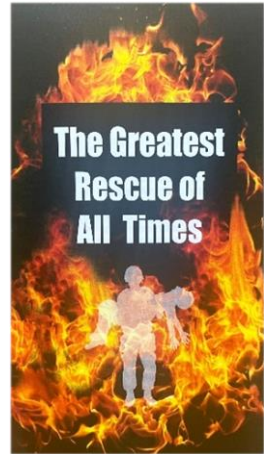
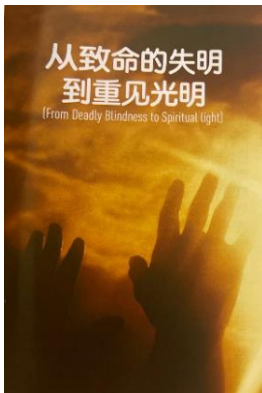


Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar #04-06, Singapore 409022
Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
Website: www.sovereignhopebpc.org
Rev Dr Jack Sin: 91160948 (hp) / jacksin710@gmail.com
Elder Loke Tat Luen: lloke822@gmail.com

God's Secret Change Agents: Gospel Tracts

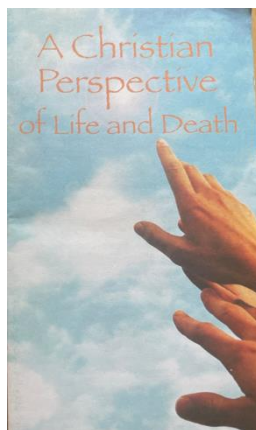
Sometimes we are unaware, or some even belittle the spiritual value or the effectiveness of a gospel tract. **Never despise the effectiveness of a simple gospel tract. Many have testified of being awakened and even convicted of sin and some were brought to church and were saved after reading a gospel tract. We do not know what the Lord would do through this feeble instrument.**

A lady in the 19th century London once read Spurgeon's evangelistic church weekly that was used to wrap the fish she bought, and she was transformed spiritually and came to seek Christ. In 2008, a construction worker we got to know came to church and later believed in Christ as Savior after reading a Chinese tract (and hearing the message) we passed to him in his dormitory. Some SAF Detention Barrack inmates and drug addicts have testified of how a tract, or a message changed their lives to the living Saviour in our Changi Prison. We remember we gave tracts to a Chinese worker staying in Macpherson who responded positively and came to visit our church. One couple came to church in Sovereign Hope BP Church and stayed on as a result of a tract that was given to them some months ago in their house.



Sovereign Hope BP Church has produced and printed our own gospel tracts for our evangelistic use. There are different kinds of tracts located at the entrance of the church entrance, many of which are bilingual. We have some churches who have requested for tracts from us. One of such tracts is the Chinese tract "*From Deadly Blindness to Spiritual Light*". Some have taken tracts from SHBPC to give to taxi drivers and stallholders at hawker centre. Others have asked for our tracts to distribute to her unsaved relatives, neighbours and friends. One of the

more popular tracts is "The Christian Perspective of Life and Death" (third reprint) which has been used at funerals and wakes to give to their unsaved loved ones. This tract was written in 2005 after the homegoing of aunty Rose Tow and has been translated into 9 languages namely, Chinese, Bahasa, Indonesian, Kiswahili, Khmer (ie Cambodia), Kannada (Bangalore), Chin language (Myanmar), Tamil, Vietnamese and Thai.



Witnesses for Christ

Most of us may not called to be "evangelists" according to the classic definition. But the Bible is clear that we are to be witnesses for Him (Matt 28:18-20) and to tell others what He has done for us and is responsible for the stewardship of the glorious gospel of Christ.

Mark 5:19 says, "*Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.*" God has chosen to reach the world through us as weak and feeble instruments. In fact, God uses our faithful (and sometimes fearful) efforts at evangelism to grow us as well. Through evangelizing, we must commit ourselves to God to be effective witnesses for Him and we must be familiar with His Word. Rom 10:13 says, "*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*" The more we know God and His word, the better our ability to answer the questions put before us. There are many other blessings associated with evangelizing, but the greatest is the personal joy of seeing someone come into a saving relationship with Christ by grace alone. One of the most effective methods of evangelizing is the distribution of sound Gospel tracts, like in the sowing of the seed in the hearts of man and leaving the results to God. Never look down on what God can do through a gospel tract.



