



SPEECH

By Deacon Matthew Kang, Council Member of New Creation Church, at the Christmas Gift Of Love lunch party on Saturday, 1 December 2018.

Mr S Iswaran, Minister for Communications and Information, Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations and Adviser for West Coast GRC Grassroots Organisations (GROs);

Host Adviser, Mr. Patrick Tay, BBM, Adviser for Boon Lay Grassroots Organisations (GROs);

Mr. Cedric Foo, Adviser for Pioneer Grassroots Organisations (GROs);

Ms. Foo Mee Har, Adviser for Ayer Rajah Grassroots Organisations (GROs);

residents of West Coast GRC and Pioneer Constituency;

ladies and gentlemen;

Good afternoon!

1. Welcome to Christmas Gift Of Love 2018! Thank you for gracing us with your presence today.
2. Christmas is about three weeks away.
3. Christmas is about giving. And Christians celebrate the greatest gift of all time, the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ 2,000 years ago!



4. Singapore is a multiracial and multi-religious society. And by the grace of God, we are blessed to be able to enjoy racial and religious harmony in this Little Red Dot!
5. Our respective places of worship are able to co-exist side by side without any problem, without any issue.
6. If you walk down Waterloo Street, you will be able to find at one end of the street, a Chinese temple, and next to it, you'll have a Hindu temple, and further down the street you can find a Jewish synagogue. Nearby in the next street, Bencoolen Street, you'll find a mosque there.
7. And if you go down to Chinatown, you will be able to find a church at the corner of Maxwell Road and Tanjong Pagar, and opposite it, you'll find a Chinese temple. Along the same street, along South Bridge Road, you have a Hindu temple, and next to it, a mosque. They all co-exist without any problem, without any issue. We thank God for Singapore.
8. In fact, next to that mosque, you can find a very nice *nasi briyani* restaurant. And a lot of time, you can find many people of different races, different backgrounds, having a meal of *nasi briyani* together at the restaurant.
9. We are blessed to be able to enjoy racial and religious harmony all these years and we must remember not to take this for granted.
10. All of us must always remember to play our part in promoting, and enhancing further, racial and religious harmony in Singapore.
11. Achieving and maintaining racial harmony is like going on a journey, but without a destination. It is like riding a bicycle; we must keep on



pedalling and not stop. The moment we stop pedalling, the bicycle will just glide for a while, and then, it will fall.

12. And so, as we look forward to celebrating Christmas in three weeks' time, we at New Creation Church, would like to celebrate this season of love, joy and peace with every one of you, regardless of your race, language or religion!
13. We want to extend our love to you. We want you to know that you are not alone. We are with you, and we love you.
14. This year, New Creation Church is honoured to co-organise this lunch party with West Coast GRC and Pioneer Constituency Grassroots Organisations to benefit some 300 people in the district and their families.
15. I'm very happy to see many families here today. Since we started Christmas Gift Of Love parties in 2014, we have hosted over 2,000 people, including the 300 families present here today.
16. We at New Creation Church believe that it is more blessed to give than to receive. For over 30 years since our founding in 1984, our desire is to demonstrate God's love by helping others, regardless of race, language or religion.
17. For the lunch party today, every family will receive \$100 worth of supermarket vouchers and another \$100 worth of daily necessities in a gift trolley. This party, the lunch and the gifts represent our heart of love towards you.



18. Beyond Christmas Gift Of Love, we regularly help the underprivileged and disadvantaged in Singapore through many different initiatives throughout the year. Just this year, we have reached out to some 11,400 people through 150 programmes for families, the elderly, foreign workers and those with special needs.
19. This Year, Gift Of Love will see us reaching out to a total of 7,000 families through our Gift Of Love projects and events all over Singapore, including one last week with North East CDC and Mayor Desmond Choo, and this one that we are having now at Boon Lay CC for West Coast GRC and Pioneer Constituency.
20. This evening, we will be at Ci Yuan CC with Adviser Darryl David reaching to the residents of Ang Mo Kio and Hougang.
21. And next Saturday, we will be at Marsiling with Minister Lawrence Wong and Senior Minister of State Zaqy Mohamad reaching out to some 1,250 families.
22. We will also be reaching out to another 11,000 people overseas through our Gift Of Love Global initiative.
23. Truly it is our privilege and honour to be able to do this. So, residents of West Coast GRC and Pioneer Constituency, I hope you will enjoy today's multicultural programme that we have specially arranged for you. Beside the local delicacies, we have lined up Christmas carols, community songs and other items presented by our church's very own creative team.
24. I would like to thank Minister Iswaran, Advisers, Mr. Patrick Tay, BBM, Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, Mr. Cedric Foo and Ms. Foo Mee Har for this



opportunity to reach out to your residents together and in partnership with you.

25. May I take this opportunity to wish each of you and your loved ones, a very happy, merry and blessed Christmas and a very happy, prosperous and blessed new year 2019!
26. May you prosper in all things and be in health!
27. Thank You!