

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: TODAY, 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

BEFRIENDING OLDER FAMILY MEMBERS

Would you like to improve relationships with older adults in the family, neighbourhood or workplace? Join this workshop and learn how to have a pleasant conversation to better rapport, and have meaningful dialogues to help older adults deal with their frustrations and concerns. This will be held on **Sat, 18 Aug, 8.30am to 5.00pm at ACKCentre**. Sign up at Voyager. Slots are limited! Registration ends on 12 Aug.



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.

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 societal issues which are happening so that we can repent 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!

Date and Time: 8 Aug, 11pm to 9 Aug, 6am
Venues: BPJ Centre, WDL Centre, ACKCentre (for Covenant East)

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.

NEW LIFE FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Be a blessing to the community by financially supporting New Life's work.

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). 16 more flights are available. Visit tinyurl.com/newlifegolf for FAQs and registration form.

Charity Run will be held on **Sat, 20 Oct at CSC Run by the Bay** 6KM category (www.cscrunchbythebay.com). Contact us for registration and further details.

Email fundraising@newlife.org.sg or call Trevor at 9827 8803 for any enquiries.



... 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

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EAST, 22 JUL 2018

SERVICE LEADER: TIMOTHY YEO • WORSHIP LEADER: SIMON AND LILLIAN SEOW

**Vision 2028 : Faith Exploit 5
Disciple Now for a Growing Global
Intentional Disciplemaking Church (IDMC) Movement (1)**

ELDER JOHNNY TAN, DIRECTOR, MISSIONS

Covenant EFC's mission statement is: Returning the Church to its disciplemaking roots, through Authentic Discipleship and Intentional Disciplemaking so as to reproduce disciples of *A Certain Kind* and to multiply them to win the world for Christ!

The scope of this mission statement is global — we are to win the world for Christ. This is based on the call in Matthew 28:19 to make disciples of all nations. Vision 2028 serves as a milestone for Covenant EFC to grow a global IDMC movement. God sent Jesus His Son to die for **all** — Christ died on the cross for all mankind and shed His blood to cleanse the sins of all mankind! This means Every Tribe, Every Nation has to hear the Gospel. It is thus Covenant EFC's mission to see Disciplemaking Church Plants (DCP) planted globally.

When super Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines in 2013, together with our missions partners Reach Global and the Emmanuel Free Churches of Philippines, we enter the disaster zone to help the locals return to normalcy. Arising from this partnership, four churches were planted in

Tacloban and Samur Region. When an earthquake hit Nepal in 2015, the local church pastor and leaders in Keraghari partnered with us to rebuild more than a hundred homes. After this, the church in Keraghari outgrew their church seating capacity of 100 people, such that they had to acquire land for a church building that can house 300 people. Steady Readers (an English Literacy programme) has gone overseas too. Together with pastors in Manila, we help to develop and train the local church members to conduct Steady Readers in the marginalized communities. In God's timing, we pray that DCPs may arise in these communities.

These are our small beginnings. Covenant EFC is to be a local church with global perspectives. Our mission statement started with returning the Church (note that church is spelled with a capital "C" to refer to the Body of Christ at large) to its disciplemaking roots and ends with winning the world for Christ!

Let every Covenanter rise to first be a disciple and to partake in the call to win Singapore and the nations for Christ!

Sermon Outline

Running with the Gospel

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 8:26-40 • SERMON: REV COLIN SMITH

Introduction

A. God Takes the Initiative (v.26)

B. We Proclaim the Gospel (v.35)

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

29 JUL – REV COLIN SMITH (BPJ, WDL AND EAST)

Last Week's Sermon Summary

Three Pitfalls in Discipleship Today

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

Introduction

Acts 8 is a warning that cautions us to slow down and examine how we live out our faith in our fast-paced, high-pressure and consumer-driven world. Lest we end up trapped in a worldly discipleship! The state of the church today – news stories, WLI survey of 10 churches. We live in a time when instead of the church changing the world, the world is changing the church! (A.W. Tozer)

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

1. Verse 1 – approved. Literally, applauding and being gratified by Stephen's stoning. His intense zeal led him to arrest even women (v.3), because he saw through the lens of the religious establishment. Until God had to blind him (Acts 9), so that he could finally see.
2. Stephen's death created such trauma for the early disciples, that they wailed loudly at his death though Jewish law disallowed such actions for someone executed by the Jewish council. They might have thought that was the end of the church.
3. Verse 1 – 'Judea' and 'Samaria' 8:1 is a commentary of 1:8. Through the lens of God's promises and purposes, verse 1 was exactly where the church should be, even in their hardship.
4. Focus: God designed life to make us holy rather than happy. Even if that means staying through hardships – so that God does something in us.

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

1. Phillip was initially managing food distribution for widows (6:5). But when thrust out of Jerusalem, he did what the apostles did – preaching the Gospel and demonstrating signs and wonders. He was equally Spirit-filled.
2. Simon was likely the founder of a cult. Followers believe he was many Greek gods rolled into one, and powerful to do magic. But he could not mimic Phillip's miracles and knew it was the finger of God.
3. The crowds were fixated with Simon, and Simon later fixated with Phillip because of the signs and wonders they saw. Signs and wonders are means, not an end.
4. Focus: Our faith should not be on the servant whom the Spirit filled, but the Spirit who fills the servant. The same Spirit is on you, to do ministry. Go forth!

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

1. Why did Peter and John need to travel 60 km north to lay hands on the Samaritan converts, when Phillip could have done the same and the Spirit would have been given?
2. There was a history of bad blood between Jews and Samaritans such that Jews do not want to come close to Samaritans. Peter and John laying hands on Samaritans was an act of unsurpassed and unprecedented reconciliation!
3. But Simon wanted the power to confer the Spirit with the laying of hands for his own ends, because of his gall of bitterness (an Old Testament picture of anguish because of hardship cf. 3:15). So that he would be marvelled again as much as Peter was.
4. Focus: We repent of our prayerlessness. If our prayer life is driven mainly by our needs, God ends up serving our needs, rather than we serving His purposes. Engage in prayer and fasting using the LoveSingapore 40-day prayer booklet

Conclusion

No matter how far and deep we are trapped, our Saviour is here!