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Taking a Stand for Christ Against “Jesus Christ Superstar Musical”

We noted with grave concern that the coming rock play of “Jesus Christ Superstar Musical” by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice has been approved for screening in August 2026 at The Marina Bay Sands in the name of entertainment and artistic expression with an advisory NC16 rating.

It is regrettable that this Play is approved and allowed to be performed here in Singapore despite our sound and correct emphasis by the authorities on mutual respect for religious harmony in our multi-religious and multi-cultural nation. The National Council of

Churches of Singapore (NCCS) and Alliance of Pentecostal & Charismatic Churches of Singapore (APCCS) have issued statements on this matter stating their grave concerns in a measured manner (and there could be others as well).

The movie that was shown in 1973 received strong objections from the local Christian community then and the authorities noted its unsound content. In the 1974 Film Ban, the film adaptation though was originally approved for theatrical screening in Singapore in 1974., was however subsequently banned by the Board of Film Censors. **The Board stated that the movie “distorts the history of Christianity and is objectionable to followers of the faith”.** (The New Paper dated 14 June 1974)

We noted the sound and honourable decision of the Board of Film Censors then and it was reported that the Minister of Culture then, Mr Rajaratnam wisely decided to ban the film due to the need to protect Singapore’s multiracial and multireligious harmony. We pray that such prudence and godly discretion will prevail in our generation.

The content of the musical (if it is based on the movie of 1973) have elements that distort the correct understanding of the historic Christian faith. As true followers of

Watch,
stand fast
in the faith,
be brave,
be strong.

1 Corinthians 16:13

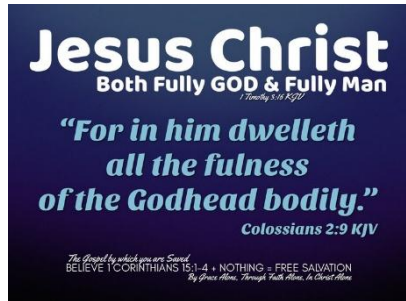
Jesus Christ, we should not support it and also warn and counsel others due to its offensive nature and distorted view of our Christian faith.

The musical promoter, Base Entertainment attempt to cover themselves with this weak inexcusable statement:

"that the production is presented for entertainment purposes only and is not intended to be a biblically accurate representation of the life of Jesus." (Strait Times dated 11 June 2026)

There are at least 4 reasons why we, as Bible-believing and Christ-honouring Christians who love and fear God, are against the screening of this play in Singapore for the sake of both truth of the Christian religion and for the good of our nation.

1. **It undermines the Deity of Christ. Our Lord Jesus** is presented in this Play as a conflicted fallible man, frustrated and emotionally confused, with much negative emotions struggling hopelessly with his destiny that is contrary to what is recorded in the holy Scriptures. **The Deity of Christ is a cardinal doctrine of the Christian faith and the very bedrock of historic Christianity, and this theologically inaccurate portrayal and demeaning of our Lord Jesus Christ is totally unacceptable.**



2. **It exalts Judas who is a betrayer of Christ**, where he is presented as an unhappy disciple and somewhat of a hero apparently by betraying Christ as he perceived that He had offended the Romans. This is totally preposterous where this hell-bound traitor takes centre stage and promoting this depraved protagonist positively to a potential audience. **Judas committed suicide in real life after getting his 30 pieces of silver (Matt 27:3-5) and this is not portrayed truthfully in the play. Instead, Judas is given the limelight in this play instead of Christ and he concludes with a final song but without the Resurrection message which is the gospel of everlasting hope to all who will watch it.**

3. **It ends with the crucifixion but no mention of the Resurrection of Christ.** It is enigmatic to us why the directors do away with the climax of the life of Christ our Savior is His victory over the grave that gives us the hope of eternal life? Why is this most important truth of the historic Christian faith purposely omitted from the play?

By stripping the most powerful life-changing Christian message of all times from this play, that Christ came in His blessed Incarnation culminating in not only His Death but also His final victory over the grave, death and hell in His attested Resurrection (1Cor 15:1-4), the directors of this play have intentionally deprived the audience of the truth that could potentially lead

some to everlasting life and change their eternal destiny. As Christians who love the Lord and lost souls, we should have no part in this.

Would you bring a friend to watch your Saviour being put down as a helpless and hopeless, conflicted and confused martyr in this play and not the victorious risen Son of God who has defeated death for us for an everlasting hope? This is a sinister satire of our Saviour and a blatant mockery of the Christian faith.

4. **It suggests a veiled Insinuation of an inappropriate relationship.** The play suggests in a veiled manner of a probable inappropriate relationship that Christ might have with Mary Magdalene who apparently had developed romantic feelings for our Lord without any biblical, historical or archaeological evidence or basis.

