

Celebrate Christmas at Orchard Road invites you to join in a week of festive cheer at Orchard Road from 14 to 21 December! For over 20 years, the team has brought the Christmas spirit and message to Orchard Road. This year, enjoy dazzling performances by local and international talents every night in front of ION Orchard and Wisma Atria. Please help spread the Christmas message and bless the community! Your prayer and financial support will be much appreciated. See [LINK](#)

Strong and Resilient Asian Families: Challenges and Opportunities was the theme of the Asian Family Conference 2024, organised by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) and held on 6 & 7 November. NCCS was represented by Bishop Lu Guan Hoe. MSF Minister Masagos Zulkifli in his opening address emphasised the Government's focus on the importance of families, "the bedrock of our societies" through its multi ministries' policies. Presentations and discussions were wide ranging and covered topics such as family-centric approaches to social issues, which have positive outcomes on marriage, parenthood, family functioning, family violence, reconciling and healing family relationships and child outcomes. The closing address was delivered by Minister of State Sun Xueling, who said that, "Policies and programmes are developed with a family lens. This allows us to harness the strengths from the most enduring bond in our society, the family unit. We must work alongside families rather than just provide assistance." NCCS continues to encourage churches to prioritise its ministry so as to build stronger family bonds within the church community as well as in society.

CPRO: The Crisis Preparedness for Religious Organisations Programme is offering support following a recent knife attack on a priest at a church. It encourages religious organisations (ROs) to share messages about staying alert and prepared for emergencies, as well as to avoid spreading rumours. The CPRO Programme also offers resources for ROs to enhance their security awareness and crisis management skills, including a checklist and training programmes. A representative of each RO is encouraged to complete the checklist and to attend the CPRO training programmes. See [LINK](#)

The NCCS publication on "*Homosexuality, the Bible and the Church*", launched at the National Day Thanksgiving Service in 2021 is now available online. This book explores homosexuality from a Christian perspective. It emphasises the importance of churches providing guidance and education on the topic. The book also encourages Christians to uphold traditional views on marriage between a man and a woman and includes contributions from various authors covering diverse aspects of the issue, such as Biblical interpretations on homosexuality, pastoral care for those struggling with same-sex attraction and the concept of marriage and family in the Christian worldview. While the print copy of "Homosexuality, the Bible and the Church" may still be purchased at \$12 in bookshops, NCCS is making the online version available free of charge. Here is the [LINK](#)

Christianity and Wokeism. A/Prof Suzanne Choo delivered a compelling lecture on the cultural movement of Wokeism at the Ethos Lecture 2024. The event, held on Thursday, 24 October, at the Bible House, delved into the origins and implications of Wokeism, examining its positive contributions in addressing issues of racism, sexism, and injustice, while also

critically analysing its potential negative aspects, such as "cancel culture." A/Prof Choo offered a Christian perspective grounded in biblical principles of truth, justice, and love as a response to the complex challenges posed by this cultural phenomenon. Find out more about the Ethos lecture on Wokeism at this [LINK](#)

Licence to Solemnise Marriages (LSM): Application for a new LSM in Singapore is processed once a year. NCCS accepts applications from independent churches from 1 October to 31 December of each year and Licences are issued only in the following year. This application cycle is implemented by the Registry of Marriages (ROM). For both New and Renewal LSMs for 2025, the application period is now open. To obtain application forms, please visit this [LINK](#)