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How Can We Develop Good Reading Habits Today?

*"Till I come, give attendance to reading,
to exhortation, to doctrine."
1 Tim 4:13*

We live in a distracted world and reading good books is the last thing on many minds as the social media and the handphone games and trivia takes over. **This is a good question to cause us to think on doing the right things for our souls, not just the things we like.** As we approach the end of the year and make new year resolutions for 2026, consider the following tips on how to read more effectively and grow in our faith for our own spiritual enrichment.



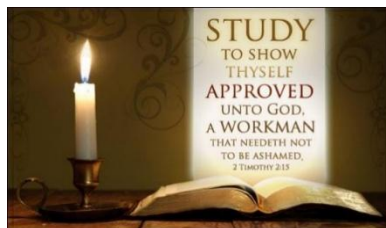
Tips on Effectual Reading

1. **Consider the place, pace and time of the day** that suits you best (i.e. one book a month or more in the morning or nighttime).
2. **Pray first for a clear mind and read and think carefully.** Let good Christian books give you the food for thought. Assess critically what you read and analyse the content. Be discerning and do not just believe everything you read except for the Bible. Think and muse it over in your spare moments. Is it true and relevant or is there something to avoid or a lesson to learn or a pattern to follow? **Write down your thoughts, if any, in a book when you learn a new phrase, fact or word and use it the next time you can (i.e. how one may improve his vocabulary).**
3. **Read with discernment and talk about it.** Interact with sound authors Like John MacArthur Joel Beeke, AW Pink, Spurgeon, Ferguson and Peter Masters and the puritans among others Share with others the impressions that you have about the book and **make written or verbal recommendations on the books to others after assessing its relevance and importance (ie especially from the Bible).** Let them share with you their thoughts as well. This will greatly enrich edifying spiritual conversation, and it is one of the best ways to test and share your knowledge.

4. **Read and write about it and be challenged.** Let a good Christian biography like William Carey, Adoniram Judson or David Brainerd fire you up and write a review or summary of it and give credit to the author when credit is due. Let a sound doctrinal book (i.e. on Christology or Soteriology or the second coming of Christ) lead you to understand God better (i.e. William Guthrie, The Christian's Great Interest). Let a devotional book stir up self-examination and a greater consecration and service to Christ and write it on a blog or a diary.
5. **Read systematically and widely.** Do not read only one genre of book (e.g. fiction or science only) so that your knowledge is not lopsided. Read a full range of vital topics in theology, church history, Old Testament or New Testament books on eschatology, Christian education, history, apologetics, Christian ethics, prayer, worship, economics, world events, youth issues or family matters, marriage etc. Read the local newspapers and Evangelical Times, Newsweek or Time Magazine or the National Geographic if possible.
6. **Read always with a pen or pencil** to underline, make remarks or write down key points and lessons learnt. Short notes are better than long memories. Always have a book 'on the go'. However little time you may have to spare in any week, try to read even if it is only a few pages. Once formed, the good reading habit will stay with you with constant discipline and practice for the enrichment of your souls (1 Timothy 4:13).
7. **Your first priority throughout life is to read, study, masticate, meditate and apply God's Word and grow in your fear and knowledge of God.** Read through the Bible, if possible, with 3 chapters a day over three years. **Other types of fruitful reading must never replace Bible reading time. Only the Word of God is infallible, inspired, sufficient and authoritative, and all other books are good only as they promote Bible understanding and sound application and the use of true knowledge** (2 Timothy 2:15). Do not waste your time on unedifying materials that rob you of your energy and resources and focus on the right content in good books that will build up in the faith and sound knowledge.

Conclusion

Readers are leaders and for believers, there is great benefit in knowing the right things and making an effort to be knowledgeable through diligent reading of the Bible and good books and you will be richly blessed with a good mind and be a more effective steward and witness for the Lord.



Hope this helps

Jack Sin

Pictures of the Dynamic Christian Life

- 4 An Active Member in Christ's Body
(Eph 4:1-16)
- II* An Obedient Sheep in God's Flock
(John 10:1-16)
- I8 A Mindful Pilgrim Citizen
(I Pet 2:9-12)
- 25 A Faithful Steward in God's Employ
(Matt 25:14-30)



January

- I 8th ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING
The Gospel & Fearing God in
Corporate Worship (Rev 14:1-7)
- 8* A Responsible Priest at God's Altar
(I Pet 2:1-9)
- I5 A Fit Soldier in God's Army
(2 Tim 2:3-4; Eph 6:10-18)
- 22 A Dedicated Debtor in Action
(Matt 18:26-35, Rom 1:14-16)



February

- I A Lively Stone in God's Building
(Eph 2:19-22)
- 8* A Disciplined Athlete in The Race
(I Cor 9:24-27, Heb 12:1-4)
- I5 An Honourable Ambassador of The King
(2 Cor 5:1-20)
- 22 Co-Heirs in God's Kingdom
(Gal 4:1-5; Matt 21:28-41)
- 29 GOSPEL SUNDAY
The Necessity of Having the
Spirit of God (John 14:1-26)



March

Lord's Day
Program for
Jan-Mar 2026

SOVEREIGNHOPE
bible Presbyterian church

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SHBPC Christmas Eve Baptismal Worship Service 24 Dec 2025



Baptism of Mr Low Chin Chye by Pastor, presentation of certificate by Eld YK and Bible by Dn Paul.

