

ANNOUNCEMENTS

39TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Let's celebrate our One Life as a church at Covenant EFC's 39th birthday with a special combined adult's service. **Our celebration programme will start at 9:30am on Sun, 3 Sep at Singapore EXPO Hall 1.** There will be a children's service for 3 to 10-year olds. See you there!

JAPANESE MINISTRY

If you have a heart for Japanese and can speak their language, we invite you to join Home Missions in praying, reaching out and discipling them. To find out more, come on **one** of these dates:

23 Aug, 7.30pm – 9.30pm at ACKCentre

27 Aug 2.30pm – 4.30pm at BPJ Centre

Register at <http://cefc.ch/japministry2017>

NEW LIFE CHARITY GOLF

If you have the passion for golf and for supporting a good cause, join the New Life Charity Golf event on 14 Sep! Flights are still available. We also need sponsorship for this fundraising event, in cash or in kind. For more details, contact Debbie Wee at fundraising@newlife.org.sg or 6892 7249.

CHRISTMAS PLAY RECRUITMENT

We are starting to prepare for our Christmas play and we are looking for Covenanters to serve with us. If you have the relevant training, we would love to have you! If not, we can train you if you have a willing heart! We are looking for actors, recruitment officer, casting officer, stage hands, props/costume designer and finance manager. Email fabian.ghui@cefc.org.sg if you are interested.

BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Baptism Class

Date: 10 Sep (Sun)

Time: 2.30pm – 5.00pm

Venue: BPJ Centre

Membership Class

Date: 16 Sep (Sat)

Time: 9am – 4pm

Venue: ACKCentre

Register at the Information Counter.

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

WOODLANDS CENTRE, 13 AUG 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS SHARON FONG ■ WORSHIP LEADER: KAREN PHUAH

Strengthening the Nation and Serving God

PS IVAN HO, DISTRICT MENTOR AND INTEGRATED EQUIPPING

Singaporeans have just celebrated the 52nd National Day. On Tuesday night, Covenanters from all three centres came together at our WDL Centre for our National Day Prayer. We worshipped as one church family and interceded for our nation with many insights shared by our guest speaker, Mr Richard Magnus. On Wednesday evening, as my family and I watched the National Day Parade live on TV, a feeling of pride came over me. I am glad to be a Singaporean and thankful to God for our nation. It is a small country, but it is our own — a place we can truly call home. There is something unique about it. Singapore has a special combination of places, people, public institutions, local cuisines, local languages and multi-cultural flavour.

We must never think we built this nation by our own intelligence and strength. We must acknowledge God in all our achievements and recognise that it is by His grace that we have done many good things. Indeed, God has greatly blessed us with able and dedicated leaders, and a cohesive and hardworking people through the past five decades.

As we move into the future, even while we work hard to innovate

and pursue economic growth, we must also work hard to guard against many threats: the breakdown of marriages and families, moral decay and erosion of shared values, self-centred individualism and social apathy, mistrust between different racial and religious groups, and external threats to our sovereignty and security. For all that, we must keep praying and depending on God for His favour and empowering.

Singapore has a destiny. God has blessed our nation despite its smallness and vulnerabilities. Surely He does not want us to keep the blessings to ourselves, but to bless the generations after and our neighbouring nations. The Church in Singapore is to be a continuing witness to the grace, power and faithfulness of God. Our nation is to be a training and sending centre for missions. The Church is to be faithful to proclaim the Gospel to the nations until Christ returns.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. – Matthew 5:14-16, ESV

SERMON OUTLINE

Let's Celebrate!

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 6:19-22 ■ SERMON: REV TONY YEO

Introduction

A. Know _____ We Worship God: The _____ for Our Worship (v.19)

“On the fourteenth day of the first month, the exiles celebrated the Passover.”

B. Know _____ We Worship God: The _____ of Our Worship (vv.20-22)

“For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves ... to worship the LORD, the God of Israel ...”

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:
20 AUG -PS ANDY LEW (BPJ), PS IVAN HO (WDL) AND PS BARNEY LAU (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

A Life Dedicated

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 6:16-18 ■ SERMON: PS EDMUND WONG

Introduction

Jesus the King is looking for those who would go beyond lip service and clichés, to be a people fully dedicated to Him. So that we shine brightly in the end-time darkness!
Verse 16 – Dedication to God involves both consecration (cleansing from sin, separation from the world) and conditioning (lifestyle, values and behaviours that keep and strengthen our consecration).

Our conditioned dedication to God is visible through:

A. A Life Marked by Joy (v.16)

- a. Their joy at the temple dedication was a crescendo of the joy they began at the rebuilding of the altar, and the laying of the temple foundation (Ezr 3:10-13).
- b. 2 Chronicles 7:8-10 – the joy at the dedication of the first temple was God-ward, remembering the blessings He had given.

Focus: Joy is possible in the midst of pain, loss, uncertainties and challenges. It is possible when we have rituals to trace God's hand of goodness. Establish them!

B. A Worship Seen in Sacrifice (v.17)

- a. 1 Kings 8:62-63 – like the dedication of the first temple, animals were sacrificed as burnt and peace offerings. Though much less this time round (700 compared to 142,000) due to the much smaller population and resources available.
- b. But there was one offering not made at the dedication of the first temple – sin offerings for the 12 tribes, even when only three tribes returned (Ezr 1:5). The people were finally atoning for the sins (idolatry, oppression) of their nation, since the destruction of the first temple 70 years ago. For a fresh start and new journey!

Focus: God doesn't need our sacrifice. But we do! Without sacrifice, our faith is the same, lame and tame. With it, something unlocks in our soul. Our National Day prayer (8 Aug) is a minute sacrifice we are making together.

C. A Way Set in Obedience (v.18)

- a. Priests and Levites were divided into 24 groups to serve at the temple, one week each time, twice a year. It was King David who instituted this system.
- b. But it was Moses who established their calling and consecration. David refined their roles and responsibilities when the Tabernacle era was over.

Focus: God often directs us through our leaders. Our obedience to God is tested by our obedience to them. Let our default response to leaders be “yes”, rather than “no” when approached. Unless there are serious reasons and reservations beyond discomfort, unreadiness or inadequacy.

Conclusion

The cross is the place where dedication begins. Not with our dedication to God, but God's dedication to us!