

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARENTS' APPRECIATION NIGHT IN HOKKIEN

Invite your parents to the Parents' Appreciation Night in Hokkien. Reverend Oh Beng Kee will share a special message, and Darren Lim will share his life testimony on Sat, 27 May, 7pm to 9pm (buffet dinner starts at 5.45pm on a first-come, first-served basis) at WDL Centre Main Sanctuary. Admission is free.

CYAN CAMP LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION

Tomorrow is the last day of registration for CYAN (Covenant Young Adult Network) Camp. Hurry, sign up together with your CG through Voyager before registration ends!

CHILD DEDICATION SERVICE

We will have our Child Dedication Service on 16 Jul at all the worship centres. Register today at the Information Counter.

Please note that parents dedicating their children are strongly recommended to attend the Dedication Class next Sun, 21 May at WDL Centre, 1pm to 4pm. We believe that discipleship begins at home and we look forward to journeying with you towards an Intentional Disciple Making Family!

NEW LIFE FRIENDS' DAY

Find out the impact of New Life volunteers on the lives of children and youths at the New Life Friends' Day next Sun, 21 May at all three centres. See you there!

ALPHA: HOW CAN WE HAVE FAITH?

Introduce Jesus to your family and friends at Alpha this Wed, 17 May, from 7.00pm to 9.30pm at YMCA at Orchard. Registration is free, but pre-registration is required at <http://alpha.cefcapps.com>. For enquiries, email alpha@cefc.org.sg.

YOUTH DANCE WORKSHOP

Covenant Dance Ministry is organising a dance workshop for youths aged 10 to 14 years old. This two-day workshop will help them discover how to praise, worship and serve God through dance.

Day 1: 3 Jun, Sat, 9.00am – 5.00pm at ACKCentre Performing Arts Studio

Day 2: 4 Jun, Sun, 1.30pm – 5.30pm at WDL Centre, Love and Joy Rooms

Requirement: At least 2 years of dance training
Dance Genres: Contemporary, Hip Hop and Ballet

Fee: \$15 / person

To register or enquire, email cefdance@gmail.com. Registration ends next Sun, 21 May.

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Covenant Photography is holding a mini workshop for those who are interested in street photography and have at least a high end compact/interchangeable camera. It will be a time of street photography and critique after this Sat, 20 May, 9am to 12.45pm at ACKCentre. To sign up, email cefcphotographyministry@gmail.com by this Thu, 18 May.

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, 14 MAY 2017

SERVICE LEADER: LEE HUI FANG ■ WORSHIP LEADER: DAVID CHONG

Let's Honour and Hear Our Mothers

PS VALERIE CHAN, WOMEN-IN-COVENANT

Why do we celebrate Mother's Day?

The intent to set a day to commemorate Mother's Day is a good idea, but it has turned into a giant money-making machine for businesses. It has become so commercialised that I wonder if we are celebrating it just because everyone else does. I have heard of extended families coming together to eat in restaurants without much deep interaction with one another, and left the place poorer in cash. For others, they continue their family fights and leave their mothers more broken-hearted.

Perhaps we need to revisit why we want to celebrate Mother's Day. I can think of two reasons:

To honour them with our presence.

Exodus 20:12 tells us, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you." It is a commandment from God and meant to be obeyed.

Being very busy, we often forget to spend time to be with our mothers who have made much sacrifice to raise us. This day is set aside for us as a reminder to make time

for them, to serve them and appreciate them for the love and time they invested in our lives.

To hear them share their stories.

How many of us really know the journeys of our mothers — what they went through, the challenges they faced and the joy they had in parenting us? From their stories, we can glean wisdom for our own journeys and learn to avoid pitfalls that come along our way.

I remember this account from my late Mom: She would get so upset with me when I couldn't stop crying because of certain difficulties. However, she realised that her scolding would make me cry more, so she learned to sit with me and hold my hand. After a while, my crying would stop. Today, I am doing the same to my daughter: sit with her, listen to her and hold her hand whenever she is in tears. It not only helps her to stop crying, it also binds our hearts together.

You know what, to honour our mothers with our presence and to hear them share their stories need not take place only on Mother's Day. It can happen everyday and any day.

SERMON OUTLINE

Do Not Fear

SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 21:8-21 ■ SERMON: PS SHARON FONG

Introduction (vv. 8–16)

1. God Hears Your Prayers (v.17)

2. God Has a Plan (vv.18–19)

3. God Is Present with You (vv.20–21)

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

22 MAY – PS LEE DA WIN (BPJ), PS EDMUND WONG (WDL) AND PS MATTHEW LO (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

Rise Up!

SCRIPTURE: HAGGAI 1:12–15 ■ SERMON: PS BARNEY LAU

Introduction

1. Past two weeks' sermons: A drifting and distracted discipleship will result in a deceived and desolate discipleship! A discipleship in the "ruins"!
2. Not only must we wake up and return to God, we must rise up and obey God!
3. Revival in 24 days, temple rebuilt in 3½ years what they couldn't do in 15 years.
4. Preaching of God's Word must convict our minds, convert our hearts and change our lives from the inside out to become like Christ!
5. Hebrew root word *šāma'* for "obey" (v.12) implies a conscientious responding to, taking heed of and acting on what is heard and understood by the listener.
6. Before God can stir the spirit of the remnant into obedience (v.14), they must hear the voice of God and heed the word of God (v.12), which leads to:

A. Fearing God

"And the people feared the LORD." (v.12)

1. Fear is a very strong and deep motivator: It either repels or compels!
 - a. Fear of men repelled the returnees from rebuilding God's house.
 - b. Fear of God compelled them to restart the rebuilding of God's house.
2. Different kinds of fears: Natural, ungodly, and godly fears
 - a. Natural fears: Fear of death, pain, loss of autonomy and loss of worth
 - b. Ungodly fears are when the natural fears become so disproportionate and obsessive that it controls us and repels us from God.
 - c. Godly fear of God – not a cringing fear of God's power, but a profound sense of His holiness, mystery, majesty; yet His goodness, grace and mercy compel us towards Him in reverence, awe, worship and devotion.
3. Godly fear attracts us to God (eg. Isa.6:1-8, Psa 27), "stirs" us up to do God's will!

B. Doing God's Will

"And they came and worked on the house of the Lord ..." (v.14)

1. How do we know if one is stirred up by God to do His will?
 - a. Proactive Initiative ("they came and worked on the house of the Lord..." v.14)
 - b. Covenantal Commitment ("... their God." v.14)
 - c. Sense of Urgency ("... on the twenty-fourth day ..." v.15)
 - d. Unwavering Perseverance (Ezr 5:3-4)
 - e. Anchored in the Word of God. The first attempt at rebuilding started with worship (Ezr 3:8-13), but the resumption of the rebuilding was anchored in the Word of God (through Haggai and Zechariah)!

Conclusion

1. Don't miss the voice of God in Haggai which says, "I am with you," declares the LORD." (1:13, 2:4, 2:5, 2:19, 2:23) – That **is** the **heart** of God!
2. Hear the voice of God, trust the heart of God, do the Word of God.