Effective Gospel Tracting

It has been said that nothing cost less, goes farther, lasts longer or says it better than a gospel tract. **A tract is written tool that relates to the gospel of Christ in a relevant and understanding manner, applying the gospel to sinners to seek in Christ. Think about its strategic use as you go out into the world each day. When you make them part of your spiritual repertoire, God can give you many opportunities to share the gospel.** A relevant gospel tract (with the right language too) that is so wonderfully crafted, can go to work in ways that even a child can understand. **Regardless of your spiritual maturity or experience in sharing the gospel, a tract is a wonderful and effective companion that helps us in the fulfilment of the Great Commission given by our Lord. Do not leave home without it!** Consider the following in using tracts in developing an effective tract / evangelistic ministry for the church.

1. Pray to the Lord First

No one cannot win another to Christ, neither can a tract which is only an instrument used by the Lord. We are to seek help from God as in 2Cor 1:11. Only the Holy Spirit can transform and regenerate hearts. We need to depend on the Lord and pray unto Him for His mercies and grace to the person who will receive and read the tract.

2. Give Appropriate Tracts Regularly

Always carry several different types of tracts with you (ie for children, youths, senior adults or even Chinese ones) so you can match the message to the person and the correct language too. We do that in our weekly exercise at the park here in Simei and wherever possible.



3. Engage Them Verbally, if possible

If there is an opportunity, make a contact and ask questions (ie during canvassing in HDB flats) and listen carefully to what is said and relate effectively to the needs of the situation with Christ as our Saviour and Lord and the need for repentance of sins. 2 Cor 6:2 says, "*For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*"

4. Be Gracious to Accept Rejection

Some may not want to receive them, and we are to distribute tracts carefully, prayerfully, and judiciously and do not be offended or discouraged. He is rejecting the gospel of Christ not you. Let God work in His own ways and time, we are just instruments of his grace. Leave the results to God Almighty to decide.

5. Use Sound Tracts Purposefully

Be careful that the tracts used are theologically sound (ie not one that promotes a false doctrine or a compromised gospel etc). You will be judged by the equipment you use, for it affects people when they read it.

6. Organise your Tracts in Good Condition

Make sure your tracts are properly kept and clean and fresh when you hand them out. Place tracts where they will be readily accessible for your use, like in your closet, car, backpack, or purse. I keep some in my trousers' pocket and some in the car and in my Bible. A missed opportunity to reach out to someone may not return.



7. Be Ready All the Time

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.*" Our calling is to be a witness for Christ and we are to be ready all the time to explain why we are Christians to lift Jesus up by presenting the glorious truth of the gospel in both written and verbal forms.

8. Be Not Ashamed or Afraid to Use Tracts

Be brave to witness for Christ as Paul says in Rom 1:16, "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*" Never fear men but be concerned for their eternal destiny and do not leave home without a tract in your wallet, bag or car. You never know when you need to give it out to someone at an opportune time.



9. Have the Right Frame of Mind and Heart

It is not just the giving but the attitude of heart and mind when we give out the tracts as well. We need to be mentally prepared and to be walking right with God first and be a good testimony for Him (that does not mean that we have to be sinless or perfect in our conduct for we cannot). 1 Cor 9:16 says, "*For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!*"

10. Be Resolute in your Heart Spiritually

Make this a resolution to honour God in your lives and to advance His kingdom in support of evangelism and missions. You will be amazed when the Lord bless your efforts. We have people who have come to seek the Lord as a result of reading an edifying gospel tract. 1 Cor 2:2 is written on Dr Lloyd Jones' tombstone which says, "*For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*"

Conclusion

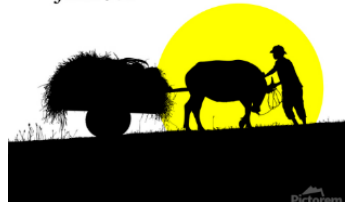
We are called to be ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor 5:20) and what an honour and privilege it is. It is also our bounden duty to propagate the good news of everlasting life in these last days so that as many as are called, they may enter into eternal life.

