

"I would rather walk with God in the dark than go alone in the light."

MARY GARDINER BRAINARD

CONNECT

WITH GOD ■ WITH ONE ANOTHER

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At The Heart Of Faith And Fire

CAMP COVENANT 2010 opened the eyes of hearts to the substance of faith and set them on fire for what truly is in God's heart, as [Louisa Koh](#) shares.

"Now, faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Heb 11:1). This verse embodied the spirit of "Faith and Fire" for me, at Camp Covenant 2010. The eminent message was indeed a revelation of how we need to live our lives in these last days so that we will not experience a rude awakening when our Lord Jesus comes back again suddenly.

Pastor Dr Philip Lyn, a dear friend of our Senior Pastor, Reverend Edmund Chan, and bi-vocational pastor of Skyline SIB church at Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia, was our invited camp speaker. His message brimmed with anecdotes and analogies that not only made us split our sides laughing, he also modelled Jesus' style of master storytelling: Short on principle, but long on illustration. Ps Philip took us through Matthew 24-25 over four plenary sessions, >>>



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Faith and fire descended on one
and all at Camp Covenant 2010.



Ascending to the throne room of God with fervent prayer. Over 1,400 attended this year's camp, held at Sunway Pyramid Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

explaining to us three specific signs (Matt 24:14, 24:15, 24:32–34) of Jesus' coming, as well as four parables that hold the keys to being ready for Jesus' return at all times:

1. The Faithful Servant and the Evil Servant — The way you serve (Matt 24:45–51)
2. The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins — The way you seek (Matt 25:1–13)
3. The Parable of the Talents — The way you sow (Matt 25:14–30)
4. The Sheep and the Goats — The way you share (Matt 25:31–46)

While I was exhorted to seek God's presence (what the oil represents in Matt 25:1–13) all of my life, build up the substance of faith (Heb 11:6) and exercise spiritual authority, what truly touched my heart were the stories of real people he shared, for I encountered God's deep love for me in every one of them.

SOWING FROM SOUL TO SOUL

Ps Philip related a story about Tony Campolo's experience in one junior high camp: There was a little boy, Billy, who suffered from cerebral palsy. His spastic, sinuous movements and slurred speech were cruelly mocked and imitated by the other boys when he asked for directions

He was saying as He gave Himself for us, "I love you so much that I'D RATHER DIE than LIVE WITHOUT YOU FOR ETERNITY" ■

to the craft shop. At the Wednesday morning hour of worship, it was Billy's turn to give devotions. Giggles rippled through the crowd as he made his way, with contorted and writhing movements, towards the pulpit. There, Billy took 10 full minutes to say, "Jesus ... loves ... me ... and ... I ... love ... Jesus."

That was it. Dead silence fell upon the entire hall. Suddenly, a snuffle broke out, then another and another ... The Spirit of God came down that day, sparking a revival. God had used a boy with cerebral palsy that was Billy to "trade his soul for other souls", in spite of, or rather because of, his disability. What excuse then do I have to be fearful and feel inadequate about sharing the Gospel with others, to hide my "talent" in the ground (Matt 25:25)?

EACH ONE OF THEM IS JESUS IN DISGUISE ...

Ps Philip divulged he was from a meritocratic family and used to think the poor "deserved their lot in life as they did not work hard for opportunities".

One day, he was having lunch at a coffee shop and he noticed an unkempt, filthy beggar scooping food scraps into a plastic bag with a stick. It completely turned him off.

At that moment, the Holy Spirit touched him, so he called out to the beggar and invited him for lunch. When the food arrived, the man ploughed into it like there was no tomorrow, with no regard for decorum whatsoever.

Ps Philip was totally embarrassed. To make matters worse, after the man finished eating, he simply stood up, wiped

his mouth and walked away, sucking his teeth as he went with nary an expression of gratitude.

Ps Philip was hot under the collar as he thought to himself, "What an ungrateful beggar ... the scum of society!" The incident was put out of his mind.

Ten years later, while he was preparing a sermon for Skyline about reaching out to the poor, God brought this incident to mind. As he wrote, he prayed, "God, that stupid man! I don't even know his name!" Then the Lord revealed the beggar's name: It was Jesus.

"... 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'" — Matthew 25:40.

The poor is close to God's heart. When we understand this, everything changes.

"MY CHILD, I'D RATHER DIE THAN LIVE WITHOUT YOU"

The closing message for the camp by Senior Pastor from Mark 2:1–12 opened my eyes to see God's love for us in a new light. "When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven you.'" (Mk 2:5).

