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## SHBPC 5th Anniversary Thanksgiving - The Hand of God in the Life of the Church -

5 years is not a very long time, but it is a meaningful time for all of us at Sovereign Hope BPC. **Every church anniversary is a seasonal time to publicly give thanks, to glorify God, exalt Christ and reflect and recollect God's compassion, faithfulness and sovereign goodness to His covenant people as a memorial of His mercy and grace.**



Today is no exception for us at SHBPC. We are grateful to God for His divine leading. SHBPC is a living testimony that God is sovereign and that He rules and overrules all things according to His divine purpose and for His own glory.

There are 4 important thoughts, namely the 4 *M*s that we would like to share on this occasion.

### *M*andate to the Church

Mat 16:18 *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*



Eph 2:20 *And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;*

**The church is to be founded on Christ as our Bedrock and the Word of God as our foundation where the enemies of the cross have no power over it.** SHBPC stands foursquare on the inspired Word of God in the midst of a fallen and depraved world that needs the gospel of Christ. The church is called Sovereign Hope as it is founded upon the

sovereign will of God with a glorious hope in Christ who is our soon coming King and Judge, and for the advancement of His kingdom.





It is a joyful privilege that we have been used of God to minister to many souls in the kingdom of Christ. What we are doing in SHBPC is our sacred duty and prerogative. The thought of eternity for souls should be a grave concern in our giving to God and the wise management of financial stewardship as we remember to honour God with our tangible blessings that He has given to us too

just like many supported Christ during his ministry. Luk 8:3 says, *“And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod’s steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.”*

**With an eternal concern in view, let us serve God sacrificially and fervently to advance God’s work in promoting His kingdom to the saving of souls as He leads.**

Moving forward, let us sacrificially give of ourselves, the surrendering of our bodies, our time, talent and substance to the glory of God in the church-based gospel work. God will use our gospel witness, along with our time, talents and substance, for His divine glory and sovereign purpose. Paul exhorted us in Rom 12:1-2, *‘I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.’*

SHBPC has a spiritual **VISION for outreach to lost souls and in the patient watching and working as a vibrant active church.** Solomon says in Prov 29:18 that “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” Our sovereign God has a purpose for SHBPC. We need to be spiritually determined, devoted and disciplined to grow in our faith and to fulfil His holy will for us as a church (Phil 3:14). William Carey has well said, **“Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.”** We are to anticipate and do what the Lord calls us to do. (Mark 9:23)

We have been renting this place at Fide Vitae for our worship service for the past 5 years, for which we are thankful for the kind hospitality of Dr & Mrs Yap. There is a burden in our hearts to have our own place of worship and ministry in due time where we can be a worshipping, witnessing, working, watching church while waiting for Christ’s second coming (Rom 12:9-18). We are to be prayerfully involved in building the house of God and in serving Christ, that



souls be edified and some converted as the Lord wills and lives changed for eternity. **We pray for greater love and fear of God, fervour and gladness in Christ as the Lord tarries.** Let us all seek the Lord and do our part and continue to advance His kingdom, to give and labour harder, to pray more importunately and serve the Lord even better with greater zeal and love from our hearts. Paul exhorts us in 2Co 9:7, *“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”*



## *M*issions to the Salvation of Souls

Act 20:24 *But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.*

This verse is the church motto when we started in 2018. We serve a personal, sovereign God who is the Creator and Ruler of the universe (Acts 17:22–34) and He elects some man unto salvation unconditionally (Eph 1:4).



The church is committed to the Great Commission and evangelism and discipleship, and we have a regular outreach program to the neighbourhood with the giving out of tracts and Gideon Bibles as we sow the gospel seed.

Giving to the Lord in church missions is consistent with the burden of spreading the gospel around the world to the saving of souls (Mark 16:15). At the end of the day, this is the ultimate commission of the church besides the worship of God. Church meetings and fellowships are relevant in their proper place. Our Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for the

elect that He had called (Mat 1:21). He died for souls that He predestinated would be saved (Eph 1:4,5). As our church have been supporting missions in both India and Myanmar, in the different ethnic groups with the teaching for the Word and the gospel of Jesus Christ, we can pray and give to support this glorious cause practically as well by His divine provisions.

