



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Order of Worship — 15 March 2015

**Theme for the Year: "Out of Myself and into the Savior" (Ezekiel 14:4-6)**

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	37 - <i>How Great Thou Art</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 102
Hymn	Insert - <i>Let This Be Written</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Mathew 8:14-17, 9:1-13
Hymn	175 - <i>Standing On The Promises</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Jesus, a Healer of Souls"
*Closing Hymn	201 - <i>He Is Able to Deliver Thee</i>
*Benediction & † <i>Threefold Amen</i>	
Silent Prayer & Postlude	<i>The Lord Bless You and Keep You</i>
Announcements	† <i>Inside cover of hymnal</i>

\**Congregation standing*

Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church meets every Sunday at 3:00 pm  
at 47 Davis Road, Attadale, Western Australia  
Website: [www.covenantbpc.org.au](http://www.covenantbpc.org.au)  
Email: [pastor@covenantbpc.org.au](mailto:pastor@covenantbpc.org.au)

## To Our Dear Covenant Church Family

We praise and thank God for answering prayer. In His perfect time and will, He has answered our prayers for Jon, for a job in his chosen profession.

It is with a City Council in Sydney starting 23 March. Truly, "Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom" (Psalm 145:3).

This is our testimony of praise. God has provided and taught us during this long, agonizing wait. Here are some lessons Jon & Esther have learned through this period.

*When God seemed "silent"...*

Jon has been out a job in his chosen profession for more than a year. The wait was dreadfully exhausting. Jon has had 14 job interviews, but no offers. We asked why God was silent. "Didn't we pray? Didn't we commit our plans to God? Weren't we faithful in service? Why God?" were some questions we kept asking. But God was at work - He was guiding us in ways we didn't desire or expect, in our individual lives and marriage.

*His working hands on our individual lives*

Through this period, God has moulded our lives, in addressing our weaknesses.

Jon would never have considered working odd jobs (stacking shelves at supermarket, data-entry, etc). All these jobs seemed degrading until unemployment hit. And so, to keep the family going, Jon had no choice but to work in areas he never wanted. While the pay was much lower, he learned patience, long-suffering, and humility - lessons God wanted him to learn.

God also moulded our spiritual lives; we prayed and searched the scriptures more fervently. When it seemed that God was silent, He was forcing us to learn submission and reliance. We learned that solutions do not come on our terms. Whether it was physical, emotional, or

spiritual fulfillment we were seeking, God had his ways of preparing us so that when He blessed, we would be ready to receive (Jeremiah 29:11-14).

*His working hands on our marriage*

When God brought us together, God impressed on us these important foundations - Christ above all our personal desires, faithfulness in serving God and others, and placing each other higher than ourselves.

Through this time, these foundations were seriously put into the "furnace". Feelings of unhappiness, worry and frustration overwhelmed us. At times, it was hard to bear each other's burdens and serve one another; we felt no joy and strength in serving and worshiping God; we questioned if God cared about our marriage. The initial stages of the long dry season were the hardest to bear. Disagreements increased and mutual submission decreased. Even the kindest words exchanged were misread and misunderstood as intolerance.

However, God used the year to mature our marriage - forcing us to look to Him. We have realized the need to keep God's Character first and central in our family affairs. The wedding vows we uttered "For better or for worse, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer..." came to life. When we could no longer bear each other's burdens and advice seemed to fall on deaf ears, we simply prayed. When we lacked financially, we focused on God's love. When we thought that no one understood our situation, we purposed not to blame. When we could endure, we surrendered each other to God. Leaning on each other's strengths and forgiving each other's weaknesses were a necessary lesson God wanted us to learn for the future (Psalm 18:31).

*When God "finally spoke"...*

When God finally spoke, we were caught by surprise. In fact, Jon didn't expect that call from Sydney; it seemed so far

fetched. God knew exactly when, as well as, how to provide. It was a reminder - "Do not worry, God is always on time - Trust Him!"

Jon's heart was initially filled with much unrest. "Is it God's will to move to Sydney? To leave Perth and our dearest Covenant Church family? What about our ministries?" As he sorted out his noisy soul, he searched the scriptures, prayed, and sought Christian counsel. We knew it was God's will also because of Esther's commitment and willingness to follow Jon. Furthermore, the hiring manager acceded to certain of Jon's requests - one of which was to return in April to attend the conferences.

What have we learned? To appreciate the simple of things (relationships, basic food, shelter), to know that true joy is not in circumstances but in Christ, to know that God has His own timing and plan, and to surrender and live in faith.