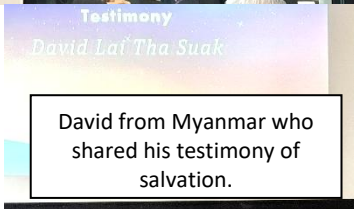




Some of our Special Visitors...



Mr Lee from Macpherson Estate, a contact from door-to-door evangelism on 21 Dec.



David from Myanmar who shared his testimony of salvation.



Jianlian & Mdm Zeng Zaoyong who was given a Bible.



Kelvin & Nancy, couple whom we met in New Zealand.



Reflections on BLR Mission Trip (11-15 Dec 2025) - Mrs Zoey Lim -

Our mission trip to Bangalore began with much uncertainty. What was meant to be a team led by Rev Dr Jack Sin took an unexpected turn when he was unable to travel together with the team. This left Elder Yue Kay, Bro John Wong, Shaun, and me to continue the journey on our own. Among us, only one had been on a mission trip to Bangalore before. Not knowing what to expect, we could only pray, seek God's will, and trust Him to lead the way.



There was a deep sense of nervousness as we prepared, especially as we were keenly aware of the risks involved in sharing the Gospel with non-believers in India. Yet Rev Dr Jack Sin continued to encourage us, reminding us to seek if it is God's will for us to continue going on this mission trip. Shaun and I also felt particularly inadequate about leading children's programs, as we lacked experience and had previously been discouraged by some comments. Despite these fears, we chose to take one step at a time and to trust God fully. Slides were prepared and songs were chosen, and we committed everything to the Lord, holding on to Jesus' heart for children (Matthew 19:14).

Upon arrival, we were deeply touched by the warm welcome from the New Covenant BP Church team. On the first day, they generously brought us on a brief tour of the city, including the Parliament building, High Court, library, and gardens, travelling by "Auto," similar to a tuk-tuk. It was a joyful time filled with laughter and fellowship with Amulya and Thomas. I was especially impacted by their love and kindness in caring for us so thoughtfully. Even after sending us back safely, they had to ride their motorcycle for up to 45 minutes through Bangalore's infamous traffic just to return to the church/home area. Their sacrificial hospitality reflected Christ's love in a very tangible way.



On the first night, our mission team gathered to surrender the program into the Lord's hands through prayer before turning in to rest. Morning came quickly, and soon we were on our way to the kindergarten located within the church premises. From the moment we arrived, we were warmly welcomed by the teachers and the little ones, and we felt an

overwhelming sense of love. Ps Babu and his family were also there to greet us, and we had a brief catch-up before heading upstairs to minister to the KinderBees.

We conducted two sessions with the kindergarten children and their teachers together. Most of the children came from different faith backgrounds, and many of the teachers were non-believers as well. Despite this, the atmosphere was filled with joy, openness, and warmth. During our time with the children, we shared about Jesus being the Light of the world, reminding them that His light shines in the darkness and brings hope and salvation. As Christmas was approaching, we tied this message to the reason Jesus came into the world—to redeem us from our sins and to save us from eternal punishment.



Through simple stories, songs, and illustrations, we encouraged the children to remember that Christmas is not just about celebration, but about God's great love shown through His Son, who came to save us from darkness into glorious light.



We had so much fun together, and the children loved unconditionally, showing genuine curiosity towards us. Even a simple gift like a lollipop brought great joy, lighting up their faces with smiles. Their sincere gratitude deeply touched me and reminded me that although they have very little materially, they possess hearts full of joy and contentment.

As evening approached, we gathered for a special dedication service of the new sanctuary on the top floor, committing it to the Lord. The church's journey stood as a testimony of God's faithfulness. It began with just the ground floor, and as the Lord provided through generous giving, the first and second floors were built. With the steady growth of the kindergarten on those floors, God made a way for the final third floor to be completed as the sanctuary. Today, the congregation has a spacious place to worship the Lord together, a visible reminder that God is faithful to provide when His people trust Him step by step.



The following day, we were blessed with a precious opportunity to visit Preacher Praveen's home. We shared a meaningful time of devotion and warm fellowship with his family, which deeply encouraged our hearts. During the visit, we also met Ps Babu's mother, whose steadfast faith became the starting point for her entire household to hear the Gospel.

We also met Ps Babu's father, who had initially opposed his wife's faith. However, out of a desire to protect his family from outsiders who were harshly criticising them, he began attending church with them. In God's perfect timing, what began as an act of protection became a path to salvation, and he too came to place his faith in the Lord. Through Ps Babu's mother's faith, the Gospel reached the entire family, and they were saved by God's grace.



