

A Word from the NCCS President: Dear Fellow Christians, today, as we face one of the biggest disruptions in recent memory, let us recall King Jehoshaphat's prayer in 2Chr 20:12, *"O our God ... we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us, nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You"*. Indeed, even with our concerted efforts, our eyes still need to be on the Lord. We are reminded in v.15, *"Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's."*

As we forge together as Christians in Singapore, may we like Jehoshaphat, turn our hearts and prayers to God, remembering that God is with us and that we need not fret nor be dismayed. We are called to stand alongside those who are rendering their tireless service to bolster Singapore against the pandemic through constant prayer for our nation. Now is not the time for anxiety nor a critical spirit but a time for solidarity and spiritual renewal. It is an opportunity for the church to shine through with courage and compassion, bringing the light of Christ to bear on the pressing needs of our time. May we rise above ourselves and rise up to this challenge to be the gospel to a nation in need of hope and promise. — *Bishop Dr Titus Chung*

New Book by NCCS. For more than two decades, the National Council of Churches of Singapore has been engaging with the issue of human sexuality. This engagement has resulted in the publication of statements and two books that are purposed to help Christians to reflect on this topic from the standpoint of Scripture and Christian tradition. Since the last book in 2014, there have been a number of important developments in research and discourse on human sexuality. This has prompted NCCS to publish another book for the general Christian public that takes into consideration some of these developments.

"Homosexuality, the Bible and the Church" is a collection of essays by scholars and pastors that explore the topic from different disciplines – biblical studies, theology, science, the law, and pastoral practice. NCCS hopes that this book will serve as a resource to help Christians navigate the difficult and conflicted discourse on homosexuality, guided always by the theological and spiritual compass of Scripture and tradition. More details on its sale will be provided in due course.

An Invitation from MSF. The Ministry of Social and Family Development is partnering Families for Life to nurture an ecosystem of support for families across different life stages of marriage and parenting. Couples and parents may sign up for evidence-based marriage and parenting programmes and parent support groups. MSF and Families for Life would be pleased to work with churches to bring these programmes to them.

MSF also offers religious leaders and church volunteers the Marital First Responder training (a 3-hour e-learning module and one-day workshop), in partnership with the Singapore University of Social Sciences so that they can better support couples with marital issues. If your church wishes to consider these resources provided by MSF, please email: partner-familiesforlife@msf.gov.sg.

Phase 2 - Heightened Alert. Thank you for participating in the engagement session with MCCY on 15 May. Representatives from more than 250 churches and Christian Organisations attended the briefing. We hope that the session had been helpful. Please do visit the [CPRO website](#) for essential resources as well as the [latest advisory](#). If Christian organisations or churches need more information on the Pre-Event Test (PET), please visit the [MOH Website](#) to understand the logistical requirements to conduct their planned events.

Inland Ash Scattering (IAS). As mentioned previously, this [IAS Facility](#) "Garden of Peace", is another option for families to lay their loved ones to rest. The facility has been operational since 17 May 2021. You may view a [2-minute video](#) for more information.

The SG Clean campaign. MCCY has sent out an invitation to churches to participate in making cleanliness a way of life in Singapore. Please RSVP to this [link](#).

NCCS Office Staff. Since the Phase 2-Heightened Alert, our two full-time staff are now working from home as mandated by the authorities. However, our staff are still reachable by telephone at 63368177 or email (admin@nccs.org.sg).

Praying together. While we hope to hear good news of the resumption of religious activities, let us continue to pray for people in need. We pray...

- For those who find it difficult to cope with staying at home and are suffering severe stress and depression during this period, including families where marital tensions are heightened by the pressures on parental roles and duties.
- That God will heal those infected by the Covid-19 virus and protect Singaporeans as well as the global community.
- That Christians will find time amidst the pandemic to deepen their relationship with God and thus grow in faith and practice.
- That God will guide the authorities to govern with wisdom and insight, and that our nation will remain united in these challenging times.