

» IDMC COLLECTION OF TAGS

If you have signed up for the IDMC Conference, please collect your conference tags **today** at the counter at the foyer. Do bring along your confirmation letter. If you are unable to collect it today, you may do so on the first day of the conference.

» HOKKIEN MID-AUTUMN OUTREACH

Do you want to reach out to your family and friends who speak Hokkien? Invite them to our Hokkien Mid-Autumn Outreach event!
Date: 10 Sep (Sat)
Time: 7pm–9pm (Buffet starts at 5.45pm on a first-come-first-served basis)

Venue: BPJ Centre

Speaker: Rev Timothy Hoon

Artist: Lina Ng

» 38TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

We are celebrating Covenant EFC's 38th birthday as *One Family* with a special combined service. We will also have a children's service for three to ten-year olds.

Date: 4 Sep (Sun)

Time: 9.30am

Venue: Singapore EXPO Hall 1

Please share with us your photos and thoughts on how Covenant EFC is One Family to you! Upload your photos to Instagram and Facebook with the hash tag #OneFamily and tag us @covenant.etc

» IDMC INSTITUTE VISION TEA

If you could give one year of your life to invest in eternity, what would you do? IDMC Institute's one-year internship is an excellent opportunity to immerse in authentic discipleship and intentional discipling. Journey in a community as you grow deeper in the Lord and clarify God's calling in your life. Find out more at our Vision Tea session!

Date: 15 Sep (Thur)

Time: 7.15pm–9.30pm

Venue: ACKCentre

To register, visit <http://www.cefc.org.sg/idmci> or email registrar@idmci.edu.sg for enquiries.

» COMMUNITY BLESSINGS

Here's an opportunity to B.L.E.S.S. the kids in the community. As we aim to help more kids, we need more tutors for the primary level at the following locations once a week:

- Wednesdays, 7pm–9pm at Block 237, Choa Chu Kang
- Thursdays, 7.30pm–9pm at Block 632A, Senja Road (BPJ)

To sign up or enquire, email vincent.chia@cefc.org.sg

» MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Please sign up at the Information Counter if you wish to attend the next Membership Class.

Date: 24 Sep (Sat)

Time: 9am–4pm

Venue: ACKCentre

WOODLANDS 21 AUG 2016

SERVICE LEADER JEREMY KOH // WORSHIP LEADER MAVIS LOW



The Call for the East

BY: PS BARNEY LAU, DIRECTOR, SENIOR PASTOR'S OFFICE

Standing 1,800 m above sea level on Kiau Gap View looking out at Mt Kinabalu was a surreal moment at 6pm, last 5 July. Drenched in sweat and tears, I felt the cold gusts of wind as the sun set on the horizon. Sweat from being physically out of shape. Tears in coming to terms with my dear god-brother's death just the week before.

I needed rest and wanted a word from the Lord in this SPO (Senior Pastor's Office) Listening Retreat. I felt as the apostle Paul did in Ephesians 3:8, being "the very least of all saints", unworthy for the task and responsibility ahead in Covenant East, yet "this grace was given, to preach" the Gospel.

Prior to the 30-minute walk up the 2 km steep winding slope to this Mt Kinabalu lookout, I had been meditating on the five "may" of Philippians 3:8-12, processing what Moltmann wrote on the event of Golgotha and the Cross of Christ in his book *The Crucified God*, and grappling with Keller's insistence that Christ be preached in every sermon from every scriptural text.

A monument stands on Kiau Gap View commemorating the 18 mountain climbers who died in last year's earthquake. While reading the monument, it's as if a still, small voice whispered in my head saying, "I was there when they died. I was there with your brother in his fight against cancer all year through, and when he died. I was there, Barney, I was there. I know, because I hung on the cross for all of them, for everyone. I was there, and I am here now."

Suddenly, I felt Paul's overwhelming desire to gain Christ, to be found in Christ, to know Christ, to be risen with Christ and to be like Christ. The event of Golgotha and the Cross of Christ is not a private property of the Church, but a public privilege for the godless and godforsaken that they might know Him. This can only come about if Christ is preached at every opportunity.

