

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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WOODLANDS, 26 AUG 2018

SERVICE LEADER: PS SHARON FONG • WORSHIP LEADER: CHUA SUE ERN

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 EDMUND WONG

Introduction

Paradigm shifts to break new grounds for Jesus:

A. From "Why Me AGAIN?" to " _____!" (13:1-3)

B. From Avoiding Difficulty to " _____" (13:4-12)

C. From "I Am Rejected" to " _____!" (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 TONY YEO

Introduction

Acts 1:8 – the master plan of the Holy Spirit to spread the Gospel.

Just when everything seems to be going well (Acts 1-11), the enemy strikes back (Acts 12)!

A. Trusting When We Don't Understand It (vv.1-3)

"... Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church." (v.1)

1. The Manner – Took place in AD 44, 12 years after the resurrection of Jesus and Church growth.
2. The Murderer – Herod Agrippa beheaded James with the sword.
3. The Martyr – James, first among the 12 apostles to die.
4. Application: Are we willing to follow and trust God when we don't understand?

Real faith is developed in the valleys of life. Faith is trusting that God has a better idea even when we don't understand it. What is God calling you to trust Him for at home, at work and in the church?

B. Believing When We Don't See I. (vv.4-19)

"So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church." (v.5)

1. Human Intercession (v.5)
 - a. It begins with a "so", followed by a gloomy report
 - b. "But" - indicating a change in direction. The church in earnest (Gk: "Ektenes") prayer means sincere in intention and serious in intensity.
 - c. "behold" – report of God's intervention.
Principle: When there is human intercession, there will be heaven's intervention.
2. Heaven's Intervention (vv.6-17)
 - a. Turns prison cell into "dwelling place" (vv.6-9)
 - b. Turns dreams into reality (vv.10-11)
 - c. Turns petitions into answered prayers (vv.12-17)
3. Herod's Indignation (vv.18-19) Cruel tyrant takes 16 innocent lives. The world says, "seeing is believing" but God says, "believing is seeing." Illust: i12pray, Solemn Assembly, Overnight Prayer, PraySingapore on 7 October 2018
4. Application: Are we willing to believe God even when we don't see His hand in our lives, family and church?

C. Persisting When We Don't Feel Like It (vv.20-25)

"But the word of God increased and multiplied." (v.24)

1. Herod's Pride – believed that he had become a god. He is a picture of the ultimate folly of the person who thinks that he can live without God.
2. Herod's Plight – stricken by an angel of the Lord, eaten by worms and died.
3. Heaven's Plan – "But the word of God increased and multiplied." (v.24). Not because of academic faith ("God can"); not because of presumptuous faith ("God will"); not because of indulgent faith ("God must"); but because of mature faith – believing that God is **faithful!**
4. How do we develop persistence when we don't feel like it? Hebrews 11:27 – By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. Corrie Ten Boom said, "If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you'll be at rest."

Conclusion

God's Conquest: The ministry of the Word advanced; the mission of Barnabas and Saul was accomplished. Vision 2028 & Beyond – \$40 M faith journey on our 40th year anniversary