



# CERC

## SUPPORT- US NEWSLETTER

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As the year 2020 draws to a close, we asked our church elders Dr Sam Ye Han and Mark Leong to share their reflections on the present year and their hopes for the new year.

Regardless of difficult circumstances, they pray that Christians and CERC as a church will continue to fear and love this sovereign God over all creation - as seen in our service to one another to build His kingdom.



### *ELDER Dr Sam Ye Han*

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If I have to summarize my personal thoughts on the year 2020 into one word, it would be 'fear'.

From the God's Story sermon series, I've learned what it looks to have an appropriate reverent fear of God through the Old Testament. His grace is shown to undeserved sinners along with His just punishment against rebellious sinners.

Christians have always needed to fear God, in all times, across all circumstances. The series has compelled me to live with this right, worshipful fear instead of being intimidated by other circumstances such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Do we fear God such that we won't let anything be an obstacle to worship Him? Do we fear Him enough to ensure nothing stops us from gathering with the rest of the church gathering eg. on Sundays? Do we fear Him such that we will be motivated to witness for Him to those who need to recognize true hope? I've had to struggle with these important questions as I serve faithfully.

My hope and prayer for 2021 is for a few things to take place. Firstly, I hope for us to return to physical gatherings in time for our 13th Foundation Day. Secondly, I'd want to welcome the current batch of member candidates as church members. Thirdly, I look forward to the return of Geddit, our signature evangelistic event. (The last Geddit skit we had was back in March 2020 right before we went into lockdown.)

Just like the Reformers did, may the church continue to uphold the banner of gospel truth as we move into 2021 by making the most of our Growth Group sessions, putting in effort to plan for evangelism and discipleship initiatives, and making sure our church building is always in tip-top condition to host everyone back. 2020 has been a year of solitude, but not a year without opportunities.

Therefore, I hope that 2021 will be an even better year for us as CERC makes the most of the opportunities God gives us to grow and advance His kingdom in the Klang Valley.

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## *ELDER Mark Leong*

“ 2020 has been a year of unique challenges. As the COVID-19 pandemic has dragged on, the economic uncertainty, health concerns and government restrictions have been hard on many of us. The pandemic has also disrupted the smooth running of our ministries and restricted access to God’s normal means of grace such as corporate prayer, gathering and the study of scriptures.

While these difficulties may tempt us to discouragement, we are taught by God’s Word that in the hands of our sovereign Father, all things – even hardship – can and will be used for good in bringing Him glory in His people.

My prayer for 2021 therefore is that the church will continue taking refuge in Christ and will emerge from the struggle having been refined and matured, ready to “serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling” as we behold the glory of our King – the one God has set on Zion, high above all earthly powers as we learnt this year from Psalm 2.

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Emma Lee (Head of CERC's children's ministry) and David Kuok (2nd year apprentice) performing song medleys live

# Christmas at + CERC

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*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

*Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

*- Philippians 2. 5-11 -*

Doubtless a different kind of Christmas celebration this year, the church gathered through online platforms to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour.

Families tuned in on Christmas Eve for an exciting evening of carols, a skit, a puppet show, and a Christmas message from Vanessa Ong (our 4th year Moore College seminarian).

This message was catered especially for young children and was a wonderful opportunity to teach them about why Jesus came to this world, and how Jesus is God's promised King.



Vanessa live streaming from Sydney, Australia



Emcee for the night, Pr. Jerome Leng with Mr. Gator and Monkey the puppets

Christmas morning was both an encouraging reminder for Christians and an evangelistic privilege for our friends to hear the gospel. We were reminded of the hope and joy we have today because Christ's birth is the Light that has dawned upon all who dwell in darkness (Isa 9:2).

As a church, we were also reminded of how this little baby in Bethlehem is also the Lord of heaven and earth. This Christ of Christmas is God Himself – he came to die for sinners like us, and now is exalted on high, worthy of all worship and honour.

May we always strive with all we are to give him the glory he deserves.



Joel Lo (2nd year apprentice) preaching the Christmas sermon

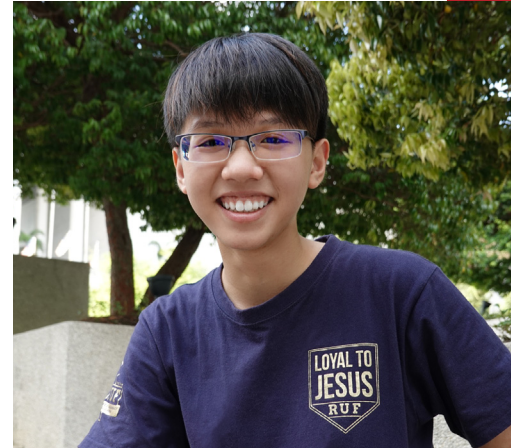
# LOOKING FORWARD TO BAPTISM

FEAT. SHANICE LYE

Despite the challenges of Covid-19, God's church must continue its work of reaching and making disciples of our Lord.

As such, baptism is a sacrament of the church and a milestone in any Christian's life – where they are able to publicly proclaim their new life in Jesus Christ, to be witnessed by all.

We hope that you would be encouraged by a baptism testimony from Shanice, a university student in a private university near CERC as we eagerly look forward to witnessing her public incorporation into the body of Christ!



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*At that point, I realized I needed to give God all the glory in everything, and that is how I was convicted that my life is not my own and I needed to live for God.*

*- Shanice*

*It's about dying to our worldly selves.*

“My former truths were from YouTube or people telling me that it was okay to live however I wanted. But if you think about it, the world's truth changes constantly, according to culture, society, moods, feelings.

But once you define truth or reality in terms of who created it in the first place – God, and it is unchanging, that's what you should be conforming your life to.”

*It's about living a new life under our glorious God.*

“I realised that life was bigger than just me, and Christ died on the cross ultimately to glorify God and not man. And me being saved was only by His grace and mercy so that I can live as how I was created to be, which is to worship God alone. I was saved to serve Him. I actually deserve to go to hell, and the only reason why humanity exists is to glorify Him.

At that point, I realized I needed to give God all the glory in everything, and that is how I was convicted that my life is not my own and I needed to live for God.”

# *NOTE FROM THE EDITORS*

It hasn't been an easy year for many of us, and yet many of you have still shown such generosity in your support for CERC and her ministries. As such, we want to take this opportunity to thank you for your love which has blessed us and provided for us so that we can keep pressing on in our mission for our Lord -- to preach His word without compromise, to make disciples, and to build up His church.

Even so, financial support is needed more than ever with each passing year, as we take on new apprentices to train, and prepare to send off more seminarians. If you have benefited from CERC's ministries, we encourage you to consider contributing either a single gift, or pledge a regular gift to our General Fund (more information [HERE](#)).

Thank you once again for your support and generosity.

Blessed Christmas and a happy new year.

