

Announcements

ALPHA: WHAT ABOUT THE CHURCH?

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: 27 Jun (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

PASTORS' INSTALLATION

Come and join the celebration as we witness Jeremy Koh and Sandra Chi of the Covenant EFC Staff Team installed as pastors, and Dr Stacey Tay installed as a lay pastor. A pastor is a salaried staff of the church while a non-salaried lay pastor serves firstly in the marketplace, and secondly in the church in a pastoral capacity.

Date: 15 Jul (Sun)

Time: 2:30pm - 5pm

Venue: WDL Centre, Main Sanctuary

For catering purposes, please RSVP by 5 Jul at the respective links:

Jeremy Koh - <http://cefc.ch/jk>

Sandra Chi - <http://cefc.ch/sc>

Dr Stacey Tay - <http://cefc.ch/st>

Come and bless them and share their joy!

LIFE CROSSROADS FORUM

Are you at life's crossroads (midlife career switch, retrenchment or retirement)? Are you struggling to move forward? Encouragers-in-Covenant brings you Life Crossroads Forum. Covenanters (any age) are invited to come and hear fellow Covenanters share their journeys. Register today as seats are limited!

Date: 14 Jul (Sat)

Time: 8.30am - 12pm (breakfast will be served from 7.30am to 8.30am)

Venue: ACKCentre, #10-03

To register, email encouragersadmin@cefc.org.sg and indicate your name and contact number.

UNIVERSITY BEFRIENDER PROGRAMME

Looking for an opportunity to B.L.E.S.S.? Hundreds of international students come to Singapore to study each year. Show God's love by simply making a home away from home for them — extend your hospitality, introduce them to Singapore, and invite them for meals.

Find out more at the booth at the foyer today! Sign up at <http://cefc.ch/UniBefriender201819>

Registration ends on 1 Jul.

For more information, email missions@cefc.org.sg



PARENTING TRAINING

Parenting with Faith is for parents with kids below 12 years old.

Dates: Eight sessions from 7 July to 25 Aug.

Time: 2pm - 4pm Venue: ACKCentre

Fee: \$100 / couple

Parenting with Love is for married couples preparing for their first child.

Dates: 30 Jun and 7 July (Saturdays)

Time: 12pm - 5pm Venue: BPJ Centre

Fee: \$50 /couple

Register at the Information Counter today!

40-DAY PRAYER (1 JUL - 9 AUG)

Pray and Repent is the spiritual burden for our upcoming 40-day prayer season. Let's get ready to move further and deeper into repentance this coming 40-day prayer season!

- LoveSingapore 40-Day Prayer devotionals will be available from next Sun, 1 Jul onwards
- LoveSingapore Solemn Assembly (1-7 Jul, 8pm) will be held at BPJ Centre
- Overnight Prayer (8 Aug, 10.30pm to 9 Aug 6am) - more details will be released soon

IMPACT MAGAZINE

IMPACT magazine is available at \$4 per copy. You can also subscribe for a year at \$24 or two years at \$44 at the foyer today. Help third world pastors by sponsoring their subscriptions at \$32 for a year. The theme for June/July 18 issue is "5 Issues Facing the Church Today."



... 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

W www.cefc.org.sg

FB www.facebook.com/CovenantEvangelicalFreeChurch

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EAST, 24 JUN 2018

SERVICE LEADER: JEREMY KOH • WORSHIP LEADER: CHUA SUE ERN

Being Relevant Without Losing Our Fundamentals

PAUL SHI, THE NEXT GENERATION

Rick Warren in his Tedx Talk "How to Stay Relevant" opened by asking, "How do organisations become irrelevant?" He went on to say, "An organization becomes irrelevant when the speed of change around the organization is faster than the speed of change inside the organization."

I thought this was a simple yet profound insight. I was reminded of Youth For Christ's slogan "Anchored to the Rock, Geared to the Times." This captures the essence of holding fast to the fundamentals of the faith, whilst being open-handed when it comes to methodology, in order to stay connected to the times.

