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Ending 2025 with Truths that Last Forever

On 28 Dec at the final Chinese Fellowship meeting, one of the worshippers shared that he has learned much from the Word of God preached and grew in his faith at shbpc this year , a brother who has worked in Singapore for many years shared of divine grace in his work, a sister spoke of divine guidance in her service in church and another shared of his salvation and ministry in the Lord.

As we end 2025, are there things that last into the New Year and beyond that we can trust fully? **Are there Truths that do not change and will last for all eternity?**

We live in a fast-changing world and It is important to remember some vital truths that will last forever and lest we forget, here are some of them.

1) God of the Bible is Still on the Throne (Heb 12:3,4; Exod 3:14; John 8:58)

Remember that our God is Sovereign and He is in absolute control of all things and nothing happens without His permission. The omnipotence of God clears our spiritual visions and lens, makes us consider Him and His meaning into every step that we take. God exists — and that is a game changer for us in everything, despite the floods in Thailand and Malaysia, unrest in Myanmar, cyclones in Philippines, the recent inferno tragedy In Hong Kong, the 7.0 earthquake in Taiwan and the wars and tension in Europe, Israel in the Middle East and across the straits of Taiwan. He is still sovereign over all

2) Divine Plan for Repentant Sinners (Rom 5:8; John 16:27; Jer 32:40–41)

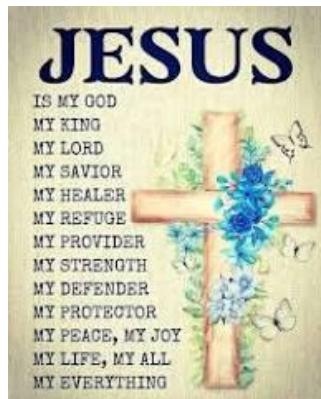
There is hope for fallen sinners. An important biblical truth of embracing Christ as Saviour and the experience God's ultimate power and plan concerning us, reminding me that He has set His affections on us unworthy and guilty sinners.



He is not indifferent to my needs, and we need to seek Him first and to confess and repent of our sins first and be forgiven and pardoned by the mercy of God.

3) Jesus is the Only Source of Eternal Comfort & Hope (Rom 8:28 & 32, 15:14)

Nothing on earth is worthy of total dependence. The central reality of all history is Christ and His death on the cross and His resurrection three days later. It is an objective truth that Christ came to earth, and He lived among man and He lived a perfect sinless life. This draws my gaze away from my own life to garner acceptance from God through my efforts. Furthermore, the outworkings of the atonement of the cross make clear that there is hope for those who believe even the worst testing or trial which can be for our ultimate good, no matter what happens to us. If God is with us and we are in the will of God, we need not fear what man could do to us.



4) All are Sinners in Need Divine Help (Rom 3:23, 6:23; Heb 10:14; 2Cor 5:21)

We need to know and recognize who we are. Our lives must be given to the beauty of divine imputed righteousness for our depravity. The question, "How am I doing here as a guilty sinner?" The answer lies in the need for Christ alone as personal Lord and Saviour by faith and evangelical repentance, and not trust in self nor men nor this fallen world.

5) Serious Consequence of a Literal Hell (Rom 3:10; 1Tim 1:15; Rev 20:12-15, 21:8)

There is a life after death for all but the important question is "location, location, location." There is an important purpose in life, but we need to put first things first, which is to seek and serve Jesus and maintain a sense of trembling gratitude before the Lord of our salvation. Thank God for the Gospel; be awestruck by the holiness and justice and righteousness of God and not end up in defiance in the lake of everlasting fire.

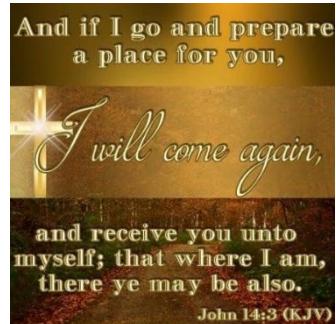
6) Death is Real – We need to Number our Days and Live Wisely (Psa 90:12; Jas 4:14; Heb 9:27)

Every year someone goes home to be with the Lord, and I have conducted quite a few funerals in 2025. Our lives are in the hands of God, and we need to redeem our time for the days are evil. Nothing is clearer than this simple and straightforward reminder that our days here on earth are numbered as Psa 90:12 says. *"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."*

How quickly our earthly mortality can be swept away one day. We need to think of ourselves as frail and ready to leave this world any time. Are you ready to meet your God?

7) Imminent Coming of the Lord (Rev 20 & 21, Rom 8:18, Tit 2:13-14; Heb 10:34)

The Bible speaks of the second coming of the Lord and His judgements of the world and an eternal place that we will be in the presence of our Lord (John 14:1-6). There is hope in eternal glory and the guarantee of indescribable bliss through Christ alone. Some will be in heaven with God, but it is only possible if I have true faith in Christ alone and confess and repent of our sins before Him.



