

» PASTORS' INSTALLATION TODAY

Come bless our new pastors **today, 2.30pm to 5.30pm** at BPJ Centre at their installation. 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.

» YUNNAN STM TRIP

If you are a CG member and have a calling to build strong discipleship foundation for children, join the Yunnan Short-term Missions trip.

Date: 25–31 July

Ministries: Vacation Bible School Camp and Parenting Seminar

Estimated Cost: \$700 (excluding airfare)

Visit the booth at the foyer today for more details.

» PARENT-CHILD DEDICATION

Registration for parent-child dedication is now open at the Information Counter. Please note that there is a **class for parents next 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.

» SERVE IN NEW LIFE

Steady Readers Programme

Help children overcome challenges in reading and instill a love for books in them from **July to November every week at 8.00pm to 9.30pm**.

Kids Champ Club

If you love children, serve in this character-based mentoring programme for 7 to 10-year-olds from **6 Aug to 17 Dec, every Saturday at 3pm to 5pm**.

To volunteer or enquire, contact Lewis Woo at 9634 9457 or Cai Aiwei at 6892 7219 or caiaiwei@newlife.org.sg

» CAMP COVENANT BRIEFING

If you are attending Camp Covenant, do attend the Camp Briefing **next Sun, 5 Jun** at either WDL Centre Sanctuary at 12.30pm–1.30pm *or* BPJ Centre Sanctuary at 2.30pm–3.30pm.

» MARKETPLACE DISCIPLESHIP

Sign up for IDMC Conference 2016 through Voyager by **this Tue, 31 May** to enjoy the Covenant early bird rates. This year's theme is Marketplace Discipleship. Invite your friends who will get \$30 off the regular registration price when they use the coupon code *MKTCEFC*. They can sign up at www.idmc.org.sg

» CHURCH STAFF RECRUITMENT

Finance Manager

Reporting to the Finance & Human Resources Director, this role is responsible for the accounting, internal controls, financial and management reporting requirements and budgeting process. This role prepares and reviews quarterly financial performance, GST reporting and makes preparations for the Annual General Meeting which includes financial review, presentation slides, and liaison with auditors. This role will also be involved in the regular tithing collections cash count.

Requirements:

- Degree holder in Accounting
- Minimum 5 years' relevant experience and 2–3 years' managerial experience
- Has sound and up-to-date knowledge of financial statutory requirements
- Able to multi-task under tight deadlines

Applicants should either be a church or CG member, intending to answer God's call in furthering Covenant EFC's mission.

For more information, visit <http://www.cefc.org.sg/index.php/about-us/recruitment>. Interested candidates, email your resume to hr@cefc.org.sg by 12 Jun.

BUKIT PANJANG 29 MAY 2016

SERVICE LEADER PS ADRIAN CHAN // WORSHIP LEADER LOW WEI SHING AND MAVIS LOW



Your Discipleship Growth Journey

BY: PS IVAN HO, EQUIPPING-IDT

When I think about our discipleship growth journey, three key things come to my mind.

Discipleship is a must. It is necessary, not optional. The Lord Jesus calls us to follow Him. If we don't make an effort to follow Christ every day and all our days, then our spiritual growth will stagnate and "backsliding" may even happen. Someone once said it is like cycling up a slope. Once you stop pedalling, you will soon stop and start rolling backwards.

Discipleship is a process.

Christian events like services, rallies, conferences, seminars and meetings are great, but they can only challenge and motivate us to make decisions for spiritual growth. Without a process that follows it, all the initial enthusiasm and energy will soon be lost. There is no lasting change. What we must do instead is engage in a continuous process of spending daily time with God in His Word and in prayer; taking periodic extended times of silence and solitude (ranging from half-day to a three-day silent retreat); participating in intentional discipleship training where learning takes place in large and small group communities and where there are structures for personal practice.

Genuine encounters with the Spirit of the living God do bring about a mighty spiritual

breakthrough of confessions, repentance, forgiveness, healing and liberation. However, post-encounter follow-through in small group communities are vital for the continuing discipleship growth journey. In these circles of friendship, trusted fellow pilgrims provide encouragement, accountability, support and prayers. These make all the difference in the long-term. We are not designed to be spiritual hermits. God intends His people to grow in spiritual communities.

