

Announcements

GATHERING OF MULTITUDES (GOM)

Calling all Zone Mentors, CGLs, ACGLs and Ministry Leaders! You and your spouse are invited to our annual GOM, happening **this Sat, 29 Sep, 9am – 4pm (lunch will be provided) at BPJ Centre**. This year, it will be held on a **Saturday** to give us more time to process and interact on where we are headed. This gathering is pivotal for our alignment as leaders. See you there!

ALPHA LITE TRAINING

In preparation for Covenant Groups (CGs) to run Alpha Lite in Nov 2018 (a four to seven-week Alpha programme), this training is for all CG members (especially those who will be championing Alpha Lite), and individuals who wish to learn how to run a home Alpha.

Date: 25 Sep OR 2 Oct (Tue) – select either one session **Time:** 7pm – 10pm

Venue: ACKCentre #10-10

Topics: How to host an Alpha, how to facilitate an Alpha small group discussion, and how to be fruitful in reaching out.

Register at <http://cefc.ch/alphalitetraining>

For enquiries, email alpha@cefc.org.sg

BREAKTHROUGH WEEKENDS (BTW)

Early-bird registration for CG members is ongoing until 30 Sep. Register at Voyager. Marriage BTW & Men's BTW on 23 to 25 Nov. Women's BTW on 30 Nov to 2 Dec

NEW LIFE CHARITY RUN

Bless the community by helping raise funds for New Life. Be a Runner, Be a Fundraiser at **CSC Run by the Bay on Sat, 20 Oct, 7.30pm at Gardens by The Bay East for the 6.1km category, Form a team of 3-4 runners and register via tinyurl.com/newliferun2018 before 3 Oct.**

A personalised fundraising page for your team will be created. Raise donations online by sharing your team's fundraising page to your networks. For more info, visit tinyurl.com/newliferunfaq or contact Trevor at 8767 7089 or fundraising@newlife.org.sg.

ENCOURAGERS-IN-COVENANT

Facilitators' Workshop

Learn how to facilitate small groups in a more meaningful and impactful way.

Date: 13 Oct (Sat) **Time:** 8.30am – 4.30pm

Venue: ACKCentre #10-03 **Trainer:** Alice Tok
Slots are limited. To register, email your name and handphone number to encouragersadmin@cefc.org.sg. Registration closes on 5 Oct.

Silent Retreat

This one-day silent retreat is open to all Covenanters.

Date: 20 Oct (Sat) **Time:** 9am to 4.30pm

Venue: OMF, 2 Cluny Road

To register, email your name and handphone number to encouragersadmin@cefc.org.sg

WOMEN4WOMEN

"Beautiful in His Eyes" is a discipleship seminar organised by Women-In-Covenant (WiC) Ministry for all the ladies in Covenant. Embark with WiC on a journey to discover your Significance in God in your growth towards becoming *A Certain Kind of Woman!*

Date: 13 Oct (Sat) **Time:** 9am - 1pm

Speaker: Ps Ann Chan

Venue: BPJ Centre, Main Sanctuary

Registration is required. Sign up at <http://cefc.ch/W4W2> by 8 Oct. For enquiries, email wic@cefc.org.sg

PASTOR'S SABBATICAL

Ps Katherine Chan will be on sabbatical leave from 1 Oct to 16 Dec 2018. She will be going to the field in Indo-China region after her sabbatical.

PRAYSINGAPORE

Let's join the Body of Christ for

PraySingapore on Sun, 7 Oct, 4pm at the National Stadium.

We believe that in answer to prayer, the harvest will come as the Gospel is preached. Please note that admission is by tickets only. As tickets have been fully redeemed, please go to the Information Counter to be placed on the waiting list. Children aged three years old and above are required to have tickets.



... 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
BPJ 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

EAST, 23 SEP 2018

SERVICE LEADER: PS JEREMY KOH • WORSHIP LEADER: DAVID CHONG

Key Lessons from Our Church History

PS IVAN HO, PASTORAL STAFF, DISTRICT MENTOR AND INTEGRATED EQUIPPING

Since the end of last year, I had the privilege of working on a project to design and produce our church's 40th anniversary commemorative coffee table book, titled *This Is Us: 40 Years of God's Faithfulness*. The section "Genesis of Covenant Evangelical Free Church" is a record of our church history. Having reflected on our past journey, here are three key lessons I learnt:

God redeems for His salvific purpose. Our founding elders and leaders were in their mid-20s when they started leading the church. They had a mind of their own, with ideals of what church should be and should do. They did not simply give blind submission to those in authority. They were impatient, confident that they had better answers, but God redeemed them for His purpose. Although they were not always right, God saw the hearts of our founding elders and leaders ("... the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.", 1Sam 16:7 ESV), and something in there delighted Him. A genuine love for God. A sincere desire to serve God's salvific purpose. Do we see as God sees? Or do we dismiss the ideas of our young people, downplay their fervency and dampen their enthusiasm to attempt great things for God?

