

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Calling all registered members of Covenant EFC! You are invited to join our upcoming Annual General Meeting on 26 Mar, Sun, 2:30pm at BPJ Centre Grace Sanctuary.

Kindly update your mailing address at Voyager if you moved this past year so that you can receive the AGM notification in the mail.

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, please download a group registration form from www.newlife.org.sg and email to c.f@newlife.org.sg. If you do not have a CG, contact us at 6892 7191 or c.f@newlife.org.sg.

MARCH DJ COLLECTION

The Discipleship Journal (DJ) for March 2017 is now available. You can access and use it digitally on either the "Covenant EFC" app or our church website. If you need to use the hardcopy, you can pick up a copy at the Information Counter on Level 1 after the service while stocks last.

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.

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.

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, 26 FEBRUARY 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PAUL SHI ■ WORSHIP LEADER: CHUA SUE ERN

Disciple Now for Godly Families and Generations

REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI, DIRECTOR, EQUIPPING AND FAMILY LIFE

We are to disciple now for godly families and generations! Why must we do so?

The local church by itself cannot make disciples because much of life happens apart from its directed ministries. They happen at home, in families, relationships and in the workplace. In these arenas, authentic Christianity is fleshed out and lived, and either embraced or rejected. To be an Intentional Disciple Making Church (IDMC), we must embrace the Intentional Disciple Making Family (IDMF).

Four things we must clarify regarding IDMF:

Firstly, some may object to the term "family" because not everyone will get married or start a family. We use the term "family" to include everyone — single or otherwise. Why? Because although a person may never marry, he/she still has a family of origin. We therefore use the term "family" as a reminder that we all have a physical family and are part of a larger spiritual one. The term "family" is used relationally.

Secondly, the heartbeat of an IDMF is relationships. Our deepest realities are often shaped in the "contactual" crucible of those we are close to. Some of these may be good experiences,

while some may be the other end of the spectrum. In any case, relationships become the crucial touch and turning points for our lives. Deep change is often both initiated and sustained through such relationships.

Thirdly, we live in a highly efficient world which values the production of things and results rather than the nurturing of lives (which often tend to be slow, tedious, repetitive and thus deemed inefficient). Certainly it calls for a balance. But when it comes to eternity, we must intentionally make the choice to grow people over the mere production of results. This boils down to our fundamental understanding that human beings are made in the image of God, and thus of immense worth.

Finally, this investment must take place in the relationships closest to us — starting with the husband-wife relationship, then the parent-child relationship. When we see this as the starting point of authentic discipleship and intentional discipling, we have captured the Lord's heartbeat of passing it on (Deut 6:6-9; 20-25).

As we move towards 2028, may the LORD grip our hearts with His heart for true life-change, starting with the growing of genuine loving relationships in our homes!

SERMON OUTLINE

Homecoming

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 1:5-11 ■ SERMON: PS LEE DA WIN

Introduction

A. Meet God with Our _____ (v.5)

B. Meet God with Our _____ (vv.6-11)

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

5 MAR – REV TAN KAY KIONG (BPJ), REV TONY YEO (WDL) AND REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

Being Anchored Despite Uncertain Times

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

Introduction

The uncertain times we are living in — personally, nationally and globally. And thus the need for spiritual anchors to keep us steady and focused as we navigate through these seasons.

The people of God were in Babylon, experiencing exile and transition. Decades have passed. What would become of them?

In uncertain times, we can be spiritually anchored by:

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

1. A contrast between the word of Cyrus to his subjects and the word of God to His people.
2. Cf Jeremiah 29:10, 29:14, 30:3, 31:8, 32:34, 33:7, 33:12 – why did God repeat this prophecy of return to the land so many times? Not to mention the same prophecy in Isaiah, Ezekiel, Hosea and Zechariah. The problem of unbelief — false prophets proclaiming Jerusalem would not be destroyed by the invading armies, and would enjoy peace. The exiles having settled in Babylon, believing this was how the rest of their lives would be.
3. Historically, Daniel and his three friends were deported in 605 BC. The first group of exiles returned in 536 BC. A span of 70 years — “in order to fulfil the word of the Lord”, who is directing the word of Cyrus!

Focus: God's promises are His golden fruit to be plucked by the hand of prayer (E M Bounds). Go back to your Bible and journal. What has God **already** promised? Hold on to them. Keep praying and keep trying. His promises **will** come to pass — for they are Yes and Amen in Jesus Christ!

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

Three groups of people who served God's purpose of rebuilding the Temple:

1. Verse 2 – Cyrus. King of four corners of the world who conquered Central Asia and whose influence extended even to Greece. Given the title 'King of Kings'. Yet acknowledged and gave credit to God! How was that possible? He believed Israel's God helped his god to fight and win battles. But God says that Cyrus was His instrument to fulfil His purpose (Isa 44:28).
2. Verse 3 – the remnant. Despite becoming prosperous in Babylon, and adopting the Babylonian language and calendar, about 50,000 out of 1-2 million of them heard God's call and came out of their comfort zone. Burning their bridge, they travelled 1450 km over four months to return to a land in ruins. Starting all over!
3. Verse 4 – the non-Jews. Cf Exodus 12:35-36. The favour of God upon the Jews to rebuild His dwelling place. History repeating itself again!

Focus: Every time there is a move of God in history, God looks for the remnant who hear His call and come out of the comfort zone to serve His purpose. Seven-week PDA journey till Good Friday — let's use the B.L.E.S.S. module in our church app together!

Conclusion

A God who does not let us go, and whose presence is with us — so that we don't just survive but thrive!