

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IDMC INSTITUTE INTRO SESSION

If you could give one year of your life to invest in eternity, what would you do? The one-year internship at IDMC Institute is an excellent opportunity to immerse in authentic discipleship and intentional discipling. Journey in a community as you grow deeper in the Lord and clarify God's calling in your life. Find out more at the Intro Session!

Date: 26 Jul (Wed)

Time: 7.30 – 9.30pm

Venue: ACKCentre Live Recording Studio

Register at <http://www.cefc.org.sg/idmci>

NEW LIFE CHARITY GOLF 2017

New Life is still looking for more participants and sponsorships for the charity golf event. Help them raise \$250K to increase their impact in the community.

Date: 14 Sep (Thu)

Time: 1.15pm Tee Off, 7.00pm Dinner

Venue: Seletar Country Club

Guest of Honour: Dr Vivian Balakrishnan

For more details, visit www.newlife.org.sg and click *What's New*. Registration closes on 8 Aug subject to flight availability. For more info, contact Debbie Wee at fundraising@newlife.org.sg or call 6892 7249.

PARENTING TRAINING

Parenting with Hope is for parents of tweens and teens. We encourage parents with children in Momentum to join. Please note that the timing and venue of the training coincides with the Momentum Service on Saturdays.

Dates: 5 – 26 Aug (four Saturdays)

Time: 3.30pm – 5.30pm

Venue: WDL Centre, Joy and Love Rooms

Fee: \$90 / couple

Register at the Information Counter today.

TNG MINISTRY TALK

Come dialogue with the TNG Staff at the Ministry Talk to find out how you can invest in the next generation (Sunbeam, WEB and Momentum). Registration is required at tinyurl.com/tngtalk

Date: 20 Jul (Thu)

Time: 7:30pm – 9:30pm

CHURCH STAFF RECRUITMENT

We are looking for the following:

- **Manager (Media, Communications and Resources)**
- **Executive (Small Group Infrastructure)**
- **Executive (Finance)**
- **Executive (Human Resources)**

Applicants should either be a church or CG member, with a heart to answer God's call in their lives in furthering Covenant EFC's mission. For more information, visit <http://www.cefc.org.sg/index.php/about-us/recruitment> Email your resumes to hr@cefc.org.sg by 30 Jul.

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

WOODLANDS CENTRE, 16 JUL 2017

SERVICE LEADER: JEREMY KOH ■ WORSHIP LEADER: BENJAMIN AND SHARON TAN

Do I Love Jesus?

PS SHARON FONG, DISTRICT MENTOR AND OUTREACH

Love is often spelt as “obedience”. Jesus does not merely want our lip service, but our obedience. John 14:21 says, “Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

This week, a Covenanter planned to spend one morning in solitude with God. Half way into it, the Holy Spirit prompted her to visit someone who was in the hospital and she did. After the visit, the Lord spoke to her, “You went on solitude to seek Me, but you are closest to me when you obey my voice.”

What is the Holy Spirit prompting you to do this season? Is it to retreat and spend more time in prayer for yourself, family and our nation? Is it to trust God and observe the Sabbath? Is it to delete some of the distracting apps and truly connect with Him? Whatever the Holy Spirit is prompting, I urge

you to obey because your obedience shows your love for Him. However, obedience is not an end in itself; when we obey, John 14:21 says that God will love us and show Himself to us. When God shows Himself to us, doesn't it look like the revival that we have been longing and praying for?

This week, as I was about to alight from the bus, I forgot to press the doorbell to signal to the bus driver. Deep in thoughts, I went to the exit door, tapped my card and waited for the bus to stop. One kind soul noticed that bus driver didn't know that I wanted to alight. She quickly pressed the doorbell for me. Immediately, I realised what I did and thanked her. I alighted the bus, feeling so much warmth in my heart. I love my country, Singapore. I love the people in Singapore. I desire so much of God's blessing and presence to be upon this nation I grew up in. Through that incident, Holy Spirit is prompting me to intercede for this nation. I need to obey His prompting. Would you join me?

SERMON OUTLINE

What It Takes to Finish Well

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 6:13 -15 ■ SERMON: PS LEE DA WIN

Introduction

A. God Opens the _____ (v.13)

“... according to the word sent by Darius the king...”

B. God Inspires the _____ (v.14)

“... through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo ...”

C. God Sets the _____ (v.15)

“... in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.”

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:
23 JULY – DR LAVAL YAU (BPJ, WDL AND EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

Backfire

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 6:1 - 12 ■ SERMON: REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI

Introduction

Ezra 6:1 – 12 is an official letter/decreed from King Darius in response to the Trans-Euphrates governor's letter (Ezra 5:6 – 17). It marks a turning of events which would lead to the completion of God's Temple.

A. Oh No! There's More Waiting! (vv.1 – 5)

1. The events of Ezra 6:1 – 5, while juxtaposed to the end of Ezra 5, most probably took some time to materialise: (1) Tattenai drafts letter (2) Letter sent (distance between Jerusalem to Babylon is about 1,500 km) (3) Letter makes its way up the civil service ladder finally to the King (4) King issues search order (5) Search made of Babylon treasury but none found (6) Decision to search at other treasuries (7) Notice sent to these places (8) Search extends to Ecbatana (9) Scroll found and verified and message back to Babylon (10) King writes new letter (11) Messenger brings letter back to Tattenai (1,500 km distance.) (12) Tattenai informs Jews. All these most probably happened while the Jews were waiting for the official response.
2. Waiting is especially hard for modern folks because we are conditioned by instant “on” equipment, compressed timelines (in movies) and expectations of quick answers through search engines. We are reminded that God is working in our waiting. More importantly, we are called to trust Him while seemingly nothing seems to be happening. In that sense, God is also working in our hearts as we wait – He is calling us to trust Him.

B. Oh Yes! That's God Working! (vv.6 – 12)

1. Ezra 6:6–12 contains four backfires for Tattenai. His letter was written probably with the intention for the Temple rebuilding to be stopped. Instead the following happened: (1) Tattenai and his team were told to stay away from the work, not to interfere with it and to let the Jews rebuild the Temple! (2) Furthermore, the monies for the Temple rebuilding was to **be fully** paid from their provincial coffers! (3) Then, they were also to provide for all the worship requirements daily without fail! (4) and finally, Darius seals his decision with the imposition of impalement and demolition of homes and also calls down a curse from God on those who would disobey him. God provided beyond what could be expected!
2. That's so like God. He takes what was intended for evil and turns it on its head to strengthen His people. When God acts in His time, He makes all things truly most beautiful! The most incredible backfire is seen in the Cross of Calvary. What was intended by God's enemy to kill His Messiah, God turned it around – allowing the death of His Son to pay redemption's price for all mankind! What a backfire for the evil one.

Conclusion

God invites us to trust Him in the midst of our waiting – because when it is **time** for Him to act – He will bring about His deliverance in His most marvellous way! We long for and look forward to the return of our King!