

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING OF MULTITUDES

Calling all Zone Mentors, CG Leaders, Assistant CG Leaders and Ministry Leaders! Join the Senior Pastor's Office Team as they share the spiritual burdens and plans for 2018 at the Gathering of Multitudes (GOM).

Date: 1 Oct (Sun) **Time:** 2:30pm – 5:00pm

Venue: BPJ Centre Main Sanctuary

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS TRIPS

CG members, go for Short-term Missions (STM) trip and bless the nations!

Surabaya on 23-27 Nov Outreach to a slum community by teaching English, and ministry to believers in CGs.

Jakarta on 8-13 Dec (updated dates) Inspire teachers and volunteers in their outreach to an M community by teaching English.

Myanmar on 16-20 Dec Support local church in their Christmas outreach.

Trippers must be attending CG regularly. For more information, email ailli.tay@cefc.org.sg

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

Session 1 "How do you know God exists?" starts today at 1pm. See you there!

CHRISTMAS PLAY RECRUITMENT

This year's Christmas will see another original musical written by our very own Covenanters! We are looking for cast, musicians, crew, committee members and more. Join the fun team and sign up now at <http://cefc.ch/ChristmasRecruit> or email chchchristmas@gmail.com

MID-AUTUMN OUTREACH

Invite your Hokkien and Mandarin-speaking parents, relatives and friends so they can hear about God's love at the following Mid-Autumn Outreach Services. Admission is free. Buffet starts at 6pm on a first-come, first-served basis.

Hokkien

Artiste Peter Yu will share his testimony and Rev Oh Beng Khee will be the speaker on Sat, 7 Oct, 7pm to 9pm at BPJ Centre. For enquiries, email faith.chen@cefc.org.sg

Mandarin

Artiste Desmond Sim will share his testimony. Skit and songs will be presented by ORTV on Sat, 30 Sep, 7pm to 9pm at WDL Centre, Main Sanctuary. For enquiries, email chris.pang@cefc.org.sg

TNG BAPTISM

Shout out to all WEBs and MOMENTUMs! TNG Christmas outreach and baptism for 11 to 18-year-olds is happening on 23 Dec, 2pm to 4pm at BPJ Centre Main Sanctuary. Come and join us!

Registration for baptism begins on 23 Sep at <http://cefc.ch/TNGBaptism17> Important dates are also available at the link. Email tng.momentum@cefc.org.sg for enquiries.

TWO TO TANGO

Two to Tango is an outreach event for Covenanters to invite pre-believing couples who are married or about to get married.

Dates: 4 Oct - 1 Nov (five Wed nights)

Find out more and sign up at cefc.ch/twototango2017 To serve, go to cefc.ch/22tango-reg2017

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

EAST CENTRE, 17 SEP 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS BARNEY LAU ■ WORSHIP LEADER: SIMON AND LILLIAN SEOW

Step Up!

ELDER LIU HOCK CHOY, DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS

Around this time last year, our leaders and ministries in unison gave a trumpet call for Covenanters to consider where we are in the light of our stewardship of the spiritual gifts which God assigned to each of us, and as the Lord leads, step up to serve at the point of our calling and gifting. Roles available for recruitment were published, with the intent of matching available roles with Covenanters who meet the role criteria and required commitment. From this, a total of 317 role applications were received from 282 individuals via the Step-Up web site which was custom-built to facilitate the application for roles and to enable ministry leaders to track and update the status of each role application. The software application allows us as a church (and our ministries) are doing in terms of bringing our servers through the Server Resourcing Life Cycle phases of Screening and Selection, Induction, Training, and Placement. As the system is online every day, we have therefore been able to receive role applications through the year and provide a ready-made tool to help in ministry-specific recruitments such as the TNG's Ministry Talk in

July. Hence, from Sep 2016 till today, the total number of role applications has steadily risen to 455 received from 394 individual Covenanters.

