

NEWSLETTER

August 2025

[Introduction message by Rt Rev Caleb Soo, VP NCCS]

National Day Thanksgiving Service 2025. NCCS celebrated SG60 at our annual National Day Thanksgiving Service held on Thursday, 14 August 2025 at the Cathedral New Sanctuary of St Andrew's Cathedral. A special service was planned with worship helmed by the music team from Hope Singapore.

Bishop Philip Lim, Bishop of the Methodist Church in Singapore and NCCS President, preached a sermon based on Mark 2:1-12. Exegeting the story of the paralytic, Bishop urged all to show Christ's love especially to people with disabilities. Echoing the Prime Minister in his National Day message, Bishop Lim called on us to be 'exceptional' in faith and love.

For the first time, there was Singapore sign language interpretation for the hearing-impaired at the service, provided by two volunteers from the Deaf Ministry at Wesley Methodist Church. Ms Noemie Lee, who rose above her disabilities and performed at the recent National Day parade, also gave a violin presentation. There were two choirs in attendance: the Anglo-Chinese Junior College Alumni Choir sang two anthems, including an arrangement by local Cultural Medallion winner Kelly Tang; and the Methodist Church's Emmanuel Tamil Annual Conference Choir and Band which included traditional Indian tabla drums that offered a powerful song of praise.

Some 450 people came to give thanks and worship, including senior government leaders and Members of Parliament from both sides of the House. As usual, the leadership of NCCS led the service which was followed by a reception and warm fellowship.

We are grateful to St Andrew's Cathedral for again hosting the NDTS and our deep appreciation to so many who helped in one way or another, to bring honour and glory to God. PHOTOS

Notice Board. NCCS would like to share with you the following upcoming events and other matters that may be of interest to members and friends (details are found in the attached links):

- The International Lutheran Seafarers' Mission invites volunteers to join their outreach program, dedicated to supporting seafarers visiting Singapore, one of the world's busiest ports. Your participation can make a meaningful difference in the lives of these maritime workers. See LINK
- The new Mandai North Crematorium (MNC) and Garden of Serenity (GOS), operated by the National Environment Agency (NEA), began operations on 15 August. MNC started

with four cremation services daily. Cremation services will be ramped up progressively over the coming months. For details see <u>LINK</u>

- The SG Youth Forum on 6 September (11 am 4 pm at Sands Expo) offers Singapore youths a chance to dialogue with changemakers and participate in activities like workshops, flea market, and live podcasts. Sign up by 24 August here LINK
- The Creation Care Conference 2025 (CCC25) is a two-day (12-13 September) conference designed to equip Christians with a theological understanding of creation care, empower them to love and care for creation, and connect like-minded believers to effect change together. The conference theme, "On Earth As It Is In Heaven", seeks to ignite a collective desire for God's restoration of creation. CCC25 affirms creation care as an integral aspect to the Christian mission. Details: LINK
- MHA Requirements for Religious Groups. Churches and Christian organisations are to meet the leadership requirements of the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act 1990 ("MRHA") which will come into force on 1 January 2026. See LINK
- Singapore Terrorism Threat Assessment Report (STTAR) 2025 & SGSecure Social Experiments Web Series MHA's STTAR 2025 confirms Singapore's threat level remains high, fueled by global conflicts like the Israel-Palestine crisis and pervasive extremist narratives online. See full STTAR report - LINK.
- To bolster community readiness, MHA launched the SGSecure Social Experiments web series, simulating real-life terror scenarios. Singaporeans are encouraged to watch the series starting with the first episode, "What Would You Do When Terror Strikes?" which features influencers reacting to an armed-attack drill. Details of the launch are available in: LINK.