

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

WOODLANDS CENTRE, 12 NOV 2017
SERVICE LEADER: PS SHARON FONG ■ WORSHIP LEADER: ALLISON LIM

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

True Religion

SCRIPTURE: TOPICAL ■ SERMON: PAUL SHI

1. Outward R _____ – Inward R _____ = Divine D _____
and D _____

2. True Fasting

R _____

F _____

S _____

C _____

H _____

3. The Fruit of Fasting

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 TONY YEO

Introduction

When compromise seems harmless, it will always destroy and consume us in the end. There was a time in history when compromise seemed harmless for the people of God. Two important and significant spiritual principles of discipleship:

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

Historically, the first wave of returnees had already been in Jerusalem for about 60 years before Ezra. Everything seemed well and good, but there was a glaring compromise of God's Word.

1. Spiritual regression begins with compromise in God's **Community**. From the top to the grassroots, everyone has lost their moral compass, inner conscience and godly voice.
 - a. The people of Israel – the people in the pew were disobeying God's command
 - b. The spiritual leaders – priests and Levites, Church leaders, staff, Board, ZMs, CGLs and ministry leaders were crossing the line
 - c. Those in power and authority – Verse 2b literally in Hebrew, "their hand had been first" means they are "foremost in this unfaithfulness".
2. Spiritual regression begins with compromise in God's **Command**:
 - a. Disobey God's command – The issue is not of different race or ethnicity, but faith and religious abominations and idolatry that God detests.
 - b. Defile God's command – "Intermingled" (NASB) or "mixed itself" (ESV) – the act was done volitionally, passionately, seriously and with certainty. In the Old Testament, in the eyes of God it is "abomination", "detestable practices" (Ezr 9:1), "unfaithfulness" to God (Ezra 9:2, 4), and spiritual defilement (Neh 13:27-29). "Mixing" as a spiritual problem caused Israel's idolatrous unfaithfulness, not merely in marriages.
3. Compromise overpowered the incredible strength of Samson, the unsurpassed wisdom of Solomon and even the godly passion of David. In our society today, we see the emotional, physical and spiritual devastation resulting from compromise in pornography, adultery and sexual experimentation outside of marriage. Application: Have you compromised in marriage with a non-Christian, in pornography, in sinful practices such as sex outside marriage, and courting couples travelling alone for overseas trip.

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

1. Expression of Contriteness. In the Old Testament, expressions include shaving hair (Job 1:20), putting on sackcloth (Eze 7:18), tearing garment (Num 14:6), but pulling the hair and beard are unusual and excruciatingly painful. Insight: A worthy biblical note is that Nehemiah and Ezra were faced with the same situation (mixed marriages) but they responded very differently in their leadership. Nehemiah pulled the hair of the offenders (Neh 13:25).
2. Experience of Contriteness. Ezra "sat down appalled ... until the evening offering" (vv.3-4). The Hebrew word *mesomem* means to be shuddering, devastated, utterly shocked, horrified, and disgusted. What we are appalled by, shows our values. Are we appalled by our own sins or the sins of others today?
3. Effect of Contriteness. 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 God's Word means to have an inward contriteness of heart that leads to true repentance and restoration in God (Isa 66:1-2).

Conclusion

Compromises leads to godlessness; contriteness leads to Christ-likeness.