

SOVEREIGNHOPE

bible presbyterian church

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Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
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Tools of the Missions Trade

One of the privileges and sacred duties of the Church is the propagation of the gospel as God has commanded us (Matt 28:18-20). Thank God for the joy of sharing the gospel and supporting missions even amidst a health crisis. Our missionaries must not and



cannot work alone. Other believers, whether from the home church or indigenous Christians in foreign lands, should work with them. Under the Lordship of Christ, we are all co-workers and builders in God's vineyard (1 Cor 3:9-10) for His glory.

Christians should strive to pray, give to, and visit our mission stations and missionaries through mission trips as we do here at SHBPC, so that we can see the work for ourselves. A church needs committed members. We need to follow a plan and with the right tools turn out things that are beautiful and lasting. Builders are limited in what they can do without the right tools. Ps 127:1 *"Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."*

All who want to work for God need to seek and acquire the right tools and learn how to use them effectively. The "tools" are, first and foremost, the profound knowledge of the Word of God with much prayer, zeal, and power of the Holy Spirit. The practical knowledge and application of the Bible and mission work is our most basic tool. Secondly, besides biblical knowledge, spiritual qualities like perseverance and experiences are other tools necessary for Christian work. Nobody has all the necessary tools from the start but it is in a progressive manner that we acquire them. All those who want to be used to build the church of Christ through mission work should begin early to be equipped and to gather the tools they will need one day.

Paul in 2 Tim 3:16-17, *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”* The Word of God is the most important of all. Do not wait until the last minute before you begin your first missionary assignment. Here are some basic missionary tools:

Vibrant Spiritual Life and Health



It all begins with a right relationship with God. This includes the daily discipline of fervent and intercessory prayer, faithful Bible reading, as well as reverential worship and communion with God before anything else. We need to keep Jesus Christ as our Saviour and first-love-for-Christ-centred believers are excited about missions. The nearer we get to him, the more intensely burdened in our hearts for souls we will become. What you do not have, you cannot give. We need to first acquire a deep interest and

knowledge in the Word of God and in spiritual things before we can be effective and useful for God. We need to first grow and glow in greater devotion and love with God daily, then to pray fervently for a passion for the lost souls who t need Christ, even in the middle of a pandemic. We need to keep a healthy state of the mind and body and take all the necessary precautions and safety measures as suggested.

Genuine Love and Concern for People

Some Christians are overly excited about ostentatious activities, end-time events, social action, and church growth techniques among others. They want to serve the Lord, but they do not want to or do not know how to reach out to people effectively. Mission work, however, requires us to know the Lord and his Word first, to be directly involved with all kinds of people, and loving them for the sake of Christ. Learn to understand, relate to and love people, as well as spend time with God's people, including those without (i.e., widows, orphans, the sick and the elderly, etc.) Learn to communicate with them and appreciate them; and look for ways to share the gospel with them and serve them for the sake of Christ, peradventure they be saved one day. The burden and genuine love for souls is essential in missions (Gal 6:7-10).



A Biblical Theology of Missions

There are different approaches to missions today, even within the Christian church. Mission work receives its inspiration and direction from the Scriptures only (2 Tim 3:16-17). We must continually search the Bible, or we may be carried away by modern worldly techniques and liberal ideas in church growth that come in the name of “missions” but are for the most part are not Spirit-led, false and secular, man-centred, and worldly which will end in frustration and fruitlessness. For example, some have used secular marketing strategies as a basis for their evangelism and missions. Others have resorted to yoga, rock music, and stunts like magic shows and animal blessings. We need a proper understanding of the doctrine of missions in the OT and NT as it is practiced by the prophets and apostles. Do God’s work in God’s way and not in the flesh or by worldly-compromised means and He will bless it in due time. Study in a bible college if you need to on the doctrine of biblical missions and/ or read the book by Paul Beale on this subject of missions.

