

## 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

WOODLANDS CENTRE, 4 JUNE 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS ADRIAN CHAN ■ WORSHIP LEADER: MAVIS LOW

### 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: REV TONY YEO

#### 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: PS IVAN HO

#### Introduction

Context: Rebuilding work on the Jerusalem temple had stopped for 16 years. In Haggai 1, after Haggai's first prophetic message to the Jewish returnees (520 BC, sixth month, first day), the people obeyed God's voice and restarted work on the temple about three weeks later. In Haggai 2:1-9, about one month into the restart, Haggai gave his second prophetic message to encourage the discouraged leaders and remnant of His people. Note in verse 1: (1) The prophecy's timing: Seventh month, 21st day = Second last day of the Feast of Booths/Tabernacles in Jerusalem. A celebration of God's provision in the wilderness during the period of the Exodus. The glorious Solomon's Temple was dedicated in the seventh month (1 Kgs 8:1-2). But now the temple is still in ruins. Thus, it was a dispirited celebration against the backdrop of the temple still in ruins! (2) The people's discouragement. As disciples today, we often face discouragements in our Christian life and ministry. Haggai 2:1-9 gives us two reasons why we must **press on** in God's work:

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

1. Haggai highlights God's covenant faithfulness (v.5 referenced the exodus from Egypt). YHWH, God's personal, covenant name was repeatedly used.
2. Contrast Solomon's Temple and present temple ruins. Much cedar wood and gold were used in the former (see 1 Kgs 6:14-18, 19-22, 30). Walked on gold! Literally, the gold standard.
3. Many Christians start out their Christian life with great faith, zeal and fervour, but greatly dwindles later on in life. Far from our “gold standard” of yesteryear.
4. God says, “Be strong” three times. By God's grace and strength, you can run again! The Lord of heaven's armies says, “Work, for I'm with you. My Spirit is in you. Fear not.” Build God's temple. **Press on** in walking with God, and in doing God's work.

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

1. Compare with Revelation 20:11-15 (cosmic shaking); 21:22-27 (glory to God); 22:1-5 (peace in city). In the end times, when the second coming of Christ ushers in the eternal state, God will judge all people and be worshipped by all nations.
2. Haggai's prophecy has an end time fulfilment: The fullness of the presence of the Lord with His people. Jesus Christ is victorious and He is for us. Therefore, Christians are on the winning side. Confirmed: Greater days are ahead for the Church.
3. **Press on** in God's work of building Covenant EFC. Let's keep building our church. Keep spiritual disciplines of Bible reading and prayer. Build strong marriages and godly families. Reach out to unbelievers by PDA through B.L.E.S.S. Engage in impacting culture, changing society and proclaiming the Gospel.
4. Story of a Christian brother: Opening of new business premises, thanksgiving and celebration; shared powerful personal testimony (life was in a total mess, couldn't believe there could be greater days ahead, challenged by Christian worker to trust in Jesus for a new future, believed in Jesus, life was transformed and greatly blessed); his Dad came forward to receive Christ that night!

#### Conclusion

**Press on** because God is with us and because greater days are ahead. Be strong! Persevere in building an Intentional Disciple Making Church! We will succeed.