

Announcements

IDMC INSTITUTE'S ONE-YEAR INTERNSHIP INTRO SESSION

IDMC Institute's One-Year Internship Programme is an opportunity to discover the God of the Word, be mentored, and journey together with a community of fellow disciples, as you crystalize God's call on your life in the marketplace, ministry or in missions. Come and find out more at the Intro Session!

Date: 24 Sep (Mon) **Venue:** ACKCentre
Time: 7.15pm – 9.30pm

Please RSVP before attending this event at the "Covenant EFC" app, or go to <http://www.idmci.edu.sg> More information is also available on this website.

GATHERING OF MULTITUDES (GOM)

Calling all Zone Mentors, CGLs, ACGs and Ministry Leaders! You and your spouse are invited to our annual GOM on **29 Sep, 9am – 4pm (lunch will be provided) at BPJ Centre**. 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!

ALPHA LITE TRAINING

In preparation for Covenant Groups (CGs) to run Alpha Lite in Nov 2018 (a four to seven-week Alpha programme), this training is for all CG members (especially those who will be championing Alpha Lite), and individuals who wish to learn how to run a home Alpha.

Date: 25 Sep OR 2 Oct (Tue) – select either one session **Time:** 7pm – 10pm
Venue: ACKCentre #10-10

Topics: How to host an Alpha, how to facilitate an Alpha small group discussion, and how to be fruitful in reaching out. Register at <http://cefc.ch/alphalitetraining> For enquiries, email alpha@cefc.org.sg

CHURCH STAFF RECRUITMENT

We are looking to fill in positions on the church staff. Please go to <http://www.cefc.org.sg/about-us/recruitment> for more information.

COMMUNITY BLESSINGS

Connect and learn how to make Lu Rou Fan and Yam Cake by bringing a pre-believing friend to our cooking demo and food sampling!

Date: 19 Sep 18 (Wed) **Time:** 7.30pm to 9pm
Venue: WDL Centre foyer **Fee:** \$5 (pay on that day)

To enquire on how to sign up, please send an SMS to Vincent Chia at 9842 8275 by today.

ENCOURAGERS-IN-COVENANT FACILITATORS' WORKSHOP

Learn how to facilitate small groups in a more meaningful and impactful way.

Date: 13 Oct (Sat) **Time:** 8.30am – 4.30pm
Venue: ACKCentre #10-03 **Trainer:** Alice Tok

Slots are limited. To register, email your name and handphone number to encouragersadmin@cefc.org.sg Registration closes on 5 Oct.

WOMEN4WOMEN

"Beautiful in His Eyes" is a discipleship seminar organised by Women-In-Covenant (WiC) Ministry for all the ladies in Covenant. Embark with WiC on a journey to discover your Significance in God in your growth towards becoming *A Certain Kind of Woman!*

Date: 13 Oct (Sat) **Time:** 9am - 1pm
Speaker: Ps Ann Chan
Venue: BPJ Centre, Main Sanctuary

Registration is required. Sign up at <http://cefc.ch/W4W2> by 8 Oct. For enquiries, email wic@cefc.org.sg

PRAYSINGAPORE

When there is human intercession, there is heaven's intervention. **Let's join the Body of Christ for PraySingapore on Sun, 7 Oct, 4pm at the National Stadium.** We believe that in answer to prayer, the harvest will come as the Gospel is preached.

Please note that admission is by tickets only. As tickets have been fully redeemed, please go to the Information Counter to be placed on the waiting list. Children aged three years old and above are required to have tickets.



... 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

BUKIT PANJANG, 16 SEP 2018

SERVICE LEADER: PS YAM KENG MUN • WORSHIP LEADER: BENJAMIN AND SHARON TAN

Step Up Today!

ELDER LIU HOCK CHOY, DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS

Not long ago, I patronised the English section of a bookstore in an Asian city. The bookstore is part of a well-known international chain. Not knowing that bookstores in the chain were independent of each other, I asked the cashier whether I could use the membership card which I obtained in Singapore. After politely explaining that I could not and that a separate card was needed for that city, the cashier then surprised me by thanking me for patronising the store in Singapore! "Wow," I thought. Even though the stores were unrelated, she had an affinity and cared for the Singapore store because they shared the same brand name.

