

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OVERSEAS STEADY READERS

Impact young lives among the urban poor in the nations, and give them hope for a better future. No prior knowledge of Phonics is necessary. Trainings will be provided. Find out more at the **Introductory Talk next Sunday, 8 Oct, 2:30pm at BPJ Centre.** To register, email missions@cefc.org.sg

BREAKTHROUGH WEEKENDS

Tomorrow is the last day of early bird registration for CG members. Don't miss it! Register online through Voyager.

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. This will be held over five Wed nights starting this Wed, 4 Oct until 1 Nov. To find out more and sign up, go to cefc.ch/twototango2017

SERVE IN NEW LIFE

P.A.N.D.A. Champs is a character-based mentoring programme for 7 to 10-year-olds. We need 10 mentors to serve with us serve from 21 Nov to 14 Dec, 9am to 1pm (includes one hour of briefing and debriefing) at BPJ Centre. Training will be provided on 19 Oct, 7.30pm to 9.30pm at BPJ Centre Level 3. To sign up or enquire, contact Jason Lee at 9635 1135 or Lewis Woo at 9634 9457 or email volunteer@newlife.org.sg

SERVE AT KIDZBLAST

KidzBlast is an outreach programme for kids aged 7 to 12 years old. Reach the next generation by serving with us on Sundays, 19 and 26 Nov, from 1.30pm to 6.00pm at BPJ and WDL Centres.

Sign up to serve at the booth at the foyer or go to <http://cefc.ch/KidzBlast2017-Volunteer> To invite pre-believing kids, flyers for the event are available at the Information Counter.

DISCOVERY WEEKEND (DWE)

DWE is a one-day session for courting couples to see where they are and where God is in their relationship. This will be held on **Sat, 14 Oct, 8.45am – 5pm (lunch and breaks included) at BPJ Centre Chapel (Level 3).** Sign-up at the Information Counter on Sundays. Email fic@cefc.org.sg for enquiries.

HOKKIEN MID-AUTUMN

Invite your Hokkien parents, relatives and friends so they can hear about God's love. Artiste Peter Yu will share his testimony and Rev Oh Beng Khee will be the speaker **this Sat, 7 Oct, 7pm to 9pm at BPJ Centre.** Admission is free. Buffet starts at 6pm on a first-come, first-served basis. For enquiries, email faith.chen@cefc.org.sg

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

Session 3 "Is the Bible reliable?" is happening today at 12.30pm at the auditorium.

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, 1 OCT 2017

SERVICE LEADER: LEE HUI FANG ■ WORSHIP LEADER: LILLIAN SEOW

EFC Asia: Together for His Glory!

REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI, EFCS CHAIRMAN

About 270 folks gathered in Kuala Lumpur from 20 to 23 September 2017 for our 10th EFC Asia Conference 2017. Covenant EFC is part of a denomination called the Evangelical Free Church of Singapore (EFCS). EFCS in turn is part of Evangelical Free Church of Asia (EFC Asia) which consists of five Asian countries: Japan, China/Hong Kong, Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore. These are the countries where the EFC America churches sent missionaries to plant churches.

This year, the theme was "Bridging the Generation Gap". Two keynote speakers, a younger pastor (Rev Jayson Tham, Yan Fook EFC, Hong Kong) and a senior statesman pastor (Ps Daniel Ho, Founding Pastor DUMC, KL), shared their insights and experiences which encouraged us to press on in our endeavour to reach out, grow and develop the next generation for the Kingdom!

As the Chairman of the EFC Asia Committee, I was privileged to witness two special things that happened at this year's conference. Firstly, there is a growing trust and friendship among the EFC Asia Steering Committee. In the past, our representatives would meet once every four years for the purpose of getting the conferences going. Such infrequent contacts and

the recurrent change of country chairman did not allow for deeper conversations to know one another better. But God has been doing something new! Since 2011, He has orchestrated the EFC Asia Steering Committee to meet every year for various reasons. Along with the continuity of current EFC Asia country leadership, this has led to the deepening of trust and friendship. We believe this mutual love and honour is pleasing to the Lord, and by this all men will know that we are His disciples (Jn 13:34-35).

Secondly, the EFC America President, Rev Kevin Kompelien, flew all the way from America to join us just for this conference. As far as I am aware, this was the first time any EFC America President joined our conferences. I see this as a deliberate effort on the part of EFC America to re-engage with the EFC Asia countries. The timing is divine as EFC Asia is now maturing together as a team.