That was exactly the lewd conjecture of the author of the book, The Da Vinci Code of an alleged romantic relationship between our Lord Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene with no empirical or biblical or historical evidence in his deceptive and sinister twisting of that history of the holy grail, Dan Brown, possibly leading some (critics and sceptics and others) to have an erroneous or defective understanding of Christ, the perfect Son of God who satisfied the righteous demands of God the Father and kept the law perfectly before He went to the cross. This insinuation in this Play is totally unacceptable and blasphemous according to a senior BP minister.



The Strait Times reported on 11 June 2026 the following.

"Productions that denigrate any religion, incite hatred or ill will, or pose a real risk to religious harmony will not be allowed to be staged."

We believe in artistic expression in this country but not at the expense on running down another religious community with an irreverent and erroneous rock play content of its revered Founder, twisting the truth of its inspired and inerrant scriptures which is the touchstone of the Christian religion.

There are better forms of profit-making entertainment and artistic expression that we can have in this country than one that denigrates the faith of another religious group and prudence needs to be exercised in this matter.

Between the harmony of this nation and mutual respect for different religions here and the quest for entertainment and free artistic expression, with prudent sensitivity, we prefer the former over the latter with due respect to the Christian community here. We sincerely pray that this precedent does not open the flood gates for such future plays that can be potentially offensive and can possibly hurt the feelings of adherents of other religions here as well.

With due respect, we humbly state:

- We do not support the approved screening of Jesus Christ Superstar Musical.
- The musical denigrates the Christian faith and is theologically unsound, offensive and has anti-biblical elements to say the least even in the name of entertainment and artistic expression.
- Singapore has 17.1 percent of Christians from about 530 registered churches who love Christ and believe in the infallible teaching of the Word of God concerning His Deity, His Absolute Purity (ie. completely without sin when He was on earth) and the decisive Physical Resurrection of Christ as a cornerstone of our faith (according to 1Cor 15:17 “*And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins*”).
- The Jesus portrayed in this Musical is NOT the Jesus of the Bible but it is portrayed as such to a potential audience, and this is highly disturbing and hurting to us.

May the Lord be merciful to all of us that we will honour God and Christ our Lord and uphold and defend the truth concerning his perfect human and divine nature as fully God and man and not lend support to this unedifying ,theologically unsound and malevolent rock play but warn others too of its untruthful and disrespectful content to the cause of Christ and to the local Christian constituency (and genuine seekers too who will be misled)here and for the good of our country 's harmony and unity of its religiously diverse people

Yours humbly in Christ and for Christ's sake.

Church Session

Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church



Fraternal Lunch Fellowship with Dr Scott Hollander, Pastors, Elders and Leaders on Monday 15 June at SHBPC.

2026 Church Camp Reflections.....



- By Paul Kong -

Refreshed, Enriched, and Renewed

I am deeply thankful to God to have attended this year's church camp, held from 9–12 June at YELLO Hotel, Batam. The camp theme, *"The Biblical Perspective of the Christian & the Church in the Digital Age,"* was both timely and relevant. It was truly a refreshing, enriching, and spiritually uplifting experience.

Before arriving, I thought I was simply taking a few days away from the demands of work. Instead, I returned home with what felt like a spiritual "software upgrade" and a much deeper understanding of how Christians should view artificial intelligence and digital technology through a biblical lens.



One of the greatest highlights of the camp was learning from Dr. Scott Hollander, Associate Professor at Western Reformed Seminary, USA, through his four main messages. He spoke thoughtfully on Christianity in the digital age, Reformed worship in a technological era, missions and discipleship in a postmodern world, and the importance of upholding biblical truth in an ever-changing culture. His messages were both biblically grounded and highly relevant, helping us think carefully about how Christians should faithfully engage with the opportunities and challenges presented by today's digital age.

Through his teaching, I was reminded that Christianity is not merely a collection of abstract ideas or personal opinions. Our faith is firmly rooted in real historical events and centred

entirely on the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ. As the Apostle Paul wrote, *"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."* (1 Corinthians 3:11)

One lesson that particularly resonated with me was that, although artificial intelligence is becoming increasingly sophisticated, it can never pray for us, worship for us, attend church for us, or replace genuine

Christian fellowship. AI may answer countless questions, but it will never repent of sin, trust in Christ, or love the brethren. This brought to mind our Lord's sobering words: *"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"* (Mark 8:36)

Technology may advance at remarkable speed, but only Christ can save a soul.