I heard the word from the Lord clearly that day: to **seek Christ**, to **know Christ**, and to **preach Christ!** It is not just a word for me, but for the new Covenant East centre we are to build! And by God's grace, we shall!



VISION

AUTHENTIC
DISCIPLESHIP
& INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLEMAKING
OF A CERTAIN KIND

VALUES

GRACE
GROWTH
GODLINESS

COVENANT EFC

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

Tel: (65) 6892 6811 // **Email:** mail@cefc.org.sg // **Website:** www.cefc.org.sg

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CovenantEvangelicalFreeChurch

SERMON OUTLINE



God's Wake Up Call

Scripture: **EPHESIAN 5:3-14** Sermon: **REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI**

Introduction

A. WAKE UP from our Delusion of LUST (vv.3 – 7)

B. WAKE UP to our Destiny as LIGHT (vv.8 – 14)

Conclusion

Next Week's Sermon Speakers:
28 Aug **PS MATTHEW LO (BPJ)** and **PS EDMUND WONG (WDL)**

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY



The Key To Rebuilding Relationships

Scripture: **EPHESIANS 4:30-5:2** // Sermon: **PS IVAN HO**

Introduction

We must move from grieving the Spirit (4:30) to imitating God (5:1). Paul calls us to imitate God's character of grace and love in forgiveness. This is the highest, yet most challenging aspect of community. Forgiveness is the key to rebuilding relationships.

Three Key Principles of God-centred Forgiveness:

A. Look **INWARD** for **SIGNS** of Unforgiveness (Eph 4:30-31)

"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice." (v.31)

1. "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God". God's Spirit is the divine agent of reconciliation and unity in the body (Eph 2:18, 22; 4:3-4). If we engage in words and actions that damage our relationships within the body and harms our unity, we grieve the Holy Spirit, who is a person, "since only persons can be grieved, or feel pain and distress." (O'Brien)
2. Signs of unforgiveness. All the forms of the six attitudes and actions are to be entirely put away from us, totally rejected as out of place in the Christian community.
3. "The day of redemption" refers to the final day of salvation and judgement. "Believers have already experienced a present redemption which includes the forgiveness of sins (Eph 1:7); but one element of that redemption is yet to be realised ... There is a fulfilment yet to come, and ... they are to live out the future in the here and now until that 'day' of redemption arrives" (O'Brien). As we live in the present "already and not yet" tension, there is a Christian responsibility in the sanctification process and personal effort in the journey of authentic discipleship on this side of eternity.

B. Look **UPWARD** to the **SOURCE** of Forgiveness (Eph 4:32-5:1)

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." (v.32)

1. "Forgiving one another" – acting in grace towards one another, as God in Christ has acted in grace towards us (1:7), even while we were sinners and His enemies (Rom 5:8-10). Our motivation: God's gracious act of forgiveness (cf. Matt 18:21-35). Your power to forgive is from God, who is the source of forgiveness (Eph 2:4-7). "Forgiveness is a holy, complete, unqualified giving" (Wangerin): giving up of your rights, giving notice of the other's wrongs, and giving gifts of grace.
2. "Be imitators of God". Imitate the Divine Forgiver. Sometimes we struggle most forgiving our own family members.

C. Look **OUTWARD** to **SERVE** the Forgiven (Eph 5:2)

"And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (v.2)

1. Not just letting go of anger towards another, but following on to show sacrificial, self-giving love (agape). Complete your forgiveness through service, e.g. two Christians who cared for their elderly Dads whom they forgave for past wrongs.
2. Doing all it takes to be reconciled, even paying a costly price. Illus: Han Solo and Kylo-Ren in Star Wars episode 7.
3. Christ's love is our example. The divine love is a sacrificial, self-giving love (agape). We are to follow Jesus in His forgiveness and love. When we love and serve those we forgive, it is dying to ourselves—a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Conclusion

Don't grieve the Holy Spirit. Forgive as God forgave. Love as Christ loved.