

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

EAST CENTRE, 16 JUL 2017

SERVICE LEADER: DAVID CHONG ■ WORSHIP LEADER: DAVID CHONG

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 KATHERINE CHAN

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 BARNEY LAU

Introduction

Opposition returned once the temple rebuilding restarted, culminating in Tattenai's (Trans-Euphrates provincial governor) investigation and letter to King Darius.

Ezra 6:1-12 contains Darius' reply and God's grand reversal for the remnants!

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

Tattenai' letter to Babylonia and Darius' reply, plus the time of waiting/searching in Babylonia, then Ecbatana, would have traversed over 2,500 km lasting for months, if not years. Meanwhile, it's opposition and discouragement without any certainty of a positive outcome — this is the waiting room of God. In God's waiting room, He is forging four interior realities for our hearts and souls:

1. **An Interior Consciousness** of who God is. The Shema confession in Deuteronomy 6:4-9, which Jesus quotes in Mark 12:28-30, is this reality God is forging in us.
2. **An Interior Compass** for our calling in Him — who we are to be, where we are to go, and what we are to do, is anchored, through Christ, in God's covenant “I am the Lord your God, you are My people, and I dwell among you” (Exo 6 and 29).
3. **An Interior Confidence** in God and God alone. God's triple assurance, “I am with you” in Haggai 1:13; 2:4-5 is our foundation for faith.
4. **An Interior Composure** to persevere and last through all seasons of life. Resilience, perseverance, capacity — composure are not cultivated in comfort but in the crucible of life and ministry, in the waiting room of God (Jer 12:5).

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

Darius' reply would have sufficed at verses 1 to 5 and verses 6 to 12 would not have been necessary. God orchestrated a massive reversal of fortune for a small insignificant ethnic remnant of a dislocated Jewish nation. Darius validated Cyrus' decree and upgraded it telling Tattenai to leave them alone and let them rebuild, to pay all construction costs, and ongoing temple expenses from provincial taxes, and impale all violators of this decree. Darius cursed anyone trying to destroy God's house, so that the remnants could pray for him and descendants in the temple! Wow! What the opposition meant for evil, God turned it for good!

Most people just want God to answer their prayers in the here and now, but God does not always answer with a simple yes or no, often it's **wait**.

God is cultivating four kinds of faith in us while He tells us to **wait**:

1. **A Humble Faith** – “Wait, because you are not ready.”
2. **A Persevering Faith** – “Wait, this waiting is good for you.”
3. **A Surrendered Faith** – “Wait, what you want is not what I want for you.”
4. **A Rested Faith** – “Wait, My plans are greater, My ways higher than yours.”

Conclusion

Greatest reversal of all time is in the Cross of Jesus Christ! Satan meant the cross for evil, God turn it for our ultimate good and redemption! Meantime, are you in God's waiting room? Don't second guess Him, wait, let God be God for our sake!