When Jesus said this, He was looking



Pastor Dr Philip Lyn, our anointed and lively camp speaker



God Answers Prayers!

EN ROUTE TO SUNWAY PYRAMID Hotel, I quickly prayed to God for a glimpse of His Glory, an empowering by the Holy Spirit to do what pleases Him, and direction and purpose for my life.

I was extremely touched by how each and every prayer was answered! God loves me even though I am just an "insignificant" guy on Earth. In the first plenary session by Pastor Philip, I was struck with a deep insight into God's Word — his teachings were easy to understand, yet profound and Spirit-filled.

He shared his struggles when his daughter, Sarah, met with a terrible accident that almost killed her. Through his prayers and faith, God saved Sarah, reviving and healing her completely. During the joyful and fun-filled "Covenant's Got Talent!" segment on the last night of camp, a video of Sarah's story was shared. We thank God for sending Ps Philip — he was a wonderful gift to Covenant, for we gained much from him.

At the last dawn prayer, Reverend Dr Chua Chung Kai's message to us as we meditated on Acts 13:36 was, "Don't waste your life". Not all of us will survive the next 50 years, but we can certainly make our lives count for God if we follow the principles in the Bible.

— THOMAS TIO

ahead to the cross of Calvary, where He was about to pay the price for the forgiveness of the paralytic's sins.

Jesus was saying, "My life for your life, because you are worthy," to a paralytic who was, in all probability, the last person expected to do great things for God's Kingdom.

Jesus was not simply saying "I love you" or "I die for you on the Cross," but rather, He was saying as He gave Himself for us, "I love you so much that I'd rather die than live without you for eternity."

Up till now, God is pursuing a love relationship with you and me — There is nothing more than this.

Will we respond to Him in love, commitment and gratitude? ©

All Scripture references in this article are taken from the New King James Version (NKJV) unless otherwise noted.

Prepare The Way

BY ANDY LEW, "FAITH AND FIRE" CAMP COVENANT COMMANDANT 2010

When I first learnt that I had been appointed Commandant of Camp Covenant 2010, my jaw dropped. Not because of a sense of excitement, but because of a sense of inadequacy.

But when Pastor Dr Philip Lyn, the speaker at this year's camp, emailed me his suggested theme, "Faith and Fire", I knew that God was speaking directly to me. God was using this task to teach me about the God of the impossible.

God gave me two assurances of His presence and power. Firstly, God surrounded me with a gracious and capable Camp Committee. Like Moses, God provided a band of brothers to fulfil His purposes. God divinely brought members with the perfect giftings and experience.

Secondly, during our first recce trip, God gave a word from Isaiah 40:3 (NIV), "... prepare the way for the LORD". God simply wanted the Camp Committee to make preparations so that the Lord could show up. Though there were many obstacles along the way, God reminded us that if we did our level best, He would do the rest.

It came to pass on the first night of camp as God reminded us that He is a God of the supernatural. Each evening, Ps Philip would make a call for us to come



"God was using this task to teach me about the God of the impossible."

forward for ministry and the majority of campers would respond. Each morning, attendance at Dawn Prayer actually increased. God began aligning our hearts to His. In many ways, the church camp was like a huge Breakthrough Weekend for the children, youth, and adults.

On the final night of the camp, I was tested in my faith. When I returned to my room at midnight, I could not find my wife. I called all her friends and no one knew where she was. At that moment, her sister felt we needed to apply the principle that we must pray with great boldness and faith. And so I prayed,

"God, you know exactly where my wife is. Prompt her to call me so I know she is all right." The moment I said, "Amen," the phone rang and it was my wife! She had tried contacting me earlier but had mistakenly texted the wrong number. Still, God was sovereign and prompted her to call me at the moment of prayer.

Every camper has a testimony of rising faith. It is God's desire to continue to arise faith back in Singapore. It is not by accident that the 40-Day Prayer Journey is ensuing the camp. God has risen up a hunger for Him and the things of His Kingdom. ©

At Our Core: Covenant's Values At A Glance

At Covenant EFC, biblical values form the compass by which the church leaders and members chart their lives. SENIOR PASTOR EDMUND CHAN shared three core values that reveal the ethos and heartbeat of Covenant EFC in his book *Mentoring Paradigms: Reflections on Mentoring, Leadership and Discipleship* — Grace, Growth and Godliness.

GRACE

Grace is at the very heart and nature of God. God's greatest act of grace is to send Jesus to die for us on the cross. God wants us to relish the joy of His grace towards us as grace receivers and offer to others "unmerited favours" in love as grace releasers.