I was also challenged by the reminder that technology makes a useful servant but a terrible master. In a world filled with endless notifications, digital distractions, and constant connectivity, Christians must remain firmly grounded in God's Word and committed to faithful discipleship. As the psalmist declares, *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."* (Psalm 119:105)

Beyond the Pulpit: Wisdom and Humility



I had the privilege of chatting with Dr. Scott outside the formal sessions. What impressed me most was not only his vast scholarship but also his genuine humility, warmth, and willingness to engage with everyone.

By the way, do you know how I tell the difference between a pastor and a scholar?

If someone preaches and I can understand everything, he is probably a pastor. If he preaches and I struggle to follow him, he is probably a scholar!

Dr. Scott is certainly a scholar. I recently learned that he has co-authored an upcoming book on the Book of Revelation, in which he contributed a chapter entitled *"A Classic Futurist Approach to Revelation."* I am very much looking forward to reading the entire book. Yet, speaking with him reminded me that true wisdom is not measured by the books we have read, the degrees we hold, or the papers we have published. Rather, it is measured by how closely we walk with Christ and how humbly we serve others. Scripture reminds us, *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."* (Proverbs 9:10)

True wisdom always leads us to greater humility and deeper dependence upon God.

Edifying Communication and Christian Fellowship



Another major highlight was Pastor Jack's workshop on effective and edifying communication. His teaching reminded us that communication involves far more than simply speaking. We often think we have expressed ourselves clearly, only to discover that the other person has understood something entirely different. At such moments, we realise that communication is both an art and a ministry.

Paul exhorts believers, "*Let no corrupt*

communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

(Ephesians 4:29)

I am equally grateful for the morning devotional messages shared by Pastor Jack, Elder Cheong, and Bro. Joseph Wee. Their messages helped us begin each day by anchoring our hearts in God's Word. Like the Bereans in the Book of Acts, we were encouraged to search the Scriptures daily and grow in our knowledge and love of the Lord. I was especially moved by Bro. Joseph Wee's testimony about his ministry in Africa. He shared how he has been serving the local communities by helping them build schools and homes, while faithfully proclaiming the gospel. Through these practical acts of love and compassion, many have experienced the love of Christ and have come to know Him as their Lord and Saviour.

Beyond the excellent teaching and workshop, the fellowship we shared was an immense blessing. After each session, we gathered in small discussion groups for meaningful and enriching conversations. And yes, despite this being an English-speaking camp, we even spontaneously formed a Chinese prayer group one evening!



I also had the opportunity to interact with several brothers and sisters from overseas. Pr. Myitta shared about the hardships of living in Myanmar and serving faithfully in his small Reformed church located in a remote village. His testimony reminded me of God's faithfulness amid difficult circumstances.

Bro. Rajesh, a cheerful young man from India, was always ready to lend a helping hand whenever the older members needed assistance. His servant-hearted

attitude was a quiet but powerful example of Christian love in action.

Sister Yashu and her mother, Vivi, travelled from Australia, and I was deeply encouraged by her mother's remarkable testimony of coming to faith in Christ through a telephone conversation that spanned Europe and China. It was a wonderful reminder that God can use even modern technology to accomplish His saving purposes.



Then there was Sister Joyce, who was in my discussion group—an intelligent young professional working in Australia whose thoughtful contributions consistently enriched our discussions. Her biblical insights and willingness to engage made our group discussions especially meaningful.

I must also mention Sister Irene Tan and her wheelchair-bound husband, Dr. Tan, who attended the camp despite the many challenges they faced. Their perseverance and steadfast faith were truly encouraging. Although the journey was not an easy one, they overcame every obstacle and were able to join us. We give all praise and glory to God for His sustaining grace.



We had brothers and sisters from six different countries, representing diverse cultures and speaking with different accents, yet we were united by one Lord, one faith, and one Saviour. As Paul reminds us, *"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."* (Ephesians 4:4–6)

We worshipped together, learned together, prayed together, shared meals together, and, of course, took countless photographs to preserve these precious memories.

A Glimpse of God’s Work at Filadelfia BPC

There was a planned itinerary for the campers to visit Filadelfia BPC. I was particularly moved by one moment when I arrived at the church. A little girl, about five or six years old, came up to me. At first, I thought she wanted to shake my hand, but instead she gave me a tight hug. I felt deeply warmed and welcomed. It was a simple yet powerful expression of hospitality toward a stranger.

Later, I learned that she was one of the children from the church’s orphanage homes, where the children are lovingly cared for and raised by the church. Some have now grown up and are preparing to enter university or step into the workforce.