8) Strangers & Pilgrims on Earth (1Pet 2:9-12; Heb 11:13-16)

There is a song that says, "*This world is not my home, I'm just a-passing thru; My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue.*" This should make me feel homesick as I do not fit into this worldly abode well. Do we speak with conviction about the everlasting Jesus and hold loosely to this temporal earthly life for we are just passing through as pilgrims and strangers, and we may be gone by tomorrow. Do not dig your stakes too deep for tomorrow we may break camp here. Something to think about prayerfully.

9) Focus on Things Eternal & our Hope in Christ (Col 3:1-3; Jer 2:13; Gal 6:14)

What takes your time and energy and substance? For many, it is money, career, family, leisure and pleasure. Every earthly pursuit of worldly wealth and assets will vanish away one day as my true Home is not of this world. Let us lay our affections on things above instead of this fallen world and concentrate on Christ and His kingdom and all these things will be added unto us. (Matt 6:33,34)

10) Full Assurance of Peace & Joy & Abundant Life (John 10:10; Phil 4:4; 1Pet 1:8&9)

Can we ever have full assurance of life in this uncertain and volatile world? Yes, only from the Word of God for those who believe in Christ as 1Jn 5:11-13 tells us, "*And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*"

We need to examine our lives right now if it is right before the Lord. We need the Lord daily, and we need to confess our sins and turn to Him in prayer for He will hear the cry of the sincerely repentant sinner.

Conclusion

These are precious things that we cannot buy with money or exchange with gold. These are reminders that should fill our mind always. **The end of the year is a time of sobering personal reflection and serious pondering. What is your life now? Let us make our lives count for eternity which is our hope in glory. We need to answer this question for 2026. "What on earth will we be doing for heaven's sake?"**

Jack Sin

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 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)

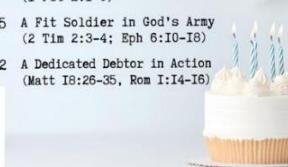


March

Pictures of the Dynamic Christian Life

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

Lord's Day Program for Jan-Mar 2026

SOVEREIGN HOPE
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Bengaluru Mission Trip 2025

Reflections

- **Shaun Lim** -

I would like to thank God first of all for His gracious enablement in allowing us to embark on this mission trip to Bangalore. As I reflect on this journey, I am reminded of how we first came to join Rev. Jack's mission team—we were invited by Rev. Jack, whom we had connected with during our church anniversary in Brunei, and I see now that this was God's providential leading.



At the same time, I was encouraged by the trust given to me by our church in appointing me as Mission Coordinator to assist in areas of accountability in missions, even though I had no prior mission experience apart from a short visit to Lawas through our church. The responsibility felt heavy, and I lacked clarity and direction in how to serve effectively in this role, knowing I needed firsthand exposure to missions. When Rev. Jack opened this opportunity for us, I recognized it as God's gracious hand at work, granting us a timely and kind opportunity to take our very first step into missions and to begin learning through experience how He leads and equips those He calls.

During the months leading up to the December mission trip, we met several brethren from India who shared openly about their situation and experiences, particularly how the authorities there have given tacit assent for local communities to take matters into their own hands to hinder the growth of others. We learned that Laws have been progressively tightened, and news reports of persecution there further influenced my thoughts. Coupled with the unforeseen change that led to Eld Yue Kay being the mission team leader instead, these developments gave us much to ponder and, it raised some concerns about whether we were meant to go. In our uncertainty, we shared our concerns openly with Elder Yue Kay and Rev. Jack.



However, Rev. Jack encouraged us and gently reminded us of the many truths found in God's Word, urging us to seek the Lord earnestly in prayer and to trust Him for His will to be done, rather than allowing fear or uncertainty to dictate our decisions.

Deut 31:6

Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Psa 56

- 1 *Be merciful unto me, O God: for man would swallow me up; he fighting daily oppresseth me.*
- 2 *Mine enemies would daily swallow me up: for they be many that fight against me, O thou most High.*
- 3 *What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.*
- 4 *In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.*
- 5 *Every day they wrest my words: all their thoughts are against me for evil.*
- 6 *They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they mark my steps, when they wait for my soul.*
- 7 *Shall they escape by iniquity? in thine anger cast down the people, O God.*
- 8 *Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?*
- 9 *When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me.*
- 10 *In God will I praise his word: in the Lord will I praise his word.*
- 11 *In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid of what man can do unto me.*
- 12 *Thy vows are upon me, O God: I will render praises unto thee.*
- 13 *For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?*

These words stirred our hearts and granted us the renewed courage we needed. We chose to trust in God's faithful Word and were convinced that this was indeed a crucial mission we needed to follow through on, doing whatever we could to assist. By faith, we committed ourselves to trust the Lord each step of the way, refusing to be distracted or discouraged by the surrounding circumstances.

