

Announcements

SP/CO DIALOGUE ON VISION 2028 DOMESTIC AGENDA AND FUNDRAISING

Come dialogue with our SPs/COs on the Vision 2028 domestic agenda and fundraising, and why these are so crucial and imperative towards building for the next generation.

East Centre: 22 Jul, Sun, 1pm–3pm at Park Avenue Convention Centre

BPJ Centre: 29 Jul, Sun, 2:30pm–4.30pm at BPJ Chapel

WDL Centre: Sun, 29 Jul, 1pm–3pm at WDL Main Sanctuary

BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

Baptism Class is on Sun, 5 Aug, 1.00pm to 3.30pm at BPJ Centre.

Membership Class is on Sat, 11 Aug, 9am to 4pm at ACKCentre.

Register at the Information Counter.

PARENTING TRAINING

We'd love to journey with you towards an Intentional Disciple Making Family (IDMF)! We strongly encourage parents of teenagers, particularly those in Momentum, to join us in this coming run of **Parenting with Hope**. This is for **parents of tweens and teens, to be held on 28 Jul to 25 Aug (four Saturday sessions), from 3.30pm to 5.30pm at WDL Centre, Joy and Love Rooms**. The venue and time coincide with the Momentum Service. **Registration fee is \$90 per couple**. Register today at the Information Counter.

VOCATION, MINISTRY AND WORK 1

IDMC Institute is hosting a module by Biblical Graduate School of Theology on Vocation, Work and Ministry. Learn about the theology of work and discover what God is doing in the world, what He is calling us to do, and how we can serve Him in church and in the marketplace. Register today for the first of a two-part module!

Dates: 16, 23, 30 Jul and 6, 13, 27 Aug (Mondays)

Time: 7.15pm – 10.00pm

Venue: ACKCentre, Live Recording Studio (#10-10)

Fee: \$225 (Credit), \$90 (Audit) Covenanters are entitled to 20% discount on credit courses only. To register, email registration@bgs.edu.sg

OVERNIGHT PRAYER

Get ready to climax our 40-day prayer season with overnight prayer! We will hear senior civil servants share about our nation so that we can pray for our government. We will learn about the societal issues happening so that we can repent of on behalf of the land. We will do a prayer walk in the community and bring blessing over it. Let's pray and repent together for our nation!

Dates and Time: 8 Aug, 11pm to 9 Aug, 6am

Venues: BPJ Centre, WDL Centre, ACKCentre (for Covenant East)

DISCOVERY WEEKEND

A full-day workshop for courting couples on how to build a strong foundation in their relationship based on honest interaction, biblical principles and purity.

Date: 21 Jul (Sat) **Time:** 8.30am – 5pm

Venue: ACKCentre, Performing Arts Studio (#10-03) Register at the Information Counter. For enquiries, email fic@cefc.org.sg

SERVE IN NEW LIFE

Steady Readers Programme

New Life needs 10 more volunteers in BPJ Centre and 10 more volunteers in WDL Centre. A total of 100 are children are waiting to be mentored in reading literacy for the next run in Jul to Nov. To find more about the programme, go to tinyurl.com/SteadyReaders **Training will be held on 16 Jul, Mon, 7.30pm at Fajar Youth Hub**. To sign up, contact Jason at 9635 1135 or email volunteer@newlife.org.sg

NEW LIFE FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Charity Golf is happening on **Thu, 13 Sep at Singapore Island Country Club**. The Guest of Honour is Dr Vivian Balakrishnan. Sign up as golfers or donate (in cash or in kind). Visit tinyurl.com/newlifegolf

Charity Run will be held on **Sat, 20 Oct at CSC Run by the Bay** (www.cscrunchbythebay.com)

To register or to find out more, email fundraising@newlife.org.sg, call Trevor at 9827 8803, or drop by our booth after the service.



... 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

EAST, 15 JUL 2018
SERVICE LEADER: BENJAMIN SUN • WORSHIP LEADER: DAVID CHONG

Building for The Next Generation (3): The Future Unseen

ELDER DESIGNATE TONY TAN (FUNDRAISING CHAIRMAN) & SENIOR PASTORS

Deep calls to deep (Psa 42:7), God is taking me (Tony Tan) deeper into the mysteries and adventures of faith in Him, to step out of my comfortable shore and plunge into the blue ocean of God's purpose for Covenant EFC and my life — to me, this is what Vision2028 and Beyond is about.

God is calling Covenant EFC to the **deep** – deeper love, deeper passion, and deeper faith to follow Jesus and help others follow Him too. Thus, our mission is to expand the Kingdom of God through both a local and a global Intentional Disciple Making Church (IDMC) movement. There will not be a global movement without a strong supportive and complementary local movement. The \$40M Seed Fund is about growing a vibrant IDMC movement for the next generation beyond 2028!

