

Announcements

MEMBERSHIP AFFIRMATION

Our biennial membership affirmation starts today! All Covenant EFC constitutional members are required to affirm their membership by 28 Feb to remain as a constitutional member.

- Affirm your membership at the booth at the foyer or at www.cefc.org.sg by clicking "My Account".
- Select whether you would like to receive the notice of AGM by email or by postal mail.
- Add a profile photo and update your personal particulars after your affirmation to receive the appropriate information and letters for the upcoming AGM.
- If you need assistance with your Voyager account, email sgi.admin@cefc.org.sg

If you are not able to affirm, submission of new membership application form is required to be a member again. Application forms are available at the Information Counter.

i12PRAY

Participate in *i12pray* by committing to pray for Covenant EFC leaders and for Singapore at least once a month, on a day of your choice. Sign up and access the daily prayer guide through the "Covenant EFC" mobile app! Together, we can cover our nation and church in prayer every day of the year!

BREAKTHROUGH WEEKENDS

Have you signed up for Breakthrough Weekends? Early bird registration ends next Sun. Don't miss it!

YOUTH DANCE WORKSHOP

Covenant Dance Ministry will conduct Youth Dance Workshops (Contemporary, Hip Hop and Ballet) during the March and June 2018 school holidays! Youths should have at least two years of dance experience from regular dance classes as this is not an introductory dance workshop.

For youths aged 10 to 12 years old. This workshop will introduce them on how to use their gifts and talents in dance to serve God. Dates: 17 and 18 Mar Venues: ACKCentre and WDL

For youths aged 13 to 15 years old. This workshop will invite them to consider what it means to be a Christian dancer and how to be set apart to use their gifts for God's Kingdom. Dates: 9 and 10 Jun Venues: ACKCentre and WDL

Cost: \$15 per participant (payment by cheque)
Registration closes on 11 Feb To register or enquire, email cefdance@gmail.com

AGM NOMINATIONS

Nomination of office bearers for the Church Board 2018-2019 term is now open. Please get the nominations forms at the Information Counter and submit by 28 Jan 2018 to The Honorary Secretary, Covenant Evangelical Free Church, 2 Kallang Avenue, #10-26, CT HUB, Singapore 339407. Candidates will be considered by the nominations committee and subject to Board approval. For enquiries, contact Sandy Siak, Honorary Secretary at honsec@cefc.org.sg

Nomination Committee

Nomination Chairman: Chang Li Lin
Senior Pastors: Rev Tony Yeo and Rev Tan Kay Kiong
Board Chairman: Elder Louis Tan
Board Honorary Secretary: Sandy Siak
Board Members: Roger Loh and Patrick Lim
Lay Members: Tham Sau Ling and Paul Ong

PARENTING TRAINING

Parenting with Faith. For parents with kids below 12 years old. **Dates:** Eight sessions from 27 Jan to 14 Apr. **Time:** 2pm- 4pm **Venue:** ACKCentre **Fee:** \$100/couple Register at the Information Counter today!

STM TRIPS

All CG members, plan your STM trips for 2018 now! **Mongolia (Provinces outside Ulanbaatar) in March (10 to 14 days)** Teach basic Biblical disciplines. Team size: 4 to 6 people only

Mongolia (Ulanbaatar) in March or April (10 to 14 days) Campus outreach to conduct English lessons Team size: 6 to 12 people (18 to 35 years old)

Nepal on 23 Mar to 5 Apr (8 to 10 days) Teachers' training and children's programme

Thailand (Chiang Mai) on 23 Apr to 5 May (6 to 7 days) Youth/children's camp (spiritual development)

Registration ends on 4 Feb. Trippers must be members of a CG and attending CG regularly. They must be committed to attending STM training and team meetings. For more information or to indicate your interest email missions@cefc.org.sg

DISCOVERY WEEKEND

Courting couples, would you like to further develop your relationship for God's glory? Choose one Saturday (8.30am-5pm) from this year's Discovery Weekend dates: **27 Jan, 14 Apr, 21 Jul and 20 Oct.** Register at the Information Counter.



