

Announcements

GATHERING OF MULTITUDES (GOM)

Calling all Zone Mentors, CGLs, ACGLs and Ministry Leaders! You and your spouse are invited to our annual GOM, happening **this Sat, 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

BREAKTHROUGH WEEKENDS (BTW)

Early-bird registration for CG members is ongoing until 30 Sep. Register at Voyager. Marriage BTW & Men's BTW on 23 to 25 Nov. Women's BTW on 30 Nov to 2 Dec

NEW LIFE CHARITY RUN

Bless the community by helping raise funds for New Life. Be a Runner, Be a Fundraiser at **CSC Run by the Bay on Sat, 20 Oct, 7.30pm at Gardens by The Bay East for the 6.1km category, Form a team of 3-4 runners and register via tinyurl.com/newliferun2018 before 3 Oct.**

A personalised fundraising page for your team will be created. Raise donations online by sharing your team's fundraising page to your networks. For more info, visit tinyurl.com/newliferunfaq or contact Trevor at 8767 7089 or fundraising@newlife.org.sg.

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.

Silent Retreat

This one-day silent retreat is open to all Covenanters.

Date: 20 Oct (Sat) **Time:** 9am to 4.30pm

Venue: OMF, 2 Cluny Road

To register, email your name and handphone number to encouragersadmin@cefc.org.sg

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

PASTOR'S SABBATICAL

Ps Katherine Chan will be on sabbatical leave from 1 Oct to 16 Dec 2018. She will be going to the field in Indo-China region after her sabbatical.

PRAYSINGAPORE

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, 23 SEP 2018

SERVICE LEADER: PS LEE DA-WIN • WORSHIP LEADER: ALLISON LIM

Key Lessons from Our Church History

PS IVAN HO, PASTORAL STAFF (DISTRICT MENTOR, INTEGRATED EQUIPPING)

Since the end of last year, I had the privilege of working on a project to design and produce our church's 40th anniversary commemorative coffee table book, titled *This Is Us: 40 Years of God's Faithfulness*. The section "Genesis of Covenant Evangelical Free Church" is a record of our church history. Having reflected on our past journey, here are three key lessons I learnt:

God redeems for His salvific purpose. Our founding elders and leaders were in their mid-20s when they started leading the church. They had a mind of their own, with ideals of what church should be and should do. They did not simply give blind submission to those in authority. They were impatient, confident that they had better answers, but God redeemed them for His purpose. Although they were not always right, God saw the hearts of our founding elders and leaders ("... the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.", 1Sam 16:7 ESV), and something in there delighted Him. A genuine love for God. A sincere desire to serve God's salvific purpose. Do we see as God sees? Or do we dismiss the ideas of our young people, downplay their fervency and dampen their enthusiasm to attempt great things for God?

We must not have a settler's mindset. Our founding elders and leaders had a holy

dissatisfaction with the status quo. They were not content to settle in a comfortable place and simply cruise along in respectability. Instead they were prepared to leave their comfort zones and take risks for God. They wanted to plant more churches in order to reach more unbelievers with the Gospel. They were driven by conviction, not directed by convenience. They were not fearful of an unknown future, but were courageous because they knew that the Almighty God was leading them. Are we keeping God's mission in view at all times?

We can fully trust God in the faith ventures He initiates.

When God gives our church leaders promises and leads them to venture forth in faith, we can be certain that God will fulfil His promises in His time. Godly, spiritual leadership makes all the difference for a local church. Both leaders and members must faithfully persevere in the work God has entrusted to them. We must have complete faith in the Lord's steadfast love and faithfulness towards His people. Are you ready to follow as the Lord leads our church into the future?

I encourage you to buy a copy of the commemorative book to read, so that you may be edified and challenged to press on in what God calls us as a church to be and to do. May our covenant-keeping God bless you and make you a blessing to many!

