

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 40 DAYS FOR OUR NATION (1 JUL - 9 AUG)

Singapore is a "little red dot" that God has blessed bountifully. Yet we also live in volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous times. God has raised us to pray for our nation. Here are four ways to participate:

**As an individual**, pray daily at 10am or 10pm using the Love Singapore booklet.

**As a family**, pray using the Family Devotions in our Devotional Journal every Sun evening.

**As a CG**, pray for Singapore during CG meetings.

**As a church**, pray during Sunday services and at our National Day Prayer on 8 Aug, 8pm at WDL Centre.

### DISCOVERY WEEKEND (DWE)

DWE 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.

**Date:** 15 Jul (Sat)

**Time:** 8.45am – 5.00pm (lunch and breaks included)

**Venue:** BPJ Chapel (Level 3)

Sign up at the Information Counter on Sundays. Email [fic@cefc.org.sg](mailto:fic@cefc.org.sg) for enquiries.

### UNIVERSITY BEFRIENDER

We are looking for families to provide hospitality to Chinese international students who are studying here in Singapore. Sign up at <http://cefc.ch/UniBefriender201718>. **Today is the last day to sign up.** Drop by our booth at the foyer or email [missions@cefc.org.sg](mailto:missions@cefc.org.sg) to find out more!

### MISSIONS WORKSHOP

Find out how business can be a platform to impact the nations and how you can use your marketplace skills to advance God's Kingdom. Join the missions workshop on Business As Missions (BAM)!

**Dates:** 27 Jul and 3 Aug (Thu)

**Time:** 7.30pm – 9.30pm

**Venue:** ACKCentre Live Recording Studio

Sign up at <http://www.cefc.org.sg/missions-week/workshops> For enquiries, email [missions@cefc.org.sg](mailto:missions@cefc.org.sg)

### SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

**Cambodia on 17-22 Oct:** Train and journey with youths to be disciples of Christ. Estimated costs: \$700 (including airfare)

**Mongolia on 18 -25 October:** Discipleship training, evangelistic outreach to nomad families and leadership development training. Estimated costs: \$1500 (including airfare)

**Yunnan on 5 -12 December:** Vacation Bible school for youths. Trippers must be able to converse in basic mandarin. Estimated costs: \$1500 (including airfare)

Trippers must be a CG member who attends CG regularly, and must commit to attend STM trainings and team meetings. Email [missions@cefc.org.sg](mailto:missions@cefc.org.sg) to sign up!

### NURTURE GROUP

Are you new in the faith? Join the Nurture Group!

**Date:** every Sun from 2 Jul to 8 Oct,

**Time:** 1.00pm to 2.30pm

**Venue:** BPJ Centre, Faith Hall

Register at <http://cefc.ch/nurture>

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

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CovenantEvangelicalFreeChurch](http://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, 25 JUNE 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS KATHERINE CHAN ■ WORSHIP LEADER: CHUA SUE ERN

### Rising Up to be a Blessing

PS SHARON FONG, DISTRICT MENTOR AND OUTREACH MINISTRY

Some years ago, my Covenant Group (CG) conducted Alpha. Thus, I have personally seen and experienced how Alpha answered the many questions of our friends who were seeking. To see them exploring Christianity, accepting Christ and growing in church warmed my heart.

From April to June, Covenant EFC has just finished eight sessions of the latest Alpha Film Series at YMCA. Instead of the old version where Nicky Gumbel delivers a sermon, it was reloaded with stories and interviews, including features on young adults who were seeking about Christianity. It is chic, relevant and contextualised for the current times, yet anchored on the truth.

About 20 to 30 pre-believers faithfully attended Alpha every week. Together as a church, we would like to celebrate the 12 who prayed to receive Christ. Many of them are still seeking and interested to know more. Hence, some of the facilitators are opening up their homes so they can continue watching the rest of the Alpha Film Series, for them to discover and explore together.