Recently we have started our CYAN Gatherings. One of the core principles that guides what we do and how we do it, is to be culturally relevant. Essentially, this means that if we want to see growth amongst our younger generation, our strategy needs to change. Our desire to stay culturally relevant guided our decision in choosing the location (Bugis+ in Joyden Hall). It impacts

how we design the look and feel of every PowerPoint slide, as well as every Instagram post. It frames the major topics that we cover in each CYAN Gathering, and directs how we welcome and connect. But at the heart of it all, the life-giving message of Jesus cannot and will not change.

It requires wisdom and discernment to know how to remain culturally relevant, without losing any of the essentials of who we are and our fundamentals. At times, we are afraid of becoming culturally relevant, thinking that if we do so, we will lose our fundamentals. However, understanding and implementing new ideas, and trying new methods do not mean that we lose our fundamentals. Nevertheless, staying true to the fundamentals requires both innovation and maturity.

Let's pray that the Lord gives us wisdom in knowing how to be a church that is relevant to our times, without ever losing sight of our intentional discipling mandate.

Sermon Outline

Growing Pains

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 6:1-7 • SERMON: REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI

Introduction

A. We can't just remain the same; we must _____ (vv.1-4).

B. We can't just change; we must remain the _____ (vv.5-7).

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

1 JUL - SARAH CHAN (BPJ), PS MATTHEW LO (WDL), AND PS SHARON FONG (EAST)

Last Week's Sermon Summary

Father's Day Message

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 6:9; LUKE 15:11-19 • SERMON: DR FREDDY BOEY

1. Our Father in Heaven

The Lord's Prayer starts with: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name" (Matt 6:9). It is the Father who allows us to call Him Father. It does not start by requiring us to identify ourselves, nor tell Him our credentials and achievements. 'Father' establishes an incredible relationship: it is a beautiful, wonderful, truthful word.

Biologists tell us the one most important thing for all cells is water. In Genesis 1 God started at the beginning with water. God, using light, created a mess, turned it into a mass and into life. It was as though God was preparing the whole earth like a room ready for the baby to come (Mankind that He created). He breathed His spirit *pneuma* on Mankind only. God may not be a Father to creation, but He is a Father to Heaven. That's a special relationship.

Our children are our children not because of what they have done, but because of our love. He is our Father because He created us out of love.

In Matthew 5, Jesus healed the woman who had hemorrhage and who had been completely ostracized and marginalised as an unclean woman. After healing her, Jesus called her 'daughter'. Relationships are very important, and God is especially a God of relationships. He encounters people and He establishes relationships with them.

2. In My Father's House

John 14:2a "In my Father's house are many rooms ...". The Father's house is as big as there are children. There are many rooms because all children are different. The Kingdom of God has people that are different, not in the same mould nor act in the same way. In that sense the Kingdom of God is totally inclusive. It doesn't matter where you were or how you are: believe in Jesus, and You will be in the Father's house.

God as a Father has many difficult children who do not get along with each other, or who even after recognising the Father, does not get along with Him. In God's family there is no black sheep and no Merino sheep; there are only sheep. We celebrate Father's Day by celebrating the Heavenly Father, because He is always there for us. We have a room in the Father's house, anytime.

3. The Perfect Father

Why is God the perfect Father? Because God is perfect, not because His children are perfect. But He loves perfectly His imperfect children. The perfect father is not the father with the perfect children. The perfect father is the father who learns to love perfectly his imperfect children.

See your children as they are, and love them as they are! When we see our children not going straight, not doing the things we want them to do, or worse, even leaving the faith or doing the very things that will harm the Name of Jesus Christ, you must never leave your child, because one day they will come back to you, and when that day comes you have got to be ready to receive them. Who can do this? A person who has experienced the perfect love of God.

4. The Everlasting Father

"Everlasting Father" in Isaiah 9:6 describes a relationship that is everlasting. The Bible is declaring that the Father's relationship with us can never be broken regardless of what we do or don't do. We cannot "un-Father" Him! If God is the Everlasting Father, He will not make us want to stay on this earth for longer than necessary, because we are meant to be forever. We cannot be the father to our children forever. But God can, He will and He does.