When was the last time you gave out a tract to someone or join the church for evangelism? Do you have one in your possession now that you can give to a stranger or friend? Do not underestimate the power of a gospel tract as God can use it to minister to the hearts of men. Make a conscious effort to give out a tract a week if not a day and see how the Lord works in your life and that of others In due time. Luke 24:47-48 says, '*And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things.*'

John in Rev 14:6-7 says, "*And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the*

I MUST WORK
THE WORKS OF HIM
THAT SENT ME,
WHILE IT IS DAY:
THE NIGHT COMETH,
WHEN NO MAN
CAN WORK.

John 9:4



everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountain s of waters."

Our days are limited on earth and Christ is coming very soon. Let us be willing and fervent witnesses for Christ and give a tract while there is yet breath and opportunity for night comes when no man can work (John 9:4).

Jack Sin



Mission Trip to Bangalore, India
(13-21 Nov 2024)
- A Report by Yashu Qin -
Part II

New Covenant Retreat
Bangalore
15 Nov 2024



Part I of the Report on the Ministry at Calvary Reformed Church was covered in the SHBPC weekly bulletin on 8 Dec 2024.

This is Part II on the Ministry at New Covenant BPC from 14 to 16 Nov.

KinderBees Preschool

This is a ministry of New Covenant BPC that was started in 2023. We thank God for the growth in this Preschool under the leadership of Pastor Babu and his wife Satya, with 80 children in nursery, lower and upper kindergarten classes.

On Thu 14 Nov, the mission team had a morning of outreach to the staff and children.

Yashu enthusiastically led the action songs of Hallelujah - Praise ye the Lord, My God is So

Big and God Made Me. The theme for this program was on God's marvellous creation and especially of male and female. Angie focused on Gen 1:27 on honouring and appreciating the divine purpose in gender and roles as part of God's creation. The salient points were:

- God made men and women
- Marriage is between one man and one woman
- Men and women have different roles
- We should be happy with the gender God created us as.



New Covenant BPCI Retreat

The New Covenant Annual Retreat was held this year at Jyotibhavan Retreat Center on 15-16 Nov. There were many who came for a blessed time of learning.

Session 1: The Second Coming of Christ by Rev Jack Sin

The Second Coming is referenced multiple times in Scripture (e.g., Matt 24:27, Rev 1:7), marks His return as the sovereign King and Judge. While the exact timing is unknown, God's plan will unfold in accordance with His perfect will. Signs of His coming are revealed in Scripture to warn and prepare us with the following key signs:



- **Spiritual Deception:** A rise in false teachers and prophets, heretical practices, and occult activities misleads many (2 Pet 2:1-2). These point to widespread spiritual confusion in the last days.
- **Natural Disasters:** Famines, earthquakes, and epidemics, like recent global catastrophes, align with the prophecies of Matthew 24:7.
- **Wars:** Ongoing conflicts and rumours of wars (e.g., Afghanistan, Middle East, and others) are a prelude to the ultimate battle at Armageddon (Matt 24:6).
- **Moral and Spiritual Decline:** Societal corruption, self-centeredness, and immorality mirror the days of Noah and Lot, highlighting the spiritual decay in our time (2 Tim 3:1-5).

Our Response should be:

- **Be Watchful:** Stay spiritually alert, diligent, and ready (Matt 24:42).
- **Be Faithful:** Steward God's gifts with responsibility and serve diligently (Rom 12:11).
- **Be Fruitful:** Share the gospel boldly and expand God's kingdom.

Christ's return calls us to remain vigilant, holy, and be proactive in evangelism. Let us labour in love and hope and be prepared for the day we will meet our Savior and King.



Session 2: Spiritual Vigilance & Understanding the Last Days by Rev Jack (2 Peter 3:1-14)

We live in perilous times as prophesied in Scripture. Peter emphasizes the importance of remembering God's Word, both Old and New Testament, and being prepared for the Lord's return. Christians should not be surprised by scoffers who deny the truth of Jesus' coming.

