

» PASTORS' INSTALLATION

Come bless our new pastors at their installation. Elder Sebastian Quek, Lim Keng Yeow and Kirk Tan will be installed as lay pastors. Portia Chan and Sharon Fong from the staff team will be installed as full-time pastors. A full-time pastor in CEFC is a salaried staff of the church while a lay pastor is non-salaried and serves firstly in the market place, and secondly, carries out some specific pastoral and leadership duties in church. Please RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/InstallPs> by today.

Date: 29 May (next Sun)

Time: 2.30pm to 5.30pm

Venue: BPJ Centre

» PARENT-CHILD DEDICATION

Registration for parent-child dedication is now open at the Information Counter. Please note that there is a **class for parents on Sun, 5 Jun, 1pm-3pm at WDL Centre**. It covers the purpose and significance of dedication, and explains the charge to parents for discipleship at home.

» SERVE IN CHILDREN'S FEST

New Life still needs more than 400 servers for Children's Fest on 26 Jun! Partner with them to bring joy to the children and families of the community. Sign up as a CG through your CGL. If you do not have a CG yet, contact Aiwei at 6892 7219 or caiaiwei@newlife.org.sg. Don't miss this opportunity to be a blessing!

» HOKKIEN PARENTS' APPRECIATION

B.L.E.S.S. your parents and loved ones at the Hokkien ministry's Parents' Appreciation Night. It will feature veteran local actor Zhu Hou Ren and a message in Hokkien by Pastor Chen Luan Qing. Admission is free.

Date: 28 May (Sat)

Time: 7pm-9pm (Buffet starts at 5.45pm on first-come, first-served basis)

Venue: WDL Centre

» PRAYER & PRAISE

Let's come together at this month's Prayer & Praise to pray for the next generation to resist the work of darkness in their lives and climb the ladder of godliness. Our guest speaker is Glenn Lim, former youth pastor and now a motivational youth speaker. WEB and MOMENTUM youths are encouraged to attend. See you there!

Date: 27 May (Fri)

Time: 8pm

Venue: WDL Centre

» MARKETPLACE DISCIPLESHIP

Sign up for IDMC Conference 2016 through Voyager before 31 May to enjoy the Covenanter early bird rates. This year's theme is Marketplace Discipleship. Do invite your friends who will get \$30 off the regular registration price when they use the coupon code *MKTCEFC*. They can sign up at www.idmc.org.sg

WOODLANDS 22 MAY 2016

SERVICE LEADER SHARON FONG // WORSHIP LEADER DAVID CHONG



Finding Your Place in the Community

BY: REV WILLIAM WONG, DISTRICT MENTOR, SMALL GROUP INFRASTRUCTURE

When I first came on Covenant Staff Team in 2005 and was introduced to the congregation, my words were: "I did not come to work for you; I came to be part of the community of God's people in Covenant EFC. I am here to be part of a family!" After 10 years, this is still true for me. My family and I have not only settled comfortably, but we are also engaged in the life and ministry of the church.

When you come to Covenant EFC, you are more correctly coming into the community in Covenant EFC. Our community is not one that meets on Sunday morning; it is the small group that meets throughout the week. In these small groups—Covenant Groups (CGs)—we know people on a first-name basis, we share the joys and pain of our lives, and we hold hands to pray for one another.

But sometimes we still choose to walk alone. Some reasons may be: fear of rejection, feeling uncomfortable with other people, unwillingness to

be vulnerable, or the belief that we can manage things on our own.

In Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, we are reminded that two is better than one and a threefold cord is not quickly broken. The New Testament model of discipleship happened in the context of spiritual community. We need one another. We are designed to grow, serve and mature together in a community.

Are you a part of the spiritual discipling community? Are you part of a CG that walks with you through the ups and downs of life? Are you contributing to help one another truly be the salt and light of this world?

We urge you to be a part of these transformational communities. There is no perfect CG. But our CGs grow deeper as we walk and work together to honour Jesus as the Lord and Master of our lives.

