



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Why We Celebrate Hope

SPEAKER Elder DSP Edric Sng

THEME Pray, Engage, Gather

DATE 30 & 31 March 2019

MESSAGE SUMMARY

The Celebration of Hope

In light of the upcoming Celebration of Hope, Elder DSP Edric shares a sermon on the meaning of hope in the Christian context.

As Christians, hope is something we can look forward to with certainty. The reason we have hope is because we have Jesus Christ. Hope, in the lens of a Christian carries the meaning of rejoicing in the eternal life. In the sharing of baby Elkan's story, his 6 precious hours on Earth was a testimony of hope; that God's hand allowed him to be delivered into this world. Baby Elkan reminded the many hearts he touched about the hope of the eternal life beyond the life on earth.

This hope is something that many of our pre-believing friends and family have yet to hear about. Hence, the Celebration of Hope is a timely event to evangelise to our loved ones.

Why the Celebration of Hope?

Anchoring on the scripture from Romans 10:9-15, Elder DSP breaks down the passage and shared 5 pointers about what our Hope is and what we should do about it.

Crux: Jesus is Lord

In Romans 10 (verse 9), it is written that if we declare the Jesus is Lord and that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved. This verse gives us the hope (with certainty) of our salvation and this is a hope that we ought to share with our pre-believing friends and family around us.

Confessions: If we believe Jesus is Lord, we are saved and blessed

However, this hope is conditional. It comes with the conditions of believing in this scripture. If we do not confess our belief in Jesus as Lord, we do not have the hope of salvation and eternal life. Many pre-believers have yet to confess this, thus they do not have the hope of eternal life.

Commission: Those who believe are sent to preach the Gospel

How then can pre-believers believe and confess, if they have not heard? How can they have a chance to hear about God if no one around them talked to them about it? As Christians, we are commissioned to share about Jesus Christ to people around us (Matthew 28).

Confidence: Those sent to preach the Gospel are beautiful in His sight

Accompanied with the commitment to this commission is the confidence that God is with us as we share the Gospel. He goes before us and is with us as we share this Hope to other pre-believers.

Challenge: If Jesus is your Lord, will you preach the Gospel?

The final question is whether we will preach the Gospel. Faith must be followed by outward actions to reach out to pre-believers. Not everybody was part of the 1978 revival in Singapore, led by Billy Graham. But today, we are part of this generation's revival and we all have a part to play.

What is the Celebration of Hope?

In the words of the Chairman COH: The Celebration of Hope is about Christians in Singapore rallying together and reaching out to share Jesus Christ with friends and relatives. It is a personal evangelism on a mass scale. The message we are proclaiming is that Jesus Christ is the one name in which everyone can have solid hope!

The Celebration of Hope is made up of many different segments catered to many different groups of people. Choose the one that would be most relevant to your friends and family!

What is your part in the Celebration of Hope?

We have 3 parts to play in the Celebration of Hope. We are to Pray, to Engage, and to Gather.

PRAY

Firstly, we are to pray strategically on a daily basis for our oikos. The Andrew Initiative prayer postcard should be placed strategically in our daily lives to remind us to pray e.g. mirror or car dashboard. Pray also for the COH event itself. Individually, as a family, as a Cell. Congregationally, BBTC has already been holding monthly prayer meetings to soak COH in prayer. Pray with BBTC.

ENGAGE

Secondly, we can engage our oikos through relationship evangelism and harnessing technology. Relationship evangelism involves blessing others, building relationships and bearing burdens. To break the barriers our oikos may have towards the event, postcards, digital platforms and videos have been created to make the topic easier to approach. Follow @celebrationofhope.sg (in Facebook, Instagram, and Youtube) and leverage on the resources provided!

GATHER

Lastly, we should gather our oikos and encourage them to join the Celebration of Hope. Tickets are free and can be reserved either through the COH app, or through onelink.to/coh2019. Come mid-April, there will be a call to confirm our ticket reservations so that the organisers can have a better sense of the numbers.

Let's press on in Hope to bring Hope to our loved ones!

QUESTIONS

1. DSP mentioned that we have hope because Jesus is Lord. What does it mean to you when you say that Jesus is Lord? How does that bring you hope?

2. Think of some of your pre-believing friends and family. What is the hope that they might need?

3. What are your plans to pray, engage and gather oikos for the Celebration of Hope? Share any challenges you might have so that the Cell can pray for you.