

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CASE FOR CHRIST MOVIE TICKETS

Tickets for the movie *The Case for Christ* are available today at the foyer. Invite your pre-believing friends and loved ones to watch so they can know more about the historical evidence for Jesus in a non-threatening way. Tickets can only be purchased in Covenant EFC. They are not available at Golden Village movie counters. Please note that once the tickets are purchased, they are not refundable. In order to pack the hall and not leave any seats in between, we will be selling the tickets row by row from the top. See you at the foyer!

CHURCH STAFF RECRUITMENT

We are looking for the following:

- **Manager (Media, Communications and Resources)**
- **Executive (The Next Generation)**
- **Executive (Finance)**
- **Executive (Human Resources)**
- **Executive (Buildings and Facilities)**

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 26 Nov.

BAPTISM CLASS

The next Baptism Class will be held on 4 Feb, Sun, 1.00pm to 3.30pm at BPJ Centre. Sign up at the Information Counter.

PHOTOGRAPHY MINISTRY WORKSHOP

Covenant Photography Ministry is holding a workshop on nature photography. There will be theory lessons followed by hands-on practice sessions with different nature photography techniques. If you are interested, bring your own digital camera and lenses. Do invite your friends to join too. This workshop is free of charge.

Date: 18 Nov **Time:** 8.30am to 12pm
Register at cefcphotographyministry@gmail.com by 16 Nov.

MATURE ADULTS THANKSGIVING BREAKFAST

If you're aged 55 and above, still working or retired and worshipping in Covenant EFC, this is for you!

Date: 2 Dec (Sat)
Time: 9:30 – 11am (breakfast will be served from 8:30am to 9:30am)
Venue: WDL Centre Chapel (Level 4)

Watch out for the registration next Sun, 19 Nov. Registration is needed for catering purposes.

SERVE IN HEALTHSERVE

Serve with us at Mandai HealthServe Clinic! We need medical professionals (doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, physiotherapists, and occupational therapists) who can serve at least one clinic session a month. If you are one of these, we would love to hear from you. Email missions@cefc.org.sg or call Michael Cheah at 8200 1917.

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, 12 NOV 2017

SERVICE LEADER: ELDER JOHNNY TAN ■ WORSHIP LEADER: SIMON AND LILLIAN SEOW

Serve and Bridge

ELDER JOHNNY TAN, NEW LIFE COMMUNITY SERVICE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AND COVENANT EFC MISSIONS DIRECTOR

Matthew 20:28 recorded that “the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” In Isaiah 58:12 we are called to be “Repairer of broken walls, and Restorer of streets with dwellings”. From these verses, it is clear we are called to serve the community and to form bridges as we serve them. As we serve the community, we make Jesus known by demonstrating His love!

New Life Community Services started 17 years ago when Covenant EFC moved to Bukit Panjang with a clear objective of serving and loving the community where the church is. New Life serves as the bridge from the church to the community. It is our prayer that many from the community will cross the bridge into a relationship with Christ.

The work of New Life is about forging relationship with the community. Today you will hear the testimonies of Irwan and Samuel Toh on how New Life volunteers and staff reached out to befriend them.

This made a big difference in their lives! It is this kind of special touch that transforms hearts and lives.

New Life currently has a staff strength of 110. In 2016 by God's grace, grants and donations amounted to \$2.5 million. To date we have collected \$2.2 million. For every dollar collected, 70 cents is spent on staff cost with the rest of the amount largely spent on the programmes.

The Lord has blessed New Life with new growth areas in Woodlands and Bukit Panjang. More about this will be revealed in due time. As New Life seeks opportunities to go to the East and West, more volunteers and funds are required. Please pray along with us as we believe that God will provide the necessary resources for the next lap of New Life. Indeed, one answered prayer is His provision of the incoming Deputy Executive Director in 2018 — Felix Wong. Praise be to God!

Let us work together to serve and love the community for Christ!

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

SERMON OUTLINE

Why Do We Do What We Do?

SCRIPTURE: TOPICAL ■ SERMON: PS LEE DA WIN

Introduction

We do what we do because ...

1. Setting Our _____ Matters to God!

2. Setting Our _____ Matters to God!

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

19 NOV – REV TAN KAY KIONG (BPJ), PS IVAN HO (WDL) AND PS SHARON FONG (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

When Compromise Seems Harmless

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 9:1-4 ■ SERMON: PS BARNEY LAU

Introduction

There is a stark contrast between the desecration in Ezra 9:1-4 in and the consecration in Ezra 8! Some compromises in life are for good, but compromises with sin usually end up with us being consumed by sin itself.

A. Spiritual Regression Begins with Compromise (vv.1-2)

1. Compromise of Disobedience (v.1)
 - a. The first wave post-exilic returnees had been in the land for 80 years until Ezra's second wave return. The celebrations and consecration 58 years earlier (Ezr 6:15-22) had long been forgotten. Two generations on, instead of separation, they married the women of the land living according to their idolatrous practices.
 - b. The disobedience was: **Widespread** - affecting both leaders and people, with many different peoples of the lands; **Willful** - they did not separate themselves when they knew they must (Deut 7:3-11 and Exo 34:11-16).
2. Compromise of Defilement (v.2)
 - a. Translated "has mixed itself" (ESV), the original Hebrew carries connotation of the act done volitionally, passionately, seriously and with certainty. In other words, the "mixing" (aka. defilement) was deep and complete!
 - b. Fundamentally, this is about "mixing" as a spiritual problem causing Israel's idolatrous unfaithfulness, and not merely about marriages (e.g. Moses' wife was Cushite; Jesus' ancestry had Canaanites/Moabite in Tamar, Rahab, Ruth).
3. Application: Stop compromising. Do not inter-mix with: a. non-Christian in marriage (2 Cor 6:14); b. the world's value system (Jn 17:14-19); c. "leaven" or sinful compromises in your life (Gal. 5:9, 1 Cor. 5:6-7).

B. Spiritual Restoration Begins with Contriteness (vv.3-4)

1. Hebrew word *ma'al*, translated as "unfaithfulness" means "treachery", akin to Arabic term, "to whisper or backbite"¹, usually used for serious sin against God, often associated with idolatry and rebellion, carrying with it extreme penalties.²
2. Unfaithfulness led to Israel's exile 150 years ago (Eze 39:23; Dan 9:7)!
3. It was the extent and gravity, not just the kind, of sin that caused Ezra to be so utterly contrite and appalled (v.3). They have broken faith with their covenant God, who had called them out from among all the nations of the earth to be his own special people (Deut 7:6-11), to be a blessing to the world (Gen 12:2-3).
4. Application: Contriteness begins with a fear of God and His Word (v.4), that leads to repentance ("the exiles [continuously] gathered to Ezra" culminating in Ezr 10:1-4) in a deep and genuine way (Ezra's extreme external contriteness revealed deep internal contriteness – Joel 2:12-13).

Conclusion

Little compromises of unfaithfulness over time lead to a godless lifestyle; contriteness with repentance over time leads to a Christ-centred discipleship!

¹Francis Brown, Samuel Rolles Driver, and Charles Augustus Briggs, *Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1977), 591.

²J. Gordon McConville, *I and II Chronicles* (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1984), 17; Philip Satterthwaite and Gordon McConville, *Exploring the Old Testament: The Histories, Vol. 2* (London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 2007), 249.