

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CASE FOR CHRIST MOVIE TICKETS

Tickets for the movie *The Case for Christ* are available today at the foyer. Invite your pre-believing friends and loved ones to watch so they can know more about the historical evidence for Jesus in a non-threatening way. Tickets can only be purchased in Covenant EFC. They are not available at Golden Village movie counters. Please note that once the tickets are purchased, they are not refundable. In order to pack the hall and not leave any seats in between, we will be selling the tickets row by row from the top. See you at the foyer!

CHURCH STAFF RECRUITMENT

We are looking for the following:

- **Manager (Media, Communications and Resources)**
- **Executive (The Next Generation)**
- **Executive (Finance)**
- **Executive (Human Resources)**
- **Executive (Buildings and Facilities)**

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 26 Nov.

BAPTISM CLASS

The next Baptism Class will be held on 4 Feb, Sun, 1.00pm to 3.30pm at BPJ Centre. Sign up at the Information Counter.

PHOTOGRAPHY MINISTRY WORKSHOP

Covenant Photography Ministry is holding a workshop on nature photography. There will be theory lessons followed by hands-on practice sessions with different nature photography techniques. If you are interested, bring your own digital camera and lenses. Do invite your friends to join too. This workshop is free of charge.

Date: 18 Nov **Time:** 8.30am to 12pm
Register at cefcphotographyministry@gmail.com by 16 Nov.

MATURE ADULTS THANKSGIVING BREAKFAST

If you're aged 55 and above, still working or retired and worshipping in Covenant EFC, this is for you!

Date: 2 Dec (Sat)
Time: 9:30 – 11am (breakfast will be served from 8:30am to 9:30am)
Venue: WDL Centre Chapel (Level 4)
Watch out for the registration next Sun, 19 Nov. Registration is needed for catering purposes.

SERVE IN HEALTHSERVE

Serve with us at Mandai HealthServe Clinic! We need medical professionals (doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, physiotherapists, and occupational therapists) who can serve at least one clinic session a month. If you are one of these, we would love to hear from you. Email missions@cefc.org.sg or call Michael Cheah at 8200 1917.

VISION

AUTHENTIC
DISCIPLESHIP
& INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLEMAKING
OF A CERTAIN KIND

VISIBLE VALUES

- Grace
- Growth
- Godliness



UNDERLYING VALUES

- Truth
- Community
- Stewardship
- Balance
- Brokenness

COVENANT EFC

BUKIT PANJANG CENTRE, 12 NOV 2017
SERVICE LEADER: PS VALERIE CHAN ■ WORSHIP LEADER: CHUA SUE ERN

Serve and Bridge

ELDER JOHNNY TAN, NEW LIFE COMMUNITY SERVICE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AND COVENANT EFC MISSIONS DIRECTOR

Matthew 20:28 recorded that “the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” In Isaiah 58:12 we are called to be “Repairer of broken walls, and Restorer of streets with dwellings”. From these verses, it is clear we are called to serve the community and to form bridges as we serve them. As we serve the community, we make Jesus known by demonstrating His love!

New Life Community Services started 17 years ago when Covenant EFC moved to Bukit Panjang with a clear objective of serving and loving the community where the church is. New Life serves as the bridge from the church to the community. It is our prayer that many from the community will cross the bridge into a relationship with Christ.

The work of New Life is about forging relationship with the community. Today you will hear the testimonies of Irwan and Samuel Toh on how New Life volunteers and staff reached out to befriend them.

This made a big difference in their lives! It is this kind of special touch that transforms hearts and lives.

New Life currently has a staff strength of 110. In 2016 by God's grace, grants and donations amounted to \$2.5 million. To date we have collected \$2.2 million. For every dollar collected, 70 cents is spent on staff cost with the rest of the amount largely spent on the programmes.

The Lord has blessed New Life with new growth areas in Woodlands and Bukit Panjang. More about this will be revealed in due time. As New Life seeks opportunities to go to the East and West, more volunteers and funds are required. Please pray along with us as we believe that God will provide the necessary resources for the next lap of New Life. Indeed, one answered prayer is His provision of the incoming Deputy Executive Director in 2018 — Felix Wong. Praise be to God!

Let us work together to serve and love the community for Christ!

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

Why Do We Do What We Do?

SCRIPTURE: TOPICAL ■ SERMON: PS EDMUND WONG

Introduction

We do what we do because ...

1. Setting Our _____ Matters to God!

2. Setting Our _____ Matters to God!

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

19 NOV – REV TAN KAY KIONG (BPJ), PS IVAN HO (WDL) AND PS SHARON FONG (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

When Compromise Seems Harmless

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 9:1-4 ■ SERMON: REV TAN KAY KIONG

Introduction

Eight chapters in Ezra over a time period of about 80 years. Everything seemed to be going well until Ezra discovered that the people of Israel and the priests and the Levites were intermarrying with the peoples of the land and nobody seems to care. It's a dangerous and destructive state when compromise seems harmless. AW Tozer once said: "One compromise here, another there, and soon enough, the so-called Christian and the man in the world look the same." In *Screwtape Letters*, a senior devil advises the junior devil on tempting the believers, "Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one — the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts". E. Stanley Jones said: "If you don't make up your mind, your unmade mind will unmake you."

Let's look into Ezra 9:1-4 and observe the spiritual state of the people:

A. Spiritual Regression Begins with Compromise (vv.1-2)

Four and a half months have passed since Ezra returned. Most likely, the intermarriages with the peoples of the land were committed by the first wave returnees. They had already been in Jerusalem for about 60 years before Ezra. On the surface, everything seemed good. The outward Temple routines and sacrifices were ongoing but there was a compromise of the Word of God that no one seemed to mind.

1. Compromise Is Irrespective of Persons (v.1a). Verse 1a: "The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands." What's even worse, in verse 2b "Indeed, the hands of the princes and the rulers have been foremost in this unfaithfulness." Literally in Hebrew, it meant "their hand had been first." The leaders were most guilty. See 1 Corinthians 10:12.
2. Compromise Can Be Irreversible (vv.1-2). The people "have not separated themselves from the peoples of the land". Initially they were faithful (Ezr 6:21). But soon, they forgot and began to live "according to their abominations". It's not just the intermarriages that God is concerned about; it's their religious abominations and idolatry that God detests (Exo 34:11-16 and 1 Kin 11:3-5). Our God is a jealous God. Thankfully while God is angrily jealous over us, he doesn't stay angry but will forgive us when we turn to Him. Application: Have you carelessly drawn the line so that you will not carelessly cross the line?

B. Spiritual Restoration Begins with Contriteness (vv.3-4)

1. The Scripture paints a very graphic picture of contriteness or brokenness. Verse 3 "When I heard about this matter, I tore my garment and my robe, and pulled some of the hair from my head and my beard, and sat down appalled." In the Old Testament, it's common for one to shave his hair or tear his garment in response to grief and distress (Job 1:20; Num 14:6). But to pull your hair is unusual and difficult; such was his grief. Not only did Ezra pull his hair, "he sat down appalled". The Hebrew word means to be reduced to shuddering, devastated, utterly shocked.
2. Finally, verse 4 tells us "Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel on account of the unfaithfulness of the exiles gathered to me." To tremble at the words of God means to be so affected that it brings about an inward contriteness of heart and repentance that leads to our wholeness and restoration in God. See Isaiah 60:1-2 Application: What do we pull our hair over? Appalled by? Tremble about?

Conclusion

Jesus also faced compromises but He didn't succumb to it.