

Announcements

IDMC 2018 – FAITH & FIRE

Sign up for IDMC 2018 by 31 May 2018 to enjoy the Covenanter special rate at \$60 (leader & spouse) and \$120 (member) on <https://engage.cefc.org.sg>

If you have signed up for IDMC, help serve the body of Christ together. Find out more on <http://volunteer.idmc.org.sg>
For enquiries, please email info@idmc.org.sg

SERVE AS CURRICULUM WRITER

We are looking for curriculum writers for Sunbeam Preschool who will contextualise and adapt an existing curriculum for local context and age-appropriate learning, and compile lesson notes with craft/activities for Sundays. You can do these tasks at your home.

If you love kids, own a personal computer, has basic skills in Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, and preferably with an experience in early childhood or children's work, sign up at <http://cefc.ch/ocwrite>

C.Y.A.N. GATHERING

C.Y.A.N. Gathering is a fortnightly platform for young adults to invite their friends and gather as a community. **To get involved, sign up at cefc.ch/cyanop**
For more information, go to cefc.ch/cyaninfo Check out our Facebook updates at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cyan.cefc> and follow us on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/cefc.cyan>

ALPHA: HOW CAN WE HAVE FAITH?

Alpha is a series of informal and relaxed sessions exploring the Christian faith. Many have come to know Christ through Alpha. Invite your pre-believing loved ones or friends!

Date: 25 Apr (Wed) **Time:** 7.00pm - 9.30pm
Venue: YMCA Orchard 1 Orchard Road (238824)

Register at <http://alpha.cefcapps.com>
For enquiries, email alpha@cefc.org.sg

ORDINATION SERVICE

Come and join the celebration as we witness the ordination of our beloved Pastor Barney Lau next Sun, **29 Apr, 2:30pm at WDL Centre Main Sanctuary.**

CAMP COVENANT 2018

You can still sign up for the early bird rates all the way until registration closing next Sun, 29 Apr. Join us as 1 church, 3 centres come together!

BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

Baptism Class on Sun, 6 May at WDL Centre from 1.00pm to 3.30pm.

Membership Class on Sat, 12 May at ACKCentre from 9am to 4pm.

Register at the Information Counter



... for a Vibrant & Healthy
Next Generation

... for Godly Families
and Generations

... for a Growing IDMC
Movement in Singapore

... to Impact Our Society
& Culture

... for a Growing Global
IDMC Movement

ACKCentre
2 Kallang Avenue,
CT Hub #10-26, Singapore 339407

ONE CHURCH
MULTIPLE CENTRES
BPJ Centre:
Sun 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.30pm

WDL Centre:
Sun 8.30am & 10.30am

East Centre:
Sun 9am & 11am

T (65) 6892 6811
E mail@cefc.org.sg
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FB www.facebook.com/CovenantEvangelicalFreeChurch

WOODLANDS, 22 APRIL 2018
SERVICE LEADER: PS IVAN HO • WORSHIP LEADER: CHUA SUE ERN

Small Groups, Big Impact

PS LEE DA-WIN, SMALL GROUP INFRASTRUCTURE

How did history's first megachurch (with at least 3000 members; see Acts 2:41) hold its regular meetings?

"Day by day," says Acts 2:46, the believers were "attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes". The believers of the Acts Church joined in corporate worship celebration ("attending the temple together") and in the small group meetings ("breaking bread in their homes"; emphasis mine). It wasn't "either ... or"; it was "both ... and".

Small groups are a vital and indispensable part of the healthy body life of a church, in the same way that the worship celebration (i.e. Sunday church service) is. The Early Church understood this. And I reckon this may also be why the small group construct has been timelessly inscribed into God's Holy Word from the very beginning of Church history.

Dr Ajith Fernando writes, "In early Methodism, attendance at Class meetings (i.e. Bible study groups) was compulsory. No "tickets" for the Sunday society meetings (i.e. Sunday service) were given for those who missed more than three meetings in a quarter. These Methodists were serious about their community life. And the small groups helped them to get serious about it." Churches today embrace this

too. Most churches have an infrastructure of small groups, though they may refer to them by different names. In some churches, CG is the abbreviation for "cell group", because CGs have life – they live, grow, function, reproduce, and eventually die – just like cells in a living organism.

Indeed, we wholeheartedly affirm this in Covenant EFC. But our CGs also carry our distinctive Covenant DNA. Our CGs are covenantal communities – we are brothers and sisters-in-Christ who enter into a mutual covenant to walk together in small group community. Which is why our CGs are "Covenant Groups" instead!

"Small groups," says Rev Edmund Chan, "are the essential base for discipling in a local church" and are intentional discipling units in the discipling church! The Covenant Group, therefore, is a covenantal community of authentic disciples and intentional disciplers.

"Day by day," continues Acts 2:47, "the Lord added to their number ... those who were being saved." May the Lord, by His grace and in His good timing, do likewise in Covenant EFC, both through the Sunday celebration as well as through the faithful ministry of our Covenant Groups.

Sermon Outline

Keys to a Vibrant Church

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 2:42-47 • SERMON: DR AJITH FERNANDO

Introduction

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

29 APR – REV TAN KAY KIONG (BPJ), REV TONY YEO (WDL) AND PS EDMUND WONG (EAST)

Last Week's Sermon Summary

The First Sermon

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 2:14-41 • SERMON: REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI

Introduction

This passage records for us Peter's first sermon and thus also the first sermon of the Church of God on the day of Pentecost. It speaks of four things:

A. The URGENCY of the TIMES: We're living in the LAST DAYS ... (Acts 2:17a)

1. The last days have already begun 2,000 years ago. We are closer to the final moments than when Peter spoke those words at Pentecost.
2. How are we to live in light of our Lord's return? It is neither to run to the mountains to wait for His return, nor to assume that the Lord will not return. Rather, it is to live our lives intentionally as God called each of us, whether a student, stay-at-home mum, businessman, etc.

B. The GIFT of GOD'S SPIRIT: Where GOD Pours out His SPIRIT ... (Acts 2:17b)

1. The Lord has poured out His Spirit generously upon all who would receive Him – as a pledge and promise (Eph 1:13), as well as His Presence (Jn 14:18, 26).
2. One of the marks of the Presence of the Holy Spirit is prophesying (Acts 2:17,18). While this may have a predictive dimension to it – it functions chiefly to bring forth God's message (Act 2:11). May we testify freely to God's goodness in our lives.

C. The CENTRALITY of CHRIST: Through His SON JESUS CHRIST ... (Acts 2:33)

1. The gift of God's Spirit comes because of the salvation wrought by Jesus Christ on the Cross (Acts 2:33). The substance of the Gospel is that God loved us so much that He sent His Son Jesus Christ to take our place in judgement on the Cross.
2. The essence of the Gospel is that we are unable to save ourselves and desperately need God in all areas of our lives. The call is for us to depend daily on Jesus!

D. The POWER of GOD'S GRACE: For the forgiveness of SINS. (Acts 2:38)

1. Baptism is commanded but not seen as a means of salvation. The "for" in Acts 2:38 is seen better as "with regards to/because" rather than "purpose/in order that".
2. At the heart of the first sermon is that we need our sins to be forgiven. And this is found when we repent and turn to God – receiving baptism as a demonstration of that reality to the world.

Conclusion

We're living in the last days where God has poured out His Spirit through His Son Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. May we live intentionally for God, testify freely of His goodness, depend daily on Jesus and receive His forgiveness!