1.The Scoffers' Argument (vv. 3-7):

- Scoffers mock the idea of Jesus' return, claiming that the world has always continued as it is.
- They ignore biblical truths such as Creation and the judgment in Noah's time.
- They also deny divine intervention in history and presume upon God's patience.

2.Truths About God's Timing (vv. 8-10):

- God's timing is not like ours; one day is as a thousand years to Him (Psalm 90:4).
- His delay in returning reflects His mercy, as He desires everyone to repent.
- The day of the Lord will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night, bringing judgment and renewal.

3. Living in the Light of God's Promises (vv. 11-14):

- The current world will be dissolved by fire, and God will create new heavens and a new earth where righteousness dwells.
- Christians are called to live holy and godly lives, hastening His return through evangelism and prayer.
- Our conduct should reflect anticipation of the new creation, living in peace and without blemish.

Conclusion:

We are to remain vigilant, diligent, and focused on God's mission in these last days. The Lord's longsuffering is an opportunity for salvation, and we must actively pray, evangelize, and glorify Him in anticipation of His glorious return.



Session 3: "Walking with God" (Gen 5:21-24) by Elder Jeffrey Cheong

Enoch walked with God, and God took him so that he did not see death.

Each of us must walk with God for ourselves to grow spiritually. We cannot get God's grace from other Christians or our Christian activities like worship service, fellowship meetings, etc. We must get it ourselves from God.

Walking with God will transform our spiritual life, help us grow closer to God,

and prevent us from sinning. It will help us in our time of trouble and difficulty, as God will be with us as we walk with Him.

Session 4: Creation vs Evolution by Dr Sam Gan

- A common misconception: Science and faith are opposing forces.
- On the contrary, science can serve as evidence to support our faith.
- The worldview presented in Genesis is the foundation of our faith.
- In contrast, the theory of evolution poses a significant risk to undermining our faith.
- Studies show that 80% of young people who grew up in the church leave because of the teaching of evolution in public schools.
- Apologetics and a biblical view of creation are the cornerstone for protecting our faith.



Children's Program

A children's program at the Retreat was concurrently held at the Retreat on 16 Nov. Yashu and Angie led in the singspiration followed by a Bible Lesson on **Noah's Flood and Dinosaurs -by Dr Sam Gan**. The Bible does not explicitly mention "dinosaurs," but there are passages and clues that provide a basis for understanding the existence of dinosaurs and the Flood of Noah. These points can be explored in light of biblical texts and interpretations:



1. Global Flood

- **Impact of the Flood**

The global Flood described in **Genesis 7** was a catastrophic event that likely buried countless creatures rapidly, aligning with the fossil layers we find worldwide.

For example

For example, fossils show instances where a large fish is in the process of eating a smaller fish. Such an event could only be preserved if it happened rapidly, which aligns with the conditions of a global flood.

2. The Existence of Dinosaurs and Biblical Descriptions

Although the term "dinosaur" (coined in the 19th century) is not found in the Bible, certain creatures mentioned in Scripture may refer to dinosaurs:

- **Behemoth**

Described in **Job 40:15-24**, it says:

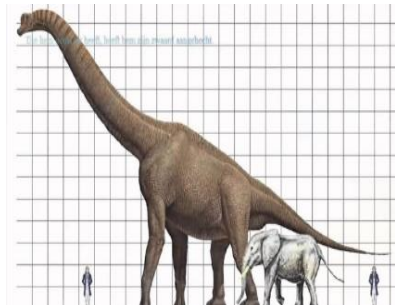
Job 40:15 Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee; he eateth grass as an ox.

40:16 Lo now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in the navel of his belly.

40:17 He moveth his tail like a cedar: the sinews of his stones are wrapped together.

40:18 His bones are as strong pieces of brass; his bones are like bars of iron.

This description suggests a massive, powerful creature, with a tail size like a cadet tree, which might refer to a giant herbivorous dinosaur.



- **Leviathan**

In **Job 41**, a terrifying sea creature is described:

Job 41:1 Canst thou draw out leviathan with a hook? or his tongue with a cord which thou lettest down?

41:2 Canst thou put an hook into his nose? or bore his jaw through with a thorn?

41:19 Out of his mouth go burning lamps, and sparks of fire leap out.

