

ANNOUNCEMENTS

40 DAYS FOR OUR NATION (1 JUL - 9 AUG)

Singapore is a "little red dot" that God has blessed bountifully. Yet we also live in volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous times. God has raised us to pray for our nation. Here are four ways to participate: **As an individual**, pray daily at 10am or 10pm using the Love Singapore booklet. **As a family**, pray using the Family Devotions in our Devotional Journal every Sun evening. **As a CG**, pray for Singapore during CG meetings. **As a church**, pray during Sunday services and at our National Day Prayer on 8 Aug, 8pm at WDL Centre.

NEW LIFE CHARITY GOLF

Calling all golfers! New Life will hold a fundraising charity golf event on 14 Sep at Seletar Country Club where you can play to give. To register or donate, contact Debbie Wee at fundraising@newlife.org.sg or 6892 7249

NURTURE GROUP

Are you new in the faith? Join the Nurture Group every Sun from 2 Jul to 8 Oct, 1.00pm to 2.30pm at BPJ Centre, Faith Hall. Register at <http://cefc.ch/nurture>

BAPTISM CLASS

Baptism Class will be held next Sun, 25 Jun, 1.00pm to 3.30pm at WDL Centre. Register at the Information Counter.

IDMF TESTIMONIES

We have gathered encouraging testimonies on how we can build together towards an Intentional Disciple Making Family (IDMF). Check them out at <https://covenantidmf.wordpress.com>

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

Cambodia on 17-22 Oct: Train and journey with youths to be disciples of Christ. Estimated costs: \$700 (including airfare)

Mongolia on 18 -25 October: Discipleship training, evangelistic outreach to nomad families and leadership development training. Estimated costs: \$1500 (including airfare)

Yunnan on 5 -12 December: Vacation Bible school for youths. Trippers must be able to converse in basic mandarin. Estimated costs: \$1500 (including airfare)
Trippers must be a CG member who attends CG regularly, and must commit to attend STM trainings and team meetings. Email missions@cefc.org.sg to sign up!

UNIVERSITY BEFRIENDER

We are looking for families to provide hospitality to Chinese international students who are studying here in Singapore. Sign up at <http://cefc.ch/UniBefriender201718>. The last day to sign up is next Sun, 25 Jun. Drop by our booth at the foyer today or email missions@cefc.org.sg to find out more!

PARENTING TRAINING

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
Sign up at the Information Counter.

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, 18 JUNE 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS BARNEY LAU ■ WORSHIP LEADER: DAVID CHONG

Fathers Are the Thermostat at Home

NELSON ONG, FAMILIES-IN-COVENANT

Recently, I attended the seminar *The World Needs a Father!* Though the topic is not new to me, it set a new horizon for me as a father. Cassie Carstens, author and trainer, emphasised repeatedly, "There are many Christians in the world, but there are few Christian homes," referring to many Christian men doing well in public places, but are different persons at home due to two lies: 1) "I am tired." 2) "I have no time."

Upon reaching home after a long day's work, fathers usually declare, "I am tired. Please give me a break. I need to unwind. Do not disturb me." They'd settle into a couch and be devoted to the big screen or reading materials, leaving their wives to do the house chores and attend to the needs of children. Ironically, tired as he may be, whenever there is deadline to meet or presentation to make he will garner his energy to overcome tiredness and project his best in front of others instead of dragging his feet. Why? Isn't he tired? It comes down to what is important to us as head of the household. Is the family our priority and does it deserve better attention than other deadlines or chill-out moments? Certainly! So, each day after work, let us gather our energy to engage our loved ones

by setting the right temperature at home.

Likewise, fathers who bring their work home send a subtle message saying, "I have no time for my wives and my children." Or when we put our social lives, sports, church ministries above our family, we are also sending the same message. Of course, there are times when we need to rush for deadlines, but they must not become a habit taking over the place of family. Therefore, we need to manage our time well in order not to neglect our wives and children.

When we reach home each day, determine to engage and interact with our children without interruption from our smart-screen or devices. Children desire to hear our stories, have fun, and enjoy our time alone with them. And our wives will certainly be thrilled if we wash dishes, do laundry, attend to children, while giving them a break. It will be heaven at home!

