

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!

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>

STEADY READERS

We need 83 Steady Readers Volunteer Mentor! Help children overcome challenges in reading and instil a love for books in them.

Date: Jan to May 2018

Time: Weekly, 8pm – 9.30pm

Training dates: 6, 7, 13 or 14 January 2018

Time: 1pm to 5pm at Fajar Youth Hub

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/SRstepup> to sign up now. Email volunteer@newlife.org.sg or contact Jason Lee at 9635 1135 to enquire.

JAN 2018 DJ COLLECTION

Hard copies of the Devotional Journal (DJ) for Jan 2018 are available at the Information Counter at Level 1 while stocks last.

BREAKTHROUGH WEEKEND

Watch out for the early bird registration for Breakthrough Weekend next Sun, 7 Jan!

WATCHNIGHT PRAYER

Come join us to start the new year in God's presence at our Watchnight Prayer **tonight!**

Time: 9.00pm to 12.18am

Venue: WDL Worship Centre

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

STM TRIPS 2018

Calling all CG members, plan your STM trips for 2018 now!

Mongolia – Provinces outside Ulanbaatar/ March (10-14 days)

Focus – To teach basic Biblical disciplines
Team size: 4 to 6 people only

Mongolia – Ulanbaatar / March or April (10-14 days)

Focus – Campus outreach to conduct English lessons
Team size: 6 to 12 people (18 to 35 years)

Nepal / 23 Mar to 5 Apr (8-10 days)

Focus - Teachers' training and Children's program

Thailand – Chiang Mai / 5 day period

between 23 Apr to 5 May (6-7 days)
Focus – Youth / children's camp (Spiritual development)

Closing date for registration is 4 Feb 2018

Requirement & Commitment -Trippers **MUST** be members of a CG and attending CG regularly, be committed to STM training and team meetings.

Email missions@cefc.org.sg for more info or to indicate your interest.

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: 9.00am & 11.00am

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, 31 DEC 2017

SERVICE LEADER: SANDRA CHI ■ WORSHIP LEADER: ALLISON LIM

Entering 40 on Our Knees

REV TAN KAY KIONG AND REV TONY YEO, SENIOR PASTORS

We thank God for His presence in our Christmas outreach last weekend! Out of the 497 guests at Sunbeam, English, Mandarin and Hokkien services spread over our BPJ, WDL and EAST Centres, a total of 42 adults and children prayed to receive Christ. All glory to God in the highest!

As the Church advances with the Gospel to rebuild lives, marriages, families and society, we are also mindful that **we are under attack**. The evil one is on an all-out war knowing that his time is short. (Rev 12:12) We are hearing stories of casualties especially in the areas of marital fidelity and sexual purity. **But we are fighting from victory!**

Jesus said that He will build His Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matt 16:18). We are assured that in the end, Jesus wins. The Gospel and His kingdom

advance in answer to prayer. That's why we will enter into our church's 40th year **tonight, 31 Dec, 9.00pm** until 1 Jan, 12:18am at **Woodlands Centre** — on our knees.

Samuel Chadwick says, "The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray."

Covenant EFC's 40th year signals our entry into a new territory as we claim back the lost ground for Jesus, and into a new era of God's move in our Church and land. The Church must be found awakened and alert in such a time as this!

Join us tonight as we stand together in our Watchnight Prayer! Sound the call to your family and CG, and let's come as **one church** to watch and pray together!

SERMON OUTLINE

Our TIMES are in His hands

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 7:20 – 36 ■ SERMON: REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI

Introduction

A. The LIFE we LONG for (Acts 7:20 – 29)

B. The LORDSHIP we SURRENDER to (Acts 7:30 – 34)

C. The LEGACY we LEAVE behind (Acts 7:35 – 36)

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:
7 JAN – REV TONY YEO (BPJ & WDL) AND REV TAN KAY KIONG (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

Against All Odds

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 1:18-25 ■ SERMON: REV CHRISTOPHER CHIA

Introduction

“Normal lah” – Demented father wants chocs. Victimised maid wants to go home. Insecure wife wants love, nagged husband wants respect. Stumbled son wants home to be home. Confused friend wants answers. Looks like family but does not behave like family.

“Abnormal lor” – We fly around the world for friends. But we won't cross the room to say sorry to a loved one. This is not just one night on Christmas eve, but most nights. For some, every night! Why we live lives of quiet desperation: we get used to “un-love” in our hearts and “un-God” in our lives

The good news – God offering love for our “un-love”, peace for our chaos, wholeness for our brokenness, Himself for our righteousness.

Matthew 1:1-3 – The genealogy that is like Genesis. There is a new beginning that has arrived from God, from heaven through the man Jesus Christ. This is how God went about His loving and saving plan for our brokenness.

A. Against All Odds in Jesus' Genealogy (Matt 1:1-3)

Tamar committed incest. Bathsheba was forced in adultery. By nature we do not want to mention our sinful ancestors. In their family tree, Jews do not include women, much less Gentiles.

B. Against All Odds in God's Salvation Story (Matt 1:1-3)

Abraham lied about his wife. Jacob cheated his brother of his birthright. David committed adultery. Solomon had many wives. Ahaz burned his son and committed idolatry. The story of salvation was always one step from disaster, always hanging by a thread. Isn't that how you are?

C. Against All Odds in Joseph's Story (Matt 1:18-21)

Joseph decided: I will divorce her. It will be good for her. It will be good for me. God's way of salvation – God decides after we decide. What have you decided to do that has not factored God in? God has a way of rightly gatecrashing our lives after we think we have solved our problems.

D. Against All Odds God Offers Us Jesus (Matt 1:18-21)

The new thing about the common name of Jesus (then) – He will save His people from their sins, not from the Roman rule. We are masters of covering up depravity with decency, nastiness with niceness, sin with success. Against all odds, God offers Immanuel despite our rebellion.

Conclusion

Against all odds, God saves us through His Son, through that humble birth and humiliating death. He did not make us for the brokenness, sickness and deadness cycle. We live so long without Him that we are used to the cycle. We can be saved against all odds. Never get used to “un-love”; never get used to “un-God”.