

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ALPHA: HOW DOES GOD GUIDE US?

Introduce Jesus to your family and friends at Alpha this Wed, 7 Jun, 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](mailto:alpha@cefc.org.sg)

### KIDZBLAST OUTREACH

Invite pre-believing kids 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 the 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.

### NEW LIFE CHARITY RUN

You can help raise funds for New Life by simply running or donating!

**To Run:** In teams of four, register for Mizuno Ekiden Run happening on Sat, 19 Aug, at [bit.ly/RunMizuno](http://bit.ly/RunMizuno). Then sign up as a fundraising team for New Life at [bit.ly/RunGofee](http://bit.ly/RunGofee) by 30 Jun.

**To Donate:** Pick a cause at <https://gofee.com/explore> and choose to fund any of these: Steady Readers Programme, Kids Champ Club or New Life Youth.

For more information, email [charityrun@newlife.org.sg](mailto:charityrun@newlife.org.sg)

### PARENTING TRAINING

Parents can sign up for the following modules at the Information Counter.

#### Parenting with Love

For couples expecting their first child  
Dates: 1 and 8 Jul (Sat), Time: 12pm – 5pm, Venue: BPJ Centre, Patience Room  
Registration Fee: \$50 per couple

#### Parenting with Faith

For parents of kids aged 3 to 10 years old  
Dates: 1 Jul to 19 Aug (eight Saturdays), Time: 2pm – 4pm Venue: ACKCentre  
Registration Fee: \$100 per couple

### UNIVERSITY BEFRIENDER

Let's B.L.E.S.S. the Chinese international students who leave their homes to study here in Singapore. We are looking for families to provide hospitality by caring for them, inviting them for meals, and introducing Singapore to them. To find out more, drop by our booth at the foyer today or email [missions@cefc.org.sg](mailto:missions@cefc.org.sg). Last day to sign up is 25 Jun.

### BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP

Register at the Information Counter.

**Baptism Class** on Sun, 25 Jun, 1.00pm to 3.30pm at WDL Centre.

**Membership Class** on Sat, 17 Jun, 9am to 4pm at ACKCentre.

### CYAN CAMP BRIEFING

CYAN Campers are reminded that there is a camp briefing next Sun, 11 Jun, 2.30pm at ACKCentre Recording Studio.

## 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](mailto:mail@cefc.org.sg) ■ Website: [www.cefc.org.sg](http://www.cefc.org.sg)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CovenantEvangelicalFreeChurch](http://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, 4 JUNE 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS SEBASTIAN QUEK ■ WORSHIP LEADER: BENJAMIN AND SHARON TAN

### Following Jesus Even When It's Unpopular

REV TONY YEO, SENIOR PASTOR

**F**ollowing Jesus is not popular these days. In fact, it can even be dangerous.

God's Word tells us that the last days will be marked by lawlessness and persecution of Christ's followers on a scale that the world has never seen. Faithful obedience to Christ requires boldness and courage. Jesus said, "Whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven" (Matt 10:33, NKJV). The widespread opposition to the Gospel in our society today is without parallel in history.

Just last week, the attack on Coptic Christians by militants killed 29 Christians who were traveling to a remote monastery in the desert. It was the fourth assault targeting Christians since December 2016, killing more than 100 people in all.

In the same week, chaos was reported in Marawi, Southern Philippines as militants stormed the city, abducted Christians and set a church on fire.

Together with some national leaders in Singapore, I was invited to the "World Summit in Defense of Persecuted Christians" in Washington DC from 10 to 13 May 2017. The summit enabled us to identify and agonise with fellow

Christians in various parts of the world who are suffering and persecuted for their faith. Some of them were there and their families' testimonies spoke of untold and unimaginable suffering, including torture and death.

Church, we cannot remain indifferent to those who are suffering for the sake of Christ, nor can we pretend that it does not impact our lives as we are called to bear faithful witness for Him and for His Gospel even unto death.