Take your first step today ... come on in!



VISION

AUTHENTIC
DISCIPLESHIP
& INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLEMAKING
OF A CERTAIN KIND

VALUES

GRACE
GROWTH
GODLINESS

COVENANT EFC

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SERMON OUTLINE



The Heart of Discipleship

Scripture: **EPHESIANS 3:14-19** Sermon: **PS ANDY LEW**

Introduction

Paul's prayer is for the discipleship of the heart:

A. A Heart that Calls Christ Lord (vv.14-17a)

so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith ... (v.17a)

B. A Heart that Knows Christ's Love (vv.17b-19)

and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge ... (v.19a)

Conclusion

The heart of discipleship is that the heart may be filled with the fullness of Christ! (v.19)

Next Week's Sermon Speaker:
29 May **REV TONY YEO** (BPJ) and **REV TAN KAY KIONG** (WDL)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY



Getting Out of Your Prison

Scripture: **EPHESIANS 3:1-13** // Sermon: **REV TONY YEO**

Introduction

1. "For this reason..." (v.1)

The context is in Ephesians 2 where God's grace has united the Jews and Gentiles into One Biblical Community. Paul saw himself "in Christ" rather than "in prison"; "the prisoner of Christ" rather than "a prisoner of Rome or Caesar". We are not victims of our circumstances.

2. Despite our life's circumstances, we can live above it by keeping two commitments:

A. Live as the Messenger of the Gospel (vv.2-7)

"Assuming you have heard" is really asking, "Do you really understand the implication of the Gospel?" The Gospel is not just about God's justice, judgement, wrath against sinners but is essentially about:

1. **God's Grace** (vv.2,7; Gk. *charis*) – His unwarranted goodwill, undeserved kindness, unmerited favour

2. **God's Gift** (vv.2,7 – "given to me"). It is a privilege to be called and commissioned to be a messenger. This gift is a "mystery" (vv.3,4,6,9; Gk. *mysterion*) which refers to a sacred secret known only to God. Man can never grasp it unless God reveals it to him.

Illus: God's revelation to Paul in Acts 9

3. **God's Glorious Power** (v.6) – "by the working of his power"

The Gospel changes us, works in us, and empowers us to be more like Christ. "Stewardship of grace" (dispensation or distribution) to every age, race, status, language and culture.

B. Live for the Message of the Gospel (vv.8-12)

Paul was not so much enlisted as he was enchanted by the message of the Gospel:

1. The Essence of the Gospel: The Unsearchable Riches of Christ (vv.8-9)

No adequate English word can translate "unsearchable" (Gk. *anexichniastos*) riches of Christ. It refers not to financial or material riches but the wondrous blessings in Christ (eternal, saving and sanctifying riches) which are available and accessible to us!

Illus: Leonard Ravenhill's goal in life

2. The Means of the Gospel: The Imperfect Church of God (v.10)

The Church is the chief instrument God uses to display the manifold wisdom of God.

"Manifold wisdom" (*polypoikilos*) – multi-colored variety of the wisdom of God

"Manifold wisdom" – insight that comes only from God that is beyond our understanding

Illus: "Church of the **weak**" vs "Church of the **weak!**"

The Church is not just an afterthought, a footnote, but the major theme in God's plan and purpose. There's nothing like the Church! Illus: Singapore IDMC Chapter

3. The Audience of the Gospel: The Rulers and authorities in the heavenly places (v.10)

"Thus the history of the Christian church becomes a graduate school for angels. It is through the old creation (the universe) that God reveals his glory to humans; it is through the new creation (the church) that he reveals his wisdom to angels." – John Stott

Conclusion

Verse 13: Do not lose heart ... (Gk. *ekkakeo*) (Do not become discouraged, flag or faint.)

Dr Edward Judson – "Suffering and success go together. If you are succeeding without suffering, it is because others before you have suffered; if you are suffering without succeeding, it is that others after you may succeed."