We must not have a settler's mindset. Our founding elders and leaders had a holy

dissatisfaction with the status quo. They were not content to settle in a comfortable place and simply cruise along in respectability. Instead they were prepared to leave their comfort zones and take risks for God. They wanted to plant more churches in order to reach more unbelievers with the Gospel. They were driven by conviction, not directed by convenience. They were not fearful of an unknown future, but were courageous because they knew that the Almighty God was leading them. Are we keeping God's mission in view at all times?

We can fully trust God in the faith ventures He initiates.

When God gives our church leaders promises and leads them to venture forth in faith, we can be certain that God will fulfil His promises in His time. Godly, spiritual leadership makes all the difference for a local church. Both leaders and members must faithfully persevere in the work God has entrusted to them. We must have complete faith in the Lord's steadfast love and faithfulness towards His people. Are you ready to follow as the Lord leads our church into the future?

I encourage you to buy a copy of the commemorative book to read, so that you may be edified and challenged to press on in what God calls us as a church to be and to do. May our covenant-keeping God bless you and make you a blessing to many!

Sermon Outline

THE SURPRISES OF GOD

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 15:36-16:10 • SERMON: REV EDMUND CHAN

Introduction

1. A Lack of Depth Perception

2. God of Surprises! Five Surprises -

Surprise 1.

The Surprise of God's CONCESSION

“And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other ...” (v.15:39)

Surprise 2.

The Surprise of God's CHOICE

“...Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman ... but his father was a Greek.” (v.16:1)

Surprise 3.

The Surprise of God's COMMITMENT

“So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.” (v.16:5)

Surprise 4.

The Surprise of God's CONSTRAINTS

“...having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia... they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.” (vv.16:6-7)

Surprise 5.

The Surprise of God's CALLING

“...‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.” (vv.16:9-10)

Conclusion. The Greatest Surprise of All..!!

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKER:

30 SEP – PS EDMUND WONG (BPJ), REV TAN KAY KIONG (WDL) AND REV BARNEY LAU (EAST)

Last Week's Sermon Summary

Standing Firm

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 15:1-35 • SERMON: REV BARNEY LAU

Introduction

Acts 14: Stay true – Get your **heart** right! Acts 15: Stand firm – Get your **theology** right!

The Church always face heresies (vv.1-5). Paul and Barnabas felt strongly about this issue and rightly so. It is an issue of eternal destiny. The divisive question was “How is someone saved?” The Judaizers were teaching that salvation is through Christ plus circumcision and law observance.

Living in an age full of heresies, we are able to stand firm because of :

A. The Work of God Which Works in Us and Changes Us (Acts 15:6-12; 22-29)

“But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus.”

1. The work of God in us is seen in the following: **hear the Word** (v.7a), **believe** (v.7b), **gift of the Holy Spirit** (v.8), **no distinction** (v.9a), **cleansed by faith** (v.9b), **saved by grace** (v.11)
2. The whole assembly fell silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul describing all the signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles (v.12). One of the greatest miracles God performs is a changed life wherein we experience the power of God and new life in Christ.
3. God saved the lost though we were uncircumcised and undeserving. We all have the same problem (Rom 3:23), the same provision (Rom 3:24), the same prescription (Rom 10:12-13). For there is no distinction between Jews and Greeks; everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
4. The Heart of the Gospel of Christ: *Sola Fides* (by faith alone) – “and he made no distinction between us and them having cleansed their hearts by faith” (v.9); *Sola Gratia* (by grace alone) – “but we believe that we will be saved through the **grace** of the Lord Jesus just as they will.” (v.11); *Solus Christus* (through Christ alone) – “but we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the **Lord Jesus** just as they will” (v.11).
5. Application: The God who works in us purifies us, perfects us, protects us from idolatry, immorality so that we might stand firm! We are all works in progress!

B. The Word of God That Holds on to Us and Convicts us (Acts 15:13-21, 30-35)

“But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord.” (v.35)

1. Peter's argument had been based primarily on his personal experience – the work of God who works in us and changes us, shown by sending his Spirit on them solely on the basis of their faith. James furthered Peter's position by giving it scriptural grounding (Acts 15:14–18).
2. The purpose of James quoting Amos 9:11-12 was to provide the exegetical foundation for the theological position that Peter, Barnabas, Paul and he himself were advocating. It was God's intention to include Gentiles into His Temple to worship Him.
3. Application: We must be biblically competent. Two Common Problems: hardly reading the Bible, reading the Bible haphazardly. Two Critical Priorities: devote Time to Bible-reading and develop skills in Bible-reading. We have many opportunities to upgrade our biblical competence here in Covenant EFC (e.g. IDT).
4. Focus: **Deepen** our conviction of **what holds on to us**, which is the Scriptures, so that as believers we can have healthy discussions regarding society and theology with a Biblical framework.

Conclusion

Stand Firm to Pass it On (Acts 15:22-35). Illustration: Ps Edmund Chan's message at our 40th Anniversary Service. We should focus not merely on what the Church hopes for while ignoring what the Church stands for! The most important cry of the early apostolic church is – He is risen!