... for a Vibrant & Healthy Next Generation

... for Godly Families and Generations

... for a Growing IDMC Movement in Singapore

... to Impact Our Society & Culture

... for a Growing Global IDMC Movement

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

ONE CHURCH
MULTIPLE CENTRES

BPI Centre:
Sun 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.30pm

WDL Centre:
Sun 8.30am & 10.30am

East Centre:
Sun 9am & 11am

T (65) 6892 6811

E mail@cefc.org.sg

W www.cefc.org.sg

FB www.facebook.com/CovenantEvangelicalFreeChurch

BUKIT PANJANG, 14 JANUARY 2018
SERVICE LEADER: PS VALERIE CHAN • WORSHIP LEADER: BENJAMIN & SHARON TAN

A Season of Prayer and Repentance

REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI, DIRECTOR, INTEGRATED EQUIPPING

We have heard from our senior pastors that the burden God has laid upon their hearts for 2018 is prayer and repentance. Prayer comes from a vision of Exodus 17:1-8. The Church is under attack. Victory required both the ground battle (led by Joshua and the army) and the prayer battle (Moses with Aaron and Hur up in the hill). Significantly, it was Moses' arms that were held up, signifying prayer, that ultimately led to victory. The call to repentance comes from Joel 1:13-14. We see this in our *Whole Life Inventory* done in 2016. We are grateful that Covenant EFC is doing well in many areas such as our spiritual disciplines, family relationship, etc. Nonetheless, there is sin in our midst. Certainly we will not be perfect until the Lord returns. Yet we do need to repent of that which we are aware of and can do something about. Habitual and intention sin, resulting in lifeless and defeated Christianity is *not* the normal Christian life that Jesus intends for us. Hence the call for repentance.

Interestingly, Covenant EFC is not alone. Several key Church leaders in Singapore have also come to that conviction that 2018 is to be a year of consecrated prayer and repentance. Then just this week, we saw close to 700 Singaporean pastors, lay leaders and parachurch leaders come together for prayer at the Prayer Summit in Malacca, the largest in its 23-year history. We deeply believe God's Spirit is stirring His Church towards such a season. So, how can you participate along with us? Here are some possible ways:

- Set aside a time to pray first thing each morning. As you lie in bed, commit yourself to the Lordship of Jesus again (e.g. Dear Lord Jesus, I commit myself to you again this day. Be the Lord of my life. Protect me from the evil one. Guide me by your Spirit to all that You would have me do. Empower me by Your Spirit to obey. In Jesus' name, amen).
- Set a side one day a week to fast. Fasting is to deny yourself physical sustenance and pleasure in order to let God know you are serious in seeking Him. It is a means of humbling yourself and being aware of the things that bind us to this world. You may skip a meal, and you can also consider fasting from social media. Spend this time instead reading God's Word and praying it back to Him.
- Set aside one day a month to purposefully fast and pray. Pray for yourself, your family, Covenant EFC, her leaders and our nation. We encourage you to join us as a church by registering through "Covenant EFC" app under *i12pray*. We are looking to cover 365 days of 2018 with such dedicated prayer. As of last Tuesday, over 900 Covenanters have joined us.

I believe God wants to bless His Church in Singapore with spiritual awakening. That's why He's leading us to this season of prayer and repentance. Join us — do whatever is possible to intensify prayer and believe that our Heavenly Father will hear us, and pour His Spirit afresh over our nation and His Church! May 2018 be that spiritual turning point for you, our church and Singapore!

Sermon Outline

MANDATE: Returning the Church to Her Disciplemaking Roots

SCRIPTURE: TOPICAL • SERMON: PS ANDY LEW

Introduction:

A. Return to the Great COMMANDMENT (Matt 22:36-40)

B. Return to the Great COMMISSION (Matt 28:18-20)

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

21 JAN - PS LIM KENG YEOW (BPJ), PS KATHERINE CHAN (WDL) AND JEREMY KOH (EAST)

Last Week's Sermon Summary

We Are Church: Pray and Repent!

