

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BLESSINGS

As part of Covenant EFC's ongoing collaboration with community partners, serve with us as primary level tutors for English and Maths to help children from underprivileged families. Session commences on 12 Jan every Thursday at the following locations:

- Chua Chu Kang
CC 35 Teck Whye Avenue
Singapore 688892
Time: 7.45pm – 9.00pm
- Block 632A, Senja Road
Singapore 671632
Time: 7.30pm – 9pm

If interested, email vincent.chia@cefc.org.sg

DISCOVERY WEEKEND

Courting couples, would you like to further develop your relationship for God's glory? Choose one Saturday (8.30am–5pm) from next year's Discovery Weekend dates: 14 Jan, 22 Apr, 15 Jul and 14 Oct. Register at the Information Counter.

MIC PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

Please note that the Men-in-Covenant (MiC) Prayer Fellowship on Saturdays, 7.30am will be held at WDL Centre, Prayer Room for the first quarter of 2017. For enquiries, please email mic@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).

FLORAL OFFERING

Last Sunday's floral offering was sponsored by Theresa Po in thanksgiving to the Lord.

COVENANT EFC

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

ONE CHURCH MULTIPLE CENTRES:

BPJ Centre: 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.30am ■ WDL Centre: 8.30am & 10.30am ■ East Centre: 10.00am

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CovenantEvangelicalFreeChurch

VISION

AUTHENTIC
DISCIPLESHIP
& INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLEMAKING
OF A CERTAIN KIND

VISIBLE VALUES

- Grace
- Growth
- Godliness



UNDERLYING VALUES

- Truth
- Community
- Stewardship
- Balance
- Brokenness

COVENANT EFC

BUKIT PANJANG CENTRE, 1 JANUARY 2017

SERVICE LEADER: REV WILLIAM WONG ■ WORSHIP LEADER: ALLISON LIM

2017: Starting out as Worshippers

REV TAN KAY KIONG AND REV TONY YEO, SENIOR PASTORS

One of the funny WhatsApp messages I received last year was —

Serious Warning:

On 31 December around 11.59pm, do not go outside your house. Otherwise you will come back next year!

Thankfully between 11:59pm and 12.01am, it is not a 365-day difference but only 2 minutes. But whether it's 2 minutes or 365 days, time goes by quickly. Someone shared with me about the two calendars we are confronted with: the world's calendar and the Christian calendar. **The calendar we follow is that which controls our lives.**

This does not mean Mother's Day or National Day is unimportant. It means that we see every day's event through the lens of Christ and ask God to help us live according to the Christian posture, perspective and process. And should we fail, we can still trust the Lord to keep us. Take comfort with Psalm 37:24 "Though they stumble, they will not fall, for the Lord upholds them with his hand."

Today is a wonderful day to start the New Year by worshipping the Lord together. If you have

noticed, both WDL and BPJ Centres have begun pre-worship 10–15 minutes earlier. The East Centre begins with half an hour of prayer before the actual service. Why? **To prepare our hearts to meet God.** Preparation begins from Mondays to Saturdays: our daily Vocation and Witness, our Small Group Community, our

Family Altar, even our recreation. Sunday is the climax of the Christian worship. It's the day we can reflect over the week, record His faithfulness and recommit ourselves for the next lap. I want to urge you to prepare your hearts daily and to come 15 minutes earlier (half hour for the East Centre)

Which calendar controls your life — the world's calendar or the Christian calendar? Will you make effort to meet with the Lord?

for the Sunday worship service. I believe we will be better prepared to worship God and receive from Him. I think it's very troubling when Christians are nonchalant about being late for Sunday worship but anxious if they are late for a musical. Take heed of Psalm 130:5 "I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits..."

2017: Let's start out as worshippers. Review these two questions: Which calendar controls your life — the world's calendar or the Christian calendar? Will you make effort to meet with the Lord? It's not about our punctuality but our piety.

SERMON OUTLINE

Going for the Long Haul

SCRIPTURE: TOPICAL ■ SERMON: REV TAN KAY KIONG

Introduction:

1. Blessed New Year! Every New Year is the Beginning of a New Journey.
2. Vision 2028

A. A Firm F_____ in God (Heb 11:10a)

“For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations...

B. A Bold F_____ in God (Hebrews 11:6)

“And without faith it is impossible to please God because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

C. A True F_____ for God (Hebrews 11:10b)

“... whose designer and builder is God.”

Conclusion:

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:
8 JAN - PS LEE DA WIN (BPJ), PAUL SHI (WDL) AND REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

The Hope of Christmas

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2:8-12 ■ SERMON: PS ANDY LEW

Introduction

Two Promises of Lasting Hope from the First Christmas:

A. God Reaches out to Us

“And there were shepherds... ‘I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people’ ” (v.10)

1. The shepherds, the low cast of society, were an unlikely group to be informed first of the birth of the coming king. But God's purpose is to reach out to those who have been forgotten or are hurting. We all matter to God because he created us (Psa 139:13). However, we live in a broken and sinful world that takes away hope.
2. Testimony: Struggling with parent's divorce as a teenager
3. Summary: In times of broken dreams and disappointments, God knows and is reaching out to us.

B. God Reaches out to Us Through a Special Person

“...a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord” (v.11)

1. How would a baby bring lasting hope to a shepherd? Babies always bring hope and joy to the world. Prince William and Princess Kate's baby brings hope as the future king of England.
2. To the shepherds, this baby was to be the promised Messiah and King of Jews. But Jesus was not your usual king – he desired heart transformation above political revolution. Jesus served the common people and would give his life as a sacrificial lamb for the sins of the people (Matt 20:28 and Jn 1:29).
3. Testimony: Experience of Meet-the-People session and forgiveness in my family. We can have an intimate relationship with the King and a heavenly identity as a child of God (Jn 1:12).

Conclusion:

In life's disappointments, God reaches out to us by giving His son.

Testimony of two terminal cancer patients – confusion versus certainty.

The Hope of Christmas is Jesus!