God-centred Goals and Strategies

Some Christians make the mistake of thinking that systematic and orderly plans are not necessary in mission work. That is far from the truth. If we aim at nothing new, we are bound to hit it. Beware that we do not lose focus of Christ and miss our original objectives of saving souls, getting distracted along the way with social work. Prudence and godly discretion are required here together with diligence and discipline. Missionaries, pastors, mission teams, and churches need to pray and seek the Lord to set



Biblical goals and have a God -honouring-church-based mission policy, including finances and HR policies. Whether simple or detailed, such as planting churches among people who do not have a church, or careful and prayerful plans of supporting churches, humbly submit to God in prayer to receive His blessing. These plans help us to be faithful and effective stewards, working in tandem with like-minded others in faith.

Training in the Following Areas:

- **Personal Evangelism**

We must not assume that everyone is equipped to share the gospel effectively with the right materials or tools. We need to want to be equipped and trained first as the disciples of old and be able to tell the true story of the Gospel, and of the glorious saving work of God in Christ clearly, accurately, and in ways or languages that our hearers can understand. Print out gospel tracts and pamphlets in different languages if needed. Read 1 Cor 15:1-4 for a gist of the gospel and how to present it. Peter in 1 Pet 3:15 says, *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”* That requires commitment and discipline and much effort.



- **Bible Studies Methods**

The place of effective interaction and sharing is often found in a smaller group. Small group evangelistic Bible study (BS) is the most effective method for spreading the Gospel in countries and different cultures throughout the world. Open your home to gather a group and learn how to organise and lead BS or NBC in a systematic and interactive way. Share and teach the gospel or the burden for missions (i.e., study the life of missionaries, books of the bible, or the growth of the church in Acts) and the Word effectively before challenging them to become more involved in going to some other place of outreach, evangelism, or ministry.

- **Biblical (not Freudian Secular Psychology) Counselling and Training of Disciples**

There are all kinds of so-called counselling and self-help books and psychological techniques today. We need to be



informed and vigilant to the wiles of the evil one in this area. From self-esteem to positive thinking to visualisation techniques and possibility thinking and even hypnosis now, we are bombarded with all kinds of worldly and secular paradigms. We believe in nouthetic counselling that is based on the Word of God when we address spiritual, mental, social and psychological concerns from a biblical perspective. We need to be prepared to give attention to the basic Christian disciplines of prayer, worship, discipleship, and service, as well as basic doctrines of sin, God, second coming and evangelical repentance. Begin by learning to be disciplined in the home church or even in your place of study or work before going out to missions to disciple others in the Lord (2 Tim 2:2).

- **Practical Helping of the Poor**

There is a place for us to be involved in practical outreach to the people around us . Christians can help the poor in a practical manner (e.g., in providing food, clothing, medical help, counselling, building homes, etc.).We have seen Christian homes, orphanages, hospitals, schools, and nursing or old folk homes that have catered to the needs of the people. Do not think that just sending more money will solve the problem; we need to go there personally to assess the situation as there could be other needs like counselling the family. Learn how to and be committed to help the poor, together with the preaching of the gospel in such a way that they become free of dependence upon man or compromised with worldly or religious charitable works. Beware of giving in to just social or humanitarian work without the gospel alone, which is not what it ought to be in true biblical missions.



- **Family Commitment to Missions**

Total family support in missions is vital, and this support includes that of the children and domestic help, if any. The missionary cannot work alone and needs the support of his family members. Preparing beforehand individually, albeit in different ministries and acquiring differing tools, but subsequently serving together like Aquilas and Priscillas, can advance the kingdom quicker and more effectively. A husband-and-wife (and even children and others) team is biblical and a potent 'fighting unit' in the Lord's army. With our family and the children, (and we need to take care of their educational needs.) even our domestic helpers, relatives and friends, we can be even a more effective team for the Lord.



