

» CHRISTMAS DAY OUTREACH SERVICE

Christmas Day is just around the corner! Invite your pre-believing family and friends to hear the Gospel in a fun and relaxed setting **next Sun, 25 Dec**. BPJ and WDL Centres will have a short original musical bringing across some of the unmet expectations and lonely feelings that the Christmas season may surface. East Centre will feature "The Tale of Three Trees".

BPJ Centre

8.30am & 10.30am Speaker: Ps Andy Lew
Please note that driving into BPJ Centre will not be allowed due to Christmas Family Lunch.

WDL Centre

8.30am & 10.30am Speaker: Dr Andrew Goh

East Centre

9am & 11am Speaker: Glenn Lim

Christmas Family Lunch

Join our Christmas Family Lunch at the foyer *along with your guests* after each service.

Special Offering

Aside from the usual Sunday offering, we will have a special offering on Christmas Day for The Hiding Place (www.hidingplace.com.sg), a Christian home that rehabilitates and ministers to drug addicts, ex-prisoners, alcoholics, gambling addicts, homeless orphans, and troubled youths. They are raising \$8.5 million for a new building in Punggol as the lease for their current location ends in Sep 2017.

» TODAY'S WDL MANDARIN SERVICE

Today's WDL Mandarin Service will be held from **7pm to 9pm at Chapel 1 (Level 4)** for the pre-Christmas celebration.
No service at 2pm.

» MOMENTUM'S NEW TIMING

Starting 7 Jan 2017, Momentum service's **new timing is 3.30pm–6.30pm** on Saturdays at WDL Centre Main Sanctuary. Ps Barney Lau will be preaching to the youths at next year's first service. For enquiries, email tng.momentum@cefc.org.sg

» SERVE IN NEW LIFE

Steady Readers

Be a Steady Readers Volunteer Mentor! Help children overcome challenges in reading and instill in them a love for books from Jan to May 2017, every week at 8pm–9.30pm.

Kids Champ Club

If you love children, here's a great opportunity for you to serve in a character-based mentoring programme for 7 to 10-year-olds from Feb to Jun 2017, every Saturday at 3pm–5pm.

To volunteer or enquire, please email volunteer@newlife.org.sg or call Lewis Woo (9634 9457) / Cai Aiwei (6760 0533).

EAST CENTRE 18 DEC 2016

SERVICE LEADER PS SEBASTIAN QUEK // WORSHIP LEADER SIMON AND LILLIAN SEOW



Spiritual Temperature

BY: PS LEE DA WIN, COORDINATOR, SMALL GROUP INFRASTRUCTURE

This is the second to the last week of 2016. The finishing line is finally in sight.

As we near Christmas and the unparalleled opportunity to invite our FRANS (Families/Friends, Relatives, Associates, Neighbours and even Strangers) to our Christmas outreach services, let's be reminded to do so in ceaseless prayer (1 Thess 5:17). After all, when we work, we work. But when we pray, God works!

Looking back, the previous month marked the final centralised Prayer & Praise meeting — the way we've been doing it in Covenant EFC for as long as anyone could remember. And from January onwards, we go where we've never been before — monthly Prayer & Praise decentralised to the CGs! With the full CG time dedicated to prayer, this affords an extended and unhurried time for us to pray together, and not just for one another's needs as we are so used to do in the CG, but also for the needs of the Church and the world. This will widen the horizon of our prayer, deepen our propensity for intercession, change the spiritual climate of our CGs, and illumine our city with the Light of the World.

For some of us, this may be a big step forward. "Prayer is not learned in a classroom but in the closet" says E. M. Bounds. And the trouble is, if I may humbly add, the closet is not too comfortable to be in for long. Especially when we're just starting out. It takes some getting used to. And for some of us who seem to be perpetually stuck in our prayer life, we're longing for a breakthrough. There's no better time than now to get started, as we draw to the close of the year and look forward to the beginning of the next.

One of the distinctives of the earlier Church believers was their characteristic devotion to prayer (Acts 2:42). If there was anyone who could have gone without prayer, that would have been Jesus, the Son of the Living God. And yet, Jesus prayed *all the time* (Matt 26:36; Mk 6:46; Lk 6:12, 11:1).

"I know of no better thermometer to your spiritual temperature than this," says Charles Spurgeon, "the measure of the intensity of your prayer." What is the reading on your thermometer today? What about the reading for your CG? If you're experiencing spiritual hypothermia, then it's time to get back into that closet. It's never too late.



VISION

AUTHENTIC
DISCIPLESHIP
& INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLEMAKING
OF A CERTAIN KIND

VALUES

GRACE
GROWTH
GODLINESS

COVENANT EFC

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SERMON OUTLINE



Reloading Your Prayer Life

Scripture: **EPHESIANS 6:18–24 (ESV)** Sermon: **PS EDMUND WONG**

Introduction

Reloading our prayer life for spiritual battle requires that we:

A. Pray in the Spirit (v.18a)

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.”

B. Pray for the Saints (vv.18b–24)

“To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, ...”

Conclusion

Next Week's Sermon Speakers:

25 Dec **PS ANDY LEW** (BPJ), **DR ANDREW GOH** (WDL) and **GLENN LIM** (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY



Repelling the Enemy

Scripture: **EPHESIANS 6:17B** // Sermon: **PAUL SHI**

Introduction

During the Reformation, it was the Word of God that changed the city of Geneva. It was an immoral city but through the preaching of John Calvin, it saw a great reform in all the spheres of society. This is the power of God's Word. *Post Tenebras Lux* “Light After Darkness”.

The word “take” / “receive” in the original text is written with emphasis and has the sense that as we take the sword of the Spirit, we are effected by it.

A. Let the Word of God Master Us

1. “Sword of the Spirit” means that it belongs and originates from the Spirit.
2. The Scripture masters us as
 - a. We are under its authority
 - b. Our lives are conformed to its truths
3. Hebrews 4:12–13 states that the sword of the Spirit
 - a. Pierces between soul and spirit
 - b. Has the right and capability to judge our lives
 - c. Laying us bare before it
4. Example of King David with Bathsheba and Nathan's rebuke (2 Sam 12).
5. Principle: We are victorious in our surrender to God; we are defeated in our hardness towards Him.

B. Let the Word of God Defend Us

1. *Logos* and *rhema* dichotomy
2. Genesis 3:16 is the first spiritual battle recorded between man and Satan.
 - a. First strategy was to get Eve to doubt the Word of God (v.1).
 - b. Then Satan directly challenged the truth of God's Word (v.4).
 - c. Eve then doubted the character of God, and her desire to be god-like was aroused.
3. When Jesus was tempted, He always responded with “**It is written...**”

How do we read the Bible?

 - a. Undivided attention
 - b. Uncluttered mind
 - c. Receptive heart
 - d. Delight to the soul

Conclusion

Let's not harden our hearts like flint/adamantine (Zech 7:12). This is our spiritual victory when we soften our hearts before the Lord.