

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOOD FRIDAY OUTREACH SERVICES

Invite your friends and loved ones to our Good Friday evangelistic services. This is a great opportunity for them to hear about God's love through a multi-sensory presentation and special guest speakers.

Date: 14 Apr **Time:** 9am and 11am

Venue: BPJ, WDL and East Centres

Speakers:

Mr Glenn Lim (BPJ Centre)

Rev Paul Jeyachandran (WDL Centre)

Prof Freddy Boey (East Centre)

The offering collected on this day will be donated to Prison Fellowship Singapore.

Light refreshments will be served for your guests after the service. See you there!

EASTER SERVICES AND FAMILY LUNCH

We will have guest speakers on our Easter services on 16 Apr. Dr Roland Chia will speak at BPJ and WDL Centres. Bishop Emeritus Robert Solomon will be the speaker at East Centre.

Join our Easter Family Lunch at the foyer after each service and let's have a good time of fellowship as a church family.

Please note that pick up and drop off at BPJ Centre is not allowed on this day.

COLLECTION OF CG CURRICULUM

CGs or representatives may collect the CG Curriculum Member's Workbook (IDMF "Being Human") from the booth at the foyer today and next Sun. Soft copy can be downloaded at <http://cefc.ch/IDMFBeingHumanMembers>

REVIVAL PRAYER MEETINGS

Come and be blessed by four nights of extended worship and prayer during the Passion Week, before our Good Friday outreach. As God revives us, He will empower us to proclaim the Gospel boldly and live lives of Personal Revival, Divine Appointment and Active Obedience that glorify Him!

Dates: 10-13 Apr (Mon-Thu)

Time: 8pm - 10pm

Venue: BPJ Centre

Speaker: Ps Paul Jeyachandran (Senior Pastor of Life Church Castle Hill in Sydney, Australia)

THE ALPHA COURSE

The Alpha Course will be held every Wed from 19 Apr to 17 Jun. This is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Many have been saved through Alpha and you can be part of this amazing experience by inviting a pre-believer! Register at <http://alpha.cefcapps.com> or email alpha@cefc.org.sg for enquiries.

BREAKTHROUGH WEEKENDS

Today is the last day of early bird registration for CG members. Come and set aside extended time with God and journey together with your CG-mates. Sign up today at www.cefc.org.sg by clicking "My Account".

Marriage BTW on 2 - 4 Jun

Early Bird Rate: \$620 per couple

Men's BTW on 2 - 4 Jun

Early Bird Rate: \$295 (twin) / \$440 (single)

Women's BTW on 26 - 28 May

Early Bird Rate: \$295 (twin) / \$440 (single)

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

WOODLANDS CENTRE, 2 APR 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS IVAN HO ■ WORSHIP LEADER: BENJAMIN AND SHARON TAN

Moving Ahead Towards Vision 2028

ELDER LOUIS TAN, CHAIRMAN, CHURCH BOARD

Covenant EFC's 39th Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 26 March 2017. In reviewing 2016, we are grateful to God for growing Covenant EFC from an average worship attendance of 5,502 in 2015 to 6,177, for 432 conversions, and for abundantly supplying \$15.2 million from tithes and offerings.

We would like to thank all members of the Church Board and its committees for their dedicated service. The majority of our elected Elders have served between 9 to 15 years on the Church Board and some of them will take a break this year in view of work, ministry and family commitments. We thank Elder Hui Weng Tat, Ps Sebastian Quek and Elder Benjamin Mow for their invaluable contributions to the Church Board over the past decade as they step down. We are also grateful that they will continue to serve in the Council of Elders as elected Elders of Covenant EFC. We also thank Deaconess Tang Lay Hoon for her service as Treasurer as she steps down from the Board. At the same

time, we welcome Deacon Nelson Tan onto the Board.

As we move towards *Vision 2028* with multiple worship centres in Singapore, we need to plan ahead for adequate infrastructure to support our growth. As such, the Church Board has convened a Property Committee led by Deacon Amos Leong whose members include Senior Pastor's Office (SPO) members, and lay members with expertise in properties and buildings.

The spiritual anchor for 2016 was Acts 20:28: "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the Church of God, which he obtained with his own blood." As church leaders, we are committed to care for ourselves and for the church of God. As we move ahead towards 2028, we will continue to renew the board leadership with younger members. We also urge all Covenanters to step up to serve according to your gifts and passion so that together we may care for and build His Church, and extend His Kingdom in Singapore and beyond!

SERMON OUTLINE

Facing Oppositions

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 4:1-5 ■ SERMON: PAUL SHI

Introduction

A. Stay Away from the Deceivers

B. Stand Firm Through the Discouragement

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

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

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

Laying a Strong Foundation

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 3:7-13 ■ SERMON: PS IVAN HO

Introduction

From Ezra 3:1-6 “A Fresh Start with God”, we saw the priority of building the altar before rebuilding the temple; rebuilding the temple before rebuilding the city walls and city.

To make a fresh start with God we need to lay a strong foundation. From Ezra 3:7-13, we can discern two non-negotiables in laying a strong foundation for building God's people:

A. We Give Our Best Work to God (vv.7-9)

1. Prepare (v.7). Hired masons and carpenters as craftsmen for the temple; procured Cedar trees from Lebanon just like King Solomon for the First Temple (1 Kin 5; 2 Chron 2). Lebanese Cedar wood was prized in the ancient world for construction of buildings and seagoing vessels. God, through Cyrus, provided the necessary resources for the returnees. Similarly today, God will certainly provide all the resources you need to fulfil the work to which He has called you. Application: Danger of keeping what God has put in your hands, instead of using them for His purposes (Deut 8:17-18; 1 Chron 29:10-17).
2. Start (v.8). Zerubbabel and Jeshua made a start despite their severe lack of material and human resources (e.g. 2 Chron 2:1-2). Note: How Zerubbabel and Jeshua had to deploy Levites from 20 years old (cf. Num 4 the starting age was 30 years old), because the total number of returning Levites was only 74 (Ezr 2:40)! Application: (a) Don't wait to serve God with your spiritual gifts and abilities. Don't wait till you think things are perfect. (b) Young adults, be courageous! God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called! Your adequacy is in God (2 Cor 3:5-6; 1 Tim 4:12-16).
3. Supervise the work (v.8). Supervision is very important, because in the long run, your standards will be preserved and there will be much less rectification works. The same in church ministry: prevention now is better than cure later. Application: Keep sound standards! Standards of Truth. The Gospel. The Word of God.
4. Supervise the workers (vv.9). Don't just supervise the work. Coach and encourage the people who work for you in order to develop them and help improve their skills.

B. We Give Our Best Worship to God (vv.10-13)

1. Singing God's praise is a big part of worship (though not the only thing). They are celebrating who God is: “For He is good and His love endures forever” (v.12).
2. At our milestones. The foundation of the temple was laid which means the Lord has fulfilled His promise. God is faithful to His covenant! His steadfast love is great towards His people!
3. In our disappointments. Tears of sadness can coexist with praise of God's character. There's no contradiction. Here, the older Jewish leaders wept loudly, because what they can see is that this Second Temple is going to be nowhere as glorious as the First Temple. Yet they are praising God for His goodness and steadfast love. Application: In our own disappointments in life, hold fast to this truth – God is good and His love endures forever – and praise Him nevertheless. We cannot see the end. God sees the end from the beginning, and through His prophet promises that the end will be glorious and beautiful beyond what we can see (Hag 2:9).

Conclusion

The strongest foundation you and I can have in our lives is the Lord Jesus Christ.