

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, 9th of Sep, 2pm to 4pm at ACKCentre, Training Room 1. Sign up at <http://cefc.ch/christianity-explored>

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 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.

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 Gofree.com for the running teams until 19 Sep.

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!

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, 20 AUG 2017

SERVICE LEADER: JEREMY KOH ■ WORSHIP LEADER: SIMON AND LILLIAN SEOW

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, neighbourhood 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 BARNEY LAU

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: PAUL SHI

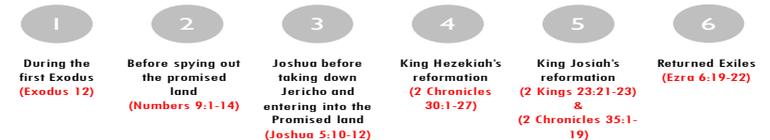
Introduction

Singapore celebrated its 52 birthday this week! National Day celebrates a historical moment, because from 1940 to 1965, there have been birth pains which led to the independence of Singapore. In a similar way, as we look at Ezra 6:19-22 it also celebrates a historic moment in Israel's history. They celebrate the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread in Jerusalem after their exile! In Ezra 6:19-22, one of the key words is that they celebrated in order 'to seek the LORD'.

A. Know Why We Worship God: The Reason for Our Worship

1. The celebration of the Passover has its roots in the Exodus from Egypt (Exo10-12).
2. This celebration marked God's deliverance from the land of Egypt.
3. The Scriptures recorded six celebrations of the Passover in the Old Testament.
4. Each time, it marked a significant milestone for Israel. Each time they were 'crossing over' from one season to the next, either from Egypt to the wilderness, wilderness to the Promised Land, or spiritual darkness to spiritual light.

Biblical History of the Passover Celebrated



5. We see two key principles:
 - a. Remember God's track record of deliverance: God had saved the Israelites from the land of Egypt, how much more will God save them from whatever circumstance they would face.
 - b. Nothing is beyond Redemption: The Israelites had sinned against the LORD, yet their celebration of the Passover here in Ezra signifies God's Presence and work of salvation for their new start.

B. Know How we worship: The responsibility for our Worship

1. The Israelites also celebrated the feast of unleavened bread.
2. This was a seven-day celebration that followed the Passover, and was typically part of the Passover celebration.
3. Verses 21 to 22 say that only those who 'separated themselves from the impurity of the nations of the land' joined them in the Passover celebration.
4. Our separateness from the pattern of this world is critical in our communion with God.
5. God cares about our separateness from the practices of this world because we are **His**. (Lev 20:23-26, 1 Jn 3:9-10).
6. Romans 12:1 – living a distinct life is our spiritual act of worship!

Conclusion

The seventh time the Bible records the Passover is when Jesus celebrates it with His disciples! (Matt 26:17-19). God had passed over those who had the blood of the lamb on the door posts, but God did not 'passover' His very own first born begotten Son, but willed Him to die on the cross for our sins.