Today is once again Step-Up Sunday. In the bulletin insert, you will find a listing of 80 important roles across 17 ministries for your careful consideration. An exciting change this year is that for the first time, New Life Community Services (NLCS) is also participating and Covenanters will be able to sign up to serve the community as well! In addition to server roles, Covenanters can also step up to join a CG, as well as sign up for baptism and membership. Ministry leaders and servers will be at the booths to attend to any queries you may have, so do make use of the opportunity!

We aspire to build Step-Up Sunday into a regular feature in the life and rhythm of the church, so that we continually and intentionally remind ourselves to serve one another, as well as serve alongside one another towards the mission of returning the Church to its discipling roots through authentic discipleship and intentional discipling. Are you ready? Let's Step Up!

SERMON OUTLINE

Serving God Together

SCRIPTURE: ZECHARIAH 8:9 ■ SERMON: REV TONY YEO

Introduction

“Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Let your hands be strong, you who are listening in these days to these words from the mouth of the prophets, those who spoke in the day that the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts was laid, to the end that the temple might be built.’ – Zechariah 8:9 (NASB)

A. Why We Serve

B. How We Serve

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:
24 SEP – PS SHARON FONG (BPJ), PAUL SHI (WDL) AND PS BARNEY LAU (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

Praise and Courage When We See!

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 7:27-28 ■ SERMON: PS BARNEY LAU

Introduction

Ezra 7:27-28 is Ezra's doxology to God — a glimpse into Ezra's worldview and life. A godly worldview comes about by design when we allow God's truth to inform and govern how we interpret life's circumstances and experiences. A godless worldview comes about by default when life experiences and circumstances shape how we interpret the world and see God.

A. Call to Praise When We See God's Hand (vv.27-28a)

1. Ezra saw his sovereign and mighty God creating and shaping history in the God-orchestrated circumstances (v.27), God-appointed provision (v.27), God-given favour (v.28a), God-instituted authority (v.25), and God-ordained power (v.25).
2. Four reasons why we often cannot see God's hand, move and work:
 - a. Unconscious blindness: “I don't know how.” Untrained.
 - b. Conscious blindness: “I don't need to see.” Skeptic.
 - c. Willful blindness: “I don't want to see.” Rebellious.
 - d. Ignorant blindness: “Anyhow see.” Presumptuous.
3. Ezra 7:10 – Discover the truth, Apply the truth, Reap its benefits, Pass it on!
4. Four reasons why it is so important to see God, His move and His work:
 - a. It grows Perspective – Wisdom to see as God sees.
 - b. It shapes Posture – Humility to grow as God wills.
 - c. It builds Pragmatics – Substance to disciple as God transforms.
 - d. It cradles Power – Empowering to lead as God leads.
5. Result is a deeply called life that exudes praise and thanksgiving, with big wings of courage and faith to act as God leads!

B. Courage to Act Because We Know God's Hand (v.28b)

1. Having eyes to see God's hand is one thing; having courage to act is another.
2. One can have courage without faith, but faith without courage is not faith.
3. Ezra's courage is fueled by a faith in the kind of God He is, not just what He can do! The God Ezra knew (Ezr 7:10), trusted and acted in courage (7:28b), is a Covenant God (“the God of our fathers” – v.27), a faithful God (“lovingkindness” – v.28a, Heb. *hesed*, a love and favour born out of loyalty to a covenant), and an empowering God (“I was strengthened...” – v.28b).
4. Four kinds of faith, therefore four kinds of courage:
 - a. God Can! A Naïve Faith and Unguided Courage that knows only what God can do, and not who He is, without a deep intimate relationship with Him.
 - b. God Will! A Presumptuous Faith and Unwise Courage – Just because God can, does not mean He will.
 - c. God Must! An Indulgent Faith and Ungodly Courage – Just because God loves and is faithful does not mean He must do it our way, on our call, at our timing.
 - d. God is faithful! A Mature Faith and Godly Courage that knows God and His Heart.

Conclusion

How we see, shapes how we live! How we see God, shapes how we follow God!