

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

If you are curious about Christianity or if you have been visiting the church but have not accepted the faith, join us at Christianity Explored! **Dates:** Six Sundays from 17 Sep to 22 Oct **Time and Venue:** WDL and BPJ Centres – 1pm, East Centre – 12.30pm Sign up at <http://cefc.ch/christianity-explored> Covenanters who would like to invite and accompany their friends and loved ones for these sessions, are encouraged to attend a training session on Sat, 9 Sep, 2pm to 4pm at ACKCentre, Training Room 1. Please contact Jerome Lee at dahobbit12321@yahoo.com for enquiries.

39TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Let's celebrate our One Life at Covenant EFC's 39th birthday with a special combined adult's service. **Our celebration programme will start at 9:30am next Sun, 3 Sep at Singapore EXPO Hall 1.** There will be a children's service for 3 to 10-year-olds. Please note that there will be *no programme* for children 35 months and below.

SERVE IN NEW LIFE

P.A.N.D.A Champs, a character-based mentoring programme for 7 to 10-year-olds, needs 10 mentors. If you love children and have a heart to mentor them, sign up to serve! **Schedule:** 21 Nov – 14 Dec, every Tue and Thu, 9am – 1pm (includes one hour of briefing and debriefing) at BPJ Centre. Training will be provided on Thu, 19 Oct, 7.30pm to 9.30pm at BPJ Centre Level 3. To sign up or enquire, email volunteer@newlife.org.sg or call Jason Lee at 9635 1135 / Lewis Woo at 9634 9457.

MID-AUTUMN OUTREACH

Invite your Mandarin-speaking parents, friends and neighbours to the Mid-Autumn Outreach Service so they can hear about God's love! Artist Desmond Sim will share his testimony and there will be skit and songs presented by ORTV.

Date: 30 Sep (Sat)

Time: 7pm - 9pm (buffet dinner will be served from 6.00pm to 6.45pm on a first-come, first-served basis)

Venue: WDL Centre, Main Sanctuary

Admission is free. For enquiries, email chris.pang@cefc.org.sg

IDMC INSTITUTE INTRO SESSION

IDMC Institute One-Year Internship Programme provides a good opportunity for you to sense God's leading in your life for the marketplace, full-time ministry or missions. Come to the **Intro Session on Thu, 14 Sep from 7.15pm to 9.30pm at ACKCentre** to find out more. Sign up at <http://cefc.ch/idmci-intro-session>

CHRISTMAS PLAY RECRUITMENT

We are looking for actors, recruitment officer, casting officer, stage hands, props/costume designer and finance manager. If you have the relevant training, we would love to have you! If not, we can train you if you have a willing heart! Email fabian.ghui@cefc.org.sg if you are interested.

BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Baptism Class on Sun, 10 Sep from 2.30pm to 5.00pm at BPJ Centre.

Membership Class on Sat, 16 Sep from 9am to 4pm at ACKCentre. *Register at the Information Counter.*

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, 27 AUG 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS IVAN HO ■ WORSHIP LEADER: PS FABIAN GHUI

On the Inside

REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI, DIRECTOR, INTEGRATED EQUIPPING

It happened so suddenly without a warning — a crack and a crash!

On 11 Feb this year, a 40-metre-high Tembusu tree fell at the Singapore Botanic Gardens, injuring four people and killing one. The loss of life was tragic. The question, of course was, could we have seen this coming and prevented it? Just last month on 18 July, a coroner's court hearing found that this 270-year-old tree (older than the Botanical Gardens itself), was actually decaying on the inside. The testimony from two tree specialists, called arborists, had found that inspecting the tree from the outside, there were no signs to tell us it was rotting on the inside. One of their testimonies was "based on visual inspections of the tree... he did not see any cracks or open cavities that would suggest a decay in the trunk." And yet, "at the point where the trunk broke, the decay was 70%. This was 2 metres above the ground." And that "...the decay probably started quite long ago, coming possibly from the root under the tree." (Quotations taken from the Straits Times.) So as far as anyone could tell from the outside, the tree was healthy

and strong. But it was rotting on the inside and thus the fall was merely a matter of time and "predictable". I believe this sad story is a parable we must pay heed to.

