

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.

COVENANT EAST CAMP

East Covenanters, register **today** after the service! Hard copies of the registration form are available at the booth. You may get the soft copy from your CGL. Please register with completed forms and pay via cheque to "Covenant Evangelical Free Church".

Venue: Hatten Hotel, Malacca

Date: 6–9 Jun (Tue–Fri)

Theme: Foundation, Faith & Fruitfulness

Speaker: Ps Dr Chew Weng Chee

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. English camp for 12 to 18-year-olds.

Surabaya on 23–27 Nov. Minister in a slum by teaching English to the kids, ministering at the CGs, and connecting to the community.

Yunnan on 31 Jul – 6 Aug. 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.

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

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Date: 4 Mar (Sat) Time: 9am – 4pm

Venue: ACKCentre

Sign up at the Information Counter.

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 after the service while stocks last.

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

EAST CENTRE, 26 FEBRUARY 2017

SERVICE LEADER: JEREMY KOH ■ WORSHIP LEADER: DAVID CHONG

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-II ■ SERMON: REV TAN KAY KIONG

Introduction

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

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

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

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

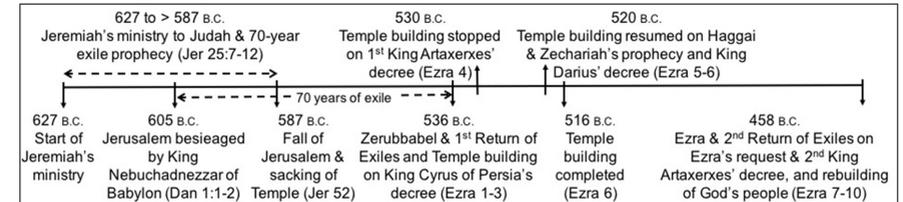
LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

Being Anchored Despite Uncertain Times

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 1:1-4 ■ SERMON: PS BARNEY LAU

Introduction

Context and timeline: Ezra marks end of Judah's 70-year exile in fulfillment of Jeremiah 25:11-12



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

1. Politically, Cyrus, who had just overthrown the Babylon empire, pursued an expedient policy allowing subject peoples to remain/return to their homeland and maintain own religious traditions. But theologically, it was God in His sovereign will and purpose who “stirred up the spirit of Cyrus” (Independently validated in the so-called “Cyrus Cylinder”, Context of Scripture II, pp.314-316).
2. It's probable that to the exiles, it was “simply the changing of one tyrant to another”. No one could have expected Cyrus' radical political policy! (Robert Fyall, The Message of Ezra and Haggai, (InterVarsity Press, 2011), p.18).
3. The theme of God's sovereignty, who willed the exiles' return and the temple's rebuilding, is further emphasised in the chiasmic literary structure of Ezra 1-6 (Bruce K. Waltke, An Old Testament Theology, (Zondervan 2011), pp.775-776).
4. If we understand that God is sovereign, His ways are infinitely higher than ours (Isa 55:8-9), and His plans are eternally for our good (Jer 29:11-12), then our job is to humbly and trustingly serve Him in His purposes.

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

1. Yet, the historical context for Ezra is one of judgement — the 70-year exile is a covenantal curse for Judah's covenantal unfaithfulness (Jer 2).
2. We must understand God's heart: God's judgement is always reluctant, remedial and restorative that His people may repent and return so that they might experience redemption (Joel 2:12-13, Jer. 29:11-13, Joel 2:25-27).
3. God's heart is a tripartite covenant with His people: “I am the LORD your God, you are My people, and I dwell among you.” (Exo 6:6-7; 29:45-46). God's judgement, though may seem harsh, emanates from God's heart of covenantal faithfulness!
4. This is emphasised in Ezekiel, prophet to God's people during the exile years, in these phrases: “I am the LORD” repeated 63 times; “your [their] God” “their God” 15 times; “My people” 30 times! In between the lines of Ezra 1:1-4 is the heart of God: “I am the LORD your God, you are My people, and I dwell among you.”

Conclusion

1. “You are mine, nothing can take you away from me!” That's God's Sovereignty!
2. “I AM yours, nothing can take Me away from you!” That's God's Faithfulness!
3. When we can't see God's hand in our circumstances, trust God's heart!