

Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar #04-06, Singapore 409022
Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
Website: www.sovereignhopebpc.org
Rev Dr Jack Sin: 91160948 (hp) / jacksin710@gmail.com
Elder Loke Tat Luen: tiloke822@gmail.com

When a Vision Turned into a Mission

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.



On 16 May 2023, we brought 10 others with us and visited the ***Doulos Hope***, the 5th missionary ship by OM which was docked here. A staff Andy from the UK gave us a briefing of the ministry of OM. We gave through him our latest SHBPC commemorative book (2023) and the missions book on Frontlines in Gospel Missions (2003). I bought a book by Elaine Rhonton called *The Doulos Story* (1997) and started reading it. Here are some insights from the book below.

It has an interesting account of how the founder, a 19-year-old student George Verwer (who went home to be with the Lord in early April 2023) was converted at a gospel crusade in 1957 and was burdened to share the gospel with others.



He started reaching out personally and influenced other students and even went to Mexico for missions but felt he needed to be more effective in outreaches including overseas.

One day, he had a novel idea of getting a boat or ship that can bring him to far off places to share Christ, have a floating Bible Study class and a Christian bookstore and much more. He conceived of the ministry of OM - Operation Mobilisation - which was what he literally did, getting people involved.

He met up with a Christian friend, a marine engineer and discussed and prayed about it. It was not just a wild dream. Then more people got excited and were inspired by his vision. During that time in the 1970s, he bought a 2319-ton ship which later was called **Logos**. Its maiden voyage was in 1971 to India and it became a floating bookstore where many came and bought from it. It also became a base for the training of Christian workers.

Later, there was a company the Coastal Lines who was selling off an old ship, Franca C for USD900,000. They contacted the company and bargained to USD770,000 and started to raise funds for it. By the higher hand of God, they raised the money and bought it including another needed sum to refurbish it. They decided to name it **Doulos** as it would be a slave or servant of God serving Him in the high seas.



After much prayer, God provided more personnel and resources and much more as deck officers, cooks, charge hands technical staff and others joined in the team and the ship was ready to sail to Europe and Latin America in 1977, a gospel ship to bring the good news to far off nations and teach the Bible and discipleship and other spiritual projects to the enrichment of souls.

All these 40 odd years, the Doulos have been to the African continent, India, Europe Asia and even Russia and had met with dangers of all kinds but the Lord preserved them all. They organised seminars and conferences on board to train and equip Christian workers from all over the world. They also distributed tracts and organised a Bible correspondence course. provided medical services and involved local churches as well. They faced much financial challenges, but the Lord supplied their needs at the right time as they prayed and looked up to the Lord. They organised short term mission trips for church workers the local communities and many were blessed by this vehicle of opportunity to learn and serve the Lord on board the ship.

Today the work of OM has grown, and it has offices in 108 countries with 6,800 staff because a young man dared to dream God's dream and make it a reality.

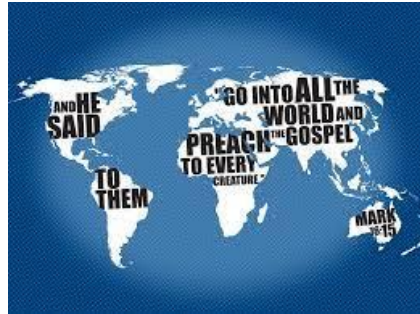
Is there a Verwer's spirit somewhere in any one's heart today?



A dream can remain an illusion, but a God given vision can be a reality in the will of God in due time.

We challenge our students to pray and do something for Christ in their country even if it may be impossible at times.

Our God specialises in impossible missions and that was how William Carey, Adoniram Judson, Hudson Taylor, David Livingstone, William Burns and others did for the worldwide missions when they dared to work out their dreams by the Sovereign will of God. You never know what the Lord can do in due season.



Conclusion

In Matt 28:18 -20, *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

We pray that the new OM leaders will have the same gospel vision of George Verwer in the saving of souls. As we seek the mind of the Lord In our church ministry and missions, we need 2 KPIs in the church today, namely to:

Keep People Illuminated (through the Word)

Keep Person Interceded (by prayer)

Let us seek the Lord in prayer for a renewed vision and burden as to how we as a church may fulfil the Great Commission to the extension of the kingdom of God and the saving of souls before the Lord returns soon.

Jack Sin



LORD'S DAY PROGRAMME FOR APRIL - JUNE 2023

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE OT FOR OUR LEARNING

MAY
2023

14*

The Marks of Awakening under
a godly King (2 Kings 23:1-14)

The Uncompromising Testimony
of Daniel (Daniel 1:1-14)

21

MAY
2023

MAY
2023

28

The Sober Challenge of Samuel
(1 Samuel 12:14-24)

The Effectual Supplication
of Elisha (2 Kings 4:26-38)

4

JUNE
2023

JUNE
2023

11*

The Reason for Triumph at
Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:17-40)

The Divine Testing of Job
(Job 1:1-21)

18

JUNE
2023

JUNE
2023

25

Gospel Sunday - Who will or will not
be in Heaven? (Revelation 20: 10-15,
Hebrews 12:22-24)

Memory Verse

1 Sam 12:24 *Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.*

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 Tan Eng Boo brings us God's Word this morning on "***The Sober Challenge of Samuel (1 Sam 12:13-25)***", continuing the quarterly series on "***Significant Events in the OT for our Learning***".
3. Pastor will preach next Sunday on "***The Effectual Supplication of Elisha (2 Kings 4:16-35)***".
4. Pastor and Angie are away in Hong Kong from 23 May to 2 Jun 2023, ministering at the Seminar and Worship Service of Grace Reformed Evangelical Church. For pastoral assistance during this period, kindly contact Preacher Mok (hp: 80623408).
5. Sunday School classes after worship service:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith/ Book of Acts Combined Class – Pr Mok
 - Studies in 1 Chronicles – Dn Kwong Leen
6. 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]
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:218178]
8. 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***". **There will be a Church Camp Briefing after the worship service next Sunday on 4 Jun 2023.**
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.
