

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

Invite your friends and loved ones to our Good Friday evangelistic services this Fri so they can hear about God's love through a multi-sensory presentation and special guest speakers.

Date: 14 Apr (this Fri)

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.

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.

THANK YOU, NEW LIFE SERVERS!

To the more than 600 servers who partnered with New Life to impact almost 4,000 children and their families, we say a big "Thank You!". Children's Fest would not have been possible without your unwavering support. All glory to God!

REVIVAL PRAYER MEETINGS

Come and be blessed by four nights of extended worship and prayer starting tomorrow until Thu!

Dates: 10-13 Apr (Mon-Thu)

Time: 8pm –10pm **Venue:** BPJ Centre

Speaker: Ps Paul Jeyachandran

THE ALPHA COURSE

The Alpha Course will be held every Wed from 19 Apr to 17 Jun. 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

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". Next Sun is the last day of registration.

Marriage BTW on 2 – 4 Jun

\$750 per couple

Men's BTW on 2 – 4 Jun

\$350 (twin) / \$510 (single)

Women's BTW on 26 – 28 May

\$350 (twin) / \$510 (single)

DISCOVERY WEEKEND

Discovery Weekend is a one-day session for courting couples to see where they are and where God is in their relationship, that they may grow to honour Him in all they do as His disciples. Sign up at the Information Counter on Sundays!

Date: 22 Apr (Sat)

Time: 8.45am – 5.00pm

Venue: BPJ Centre Chapel (Level 3)

For enquiries, please email fic@cefc.org.sg

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, 9 APR 2017

SERVICE LEADER: JEREMY KOH ■ WORSHIP LEADER: DAVID CHONG

Making Space for the Fire

REV TONY YEO AND REV TAN KAY KIONG, SENIOR PASTORS

And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. – Acts 4:31

Something is happening to our church.

We have been asking God to bring a new wave of worship and prayer, which would lead to more souls being saved. Since this year started, those on the platform and at the pews have been in tears. God is stirring our hearts, as He did to Cyrus and the remnant in (Ezra 1). A new move of God has begun!

The rebuilding of God's house begins with rebuilding the altar (Ezra 3). The coming revival prayer meetings is about making space at the altar, so that God will keep stirring our hearts till we become a bonfire for Jesus.

"What makes a fire burn is space between the logs — a

breathing space.

Too much of a good thing, too many logs packed in too tightly can douse the flames almost as surely as a pail of water would. So building fires requires attention to the spaces in between, as much as to the wood." (Excerpt from *Fire* by Judy Brown)

God wants to revive us totally so that we would preach the Gospel boldly in these last days. We have a golden opportunity through our coming Good Friday Gospel presentation for our friends and loved ones to hear something that would change their eternal destiny!

We urge you to make space this Passion Week and be present on all nights. See you this week at the Revival Prayer Meetings (10-13 Apr, 8 pm at BPJ Centre), and bring your friends to the Good Friday evangelistic services (9am and 11am at BPJ, WDL and East Centres).

More, Lord!

SERMON OUTLINE

Facing Opposition II

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 4:6-23 ■ SERMON: REV TONY YEO

Introduction

A. When falsely accused (Ezra 4:6-16)

“They lodged an accusation against the people” (v6)

B. When forced to stop (Ezra 4:17-23)

“Stop work... Compelled them by force to stop... Came to a standstill... (v21,23,24)

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

16 APR - DR ROLAND CHIA (BPJ & WDL) AND BISHOP EMERITUS ROBERT SOLOMON (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

Facing Oppositions

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 4:1-5 ■ SERMON: PS BARNEY LAU

Introduction

1. Jerusalem was under the Persian province “Beyond the River” (v.11), with its administrative centre in Samaria (formerly part of Israel's northern kingdom).
2. The population were mostly descendants of peoples settled there by Assyrian king Esarhaddon (671-670BC - 2 Kings 17:24-35), were syncretistic in worship.
3. High local interest was possibly due to the perceived political power shifts in the wake of the sanctioned return of these exiled Jews to rebuild their temple.
4. The context tells us why the locals were enemies (v.1): Returnees were terrified of them (3:3); they turned hostile when their offers were spurned (ch.4).
5. Oppositions' strategy: Deceive and discourage!

A. Stay Away from the Deceivers (vv. 1-3)

1. Opposition's message: “We are like you...” in purpose (“Let us build with you”), in background (“for we, like you...”), in faith (“seek your God”), in praxis (“we have been sacrificing to Him...”), in politics (“Esarhaddon king... brought us here”).
2. Deception's methods: Strategy (start at the top – “Zerubbabel and the heads”), Empathy (I'm like you), Sympathy (I feel for you), Seduction (it feels good).
3. Returnees' response: “We are not like you...” in background (“You have nothing in common with us...”), in purpose (“building a house to our God”), in faith (“to the LORD God of Israel”), in praxis (“we ourselves... will build”), in politics (“as the king of Persia has commanded us.”).
4. Returnees' methods: Staying away (wisdom) from the deceivers and their temptations, by staying apart (consecration).
5. Application: Avoid tempting situations and avoid tempting associations.

B. Stand Firm Through the Discouragements (vv. 4-5)

1. Deceivers, when covert strategic deceptions fail, will use overt outright attacks.
2. Opposition's message: If you are not with us, you are against us (“Then...”).
3. Discouragement's methods: Demoralize (“Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah...”), Frighten (“... and frightened them...”), Frustrate (“hired counselors against them to frustrate their counsel...”).
4. Returnees' response: Know your God (your theology), know whose you are (your allegiance), know who you are (your identity), know what you are called to do (your purpose), stand firm in the Lord (Zech 4:6).
5. Returnees' methods: Standing firm (faith) through the discouragements by staying true to God (commitment) – God has promised in Zechariah 4:9.
6. Application: Being discouraged in life is not faithlessness; being discouraged with God is faithlessness; walking away from God is unfaithfulness.

Conclusion

Godly consecration will keep us away from deceptions; godly courage will keep us true despite discouragements! “The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will finish it.” – Zechariah 4:9