Covenant EFC's 40 years of journey in properties and building has been nothing short of miraculous! 17 pioneers met in a humble Ghim Moh HDB apartment in 1978. This grew to about 400 worshippers by the 1980s in 721 Bukit Timah Road. Sale of the Bukit Timah property helped fund the \$14M BPJ Centre which opened in 2000. The WDL Centre was launched in 2008 at a cost of \$27M. In 2015, ACKCentre, which houses the staff office, IDMC Institute, and media and performing arts facilities, was birthed at a cost of \$25M. Led by the Lord, all three properties, costing \$66M in total were fully funded without any debt! BPJ Centre has now grown to an average worship attendance (AWA) of over 2,200 adults, and WDL

Centre to over 1,500 adults. In just 20 months, East Centre has grown threefold to an AWA of over 600 adults. Covenant EFC's total AWA now stands at over 6,200 including children and youths. What a testament to God's amazing grace, relentless faithfulness and bountiful blessings through the sacrificial and generous giving of Covenanters through the years! Praise the Lord!

Looking ahead, East Centre will soon need a permanent home. Both BPJ and WDL Centres' HDB lease renewals are due in 2027 and 2035 respectively. As the Lord leads, we plan to plant a fourth centre in the greater Jurong region, a major growing population centre, in 2021. Beyond mere property needs, the \$40M Seed Fund undergirds our calling towards a vibrant IDMC movement in Singapore and beyond.

Our leadership has endorsed Vision 2028 and Beyond since 2015. In May this year, the Board and Staff indicated a first-fruit gift of \$1M. This year's June camp saw 231 campers indicating a gift of another \$2M, totalling over \$3M in the first-fruit indication to the Vision 2028 and Beyond Seed Fund to date. Praise the Lord!

Will you prayerfully consider how you may own the Vision 2028 and Beyond journey? Will you prayerfully seek the Lord as to what and how you may contribute to the Seed Fund? And as the Lord leads you, join the Board, Staff and the 231 Covenanters to actualise the first-fruit giving to the Seed Fund starting at Covenant EFC's 40th Anniversary Service on 2 Sep 2018 till 28 Feb 2019. Let's go to the **deep!**

Sermon Outline

Three Pitfalls In Discipleship Today

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 8:1-24 • SERMON: PS EDMUND WONG

Introduction

A. Seeing Life with the Wrong _____ (vv.1-3)

B. Putting Faith in the Wrong _____ (vv.4-13)

C. Seeking Blessings for the Wrong _____ (vv.14-24)

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

22 JUL - REV COLIN SMITH (BP), WDL AND EAST)

Last Week's Sermon Summary

Faithful to the End

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 6:8-7:60 • SERMON:

Introduction

Here is inflection point in Acts and impetus for the Gospel diaspora prophesied (Acts 1:8) from Jerusalem to beyond. God used two men for this inflection:

1. Stephen, servant of tables, yet miracle worker, powerful preacher, martyr
2. Saul, persecutor (8:3), converted (Acts 9) who became its greatest evangelist, missionary, church planter and apostle (Stephen was an influence, Acts 22:20)!

Often God uses the most obscure and unlikely, but faith-full and faithful individuals for His purposes and glory!

A. Living Out Our Faith (Acts 6:8-15)

1. Stephen honoured with rare descriptions:
 - a. Filled with faith, Spirit, grace, power and wisdom (vv. 5, 8, 10)
 - b. First non-apostle performing signs and wonders (v.8)
 - c. Active ministry in his Hellenistic Jew community (v.9)
 - d. Spirit-filled wisdom in his communications (v.10)
 - e. Angelic calmness under duress reflecting God's presence and Christ-likeness (vv.15, 59)
2. Stephen was appointed deacon, first among seven deacons (v.5). But to Stephen, it was never about his vocation as deacon to serve others, but his commission to serve as witness of his Saviour Jesus Christ; not about his ministry of serving tables but his mandate as servant of his Lord Jesus Christ!
3. Don't miss this: Commission precedes vocation; Mandate precedes ministry!

B. Speaking Out Our Faith (Acts 7:1-53)

1. Stephen well-versed with Israel's history and law pointed how Israel got it wrong:
 - a. It has always been about obedience to God (vv.1-16), but Israel has always rebelled against God (vv.17-43).
 - b. God cannot be contained (vv.44-50).
 - c. Just as Israel rejected all its past prophets, it has rejected Christ (vv.51-53)!
2. Stephen preached with historical context and logical consideration, but in a historically, culturally and religiously homogeneous society. But that's not the case for us; we now live in a world that is diverse and indifferent to who God is. Nevertheless there are principles from Stephen that we can learn from.
3. Don't miss this: Let our evangelistic conversations be thoughtful, knowledgeable and culturally relevant to our contemporary environment.

C. Holding Out for Our Faith (Acts 7:54-60)

1. Stephen's Spirit-filled disposition bookended (vv.5, 55), permeated (vv. 10, 15) and concluded his narrative with him returning his spirit to his Lord Jesus (v.59)!
2. The Sanhedrin "cried out with a loud voice" against Stephen for their law (v.57); Stephen "cried out with a loud voice" to God for the lost (v.60). Faith anchored in: a grander vision of ultimate reality (vv.55-56), a grateful allegiance to his Lord and Saviour (v.59), a greater compassion for the lost (v.60).
3. Don't miss this: Only a Spirit-filled life leads to vision, allegiance and compassion!

Conclusion

Jesus was faithful to the Father for us to the end; will we be faithful to the end?