SCRIPTURE: TOPICAL • SERMON: REV TONY YEO

Introduction

The Senior Pastor's Office (SPO) is grateful for God's divine guidance and prompting through a plurality of godly leadership at the SPO Listening Retreat on 8-15 July 2017 at the mountain with God. The spiritual burden God impressed upon us for 2018 is We Are Church: Pray and Repent!

"No man is greater than his prayer life. The pastor who is not praying is playing; the people who are not praying are straying. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, few pray-ers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. Failing here, we fail everywhere." – Leonard Ravenhill

A. We Are Church: PRAY! (Exodus 17:8-13)

It started with Senior Pastor Tan Kay Kiong receiving a very distinct picture of Moses praying in the mountain with his hands supported by Aaron and Hur.

- We Are Under Attack (Exo 17:8).** The devil has launched his arsenal of attacks against every possible arena of our lives. We live defeated lives stained by sin and the affairs of this world; distracted lives weighed down by the daily anxieties of this world, preoccupied with our self and personal interests; and disempowered lives surviving on past manna and paralysed without the spiritual power and victory to make a difference in our families and societies.
- We Must Fight with the Weapons of God (Exo 17:9b).** The staff in Moses' hand was the staff of God. This once ordinary staff used to goad sheep in the desert had become God's weapon to fight spiritual battles. We must put on God's spiritual armour so that we can stand against the schemes of the devil.
- We Must Fight with the Weapons of God and Hold Up Our Hands (Exo 17:11a).** Joshua and his troops were fighting with all their might against the enemies, but the secret to their victory was Moses' hands raised to God in desperate intercession. Aaron and Hur helped Moses keep his hands up. We must hold up our hands in intercession for spiritual victory in our lives. Focus: God's winning strategy is not just prayer but persistent prayer; not just solo person praying but communal praying. Application: *i12pray*

B. We Are Church: Pray and REPENT! (Joel 1-3)

There is no true prayer without **repentance**. John the Baptist's cry in Luke 3:8, "Bring forth fruits in keeping with repentance." God spoke to me through the book of Joel. Judah was facing a national crisis when a swarm of locusts came and stripped their land bare. Joel witnessed this calamity and used it as an opportunity to call the people to repent and return to the Lord. He warned them that the day of the Lord is near.

- Repent Humbly.** Put on sackcloth, wail before the altar, declare a holy fast and call a sacred assembly (Joel 1:13-14).
- Repent Wholeheartedly.** Rend your heart and not your garments (Joel 2:12-13). The Message Bible translates it as "Change your life, not just your clothes." In other words, "Don't go through the motion; get right with God! Start right with God. Live right for God!"
- Two reasons: a. God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. He doesn't want anyone to start the new year living in guilt, shame, status quo, lethargy and complacency. He loves us and waits for us to run into His loving arms! b. God doesn't want to judge us but to set us free from the clutches of the evil one, the consequences of our sins and bondages.
- Repentance: *metanoia* (Greek), a change of mind. "Do a thorough job of repenting. Do not hurry to get it over with. Hasty repentance means shallow spiritual experience and lack of certainty in the whole life. Let godly sorrow do its healing work. Until we allow the consciousness of sin to wound us, we will never develop a fear of evil. It is our wretched habit of tolerating sin that keeps us in our half-dead condition." - AW Tozer
- The battle against porn rages on. Nate Larkin said, "I didn't realize it at the time, but my daily porn use was steadily rewiring my brain, resetting my arousal template, altering my view of women, and weakening my connection to the world around me, including my wife."

Conclusion

The 40th year of Covenant EFC is also the 40th year since Dr Billy Graham came to Singapore in 1978. Since then, the landscape of the Church was never the same. As we enter into this significant milestone of the Church, it will be a time of new birth and new life, not just for Covenant EFC but also for our nation.