

APOSTLE MARC DIEDRICKS

I was the sixth child born of godfearing New Apostolic parents on 17 February 1960 at Claremont. This was two years after the doctors Groote Schuur hospital gave up all hope for my mother when she became seriously ill with tetanus an incurable disease at the time. As an infant I was baptised in Claremont on 13 March 1960 and a few weeks later was sealed by the District Apostle KR Gut on 02 April 1960 in the same congregation.

During my childhood, my parents faithfully nurtured and cared for my soul. Although we experienced hardships, our home was never void of peace and love. My father John Alfred Diedricks, who served as a sub deacon for 21 years, was a true example to me in the Lord's work: he was filled with zeal and dedication for the work of God. This made a deep impression upon my soul and actually paved the way for me into the blessed field of labour. On the other hand my mother, Eileen Anna Diedricks (nee McKie) diligently continued to build God and his servants into my heart. Our home was always filled with humour and happiness as my father had this special gift to make us laugh. Friday evenings before my older brothers and sisters would go out, we would first sing a few hymns. My mother taught me the great value of offering and to place the Lord first no matter what.

At the tender age of twelve I was introduced to the vineyard work by a deacon who joyfully and patiently took me by the hand and guided me along a blessed path. His diligence, guidance and love for the Lord's work made an indelible impression upon my soul. On Good Friday 16 April 1976 I was confirmed into this faith by district elder D Peters, now a retired Bishop. Hereafter I was involved in every possible activity in the congregation and became a youth leader, Sunday school teacher, choir member and assisted in the administration work in the congregation. My rector, Shepherd RL Paulse, who later became my father-in-law together with numerous other servants inscribed the work of the Lord into my soul and thankfully I look back to the many godly encounters with them.

Through the grace of God I managed to complete my schooling and thereafter 8 courses towards my BA degree. I later received extensive training in the Human Resources field and gained overall exposure to all the aspects of the Personnel function. I practiced in this field for 14 years before I came to work fulltime for the church.

I met Ingrid Abigail Paulse in the youth and after a courtship of 6 years we were married on 03 February 1984 at Welcome Estate congregation. A highlight for us was that this matrimonial blessing was bestowed upon us by the apostle AA Mitas and he used the word our of Numbers 6 Vs 24-26.

The Lord moved my heart towards his work at a young age and as a result was entrusted with the following ministries:

Sub deacon	02.09.1979	Manenberg	DA KR Gut
Deacon	28.01.1981	Manenberg	DA KR Gut
Priest	21.10.1984	Heideveld	DA KR Gut
C/Evangelist	05.10.1986	Silvertown	DA EH Graf
D/Evangelist	01.01.1990	Lentegeur	DA EH Graf
D/Elder	28.07.1991	Retreat East	DA EH Graf

During August 1994, I was informed by the District Apostle EH Graf (i.R.) that I had been invited to accompany him to Freiburg East in Germany, to attend a divine service to be conducted by the Chief Apostle R Fehr. On New Year's Day, 01 January 1995 I received the ministry of a Bishop in a festive divine service.

The last 4 years as a bishop under the tutorship of the District Apostle Barnes has been most enjoyable and spiritually enlightening. I enjoy sound teaching borne out of the heart of a servant that leads by example. The maxim he gave at the commencement of his tenure as our District Apostle still resounds in my soul: "I want to lead a happy bride home."

Then in August 2000 the District Apostle NE Barnes informed me about the plans for the future and the subsequent calling into the high office of an apostle. Deeply moved we both knelt in my office and together we prayed for God's blessing upon this endeavour. The power evident in this prayer made me realise the capacity and spiritual ability invested in my District Apostle. Thereafter I experienced many great moments with him in focussing towards the enormous and momentous occasion with our Chief Apostle.

I was afforded the tremendous grace to accompany my District Apostle to Boston, Massachusetts, USA, where on Sunday 22 October 2000 I received the high office of an apostle out of the hand of the Chief Apostle in an unforgettable divine service, relayed to the entire area of the Cape Apostle District. I pledge my undivided devotion and faithfulness to my Chief Apostle and District Apostle as it remains my holy duty to become and remain a valuable asset in the completion work of God.