

» CHRISTMAS DAY OUTREACH SERVICE

Christmas Day is just around the corner! Invite your pre-believing family and friends to hear the Gospel in a fun and relaxed setting **next Sun, 25 Dec**. BPJ and WDL Centres will have a short original musical bringing across some of the unmet expectations and lonely feelings that the Christmas season may surface. East Centre will feature “The Tale of Three Trees”.

BPJ Centre

8.30am & 10.30am Speaker: Ps Andy Lew
Please note that driving into BPJ Centre will not be allowed due to Christmas Family Lunch.

WDL Centre

8.30am & 10.30am Speaker: Dr Andrew Goh

East Centre

9am & 11am Speaker: Glenn Lim

Christmas Family Lunch

Join our Christmas Family Lunch at the foyer *along with your guests* after each service.

Special Offering

Aside from the usual Sunday offering, we will have a special offering on Christmas Day for The Hiding Place (www.hidingplace.com.sg), a Christian home that rehabilitates and ministers to drug addicts, ex-prisoners, alcoholics, gambling addicts, homeless orphans, and troubled youths. They are raising \$8.5 million for a new building in Punggol as the lease for their current location ends in Sep 2017.

» TODAY'S WDL MANDARIN SERVICE

Today's WDL Mandarin Service will be held from **7pm to 9pm at Chapel 1 (Level 4)** for the pre-Christmas celebration.
No service at 2pm.

» MOMENTUM'S NEW TIMING

Starting 7 Jan 2017, Momentum service's **new timing is 3.30pm–6.30pm** on Saturdays at WDL Centre Main Sanctuary. Ps Barney Lau will be preaching to the youths at next year's first service. For enquiries, email tng.momentum@cefc.org.sg

» SERVE IN NEW LIFE

Steady Readers

Be a Steady Readers Volunteer Mentor! Help children overcome challenges in reading and instill in them a love for books from Jan to May 2017, every week at 8pm–9.30pm.

Kids Champ Club

If you love children, here's a great opportunity for you to serve in a character-based mentoring programme for 7 to 10-year-olds from Feb to Jun 2017, every Saturday at 3pm–5pm.

To volunteer or enquire, please email volunteer@newlife.org.sg or call Lewis Woo (9634 9457) / Cai Aiwei (6760 0533).

WOODLANDS CENTRE 18 DEC 2016
SERVICE LEADER REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI // WORSHIP LEADER CHUA SUE ERN



Spiritual Temperature

BY: PS LEE DA WIN, COORDINATOR, SMALL GROUP INFRASTRUCTURE

This is the second to the last week of 2016. The finishing line is finally in sight.

As we near Christmas and the unparalleled opportunity to invite our FRANS (Families/Friends, Relatives, Associates, Neighbours and even Strangers) to our Christmas outreach services, let's be reminded to do so in ceaseless prayer (1 Thess 5:17). After all, when we work, we work. But when we pray, God works!

Looking back, the previous month marked the final centralised Prayer & Praise meeting — the way we've been doing it in Covenant EFC for as long as anyone could remember. And from January onwards, we go where we've never been before — monthly Prayer & Praise decentralised to the CGs! With the full CG time dedicated to prayer, this affords an extended and unhurried time for us to pray together, and not just for one another's needs as we are so used to do in the CG, but also for the needs of the Church and the world. This will widen the horizon of our prayer, deepen our propensity for intercession, change the spiritual climate of our CGs, and illumine our city with the Light of the World.

For some of us, this may be a big step forward. “Prayer is not learned in a classroom but in the closet” says E. M. Bounds. And the trouble is, if I may humbly add, the closet is not too comfortable to be in for long. Especially when we're just starting out. It takes some getting used to. And for some of us who seem to be perpetually stuck in our prayer life, we're longing for a breakthrough. There's no better time than now to get started, as we draw to the close of the year and look forward to the beginning of the next.

One of the distinctives of the earlier Church believers was their characteristic devotion to prayer (Acts 2:42). If there was anyone who could have gone without prayer, that would have been Jesus, the Son of the Living God. And yet, Jesus prayed *all the time* (Matt 26:36; Mk 6:46; Lk 6:12, 11:1).

“I know of no better thermometer to your spiritual temperature than this,” says Charles Spurgeon, “the measure of the intensity of your prayer.” What is the reading on your thermometer today? What about the reading for your CG? If you're experiencing spiritual hypothermia, then it's time to get back into that closet. It's never too late.



VISION

AUTHENTIC
DISCIPLESHIP
& INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLEMAKING
OF A CERTAIN KIND

VALUES

GRACE
GROWTH
GODLINESS

SERMON OUTLINE



Reloading Your Prayer Life

Scripture: **EPHESIANS 6:18–24 (ESV)** Sermon: **PS IVAN HO**

Introduction

Reloading our prayer life for spiritual battle requires that we:

A. Pray in the Spirit (v.18a)

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.”

B. Pray for the Saints (vv.18b–24)

“To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, ...”

Conclusion

Next Week's Sermon Speakers:

25 Dec **PS ANDY LEW** (BPJ), **DR ANDREW GOH** (WDL) and **GLENN LIM** (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY



Repelling the Enemy

Scripture: **EPHESIANS 6:17B** // Sermon: **PS LEE DA WIN**

Introduction

We are at war, wrestling against spiritual powers (Eph 6:12–13). From the moment we believed in Jesus, we have enlisted into the Lord's army. The question is not whether you are in the battle or not, but whether you're able to withstand the attacks of the enemy. Thankfully, God has equipped us with divine resources for spiritual warfare. He has given us the sword of the Spirit (synonymously the Word of God) — the only weapon in the armour of God which can be used both defensively and offensively — to repel the enemy.

A. Let the Word of God Master Us

The Word of God is the message of God — the message that God wants to convey to people (Rom 10:17), and that central message is Jesus Christ. The entire Bible points to Jesus, the Son of God, the Word of God

In the New Testament, *logos* and *rhema* are the two Greek words most often use for the Word of God. The *rhema* word is not superior to the *logos* word; rather, it must be based upon the *logos* word. We need a balance of both the *logos* and the *rhema* word.

Mastery of the Word means, first mastering the Word (Josh 1:8), and then, being mastered by the Word (Heb 4:12-13, Psa 119:11). We must deliberately cultivate an appetite for the Word, love the Word, and become transformed by the Word. A regular daily devotion in the Word is critical.

B. Let the Word of God Defend Us

The Holy Spirit strengthens and empowers us (Acts 1:8, Eph 3:16), particularly (in this context) for spiritual warfare. Taking the sword of the Spirit is a picture of the authority that is vested in us when we receive the power of the Holy Spirit. And it is with this power that we repel the enemy! Jesus is the prime example (Matt 4:1-11). When tempted in the wilderness by Satan, He overcame temptation by quoting from Scriptures. As a result, Satan was repelled.

How do we defend with the sword of the Spirit to repel the enemy? First, we must recognise the attacks of the enemy. Then we refuse them (in Jesus' name), and refuting them (with Scriptures). This presupposes, of course, that we have some level of mastery of the Scriptures, which brings us back to the importance of mastering the Word of God, and being mastered by it.

Conclusion

We don't fight for victory; we fight from victory because of the finished work of Christ at Calvary. When Christ died and rose from the dead, he has already totally defeated Satan. Jesus is the Living Word of God, and putting on the whole armour of God, wielding the sword of the Spirit, enables us to repel the enemy **only because** of Christ!