I took the opportunity to thank Ps Babu's mother for her courage and faithfulness. Despite strong opposition from family and friends, she remained steadfast in following Christ, who had saved her daughter's life and chosen her and her household to believe in Him. Hearing her testimony led me to reflect deeply on my own stance of faith in Christ among family members who do not believe or who hold opposing views towards Christianity. I was greatly encouraged and strengthened by their family's testimony, reminded that God can work powerfully through faithful obedience, even in the midst of resistance.

That night, we went back to New Covenant BP Church to minister to the children from the congregation. Similar to the other children's sessions, I found the children so focused and engaged throughout. When everything ended, I started to fill up some



goodie bags to be used the next day. Joshua's three children, who are the children of one of the church leaders, stood by me and asked if they could continue helping. Their eagerness to serve touched me beyond words. Their simple willingness reminded me of Jesus' words in Matthew 18:3, where He says, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." It was a quiet yet powerful reminder that childlike humility, eagerness,

and obedience are precious to God, and He can use even the smallest acts of service to shine His love.



The highlight of the trip came next—the 25th anniversary service for New Covenant BP Church on Sunday. It was a deeply moving and joyous occasion, celebrating God’s faithfulness over a quarter of a century. The service was filled with heartfelt worship, testimonies, and a strong sense of unity among the congregation. I was struck by the way God’s provision and guidance were evident in every aspect of the church’s journey—from its humble beginnings to the growth of its congregation and the expansion of its facilities. Being part of this celebration reminded me that God’s work is often a long, patient process. Just as He faithfully brought the church from its first steps to this milestone, He continues to guide His people through every challenge, small or great. I felt privileged to witness the joy of the congregation as they reflected on God’s goodness and rejoiced in His faithfulness.



However, as with all good things (or trip), everything must come to an end. We were blessed to have the opportunity to visit Calvary Reformed Church, where we ministered to the children during the afternoon and then to the congregation in the evening. It was a humbling and joyful experience to see God at work in another community, and to share His love through songs, stories, and fellowship. The children’s eagerness to learn about Jesus



and the congregation's warm reception reminded us once again that God's work transcends borders, languages and even backgrounds!

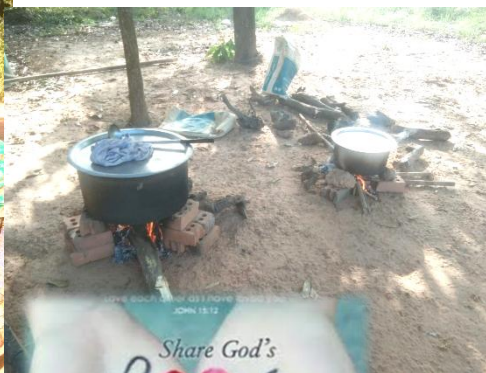
Reflecting on this trip, I am deeply grateful for how God carried us through every moment—from uncertainty, fear and nervousness to joy, gratitude and celebration. I saw His faithfulness in the children's eager hearts, in the warm hospitality of the church families, and in the powerful testimonies of faith that transformed entire households. This journey reminded me that God calls each of us to step out in obedience, even when



we feel inadequate, and that He equips and strengthens us for the work He has prepared. I am encouraged to trust Him more fully, to serve with humility and joy, and to be steadfast in prayer, knowing that even small acts of love and faithfulness can bear eternal fruit. Truly, His grace and provision were evident in every moment, and I leave this trip with a renewed heart to follow Him wherever He leads.

Christmas Outreach by Pr Myitta Yangon, Myanmar





Memory Verse

Acts 17:34 Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

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 "***The Content of the Apologist on Mars Hill (Acts 17:18-34)***". concluding the quarterly series on "***Understanding Church Growth from the Early Church (Book of Acts)***".
3. At **Watchnight Service 31 Dec at 8pm**, Pastor will preach on "***The Worth of a Soul (Matt 16:21-27)***". Bring your family and friends to end the year worshipping the Lord and hearing His Word. The Lord's Supper will be served
4. Next Sun, Pastor will preach on "***An Active Member in Christ's Body (Eph 4:1-16)***", commencing a new quarterly series on "***Pictures of the Dynamic Christian Life***".
5. Chinese Fellowship that meets every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom. [**Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178**].
6. There will be a **Church Choir** song item at the 8th Anniversary Thanksgiving on 1 Feb 2026 led by Daniel Phang. **Register** on the church notice board.
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:
 - **Medical: Micheal** (recovery from fall), Angie's brother **Anson** (2nd carotid artery stenting on 2/1), Angie's cousin **Reuben** (chest tumour surgery on 12/1 in Auckland).
 - **Travels: Joseph Wee & family** (Taiwan: 20/12 to 10/01), **Dn Paul** (Taiwan 27/12 to 4/01).
 - **Geok Pin's father** [health & spiritual growth], **Agnes' Parents** [health & salvation], **Mrs Philip Heng** [stroke recovery]
 - **Lily Almon** [citizenship application], **John Almon** [NYP application]
 - **Myanmar & India Mission Outreaches**
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.