Fathers, we are the thermostat at home. How will you set the temperature for your family? *40 Days For Our Nation* is round the corner (1 Jul – 9 Aug). Would you consider using this coming prayer season to set a new spiritual temperature for the home by establishing a weekly prayer time with your family?

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

SERMON OUTLINE

A Father's Heart

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 15:11-32 ■ SERMON: BISHOP EMERITUS ROBERT SOLOMON

Introduction

The Parable of the Father

The Father Who Grieves

The Father's heart was broken and waited for his prodigal son.

The Father Who Believes

While a long way off, the father saw his son and ran to him.

The Father Who Forgives

The Father embraced his son, forgave him, and threw a party.
He came out to bring the elder son home.

Lessons We Can Learn from Father God

1. Earthly fathers can be disappointing. The best fathers are those who have experienced being fathered by God.
2. What it means to be a godly father: (Pray, presence, pilot)
3. 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12
v.12. Encouraging, comforting, urging

Conclusion

1. The father's heart is wounded, waiting, and welcoming.
2. How you experience God's Fatherhood will influence your own fathering.

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

25 JUNE - PS IVAN HO (BPJ), SANDRA CHI (WDL) AND PS VALERIE CHAN (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

God's Word for the Destined

SCRIPTURE: HAGGAI 2:20-23 ■ SERMON: PS BARNEY LAU

Introduction

Upon the remnant's obedience and reverence (Hag 1:12), Haggai 2 calls them to look beyond to a future glorious temple and a victorious Messiah.

A. Look Beyond Your Circumstances: God is About a Grand Reversal

"... I am going to shake the heavens and the earth..." (vv.20-22)

1. Haggai 2:6's cosmos disruption resulted in the wealth of nations streaming into the temple. Here it led to the subjugation of the nations. Audaciously subversive for a tiny Jerusalem within the powerful Persian empire. Perhaps, this is the reason why this fourth prophecy was addressed specifically only to Zerubbabel.
2. Why such a message? Zerubbabel as a leader needed encouragement! Repeating first-person pronouns in "I am going to", "I will overturn", "I will overthrow", "I will take", "I will make", "I have chosen", assures Zerubbabel that God is in control over the world; He's certain of His plans; He's chosen the Messiah King!
3. Contemporary application: Secular, atheistic, consumerist culture (values, power structures and ideologies) dominates life, yet "on that day" (v.6) God will overturn these on a grand reversal. God is in control, give Him our allegiance. We live life with nothing to lose, nothing to hide, and nothing to prove when we build upon the eternal Kingdom and values of God, and not on the transient world!

B. Look Beyond Your Concern: You Are Part of God's Greater Plan

1. Ver "... I will take you... make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you..." (v.23)

1. The terms "son of Shealtiel" and "My servant" associated and identified Zerubbabel as descendent and successor in the Davidic genealogy. He was a descendent of disgraced Jehoiachin, whom God rejected as His signet ring in Jeremiah 22:24-27.
2. Yet, when God declared "I will take you, Zerubbabel ... My servant ... make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you ..." (divine initiative, faithfulness, sovereignty, and graciousness of God), not only did God's promise to bless His people and world through David's line stand (2 Sam 7:16), He also redeemed and restored Zerubbabel's identity and calling! He was never king and never mentioned again in the Old Testament, yet his faithfulness in God's plans earned him a place in both genealogies of Jesus Christ (from King David down) in Matthew 1:13 and Luke 3:27.
3. Contemporary application: Zerubbabel was not king, but he walked worthy of his calling, as servant, signet ring and chosen of God, in the royal line of the ultimate King, Jesus! Who we are is important, but what we choose to do with it is even more important! We are God's chosen, royal, holy possession and people (1 Pet 2:9-10), so think big, start small, build deep in God and build deep for Him!

Conclusion

1. Story of Benjamin – youngest tribe, disgraced and rejected (Judg 19-20), part of southern kingdom Judah (1 Kin 12), chosen to save Israel (Mordecai and Esther), chosen to bring the Gospel to the gentile world (Apostle Paul)!
2. Beyond our present realities and past regrets: "Walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called." (Eph 4:1, NASB)