

# Covenant Community Baptist Church

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## Be and Bring a Friend to Jesus: Building and Bringing

**Nehemiah 4:6:** So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.



Relating to the theme of building and bridging, the logo shows a structure of bricks representing the church while each individual brick represents members of the church. The various colours of each brick suggest the differences of each individual, and through sharing their common identity in Christ, they come together to form support for each other. The brick formation expands by reaching out to the 'lost' bricks beyond the community. These 'lost' bricks have a void which only Christ can fill.

**January 2012**

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*WELCOME brothers and sisters from Redeemer Baptist Church, and friends to our 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!*

*THANK YOU for hosting us at the recent Combined Christmas Celebration. You've been a blessing to us all!*

### **BUILDING & BRINGING**

The theme for 2012 will remain as "Be and Bring a Friend to Jesus". The Leaders' Planning Retreat (Nov 2011) identified two major weaknesses: Passionate Spirituality, and Relational Outreach. Hence our strategy tagline: "Building and Bringing."

Toward this focus on "Building and Bringing", two members of the Board of Deacons share about their respective ministries. Syl Via Yap highlights the purposes of the C&S ministry and encourages active participation.

David Chan writes about what the Lent season and encourages the congregation to desire a deeper walk with God through prayer and communion with the Lord.

**The Care & Share (C&S) Ministry:** Three C&S groups will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday evening of every month – the Men's and Women's Groups will meet in CCBC, the Young Adult Group will meet in Tiong Bahru (Ivan and Soo Ting's home).

Moving forward, the C&S groups endeavour to work on two of 10 Core Values of CCBC:

1. Passionate Spirituality: Providing context for spiritual growth and equipping members for ministries to pre-believers.
2. Intentional Outreach: Organizing regular friendship building activities for outreach to pre-believers.

Challenges to Christ-like living in Singapore's context facing men, women and young adults will be topics for discussion when C&S groups meet.

Outreach activities for families, singles, couples, the young and young-at-heart will be organized regularly as opportunities for friendship building with pre-believers. **COME, JOIN US** for mutual encouragement and reaching out to share Christ's love with family, friends, and those we care about.

**Prayer Ministry:** My sincere prayer is that many of us will experience breakthroughs in our personal relationship with Jesus in 2012. As the leaders spent the remaining months of 2011 praying and planning for the year ahead, we identified that spiritual formation remains one of the key areas which our church community needs to cultivate. Hence, in 2012, we will once again, as a church, observe the Lent season. Many of us who were around would remember that we had in the past observed this very important season in the Christian calendar; many of you, in your feedback had expressed how you had been blessed as you walked with Jesus during Lent leading up to Good Friday and Easter.

The observance of Lent by Christians goes back hundreds of years. And today, Lent is marked primarily by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. This season is really a call to us to examine our own lives. The focus of prayer is on personal repentance for failures and sin, and one's need for God's grace. It is also a preparation to celebrate God's marvelous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live as Christians.

There is nothing magical about observing Lent. But it is through setting aside periods for prayer and reflection that we open ourselves up to the Holy Spirit, and we respond afresh to God's presence in our lives. In spending time with God in our own quiet moments, we place our needs, fears, failures, hopes, and our very lives in God's hands once again. And when the season culminates in Easter, we come with a fresh understanding of His victory that is won for us on the Cross, and embrace a hope that goes beyond the grave for eternity.

At CCBC, we will be observing Lent in two expressions. First, a devotional compiled by Bible Society will be distributed to each one of you by the middle of February. I want to encourage you to use the devotional each day: the Bible passages for reflection, devotional articles and suggested prayers all seek to help us draw us to God. Second, there will be a Good Friday service, where I pray the church will come together as a Body of Christ to commemorate together the love, suffering and death of our beloved Lord Jesus.

Do you yearn for a closer walk with Jesus? If so, then I ask you to make this commitment to spend time with Jesus, especially during Lent. Let's draw near to Him as one church, one people, and draw deep from the One whom we call Saviour and Lord—Jesus Christ—the Son of the Living God!

**CCBC Pulpit 2012-13:** In 2011, we began our study in the Gospel of Matthew beginning with the Kingdom Parables (ch 13), and have just concluded the Sermon on the Mount (chs 5-7). Three major teachings (chs 9-10, 18, 24-25), and the Passion (26) will conclude our study by the end of March. We bring you two new sermon series btw April 2012-Mar 2013: *1 Timothy—A Memo to the Minister and the Church*; and the *Ascent Psalms—When Faith Journeys with Fear, Failure, Frustrations in Life*. Lay preachers will continue to augment the pulpit. We are thankful to each of them who continue to seek God's face for a Word in season to build up the body of Christ. Guest speakers will focus on evangelism, community services, market place, and missions.

Expository preaching is a key Core Value of CCBC and the pulpit and weekly worship seek to edify and build up the body of Christ toward spiritual maturity and reaching others for Christ.

Jan 01	<b>Matt 7:13-27 Choices We Make</b>	Dr Gary Choong
Jan 08	<b>17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration</b>	CCBC Leaders
Jan 15	Community Service	Ps Dennis Yew (Calvary BC)
Jan 22	Spiritual Multiplication	Mr L. Soegiharto (EEMS)
Jan 29	Foreign Missions	Mr Alan Phua (SBConvention)
Feb 05	<b>Matt 9:35-10:42 The Mission Directed Disciples</b>	Dr Gary Choong
Feb 12	Relief & Community Development	Mr Francis Horton III (BGRI)
Feb 19	To be advised	Rev Jerry Ong (Redeemer BC)
Feb 26	To be advised	Dns Cheok Shu Shyan

## **BILATERAL EVENTS: Redeemer BC**

### **CCBC 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 8 January 2012**

We welcome and thank Redeemer B C for celebrating with us today!

### **Evangelistic Easter Sunday/Baptism**

We will be participating in RBC's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on Easter Sunday, Apr 8, 2012.

We have received four requests for baptism.

### **Church Retreat 2012: Plan to Participate!**

Date: 7-10 Jun 2012

Venue: Pulau Spring Resort, Johor

*May 2012 bring a New Year of deeper faith-walk with God for all longing for His Grace and Truth.*