

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE OUTREACH SERVICES

Our Christmas Eve Outreach Service is happening next Sunday! Invite your friends and loved ones so they can hear about God's greatest gift through a musical performance and a special message.

A special second offering will be collected during the service, which will be donated to New Hope Community Services.

Date: 24 Dec (next Sun)

Time: 8.30am, 10.30am and 12.30pm

Speaker: Paul Shi

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

If you are curious about Christianity or 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 and Time: Six Sundays from 14 Jan to 25 Feb (except 18 Feb) at 1pm

Venues: WDL Centre, Love Room
BPJ Centre, Hope 4

Covenanters who would like to invite and accompany their friends and loved ones on these sessions, are encouraged to attend a training session on Sat, 6 Jan, 2pm to 4pm at ACKCentre, Training Room 5.

Sign up for the sessions or for the training at <http://cefc.ch/christianity-explored>

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 (this Sat)

Time: 7pm – 9pm

Venue: BPJ Centre Main Sanctuary (Level 2)

Speaker: Rev Timothy Hoon (洪茂祥牧师)

WATCHNIGHT PRAYER

Come join us to start the new year in God's presence at our Watchnight Prayer. Together as a church, we will look back on 2017 with thanksgiving, look within ourselves to renew our commitment to God, and look ahead into 2018 with faith.

Date: 31 Dec (Sun)

Time: 9 p.m. to 12.18am

Venue: WDL Worship Centre

*Please note that there will be **no** children's programme.*

NEW HOKKIEN SERVICE TIMING

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

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, 17 DEC 2017
SERVICE LEADER: PS ADRIAN CHAN ■ WORSHIP LEADER: CHUA SUE ERN

Rebuilding the Foundations

PS IVAN HO, DISTRICT MENTOR AND INTEGRATED EQUIPPING

This year, as we preached through the book of Ezra, it speaks about rebuilding the foundations. How apt and timely is God's Word for us! God is so good and faithful to His people! He knows what we need and guides us clearly, so that we can be restored in His presence and by His Word to fulfil the destiny He has for us as a discipling church.

These two months as I prepared and preached three sermons in Ezra 9 to 10, I sensed God convicting me that I have become desensitised to my sins and that God's people have trivialised sins. A clear indicator is that I do not have tears nor feel grief for personal and communal sins when they become known to me. What about you? What has been your response to the Whole Life Survey results? Let us ask God for tears to cry over our own sins and the sins of God's people. For a broken spirit and a contrite heart to grieve over the brokenness of our own lives,

marriages, families and church. So that God can rebuild us from the inside out to be holy and distinct in our calling and conduct. For our repentance to be genuine, it cannot be forced or rushed. It is a process and will take time. The key is for us to seek God in prayer and then do as He leads us.

Our church theme for next year, our 40th anniversary, is "We Are Church: Pray and Repent!" The movement forward for us is an emphasis on personal and corporate prayer. Let us start now to seek a deeper journey of prayer with God. Begin a daily discipline of self-examination and repentance of sins. Come before God at the end of each day and ask: "In what areas have I sinned against You today, Lord? In my thoughts, my words and my deeds?" Then in 2018, let us receive every prayer initiative that our church leaders lead us to, as an opportunity to seek God's presence and obey His Word.

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

Ezra Revisited

SCRIPTURE: BOOK OF EZRA ■ SERMON: PS EDMUND WONG

Introduction

A. A Deep Longing for God's Presence (chp. 1-6)

B. A Decisive Alignment to God's Word (chp. 7-10)

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

24 DEC – PAUL SHI (BPJ), REV CHRIS CHIA (WDL) AND DR ANDREW GOH (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

It's Not the End

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

Introduction

Ezra ends with the lowest point in their discipleship journey. How would they respond as they pick up the pieces?

Two principles of dealing with the aftermath of sin:

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

1. Willing to be counseled: verse 16 “They sat down to examine the matter.” Likely hundreds of married couples, met up with the leadership over a three-month period.
2. Willing to be cleansed: verse 19 “They pledged themselves to put away their foreign wives” and offer “a guilt offering”. A guilt offering (Lev 5) was a sacrifice for unwittingly sinning against God.
3. Illustration: Recent Men's Breakthrough Weekend (Men's BTW). We need a community for our conviction, confession, commitment, and cleansing. After the Men's BTW, men are still meeting on Saturday mornings.
4. Application: We cannot deal with sin alone. Be willing to journey together!

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

1. Three striking observations from the three genealogy lists in Ezra 2, 8 and 10:
 - a. The list is a permanent biblical record of shame — all the dirty laundry!
 - b. Every family of the priests, Levites, singers and gatekeepers had guilty members (10:20-23; 8:16; 2:36-42).
 - c. Every Israelite family had guilty members (10:25-44; 2:3-34).
2. Two clear warnings:
 - a. A warning for ourselves: We are not immune or infallible. Examples: fallen leaders and pastors (Ezra 9:2 “ And the leaders and officials have led the way in this unfaithfulness”). Research shows that most leaders never thought it “could happen to them”.
 - b. A warning for others: We are not perfect, but learn from our mistakes.
3. Illustration: *The Scarlet Letter* by Hawthorne. God takes away our shame (Lk 15:18-23; Isa 1:18, 61:7).

Conclusion

1. Though Ezra ends with a list of shame, it's also a list of God's faithfulness!
2. Testimony: My wife went from broken to redeemed!
3. It's never the end in Christ!