Upon arriving in India, we were met with the warmth and hospitality of Ps. Babu and his family, who lovingly took care of every detail—from arranging our transportation to hosting us—while readily serving as our watchful local guides during our stay here.

On our first day of visiting various places in Bengaluru, we saw landmarks such as the Vidhana Soudha, which offered a glimpse into the city's rich and mixed architectural influences, as well as the State Central Library, built by a Maharaja and opened to the public, contributing greatly to the growth of literacy. During our auto tour, we also came across a statue regarded as a goddess of the state, which served as a sad and troubling reminder of how deeply many people remain in bondage to idols—millions created under the pretense of deities that promise prosperity and protection, yet ultimately lead many further away from the truth and toward the broad path of destruction. It was a sobering realization that the need



for the gospel here is immense, yet the number of workers is few, and this challenge is only made more difficult by the presence of laws that restrict public witnessing and evangelism.

Each morning, we gathered to commit the day unto the Lord, and these morning devotions proved crucial in feeding our souls and preparing our hearts for the day ahead. Through this experience, **I learned to greatly appreciate the discipline of morning devotionals and to see more clearly their importance in grounding us in God's Word and dependence on Him before engaging in the work of the day.** When we arrived at NCBPCI, we met Ps. Babu,



who graciously hosted us in his residence, and Sathia, who made wonderful chai that added to the warmth of our welcome. Zoey and I had the opportunity to minister to two groups of children—the Nursery group as well as the Lower and Upper Kindergarten classes—where we shared the Christmas message based on John 8:12, pointing them to the truth that the Light has come into the world. We emphasized that Jesus was born in the flesh as part of God's redemptive plan, bringing salvation and hope to a

world in darkness. There were about nine teachers (not all are believers) who were exceptionally gifted in working with the children, and it was truly a privilege for us to be part of the mission team, coming alongside them to help in ministering to the children.

Seeing the sincere joy of the children truly gladdened our hearts and brought us much encouragement in return. In particular, when the Kinderbees children each received a lollipop, their delight over such a simple gift reminded us of the childlike faith that Jesus Christ spoke of to His disciples.

The pure and genuine joy of these children became one of the most precious moments of the trip—memories that we will deeply treasure and carry with us long after the mission ended.



During the game activities with the Kinderbees classes, I witnessed great joy and enthusiasm among the children, yet I also noticed that some struggled at first to move the paper plates forward. In the midst of their difficulty, the teachers stooped down and extended a helping hand, patiently guiding them step by step and ensuring that each child reached the finish. This simple yet powerful moment reflected a gentle, caring love that meets children where they are and walks with them through their challenges.

This scene reminded me even more of our great Heavenly Father, who in His lovingkindness and longsuffering has faithfully guided us through life's trials and tribulations. God's love was vividly brought to mind—that while we were still sinners, stumbling about in darkness, He sent His Son to die for us; and if while we were God's enemies we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life (Romans). I was reminded afresh of God's steadfast love for each of His children, that we can truly say with confidence, *"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."* (Psalm 23:6).

It is in knowing that God has His firm grasp on me, keeping me from falling, that I can truly learn to trust Him and even rejoice in trials, confident that He is the One who refines, sanctifies, and faithfully guides us to the finish line. In my weakness, His strength is made perfect, and His grace is more than sufficient for every step of the journey.

During the Church Dedication ceremony, we had the opportunity to meet more of the church brethren and to experience worship in the Kannada language, and later that week also at Calvary Reformed Church, where Arshivad was chairing, we witnessed the beauty of worshipping the Lord in His holy temple—in unity of one Spirit and shared affections, though expressed in a different tongue. Having never been on missions before, this was my first experience listening to hymns sung in a foreign language, and it was deeply moving to hear the local Kannada language lifted up in praise. We also learned that India has an astonishing number of over 1,500 different languages, which filled me with awe at God's magnificent handiwork and the diversity of His creation. Truly, God is sovereign and a God of infinite wonders, as Scripture declares: *"Many, O LORD my God, are Your wonderful works which You have done; and Your thoughts toward us cannot be counted"* (Psalm 40:5).



One of the things that deeply impacted me was learning the history of how the church began from such humble beginnings, and hearing from Ps Babu about how his family came to faith and has been sustained through God's sovereign providence and protection. As he shared more of his early life journey, we were especially moved by the testimony of his

mother—behind a seemingly quiet and fragile elderly lady was a steadfast, immovable, and bold faith that God Himself had graciously begun. In a moment of sincere desperation, when her daughter Rani was critically



ill and nearly lost, she cried out to the God of heaven for healing, pledging her life and devotion in the midst of a Hindu household surrounded by millions of deities. In His great mercy, God answered her prayer, revealing Himself as the one true God, and from that moment she believed and never turned back, faithfully attending church and growing in the knowledge of Christ despite strong objections and harsh opposition from family and relatives. Through the powerful conviction of the Holy Spirit, her faith eventually led her husband to accompany her to church for her protection, and in time the Lord softened his heart as well, bringing him to repentance and faith in Christ as his Lord and Savior. Hallelujah—indeed, all glory be to God. We were deeply moved and greatly encouraged by this remarkable testimony of God's saving grace.

