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Thanksgiving & Gratefulness to our Caring Jehovah

1Chr 16:34 says, "*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!*"

Someone once said, "A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all the other virtues." As we remember Thanksgiving Day, I am soberly reminded of

1Thess 5:18 which says, "*In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*" ***Isn't every day a Thanksgiving Day for all the redeemed of God that should result in Thanks-Living too?***

Godliness and gratitude are companions along the road to the Celestial City, and passed the Delectable Mountains. Of all the people of the world, the elect of God has good reasons for a constant grateful heart and soul unto their Redeemer. Psa 136:1 **An ungrateful Christian is a contradiction in terms. Thanksgiving is an opportune time to reflect and give glory to God for all that He has done for us**

We thank God for enabling us to have driven over 3,500 km and walked over 130 km these three weeks in the South Island and God had preserved our health and strength and protected us all this while by His everlasting arms. It is amazing that we travelled 10 hours by flight to this country, visited various churches in different cities and towns, and by God's providence had surprised meetings with people that known us over the years of our ministry. We stayed in different places in a motorhome park, AirBnB and hotels, spoke to people of all races or ethnic background with the gospel and given more than 30 tracts.

Diaspora of the Mandarins

One of the amazing things during this trip happened in Dunedin. There is a saying that that Chinese people are all over and the four seas is their home - this is so true. **The Chinese came to New Zealand from China as early as the mid-19th century and worked as goldminers in Arrowtown, off Queenstown and many have**



settled in NZ over the years. They have contributed economically to the NZ nation by their productive work in opening shops restaurants, small businesses and in education and even in a religious realm as they set up churches and minister to the migrant community. Dunedin with 120,000 in population is one such vibrant city with a good Asian presence.

The Unusual Encounter

As we were considering where to worship on the Lord's Day of 23 Nov, we searched on the internet and decided that we would like to visit and worship at the Dunedin Chinese Presbyterian Church (DCPC). This church was started by Rev. Alexander Don (an Australian with Scottish roots) in 1897 to reach out to the increasing number of Chinese migrants in Dunedin. He went to Guangzhou to study Cantonese and Mandarin so that he could be more effective in the ministry. The church is now led by Rev Daniel Sun and his session of 2 Elders and Deacons. On that Sunday morning, as we were warmly greeted by the usher, a Chinese brother Li Jiaben 李家本 recognized Pastor Jack from a distance and came forward to identify himself and to greet us with joy ad this was unarranged but by the providential hand of God. It was a reunion for us with someone we ministered to



Jiabao was a testimony of our Chinese ministry Outreach to the Foreign Workers. He was working in Singapore for 5 years and in 2018 was preparing to relocate to New Zealand to work. This photo showed the books Pastor Jack gave him on the last meeting before he left Singapore. Jiabao shared that when he came to Singapore to work and was invited to Eden BPC, he attended with the intention of getting a free meal. His mindset from his experience in his

hometown in China was that only those who have problems go to church. As he attended church, he then observed that people of various vocations attended church that included the learned and professionals. He then took a greater interest and as he became more regular in attending church, he heard the Word of God being taught and the Gospel of Christ. He came to saving faith in Christ and was baptized in Eden BPC. As he had to work on some Sunday mornings, he came to our Chinese evening ministry and started attending regularly to be fed with God's Word and he shared that he grew in his faith under pastor Jack's teaching. Since 2018, he has been working in Dunedin. When he arrived, he asked his landlord (a non-Christian) for a Chinese church and was told about DCPC, of which he is now a fervent and faithful member. He was thus overjoyed to see us again in DCPC and we were delighted to reconnect with him. **Our labour is truly not in vain in the Lord. Little did we expect that our Chinese ministry had made such a great impact in the life of a soul here.**

He invited us to his house for dinner. His wife and teenage sons are still unbelievers. After dinner, Pastor Jack shared John 14:1-6 and we gave her our church Chinese gospel tract, a Gideon Chinese New Testament and a Singaporean souvenir. Pray that God will convict her heart to seek Christ.



We also met a sis Grace of DCPC who is studying In a Reformed Bible College to be equipped for the fulltime ministry. We gave her our church published book on Jonah as she is studying the minor prophets. We also had wonderful fellowship with Rev & Mrs Daniel Sun, and they have invited Pastor Jack to preach in their church the next time, if the Lord directs our paths again to Dunedin.

In the evening, we attended the Reformed Church of Dunedin. To our surprise again, we met a Singaporean couple, Kek and Yvonne who lives in Dunedin. They have heard Pastor Jack preached in one of the BPCs in Singapore. They also extended hospitality to us, and we had another blessed dinner fellowship at their home.



Conclusion

As we reflect on what happened during these 5 weeks of our sabbatical, we indeed see the guiding hand of God. He has a purpose for us to come to NZ and to meet up with these brethren and to share the Word with them.

There is much to be done here for the revival of the people with sound Evangelical preaching and teaching. There are many faithful brethren here labouring in the work of God. Raymond and Alison (our dear friends for many years) are seeking the will of God to serve Him fulltime, Anne and Tim together with Jeremy and others are serving faithfully in Emmanuel church in Auckland together with Rev David Yan and his team.

We thank God for the Reformed witness here and pray that souls will be saved by His will as that gospel seed is sown in the hearts of men through the gospel tracts given out during these 6 weeks to different people whom we met .

Paul reminds us in Col 3:15 *"and let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, which also ye are called in one body and be ye thankful."*

Pastor Jack & Angie

Memory Verse

Acts 11:24 For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

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. Rev Cheong Chin Meng brings us God's Word this morning on "***The Good Example of Barnabas (Acts 11:22-30)***", continuing the quarterly series on "***Understanding Church Growth from the Early Church (Book of Acts)***".
3. Next Sunday, Pastor Jack will preach on "***Launch of the First Missionary Journey (Acts 13:1-26)***".
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service are:
 - Sunday School on "The Fruit of the Spirit" (Bro Joseph Wee)
 - Studies in Job (Dr Kwong Leen)
 - Youth Class (Eld Yue Kay)
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on New Testament Foundations and the Psalms. [**Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178**].
6. Pastor & Angie are on sabbatical leave from Oct 21 to Dec 4. Rev Tan Eng Boo and Bro Joseph Wee will be available to provide pastoral support during this period. Do contact the session members for assistance when needed
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:
 - **Travels: Pastor & Angie** [returning to SG on 4 Dec],
 - **Geok Pin's family** [health and spiritual growth of father Mr Low and salvation of family members], **Agnes' Parents** [health & salvation], **Mrs Philip Heng** [stroke recovery]
 - **Joseph & Rachel:** GPS Christmas Outreach on Sat 13 Dec.
 - **Christmas Outreach at All Saints Home (Tampines)** on **Sat 20 Dec.**
 - **Christmas Carolling at Home of Jonathan (Joseph & Lilian's son)** on **Sat 20 Dec.**
 - **Joy's House Blessing Fellowship** on **Sat 27 Dec.**
 - **Dec Mission Team**
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.