GROWTH

True grace calls for accountability to grow. Growth is necessary in our lives — it refers to the development and maturing of our character, and requires great diligence. This will render us neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of God (2 Pet 1:8).

GODLINESS

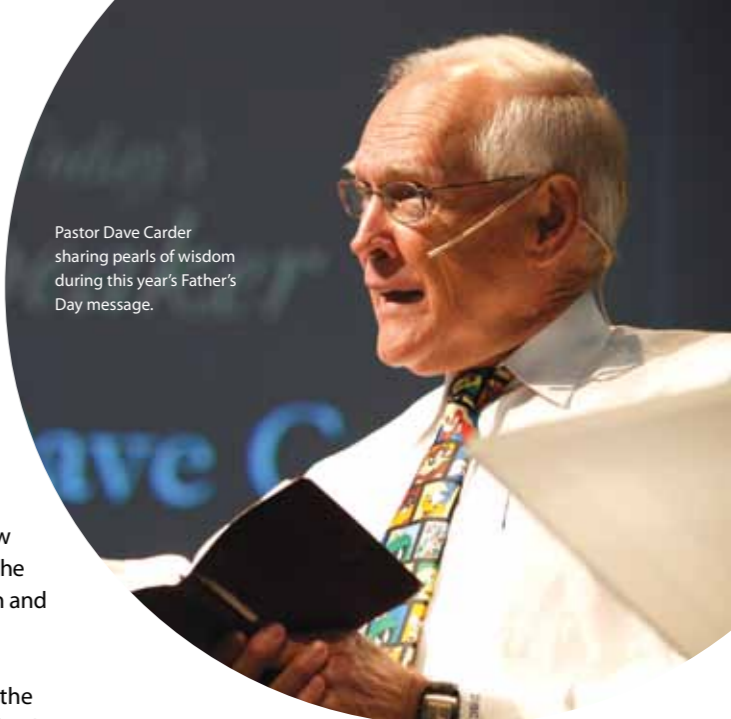
The key marker of true Christian growth is godliness. In essence, godliness is centring on God in every aspect of life. It is a progressive sanctification through the Holy Spirit that takes hard work and training (1 Tim 4:7). Our greatest satisfaction in our walk with the Lord is when someone says to us, "I can see in you the glory of my King!" ©

Feature Story

Q&A With Dave Carder

BY LOUISA KOH

PASTOR DAVE CARDER WAS OUR special speaker at this year's Father's Day celebration on 20 June. He currently serves as Pastor of Counselling Ministries at the First Evangelical Free Church of Fullerton, USA. Dave is an author of several books. He and his wife, Ronnie, have four children and six grandchildren.



Pastor Dave Carder sharing pearls of wisdom during this year's Father's Day message.

Q: You mentioned that an individual should enter into marriage on a clean slate. How does he/she know when he/she is healed from emotional pain and ready for marriage?

A: First, you need to identify the baggage you have in your life: The four 'A's that deeply injure families — Abuse (physical, sexual or emotional), Abandonment, Alcoholism and Adultery. You need to understand if these issues were generational influences or sins in your family.

Talking to a therapist/counsellor and God about what that felt like for you is very helpful. You may write letters to the persons who hurt or abandoned you, expressing your feelings and identifying the specific things you are forgiving them for (you don't actually have to give them the letters).

To the degree you can forgive, you can start rebuilding respect towards them; to that degree of respect, you then rebuild some sense of trust; if you're close to them, you can start rebuilding love. So it goes this way: Forgiveness, Respect, Trust, Love (four progressive steps).

Q: I was struck by the emotional insights into the biblical characters Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah you shared from the Book of Genesis. How did God reveal these insights to you?

A: When we read the Bible, we have our chapter for the day; we don't usually read the story in its entirety, nor understand the number of years over which it takes place.

We don't often tell Bible stories from the perspective of how the characters felt when they went through what they did.

The thing that helped me really figure this out was my graduate training in marriage and family psychology.

Relationships are not built on how you think or act, but on the affective — your heart for God, your parents and your kids and their heart for you — that's what's important.

Sometimes you'll find it very difficult to love somebody who's really hurt you.

But you can begin to understand that nobody has children with the intention of hurting them.

But it does happen.

Similarly, nobody marries a wife to deeply injure her and give her away, like Isaac did (Gen 26). He saw that practice in his generational influences (Gen 20).

The Bible says very clearly: Isaac loved Rebekah when he first married her (Gen 24:67).

