

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW LIFE WORKSHOP

Find out more about New Life and how you can be a blessing to the community! Join the New Life Workshop on Tue, 30 May, from 7.30pm to 9.00pm at ACKCentre (Live Recording Studio and Training Rooms 1 to 4). Light refreshments will be served from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. RSVP by sending an email to volunteer@newlife.org.sg or sms to 9716 7154.

ALPHA: WHY AND HOW DO I PRAY?

Introduce Jesus to your family and friends at Alpha this Wed, 24 May, from 7.00pm to 9.30pm at YMCA at Orchard. Registration is free, but pre-registration is required at <http://alpha.cefcapps.com> For enquiries, email alpha@cefc.org.sg

EAST CAMP BRIEFING TODAY

The East Camp will have a briefing today after the church service. All campers are encouraged to attend as important administrative information will be shared. If you have not yet registered but wish to do so, please submit your form and cheque payment by today.

PARENTS' APPRECIATION NIGHT IN HOKKIEN

Invite your parents to the Parents' Appreciation Night in Hokkien. Reverend Oh Beng Kee will share a special message and Darren Lim will share his life testimony on Sat, 27 May, 7pm to 9pm (buffet dinner starts at 5.45pm on a first-come, first-served basis) at WDL Centre Main Sanctuary. Admission is free.

SERVE IN NEW LIFE

Steady Readers June Camp

We need 20 volunteers to facilitate games and activities for children on 21 Jun, Wed, 9am to 5pm at BPJ Centre.

Kids Champ Club

Serve in a character-based mentoring programme for 7 to 10-year-olds from Jun to Dec, every Sat, 2pm to 6pm (includes pre- and post-programme briefing). To volunteer or enquire, contact Jason Lee at 9716 7154 or email volunteer@newlife.org.sg

KIDZBLAST OUTREACH

KIDZBLAST is an outreach programme for kids. Invite your pre-believing friends aged 7 to 12 years old to have fun and hear the Gospel. It will be held on Sunday, 18 and 25 Jun, from 2pm to 6pm at BPJ Centre, Grace Sanctuary. Flyers are available at the Information Counter. Register on 21, 28 May or 4 Jun at KIDZBLAST booth at the foyer.

We need help in ushering and in the game stations. If you would like to serve with us, drop by our booth at the foyer on the registration dates above.

BRASS PLAYERS FOR WORSHIP MINISTRY

Worship Ministry is recruiting brass players for the upcoming IDMC conference and Anniversary Sunday services in September. Instruments required are trumpet, saxophone, trombone and flute. Auditions will be held in June. Rehearsals will begin in July until August. Players should have their own instrument. If interested, email Adrian Lim at cefcbrass@gmail.com

COVENANT EFC

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

ONE CHURCH MULTIPLE CENTRES:

BPJ Centre: 8.30am, 10.30am & 12.30pm ■ WDL Centre: 8.30am & 10.30am ■ East Centre: 10.00am (Pre-service prayer: 9.30am)

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

EAST CENTRE, 21 MAY 2017

SERVICE LEADER: ELDER JOHNNY TAN ■ WORSHIP LEADER: SIMON AND LILLIAN SEOW

Love the Community for Christ!

ELDER JOHNNY TAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NEW LIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES

In 2000, when Covenant EFC stepped into Bukit Panjang, New Life Community Services (NLCS) was birthed with the sole objective of loving and serving the community as Christ would. Over the last 16 years, God has allowed NLCS to build bridges with the community wherever Covenant EFC is located. Even in the East Centre, God has opened a door for community work with South East Community Development Council commencing in January 2018!

In 2016 alone, the Lord blessed NLCS with tremendous growth:

NLCS opened the third Child Care Centre and third Youth Hub in Junction 10 in April and August 2016 respectively. The infant care service also started in Woodlands Child Care in August. The Steady Readers' intake was 225 children, which is 48 kids more than in 2015. The Student Care Centre in Bukit Panjang underwent the first cyclical maintenance after five years of operations.

