



SUPPORT-US NEWSLETTER

2025 | ISSUE 16

Dear supporter,

This past August, we celebrated 17 years of God's faithfulness in CERC.

As we look back on our Foundation Day celebrations, we remember both the humble beginnings and the many milestones along the way. As we shine a light on lives transformed through the gospel, we see how ordinary people, equipped by God, have grown into faithful servants, Word-centered leaders, and witnesses to His glory.

The stories you read today are just a glimpse into what God is doing in His church.

*17 years is a milestone, yes—but it is also a reminder that **our mission continues**. The work is His, the glory is His, and the call remains for each of us to live faithfully, in season and out of season.*



From Hindu gods to the Living God

Divyesh, a recent convert and regular at CERC shares, “I was praying to Hindu gods as recent as 2023.”

But through the bold and faithful preaching of sin, the gospel, and through the study of Scriptures, Divyesh saw Jesus for who He is: the Son of God who came to save sinners like him. “I saw that real life is not about making myself happy, but repenting and glorifying God. By God’s grace, I was saved to have faith in Jesus.”



From death to life: Divyesh declares his faith in Christ in his baptism in 2024.



Still young in faith, he still has much to learn, many battles ahead, many tests of perseverance. Yet his desire is clear.

“I want to give my whole life to Christ,” he says without hesitation. “If that means going into full-time paid ministry one day, I’m open to it too. Because I love Jesus’ church that much.”

That is what God can do. He takes a Hindu son, restless and lost, and makes him a Christian brother, full of conviction, brimming with love for God’s people, hungry for His Word.



Divyesh learning the Bible with friends at Nottingham SOLIDD.

Induction of 3 new apprentices into CMA



Pastor Robin with newly inducted CMAs Andy Goh, Joyce Yee, and Colin Loh at the start of the ceremony. The 3 of them shared how they became Christians and why they wanted to be tested for full-time paid ministry.

Andy

"I was a Buddhist until I was 8 years old and was converted through the Word. Eventually, friends from university brought me to CERC. I'm praying for strength from God to do whatever it takes to be godly and competent for the sake of the church."

Joyce

"I began considering Christianity seriously in CF, where my CG leader was Andy. There I was confronted by the Word and realised that only in the church will God and His Word endure. That led me to consider both Christianity and full-time ministry seriously. These next 24 months are a great responsibility and privilege. Please pray for me to rely on God to create in me a love for the church."

Colin

"I grew up in a Christian home but didn't really read my Bible. Only in university, I began reading it seriously and wanted to serve God with my whole life. I came to CERC because I saw the faithful Word ministry here and wanted to be trained."

The testimonies of these brothers and sister are yet another snapshot of what God has been doing in CERC since 2008: raising, equipping, and sending workers for the gospel. That same heartbeat shaped this year's Foundation Day celebrations.

17 years anchored and growing in the Word



This year, our celebrations spanned over 2 Sundays.

Our first Foundation Day sermon was based off 2 Timothy 4:1–8, and could not have been more apt. Paul’s solemn charge to Timothy, to “preach the word in season and out of season,” has marked our story from the very beginning: in moments of growth and celebration, but also in harder seasons where faithfulness meant pressing on with little but the word itself.

Pr. Robin’s sermon was both an exposition and a birthday address. He reminded us that God’s charge to Timothy is also God’s charge to CERC on its 17th birthday: **fulfil your ministry**. Ministry, he said, is not about chasing comfort, novelty, or success, but about being a people reshaped by God’s cosmic plan, to be holy as He is holy.

The following Sunday, we heard from a candid panel that put our lives under the lens of the Word in 2 Timothy 4. **Lucas Tan** (also a CMA) hosted **Joo Hui Thomas, Steffi Tay,** and **Nathan Punithen** — three who first arrived at CERC more than a decade ago through university ministry and who have tasted both zeal and drift in their lives.

All three began as student leaders: **Joo Hui** at Sunway University, **Steffi** at HELP, **Nathan** at BAC.



Foundation Day forum (L–R): Joo Hui, Steffi, Nathan, hosted by Lucas.

Steffi remembered those TGG Saturdays with warmth: “That was where we were rooted in the Word, where we grew up, where we learnt mission for Christ and his church.”

Joo Hui smiled at the memory and admitted the pressure: “**We really had to bootstrap with the little we had.** I was a first-year student, a church member, and a department leader. It was a lot. I wouldn’t change it though.”

Nathan was frank: “I wish I had the clarity then to appreciate what I had. I didn’t.”

Then came the harder parts. Nathan spoke of leaving, not only the Church but responsibilities others had to cover: “I deserted the church. Like Demas in 2 Timothy 4.” Steffi said she “lost the plot,” busy on the outside, hollow on the inside: “I even left Christianity. I worked and worked, but I didn’t really love the Word. My conscience wasn’t clear, and I wouldn’t admit how deep the sin ran.”

Joo Hui did not leave but confessed to a time when “the Word didn’t seem to cut through. I would sit there week after week and nothing sank in.”



Sunway SOLIDD in the early days: open-air corridor “kaki lima” Bible studies when space was scarce.

