

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARENTING TRAINING

Parenting with Hope

Are your kids now in their teens? Let's journey together in this season of parenting!

Dates: 4 and 25 March, 1 and 8 April (Sat)

Time: 2pm – 4pm

Venue: ACKCentre, Live Recording Studio

Fee: \$90 / couple

Register at the Information Counter today!

STM TRIPS

CG members, join these STM trips and B.L.E.S.S. the nations!

Hanoi, Vietnam on 3 – 11 Jun

Build bridges into local community through English camp for 12 to 18-year-olds.

Surabaya on 23-27 Nov

Partner with a local church (GKI-PB) in ministering at a slum known as Kampong Malang by teaching English to the kids, ministering at the CGs, and connecting to the community.

Yunnan on 31 Jul – 6 Aug

Disciple the next generation of a tribal community by conducting a five-day discipleship camp for youths aged 12 years old and above. Trippers who can speak basic conversational Mandarin are preferred.

Chiang Mai on 30 Apr – 5 May

English camp for the children of street vendors focusing mainly on character building and spiritual values.

To register or enquire, email ailli.tay@cefc.org.sg

SERVE IN CHILDREN'S FEST

Children's Fest 2017: Friends in Unity!

We need more than 500 volunteers to partner with us in blessing the children in the community on 2 Apr, Sun:

- Booth facilitators for the game stations and other booths
- Welcomers and helping hands
- Trained nurses or doctors

You may serve on Shift 1 (7.30am – 10.30am) or Shift 2 (10.15am – 1.15pm). Serving for both shifts is encouraged.

If you're serving together with your CG, sign up through SGI. If you do not have a CG, call us at 6892 7191 or email c.f@newlife.org.sg

SERVE IN ALPHA

Introducing people to Jesus is an amazing experience! Serve as an Alpha facilitator or volunteer. Practical training and tools will be provided so we only require a willing heart to serve. Register at <http://alpha.cefcapps.com> To enquire, email alpha@cefc.org.sg

BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP

Baptism Class

Date: 26 Feb (Sun)

Time: 2.30pm – 5.00pm

Venue: BPJ Centre

Membership Class

Date: 4 Mar (Sat)

Time: 9am – 4pm

Venue: ACKCentre

Sign up at the Information Counter.

COVENANT EFC

ACKCentre: 2 Kallang Avenue, CT Hub #10-26, Singapore 339407

ONE CHURCH MULTIPLE CENTRES:

BPJ Centre: 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.30am ■ WDL Centre: 8.30am & 10.30am ■ East Centre: 10.00am

Tel: (65) 6892 6811 ■ Email: mail@cefc.org.sg ■ Website: www.cefc.org.sg

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CovenantEvangelicalFreeChurch

VISION

AUTHENTIC
DISCIPLESHIP
& INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLEMAKING
OF A CERTAIN KIND

VISIBLE VALUES

- Grace
- Growth
- Godliness



UNDERLYING VALUES

- Truth
- Community
- Stewardship
- Balance
- Brokenness

COVENANT EFC

BUKIT PANJANG CENTRE, 19 FEBRUARY 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS VALERIE CHAN ■ WORSHIP LEADER: SAMUEL LIM

Disciple Now for the Next Generation of Leaders!

PS BARNEY LAU, DIRECTOR, TNG

The place is not sacred, but the posture and process of seeking the Lord each year for His direction for Covenant EFC is. The annual pilgrimage of the Senior Pastor's Office (SPO) to Kota Kinabalu back in July 2016 was such. Today begins the first Heartbeat article about the Five Faith Exploits that the Lord confirmed for 2028, the year when Covenant EFC turns 50. Pray, support, and co-labour with us as we do what the Lord has led us to.

Surely one of the strategic task of being an *Authentic Discipleship and Intentional Disciplemaking Church of A Certain Kind* must be to disciple now the next generation of leaders for the Church of God. Yet, leaders of *A Certain Kind* do not just grow on any tree! Instead they are disciplined through the pilgrimage of life and ministry, and forged through moments of success and crucibles of failures and pain.