**Part of the mission of the church is to boldly proclaim the glorious message of everlasting life to souls and to nurture the flock on the Word of God from the pulpit.** The most vital part of true Reformed worship is that the Word of God is unashamedly preached every Lord's Day from the church pulpit to the conviction of hearts. **The clear declaration and exposition of the Bible is central to the vitality and health of the church.** We need to

give priority to the faithful proclamation and expository teaching of the gospel and the Word to other churches and Bible colleges in countries like India, Myanmar, Indonesia and Country X where the knowledge of the Word is an important matter, and they are committed to the learning of it.

## *M*aturity of the Believers in the Faith

Eph 4:13 *“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”*

The church exists also to strengthen and build up the faith and life of its believers through the faithful feeding and expository preaching and teaching of the Word of God. We are committed to help covenant homes in their marriages and to build their children or loved ones in the fear of God. **Teaching sound doctrine is paramount and worshippers and members can be properly grounded and rooted through the proper instruction from the pulpit, Sunday school classes, seminars, the annual camp, prayer meetings, fellowship meetings and the Neighbourhood Bible Class.** 1 Thess 2:13 says, *‘For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.’* It is our prayer that our members and worshipper will deepen their fear and knowledge of God as they worship and serve with us.



### **Conclusion**

The church is to be a spiritual lighthouse for Christ in a dark and decadent world of spiritual decline in these last perilous days. Let us therefore continue to grow deeper in the Word, pray more importunately and serve the Lord fervently till His return. Let us continue to strive to be a worshipping, witnessing, working, watching church while waiting for Christ's second coming (Rom 12:9-18). **We are to be soberly involved in serving Christ, as souls be converted as the Lord wills and lives are changed for eternity. In the days ahead, we pray for a greater fear of God, and fervour and diligence for His Word and Work as the Lord tarries.**

*Jack Sin*



## ***Anniversary Greetings*** ***(in addition to those printed in the Commemorative Booklet)***

Greetings in Christ. I was delighted to receive your beautifully produced 5th Anniversary booklet in the mail this morning. After a quick perusal I was amazed at the extent of the ministry of Sovereign Hope BPC over that period of time! Thank you so much for ensuring I received a copy. I will be settling down in due course for a more thorough reading of it



May the Lord continue to bless your labours and those with you. Maranatha!!! And may the Lord bless you both personally in every way. My best wishes in Christ –

***Rev Denis Shelton***  
***Presbyterian Reformed Church***  
***Sydney, Australia***

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1 John 1:7 *"But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."*

On this occasion of the 5th Anniversary of Sovereign Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church, I thank God Almighty for His sustaining grace in using SHBPC to be the shining light of the gospel to many churches in Singapore and around the world, especially during the Covid pandemic. I pray that God will continue to bless SHBPC abundantly as you grow physically and financially in the coming years to be a strong defender of a true biblical and God-fearing gospel church. Praise be to God, the Father for shining His light in, through and over Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church.

***Elder Samuel Tan***  
***Session Court, Vice-Chairman, Singapore Life Church (2017-2021)***

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Congratulations to the brethren of Sovereign Hope BP Church in Singapore who are celebrating their Fifth Anniversary. We join you to magnify the LORD and thank Him for His faithfulness upon the Church. May He bless you all on this special occasion.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, 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)

***Rev Famachoi***  
***Yayasan Harapan Nias Selatan***  
***Nias, Indonesia***

## Memory Verse

*Acts 20:24* But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

## Announcements

- Welcome to our 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Worship Service! We are so glad you are here to worship with us.
  - We have received greetings from Pastors and Elders of 29 churches and they are included in the Commemorative Book. Do ensure you get a copy of the book and a souvenir pen.
  - 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.
  - All are invited to join the Thanksgiving Lunch Fellowship after the worship service.
- Rev Philip Heng brings us God's Word this morning on "***The Witness of the Church in Dangerous Times (Acts 5:29-42)***".
- Pastor will preach next Sunday on "***Functions of the Church (Eph 3:13-21)***", continuing the quarterly series on "*The Deliberate Christ-Centred Church in Action (Book of Ephesians)*."
- Sunday School classes will resume next week.
- 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
- 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.
- 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!
- The **Annual Church Camp** will be held at **Pulai Springs Resort (Johor Bahru, Malaysia), June 7-10, 2023**. Rev Philip Heng is our camp speaker "***Exercise unto Godliness in an Ungodly World***". Do set aside this time and join us for a time of learning, spiritual refreshment and blessed fellowship. Contact Paul Tan (hp: 8060 4412) for more information.
- 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.
- 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**