But thankfully, God’s grace had the last word. By God’s kindness, **Nathan and Steffi returned** within the last two years; **Joo Hui** climbed out of her rut. What brought them back? Steffi put it simply: “**The Word got me back. Truth is truth. You can’t outrun it. And that’s why I’m so thankful to CERC for teaching the Word so purposefully.**” Nathan added a sober encouragement to younger members: “Don’t underestimate sin. Don’t think you can handle it alone. Share it. Be accountable.”

When Lucas asked for hopes for the next generation, the answers were pastoral and pointed.

Joo Hui: “Kill sin. Don’t keep any secret sympathy for it.”

Steffi: “Keep teaching us to love the Bible. That intentionality saved me.”

Nathan: “Be honest earlier. Ask for help sooner.”

Those hopes don’t come out of nowhere—they rest on a story God has already been writing in us since 2008.



TGG 2 (A CERC Growth Group for university students) in 2015: Saturdays given to the Word, growing up into Christ together.

The Word at Work: Our Story since 2008



Humble beginnings: Pr. Robin preaching in his living room. No mic, no stage, just the Word.

Our first gathering was in 2008, in Pr. Robin's living room. Ten to fifteen people. No pulpit. No microphone. Just the Bible opened, the Word preached.

On any given Sunday back then, about ten of those present were also serving. The emcee might clean beforehand, usher, and then run projection...all in the same morning! It was "all hands on deck" because the **gospel needed to grow** in Malaysia.

Two of those early members, **Ken and Natalie Ooi**, remember the mindset:

"We were all hands on deck—coming early, speaking to guests, and handling multiple roles at the same time. Our attitude was: the gospel needed to grow in Malaysia; so we poured our time, resources, whatever we had to get as much done."



Ken and Natalie Ooi serving as projectionists in those early days. Many roles, one conviction.



Jeremy Johnson (far left) taking in the Colossians series. Scripture preached as a whole, week after week

Jeremy Johnson (another early member of CERC) was there as well, listening to CERC's **first sermon series: Colossians**.

Jeremy recalls:

"Every week was a wow factor. I'd never heard a letter preached like this—as a whole, week in and week out. That's when we started asking, 'What did you think about the sermon?'"

By **2009**, one year later, the gathering had grown to **30 people**, and we needed more space (not unlike today!). We moved “down the road” to **Shop Lot 1**, which could hold up to **120 people**. The faithful preaching of God’s Word kept growing His church; a larger space simply needed to follow the fruit.

Natalie puts it plainly:

“I was willing to do whatever it takes to make it work, even if it meant putting in my life’s savings.”

That is what many did. To make ends meet, **most renovations were done by members**, after work, on weekends, shoulder to shoulder.



CERC members renovating Shop Lot 1, built with labour and love.



Standing room only: Shop Lot 1 packed as the Word bore fruit and the church grew.

Soon the hall began to fill again.

Just **two years later**, we again outgrew the space and moved, in **2011**, to **our current building**. True to form, CERC members **bootstrapped** and handled much of the renovation themselves.

Looking back on the resources poured into the work, **Melissa Johnson** says:

“We worked out of thankfulness to the God who saved us when we were (and still are) undeserving sinners.”

Today, on our **17th anniversary**, this building is full to the brim, and it’s time to prepare to move again ([*see our separate article on the new building purchase*](#)).



*Overflowing: 2025
in our current hall
— every seat filled,
thanks be to God!*

For the first time in our history, a permanent home is within reach. Not merely a larger space, but **a base for long-term gospel ministry in the Klang Valley.**

On 28 July 2025, the owner of the building we hope to buy signed our offer letter. The purchase is not yet complete—due diligence and legal steps remain — but this marks serious intent and a shared confidence that the move is possible and worth pursuing.

That means the focus now turns to the next phase: raising the funds to make this home a reality. Through the **21for21 campaign**, CERC is calling on members and long-time supporters to give sacrificially.

The goal is bold: RM21 million before our 21st anniversary.

But this is bigger than numbers. **It is about investing in a gospel future—securing a base where more people can hear the Word, be discipled in truth, and trained to serve Christ wherever they are sent.** It is about making space for the next generation of apprentices, pastors, and gospel workers. It is about saying to God's people: *there is room for more sheep to be fed by His Word.*

Seventeen years in, we have once again outgrown our current space. Sundays spill over. Ministries are packed. Training pipelines are stretched. And all this is evidence of one thing: **God grows His church. We must make room.**

*As we celebrate 17 years
of God's faithfulness,
we are calling on you,
to stand with us in prayer
and partnership.*

Pray

- *Thank God for 17 years of Word-centred ministry.*
- *Ask Him to continue to raise more faithful ministers of His word, to equip the church for His work, and keep us faithful in preaching and living the word.*
- *Plead with Him for a permanent home for the work ahead.*

Give

Fuel the gospel. Support 21for21 — your gifts sustain ministry today and secure a home for tomorrow.

Share

Spread the word. Forward this to others who long for Word-centred churches in the Klang Valley.

PLEDGE FORM

If you would like to make a contribution, kindly fill in the form below:

Full Name: _____

Mobile Number: _____

Email: _____

I would like to contribute to CERC's ministry.

☐ I would like to make a
one-off contribution.

☐ I would like to pledge my
contribution over [] months.

Amount Pledged (RM): _____

Date of Contribution: _____

GIVE TO OUR BUILDING FUND



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