

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IDMC INSTITUTE INTRO SESSION

If you could give one year of your life to invest in eternity, what would you do? The one-year internship at IDMC Institute is an excellent opportunity to immerse in authentic discipleship and intentional discipling. Journey in a community as you grow deeper in the Lord and clarify God's calling in your life. Find out more at the Intro Session!

Date: 26 Jul (Wed)

Time: 7.30 – 9.30pm

Venue: ACKCentre Live Recording Studio

Register at <http://www.cefc.org.sg/idmci>

NEW LIFE CHARITY GOLF 2017

New Life is still looking for more participants and sponsorships for the charity golf event. Help them raise \$250K to increase their impact in the community.

Date: 14 Sep (Thu)

Time: 1.15pm Tee Off, 7.00pm Dinner

Venue: Seletar Country Club

Guest of Honour: Dr Vivian Balakrishnan

For more details, visit www.newlife.org.sg and click *What's New*. Registration closes on 8 Aug subject to flight availability. For more info, contact Debbie Wee at fundraising@newlife.org.sg or call 6892 7249.

PARENTING TRAINING

Parenting with Hope is for parents of tweens and teens. We encourage parents with children in Momentum to join. Please note that the timing and venue of the training coincides with the Momentum Service on Saturdays.

Dates: 5 – 26 Aug (four Saturdays)

Time: 3.30pm – 5.30pm

Venue: WDL Centre, Joy and Love Rooms

Fee: \$90 / couple

Register at the Information Counter today.

TNG MINISTRY TALK

Come dialogue with the TNG Staff at the Ministry Talk to find out how you can invest in the next generation (Sunbeam, WEB and Momentum). Registration is required at tinyurl.com/tngtalk

Date: 20 Jul (Thu)

Time: 7:30pm – 9:30pm

CHURCH STAFF RECRUITMENT

We are looking for the following:

- **Manager (Media, Communications and Resources)**
- **Executive (Small Group Infrastructure)**
- **Executive (Finance)**
- **Executive (Human Resources)**

Applicants should either be a church or CG member, with a heart to answer God's call in their lives in furthering Covenant EFC's mission. For more information, visit <http://www.cefc.org.sg/index.php/about-us/recruitment> Email your resumes to hr@cefc.org.sg by 30 Jul.

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

BUKIT PANJANG CENTRE, 16 JUL 2017

SERVICE LEADER: REV WILLIAM WONG ■ WORSHIP LEADER: JONATHAN CHI

Do I Love Jesus?

PS SHARON FONG, DISTRICT MENTOR AND OUTREACH

Love is often spelt as “obedience”. Jesus does not merely want our lip service, but our obedience. John 14:21 says, “Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

This week, a Covenanter planned to spend one morning in solitude with God. Half way into it, the Holy Spirit prompted her to visit someone who was in the hospital and she did. After the visit, the Lord spoke to her, “You went on solitude to seek Me, but you are closest to me when you obey my voice.”

What is the Holy Spirit prompting you to do this season? Is it to retreat and spend more time in prayer for yourself, family and our nation? Is it to trust God and observe the Sabbath? Is it to delete some of the distracting apps and truly connect with Him? Whatever the Holy Spirit is prompting, I urge

you to obey because your obedience shows your love for Him. However, obedience is not an end in itself; when we obey, John 14:21 says that God will love us and show Himself to us. When God shows Himself to us, doesn't it look like the revival that we have been longing and praying for?

This week, as I was about to alight from the bus, I forgot to press the doorbell to signal to the bus driver. Deep in thoughts, I went to the exit door, tapped my card and waited for the bus to stop. One kind soul noticed that bus driver didn't know that I wanted to alight. She quickly pressed the doorbell for me. Immediately, I realised what I did and thanked her. I alighted the bus, feeling so much warmth in my heart. I love my country, Singapore. I love the people in Singapore. I desire so much of God's blessing and presence to be upon this nation I grew up in. Through that incident, Holy Spirit is prompting me to intercede for this nation. I need to obey His prompting. Would you join me?

