



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Order of Worship — 24 May 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	489 - <i>Glory to His Name</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 110
Hymn	TP 110
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Hebrews 3:1-6
Hymn	325 - <i>More Like the Master</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Hold Fast Unto the End"
*Closing Hymn	405 - <i>My Soul, Be on Thy Guard</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)

## The Expected Fund-Raising Article

Fund-raising letters and articles can often appear gimmicky and manipulative, but at a time when the church needs money for the building fund, such an article is expected and appropriate.

I won't be writing to convince you of the rationale for giving. This we all know - to buy over the church properties so that we can own a place of worship and its nearby manse for the minister to reside.

Rather, I will restrict the content of this article to the foundation of our giving, the motivation of our giving, and the result of giving to please God.

### *The Foundation of Our Giving*

In Exodus 25:1-2,8, God told Moses to receive offerings for the building of the Tabernacle - *"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering...And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them."*

The first thing we gather from this is that God spoke. He was the one that initiated the building project. Moses heard from God and obeyed what he heard.

This wasn't a vision that Moses was working to fulfill. It wasn't his vision or the vision of Israel.

God directed that a sanctuary be constructed for him. God directed Moses to receive offerings for this building project.

Within the context of our church, we believe that this fund raising project to buy over the properties is of God.

The meeting between Attadale Baptist Church and Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church was characterized by brotherliness, honesty, and equity. No one tried to undercut the other and gain the advantage. They understood our needs and we understood theirs. We would need a place to worship and many of them would need pastoral care and fellowship.

This is the direction of the session, but not ours alone; this fund-raising was also agreed upon by the members of the church. Surely, this gives us some indication of how God is leading.

So therefore we believe that this fund-raising project is founded in God.

### *The Motivation of Our Giving*

God told Moses to receive only the offerings from those who gave willingly from their heart. This meant that there were some who chose not to give.

The word "willingly" in Hebrew, means to "volunteer, to be self-willing, to present spontaneously."

There was no gimmick and no bullying to give; there was no promise of personal benefit for their giving. Their giving came right out of their own hearts' desire.

God told Moses - *"Let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them."* The people gave because they wanted God to dwell among them. That was the motivation.

However, our motivation to give is not to have God dwell with us - he already does! Whether we have to rent or move, God is still with us.

As God's people, we don't give to a fund-raising project because of a promise of personal return. We give to God, for the extension of His kingdom.

The point here is that the people gave to please God. That should be the motivation of our giving as well. No one should give out of constraint or shame.

### *The Result of Giving to Please God*

Look at what happened! They ended up with too much! Exodus 36:5-7 says, *"And they spake unto Moses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the LORD commanded to make. And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing. For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much."*

The people brought so much that it was more than enough. Moses had to tell them to stop giving.

The people actually had to be restrained from giving. They had sufficient materials, in fact, it was too much!

Why did they give so much? There are several reasons from the text. Firstly, they heeded the commandment to build. They were convinced that it was God's will. Secondly, they gave to please

God. Thirdly, they understood that their possessions needed to be released for such a work.

### *How Much Shall We Give?*

In one sense, we are to give everything to God (Matthew 12:15,33). We are to love God more than our material possessions (Matthew 6:24). We are merely stewards of our possessions. We may possess things but we are not to be possessive (1 Corinthians 7:30).

The early Christians didn't claim to own anything as their own (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-35; 12:12), but neither did they sell everything they possessed. From time to time, they would sell what they had to meet the needs of the church.

But it is clear that people should only give what they have to give (2 Corinthians 8:12), and this according to their ability and according to what they have purposed to give (2 Corinthians 8:3, 10-14).

This has to be between you and God. You need to believe that this is God's direction in leading the church to this decision. You need to give willingly. You need to give generously.

May the Lord help us to determine what we should give to the Lord for this fundraising project. ~ Pastor



## **Westminster Confession of Faith XXVIII - Of Baptism**

2. The outward element to be used in this sacrament is water, wherewith the party is to be baptized, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, by a minister of the Gospel, lawfully called thereunto.<sup>1</sup>
3. Dipping of the person into the water is not necessary; but Baptism is rightly administered by pouring, or sprinkling water upon the person.<sup>2</sup>
4. Not only those that do actually profess faith in and obedience unto Christ,<sup>3</sup> but also the infants of one, or both, believing parents, are to be baptized.<sup>4</sup>

1. Matthew 3:11; John 1:33; Matthew 28:19-20.

2. Hebrews 9:10, 19-22; Acts 2:41; 16:33; Mark 7:4.

3. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:37-38.

4. Genesis 17:7, 9; Galatians 3:9, 14; Colossians 2:11-12; Acts 2:38-39; Romans 4:11-12; 1 Corinthians 7:14; Matthew 28:19; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15.

# Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (24.5.15)</i>	<i>Next Week (31.5.15)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jimmy Orchard	Jabez Huang
Pianist	Edward Lim	Valerie Ong
Welcomers	Kim & Jesslyn Leow	Jacob & Marilyn Woo
Offering Stewards	Ken Hong, Rex Sriharan	LH Chua, Jacob Woo
Usher	August Ng	Jerome Ng
Kitchen Duties	Florence Orchard*, Jesslyn Leow, Carmel Sriharan	Helen Wong*, Adeline Ng, Chris Budiman
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>27 May 2015</i>	<i>3 June 2015</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Chairperson	LH Chua	Ken Chong
Pianist	Wendy Gong	Nancy Lim

## 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: "It is Dangerous for You Not to Believe" (Hebrews 3:6-19).
3. Please submit your pledges to the building fund in the offering bag in the coming weeks. Deadline - 7 June 2015.
4. Catechism class for baptism, reaffirmation of faith, and transfer of membership commences on 7 June 2015. Please indicate your attendance to Jimmy Orchard.
5. A total of \$3,850.00 will be sent to aid the earthquake victims of the Free Presbyterian Mission in Nepal. Thank you for loving our needy brethren.
6. From 10 July 2015, Prayer Meeting will shift to Fridays at 7:45 pm.
7. "Evolution's Achilles' Heels" DVD will be screened on Friday, 29 May 2015, at 7:45 pm. 15 PhD scientists explain evolution's fatal flaws - in areas claimed to be its greatest strengths. Please invite your friends.

### Appointments for the Week

TUE	10:30 pm	Retirees' Bible Study
WED	7:45 pm	Prayer Meeting - Psalm 111
FRI	7:45 pm	"Evolution's Achilles' Heel"
SAT	6:00 pm	Care Group (Jimmy's)
SUN	2:00 pm	Adult Bible Class
	3:00 pm	Worship & Sunday School

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

*General Fund - \$3,768.91. Missions Fund - \$370.00. Building Fund - \$10,300.00 (#222 - \$10,000.00, #223 - \$100.00, #224 - \$200.00). Nepal Free Presbyterian Mission - \$1,850.00 (#472 - \$1,000.00, #473 - \$200.00, #474 - \$50.00, #475 - \$500.00, #476 - \$100.00) Total Tithes & Offering - \$16,288.91. Attendance - 137.*

### Building Fund to Date

Total Building Fund	\$96,515.68	Total Pledges	\$217,965.00
<i>Last Week's Gifts</i>	\$10,300.00	<i>Interest Free Loans</i>	\$30,000
<i>Last Week's Fund</i>	\$86,215.68	<i>On-going Gifts</i>	\$7,965.00
<i>Starting Fund</i>	\$54,185.68	<i>One Time Gifts</i>	\$180,000.00
Building Fund Account:	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church (Westpac Bank, Applecross)		
	BSB: 036-031	Acct: 316969	SWIFT: WPCAUS2S

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.