When nothing in your past is off-limits to your future partner, i.e. you can talk about any and all of it and none of it is too painful — then you know you've worked through a portion of it, and you're probably close to being ready for marriage. ©

God At Work: Testimonies

PDA In Action

BY RUI HAO, BPJ CENTRE

They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" (Lk 24:32, NIV).

That's exactly what happened to my heart as I sat through the sessions, day after day, night after night. There were three things that spoke to my heart at the camp.

Firstly, the story of the wicked servant who beat up his fellow servants, while the master was away (Matt 24:45-51).

We must never, ever tear down any church or leader, for it displeases God. Even when David had the chance to take Saul's life, he shuddered at the thought because he recognised that Saul was still the LORD's anointed one.

Secondly, Scripture says, "without faith it is impossible to please God" (Heb 11:6). Faith has to be exercised, otherwise it will stagnate.

Thirdly, I learnt that forgiveness is costly. It comes at a great price — the life

of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross!

During the camp, God provided me divine appointments throughout. I had the opportunity to pray for one of the hotel staff, a room attendant, despite his low English proficiency. Later, a lady, who was a hotel guest, approached me in a lift and asked if she could join us for one of the sessions. After the camp, I found that sharing my faith with my colleagues had become so natural because now, it's done out of a joy and love for my LORD!

I believe God is leading Covenant EFC through a season of cleansing and renewal. Let us not miss that! ©

SHARE YOUR TESTIMONIES!
Write us at publications@cefc.org.sg



Pastor Tony's constant reminder to himself, "I'm living on borrowed time from God."

Learning, Leading & Leaning On Jesus!

Meet the man who's been at the helm at Covenant for the past six months. He loves meeting people and influencing lives for Jesus, but most of all, he's on fire for the Lord, as **Louisa Koh** discovers.

Reverend Tony Yeo, Lead Pastor of Covenant EFC's Woodlands Centre (WDL), was appointed Acting Senior Pastor from January–June this year during our Senior Pastor Reverend Edmund Chan's sabbatical leave. In the next six months, Reverend Tan Kay Kiong will take over the reins from Ps Tony as Acting Senior Pastor. In fact, Ps Tony shared that he was not new to this role — he was officially appointed Acting Senior Pastor back in 2002–2004 when Senior Pastor went on a two-year study leave.

"MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU ..."

When asked what it's been like sitting in the "hot seat" for the past six months, Ps Tony revealed that things are now

different with Covenant being one church with two centres. "We used to work together as one staff team at Bukit Panjang (BPJ), but now, with the pioneering of a new worship centre at Woodlands, only half the team is there to shape and mould one another. I hardly know what's happening at BPJ nowadays!" He said wistfully.

The challenge as Lead Pastor of WDL Centre, he confided, has been to cast a vision for, establish and consolidate the centre with a relatively new congregation. In this process, Ps Tony has found it rewarding to know that the Lord's grace is sufficient for every challenge faced, and he will keep trusting and counting on Jesus "because



With wife, Choy Mei, and sons, Timothy and Noah

that's all He asks of me."

A verse the Lord gave to him in 2010 when he took over the baton was Deuteronomy 11:13–14, "which reminded me to keep loving and obeying the Lord, so that I will be able to serve Him. The Lord promised He would send the latter rain."

"FAITH is dependence on God. It's being in a happy place where I know I'm not God, but He is; I'M NOT IN CONTROL BUT HE IS IN ABSOLUTE CONTROL"

"Y NOT" FOR JESUS?

If there is one thing you can't help but notice about Ps Tony as you chat with him, it's his lifelong mantra on learning and growing.

"If you spell my name backwards, you get 'Y NOT': Why not be teachable? Why not be humble to learn from God, others and even yourself? In ministry, it's easy to stop learning and growing. When that happens, you become dry and start dying. We encourage every staff to develop a deep reservoir where we drink from the Lord, guard our quiet time with God, and learn from one another and books."

As Ps Tony recounted his 24 years of pastorship: Four years in seminary training, eight years as a pastor at Bartley Christian Church, and 12 years as an Associate Pastor here at Covenant (since 1 Sept 1998), I asked him what made him leave Bartley Christian Church since he spent almost 30 years there.

"The Lord said two things to me that led and called me to Covenant EFC: 'Son, you are first a servant of the Lord, then a servant of the church,' and 'The kingdom of God is larger than one local church.'"

"In my last 12 years here at Covenant, I have grown so much in the areas of faithful shepherding, passionate preaching, as well as godly leadership. The Lord deepened my spiritual Foundation in His Word, and strengthened my Faith in Him."