Conclusion

The pandemic should not stop us in the work of the gospel. God has made each of us different with different spiritual gifts and talents and He uses all kinds of people. We need to pray and gain practical experience from a variety of work areas, learn and discover, and discover, develop and demonstrate our gifts and talents in relevant ministries. Work on assignments that match your gifts and abilities and use these gifts and abilities for the glory of God (e.g., dentists, doctors, engineers, etc.). Missionary apprentices should take time and effort to learn and master the use of these spiritual tools with the guidance of the Lord. Above all, trust the Master Builder to use us to produce edifying and lasting gospel work to the saving of souls and , for Matt 9:36-37 says, *“But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few.”*



Jack Sin



Sharing on the Chinese Fellowship Meeting

On August 23, 2020, I accepted Pastor Sin's invitation to participate in the Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church (Chinese) global online fellowship. Pastor Sin quoted Deuteronomy 7:1-15 to preach on the "Precepts for Victorious Christian Living. For the Israelites entering the land of Canaan, they had to keep the commandments, decrees, and ordinances of God.

There were 13 brothers and sisters in the Lord from County X, Myanmar and Singapore in the online fellowship meeting.

First, Brother Yongqi led us to sing two hymns "Amazing Grace" and "The Lord Is Like a Bright Morning Star". After singing the two hymns, Pastor D shared on a close surveillance incident after the wedding party during the epidemic and request us to continue to keep them in prayer. After that, we sang another hymn on "Goodness during Spring".

Below were the key points shared by Pastor Sin:

- After leaving Egypt, the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Finally, the Lord, the God of Israel, led the Israelites into Canaan. Are we led by the Holy Spirit today or by ourselves?
- There were 6 groups of indigenous people of Canaan include Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. There were seven nations, all powerful and but God is more powerful than them all.
- The Lord God handed over the seven kingdoms to the Israelites and gave them strength in the battles to defeat them in due time. Jehovah God wanted the Israelites to obey the commandments, decrees, and ordinances. Among these there was to be no contract with them and no mixed marriages with the local people because they were polytheistic and caused the Israelites to turn away from following the Lord God and serve other gods.
- There were many other gods and idols in the region. The Israelites were to remove their altars and have nothing to do with their idols when they entered the land.
- We live in this diverse world. Although many have trusted in the Lord Jesus, yet some still revolve around modern idols like pursuing wealth, pleasure, excessive secular work, mobile phones, computer games and obsession with self. These idols prevent us from seeking God first and observing the commandments, decrees, and ordinances.

- Some even make compromises in our careers and relationships and do not stand up and refuse the unholy demands of others in the workplace. We must not think that the relationship between or among people is more important than our duty and relationship with the Lord our God.
- The Lord God is a faithful God who always protected and guarded the Israelites He had chosen though they are a small nation. Therefore, the Israelites must be careful to obey God's commandments, decrees, and ordinances. We are chosen and elected by God and we belong to Him. We must obey God's Word and pursue holiness in a fallen world. We must not live by our own ideas. We must be set apart as holy; we are to trust and look to the Lord God and He will bless and keep us.

After the message, we sang the hymn "Enter into Your Presence" before another pastor closed in prayer.

Thank God. May the peace from our heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be bestowed upon the brothers and sisters in the fellowship. Amen.

Kam Weng



Memory Verse

John 6:13 Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! Kindly comply with the safety measures available on the notice boards. For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor is ministering God's Word at Emmanuel BP Church this morning.
3. Rev Tan Eng Boo speaks today on "Feeding 5000 Hungry Men" (John 6:1-15), continuing the Jul to Sep 2020 theme of "Examining the Ministry & Teachings of Christ".
4. Rev Jack Sin speaks next Sunday on "Overcoming Temptation by Christ" (Matthew 4:1-13).
5. Sunday School classes continues in church after the worship service
6. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom.
7. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom.
8. Pastor will be conducting 2 training sessions via Zoom as follows:
 - **Theology of Holy Spirit** (Thu 3 Sept 9.30-11am)
 - What is Holy Spirit?
 - What is the role of the Holy Spirit?
 - How does one who has the Holy Spirit look like?
 - **Theology of Spiritual Battle** (Thu 10 Sept 9.30-11am)
 - What is Spiritual Battle?
 - Understanding the Full Armour of GodDo contact him for the Zoom links if you are keen to join the training sessions.
9. Those who would like to help with the cleaning or safe management procedures of the church, please see Dn Yue Kay.
10. Those who have a testimony to share may submit to Pastor for the weekly.
11. Pastor is still available for counselling via WhatsApp, Email or Mobile.
12. 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**