

Announcements

NURTURE MASTERCLASS

This training aims to equip CGs in nurturing seekers and new believers in the foundation of their faith, and for those who are keen to know how to multiply spiritually by helping others become disciples of Jesus. Highly recommended for CGL, ACGL and CG members who share this vision of nurturing seekers and new believers.

WDL Centre 28 Oct, 1-3pm at Joy Room (Level 4)

East Centre 28 Oct, 1-3pm at The Pod 1, Capri Hotel & Suites

BPJ Centre 4 Nov, 1-3pm at Grace Sanctuary

Register at <http://cefc.ch/nurture-masterclass>

DISCOVERY WEEKEND

This is a full-day workshop for courting couples to discover how to build a strong foundation in their relationship based on honest interaction, biblical principles and purity.

Date: 20 Oct (Sat)

Time: 8.30am – 5.30pm

Venue: ACKCentre #10-10

Register at the Information Counter.

For enquiries, email fic@cefc.org.sg

BREAKTHROUGH WEEKENDS (BTW)

Today is the last day of the early-bird registration for CG members. Don't miss it! Register at Voyager.

BPJ SERVICES ON 7 OCT

Due to the involvement of staff in the national-level PraySingapore meeting at the Sports Hub, **there will only be two services (8.30am and 10.30am) at BPJ Centre next Sun, 7 Oct.**

OCT 2018 DJ COLLECTION

The Devotional Journal (DJ) for Oct 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.

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

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 arrive earlier for security checks and be seated by 3.30pm. Participants are encouraged to take public transport. For those travelling by MRT, the stadium is accessible via Stadium MRT exit A. Please note that admission is by tickets only, including children aged 3 and above. Enquiries can be made at the Information Counter.



... 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

EAST, 30 SEP 2018

SERVICE LEADER: BENJAMIN SUN • WORSHIP LEADER: SIMON AND LILLIAN SEOW

Responding to 377A

REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI, DIRECTOR (INTEGRATED EQUIPPING)
REV TAN KAY KIONG AND REV TONY YEO, SENIOR PASTORS

The past couple of weeks has seen much debate over the 377A. It is not possible to fully address the many nuances to this delicate matter here. Rather, this is for Covenanters to hear our heart as to why, on this particular occasion, we have given a stronger call to respond in voicing our concerns as citizens. Firstly, although we did not know the scope of review, there was awareness that a major review of the Penal Code was ongoing. Secondly, we had three prominent members of society who made their personal views about repealing this law publicly known. Lastly, the Law minister stating that, on this matter, society would have to decide. It is rare for Covenant EFC to do so, but with the confluence of such signals in the public sphere, we felt led to lead you to respond lest our silence be misread as assent. As part of society, we have a responsibility to voice our concerns and we should do so clearly but respectfully and with God's love.

We understand that some of us feel conflicted. Firstly, you recognise that the law in itself criminalizes private acts and as the government has mentioned, will not be enforced. We agree. Archbishop William of the Catholic Church in Singapore puts it well: *"Indeed, I would not object to a repeal of S377A if it were merely aimed at removing all potential criminal penalties against homosexuals. However, until and unless Parliament puts in place a formulation that more perfectly encapsulates the spirit of the law, guaranteeing the protection of the rights of the majority who favour*

the traditional family, and that no further demands be made to legalise same-sex unions, adoption of babies by same sex couples, surrogacy, or to criminalise those who do not support the homosexual lifestyle, I am of the view that S377A should not be repealed under the present circumstances..." (emphasis ours)

We believe God has called the Church towards the flourishing of human culture and society as best as we can while we await our eternal home. And we believe that this flourishing best happens in a society where covenantal marriage is between a man and a woman. Secondly, we understand that there may be differences in perspectives as how to approach this issue. Therefore, how should you respond as a member of Covenant if you feel differently from how your leaders are leading you? As we have done in the past, we encourage everyone to seek the Lord and to respond as best as our conscience directs us before the LORD because we are all ultimately accountable to God for our decisions. We are thankful for how Covenanters have always engaged in constructive dialogue with leaders even when opinion differs. Through this, we are not saying we are better than anyone else. Indeed we acknowledge that Covenant EFC is not what she should be and as leaders, we have often led you in repentance first over *our own* sin and failures. That has been our consistent posture. This thus again highlights our own need for repentance – foremost for our own inadequacies and moral failures and to ask God to change us, mature us. We, in Covenant EFC, need true revival! Let us pray and live in that direction.

Sermon Outline

More Surprises

SCRIPTURE: ACTS: 16:11-40 • SERMON: REV BARNEY LAU

Introduction

A. Unlikely Converts in Unlikely Places

B. Unbelievable Witness in Unbelievable Circumstances

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

7 OCT - REV TONY YEO (BPJ), PS SHARON FONG (WDL) AND BENJAMIN SUN (EAST)

Last Week's Sermon Summary

THE SURPRISES OF GOD

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

Introduction

1. I often help Ann up and down the stairs because of her eyesight's lack of depth perception.
2. Depth perception. In biblical narratives, we must see the theological canvas that reveals God to us!
3. God of Surprises! Five Surprises -

Surprise 1. The Surprise of God's CONCESSION

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

1. Paul and Barnabas had a "sharp disagreement" over an HR matter!
2. We often wish for a God to solve our problems, including our disagreements. But God often allows disagreements to shape us!
3. Illustr. Ps KK's first Elders' Meeting. Disagreement is not always bad (provided we don't take it personally!)

Surprise 2. The Surprise of God's CHOICE

Acts 16:1 "...Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek."

1. God is often not politically correct!
2. Don't underestimate the choice of God.
3. Illustr. God's choice of the head of a Christian organisation.

Surprise 3. The Surprise of God's COMMITMENT

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

1. We often think God rewards by merit but His is a commitment of Grace!
2. Illustr. Story of Dunkirk!
3. God answers prayer to bless us!

Surprise 4. The Surprise of God's CONSTRAINTS

Acts 16:6-7 "... 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."

1. God knows what He's doing!
2. Illustr. Rejecting an offer to study theology overseas just because God said NO - it was a blessing to obey God!
3. God is BIG enough, GOOD enough and WISE enough!

Surprise 5. The Surprise of God's CALLING

Acts 16:9-10. "And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us ..."

1. God often initiates without Committee and Consensus! He calls leaders to lead.
2. When God calls you – don't fear!

Conclusion.

The Greatest Surprise of All! The Gospel rooted in THE RISEN LORD!!
[Video Clip. Joey Carlos sharing CHRIST!]