I see God's hand uniting our five Asian countries in mutual love and trust. For me, this forms a truer and deeper foundation for partnership and mission. God is also leading EFC America for deeper engagement this season. God's hand is over us to unite us for the Kingdom. May we live for a larger purpose and grow together for His glory!

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

SERMON OUTLINE

A Few Good Men

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 8:15-20 ■ SERMON: REV TONY YEO

Introduction

“... I found no Levites there.” (v.15)

A. God Looks for GIFTED _____ (vv.15 – 18a)

“... who were **leaders**, ... who were **men of learning** ...”

B. God Looks for WILLING _____ (vv.18b-19)

“ they brought us Sherebiah, a **capable man** ... 20 men in all.”

C. God Looks for HUMBLE _____ (v.20)

“They also brought 220 of the temple **servants** ... to assist the Levites. All were registered by name.”

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

8 OCT – REV TAN KAY KIONG (BPJ), PS EDMUND WONG (WDL) AND PS ANDY LEW (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

“Are You with ME?”

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 8:1-14 ■ SERMON: PS BARNEY LAU

Introduction

Contrasts	Ezra 8:1-14	Ezra 2
Context	Rebuilding the Mosaic Law	Rebuilding the Temple
Date	7th year of King Artaxerxes in 458 B.C.	1st year of King Cyrus in 538 B.C.
Returnees	Est. 5,000 from 1,500 listed. Except for 2, all clans' number counts are in 10's.	Total of 49,897. Round number are the exception for the clans' number counts.
List Structure	3 Priestly Leaders, 1 Royal Leader, and 12 specifically named “Israelite” Leaders and their respective clans	1 Royal Leader, 1 Priestly Leader, 9 Clan Leaders, 33 Israelite Clans, 4 Priestly Clans, 3 Levitical Clans and Temple Workers' Clans
Emphasis	Unity and continuity of Covenant Israel	Temple staff (Priests, Levites and servants)

A. A Discipleship That's Born Out of God's Covenant Faithfulness

1. Chiastic literary structure of Ezra 7-8, plus list order of 2 Aaronic priests in Gershom and Daniel, 1 Davidic royalty in Hattush; 12 Israelite families (necessarily from the 12 Israel tribes) – symbolised and point to the reconstitution of Israel in its unity and its continuity from pre-exilic Israel.
2. Covenantal favour and faithfulness of God: to Ezra and Israel in 7:28 (Heb. *hesed* – “lovingkindness” NASB or “good favor” NIV)
3. These recall the tripartite covenant of God with Israel: “I am the Lord your God, and you are My people, and I dwell among you.” (Exo 6:6-7; 29:45-46)
4. Application: The Lord asks us today, “Are you with ME?”
5. Be Rested, Grateful, Humble! Our discipleship is rooted in God's covenant faithfulness, born out of His covenant love, grace and mercy, and not about us.

B. A Discipleship That Walks with God in Covenant Obedience

1. An active leadership and participative followership! “Leading men” (7:28 - “heads”; 8:1- Heb. *ro'sh*) led their clans (8:3-14), and followed Ezra (8:1) as he intentionally led these leading men (7:28). Ezra in turn intentionally and actively followed God as his life calling and lifestyle (7:10). Grammatically reflexive voice of Hebrew verb “were registered” in 8:3 (ESV/NIV) indicated a wholehearted and voluntary act by those returning with Ezra. 14 times “with me/him/them” (Heb. *im* – ‘actively with’, 7:28b-8:14) expresses the concept of inclusiveness and togetherness, stressing a close relationship.
2. Second wave of returnees chose a Mosaic Law regime which became part of Persian Law per Artaxerxes decree (Ezr 7:25-26). A leadership not of ease, and followership not of convenience, but rooted in obedience to God's calling!
3. Much smaller second wave. Perhaps most exilic Jews, comfortable in Persia, were unwilling to heed God's call, because of weak convictions and low commitment.
4. The Lord asks us today, “Are you with ME?” Be Loyal! Discipleship of calling, conviction and commitment, not convenience! Be Intentional! Devotion must result in a discipleship of obedience.

Conclusion

Jesus who hung on the cross saying, “I am with you”, asks, “Are you with ME?”