

Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung encourages all to “look up to God”.

Dear Brothers and Sisters-in-Christ, Grace and peace to you and your family from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!

As we enter into a new season of living with COVID-19, whether we are as young as 8 years old or as elderly as 80, we need to – look up to God as one community and look out for each other as His community. Let us keep these two things in mind.

Firstly, to look up to God as one community. Corporate worship is a very important aspect of the Christian life. Paul reminds us that “in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body” (1 Corinthians 12:13). As children of God, our lives are to be lived in the community of God. As such, I encourage you not to give up coming together to worship the Lord on-site (without fear but with safety measures in mind), or online (when for various reasons you cannot be on-site). Spiritual lethargy tends to set in before we even realise it if we stay away too long.

Secondly, to look out for each other as His community. Looking into the welfare of our fellow brothers and sisters-in-Christ is another very important aspect of the Christian life. James reminds us that “if a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?” (James 2:15-17). We need to look out for one another constantly, and especially in this season, special attention should be given to those who are much older. Let us keep a close watch on how they are doing. And if the older ones amongst us need a helping hand for anything, let us not hesitate to help.

As you journey through this season...
May the LORD bless you and protect you
May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you
May the LORD show you his favour and give you his peace

Meeting with Ministers: We thank Minister Desmond Lee and Minister-of-State Sun Xueling for briefing pastors and church leaders on 19 October. They patiently explained the proposed amendments to the Women’s Charter and the goals of Alliance for Action (AfA) on Strengthening Marriages and Family Relationships and other MSF initiatives. During the Q & A session, positive responses as well as reservations were shared with the ministers. It was an occasion to listen to each other with church leaders sharing their opinions while others provided constructive feedback. For pastors and church leaders who were not able to attend the virtual meeting, you may refer to the [slides](#) on AfA provided by MSF.

NCCS is 47 years old: We were part of the Malayan Christian Council when it was formed in 1948. However, after Singapore’s independence, NCCS was established as a separate entity on 24 July 1974. At 47 years of age, NCCS continues to encourage healthy working relationships among churches and consolidate Christian views and responses on major issues and represent Christians in the public square. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, NCCS has been actively coordinating and facilitating meetings between pastors and church leaders with the authorities, for example, to explain the protocols to stay safe at worship and other matters relevant to church life.

Some people may not realise that NCCS was established “as an association of co-operating members, each of which determines its own policy and action” (Article 3(iv) of the Constitution). In other words, NCCS as an association of churches, does not have jurisdiction over its members. However, the Council may advise a member church to reflect on its church life and teachings should it be a subject of controversy within the Christian community in Singapore. We pray that such occasions will be rare and that the camaraderie among Christians will continue to contribute to the wellbeing of our society.