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Testimonies from Church Camp (7-10 Jun 2023)



How Wonderful Thou Art – by Paul Kong

Thanks and praise to the Lord! The church retreat of Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church, which took place from July 7-10 at the Pulau Springs Resort, was successfully completed! Looking back, every stage of the retreat preparation, from the initial planning, the detailed discussion of the on-going process, to the final confirmation before the retreat, was a collective effort from everyone. Unity and collaboration were necessary to achieve success by the guidance of Lord.

As a member of the church retreat committee, my main responsibility was handling logistics. This included compiling the participant information, program schedule, and information on the messages,



workshop, and devotional material provided by the speakers into the church camp handbook. After confirming all the necessary information was included, we printed approximately 40 copies of the handbook. Through this process, it

was grateful that everyone worked together and submitted information in a timely manner. They willingly served the Lord and I would like to give thanks and glory to Him.

Let us ponder on why the church hosts retreat event? We shall look at the following verse:

*And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and **rest a while**: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. (Mark 6:31)*

The key words here are “**rest a while**”. Yes, although diligent work is important, we must not neglect to rest. Jesus does not want us to serve Him to the point of exhaustion. We should rest with the Lord at the appropriate time, not only to gain rest but also to regain strength. Therefore, our church retreat is a time for us to rest and reflect.

Attending the church camp has given me a great spiritual gain and edify in the word of God, I'll briefly list a few points below:

1. Participation in a rich spiritual feast with consecutive themes and coherent messages which greatly nurtures and shapes the spiritual life of the body of Christ. (Numbers 24:16; Acts 7:38b)
2. Enjoying a wonderful fellowship with the God's chosen people, knowing each other campers deeper, encouraging one another and experiencing deeper growth and understanding in the spiritual life, and worshipping God together. (Romans 15:7; Jeremiah 32:38-41)
3. Having prayer time for each other and acknowledge the importance of prayer in the life of a Christian, also, the retreat activities including the precious devotional messages shared by three different speakers (Pastor Jack, Bro Joseph & Preacher Mok) during these three days. (Psalm 5:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)
4. Taking the opportunity to rest from busy daily affairs, have more communion with the Lord, nearer to God, ponder on His works and grace on oneself in the past, and be led and guarded by Him on the path ahead. (Psalm 34:8; Acts 17:27-28)
5. Being better equipped in the truth, regaining strength in the word of God, refreshing in spiritual nutrition, applying the scriptures effectively in daily



life, and being prepared for evangelism and defending for our faith. (Isaiah 8:20; 1 Corinthians 16:13)

6. I am so grateful to have Rev Philip Heng to be our church camp speaker, I've learnt so much from him, the faithful servant of God about the models of fearing and loving God, his humbleness and being devout and holy. Imitate the servant of God, just as he imitates Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1; Ephesians 4:21-24).
7. Thanks for the workshop message by Pastor Sin who explained to us the various stresses and anxieties faced by people in our modern society, analysed the causes, and provided a biblical perspective for solving problems. Undoubtedly, it has given everyone an intensive course in biblical counselling on how to de-stress the distress. (Matthew 11:28-30; 2 Corinthians 12:9)
8. Draw near to nature, learn to appreciate God's common revelation, the splendid flowers and blade of grass, listen to the birds' singing, the sounds of nature written by the hands of God, and marvel at His great creation. (Job 12:7-10; Amos 4:13)

Although there were some minor accidents during the camp, thank you Lord for keeping everyone safe, our church retreat has ended perfectly! We look forward to gathering together again next year to enjoy another rich spiritual feast!

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard, and went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.
(Psalms 133:1-3)

**Testimony by Devi
(Mrs Simon Chandra
Senan)**

I was looking forward to this year's church camp and got a little worried when my husband decided to join my sister and me. I was slightly sceptical because my husband had not recovered from his depression. I feared he would get moody and angry and would not be a good testimony to others. My second concern was on Monday, two days before the camp, I had signs of Covid infection. My nose was heaty, my taste bud was affected, and my sense of taste was gone. I did tests daily, and there



was a very faint line @ the 'T' marking. I also had a mild fever. I did not disclose them to my husband or sister to not discourage us from coming.

