



## MOVING FORWARD WITH THE NEW NORMAL

Since movement restriction was lifted temporarily in July, CERC has been live streaming church gatherings with limited seating while adhering to physical distancing measures.

Our newly-formed virtual ministry team has been working tirelessly and diligently to ensure quality live streaming and prerecorded sessions each Sunday.



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Joel Tan, our head of Technical Services & Support (TSS) department shares an insight into the behind-the-scenes for this weekly process:

The experience has been rather surreal as every Sunday since the start of the MCO has been different. Although it's been challenging to manage and venture into something that we've not experienced in the history of CERC, it's been a sanctifying process in working through the many weeks of preparation and execution to ensure that church on Sunday still runs albeit virtually.

The technical and virtual teams have been working hard with many practices, tests and feedback sessions to ensure the church is able to continue "gathering" every Sunday. There have been days where the leaders of the respective departments within the technical team find themselves in uncharted territories and find the need to be creative to solve different issues. In these challenges, we are reminded of how God is so much bigger than we can ever imagine and that we ought to keep learning from these situations because we are responsible to help God's church gather every Sunday - whether physically or virtually.

God's church must never stop meeting together, and it will continue to move and grow through the humble service of God's people, who are weak and frail but trust in a God, who is sovereign over all things. Our role is to be servants of the gospel while being reminded that we are slaves, who are indebted to the great grace that God has shown us such that we are now able to serve Him wholeheartedly in building up His church.

We look forward to a time where God's people will be gathered together again physically like before because the church ultimately is the gathered people of God - made to be gathered together, listening to and coming under the authority of God's Word as a corporate body that seeks to live and give glory to God in all things.

Click here to read our full interview with Joel in regards to CERC's Virtual Ministry.

Technology has certainly enabled most of us to attend church virtually. Yet, we should not forget the privilege and importance of attending church physically. As Christians, we are called to love one another by building up our local churches as part of the body of Christ to which we belong and grow up into maturity.

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10.23-25

Amidst this global pandemic, God remains sovereign and He still gathers His people. All the more, may His church be strengthened with all might to be a bright light that reflects Christ faithfully in such trying times.

# A conviction for faithful Word NEW **APPRENTICES**

In season and out of season, faithful Word ministry has always been essential to the health of the church. Convicted of this, three new apprentices have joined our Church Ministers' Apprenticeship (CMA) programme this year alongside our four current apprentices.

Here are Christine, Wei Kin, and Winnie's responses to the commonly asked question, 'Why pursue full-time paid ministry?



CMA evaluates an apprentice's suitability for full-time paid ministry, while training and teaching them to lead and serve in Christ-centred, God-glorifying ministries.

The programme's ultimate goal is to raise a generation of faithful pastor-teachers for the health of Malaysian churches.



# WINNIE LAI

worked as a digital marketing specialist prior to joining CMA

"I was converted and baptised in CERC at the age of 18. Since then, I've been given the privilege to serve in a range of ministries through CERC. All these experiences not only gave me the necessary exposure to ministry but made me aware of the high demands of being a minister and how far I was from being equipped and prepared for a lifetime of service in full-time paid ministry. It was clear to me that I needed to do CMA in order to be fit for FTPM.

Do pray for me that I will not stop fearing God even when I fail many times in life and during my apprenticeship, and also to serve God on bended knees and never ever let my pride and my own self-worth take first place in my life."

Support Christine, Wei Kin and Winnie by following their ministry blogs, and supporting them in prayer and finances as they take on two years of apprenticeship.

It is our prayer that they will persevere in ministry, strive to be faithful to our Lord and that God will use them to build His church and grow His kingdom here in Malaysia.



#### CHRISTINE CHONG

worked as a management trainee in the finance industry prior to joining CMA

"It was never in my mind to do CMA in CERC because I grew up in a Chinese-speaking environment and I struggle a lot in English. But I learnt how it is a privilege for me to know the gospel, seeing how undeserved that I'm saved by God, having this grace to be able to serve him and gather his sheep and there are so many lost sheep out there! I just thought to myself, 'what is life other than serving the living God?' I'm thankful to CERC for preparing me for CMA through its solid teaching that keeps helping me to see the truth of myself from the word of God, that the Gospel is worth everything.

I'm especially thankful to Pr Robin for helping me to understand that ministry is not just about reading the Bible, preaching and running the church, it is also about being who we are meant to be - the people of God, who are zealous for God to be glorified and seeking ultimate joy and comfort in him. It's all about God, His glory, His kingdom, His people, that we are living and striving for."



### CHEAH WEI KIN

worked as an accountant prior to joining CMA

"It's hard to distil it to one thing that made me decide to pursue FTPM. It's everything from listening to the sermons, to seeing the importance of faithful biblical teaching. CERC also gave me opportunities to lead Growth Groups and serve alongside likeminded Christians who were united in the gospel. Even watching how Robin leads and pastors the church, equipping people to do ministry. He helped me see what it means to be a leader who desires great things for God's kingdom. CMA was an opportunity to be trained under him so that I too can lead and pastor others in the same way."



TO THE PAN FAMILY

Recently, our latest CMA graduate and upcoming seminarian, Elden Pan together with his wife, Jou Ee welcomed their second son, Emmanuel Jaeden Pan into their family!

We as a church are pleased to celebrate alongside the Pan family, who were inspired to name their son after CERC's Matthew sermon series last year.

> "'Emmanuel' means 'God with us', whereas 'Jaeden' means 'God will judge', inspired from two songs by two God-fearing women: Hannah's song in 1 Samuel 2:1-10 and Mary's magnificat in Luke 1:46-55."

- Elden and Jou Ee Pan

May God grant Elden and Jou Ee the wisdom, strength, and patience to parent their sons (Ethan and Emmanuel) well so that the boys grow up in the fear and knowledge of the Lord. May God use these two young lives for His glory just as He uses the lives of their parents in faithful service to Him.





FOLLOW CMA MINISTRY BLOGS HERE

SUPPORT YOUR CMAs FINANCIALLY HERE

Here at CERC, we desire nothing less than to give God what He deserves.

This year, we have invested RM79,929 in our Virtual Ministry so that the church is continually edified and built up in spite of circumstances, and this has resulted in greater and broader ministry possibilities.

With a total of 7 current apprentices in our CMA programme, including our 3 new apprentices, up to RM263,700 per year provides the apprentices with valuable training for ministry through this programme.

If you have been encouraged or benefited from our ministry here in CERC, please consider contributing financially. We are grateful to God for your support and generosity in enabling us to meet our monthly general expenses and to care for our Word ministers financially.