The Barna Group in their longitudinal research concluded that churches' dropout problem is, at its core, a discipling problem. David Kinnaman says in his book *You Lost Me*: "The church is not adequately preparing the next generation to follow Christ faithfully in a

rapidly changing culture." This same principle applies to church leadership. "Entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also," Paul exhorts in 2 Timothy 2:2-6. Christ's gospel and teachings are to be responsibly handed over to faithful men (v.2), who are ready (v.3), resolute (v.4), responsible (v.5), and resilient (v.6) to pass it further on to other faithful men. These are the *A Certain Kind* which are grown, not just plucked off any tree!

It has taken over 20 years to grow and groom the current set of SPO in the grace and provision of the Lord. The question is not merely who the next generation leaders are, but what kind — who and what kind of Deacons, Ministry Staff, Elders, Pastors, SPO and Senior Pastor must Covenant EFC entrust its mandate of authentic discipleship and intentional discipling of *A Certain Kind* to?

It takes *A Certain Kind* of leaders to grow and groom *A Certain Kind* of next generation leaders. Let's **disciple now** so that the Next Generation of *A Certain Kind* of Leaders of faithful men may be raised for Covenant EFC!

SERMON OUTLINE

Being Anchored Despite Uncertain Times

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 1:1-4 ■ SERMON: PS EDMUND WONG

Introduction

A. Standing on the Promises of God (v.1)

B. Serving the Purposes of God (vv.2-4)

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

26 FEB – PS LEE DA WIN (BPJ), PS SHARON FONG (WDL), AND REV TAN KAY KIONG (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

Rebuilding the Foundation

SCRIPTURE: OVERVIEW OF EZRA AND HAGGAI ■ SERMON: REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI

Introduction

Both these books are post-Exilic books — they happened after the Exile. The Exile was the result of the people's continued disobedience to their Covenant with God at Mount Sinai (Deut 28:15 – 68; 2 Kin 17:7.) But God was gracious and gave a promise for their return (Jer 25:11, 20:10.) Ezra and Haggai document God's second chance for His people as it were.

How were they not to repeat the mistakes of the past? They had to rebuild three areas:

A. We Must Return to the Worship of God (Ezra 1–6)

1. Of all the things that God stirred Cyrus' heart to send the people back, it was to rebuild God's Temple! That's what the first return was all about (Ezr 1 – 6.) What is the significance of the Temple? The Temple housed the Ark of the Covenant (Exo 25:22; Deut 12:5 – 7) and representing the place where heaven met earth – Almighty God would choose to meet with His people! In stirring Cyrus's heart to allow for such a rebuilding signals that God wanted to meet with His people again!
2. Worship is more than just a building or singing songs. It happens when we make space to meet with our Master. In a busy country like Singapore, it is challenging to make time for relationships. Moreover relationships are often "inefficient" and so often take a backseat in our productive nation. To return to true worship, we must take time and make space in our busy schedules to grow that relationship with our Father.

B. We Must Realign to the Way of God (Haggai 1–2)

1. The people met with opposition when they returned to rebuild. The opposition lasted for about 15 years by which time the people had drifted from the original mission. They were caught up with their own lives, building their own homes, and had left God's Temple undone (Hag 1:1 – 9). God sent Haggai to stir their hearts to finish their mission.
2. It's not uncommon to start well and end up in mission drift due to the contingencies of life. God is calling us to arise to fulfil His mission for us. One marker of this drift is our heart for people. A practical way to return to His mission for us is to perhaps use the B.L.E.S.S. module in the Covenant App to begin praying for our friends and loved ones who have yet to know Christ.

C. We Must Restore the Word of God (Ezra 7–10)

1. The Temple was rebuilt after about three and a half years (Ezr 6:15). Yet God's work was not yet done in His people. He sent a devoted and well trained scribe by name of Ezra back to the Promised Land. How come? Because the people had intermarried with the locals. The issue was not ethnicity but primarily the locals' allegiance to their own gods. God's people knew this was not right but yet they did not obey.
2. Restoring God's Word in our lives means we not just know what His requirements are, but to act upon them. This is foundation building in our discipleship (Matt 7:24–27). Many of us already know what we must do or rather not do. To build true foundations — God tells us to **act** upon it.

Conclusion

We are in a season where God has repeatedly reminded us of our core values and how we need to build those firm foundations by living them out. Let us be found doing so — and may He have mercy upon us and "come to us..." (Jer 29:10b).