



National Council of Churches of Singapore

新加坡基督教全国教会理事会

Majlis Kebangsaan Gereja-Gereja Singapura

திருச்சபைகளின் தேசிய மன்றம்

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Dear Senior Pastors and friends of NCCS,

GOOD NEIGHBOUR DAY 2019

This is indeed a special Year for Singapore. As we commemorate our Bicentennial and celebrate Hope, we give thanks to God for His great faithfulness seen in so many different ways past and present. We feel his heart of compassion reaching out to our nation. Surely Singapore is blessed beyond measure.

Recently, I was reminded of Prime Minister's words in his National Day 2016 message. He said: *... considering the state of the world today... the most fundamental factor in keeping Singapore exceptional is not good plans or adequate resources; it is whether we remain united.*

This is a timely call and more urgent today than ever before. We must stay united as One People, One Singapore. And one of the most endearing and simplest expressions of national unity is good neighbourliness. Especially and specifically to the families and friends living next door to us.

Good neighbourliness is next to godliness. Scripture exhorts us: *For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: 'Love your neighbour as yourself'* (Galatians 5:14). I believe that in so far as it depends on us, Christians should set the example. Together, we can build a blessed nation of good neighbours and make Singapore truly *A Home with Hope and Heart.*

We give thanks for the nation-wide efforts to achieve this noble goal. For example, the recently-launched national movement called Singapore Cares, encouraging all Singaporeans to *play a part, big and small, to make Singapore a more caring and inclusive home for all.* NCCS resonates with this call. Our nation is vulnerable in a world of confusion. More than ever before, we must care for one another. We must value our neighbours and look out for them.

To that end, NCCS as a national entity is stepping forward to show our strongest support. We agree that there's really no better occasion for Good Neighbour Day than National Day itself. *Count on me, Singapore to give my best and more!*

Therefore, this National Day 2019— a Good Neighbour Day— is a unity call to love our nation and to seek her shalom. It's a simple way to reinforce our Nationhood, our Citizenship, our Religious Harmony, our Social Cohesion, and our Social Defence. It's a strong message for these urgent times of disruptive trends. Good neighbours represent the first line of defence in every community!

Praise God, we will not be doing this alone. Together with our *Celebration of Hope* partners, the LoveSingapore Network, plus other community and grassroots organizations, we are coming together to make this National Day a Good Neighbour Day.

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How shall we celebrate this Good Neighbour Day? The plan is simple: acknowledge, affirm, and appreciate our next door neighbours on National Day. In other words, build bridges. Strengthen the community bond by offering a smile and a greeting such as *Happy National Day! Thank You for being our Good Neighbours*. This little gesture is simple enough for ALL to participate. We see a revival of the *kampung spirit* and the blossoming of a gracious grassroots culture that we can build together from the ground up. Indeed, good neighbourliness is the tie that binds.

To promote this vital message, we will make available a Good Neighbour Day kit. In this special kit are two items. The first item is a Red Door Tie, a red ribbon 24 inches long with the words *My Neighbour, My Friend, My Singapore* in the four official languages. The second item is a tear-out Thank You card with an explanation note that reads: *Good Neighbourliness: a tie that binds and a bond that builds. Mark your commitment to be a Good Neighbour by tying this red door tie to your gate or door. Take it a step further. Send your greetings over with this special thank you card. Let's do this together, as we celebrate our Nation's Birthday. (Please see the mock-ups and samples attached)*

On behalf of NCCS, I'm seeking your partnership. We would like as many churches as possible to adopt and join this initiative, motivate and mobilise their members to be good neighbours. Christians are good people who care. Regardless of social-economic status, Christians want to shine for Jesus where they live. All they need is a little nudge or a good excuse to express their care simply, personally, and nationally as ONE!

Finally, let me summarise the key principles of Good Neighbour Day:

- (1) This is not another mass event. This is a national call to personalise and practise good neighbourliness as a shared value.
- (2) This initiative seeks to unite Singaporeans to keep Singapore exceptional. Everyone can contribute. Unity begins with me doing it together with fellow Singaporeans.
- (3) One of the best gifts we can give ourselves is to BE a Good Neighbour by living the Golden Rule.
- (4) Good neighbourliness endears Singaporeans to Singapore. We sink our roots deeper to build, to bond, and to be a blessing so that Singapore may flourish for God's glory!

Here's the link for churches to register and place orders for the Good Neighbour Day kits: <http://bit.ly/goodneighbourday2019>

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matthew 5:9

Shalom Singapore.



Your Brother:
Bishop Terry Kee
President NCCS