For us who enjoy the freedom to live out our faith, we should be constantly grateful to God for this privilege, and we must agonise in prayer for those who are persecuted and suffering. We must not turn a deaf ear lest we be lulled into an apathetic Christian lifestyle.

The Bible teaches that the testing of faith produces steadfastness. Christian experience confirms this truth. Hardships can either weaken or strengthen our faith. God has ordained His church to be triumphant. Sometimes, in His providence, He uses suffering and persecution to strengthen His followers. However, God is faithful and He will not let us be tested beyond what we are able to endure.

## SERMON OUTLINE

### God's Word for the Defiled

SCRIPTURE: HAGGAI 2:10-19 ■ SERMON: PAUL SHI

#### Introduction

#### A. Clean Up! Your Holiness Is Costly to God (vv.10-14)

“So is it with this people, and with this nation ... and with every work of their hands. And what they offer there is **unclean**.” (v.14)

#### B. Cheer Up! Your Fruitfulness Is Coming from God (vv.15-19)

“But from this day on **I will bless you**.”(v.19b)

#### Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

11 JUNE – REV TONY YEO (BPJ), REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI (WDL) AND PS BARNEY LAU (EAST)

## LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

### God's Word for the Discouraged

SCRIPTURE: HAGGAI 2:1-9 ■ SERMON: REV TAN KAY KIONG

#### Introduction

Emphasis of Haggai's message so far: Wake up – Stop drifting. Rise Up – Fear God and do His will. Third oracle in Haggai: A message for the discouraged to press on and not to give up. But why were they discouraged when they had just restarted the work one month ago? See Haggai 1:14-15, 2:1-5. Key Lesson: While we are prone to give up on God and His work, God doesn't give up on us and on His work through us!

Two amazing reasons why we can press on:

#### A. Press On Because God Is With You (vv.1 – 5)

Three clues in the text that will help us reconstruct what happened:

1. First clue: “On the twenty first day of the seventh month”

In the Jewish calendar, the twenty first day of the seventh month is the last day of the Festival of Tabernacles or Booths. For seven days, the people lived in tents to commemorate God's provision after the Exodus from Egypt. Many people were flocking to Jerusalem. You may imagine them chattering and one hot topic must be (in Singaporean slang): “Alamak, so long already and still the Temple lies in ruin,” or “Why so slow huh. These people so inefficient.” These words must have been discouraging.

2. Second clue: “On the twenty first day of the seventh month”

Why is this seventh month significant? See 1 Kings 8:1 – 2. Solomon's Temple was dedicated on the seventh month many years ago with a grand celebration. Yet here the Temple lay in ruin.

3. Third Clue: Three rhetoric questions asked by the Prophet Haggai in verse 3.

Message Paraphrase: “Is there anyone here who saw the Temple the way it used to be, all glorious? And what do you see now? Not much, right?” We need to understand just how grand Solomon's Temple was (see 1 Kgs 6:14 – 18). But their Temple lay in ruin.

4. That's why they were discouraged: From disappointment to discouragement to despair. But God knows and he sent Haggai to encourage them. Verses 4 to 5: Be strong. I am with you!

#### B. Press On Because Greater Days are Ahead (vv.6 – 9)

God will undertake two supernatural interventions:

1. Verses 6 to 7: “I will shake the heavens and the earth...I will shake all nations.”

“I will shake” is a language which indicates supernatural cosmic manifestation and intervention that only God Himself can do. See Exodus 19:16; Matthew 24:29-30.

2. Verses 8 to 9: “I will fill this house with glory and I will grant peace.”

There is no doubt that the second Temple cannot outshine the first Temple in its physical grandeur. But the Word of the Lord says that the glory of the second Temple will outstrip the first. How so? I believe it's talking about the prophetic fulfilment when Jesus came into humanity some 500 years later. See John 1:14; Matthew 12:6. Jesus is greater than the Temple. Jesus is the glory (Rev 21:22-23).

#### Conclusion

Press on!