

ECCC Memorial Service Guidelines (Draft 12/2005)

1. Practice of Memorial Service at ECCC will be an opportunity to bear witness for Christ, based on spiritual principles of the Scriptures, not governed by traditions or social/cultural influences.
2. The memorial service is provided only for brothers and sisters and their relatives whom are Christians.
3. The facility and memorial service should not be used for funeral and burial services, or other similar services not conducted by ECCC.
4. There is no fixed format for the memorial service, and is based on the wishes of the family within the resources of ECCC.
5. Free will offering for the memorial service is encouraged, just as other services conducted by ECCC.

Definition for clarification purposes:

Memorial Service: A worship dedicated only to God for thanksgiving and testimonial of the life of Christ in the deceased saints. This worship service is conducted by the family of God and has the characteristics of other worship services of God's family, including praise, hymn, scripture reading and message.

Funeral Service: A ritual or ceremonial with the presence of body for praising of the dead, and comforting the living with flowers and other decorations. This is also an opportunity to say goodbye and pay respect to the dead. The funeral service is primarily designed and conducted by the family of the deceased one or by the professional religious people according to their beliefs and traditions. The location is usually at a funeral home where all kinds of services are provided professionally with a fee.

Burial Service: To be conducted at the burial sites for the family to witness the burial procedure.

Note: In practice, it may combine or overlap different services in one occasion or at one place. However, ECCC dedicates the Fellowship Center facility for worship and fellowship only. It is not appropriate for the funeral service usage which is handled by the professionals at specific sites.

For example: Sister Dora Wang had the Memorial Service at ECCC and her Funeral Service at a Funeral home near the burial site. Her remain was present during the family's funeral service with gifts and flowers, but not at the ECCC's memorial service at the Fellowship Center. The funeral service was conducted by an invited pastor from the local church, however, the memorial service was led by a group of brothers and sisters in the Lord. Most of her unbelieving family members were not invited to the Memorial Service, but they were all in her funeral service.