Sermon Outline

THE SURPRISES OF GOD

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 15:36-16:10 • SERMON: REV EDMUND CHAN

Introduction

1. A Lack of Depth Perception

2. God of Surprises! Five Surprises -

Surprise 1.

The Surprise of God's CONCESSION

"And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other ..." (v.15:39)

Surprise 2.

The Surprise of God's CHOICE

"...Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman ... but his father was a Greek." (v.16:1)

Surprise 3.

The Surprise of God's COMMITMENT

"So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily." (v.16:5)

Surprise 4.

The Surprise of God's CONSTRAINTS

"...having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia... they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them." (vv.16:6-7)

Surprise 5.

The Surprise of God's CALLING

"...'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them." (vv.16:9-10)

Conclusion. The Greatest Surprise of All..!!

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKER:

30 SEP - PS EDMUND WONG (BPJ), REV TAN KAY KIONG (WDL) AND REV BARNEY LAU (EAST)

Last Week's Sermon Summary

Standing Firm

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

Introduction

There have been various ecumenical councils over the course of the history of the Church to discuss matters of theology. In today's text in Acts 15, we find one of the first councils that the early Church needed to deal with. The Judaziers said that Gentile Christians must be circumcised in order to be saved, but the other believers said they do not. In Acts 15, how did the early Church approach an issue like this?

A. The Work of God Which Works in Us and Changes Us

In the light of this debate in Acts 15:6-9, Peter makes an important principle. He says that there is no distinction between us (Jews) and them (Gentiles). How Peter arrived at this conclusion is found in Acts 10. When Peter was shown a vision of different kinds of food, some of which were unclean for the Jews, God told him not to call unclean what He has made clean. Peter eats with Cornelius, and whilst preaching to him, his relatives and his friends, the Holy Spirit fell upon the Gentile believers, and the circumcised believers were amazed that the Holy Spirit would also fall upon Gentiles. Therefore, in the light of 'work of God' in the lives of Gentile believers, Peter makes his point that the experience of the Spirit of God means that salvation is not by circumcision.

Following this, Peter makes a critical statement in Acts 15:9-10. He says that we are **cleansed by faith and saved by grace**. God saves Jews and Gentiles alike. If anyone understood grace, it would have been Peter. He had denied Jesus three times, yet when Jesus saw him on the beach, Jesus did not berate, gloat, nor condemn him, but simply asked, 'Peter do you love me?'

Application: We may be able to articulate that we are saved by grace, but if we look beneath the surface, we may still be carrying in our hearts a merit-based faith towards our relationship with God. We think that we can earn God's love and favour, but we are reminded again that we are loved and accepted because of God's grace.

B. The Word of God Which Holds on to Us and Convicts Us

Now James, the half brother of Jesus, speaks up and quotes Amos 9:11-12. This is a critical quotation because it makes the point that in the coming Messianic Kingdom, the coming Messiah will rebuild the temple so all mankind will seek the LORD, and the Gentiles will be called by God's name. This phrase, 'called by God's name' or 'invoke the name of the LORD', is a very significant phrase because it speaks of ownership and possession. The Gentiles are also part of God's covenant! The point with James' quote is that he provides the exegetical foundation for the theological position that Paul, Barnabas, Peter and himself were making.

So often we lean on our feelings, our experience, our logic and popular opinion to shape our values and positions. However, as Christians, we need to sit under the authority of the Word of God. We need to allow the Word of God to have authority over our feelings, thoughts, experiences and popular opinion in shaping us.

Application: Some of us have not touched or opened the Word of God for weeks or months, and today the LORD is calling us to come back to knowing His Word. The Word of God is like a field with gold, silver and precious stones lying beneath the surface. We need to mediate, ruminate, dig deep into the Word of God to discover the precious truths that lie there.

Conclusion

To help us get more out of the Scriptures, writing down our observations, questions, what we have learned about God, and our personal reflections is a helpful way to discover more of the truths in God's Word.