

» PASTORS' INSTALLATION

Come and bless our new pastors at their installation on **Sun, 29 May, 2.30pm to 5.30pm at BPJ Centre**. Elder Sebastian Quek, Lim Keng Yeow and Kirk Tan will be installed as lay pastors. Portia Chan and Sharon Fong from the staff team will be installed as full-time pastors. A full-time pastor in CEFC is a salaried staff of the church while a lay pastor is non-salaried and serves firstly in the market place, and secondly, carries out some specific pastoral and leadership duties in church. Please RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/InstallPs> by **today**.

» CYAN FELLOWSHIP

This month's CYAN Fellowship is on **Sat, 21 May, 2pm-4pm at BPJ Centre**. Elder Sebastian Quek will lead us in a guided experience on how we may deepen our understanding of prayer. Register at tinyurl.com/cyanprayer so we can count you in for lunch at 1pm.

» PARENTING SEMINAR

In the busyness of life, what are some key principles in raising our children? What transitions do parents go through, even as their children go through their own transitions? Find out at the "Parenting God's Way" seminar on **Sat, 28 May, 9am to 3pm at WDL Centre**. The fee is \$15/person; \$50/group of four (including teabreak and lunch). *Sign up at the registration booth at the foyer today.*

» PARENT-CHILD DEDICATION

Registration for parent-child dedication is now open at the Information Counter. Please note that there is a **class for parents on Sun, 5 Jun, 1pm-3pm at WDL Centre**. It covers the purpose and significance of dedication, and explains the charge to parents for discipleship at home.

» HOKKIEN PARENTS' APPRECIATION

B.L.E.S.S. your parents and loved ones at the Hokkien ministry's Parents' Appreciation Night. It will feature veteran local actor Zhu Hou Ren and a message in Hokkien by Pastor Chen Luan Qing. Admission is free.
Date: 28 May (Sat)
Time: 7pm-9pm (Buffet starts at 5.45pm on first come, first served basis)

» PRAYER & PRAISE

Let's come together at this month's Prayer & Praise to pray for the next generation to resist the work of darkness in their lives and climb the ladder of godliness. Our guest speaker is Glenn Lim, former youth pastor and now a motivational youth speaker. WEB and MOMENTUM youths are encouraged to attend. See you on **Fri, 27 May at WDL Centre**.

» UNIVERSITY BEFRIENDER PROGRAMME

Let's B.L.E.S.S. the Chinese international students who come to study in Singapore with our hospitality. We are looking for families to reach out to them through the University Befriender Programme from **Aug 2016 to Aug 2017**. Drop by our booth at the foyer today to find out more or email missions@cefc.org.sg **Last day to sign up is 26 Jun.**

» INTERPRETERS FOR MISSIONS

Calling for interpreters to support translation from English to Chinese for missions-related events and activities. Interpreters must be fluent in both English and Chinese. If interested, email missions@cefc.org.sg

WOODLANDS 15 MAY 2016

SERVICE LEADER JEREMY KOH // WORSHIP LEADER KAREN PHUAH



Calling of Grace

BY: REV TAN KAY KIONG AND REV TONY YEO, SENIOR PASTORS

Grace (Gk. *charis*) is unwarranted goodwill, undeserved kindness, and unmerited favour. Calling (Gk. *klēsis*) is the state of having been summoned, named or called (Gk. *kaleō*) to someone or something. Grace and calling are gifts of God, unwarranted, unmerited and undeserved on our part (Eph 2:8). Grace and calling came in the form of a person, Jesus Christ, who called us to God.

Covenant EFC is a church of grace and calling. Covenant EFC heard God's particular calling over 25 years ago, *"The smallest one will become a clan, and the least one a mighty nation. I, the LORD, will hasten it in its time."* (Isa 60:22, NASB). It was a call to trust in God's grace and faithfulness, to build a church of authentic disciples who choose to grow as intentional disciplemakers. God calls each of us to His grace, changes us into *A Certain Kind*, and sends us on a mission to win our world for Christ.

God reminded us of His calling of Isa 60:22 as we sought Him

these past two years before embarking on this fresh venture of grace and faith of planting Covenant EFC's third worship centre in Singapore's East. This is a calling of grace; it is completely undeserved favour. It is a calling of faith; God has spoken; it is a pilgrimage of trusting God to do His work through us.

Be it the Bukit Panjang Centre journey of 1996-2000; the Woodlands Centre journey of 2005-2008; or the ACKCentre journey of 2012-2014—these are all not merely ventures of faith, but ventures of grace. God need *not* call Covenant EFC, but He did. Covenant EFC is not the best nor the biggest church, but God called us.

Covenant East Centre, launching on 6 Nov, 2016, is first a calling of grace before it is a venture of faith. Are you residing in the East or near the East, or have a burden for the East? We call you to partner with us in this grace-calling faith-venture of pioneering Covenant East Centre, because God has called Covenant EFC!



VISION

AUTHENTIC
DISCIPLESHIP
& INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLEMAKING
OF A CERTAIN KIND

VALUES

GRACE
GROWTH
GODLINESS

COVENANT EFC

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SERMON OUTLINE



Getting Out of Your Prison

Scripture: **EPHESIANS 3:1-13** Sermon: **REV TONY YEO**

Introduction

1. “For this reason ...” (v.1)

2. Despite Our Life’s Circumstances, How Can We Live Above It?

A. Live as the _____ of the Gospel (vv.2-7)

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace (v.7)

B. Live for the _____ of the Gospel (vv.8-12)

... to preach ... the unsearchable riches of Christ, ... bring to light ... the manifold wisdom of God ... be made known (vv.8-10)

Conclusion

Do not lose heart ... (Eph 3:13)

Next Week’s Sermon Speaker:
22 May **PS BARNEY LAU** (BPJ) and **PS ANDY LEW** (WDL)

LAST WEEK’S SERMON SUMMARY



A New Hope

Scripture: **LUKE 1:5-25** // Sermon: **SANDRA CHI**

Introduction

1. What on earth are we here for? John the Baptist knew his calling to point people to Christ. Today, we still have that same calling to point others, including our children and the next generation, to Christ.
2. While we may know our calling, we face many challenges in living it out—analogy of the Donkey Kong arcade game. In the midst of our challenges, we must know:

A. My God is God

... righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. (vv.6-7)

They suffered the pain of childlessness and social stigma but still walked right with God.

1. Being righteous is not about being perfect.
2. Being blameless is not about being sinless.

This is because their obedience was not dependent on their circumstances.

Illus: Reality of God and reality of worship despite the pain of miscarriage

B. My God is Gracious

... because you did not believe my words ... (vv.18-20)

God was gracious to Zechariah in three ways:

1. Promised a son, a great prophet despite his advanced age
2. Spoke to nation of Israel for the first time in 400 years of silence through Zechariah and signalled the coming of the Messiah
3. Fulfilled His promise of a son to Zechariah even when he had unbelief

We cannot thwart God’s grace with our mistakes and failures.

Illus: Upcycled Art by Yuken Teruya. “What is trash in the eyes of the world is treasure in the hands of God.”

C. Our God is Good

... when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people. (v.25)

Elizabeth failed to live up to society’s expectations to carry on the family line.

Application: How do we live up to society’s expectations? The chasing of success perhaps a symptom of a deeper need—to validate that our children, our parenting and we ourselves are good enough.

The antidote—it is entirely about whether we know we are deeply loved and deeply precious to God.

Conclusion

In the midst of life’s challenges, we sometimes forget who God is. Christopher’s surgery gives us a picture of God who is present in our pain.