New work in Reformation Training Center started in May, partnering with Focus on the Family and

The New Charis Mission. Project Love gave over \$17K in financial assistance. The Fajar Youth Hub commenced renovation after 11 years.

The Lord blessed us with \$2.6M in donations, including \$280K raised during the Charity Golf event. There were 498 Covenanters who served in Children's Fest. A total of 848 Covenanters stepped forward to serve in NLCS programmes and events!

Year 2017 presents new challenges as Singapore's economy faces headwinds, the government consolidating the social sector and diverting resources to the aged, while NLCS continues to grow towards the East.

Nevertheless, God is faithful! We are reminded of the Word that God has given NLCS in Isaiah 58:12 "Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings."

In Him and together with you as our partners, donors and servers, we will continue to serve and love the community for Christ!

SERMON OUTLINE

Will You Colour Their Lives?

SCRIPTURE: ZECHARIAH 8:23 ■ SERMON: PS MATTHEW LO

Introduction

What it takes for us to colour people's lives:

A. Be That Change by the Grace of God

"...In those days ten men from the nations of every tongue shall take hold of the robe of a Jew, ..."

B. Be Their Companions in Their Search for God

"...saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'"

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:
28 MAY – REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI (BPJ & WDL) AND REV TAN KAY KIONG (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

Do Not Fear

SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 21:8-21 ■ SERMON: PS SHARON FONG

Introduction (vv.8-16)

Genesis 21:8-21 is a story about the conflict between two mothers, Sarah and Hagar. Sarah was threatened by the fact that Ishmael (son of Hagar) was the firstborn of Abraham. Because Ishmael was the firstborn of Abraham, Isaac's status was threatened. Sarah suggested to send Hagar and Ishmael away into the wilderness so as to protect Isaac's status. When Hagar and Ishmael were about to die, God revealed Ishmael's destiny. In face of hopelessness and intense fears, God says, "Do not fear!"

A. God Hears Your Prayer (vv.16-17)

God not only hears our prayers as mothers, but He also hears our children's cries, frustrations, doubts and disappointments. However, sometimes we don't believe that God hears us because we put a timeline or deadline to God in answering our prayers. Just because God has not answered our prayers, it does not mean He has not heard our prayers. Just because God has not answered our prayers, it does not mean that He is not doing a deep work. When we can't see the fruits on the tree, God may be working on our roots. When we can't see the rainbow in the sky, God may be working in the rain.

B. God Has a Plan (vv.18-19)

When we read this passage, we must believe that God does not engineer evil but He used Sarah's selfish and wicked plans to bring His plans forward. God is the director of the entire plot, not Sarah. He holds the masterplan of Ishmael's life in His hand. Likewise, when we face the challenges in life, do not fear because God is the director of our destiny. God does not expect us to understand His plan but to trust His heart. Importantly, we need to behold pain in the light of God's plan. When we see pain in the light of God's plan, we will begin to see how the challenges that our children face may refresh their soul like a well of water.

C. God Is Present with You (vv.20-21)

In such harsh environment, one could survive only by developing skills with a bow and no wonder Ishmael became a Bowman. Interestingly, the wilderness became Ishmael's permanent home. The wilderness became more than just a home, it became his destiny. The domestic conflict in Genesis 21:8-21 was not resolved because Hagar saw the well of water or Ishmael became an expert of bow. It was God's faithfulness to His promises made to Abraham that resolved that entire domestic conflict and allowed Ishmael to reach his destiny. Likewise, we must believe that God is faithful to us and our children. He will help us to resolve the conflicts we face in life. We must not resolve conflicts in our strength and forget that God is present with our children.

Conclusion

God allows today's pain to strengthen us for tomorrow's destiny. One day, God will show us the final product, the master plan that He is weaving in our lives. On that day, all the knots, entanglement, pain and conflicts in our lives will eventually make sense. But, today, God says do not fear but trust in Him.