

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

If you are curious about Christianity or if you have been visiting the church but have not accepted the faith, join us at Christianity Explored! This is an informal platform to explore Christianity and discuss spiritual questions.

Date: six Sundays from 17 Sep to 22 Oct
Time and Venue: WDL and BPJ Centres - 1pm, East Centre - 12.30pm
Covenanters who would like to invite and accompany your friends and loved ones for these sessions, are encouraged to attend a training session on Saturday, 9 Sep, 2pm to 4pm at ACKCentre, Training Room 1. Sign up at <http://cefc.ch/christianity-explored>

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. Please note that there will be *no programme* for children 35 months and below. See you there!

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.

COMMUNITY BLESSINGS

We need volunteer tutors to help teach primary level children from less privileged families every Thu, 8.00pm to 9.15pm at Choa Chu Kang Community Club
If interested, contact Vincent Chia at 98428275.

IDMC INSTITUTE INTRO SESSION

Would you like to take time to sense God's leading in your life for the marketplace, full-time ministry or missions? The IDMC Institute One-Year Internship Programme is the right place for you! To find out more, come for the **Intro Session on 14 Sep from 7.15pm to 9.30pm at ACKCentre** Sign up at <http://cefc.ch/idmci-intro-session>

NEW LIFE CHARITY GOLF & RUN

New Life Charity Golf. Golfers who are interested in the New Life Charity Golf on 14 Sep may still register for flights. You can also show your support by sponsoring in cash or in kind. For more details, contact Debbie Wee at fundraising@newlife.org.sg or 6892 7249.

New Life Charity Run. The fund raising for the run will continue for another month. You may pledge online at Gofee.com for the running teams until 19 Sep.

BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Baptism Class on Sun, 10 Sep from 2.30pm to 5.00pm at BPJ Centre.

Membership Class on Sat, 16 Sep from 9am to 4pm at 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

BUKIT PANJANG CENTRE, 20 AUG 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS YAM KENG MUN ■ WORSHIP LEADER: ALLISON LIM

Let's Continue to Rebuild Our Prayer Altars

BY PASTOR EDMUND WONG ON BEHALF OF

SENIOR PASTORS REV TONY YEO AND REV TAN KAY KIONG

Dear Covenanters,
What a 40 Days For Our Nation we have had. When the Lord led us this year to move the prayer season from Lent to 1 Jul – 9 Aug, the theme verse that came our way was Ezra 6:10 – “that they may offer pleasing sacrifices to the God of heaven and pray for the life of the king and his sons”. This was before the 38 Oxley Road saga unfolded. God was preparing us to pray for our national leader and his family!

Singapore also faces the very real and present dangers of terrorism and self-radicalisation, the increasingly strong push of marriage beyond current boundaries, the tightrope challenge of diplomacy on the world stage of shifting power dynamics. As our nation and her leaders navigate through these volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous times, we prayed for Singapore and her leaders in at least four ways:

1. Personal – using the Love Singapore booklet (daily at 10 am/pm)
2. Family – using our Devotional Journals (Sunday evenings)

3. CG – during our CG meetings
4. Church – during our Sunday services and National Day Prayer (8 Aug)

Various Covenanters shared they were thankful for the opportunity to pray for Singapore. Besides the timely reminder and challenge for their walk with God, the prayer booklet was convicting and soul-searching. It broadened their spiritual bandwidth to pray for spiritual revival in the churches. It made them see the privilege of freedom of worship we have here, how Singapore desperately needs Him, and we ought to be His shining light to our neighbouring countries. (That's why Missions Week happened during prayer season!)

Please do write to prayer@cefc.org.sg if you have an encouraging story to share. Let's continue to rebuild the prayer altars in our families, workplaces, neighbourhoods and churches. God desires to fulfil His Antioch destiny for this Little Red Dot. His work in this nation is unstoppable – through our prayers (Acts 12:24)!

SERMON OUTLINE

Rebuilding a People

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 7:1-10 ■ SERMON: PS ANDY LEW

A. The Hand of God Upon Godly Men

B. The Word of God Upheld by a Godly Man

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

27 AUG –REV TAN KAY KIONG (BPJ), PS SHARON FONG (WDL) AND REV TONY YEO (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

Let's Celebrate!

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 6:19-22 ■ SERMON: REV TAN KAY KIONG

Introduction

The dedication of the temple after a long ordeal in Ezra 6:13-18 is an epic moment. If Ezra 6 ended there, we won't miss anything. What is the significance of four more verses? Ezra 6:19-22 is "epic plus"!

Two life changing truths for our Christian pilgrimage:

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

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

1. Passover feast is one of the three national feasts in Israel where every Jew wants to go to the Jerusalem Temple. It's an important feast as it marks the new year of the Jewish calendar. Thus there is a sense of new life and new hope as a new nation. The Passover celebration gives them the reason for their life and worship.
2. So what is the Feast of the Passover? The last plague of Egypt – the killing of the firstborn of animals and families whose doorposts are not smeared with the blood of a slaughtered lamb. But the Israelites were spared! See Exodus 12:14; 24-27. Subsequently in Exodus 13:1, 11-16, the firstborn of all male child and animals were to be redeemed by the sacrifice of a lamb. Later in Israel's history, the tribe of Levi became the redemption price in place of the sacrifice. In the Old Testament, there was only a record of six times when Israel kept the Passover (Num 9; Josh 5:10-12; 2 Kin 23:21-23; 2 Chron 30:1-27; 35:1-19; Ezr 6:19-22). However, Israel was not faithful in celebrating the Passover (2 Chron 30:26; 2 Kin 23:22-23).
3. No wonder Israel stumbled time and time again. They had forgotten their deliverance from slavery. Forgotten that God spared their firstborns. Forgotten that they had to redeem their firstborns. They had spiritual amnesia. But in Ezra 6, finally they remembered. Application: Don't forget the costly redemption of our lives by Jesus (1 Cor 6:20).

B. Know How we worship: The responsibility for Our Worship (vv.20-22)

"For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves ... to worship the Lord, the God of Israel."

1. The Passover feast was celebrated on the 14th of the first month in the Jewish calendar. Immediately after that, for the next seven days, they will celebrate the Feast of the Unleavened Bread from the 15th-21st of the first month in the Jewish calendar.
2. What is the feast of the unleavened bread? See Exodus 12:15-20. Two important applications:
 - a. We are but Pilgrims in this world
Exodus 12:34 tells us they left Egypt in a hurry. Dough was not leavened. A picture to remind them they are but pilgrims towards the Promised Land. But it's strange that each time they encountered problems, they wanted to go back Egypt (Phil 3:20, Rom 8:5-6, 2 Pet 2:22)
 - b. We must demonstrate the Pilgrims Character
In the Old Testament, unleavened bread was prescribed for the offering made at the consecration of Priests (Lev 8:2) and Nazirites (Num 6:15) and for the Grain Offering (Lev 10:12). The unleavened bread represents Purity and Separation! The best proof of their worship was the pilgrim's character.

Conclusion

Why are you living? How are you living for God?