacation the following week. Truly the



Lord opens doors most unexpectedly. This reminds us to “be ready always to give an answer to every man who asketh you a reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Pet 3:15).

The greatest takeaway for myself is the passion and enthusiasm of the believers in the 3 churches. Despite their simple lifestyle with many of them being farmers and construction and daily-rated workers, they continue to hold on to their faith with great fervency and trust. Their undivided



relationship with the Lord brings many of our churches in Singapore to shame. I hope and pray that as their economic situation improves in the years to come, the members do not become so money-minded that money and what it can buy shape and occupy most of their thinking. I hope they continue to possess their simple faith for that is surely the narrow gate to heaven.

In conclusion, the team members feel that it might be better to break up the Indian trip into two as many of the members were feeling a trifle fatigued after the conclusion of the Bangalore ministry. Perhaps this was due to the fact that all the team members are in their 60s and 70s. With 2 separate teams, one going to Bangalore and one to Hyderabad, more members in the church can have the opportunity to visit and minister to our Indian brethren. In this connection, we have the well-known example of the Apostle Paul and Barnabas leading 2 separate mission teams, Paul with Silas and Barnabas with John Mark, to minister to the unbelievers around the Mediterranean Sea region in Acts 15:36-41. Indeed, God has been good to all the team members in seeing them safely through the 10 days with minimal health problems. To God be the glory!

Memory Verse

2 Thess 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Lord's Day Sunday Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on ***The Body of Christ & its Doctrinal Stand (1Tim 4:6-16)***", the quarterly series on "***The Nature and Duties of the Body of Christ***".
3. Next Sunday, Pastor will preach on "***The Body of Christ & Effectual Evangelism (Matt 18:1-20)***".
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service are as follows:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith - Pastor
 - Studies in 2 Chronicles - Dr Kwong Leen
5. The Sunday morning worship service on **24 Dec** will be a special **Christmas Eve Service**, followed by a **Fellowship Lunch** and **Carolling Outreach at All Saints Home (Tampines St 44) at 2.30pm**. Those who are interested to come must **inform Dn Yue Kay by 17 Dec.**
6. **Sovereign Hope Worshipers Christmas Lunch Fellowship** is hosted by Albert and Janet at their home on **Sat 23 Dec (max capacity of 20 persons)**. **Register with Dn Yue Kay by 17 Dec.**
7. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on Kingdoms, Covenants and Canon of the Old Testament and the Parables of Jesus. Join us for a time of profitable learning. [Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode:625551]
8. Pray for our brethren in their travels: Paul Kong (24/11 - 4/12), Agnes Ho (28/11- 7/12), Dn Paul (28/11- 18/12).
9. 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. [Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode:218178]
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**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.