Dear Covenanters, we will surely miss you. We will miss the young people, the

children, the mens' and ladies' groups and above all, your warmth and love. Please pray for us as we do not know what the future will hold. And know that you will remain to be in our daily prayers. Soli Deo Gloria! ~ Jon & Esther Ong

*Thank You Lord,  
For the trials that come my way  
In that way I can grow each day,  
As I let You lead  
And I thank You Lord,  
For the patience those trials bring  
In that process of growing, I can learn to care*

*But it goes against the way I am,  
To put my human nature down  
And let the Spirit take control of all I do,  
'Cause when those trials come  
My human nature shouts the things to do,  
And God's soft prompting...  
Can be easily ignored.  
~ Dan Burgess*



### **Westminster Confession of Faith XXIII - Of the Civil Magistrate**

3. Civil magistrates may not assume to themselves the administration of the Word and sacraments;<sup>1</sup> or the power of the keys of the kingdom of heaven;<sup>2</sup> or, in the least, interfere in matters of faith.<sup>3</sup> Yet, as nursing fathers, it is the duty of civil magistrates to protect the Church of our common Lord, without giving the preference to any denomination of Christians above the rest, in such a manner that all ecclesiastical persons whatever shall enjoy the full, free, and unquestioned liberty of discharging every part of their sacred functions, without violence or danger.<sup>4</sup> And, as Jesus Christ hath appointed a regular government and discipline in his Church, no law of any commonwealth should interfere with, let, or hinder, the due exercise thereof, among the voluntary members of any denomination of Christians, according to their own profession and belief.<sup>5</sup> It is the duty of civil magistrates to protect the person and good name of all their people, in such an effectual manner as that no person be suffered, either upon pretence of religion or of infidelity, to offer any indignity, violence, abuse, or injury to any other person whatsoever: and to take order, that all religious and ecclesiastical assemblies be held without molestation or disturbance.<sup>6</sup>

1. 2 Chronicles 26:18.

2. Matthew 18:17; 16:19; 1 Corinthians 12:28-29; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; Romans 10:15; Hebrews 5:4

3. John 18:36; Malachi 2:7; Acts 5:29.

4. Isaiah 49:23.

5. Psalm 105:15; Acts 18:14-15.

6. 2 Samuel 23:3; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Romans 13:4.

## Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (15.3.15)</i>	<i>Next Week (22.3.15)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	SK Loh	Raymond Woo
Pianist	Evelyn Lee	Jabez Huang
Welcomers	Jacob & Marilyn Woo	Micah & Hannah Chiang
Offering Stewards	LH Chua, David Pang	Rex Sriharan, Micah Chiang
Usher	Merilyn Woo	Hannah Chiang
Kitchen Duties	Sandy Chua*, Nget Chu Pang Eva Chiu	Carmel Sriharan*, Mary Loh Chris Budiman
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>18 March 2015</i>	<i>25 March 2015</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Chairperson	Jacob Woo	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Merilyn Woo	Ian Tay

### Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshipers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. Next week's message: "Jesus, The Mediator of Life" (John 14:1-6).
3. Church Anniversary Dinner. Venue: North Lake BBQ Restaurant (406 North Lake Road, Bibra Lake) Date: Sunday, 12 April 2015. Time: 7 pm. Subsidised cost: \$20/adult, \$15/child (4-12 years). Please register with Raymond and Peggy Woo.
4. Shepherding a Child's Heart Parenting Conference. Speaker: Dr Tedd Tripp. Dates: Monday, 13 - Wednesday, 15 April 2015. Time: 7:30 - 9:30 pm. Venue: Westminster Presbyterian Church (Bull Creek). Please register at [www.covenantbpc.org.au/shepherding](http://www.covenantbpc.org.au/shepherding). Like and share it at [www.facebook.com/shepherding.perth](http://www.facebook.com/shepherding.perth). Additional flyers are available at the foyer.
5. Volunteers Needed! Kitchen helpers and creche helpers for the Shepherding a Child's Heart Parenting Conference. Please indicate your availability to Terence Lee.
6. Notice: Extraordinary Congregational Meeting. Sunday, 29 March 2015, 4:30 pm. Members are expected to attend this important meeting. Please collect the ECM papers from Terence Lee.

### Appointments for the Week

WED	7:45 pm	Prayer Meeting - Psalm 103
FRI	7:45 pm	JF and Parents' Group
SAT	4:30 pm	YPG
SUN	2:00 pm	Adult Bible Class
	3:00 pm	Worship & Sunday School

### Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

*General Fund* - \$3,118.00. *Missions Fund* - \$350.00. *Building Fund* - \$1,000.00 (#202 - \$1,000.00). *Total Tithes & Offering* - \$4,468.00. *Attendance* - 135.

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.

Deacons: **Ken Chong** 0402 553 313. **LH Chua** 0435 601 373. **Terence Lee** 0418 845 617. **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. **SK Loh** 9386 1660.