

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

A home in Woodlands needs to be cleared up and cleaned on 9 Sep from 9.30am to 4.30pm. Individuals or CGs who are keen to bless, please contact Vincent Chia at 9842 8275.

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.

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

WOODLANDS CENTRE, 20 AUG 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS EDMUND WONG ■ WORSHIP LEADER: CHUA SUE ERN

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 IVAN HO

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 TONY YEO

Introduction

Singapore celebrates its 52nd National Day. There was a time in the life of Israel when they celebrated with two very significant feasts: Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. Focus and purpose of celebration: To worship Yahweh, the God of Israel (v.21).

Two basic and crucial life-changing truths for our Christian pilgrimage:

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

1. Snapshot of Ezra 1-6. Focus and purpose of the Passover celebration: To seek / worship the God of Israel, Yahweh. Passover was a National Day celebration among two other annual feasts (Exo 23:14-19).
2. Three observations of Passover:
 - a. Date - marks the beginning of a new year, new start, new life, hope for the new nation.
 - b. Passover lamb was provided for all exiles.
 - c. Everyone partakes of the Passover.
3. Background of the Passover (Exo 12). Death would pass over that house where a lamb had been sacrificed, blood painted on the doorposts. Passover is mentioned only six times in the Old Testament (Exo 12, Num 9:1-14, Josh 5:10-12, 2 Chron 30:1-27, 2 Kin 23:21-23 and 2 Chron 35:1-19, Ezr 6:19-22).
4. God's people forgot the reason for their life and worship. "Before we can begin to see the cross as something done for us, we have to see it as something done by us." – John Stott.
5. Focus: Remember God's costly price of redemption for us! Jesus is the Reason for our worship!

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

1. The Passover feast is celebrated on the 14th day of the first month in the Jewish calendar. 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. It was celebrated with joy and thanksgiving because the building of the temple was finally completed and God sovereignly "turned the heart of the king of Assyria" to assist them in rebuilding the temple of God.
3. Paul warns "a little leaven leavens the whole lump" and "clean out the old leaven," – impurities, the vestiges (remnant, leftovers) of their unregenerated lives. Live the Christian life with the "unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Cor 5:6-8).
4. Priests had purified themselves — avoiding all that was unclean, and partly by washing their clothes and abstaining from sex. The people "separated" themselves from the practices of the Gentiles — forsook their unclean ways and idolatry.
5. God repeatedly warned His people to separate from the ungodly. Separation is the recognition that God has called believers out of the world and into a personal and corporate purity in the midst of sinful cultures (2 Cor 6:17, Eph. 5:11; Thess. 5:22, Heb. 7:26).
6. Application: Difference of falling in sin, living in sin, loving or indulging in sin.
7. Focus: Be Separated, which is our responsibility and our worship.

Conclusion

Sin is not just the outward behavior, but the inner corruption of the heart. Jesus, the Passover Lamb pays them all!