

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALPHA: HOW DOES GOD GUIDE US?

Introduce Jesus to your family and friends at Alpha this Wed, 7 Jun, 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

KIDZBLAST OUTREACH

Invite pre-believing kids aged 7 to 12 years old to have fun and hear the Gospel. It will be held on Sunday, 18 and 25 Jun, from 2pm to 6pm at BPJ Centre, Grace Sanctuary. Flyers are available at the Information Counter. Register on 21, 28 May or 4 Jun at the KIDZBLAST booth at the foyer.

We need help in ushering and in the game stations. If you would like to serve with us, drop by our booth at the foyer on the registration dates above.

NEW LIFE CHARITY RUN

You can help raise funds for New Life by simply running or donating!

To Run: In teams of four, register for Mizuno Ekiden Run happening on Sat, 19 Aug, at bit.ly/RunMizuno. Then sign up as a fundraising team for New Life at bit.ly/RunGofee by 30 Jun.

To Donate: Pick a cause at <https://gofee.com/explore> and choose to fund any of these: Steady Readers Programme, Kids Champ Club or New Life Youth.

For more information, email charityrun@newlife.org.sg

PARENTING TRAINING

Parents can sign up for the following modules at the Information Counter.

Parenting with Love

For couples expecting their first child
Dates: 1 and 8 Jul (Sat), Time: 12pm – 5pm, Venue: BPJ Centre, Patience Room
Registration Fee: \$50 per couple

Parenting with Faith

For parents of kids aged 3 to 10 years old
Dates: 1 Jul to 19 Aug (eight Saturdays), Time: 2pm – 4pm Venue: ACKCentre
Registration Fee: \$100 per couple

UNIVERSITY BEFRIENDER

Let's B.L.E.S.S. the Chinese international students who leave their homes to study here in Singapore. We are looking for families to provide hospitality by caring for them, inviting them for meals, and introducing Singapore to them. To find out more, drop by our booth at the foyer today or email missions@cefc.org.sg. Last day to sign up is 25 Jun.

BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP

Register at the Information Counter.
Baptism Class on Sun, 25 Jun, 1.00pm to 3.30pm at WDL Centre.
Membership Class on Sat, 17 Jun, 9am to 4pm at ACKCentre.

CYAN CAMP BRIEFING

CYAN Campers are reminded that there is a camp briefing next Sun, 11 Jun, 2.30pm at ACKCentre Recording Studio.

COVENANT EFC

ACKCentre: 2 Kallang Avenue, CT Hub #10-26, Singapore 339407

ONE CHURCH MULTIPLE CENTRES:

BPJ Centre: 8.30am, 10.30am & 12.30pm ■ WDL Centre: 8.30am & 10.30am ■ East Centre: 10.00am (Pre-service prayer: 9.30am)

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

BUKIT PANJANG CENTRE, 4 JUNE 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS VALERIE CHAN ■ WORSHIP LEADER: PS LIM KENG YEOW AND KAREN

Following Jesus Even When It's Unpopular

REV TONY YEO, SENIOR PASTOR

Following Jesus is not popular these days. In fact, it can even be dangerous.

God's Word tells us that the last days will be marked by lawlessness and persecution of Christ's followers on a scale that the world has never seen. Faithful obedience to Christ requires boldness and courage. Jesus said, "Whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven" (Matt 10:33, NKJV). The widespread opposition to the Gospel in our society today is without parallel in history.

Just last week, the attack on Coptic Christians by militants killed 29 Christians who were traveling to a remote monastery in the desert. It was the fourth assault targeting Christians since December 2016, killing more than 100 people in all.

In the same week, chaos was reported in Marawi, Southern Philippines as militants stormed the city, abducted Christians and set a church on fire.

Together with some national leaders in Singapore, I was invited to the "World Summit in Defense of Persecuted Christians" in Washington DC from 10 to 13 May 2017. The summit enabled us to identify and agonise with fellow

Christians in various parts of the world who are suffering and persecuted for their faith. Some of them were there and their families' testimonies spoke of untold and unimaginable suffering, including torture and death.

