

## 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](http://www.newlife.org.sg) and email to [c.f@newlife.org.sg](mailto:c.f@newlife.org.sg). If you do not have a CG, contact us at 6892 7191 or [c.f@newlife.org.sg](mailto: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](mailto: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 [aili.tay@cefc.org.sg](mailto:aili.tay@cefc.org.sg).

### MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Date: 4 Mar (Sat) Time: 9am – 4pm  
Venue: ACKCentre  
Sign up at the Information Counter.

## VISION

AUTHENTIC  
DISCIPLESHIP  
& INTENTIONAL  
DISCIPLEMAKING  
OF A CERTAIN KIND

### VISIBLE VALUES

- Grace
- Growth
- Godliness



### UNDERLYING VALUES

- Truth
- Community
- Stewardship
- Balance
- Brokenness

## COVENANT EFC

WOODLANDS CENTRE, 26 FEBRUARY 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS KATHERINE CHAN ■ WORSHIP LEADER: MAVIS LOW

### Disciple Now for Godly Families and Generations

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

**W**e 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!

## 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](mailto:mail@cefc.org.sg) ■ Website: [www.cefc.org.sg](http://www.cefc.org.sg)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CovenantEvangelicalFreeChurch](https://www.facebook.com/CovenantEvangelicalFreeChurch)

## SERMON OUTLINE

### Homecoming

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 1:5-11 ■ SERMON: PS SHARON FONG

#### 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 IVAN HO

#### Introduction

Last Saturday's collapse of the Tembusu tree at Botanic Gardens seems to be a warning for us to examine our foundation and to rebuild it strong to withstand the relentless onslaughts of stresses from internal and external forces. This year the world has entered into an unprecedented era of uncertainty and insecurity. Eurasia Group: "geopolitical recession" and the "G-Zero" world. We need to be anchored in God's faithfulness and sovereignty.

How can we be anchored despite uncertain times?

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

Brief historical background of the Babylon exile in 586 BC is found in 2 Chronicles 36:15-23; vv.22-23 almost identical to Ezra 1:1-3. During the exile, God's people were to stand on His promises that He will raise up Cyrus to destroy Babylon, rebuild the temple in Jerusalem and return the exiles to Judah.

Application: When we face "exile" situations like:

1. Being dominated by sin, hold fast to God's promises (e.g. Ps 51:17; 1 Jn 1:9-10; Jn 10:27-30).
2. Being dominated by sickness, hold fast to God's promises (e.g. Ro 8:26-28, 32, 38-39; Heb 13:5).

In the larger picture, remember God is totally sovereign. He is on the cosmic throne. His Kingdom will reign eternally (Rev 11:15). He is in full control. God moves human history to its conclusion in accordance with His will. Final destruction of evil and wickedness (Rev 20, 21) is assured. His full presence and glory is coming to the new earth and new city of Jerusalem, in which the temple is the Lord God and the Lamb. He will dwell with His people. He will be their God and they will be His people. Forever.

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

God stirred up the spirit of Cyrus to do God's will and purposes. Cyrus is not a believer. He was pursuing his own political agenda of seeking favour with his subject peoples and their various gods (see the "Cyrus Cylinder"). Divine sovereignty and human responsibility means that God will fulfill His will and purposes with or without people's direct obedience to His commands and ways. The 50,000 returning exiles left their comfort zone to rebuild God's temple. The remaining exiles gave of their wealth for the rebuilding project.

Application: Obey God's commands and give our lives to serve His purposes, and receive His blessing. If we don't, we will forfeit the grace and blessing that could be ours. The blessing is that of knowing God more intimately and living in His presence more proximately, experiencing His love, peace and joy. We serve God's purposes by building up the spiritual temple of God, i.e. the people of God, by **evangelism** (share!) and **ministry** (serve!), **going** (launching out in faith and obedience) and **giving** (time, treasure, talents).

#### Conclusion

Out of the exile, the sovereign and faithful God raised up a man named Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, and called him to return to Judah and lead the returnees to rebuild God's temple in Jerusalem. Zerubbabel is from the tribe of Judah, from the Davidic line, and an ancestor of our Lord Jesus Christ (Matt 1:1-16). Our ultimate security is in Jesus Christ whom God sent to be the Saviour of the world!