

Announcements

GATHERING OF MULTITUDES (GOM)

Calling all Zone Mentors, CGLs, ACGLs and Ministry Leaders! You and your spouse are invited to our annual GOM. This year, it will be held on a Saturday to give us more time to process and interact on where we are headed. This gathering is pivotal for our alignment as leaders. See you there!

Date: 29 Sep (Sat)

Time: 9am – 4pm (lunch will be provided)

Venue: BPJ Centre

SOCCER OUTREACH

Is it challenging to invite pre-believing friends and loved ones to church? What about playing soccer together? Covenant EFC is starting a soccer outreach group and inviting Covenanters who are passionate about souls and soccer to join us! **We are having a briefing, prayer and kick-around session on Sun, 9 Sep.** Please email CefcSoccerOutreach@gmail.com with your name and contact number to register.

SEP 2018 DJ COLLECTION

The Devotional Journal (DJ) for Sep 2018 is now available at our church website and “Covenant EFC” app. Hard copies are available at the Information Counter at Level 1 while stocks last.

COVENANT EFC'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY COFFEE TABLE BOOK

As part of Covenant EFC's 40th Anniversary celebration, we are producing a commemorative coffee table book titled *This Is Us: 40 Years of God's Faithfulness* so we can look back at our journey as a church family, remember God's faithfulness, and catch a glimpse of what lies ahead towards Vision 2028 & Beyond.

This beautifully designed, high-quality book filled with photos will be launched at our 40th Anniversary Service on 2 Sep. Be sure to get your copy then! Price will be announced soon.

HOKKIEN MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL OUTREACH

Share God's love with your Hokkien-speaking family and friends by inviting them to our Hokkien Mid-Autumn Festival Outreach.

Belinda Lee will share her testimony and Ps Gilbert Sng will give a special message.

Date: 22 Sep (Sat)

Time: 7pm - 9pm (free buffet starts at 5.45pm on a first-come, first-served basis)

Venue: BPJ Centre, Main Sanctuary (Level 2)



... 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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BUKIT PANJANG, 26 AUG 2018

SERVICE LEADER: PS ADRIAN CHAN • WORSHIP LEADER: PS LIM KENG YEOW

Bring the Best of the Firstfruits

ELDER-DESIGNATE TONY TAN, FUNDRAISING CHAIRMAN
REV TAN KAY KIONG AND REV TONY YEO, SENIOR PASTORS

The best of the firstfruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God ... Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared.
– Exodus 23:19a,20

Our “firsts” are our life priorities. They are the objects of our devotion. They instruct our attention and allegiance. They have our heart and order our affections.

When the people of Israel were being prepared for the conquest of Canaan, the promise came with an instruction – bring the best of the firstfruits into the house of the Lord. This is important because God wanted to ensure that Israel always remembers what should be the **first** in their lives. They were going to receive the great blessing of land and wealth, but these gifts must never take the place of God on the throne of their hearts. God must always be the **first**. To demonstrate this, the people were to bring to God's house annually the very best of the very first of all the produce of their labour.

Covenant is marching into our God-promised land which is Vision 2028 & Beyond, to fulfill the mission of growing

a Local and Global Intentional Disciplemaking Church (IDMC) Movement. Just like the Israelites, every Covenanter is called to contribute the best of our firstfruits as affirmation of the pre-eminence of Christ in our lives. We have been blessed with abundance in so many undeserving ways. God's word to us is to offer the best of our time, talent and treasures to His Kingdom mission.

The \$40M Seed Fund will help Covenant EFC build the infrastructure and capacity needed to grow a vibrant IDMC movement for the next generation. Many Covenanters and families have already indicated what they will offer as the best firstfruits of their treasures, honouring God above their own needs. For my family, this means contributing several months of our household income from work — the fruit of our labor. Will you prayerfully seek the Lord as to what you would offer as firstfruits to the Seed Fund?

Join Covenant's Board, Staff Team and many Covenanters to actualize the firstfruits giving to the Seed Fund starting from our 40th Anniversary Service on Sunday, 2nd September 2018 until 28 February 2019!

Sermon Outline

Breaking New Grounds

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 12:25-13:52 • SERMON: PS MATTHEW LO

Introduction

A. Follow His Unexplainable Leadings (13:1-3)

B. Fight the Battles (13:4-12)

C. Pursue as Many Souls as Possible (13:13-52)

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKER:

2 SEP, 40TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE AT SINGAPORE EXPO HALL 1 - REV EDMUND CHAN

Last Week's Sermon Summary

More Than Conquerors

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 12:1-24 • SERMON: REV TAN KAY KIONG

Introduction

Church Within, Without and Beyond. Acts 1:8 is the master plan of evangelism crafted by the Holy Spirit. It begins with the Church Within, then Church Without, then Church Beyond. At the end of Acts 11:27-30, the believers in Antioch collected money for the famine in Jerusalem. The author turned his attention to what happened in Jerusalem instead of glossing over it in Acts 12:1-24. Why? To demonstrate that God's heart is for the Church Within and the Church Without. And His power to save and deliver has no partiality or limitation in time or space!

As we keep this big picture in mind, Acts 12:1-24 shows us how we are more than conquerors in the Church Within or Beyond. Our God delivers us in three ways:

A. God Delivers Through Our Earnest Prayer (vv.1-5)

In verses 1-5, Herod Agrippa viewed Jewish Christians as divisive and arrested some of those who believe in Jesus. He also had James, the brother of John, beheaded by the sword. Finding that the killing of James, the brother of John, pleased the Jewish leaders, he then arrested Peter during the seven-day celebration of the Feast of Unleavened Bread and imprisoned him till he could bring him out for public trial after the Jewish holy days. While in prison, the apostle was held with maximum security by "four squads of four soldiers each", probably on shifts of three hours each, with two soldiers chained to him on either side and two standing guard at the inner entrance to the prison. Isn't this an overkill? Evidently, Agrippa planned to make Peter a spectacle and a warning at a forthcoming show trial. The intent was to execute him. And knowing he had once escaped from prison in Acts 5, he did not want to be embarrassed by Peter's escape again. Verse 5 shows us the urgent response of the Church: "So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church." The Church was obviously desperate. They knew Peter may not escape death this time round. The contrast in verse 5 is obvious: Peter was bound, but prayer was loosed!

Application: The early Church understood and practised earnest prayer. What about us? There were 29 times recorded of the early Church/people in prayer. 2018 prayer efforts in Covenant EFC.

B. God Delivers Through His Ministering Angels (vv.6-19)

Peter was miraculously rescued by an angel of the Lord. The Puritan preacher Thomas Watson said, "The angel fetched Peter out of prison but it was prayer that fetched the angel." You can never imagine what God does in answer to our earnest prayers. The text today shows us that God uses His ministering angels to accomplish His purpose. Hebrews 1:14 highlights this as God's ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation. Read: "This Present Darkness" by Frank Peritti and "The Heavenly Man" by Brother Yun

C. God Delivers Through His Divine Justice (vv.20-24)

After the miraculous rescue of Peter from prison, Herod Agrippa must have been so frustrated that he went to Caesarea to chill. Next, he gets angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. The two cities sent a delegation to make peace. They used two powerful weapons many will fall for — bribery and flattery. They even make him out to be God when he spoke. The secular historian Josephus had this interesting detail about his royal robe: "His garment was 'made wholly of silver and of a contexture truly wonderful', which shone so brightly in the morning sun that the people hailed him as a god. But an angel of the Lord struck him down."

Conclusion

We are more than conquerors.