41:20 Out of his nostrils goeth smoke, as out of a seething pot or caldron.

This may refer to a prehistoric marine reptile like a plesiosaur or ichthyosaur.



3. Did Dinosaurs Enter Noah's Ark?

According to **Genesis 6:19-20**, Noah was instructed to bring "two of every kind" of living creatures into the ark:

"You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you."

If dinosaurs were still alive at the time, it is plausible they were included, likely as juveniles due to their smaller size and shorter growth period.



4. Dinosaur Fossils and the Biblical Timeline

The Bible's creation account supports a young-earth view, suggesting a history of 6 thousand years rather than billions. Some connections include:

- **Formation of Dinosaur Fossils**

The rapid burial of creatures during Noah's Flood might explain the formation of dinosaur fossils found in sedimentary layers.

- **Soft Tissue in Fossils**

Scientists have discovered soft tissues (like blood vessels and proteins) in dinosaur fossils, which aligns with the young-earth timeline, as such tissues are unlikely to survive for millions of years.

Reflections:

Theological Significance

The Flood and the possible references to dinosaurs in the Bible not only provide insights into history but also serve as foundations for faith. These points reinforce key aspects of Christian belief:

- **God's Sovereignty:** The Global Flood demonstrates both God's justice and mercy.
- **Defense of Faith:** Exploring the relationship between the Bible and science can strengthen faith and equip believers to respond to modern challenges, such as the authority of the Bible verses evolutionary theories.

By considering the accounts of the Global Flood and descriptions of extraordinary creatures in Scripture, Christians can better understand the harmony between biblical history and scientific discovery.



A Special Craft

The children's craft was a special 3D printed craft on assembling a crown of thorns that evolved into a crown of glory at the Second Coming of Christ. This was designed by a Korean Christian organization, contributed by a Korean lady and brought by Dr Sam Gan. It was a meaningful time of remembering Christ's death on the cross for our sins, His resurrection and coming again.

The ministry at New Covenant BPC was a reunion for some of our team members with the church members, and joyful fellowship for all. Despite language barriers, we experienced true unity in Christ as we shared in one another's stories and testimonies. It was a reminder of the powerful truth in *Psalm 133:1-3*:

1. *"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"*
2. *"It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments;"*
3. *"It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing—life forevermore."*

This passage beautifully illustrates the joy and blessing that comes when believers come together in unity, regardless of our differences. It was a reminder of God's presence and the blessing of living in fellowship with one another.

Thank God for a profitable time of ministry and fellowship at New Covenant BP Church.



Part III of the Mission Report will continue next week.....

Memory Verse

Luke 11:9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

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. Bro Joseph brings us God's Word morning on "***Parable of the Friend at Midnight (Luke 11:5-13)***", the quarterly sermon series on "***Appreciating & Applying the Parables of Jesus***". Pastor is ministering God's Word and the Lord's Supper at Gospel Light BPC this morning.
3. Next Sunday, Pastor will preach on "***Story of the Rich Man & Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)***".
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service are as follows:
 - Christian Apologetics (Pastor)
 - Studies in Nehemiah (Dr Kwong Leen)
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on Old Testament Foundations and the 10 Commandments. Join us for a time of profitable learning. **[Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178]**.
6. There is door-to-door **Evangelism @Macpherson this afternoon** after lunch.
7. **Christmas Eve & Watchnight Worship Services are on Tuesday 24 & 31 Dec 2024 at 8pm respectively.** Do invite your family and friends to come and hear the Gospel of Christ.
8. **Year-End Reflections with lunch on Sat 28 Dec 2024** at the home of Albert & Janet Ang (**limited to first 20 pax** who register with Dn Yue Kay, as requested by the hosts.)
9. **The Church Choir** will be presenting a song item for the 7th Thanksgiving Anniversary on 2 Feb 2025. Worshippers who are interested to join should **register with Dn Paul by 29 Dec 2024.**
10. 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]**.
11. Pray for:
 - **Travels: Marilyn** [Philippines 18/12-2/1]
 - **Medical: Poh Suan** [healing of right eye], **Anthony** [lung cancer: narrowing airways], **Daniel Phang** [back condition, high blood pressure & gout].
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**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.