Church, we cannot remain indifferent to those who are suffering for the sake of Christ, nor can we pretend that it does not impact our lives as we are called to bear faithful witness for Him and for His Gospel even unto death.

For us who enjoy the freedom to live out our faith, we should be constantly grateful to God for this privilege, and we must agonise in prayer for those who are persecuted and suffering. We must not turn a deaf ear lest we be lulled into an apathetic Christian lifestyle.

The Bible teaches that the testing of faith produces steadfastness. Christian experience confirms this truth. Hardships can either weaken or strengthen our faith. God has ordained His church to be triumphant. Sometimes, in His providence, He uses suffering and persecution to strengthen His followers. However, God is faithful and He will not let us be tested beyond what we are able to endure.

SERMON OUTLINE

God's Word for the Defiled

SCRIPTURE: HAGGAI 2:10-19 ■ SERMON: PS EDMUND WONG

Introduction

A. Clean Up! Your Holiness Is Costly to God (vv.10-14)

“So is it with this people, and with this nation ... and with every work of their hands. And what they offer there is **unclean**.” (v.14)

B. Cheer Up! Your Fruitfulness Is Coming from God (vv.15-19)

“But from this day on **I will bless you**.”(v.19b)

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

11 JUNE – REV TONY YEO (BPJ), REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI (WDL) AND PS BARNEY LAU (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

God's Word for the Discouraged

SCRIPTURE: HAGGAI 2:1-9 ■ SERMON: REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI

Introduction

It has been a month since Haggai spoke and the people have started rebuilding the Temple. As they did, they faced another challenge and they got discouraged. God sent His prophet Haggai to encourage them. God told them to:

A. Press On Because GOD IS WITH YOU (vv.1 – 5)

1. The people were discouraged because of at least three reasons:
 - a. It was the last day of the Festival of Tabernacles and the city must have had more people than usual. Yet in the midst of the celebration, the Temple was still not completed after 18 years since their return.
 - b. The seventh month was also the same period that Solomon dedicated the first Temple (1 Kgs 8:1-2).
 - c. Those who were around to see the first Temple (Hag 2:3) would have recognised how vastly different their Temple was compared to Solomon's grand Temple.
2. In this situation, God sent His prophet to encourage them in two ways:
 - a. He sent Haggai to reveal to them what's already upon their hearts – they were discouraged. It was the Lord's way of letting them know that He knew.
 - b. He reminded them that He was with them. He was saying that He was present with them, to enable them to build His Presence (i.e. the Temple) with them. He Himself enables us to do what He has called us to do (Phil 2:12b – 13)! In some sense, we are all building God's Temple (1 Cor 6:19; 3:16) when we press on in our daily discipleship. We can do so in spite of our discouragement because God is with us to enable us to do so! We **work**, because God is working **in us**!

B. Press On Because GREATER DAYS ARE AHEAD (vv.6 – 9)

1. God revealed to them that there will be a great cosmic shaking (v.6). This shaking will turn things upside down — what's valuable will come to God's Temple since they truly belonged to Him in the first place (v.7). This picture speaks of a **grand reversal**. The Jews who had returned were on the other side of the spectrum. They were no longer a nation, relegated to a small province in the vast Persian Empire. They had no influence, no resources and no power. God revealed to them that this will not be so at the end of all things. Instead, God would ultimately be seen to be the one in-charge and them, His people. Christians likewise do not count for much in the eyes of the world – what's valuable to us, God, Bible, worship, fellowship, loving one another and service to the Kingdom, matters little to them and like the returnees, we too can feel small, intimidated, powerless and discouraged. God reminds us that **greater** days are ahead! (Matt 19:30) Press on!
2. How can we know this to be so? God gave a promise to the Jews (v.9). He promised that the glory of the Temple they were building would be even more than Solomon's Temple. We can know God keeps His promises because 520 years later, God's very Presence, in the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ walked in the second Temple (Matt 12:6). Our God who keeps His promises tells us **greater days** are ahead! Therefore we can press on!

Conclusion

We can **press on** because God is **with us** and because **greater days** lie ahead of us!