



THE VICAR

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WRITES

As a young nation, Singapore has a lot to give thanks. Most importantly, we need to give thanks for how God has enabled Singapore to significantly impact and influence the nations – either politically, financially, socially or spiritually. We should not take that for granted, for out of the least and weakest, God has chosen this tiny red dot to be a “Light to the Nations.” To continue in our role as the beacon of light, three things are needed:

We need to discern the time we are in – This is the second year we scale down the National Day celebration because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, for the first time it has to be

postponed. The last time Singapore and the world had to go through a much-prolonged suffering was World War II. Even the 2020 Olympic Opening Ceremony in Tokyo was much muted. God has allowed COVID-19 to STOP the world in her pursuit of wealth, power and development for this prolonged period. What is He wanting us to focus on, to realize and/or to learn?

We need to discern our spiritual role – St Andrew’s Cathedral is 160 years old. We have since become an icon for tourists, a national heritage and monument, and we are also known as the church in the heart of the city. While we thank God

Blessed 56th Birthday Singapore!



for all these wonderful acclamations and credentials, we need to ask the hard question – how does God see us as a church and as a community of disciples? What is our spiritual role to the community? As a church, we must not miss God's spiritual purpose for this season. Perhaps, we need to ask ourselves, "Is God bringing about a REBOOT to His church?"



We need to act practically – As we prepare to celebrate this National Day, let's make NDP2021 special for a group of people – our neighbours. The topic on racism has hit our headlines recently, it reminds us of the fault-lines in our society. The shocking death of the young 13 year old RVHS boy, reminds us of our human frailty and vulnerability – mental health challenges. How should we respond? Jesus commanded us – to "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF" (Matt 22:39). I would like to share one practical way to care for our neighbours. Pray to share with a neighbour (could be your classmate, your colleague

or a family member) – *"Thank you for being my neighbour, it has been a tough year, let's press-on together, and we will get through this together!"* I am certain that this simple practical expression will bless many abundantly.

Lastly, let's also remember our neighbours who are beyond our shores including our deanery countries – many are battling hard to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We need to intercede on their behalf, "Lord have mercy!"

Let's stand together as One People of God in this extremely difficult and trying season – let our light shine brightly as the source of hope for the world for His Glory!