

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

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WOODLANDS, 22 JUL 2018

SERVICE LEADER: PS KATHERINE CHAN • WORSHIP LEADER: LOW WEI SHING AND MAVIS LOW

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 IVAN HO

Introduction

The early disciples knew what was God's heartbeat for the nations (Acts 1:8). But they needed to be scattered by severe persecution before they began to spread the Gospel beyond Jerusalem to all Judea and Samaria. The text warns us about three pitfalls in discipleship today. Falling into any of them will cause the Church to be compromised and ineffective in carrying out God's mission.

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

Stephen had just been martyred and buried. The early disciples now faced "a great persecution" under Saul's hand. Many of them fled and scattered to the surrounding regions. However, seeing only tragedy and defeat would be seeing life with the wrong lens. It would be missing the big picture of God's plan for the salvation of people in every nation. The disciples saw life with the right lens, for they did the unexpected – despite their suffering they preached the Gospel everywhere they went. God was scattering the seeds of the Gospel through them! He turned persecution and suffering into opportunities for the Gospel advance (e.g. Phil 1:12). Many disciples today don't see suffering in the right perspective, because we live in a hedonistic society with a culture that relentlessly pursues pleasure and religiously shuns suffering. We can't see that suffering can bring about blessings. It leads us to a deeper experience of God and intimacy with Him. Let's see life with the right lens!

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

Simon the Magician portrayed himself as some type of heavenly power, possibly even a god. Due to the amazing magic Simon practised, the people of Samaria paid attention to and believed in him. The Samaritans needed to be delivered from this great demonic deception, control and oppression over them. That deliverance came when they paid attention to Philip and believed in Jesus Christ whom Philip preached about as he performed "signs and great miracles" (vv.5, 6, 12). Many people today are drawn to the spectacular, dramatic and external, seen in various celebrities in Christian circles, and all sorts of religious leaders and spiritual gurus. They are putting their faith in the wrong person! They must put their faith in the right person – Jesus Christ. Let's faithfully preach Christ and Him crucified for our sins, and call people to put their faith in Him alone for salvation and eternal life!

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

Why did the Samaritan Christians, after their genuine conversion, only receive the Holy Spirit when the apostles Peter and John came to Samaria and laid hands on them and prayed for them? This was an exceptional situation which God used to show that Samaritan Christians were accepted and to unite them with Jewish Christians through the Jewish apostles (see Ps David Chan's notes in DJ 14 Jul). This two-stage experience of Christian initiation is not God's normal purpose for believers, because it diverged from the plain and general teaching of the apostles (see John Stott's commentary on Acts). Initiation into Christ, according to the New Testament, is a single-stage experience.

Simon sought to pay the apostles Peter and John money for the power to confer the Holy Spirit on people. He sought God's power and blessings for the wrong reasons – fame and fortune for himself. He wanted personal glory. His heart was not honest with God. It was a serious sin. Covetousness is a sin. A Christian can have a wrong heart before God in relation to particular things, e.g. money, sex, power. Let's seek blessings for the right reasons – to serve and glorify God!

Conclusion

Repent of our sins, because we cannot hide from God what's in our hearts. We must look to Jesus who has come to rescue us from destruction by giving His own life on the Cross to save us.