Discipleship is a responsibility.

We must take responsibility for our own spiritual growth. There are no shortcuts to spiritual maturity. No special prayer by some "anointed" spiritual leader can do it for us. No powerful worship experience can instantly transform us into Christ-like disciples. The Holy Spirit will not zap us into perfection. But He will certainly empower us in discipleship growth as we yield ourselves to Him. No one can grow on our behalf! We must choose to engage in the discipleship process.

Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. – Colossians 2:6-7 (NASB)



VISION

AUTHENTIC
DISCIPLESHIP
& INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLEMAKING
OF A CERTAIN KIND

VALUES

GRACE
GROWTH
GODLINESS

COVENANT EFC

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SERMON OUTLINE



Reaching Your Peak

Scripture: **EPHESIANS 3:20–21** Sermon: **REV TONY YEO**

Introduction

1. In Him ... to Him! (Eph 1–3)
2. To Reach Your Spiritual Peak, Anchor On:

A. The God Who Works _____ You

... to Him who is able to do far more abundantly ... according to the power at work within us (v.20)

B. The God Who Works _____ You

... in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. (v.21)

Conclusion

Next Week's Sermon Speaker:
5 Jun **PAUL SHI** (BPJ) and **PS BARNEY LAU** (WDL)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY



The Heart of Discipleship

Scripture: **EPHESIANS 3:14–19** // Sermon: **PS BARNEY LAU**

Introduction

1. Verses 14 to 19 is Paul's second prayer in Ephesians, the first is in Ephesians 1:15–23. It is one single "staircase" sentence with concern building on the previous one.
2. Verse 15 hints at the context referred to by verses 14 and 1, i.e. in Christ both Jews and Gentiles are one family and one church!

The Heart of Discipleship Is a Discipleship of the Heart:

A. A Heart that Calls Christ Lord (vv. 14–17a)

1. The word "dwell" used in verse 17a means to settle in making it one's permanent abode, like a home. Home is not just geographical, but relational—it is where our loved ones are. When Christ dwells in us, we are the ones dwelling in Him, our Loved One, our Lord. A heart that knows who is Lord and calls Him Lord.
2. God grant us "according to", not "out of" the riches of His glory—God's empowering of us through the Spirit in the inner man is not token, but in proportion to His immeasurable and infinite glory (v.16). God is not calculative but grants us His Spirit generously to strengthen us, that Christ may dwell in us.
3. But discipleship is an exercise of faith (v.17a), and faith is trust. We do not call Christ Lord because we do not trust Him. We do not trust Him because we do not know Him. We do not know Him because we have not tasted His love.

B. A Heart that Knows Christ's Love (vv. 17b–19)

1. Paul used a botanical and an architectural metaphor when he prayed that Christians are "rooted and grounded in love..." (v.17b). To be grounded in love is to be securely established in the substructure of God's unmerited love and grace. To be rooted in love is to be nourished by that very love that grounds us.
2. This is the love we are called to comprehend (to grasp and catch completely) and to know (to experience and taste) (vv.18–19a).
3. "But in the cross and passion of Christ faith experiences a quite different love of God, which loves what is quite different. It loves what is sinful, bad, foolish, weak and hateful, in order to make it beautiful and good and wise and righteous. For sinners are beautiful because they are loved; they are not loved because they are beautiful." – Jürgen Moltmann, *The Crucified God: The Cross of Christ as the Foundation and Criticism of Christian Theology* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993), p.214.
4. At the heart of discipleship is the love of Christ. Having grasped and tasted of Christ's love, we can trust Him to call Christ Lord.

Conclusion

1. Paul's prayer climax asking that we might be filled up to all the fullness of God (synonymous to the fullness of Christ, Eph 4:13), a maturity anchored in the love and lordship of Christ—that's the calling of discipleship!
2. To be strengthened through the Spirit (v.16b) and to be filled up to the fullness of Christ (v.19b) is the work of God. To call Christ Lord (v.17a) and to know Christ's love (v.17b–19a) is our work so that God may do His work in us.