I am also very encouraged by the number of Covenanters who

served in Alpha. About 50 Covenanters faithfully attended with their friends. In addition to that, 30 trained and stepped up as facilitators to journey with pre-believers. Interestingly, many CGs volunteered to intercede onsite in a separate prayer room for the pre-believers, while the sessions were ongoing. Seeing Nick, a young man who worships in Momentum, serving faithfully in the Alpha committee for the second year warmed my heart beyond words.

What do I see? I see Covenanters rising up to be a blessing. I see Covenanters sacrificing their time to invest in God's Kingdom. In my words of appreciation to the Alpha committee, I thanked them for leading so courageously and for bringing Alpha to the next level. But more than that, I shared with them that they did not just touch the 12 souls who prayed to receive Christ, they have also influenced their generation. Because when one steps from the dominion of darkness into God's Kingdom, his or her generation will be blessed too.

Let's continue to be a blessing and invest in the things that really matter!

## SERMON OUTLINE

### Confidence Despite Challenges

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 5:3-17 ■ SERMON: SANDRA CHI

#### Introduction

Two reasons why we can have confidence despite challenges:

#### A. Our God Watches Over Us (vv.3-5)

“But the eye of their God was on the elders of the Jews, ...” (v.5)

#### B. Our God Is the Sovereign Lord (vv.6-17)

“We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, ...” (v.11)

#### Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:  
2 JULY - PAUL SHI (BPJ), PS SHARON FONG (WDL) AND PS MATTHEW LO (EAST)

## LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

### Why Dads Are Irreplaceable

SCRIPTURE: TOPICAL ■ SERMON: PS BENJAMIN LEE

#### Introduction

Fathers bring different assets to parenting than mothers. – Kyle Pruett, Yale Medical School Dads parent differently. There are some things only a dad can do for his kids. Not having a dad around leaves emotional gaps that are hard to define, and come out differently in each individual. There are three reasons why dads are irreplaceable:

#### A. Masculine Input (Genesis 1:27)

Dads give us the distinctly masculine parental input.

1. This starts at creation. God created us in His image (Gen 1:27). The image of God is reflected in the male and female. God creates male and female differences for oneness. It takes both male and female to reflect God. Kids see God's love in dad and mom's love.
2. Dad is a guy and mom is a lady. Why mom and dad parent differently stems from the differences in how men and women are wired. Our kids get holistic parenting, full-complement of both parental input and love.
3. Dads provide a look at the world of men. A dad offers his daughter a safe avenue to experience her first male-female relationship. Boys have their masculinity affirmed. Moms cannot bestow masculinity on a young man.

#### B. Calling Forth Identity (Matthew 3:17)

Who am I? Why am I here? Many spend a lifetime searching for identity and purpose in life. Dads can make a big difference here.

1. Adam as the first human dad had a special calling to name and affirm identity (Gen 2:19-20; 3:20).
2. The second Adam, Christ was affirmed by his Dad (Matt 3:17).
3. Our heavenly Father gives spiritual gifts to each of us. This is Kingdom capital for our life assignment. We do need guidance to find our calling. Our earthly dads help us locate our identity and become who God intended us to be.

#### C. Discipleship (Ephesians 6:4)

Pastors are not the primary disciplinators of our children. Christian discipleship is meant to happen primarily in the home. For the early Christians, the home was church.

1. Dads and moms are the primary disciplinators of their children (Deut 6:2; 11:19). The discipleship of children and grandchildren is the responsibility and privilege of the parents. The church is our lifelong partner to disciple our young.
2. Fathering includes discipleship (Eph 6:4). Love Jesus with all of your life. Your kids and grandkids will love what you love.
3. Joshua was a dad and a granddad (Josh 24:15). He was fully devoted to lead his family and extended family to follow and serve the Lord wholeheartedly.

#### Conclusion

Moms and dads are not interchangeable because moms don't father and dads don't mother. Moms and dads bring different strengths to parenthood. Whatever job dads have, there are other people out there who can do it as well as us, but your role as a dad to your children is irreplaceable.