

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.

DISCOVERY WEEKEND (DWE)

DWE is a one-day session for courting couples to see where they are and where God is in their relationship, that they may grow to honour Him.

Date: 15 Jul (Sat)

Time: 8.45am – 5.00pm (lunch and breaks included)

Venue: BPJ Chapel (Level 3)

Sign up at the Information Counter on Sundays. Email fic@cefc.org.sg for enquiries.

UNIVERSITY BEFRIENDER

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

MISSIONS WORKSHOP

Find out how business can be a platform to impact the nations and how you can use your marketplace skills to advance God's Kingdom. Join the missions workshop on Business As Missions (BAM)!

Dates: 27 Jul and 3 Aug (Thu)

Time: 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Venue: ACKCentre Live Recording Studio

Sign up at <http://www.cefc.org.sg/missions-week/workshops> For enquiries, email missions@cefc.org.sg

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!

NURTURE GROUP

Are you new in the faith? Join the Nurture Group!

Date: every Sun from 2 Jul to 8 Oct,

Time: 1.00pm to 2.30pm

Venue: BPJ Centre, Faith Hall

Register at <http://lcefc.ch/nurture>

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, 25 JUNE 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS MATTHEW LO ■ WORSHIP LEADER: SIMON AND LILLIAN SEOW

Rising Up to be a Blessing

PS SHARON FONG, DISTRICT MENTOR AND OUTREACH MINISTRY

Some years ago, my Covenant Group (CG) conducted Alpha. Thus, I have personally seen and experienced how Alpha answered the many questions of our friends who were seeking. To see them exploring Christianity, accepting Christ and growing in church warmed my heart.

From April to June, Covenant EFC has just finished eight sessions of the latest Alpha Film Series at YMCA. Instead of the old version where Nicky Gumbel delivers a sermon, it was reloaded with stories and interviews, including features on young adults who were seeking about Christianity. It is chic, relevant and contextualised for the current times, yet anchored on the truth.

About 20 to 30 pre-believers faithfully attended Alpha every week. Together as a church, we would like to celebrate the 12 who prayed to receive Christ. Many of them are still seeking and interested to know more. Hence, some of the facilitators are opening up their homes so they can continue watching the rest of the Alpha Film Series, for them to discover and explore together.

I am also very encouraged by the number of Covenanters who

served in Alpha. About 50 Covenanters faithfully attended with their friends. In addition to that, 30 trained and stepped up as facilitators to journey with pre-believers. Interestingly, many CGs volunteered to intercede onsite in a separate prayer room for the pre-believers, while the sessions were ongoing. Seeing Nick, a young man who worships in Momentum, serving faithfully in the Alpha committee for the second year warmed my heart beyond words.

What do I see? I see Covenanters rising up to be a blessing. I see Covenanters sacrificing their time to invest in God's Kingdom. In my words of appreciation to the Alpha committee, I thanked them for leading so courageously and for bringing Alpha to the next level. But more than that, I shared with them that they did not just touch the 12 souls who prayed to receive Christ, they have also influenced their generation. Because when one steps from the dominion of darkness into God's Kingdom, his or her generation will be blessed too.

Let's continue to be a blessing and invest in the things that really matter!

SERMON OUTLINE

Confidence Despite Challenges

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 5:3-17 ■ SERMON: PS VALERIE CHAN

Introduction

Two reasons why we can have confidence despite challenges:

A. Our God Watches Over Us (vv.3-5)

“But the eye of their God was on the elders of the Jews, ...” (v.5)

B. Our God Is the Sovereign Lord (vv.6-17)

“We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, ...” (v.11)

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

2 JULY - PAUL SHI (BPJ), PS SHARON FONG (WDL) AND PS MATTHEW LO (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

A Father's Heart

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

Introduction

The Parable of the Prodigal Son is a lesson on God our Father and how He treats us. By examining the parable, we can discover how God fathers each of us. There are three portraits of this father.

1. The Father Who Grieves

The father loved his sons but his heart was broken, first by his prodigal son, and then by his other son. The younger son asked for his share and broke his father's heart by leaving his father's home. The father waits, broken-hearted, for his son. How often we also grieve God's heart with our self-centred choices. God gives us the freedom to choose, but when we chose foolishly, we break His heart.

2. The Father Who Believes

Yet the father waits for his son, believing that somehow his prodigal son would return. The prodigal son comes to his senses and decided to return home, planning to be employed by the father as a servant. But while he was a long way off, the father saw his son and ran to his son.

3. The Father Who Forgives

The father embraced his son, forgave him and threw a party. He was filled with joy that his son had returned home. He accepted him as his son and was fully reconciled with his son. Later, He had to come out to bring the resentful elder son home.

Lessons We Can Learn from Father God

1. Earthly fathers can be disappointing. We are often influenced, more than we imagine, by the way we were fathered by our earthly fathers. Fathers tend to repeat the script, unless they learn from God to break vicious cycles. The best fathers are those who have experienced being fathered by God. We tend to treat our children the way God treats us. We can love our children the way God loves us.
2. What does it mean to be a godly father? We can learn from God by first praying for our children. Does not God pray for us (Rom 8:37)? Second, by offering our presence. Our Father God always assures us that He is with us. (Note how the father was remembered by the prodigal son). Third, by being a pilot/guide. The father is available to be a guide to his children, with different ways of doing it for different age groups (Note the father's approach to his adult sons).
3. Paul offers a wonderful picture of a teaching father who models and motivates (1 Thess 2:10-12). Verse 12 mentions three fatherly actions: Encouraging, comforting, urging. We can find ways of doing this in our families too.

Conclusion

1. The father's heart is wounded, waiting and welcoming. These are experiences and attitudes we can learn from God and apply in our own families.
2. How you experience God's Fatherhood will influence your own fathering. Learn to experience your relationship as His son. Then you can be a better father yourself.