

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE OUTREACH SERVICES

Christmas is just around the corner! Invite your friends and loved ones to our Christmas Eve Outreach Services. This is the perfect time to celebrate and share God's greatest gift through a musical performance and a special message.

Date: 24 Dec (Sun)

Time: 8.30am, 10.30am and 12.30pm

Speaker: Paul Shi

NEW HOKKIEN SERVICE TIMING

Starting 6 Jan, Hokkien service will be held every Sat from 5.30pm to 7.15pm.

SERVE IN NEW LIFE

We need 70 Steady Readers Volunteer Mentors to help the children overcome challenges in reading and instil in them a love for books.

Dates: Weekly from Jan to May 2018

Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm

Training sessions will be held on 6, 7, 13 and 14 Jan (choose one training session only) from 1pm to 5pm at Fajar Youth Hub.

To sign up or enquire, contact Jason Lee at 9635 1135, Lewis Woo at 9634 9457, or email volunteer@neulife.org.sg

HOKKIEN CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Celebrate and share God's greatest gift with your Hokkien-speaking friends and loved ones by inviting them to our Hokkien Christmas Outreach.

Date: 23 Dec (Sat)

Time: 7pm – 9pm

Venue: BPJ Centre Main Sanctuary (Level 2)

Speaker: Rev Timothy Hoon (洪茂祥牧师)

C.Y.A.N. CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Christmas is just around the corner! Covenant Young Adult Network (C.Y.A.N.) will be having a Christmas gathering. Come for a time of fun, food and friendship!

Register at <https://engage.cefc.org.sg>

Date: 16 Dec (Sat)

Time: 7pm – 9pm (dinner will be served)

Venue: 5 Little Monkeys Cafe, Pico Creative Centre, 20 Kallang Ave, #11-00

Fee: \$15 per person

CHURCH STAFF RECRUITMENT

We are looking to fill the role of **Executive (Integrated Equipping)**. 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 24 Dec.

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, 10 DEC 2017

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

Rebuilding

REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI, DIRECTOR, INTEGRATED EQUIPPING

We've spent a whole year on the book of Ezra. By now, most of you would know that the key idea in Ezra is about rebuilding. After 70 years in exile, God sent His people back to Jerusalem to rebuild His Temple. He then sent Ezra himself back to rebuild His people. The physical structure of the Temple was important as a touchpoint and a galvanising centre for the nation. But far more critical was the heart of the people. God needed to rebuild His people around His Word. Because living out the Word of God would ultimately lead God's people into life with Him.

So then, how has 2017 been a year of rebuilding for you? It's not too late to rebuild if you've not already done so. Here are four areas to consider:

Rebuild Your Relationships.

Are there strained or distant relationships with a friend or a loved one? Perhaps God is leading you to rebuild in this area, especially this season. Relational pain often hurts the most. There is no easy way around this. The way forward is to ask for forgiveness. This is tough, but perhaps necessary. Perhaps God is leading you to rebuild your relationships. Take courage and arise – rebuild!

Rebuild Your Body. This is not just another anti-diabetes talk.

How our body functions affects us emotionally and spiritually. Have we been watchful over our diet, getting sufficient rest and the necessary exercise (at least 30 mins two to three times a week)? It may be necessary for some of us to take more care over our physical bodies so that our lives can be more useful to our Lord. Take courage and arise – rebuild!

Rebuild Your Life. One of the key areas God has brought to our attention is that of sin within the community. No one is perfect. But it's another thing to be caught in intentional, ongoing sin. God has spoken to us through the pulpit last month. Some of us need to come to that place of repentance and stop sinning. Take courage and repent – rebuild!

Rebuild Your Walk with God.

Like the Jews in the time of Ezra, some of us may be drifting along in our relationship with God. Things are on cruise-mode. Bible reading is patchy, prayers and devotions may have taken a dip. The Spirit is calling you to rebuild — to come back to that intentional daily walk with the Lord in His Word and prayer. Take courage and arise – rebuild!

May 2017 be that wonderful year where God rebuilds you from the inside out! Take courage and arise – rebuild!

SERMON OUTLINE

It's Not the End

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 10:16-44 ■ SERMON: PS ANDY LEW

Introduction

A. We Must Be WILLING (vv.16-17)

B. We Must Issue a WARNING (vv.18-44)

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:
17 DEC – PS IVAN HO (BPJ), PS ANDY LEW (WDL) AND PS EDMUND WONG (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

Covenant Community

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 10:5-15 ■ SERMON: PS BARNEY LAU

Introduction

The people through Shecaniah proposed to Ezra a covenant with God (10:3) out of repentance, and they took an oath (10:5) sealing the covenant. This mass divorce in Ezra 10 is a once off event not repeated in the Bible. The New Testament expressly prohibits divorcing an unbelieving spouse (1 Cor 7:12-14). Ezra 10's main thrust is that of a nascent post-exilic community's repentance from unfaithfulness and contamination, and reformation to faithfulness and consecration. Divorce here in God's larger scheme is the lesser of two evils.

A. Covenant to Act Together (vv.5-11)

Ezra was the interpretive barometer, but his activities were limited to mourning (9:3, 10:6), prayer (9:5-15), exhortation (10:5, 10-11), selection of investigation committee (10:16). The exilic community was responsible for confession (9:1, 10:2), covenanting (10:3-5), acting (10:7-8) and obeying (10:9-13).

1. Starts at the top (v.5): Responsible leaders who were concerned (9:1-2), convicted (10:2-3), committed (10:7-8). Praying leaders who though not guilty, yet identified with his people (9:5-15) and interceded on their behalf (10:6).
2. Begins with me (v.6): Repentant people who were convicted by God's Word (9:4), contrite from guilt (10:1), and fear the Lord (10:9). Ezra's mourning and fasting is an indication of the gravity of the people's condition.
3. Means tough choices (vv.7-9): Not the quantity, but the nature of sin! After investigation (10:17), only small number of 113 men had married foreign wives (10:44). Yet, an entire assembly of exiles were called! Deal decisively with sin.
4. Means calling sin, sin (vv.10-11): "You have been unfaithful [verdict] and have married foreign wives [offence] adding to the guilt of Israel [gravity] ... make confession to the Lord God ... and do His will [plead guilty], and separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign wives [restitution]."

B. Covenant to Act Together Over Time (vv.12-15)

Conviction of guilt and confession of sin is often an act in time, but commitment to consecrated living is over the course of time and life.

1. Be real (v.12): Their agreement was probably honest, but their desire to get out of the shivering misery of being wet and cold doubtlessly also motivated it.
2. Be realistic (v.13): Although divorce is allowed (Deut 24:1), it is always hateful to God (Mal 2:16) and shows a hardened heart (Mk 10:5). Divorce is always messy and painful –took three months (10:16b-17) to investigate 113 men (10:18-44).
3. Be accountable (v.14): The leaders are accountable for their community, those affected are accountable to their leaders, everyone is accountable to God.
4. Stay focused (v.15): No idea why and what these four objected to. But whether objections are noble or not, there will always be difficulties and objections, and we must walk worthy of our covenant and calling.

Conclusion

The Modesto Manifesto of Billy Graham and his colleagues since 1948 is the inspiring story of walking together in covenant community, consecration and commitment. Let's walk as a covenant community in covenant commitment and consecration, in time and through time!