

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE OUTREACH SERVICES

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 and 10.30am

Speaker: Rev Chris Chia

C.Y.A.N. CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Covenant Young Adult Network (C.Y.A.N.) will have 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

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@newlife.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: 3pm – 5pm

Venue: WDL Centre Chapel 1, Level 4

Speaker: Rev Timothy Hoon (洪茂祥牧师)

NEW CHINESE SERVICES TIMINGS

Hokkien Service

Starting 6 Jan, service will be held every Sat from 2.30pm to 4.15pm.

Mandarin Service

Starting 7 Jan, service will be held every Sun from 1.30pm to 3pm.

New China Fellowship Service

Starting 21 Jan, a new China fellowship service will be held every Sun from 3.30pm to 5pm at Chapel 1, Level 4.

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

WOODLANDS CENTRE, 10 DEC 2017

SERVICE LEADER: PS EDMUND WONG ■ WORSHIP LEADER: PS LIM KENG YEOW

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 SHARON FONG

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 KATHERINE CHAN

Introduction

1. The exiles recognised they were unfaithful to God and are now taking decisive steps towards repentance.
2. In a covenant with God to repent of our sins, in order that God may restore us to Himself
 - a. We covenant to act together – the need for togetherness.
 - b. We covenant to act together over time – the need for time.
3. We need a community to covenant with us to act together.

A. Covenant to Act Together (vv.5-12)

1. 'Togetherness' is seen in the word 'all' repeated in verses 5, 7, 9 and 12.
2. The covenant to act together as seen in verses 7 to 9, and 12:
 - a. Leading priests, Levites and all Israel took an oath (v.5) to get them to see the weight of the problem and the covenant to be made.
 - b. All the exiles who returned gathered in Jerusalem within three days (vv.7-9).
 - c. The community assumed a communal responsibility to confront their communal sin (v.12).
3. Do we have a community (a band of brothers, a group of sisters) whom we can trust and with whom we are willing to be accountable to, for our discipleship journey of walking in holiness?

B. Covenant to Act Together Over Time (vv.13-15)

1. The returned exiles recognised they have greatly sinned against God (v.13) and God's fierce wrath was upon them (v.14), and that they ought to repent immediately and deal decisively what they have covenanted to do. Yet, they did not want to rush through the matter. There were practical issues to consider – the rain and the number of people. The problem must be dealt with carefully and thoroughly as families were involved, hence a procedure was set up.
2. Time is crucial, but people and relationships cannot be hurried. We can't truncate certain processes that are necessary. Time is needed for healing, for setting free from the bondage of sin.
3. God knows the urgency for His people to repent yet He waited for His people to realise their mistake and repent.
4. God is with us in the process of repentance, in the process of healing and being set free. God is patient towards His people.

Conclusion

1. We need togetherness — a covenant community to act together to fight spiritual battles.
2. Time is needed for the journey of repentance, healing and restoration. We do not truncate the process.
3. God is with us in the process.