We live in a world preoccupied with looking good on the outside. But how are we really doing on the inside? God has led us to the book of Ezra this year. It's all about rebuilding. Chapters 1 to 6 have to do with the rebuilding of the externals — the Temple. In this season ahead, chapter 7 to 10, God is rebuilding His people and if we can see it that way, He is leading His people to rebuild the internals. How are you doing on the inside? That's what an intentional discipling church (IDMC) must be, that we are first and foremost concerned about the inside — our hearts. I believe God is inviting us on this inward journey, to build that which no one sees, which is critical to a vital spirituality and a life of authenticity.

May our hearts be fully given to the Lord that He may mould them for His glory. May we not merely look good on the outside, but truly be His on the inside!

SERMON OUTLINE

King of Kings

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 7:11-26 ■ SERMON: PS SHARON FONG

Introduction

A. What the King Says — He Will Do!

B. What the King Says — I Will Do!

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK: 39TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE AT SINGAPORE EXPO HALL I

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

Rebuilding a People

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 7:1-10 ■ SERMON: PS IVAN HO

Introduction

Enter Ezra (first appearance in the Bible) to rebuild the people of Israel with the Law of the LORD. Reconstruction of the Temple was followed by reformation through the Torah. The worship of God must be in accordance with the Word of God. The historical context of Ezra and the second wave of returnees (approximately 5000 Jews) from Babylonia to Jerusalem in 458 BC was 58 years after the completion and dedication of the second Temple in 516 BC. The events recorded in the book of Esther took place during that 58-year gap.

Two essentials are needed to rebuild a people with the Word of God:

A. The Hand of God Upon Godly Men (vv.1-9)

1. Godly men and Ezra the priestly scribe (vv.1-5 cf. 1 Chron 6:1-15). The selective genealogy of Ezra shows his high priestly lineage and establishes his credentials to be the first chief priest of the second Temple.
2. The hand of God (7:6, 9, 28; 8:18, 22, 31) grants, protects, strengthens, provides, blesses and delivers His people.
3. Ezra and others with him (7:7; 8:1-20)
 - a. Heads of fathers' households, priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers and temple servants
 - b. Led by God to return with their families to Jerusalem to rebuild God's people
 - c. Team effort, not Ezra alone
4. Applications:
 - a. Thank God for the godly men and women who have taught you God's Word.
 - b. If you know God's hand has been upon you and leading you towards vocational Christian ministry or Bible teaching ministry, explore the IDMC Institute One-Year Internship Programme.

B. The Word of God Upheld by a Godly Man (vv.6, 10)

1. Ezra and the Scriptures (v.6): "a scribe" – a student and teacher of the law; "skilled" – quick, experienced, well-versed. See: Nehemiah 8:1-8. Grow in our skill in the Word through IDT (Intentional Discipleship Training), CG, DJ (Devotional Journal).
2. The making of Ezra the reformer (v.10). "Set his heart" – committed wholeheartedly
3. DARP principle (v.10) – **D**iscover the truth; **A**pply the truth; **R**eap the benefits; **P**ass it on.
4. Personal story of journey into God's Word since conversion. Examples of men whose deposits of biblical truths and godly testimonies have shaped me over the past decades.
5. Application: Ask God to make you a godly man or woman to build up others with God's Word. Take action to grow in God's Word, e.g. apply for IDT 2018, prepare well for every CG Bible study, do your daily devotions conscientiously.

Conclusion

Build up others with God's Word! Ultimately, we want to preach and teach people in every generation and in every nation the Gospel of Jesus Christ, because "it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith.'" (Rom 1:16-17 NIV)