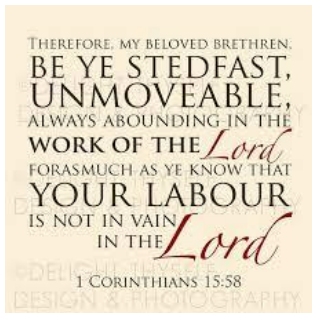
I was deeply encouraged to see how a small church can be used by God to do such a significant work. Yet I am reminded that in God’s eyes, nothing is small—everything done for His glory is precious and pleasing to Him.

I am truly glad to see Filadelfia BPC growing not only in numbers but also in spiritual maturity, firmly grounded in the Word of God. I praise God for their wonderful ministry.



Bringing the Camp Home

As I reflect upon this year's church camp, I leave with a much deeper appreciation for biblical truth, intentional discipleship, godly communication, and the precious fellowship of God's people.



Finally, my heartfelt thanks go to the church camp committee and to everyone who laboured faithfully behind the scenes. As campers, we only witnessed the polished programme. Yet we know that countless hours of planning, preparation, coordination, problem-solving, and prayer made the camp possible. Thank you for your labour of love.

As Scripture reminds us, *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."* (1 Corinthians 15:58)

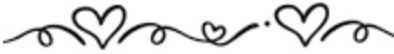
My prayer is that what we learned will not remain at the campsite. May these lessons accompany us home, shape our daily lives, and continue to transform us as we grow in Christ long after our suitcases have been unpacked. As James exhorts us, *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."* (James 1:22)

And if any of us happens to forget some of Dr. Scott's insightful points, perhaps AI can help refresh our memories. But no matter how advanced technology becomes, it is still our personal responsibility to obey the Word of God.

But be DOERS of the word, and not HEARERS only.
James 1:22

Before I conclude my sharing, let me revisit the theme verse of our church camp:

"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." (Daniel 12:4)



**INVITE
YOUR
FAMILY
AND
FRIENDS**



SOVEREIGN HOPE
bible presbyterian church

**Right or Wrong
Eternal Priorities**
Matthew 6:21-33

永恒之抉择 ~
对与错的优先次序
马太福音第六章 21 ~ 33 节

福音主日
六月廿八 · 十点早上

28 June 2026 | Gospel Sunday | 10AM
Pastor Jack Sin 孙友强牧师

Sovereign Hope BFC - Church camp
June 2026

My dear friend and Sister in Christ,

I so want to thank you for your very generous gift! I hope to be a very good steward of it, and to find some very special souvenirs to take home to my family.

This trip was my first to Singapore. And while the sights and experiences were tremendous, — and we ate too much food — the people of SHBFC were the best! Your thoughtfulness for me as a guest shines the love and kindness of Christ. And though our local churches are across the globe, we are truly family in the One Church.

I thank God for you, and I pray His richest blessings on you.

Yevarechecha Yehveh Ve'yishmerech a

May Yehveh bless you and keep you.

Ya'er Yehveh panav eilecha vi'chuneka

May Yehveh make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you.

Yissa Yehveh panav eilecha ve'yasem lecha Shalom,

May Yehveh turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Your brother in Christ,

Dr. Scott Hollander

Memory Verse

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our 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 "***Biblical Understanding of the Practices of a Local Church (Acts 2:42-47)***", continuing the quarterly series on "***Knowing What & Why We Believe***".
3. Next Sunday is Gospel Sunday. Pastor will preach on "***Right or Wrong Eternal Priorities? (Matt 6:21-33)***". Bring your family and friends to hear the Gospel of Christ.
4. After the refreshment break is a seminar by **Eld Dr Jensen Lim** on "***Reformed Worship***".
5. Chinese Fellowship meets every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom. [**Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178**]. Join us for time of learning on the Book of Samuel and Heroes of the Faith.
6. Come and join the **Door-to-Door Evangelism@Macpherson this afternoon** after lunch to invite residents to our Gospel Sunday Service.
7. 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: 625551**].
8. Pray for:
 - **Myanmar Missions: Myitta** (Hmawbi Township), **Lapuii** (Yangon)
 - **India Missions: Ps Babu** (New Covenant BPC), **Ashi** (Calvary Reformed Church)
 - **Gospel Peace Station: Joseph & Rachel Wee**
 - **Medical: Kin Hoong's daughter Joyce** [chemotherapy], **Sharon** [recovery from viral infection], **Kim Meng's mother** [heart condition], **Agnes' parents** [medical conditions & salvation], **Joseph & Lilian's Dil Annabelle Chan** [knee injury],
 - **Dr Jason & Bee Leng** (Taiwan Attachment, 26May – 23Dec), **Dr Sam** [Transition to new appointment in Ningbo], **Yusong** [Scholarship for King's College, London]
 - **Lily Almon** [citizenship application]
9. 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.