

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHRISTMAS EVE OUTREACH SERVICES

Christmas is just around the corner! Invite your friends and loved ones to our Christmas Eve Outreach Services. This is the perfect time to celebrate and share God's greatest gift through a musical performance and a special message.

**Date:** 24 Dec (Sun)

**Time:** 9am and 11am

**Speaker:** Dr Andrew Goh

### SERVE IN NEW LIFE

We need 70 Steady Readers Volunteer Mentors to help the children overcome challenges in reading and instil in them a love for books.

**Dates:** Weekly from Jan to May 2018

**Time:** 8.00pm – 9.30pm

Training sessions will be held on 6, 7, 13 and 14 Jan (choose one training session only) from 1pm to 5pm at Fajar Youth Hub.

To sign up or enquire, contact Jason Lee at 9635 1135, Lewis Woo at 9634 9457, or email [volunteer@newlife.org.sg](mailto:volunteer@newlife.org.sg)

### HOKKIEN CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Celebrate and share God's greatest gift with your Hokkien-speaking friends and loved ones by inviting them to our Hokkien Christmas Outreach.

**Date:** 23 Dec (Sat) **Venues & Time:**

7–9pm @ BPJ Centre Main Sanctuary (L2);

3–5pm @ WDL Centre Chapel 1 (L4)

**Speaker:** Rev Timothy Hoon (洪茂祥牧师)

### C.Y.A.N. CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Christmas is just around the corner! Covenant Young Adult Network (C.Y.A.N.) will be having a Christmas gathering. Come for a time of fun, food and friendship! Register at <https://engage.cefc.org.sg>

**Date:** 16 Dec (Sat)

**Time:** 7pm – 9pm (dinner will be served)

**Venue:** 5 Little Monkeys Cafe, Pico Creative Centre, 20 Kallang Ave, #11-00

**Fee:** \$15 per person

### CHURCH STAFF RECRUITMENT

We are looking to fill the role of **Executive (Integrated Equipping)**. 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](mailto:hr@cefc.org.sg) by 24 Dec.

## COVENANT EFC

**ACKCentre:** 2 Kallang Avenue, CT Hub #10-26, Singapore 339407

**OUR 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](mailto:mail@cefc.org.sg) ■ **Website:** [www.cefc.org.sg](http://www.cefc.org.sg)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/CovenantEvangelicalFreeChurch](http://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, 10 DEC 2017

SERVICE LEADER: JEREMY KOH ■ WORSHIP LEADER: DAVID CHONG

### Rebuilding

REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI, DIRECTOR, INTEGRATED EQUIPPING

We've spent a whole year on the book of Ezra. By now, most of you would know that the key idea in Ezra is about rebuilding. After 70 years in exile, God sent His people back to Jerusalem to rebuild His Temple. He then sent Ezra himself back to rebuild His people. The physical structure of the Temple was important as a touchpoint and a galvanising centre for the nation. But far more critical was the heart of the people. God needed to rebuild His people around His Word. Because living out the Word of God would ultimately lead God's people into life with Him.

So then, how has 2017 been a year of rebuilding for you? It's not too late to rebuild if you've not already done so. Here are four areas to consider:

#### Rebuild Your Relationships.

Are there strained or distant relationships with a friend or a loved one? Perhaps God is leading you to rebuild in this area, especially this season. Relational pain often hurts the most. There is no easy way around this. The way forward is to ask for forgiveness. This is tough, but perhaps necessary. Perhaps God is leading you to rebuild your relationships. Take courage and arise – rebuild!

**Rebuild Your Body.** This is not just another anti-diabetes talk.

How our body functions affects us emotionally and spiritually. Have we been watchful over our diet, getting sufficient rest and the necessary exercise (at least 30 mins two to three times a week)? It may be necessary for some of us to take more care over our physical bodies so that our lives can be more useful to our Lord. Take courage and arise – rebuild!

**Rebuild Your Life.** One of the key areas God has brought to our attention is that of sin within the community. No one is perfect. But it's another thing to be caught in intentional, ongoing sin. God has spoken to us through the pulpit last month. Some of us need to come to that place of repentance and stop sinning. Take courage and repent – rebuild!

#### Rebuild Your Walk with God.

Like the Jews in the time of Ezra, some of us may be drifting along in our relationship with God. Things are on cruise-mode. Bible reading is patchy, prayers and devotions may have taken a dip. The Spirit is calling you to rebuild — to come back to that intentional daily walk with the Lord in His Word and prayer. Take courage and arise – rebuild!

May 2017 be that wonderful year where God rebuilds you from the inside out! Take courage and arise – rebuild!

## SERMON OUTLINE

### It's Not the End

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 10:16-44 ■ SERMON: PS IVAN HO

#### Introduction

#### A. We Must Be WILLING (vv.16-17)

#### B. We Must Issue a WARNING (vv.18-44)

#### Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:  
17 DEC – PS IVAN HO (BPJ), PS ANDY LEW (WDL) AND PS EDMUND WONG (EAST)

## LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

### Covenant Community

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 10:5-15 ■ SERMON: REV TAN KAY KIONG

#### Introduction

1. The Modesto Manifesto: An example of highest biblical and moral integrity that Billy Graham and his friends kept all these years.
  - a. To be men of integrity
  - b. To live lives of purity
  - c. To be accountable to God and others, including each other
  - d. To live with humility
2. The post-exilic community in Ezra's day came to a spiritual watershed in their lives. Either they ignore their blatant sin against God or they take some concrete steps forward as God's people.

#### A. Covenant to Act Together (vv.5-12)

Contrary to our individualistic and privatised brand of Christianity today, the post-exilic community was a covenant community. They acted together! How so?

1. They took an oath (v.5): A very serious act in the Old Testament, not just talk or mere intention but solemn and decisive action. Not done just by one zealous person but by the leading Priests and Levites and all Israel as one covenant community. Application: See Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 and James 5:12. Keep your Marriage Vow. "Marriage resembles a pair of shears, so joined that they cannot be separated; often moving in opposite directions, yet always punishing anyone who comes between them." – Sydney Smith
2. They issued an ultimatum (v.7): Whoever doesn't turn up in three days will have their property confiscated and expelled from the community. Two background contexts:
  - a. King's Edict (Ezr 7:26): Ezra had the King's backing to inflict punitive measures.
  - b. Israel is a Theocracy: It means God is the ultimate King and there are covenant blessings and judgements.
3. The people showed up (v.9): They sat in the square before the house of God. They were **trembling**: trembling **spiritually** as they feared the judgement of God, trembling **physically** because of the heavy torrential rain. Verse 12 "It is so; we must do as you have said."
4. Application: What's our idea of Church community? Don't mistake the functions for the essence. We are a Holy people to be set apart for God!

#### B. Covenant to Act Together Over Time (vv.9-15)

1. Because of the rain and large number of offenders of the intermarriage law, they decided to decentralise it to the local district judges and leaders to handle the 113 families who had violated the law.
2. Application: In dealing with sin, sometimes it has to be dealt with progressively. The sinner must want to deal with it. It takes time to deal with some of these dragons (e.g. drug, gambling or sexual addictions).

#### Conclusion

Rise to be men and women of integrity through covenant community.