I was at a crossroads as to whether to continue or stay back, knowing that the latter would see my sister and husband backing out too.

I consulted Pastor about not feeling well, and he encouraged me to come and take the leap of faith. On Wednesday, the day of departure, I still had the same symptoms and wore a mask as added protection.



Amazingly on the 2nd day of the camp, my test was clear, although my cough persisted. My sense of smell and taste was back to normal.

God was so merciful and blessed me with good health. The Lord blessed my sister and me with the fellowship with Pastor Philip Heng. His testimony was truly inspiring,

and even my sister was dumbfounded. He spoke to her about accepting Christ, and, unfortunately, she said, "I don't like people forcing me." Pastor Heng assured her it was an invitation to be saved and not forced.

My husband, too, was blessed to have a warm welcome from all the members there. I can see he had a very close-knit fellowship with everyone there.

The messages and devotions truly blessed everyone as it touched our inner being *'Exercise unto Godliness in an ungodly world.'* We are very prone to temptations, selfishness, and greed by Satan's lies and deceit, and the message was a wake-up call for us and is calling us not to procrastinate. I am now more conscious of my thoughts, what I do, and what I say. The camp has taught me and is helping me become a more responsible and obedient Christian.

Please continue praying for all of us, especially my sister Shanti and my other three siblings, for their salvation.



Testimony by Simon Chandra Senan

I was recently discharged from the hospital after 22 days when I decided to join the Sovereign Hope Church camp where my wife is attending. I was in a dilemma about how to pay for the Church camp as I am unemployed. The government granted me the pay out at God's perfect timing, and I used it to cover my share of the camp.

My wife was a little concerned as I had not fully recovered, but I was adamant about going as I genuinely felt it was God's will. Many times, I was afflicted with doubts about going but my wife encouraged me.

I am so glad to stand firm as I have significantly benefited from the camp. The fellowship was sweet. Everyone was warm and kind, the place was conducive, and our needs were fully met. The most important was the Spiritual food. The message was a great blessing for me, especially.

I have been a Christian for many years now, but I know that this Spiritual food is needed for reaffirmation and reminder as we tend to take things for granted and confirm to the world with Satan's cunning ways.

Reverend Philip Heng's messages, the devotional messages, and the group discussions greatly blessed me as I pondered on God's Word from the Holy Bible. I learn to always be on my guard as Satan will always look for any loopholes as I journey through life.

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Matthew 6 verse 24

The camp teaching and learning have taught me to depend more on Him than myself and anyone else. I read the Bible, praise Him, and listen to spiritual songs daily to motivate me.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their warm hospitality and love towards me. It was a kind of therapy for my soul. Thank you for the beautiful sharing and learning from the messages, songs, discussions, workshop and devotions and fellowship. Please pray for my siblings and their respective families to accept Jesus Christ as their only personal Saviour.





Testimony by Ng Kim Meng

I would like to take this opportunity to share my thanksgiving.

When SHBPC announced the dates for this year church retreat, I told Dn YK I was not likely to be able to come as the last day of my lecturing before mid of 1st-semester break at the polytechnic was on 7/6 which coincided with the 1st day of the camp.

Then, somehow, when the final timetable was released by the polytechnic, I realized because of a couple of PHs in May and June, there was some reshuffling of the teaching calendar and my last day of lecturing was now on 6/6, just 1 day before start of church retreat date. I was really thankful & immediately signed up for the church retreat with my wife, Sharon.

Then on 28/5, I came down with Covid and it was pretty bad. I also lost my sense of smell. I was also concerned that I may pass it on to my wife & if so, we probably had to give the church retreat a miss.

Fortunately, 8 days later 4/6, I finally tested negative. And thanks God, Sharon also didn't catch Covid from me. So we could finally make it to the church retreat on 7/6 after a couple of twists and turns.

I was really blessed and enjoyed the warm fellowship with the campers at the 4D/3N SHBPC's retreat. What also warmed my heart is despite being away physically, when the campers were gathered having on-site prayer meeting on the 1st night of the retreat, our hearts were in unison to bear & uphold our SHBPC members (including Anthony and Michael) back in Singapore who are currently facing health challenges as we prayed & commit them to God in prayers.