He went on to explain, "Faith is dependence on God. It's being in a place, a happy place, where I know I am not God, but He is; I am not in control, but He is in absolute control! God also sealed my spiritual Friendships amongst two groups of brothers in Christ in and outside church, where I can bare my heart, sins and temptations, knowing

I'm not judged, but loved and accepted. Lastly, the Lord grew the spiritual Family — Covenant has grown from 350 people when I first came 12 years ago to more than 4,000 now!"

A CALL TO ARMS

What burns in his heart for the church? Ps Tony's quick

reply: Jesus.

"While the church, its disciplinarian vision, and plurality of leadership among the clergy and laity are wonderful blessings from God, what matters at the end of the day is Jesus. Two things: Who Jesus is to me, and what Jesus calls me to do with my one life."

He elaborated, "I think in these end times, we need to live with a greater sense of intentionality, destiny and urgency, to be alert and ready for Jesus' coming. As Pastor Ed (Senior Pastor) has often taught us, 'Where we live determines how we live' (Matt 6:21).

"We must remember that this is not our home; we are only passing through. There must be more than this — more than getting a job, an income every month, a house to live in, a car to drive, even serving in a ministry.

"As Covenanters, we have to ask ourselves whether we want to settle for respectability, or do we hunger for revival? God has not called us here for mere respectability. He calls us to believe Him for a mighty revival in our hearts. Not for more information, but for true transformation, and changed lives.

We have to enthrone Jesus once again in our lives, and truly live it out, not just pay lip service by singing about it in worship songs or talking about it!"



Sharing his testimony during his baptism in April, 1980

In A Word

FULL NAME Tony Yeo Kwee Yam
BIRTHDAY 13 Nov 1963
BORN AGAIN Nov 1973
DIALECT GROUP Teochew



FAMILY Married to Chan Choy Mei with two sons Timothy, 16 and Noah, 12
EDUCATION Bachelor of Theology (with Honours), Singapore Bible College, 1990; Diploma in Spiritual Formation, Tyndale Seminary, Toronto, 2005

PREVIOUS OCCUPATION

SAF Infantry Officer

MOST ADMIRER PREACHER/

MENTOR Rev Edmund Chan

MOST MEANINGFUL

ACCOMPLISHMENT Receiving the

Best Officer Cadet Award from the

President of Singapore, Devan Nair

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT

1,000 people coming to share

the joy of our marriage on our

wedding day

MOTTO IN LIFE "It's not how long

I live, but how well I live"

FAVOURITE VERSE 1 Thess 5:24

FAVOURITE BOOK (OTHER THAN

THE BIBLE) The Shadow of The

Almighty by Elisabeth Elliot

FAVOURITE SONG "Day by Day"

FAVOURITE TV SHOW Football

matches help to "unwind"

FAVOURITE FOOD Anything edible

except durians!

LOVES TO MEET PEOPLE

LEAST KNOWN FACT Father passed

away when I was only six years

of age

WHAT HIS WIFE LIKES MOST

ABOUT HIM "He takes the lead

in everything, especially in initiating

gatherings that

bring people together"

"Prayer moves the hand that moves the world."

JOHN AIKMAN WALLACE

Recent & Upcoming Events

date	event	venue
18 Jul	Step Up Sunday	BPJ & WDL
18 Jul	Newcomers' Welcome Lunch	BPJ & WDL
18 Jul	Membership Acceptance	BPJ & WDL
19 Jul	Staff Team Building Day	Mt Faber
24 Jul	"It's All About Your Health" (Women's Tea Connect)	Love The World Soul Rock Bistro & Bar
25 Jul	Membership & Baptism Class	BPJ
1-8 Aug	24.7 Prayer Chain	BPJ & WDL
9 Aug	40-Day Prayer Journey Closing & Super Saturday	WDL
14-26 Aug	Youth Olympic Games	Singapore
2-4 Sept	IDMC Conference	WDL
5 Sept	WDL New Service Times: 9am & 11am (New 2nd Service)	WDL
5 Sept	Covenant EFC's 32 nd Anniversary Service	BPJ & WDL
17 Sept	Leaders' Empowering	BPJ

Covenant Moments

COVENANT MOMENTS IS ALL ABOUT YOU!

Share your flashes of inspiration in the form of photographs, reflections, quotable quotes, or even your kid's drawings, with the rest of the church community by sending them to publications@cefc.org.sg



The SPO team certainly pulled no punches showing their humorous side!

PHOTO BY ROYSTON CHENG

"It is only when the whole heart is gripped with the passion of prayer that the life-giving fire descends, for none but the earnest man gets access to the ear of God."

E. M. BOUNDS

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Look out
for our next
issue in
September!