

COMING UP AT ISLAND ECC

TODAY Prayer After Service

Feel free to pray with our intercessors who will be available after the service on 1/F and 2/F.

JAN 6 & 13 Membership Class

Find out how you can BELONG to Island ECC by joining us for the Membership Class. It will run for 2 Sundays (January 6 & 13) at 11.30am on the 8/F. Registration is required. Please visit www.islandecc.hk/connect-grow/membership/ for detail and registration.

JAN 11 & 18 Marriage Course - Part 2

Join other couples on one or both Friday nights, 7.30pm - 9.30pm, for dinner at a private table, then view an engaging video with easy-to-follow workbook exercises. It makes for a great Date Night! Topics: January 11 - "Parents and In-laws"; January 18 - "Good Sex". Recommended cost is \$200 per couple. Visit www.islandecc.hk/spring-classes/ to register.

JAN 12 Alpha Reunion

Calling all Island ECC Alpha Alumni! You are invited to the first Alpha Alumni Reunion at Island ECC. Come join us for a night of fun, good food, fellowship, testimony and vision sharing. Bring a friend! 7pm on 2/F. RSVP at www.facebook.com/alphaecc/events or send an email to alpha@islandecc.hk.

JAN 13 2:7 Discipleship Course

This course has a long history of helping Christians strengthen their walk with God to be rooted in Him and overflowing with thankfulness. The course teaches Bible study skills, Scripture memory techniques and other skill-based topics. Join us for this life transformational journey starting on January 13. Visit www.islandecc.hk/27/ for detail and registration.

JAN 20 Baptism Class

Our next baptism will be held on 14 April, 2013. If you would like to participate in this ceremony, please plan to attend the 3-week baptism class starting on Sunday, January 20, at 11.30am on the 8/F. Registration is required, please visit www.islandecc.hk/connect-grow/baptism/ for detail and registration.

JAN 20 Biblical Finance: Managing Money God's Way

Have you ever asked: What is the safest and best place to invest money? How do I stop worrying about money? Come learn how to experience more contentment and joy in making an eternal difference with possessions. Taught by Ramon Maronilla and Jeff Ryan, this 10 week course starts January 20, 9.30am, 8/F. Sign up at www.islandecc.hk/spring-classes/.

JAN 25-26 GO Conference "First Things First"

Priorities. To Do Lists. The Great Commission. The Great Commandment. We know that God is a God of mission, but is mission what matters most to Him? Join our Global Outreach conference with Steven C. Hawthorne. Tickets are available at 1/F Connect Counter today. Enjoy early bird discount before January 7.

Christmas Love Offering

As of last Sunday, the Christmas Love Offering was HK\$2.7 million! Thank you, church, for this expression of your commitment, sacrifice and love. The theme for this year's Christmas Love Offering is Children and Youth. Your generosity will greatly bless young people here and around the world!



WATCH FOR... ON THE CITY

Events - GO Conference detail and link.

Children's Ministries - Opportunity for parents to chat with and get to know other parents within their children's groups.

Prayer devotionals from the elders on our 7 core values starting this week.

NEW TO ISLAND ECC?

1 MEET US AT THE CONNECT COUNTER ON 1/F

We are so glad that you're here today and would love to get to know you! The Connect Counter is located on the 1F and volunteers are there to answer any questions you might have about Island ECC and its different ministries and events.

2 JOIN THE CITY

The City is the online connection point for Island ECC. It's limited to the people who attend our church and over 1,000 people are already using this fantastic tool. By creating an account and logging in, you'll have access to weekly devotionals, updates on events, the chance to connect with others and more!

3 CHECK OUR WEBSITE

By visiting www.islandecc.hk, you'll have access to information about all our ministries, as well as a broad spectrum of resources - including video podcasts of sermons.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

HE LOVES God loves you because he chooses to. "God wasn't attracted to you and didn't choose you because you were big and important... He did it out of sheer love..." (Deut. 7:7-8). He loves you so much that...

HE GAVE He gave Jesus, His one and only Son. While we do wrong things daily, Jesus is sinless. Though sinless, Jesus took our sin. He died on the cross in our place. Our response to this great gift is simple...

WE BELIEVE We trust Jesus to do what we can't. We don't trust our own efforts to save us. We can't save ourselves. We don't place our trust in other people to save us. We believe in Him.

WE LIVE God gives us brand-new life. We have joy because of his Spirit living within us. Little by little his Spirit changes us to be more like Jesus. No guilt in life, no fear of death, He gives life, now ... and for eternity.

You can tell God you accept Him now.
"Father, I believe you love me. You gave your one and only Son so I can live forever with you. Apart from you, I die. With you, I live. I choose life. I choose you."

photos: Elderly Outing at Lai Chi Kok Park



January 6, 2013

Jehovah Shalom

¹ The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. ² Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds.

⁶ Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the Lord for help. ⁷ When the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of Midian, ⁸ he sent them a prophet, who said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ⁹ I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. ¹⁰ I said to you, 'I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.' But you have not listened to me."

¹¹ The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. ¹² When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior."

Confusion because of _____

¹³ "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian." ¹⁴ The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"

Confusion because of lack of _____

¹⁵ "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." ¹⁶ The Lord answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive."

Confusion because of lack of _____

¹⁷ Gideon replied, "If now I have found favour in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me." ¹⁸ Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you." And the Lord said, "I will wait until you return."

²² When Gideon realised that it was the angel of the Lord, he exclaimed, "Alas, Sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!" ²³ But the Lord said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die." ²⁴ So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it **The Lord Is Peace**.

Judges 6:1-2,6-18,22-24