I was also very much touched by the morning devotion by brother Joseph on 3rd day of the retreat. The message synched closely with my heart. We lived in a fallen world, and much as we want to experience victorious outcomes in our life challenges, it is not really an outcome-based journey as the world knows it. Rather it's a faith journey of simply trusting in Him, keeping our eyes steadfastly upon Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, amid frequent turbulent storms whirling around us. And there are times when we may not immediately see God's hand amid the heavy storm. And many things we may not fully understand. Yet we know we can always trust in His heart, in His sovereignty, in His grace, in His mercy & in His goodness.

That is the kind of faith journey in God that pleases God as we journey as pilgrim (not citizen or permanent resident) during our short 3score-and-ten-walk in this temporal fallen world that God has led us to walk.

And that also bring me to my next point. I was caught off-guard when Rev Heng suddenly called out my name from the pulpit on day 2 & asked point-blank what is my life verse. (Side moral of story - it's a bit "dangerous" when the pulpit speaker knows your name!) I was stumped. Not because I was unfamiliar with the many biblical verses. But rather there are just so many biblical verses over the years that I hold close to my heart, and I have not really given thought which of these would be the verse that is to become the predominant beacon that guide my innermost thought life, posture & direction in life.



But if I was to choose one, it's likely to be Psalm 23:1 - "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." Because that epitomizes for me that sense of absolute restlessness, trust and sufficiency in God, and in Him alone. Though the darkest storm and the deepest pit in our lives. And as the psalmist said, even as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we need fear no evil because He is with us. It is something so precious, and in fact priceless and only a child of God will be able to have that very special privilege. And certainly, it is something that is totally alien & foreign to a world which do not know or have Jesus in their lives.

The second last point I would like to share arising from the retreat has to do with the salvation of our loved ones and family members. I witnessed much heartfelt sharing (including tears shed) for loved ones & family members who have yet to be saved. May God hear & honour the heartfelt prayers & desire of many of us who so dearly yearn to see the day when our loved ones & family members come to know Jesus personally.

Finally, I'm also thankful for God's mercy & grace in protecting campers who fell (or had near-fall) during the retreat at the resort. Especially thankful for answered prayers of all the campers who were praying fervently for brother Albert (who suffered a bad fall on the last day of the retreat) and keeping our dear brother from serious injury & harm. Indeed, our God is gracious and merciful.

Oh, one final thing. On the 2nd last day of the retreat, somehow, my sense of smell started coming back. Was pleasantly startled when I realized I could suddenly smell the fragrance of the resort shampoo when I was having a shower. Thankful to God for little mercies like this.



We rejoice with
**Dr Ong Wei Han &
Dr Agnes See**
on their Holy
Matrimony
on 8 Jun 2023
officiated by
Rev Christian Cheong
and premarital
counselling
by Pastor Jack.



Memory Verse

Job 1:21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

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. Rev Nathan of New Life BP Church brings us God's Word this morning on "***The Divine Testing of Job (Job 1:1-22)***", continuing the quarterly series on "***Significant Events in the OT for our Learning***".
3. Pastor and Angie are away in the US from 13 June – 7 Jul to minister at Cub Hill BPC, Maryland on 18 June and attend and speak at the 21st ICCC World Congress 21-28 June. Do uphold them in prayer for safety in travel, good health and a profitable time of learning and fellowship.
4. Preacher Mok will preach on next Sunday, being Gospel Sunday, on "***Who will or will not be in Heaven? (Rev 20:10-15, Heb 12:22-24)***". Do bring someone to hear the Gospel of Christ..There will be evangelism next sun after SS class
5. Sunday School classes will follow the after the worship service:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith/ Book of Acts Combined Class – Pr Mok
 - Studies in 1 Chronicles – Dn Kwong Leen
6. For pastoral assistance from Jun 13 - Jul 7 when Pastor is away, kindly contact **Preacher Mok (hp: 80623408)**.
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 Parables of Jesus. Join us for a time of profitable learning. [Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode:625551]
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. [Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode:218178]
9. 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.
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**

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