We in Covenant EFC share the same name too, as "child of God" and "Covenanter". Even more, therefore, we should care for one another. There are many ways we can do that, one of which is to serve one another in and through our ministries across the church. You can do that **today**, our third annual Step-Up Sunday! We seek to keep Step-Up Sunday going in order to maintain the momentum and move the church into a regular rhythm wherein everyone knows that once a year, typically two weeks after Anniversary Sunday, we will have an opportunity to review how we have been making use of our Spirit-given gifts to serve the Lord, be made aware of opportunities open for us to serve in, find out more by having face-to-face interactions with Ministry staff and servers (volunteers), and step up to serve. You will find in this week's bulletin (both hardcopy and on the Covenant EFC app) an insert listing 82 roles across 12 ministries for your careful consideration. For each role listed, you can find details of Description, Criteria and Commitment on the Step-Up website (<https://step-up.cefcapps.com>). Only for today, after the first and second services, you can find out more about the ministries and roles you are interested in from the staff and servers themselves at the booths in the foyer. I heartily encourage you to make use of this once-a-year opportunity. Then when you are ready, apply for the specific role(s) at the website, which is handphone-friendly. Ministry personnel will be automatically notified by the system of your application, so that they can follow up with you.

Step Up Today!

Sermon Outline

Standing Firm

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 15:1-35 • SERMON: PAUL SHI

Introduction

The Church always face heresies (vv.1-5)

We Stand Firm because of:

A. The Work of God Which Works in Us and Changes Us (vv.6-12, 22-29)

“But we believe that we will be saved **through the grace of the Lord Jesus.**” (v.11)

B. The Word of God Which Holds on to Us and Convicts Us (vv.13-21, 30-35)

“But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the **word of the Lord.**” (v. 35)

Conclusion

Stand Firm to Pass it On!

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKER:

23 SEP - REV EDMUND CHAN (BPJ, WDL AND EAST)

Last Week's Sermon Summary

Staying True

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 14:1-28 • SERMON: REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI

Introduction

The text refers to the second half of Paul's first missionary journey. Just as he and Barnabas remained faithful to their mission in spite of the troubles they faced, likewise they encouraged the young believers to “to remain true to the faith” (Acts 14:22b). This is an important word for us as we begin our 41st year with God as a church.

A. Staying True Is About God's Glory, Not Ours! (vv.8-18)

“Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you ...” (v.15a)

1. At Lystra, Paul healed a man born lame; the people there wanted to worship him and Barnabas thinking they were their gods who have become men. Both Paul and Barnabas refused to accept such honour and instead directed them to the true and living God.
2. As human beings, we long for validation and honour. So when they are given to us, we may get carried away to think of ourselves as “gods”. We also have the tendency to hero-worship other humans who are gifted in particular ways. In both situations, we must remember that God alone is God, no one else is; we must worship God Himself alone.

B. Staying True Is About the Cross, Not Our Conveniences! (vv.1-7, 19-22)

“We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said.” (14:22b)

1. Barnabas and Paul faced many challenges as they preached the Gospel (e.g. there were opposition, plots, even an actual stoning and being left for dead). Yet despite such challenges, they did not waver and pressed on to preach the Gospel. They were able to do so because their theology was right — “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God” (v.14:22b).
2. Most of us entered the Kingdom because we desire the blessing of God (e.g. the forgiveness of sins, new life, etc.). Yet it is also true that the Kingdom involves hardships, challenges, persecution, or in the words of our Lord, our cross to bear (Lk 9:23). Staying true means we bear the price of following our Lord.

C. Staying True Is About God's Grace, Not Our Works! (vv.23 - 28)

“From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.” (v.14:26)

1. Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch of Syria and gave an account of all that God had done, opening a door of faith to the Gentiles through them. The focus was on God's work; they merely followed God's leading. What God has called us to do, He will provide everything needed to accomplish it — it's called grace.
2. We may look at deferring honour to God and denying ourselves as something hard to follow as a disciple. Actually, it's not hard — it's impossible to do by our own strength. If we could be Christians and live the Christian life by ourselves, God wouldn't have needed to send His Son to die on the Cross for us, nor send His Holy Spirit to live in us. Staying true means living in absolute dependence upon God.

Conclusion

As we stand at the threshold of our 41st year and enter into the new season ahead, may we stay true to the LORD's glory — to carry our cross daily, totally by His grace!