SERMON OUTLINE

What It Takes to Finish Well

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 6:13 -15 ■ SERMON: PS ANDY LEW

Introduction

A. God Opens the _____ (v.13)

“... according to the word sent by Darius the king...”

B. God Inspires the _____ (v.14)

“... through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo ...”

C. God Sets the _____ (v.15)

“... in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.”

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:
23 JULY – DR LAVAL YAU (BPJ, WDL AND EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

Backfire

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 6:1 – 12 ■ SERMON: PS EDMUND WONG

Introduction

We are in a season of intense and prolonged battles. Be it through a medical condition, a relationship stalemate, an addictive behaviour, or a financial lack. The battle is also at the personal national front. A clear theme emerges as we look at self-radicalisation of individuals, pushing of marriage boundaries, and unfolding of the Lee family saga — families are under attack! Ezra 5 was a time of ‘here we go again’ – another phase of opposition after the Jews were fired up to rebuild the temple. But in Ezra 6, the opposition backfires. The kingdom of God strikes back! The journey of watching the opposition backfire:

A. Oh No! There's More Waiting! (vv.1 – 5)

The time lapse before the good news reach the Jews:

1. Letter sent to King Darius in Babylon (about 1,500 km away). It would have taken a few days or weeks by foot or horse.
2. King reads and issues search order – For a king ruling over an empire of 36 provinces, a matter concerning a minority group of 50,000 (less than 1% of the empire's population!) in a sub-province would be low on his priority.
3. Search made at Babylon treasury – their records likely were in the form of clay tablets, cylinders, etc – unlike our computer database today. And the ‘best’ part: they couldn't find the records!
4. Search extends to Ecbatana, where the summer palace was – 455 km. It would have taken them another few days or weeks to pack their logistics and get there. And search all over again.
5. Scroll found and verified. But the report had to be sent back to the king, who was 455 km away.
6. King reads and writes new letter – Taking days, if not weeks, when it was at the bottom of his priority list.
7. Messenger brings letter back to Tattenai – which was 1,500 km away. Another few days, if not weeks, would have passed.
8. Tattenai informs the Jews. Focus: God allows delays not to torture but mature us. In the meanwhile, keep doing what you believe God wants you to do, even though it is emotionally unsettling. Keep praying. Keep working. Keep serving. Keep connecting with God's people.

B. Oh Yes! That's God Working! (vv.6 – 12)

God works in the both the dramatic and in the ordinary.

1. The dramatic:

- a. Verses 6 to 7 – ‘stay away’. Literally, to renounce all claims. A slap on Tattenai's wrist!
- b. Verses 8 to 10 – all costs for materials and labour for the rebuilding of the Temple fully funded. Including all the altar sacrifices. Number of animals needed – two every day (morning and evening,) one per month, seven for their feasts, two for Sabbath. Not to mentioned grain offerings. The funds from the taxes and tolls in Tattenai's province!
- c. Verses 11 to 12 – instead of a fine or jail term, the consequence was impalement. And demolition of property to become a public latrine!

2. The ordinary:

- a. Darius was Cyrus' son-in-law, and was likely influenced by this relationship in strengthening Cyrus' policy for religious harmony
- b. How would he know the cultic practices of a minority group of less than 1%? There was likely a Jewish official in court that helped Darius draft the decree.
- c. Impalement was a standard way to end a Persian decree, to deter defiance. Darius impaled 5000 Babylonians when Persia conquered Babylon.

Conclusion

The cross is the ultimate place of the ultimate backfire! When Satan, the religious authorities and the Roman rulers thought they finally got Him. Jesus used the cross to beat them at their game and emerged victorious! The disciples thought ‘Oh no, there is more waiting’ for a new messiah. But now we can declare ‘Oh yes, that's God working!’