

Churches are Celebrating by participating in the Christmas festivities at Orchard Road, and more importantly, the presentations are focussing on the meaning of Christmas as Christians understand it. A church leader observed that “Christmas is truly back at Orchard Road! This year, in addition to the choirs, we have the beautiful boxes decorated with quotations from the Bible about what Christmas is really about - the birth of a Saviour for us”!

‘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](#)

Donations to NCCS 50th Anniversary Fund Raising Project have been presented to New Life Stories and Ethos Institute for Public Christianity. We thank all members and friends for their kind and generous contributions that amounted to \$83,190. The funds were divided equally between the two organisations. On 11 December, NCCS President Bishop Lu Guan Hoe made the first presentation to Dr Roland Chia, Theological & Research Advisor of Ethos Institute at the NCCS Office. The second presentation by Bishop Lu was made at the premises of the New Life Stories at Kallang Bahru to NLS Co-Founder & CEO Ms Saleemah Ismail. NCCS was heartened to learn that the donation to NLS would receive a matching grant from the government! Here is a longer report of the presentations. [LINK](#)

Contribution to Humanitarian Aid. NCCS joined other religious organisations with a donation of \$10,000 to the Harmony in Action fundraiser for Gaza, channelled through the Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation (RLAF). NCCS supported this initiative, which aims to address the urgent humanitarian needs in Gaza through a collaborative effort involving various religious organisations. RLAF partnered with UNICEF and the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation to ensure effective delivery of aid. This donation, drawn from the Disaster Relief Fund of NCCS, aligns with the Council’s own values of compassion, service, and interfaith harmony, and demonstrates our commitment to humanitarian aid for those suffering such devastation.

Unfortunately, the presentation ceremony of the donation was held on Sunday morning (1 December), hence NCCS leaders were unable to attend the event. Let us continue to pray for peace as conflict and wars are bringing untold suffering to many parts of the world.

Peace and Harmony Dialogue. On 26 October, the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY), in collaboration with the Harmony Centre, organised a dialogue to address the escalating tensions in the Middle East. The event, held at the Yong Pung How School of Law, brought together religious leaders and government officials to discuss ways to promote peace and harmony. NCCS was represented by Dr Roland Chia (Professor of Christian Doctrine at Trinity Theological College). He joined a panel discussion with MCCY Minister Edwin Tong and other religious leaders. The dialogue was attended by nearly 400 participants from various religious organisations. See details in [LINK](#)

Golden Jubilee Wedding Celebrations 2025. The Golden Jubilee Wedding Celebrations (GJWC) is an annual event co-organised by the Families for Life (FFL) Council, Registry of Marriages (ROM) and Registry of Muslim Marriages (ROMM) to celebrate couples who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. Next year's GJWC lunch is on 16 February 2025 at the Raffles City Convention Centre. Nominations are now opened for all couples who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary (or beyond) in 2025. Those registered will be invited to the lunch reception and will receive a Golden Jubilee gift set. We encourage churches and Christian organisations to publicise and nominate couples for this initiative. For details see [LINK](#). The nomination form is found here [LINK](#)

Commissioner of Charities (COC) Webinar. The COC together with Pro Bono SG, invites churches and Christian organisations to join them at the webinar "Charities Lean Forward: Strengthening Charities Against Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing – Next Steps" on 15 January 2025, 3pm - 5pm via Zoom. The upcoming webinar focuses on equipping charities with the necessary tools and knowledge to combat the growing threats of money laundering and terrorist financing. As charities are at risk of being exploited for illicit purposes due to their diverse networks and activities, there will be a discussion on recent trends, emphasising the importance of robust financial and internal controls. Details and registration (Closing date: 7 January 2025) here [LINK](#).

Closing Date for LSM Applications – 31 December 2024. Applications for both new and renewal Licence to Solemnise Marriages (LSM) in Singapore is processed once a year. The closing date for applications from independent churches is 31 December 2024 for Licences effective from 2025. This application cycle is strictly implemented by the Registry of Marriages (ROM). Please do not miss the application period. To obtain application forms, please visit this [LINK](#).