

National Day Thanksgiving Service 2022: The National Council of Churches of Singapore celebrated Singapore's 57th National Day by holding the National Day Thanksgiving Service (NDTS) on 18 August at the St Andrew's Cathedral, New Sanctuary. Worship was led by the Executive Committee members, and Songs of Praise by the music team of St Andrew's City Church. The choir of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Singapore sang an inspiring anthem. Some 400 people attended the NDTS, including several Christian political office holders. You may wish to listen to the choir sing "[Ascribe to the Lord](#)".

Bishop Dr Gordon Wong of the Methodist Church in Singapore and a Vice-President of NCCS spoke on the topic "Peaceful Peacemakers" based on James 3:13–18. We would like to share a summary of the message with you.

Bishop Wong contrasted **wisdom** and **truth** articulated from an earthly perspective with the very same attributes demonstrated with a heavenly character. Wisdom and Truth expressed with bitter envy, and selfish ambition, denies the truth and is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. (James 3:14-15). The bishop said, "Character changes content" and, "Temper transforms truth".

Earthly "peacemakers" passionately pursuing their agenda often end up polarizing their positions and hardening divisions. Peacemakers must first have a peaceful character, according to James 3:13, "Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works *in the meekness of wisdom*" for as Jesus exhorted, we should be "gentle and humble in heart" (Matt:11:29).

Bishop Wong also quoted from a recent speech by DPM Lawrence Wong who warned that the way forward for Singapore will not be easy: "I hope we can all approach this with open minds and big hearts, be willing to give and take, as we negotiate difficult tradeoffs, so we may arrive where we want to be, stronger and more united than when we started."

He concluded with a call to prayer for Singapore churches to be known for our meekness, showing compassion and sympathy for those who may disagree with us. In a loud and polarized world, let us be serene, peaceful peacemakers. (*summary by Richard Jeremiah*).

For those who were not able to attend the NDTS, we would like to share with you some [Photos](#).

The Commissioner of Charities (COC) has reminded the Christian community that two out of five churches have not made an annual submission to the COC, which includes the Annual Report, Financial Statements, and Governance Evaluation Checklist (GEC). These documents should be submitted online via the Charity Portal

within 6 months from the end of each financial year. COC has also prepared a Guide on Preparing Annual Submissions in the Charity Portal to help Churches better understand their annual regulatory reporting obligations, which also serves as a one-stop guide on the relevant reference material available pertaining to this annual submission.

NCCS appreciates your positive feedback on its monthly e-newsletter. We encourage you to share the e-newsletter with other church leaders and members of your congregation for their information. Thank you.