Ps. Babu also shared about the early days of carrying out the Lord's work in Bengaluru,

when the area was still largely undeveloped and his ministry was met with frequent rejection, even with persecution and beatings, and at one time requiring him to flee for the sake of his son's life. We were deeply humbled as we witnessed both the cost and difficulty of serving the Lord, and at the same time we were profoundly amazed by the unwavering conviction that God places in those who desire to follow Christ wholeheartedly, even in the face of suffering.



Our time at Calvary Reformed Church also gave us a deep appreciation for meeting Ashirvad and the brethren there, and for learning about the work of Rev. Lazarus, who passed on shortly after being diagnosed with cancer, leaving behind young children—a profoundly painful journey for his family. Yet even in the midst of this sorrow, **we witnessed the Lord's sustaining grace, as He raised up a son who is fervent in the work of the Lord and a resilient mother who continues faithfully in children's ministry and daily Bible studies, testifying to God's strength made perfect in weakness and His faithfulness through suffering.**



We thank and praise God that Sovereign Hope BPC has been guiding God's work at NCBPCI and CRC, and we rejoice in seeing how the Lord continues to sustain, grow, and use these ministries for His glory and the furtherance of the gospel.



There has never been a greater need here for Christ-centered, biblically faithful ministry, where the challenges extend beyond pressures from unfavourable laws and persecution to include the subtle drifting of some church plants away from sound doctrine. Under the influence of collective negative forces, many are being drawn toward the broad way—out from the safety of God's ordained boundaries—into ungodly forms of Christian liberalism, making the call for discernment, faithfulness, and uncompromising truth all the more urgent in the work of the gospel.

I learned that behind every fruitful mission lies the seed of laborious planning and watering of faithful prayers. Before the trip, much careful thought went into what needs to be done, what precautions we need to take, and what to expect, and I gained a deep appreciation for the unseen work involved. This included the sermons and dedication messages prepared by Rev Jack (though not present in person,) and the faithful delivery of those messages by Elder Yue Kay, which greatly encouraged us. **Through this, I came to better understand the weight and responsibility of mission planning, and above all, the vital role of prayer—before the mission, throughout the journey, and even on the mission field itself.** While during our mission, Elder Yue Kay at times would remind us and lead us in prayer before each task we undertook, reinforcing the truth that prayer is essential at every step of the mission work. We are continually reminded to be constant in prayer, to give thanks to the Lord in all circumstances, and to rest in the assurance that God works all things together for good for those who love Him.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to Rev Jack and his team for inviting us to serve as part of the ministry in Bengaluru during their 25th Anniversary and Sanctuary Dedication. As a wise saying goes, in missions we often think we are going to make an impact for God, yet more often we are the ones most deeply impacted by what the Lord is already doing in the field. **We have returned home with a renewed conviction for the Lord's call to His ripened harvest— within our own local communities.** May the Holy Spirit continue to fill us afresh, kindling our zeal and love for our God, to be messengers heralding the invitation to the greatest wedding feast of the Beloved Son of God, Jesus the Anointed Bridegroom who will one day return to claim His Bride prepared for Him.



Seeking Christ in the New Year

Jack Sin

Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872. Arr. by John W. Peterson

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1. As we approach the end of year,
2. Je sus, Great Shep - herd of the flock,
3. Prayer and the Word Thou giv'n us,
4. Would you no words, please a - gain,
5. Would our last breath be that year,

We search and pray and seek with fear,
Thy form - er mer - cies we get not,
Wor ship and fell - ow - - so blest,
For give - ness, life and hope and gain,
Our fel - low - ship might just end here,

The new and dawn - ing days a - head,
Here in our wait - ing hearts to meet,
O Lord, help us these grace share,
Are to keep if that we reap,
O ours friend, have you that lasts,

Must be de - pend - ent on His grace.
The faith - ful - ness that we re - ceive.
And grow in faith and not des - pair.
The bless - ings that our Lord has bid.
That's found on - ly in Je - sus' blood.

Memory Verse

Matt 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Watchnight 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 tonight on "***The Worth of a Soul (Matt 16:21-27)***".
3. On 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***".
4. Chinese Fellowship that meets every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom. [**Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178**].
5. 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.
6. 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**].
7. 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), **Dr Sam** (Myanmar 4-10/1)
 - **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**
8. 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.