

The newsletter of the New Apostolic Church Cape

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Free issue

Joy



Divine service: Chief Apostle in Nigeria

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Regional news

The Chief Apostle in Nigeria

The New Apostolic Church in Nigeria has approximately 300 000 members who gather in over 1 000 congregations. On Sunday 10 January 2016, the Chief Apostle held a divine service in Uyo situated in the south-east of the country. During this divine service which was attended by 4 100 brothers and sisters, Apostle F Emanerame was placed into retirement and four new Apostles were ordained.



My dear Brothers and Sisters, it is a special joy for me to share this divine service with you. This year is the year of victory with Christ. The first Apostles and first Christians had to fight political powers that did not agree with their new faith. The Christians also had battles inside the Church because some people wanted to invent something new and the Apostles had to fight to impose their teaching.

Jesus had already warned that there would be false prophets. These were people whom He said were selling the word of God. They wanted to use the name and power of Jesus Christ for doing miracles to make money and to become famous. Paul and the other Apostles had to fight against that.

This also exists today. Some people want to use the power and the name of Jesus Christ to become rich, but this is not our first concern.

We have to fight against the devil and the false prophets who announce something other than the truth of God.

The serpent came to Adam and Eve and said: You can become like God; you can manage without Him. We still see this today. People say: You do not need God to be successful; you do not need Him to become rich. You can be happy and successful in life without God.

It was the devil who came to Jesus to tempt Him. He proposed Jesus use His power to improve His daily life on earth. There are spirits who do this today. They say: Ah, you are good Christians, you have a great faith. If you are true believers, you will not be sick and you can be successful. If this is not so, your faith is not strong enough. This spirit wants to relate faith to earthly life. This is a powerful spirit, which has much influence, but this spirit is a liar!



Paul spoke of another spirit, which says: Jesus is not God. This spirit tells us that Jesus is not the truth, that the gospel does not work and that there is another way to be successful. You must recognise this spirit. This spirit tells us that the Master has delayed His coming, that the preaching for years has not come true. And this spirit also shows us the imperfections of the Apostles and says: Do not follow them; they are not true Apostles and they have no power. Come to us and you will experience something else.

How can you overcome these spirits? It says here: You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. So to overcome all these spirits we have to be like children. A child knows: I need my parents to support me because there are many things I don't know. Let us be true children of God, being aware that we do need God.

God and Jesus must be great within us so that when the devil tells us to do something we answer with the words of our Father, which is in our heart. That is the secret. We accept the Lord be-

cause the law of God is great in our heart. We follow the word of God because we are absolutely convinced: this is the right way, this is the truth. The law of God is part of our being and His word is great in our heart. And so we can reject this spirit.

Jesus said: first look for the spiritual goods, your soul and the kingdom of God are much more important than your earthly life. So we do not want to use our faith for earthly matters. Our first wish and concern is to enter the kingdom of God and that is why we follow the Lord.

These are the spirits we have to fight against today, but the one we have in our heart is greater than any spirit. As children of God we know we need Him, and we don't want to do anything without Him. His Word reaches our hearts, and we are convinced: this is the truth; this is the way to go! We believe Jesus was victorious and we trust His victory! This conviction lives in our heart and we wait with patience until the Lord will come. Amen.

(Shortened)

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

1 John 4:1&4

The fear of God and trust

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The motto for 2016 is "Victory with Christ". This also applies, and maybe even primarily so, to our day-to-day lives. Such a motto has many aspects, and I would like to focus on one of the key aspects here: to be victorious with Christ requires the fear of God and trust. To fear God means to have respect and profound reverence for God, our Creator and heavenly Father. Let us trust Him as long as we live, even on bad days.

Following are some examples from the Bible to illustrate this:

■ Joseph's fear of God helped him to triumph over sin. He was devout and knew that God saw him and was with him. When Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him, he resisted her advances. Even in prison, forgotten by everyone, he remained faithful to God. Finally God intervened and he was released. We know that God sees and knows everything. Let us therefore avoid sin and trust Him. He will not forget us!

■ Moses was a man who had complete confidence in everything God did. He waged a battle against Pharaoh that initially appeared futile. Moses asked the Egyptian king nine times to let the people go, and every time he refused. But Moses continued to trust God. Finally, Moses gave the order for the people to get ready to leave Egypt. Everyone obeyed and God liberated them.

What about today? How often have we not already experienced the power of God! Despite all the attacks of the evil one, let us trust God and obey Him. Soon we will escape the evil one once and for all.

■ Paul had to undergo a complete transformation. Everything that had been so important to him was called into question all of a sudden and became irrelevant. But he believed and put His trust in God and continued to be an instrument in God's hand, leading the church of the Lord to redemption. The Son of God Himself commissioned Paul as an Apostle to go and proclaim the gospel to the world.

Things are similar for us today. God sends us into the world to proclaim the glad tidings of the resurrection of Jesus, His ascension, and His return. Christ will return. This is what He has promised!

Let us obey God out of deep reverence, and do so in all situations throughout our lives. We know that God sees and knows everything. We can trust Him. This will bring us the victory with Christ!

Together with all the Apostles around the world I send heartfelt greetings,



Jean-Luc Schneider



Life after death

Is there a life after death?

Yes. Man is both a physical being and a spiritual being. He is an entity consisting of body, soul, and spirit. The human body is mortal and is thus transitory. It is taken from the earth and will return to the earth (Genesis 3:19). Soul and spirit, by contrast, live on after physical death, and are thus immortal. The personhood of a human being—that is, his essence, that which comprises him, and that which he has experienced, felt, believed, and thought—thus continues to exist after physical death.

“For God created man to be immortal, and made him to be an image of his own eternity” (Wisdom of Solomon 2: 23).

What is death?

There is a distinction between the physical death and the spiritual death of a human being. Physical death signifies the end of life on earth. When it occurs, soul and spirit leave the body. Spiritual death is the separation of a human being from God. It is the consequence of sin. When the Bible speaks of the “second death” (Revelation 20:6; 21: 8), this refers to the separation from God that takes effect after the Last Judgement.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6 23).

Who has power over death?

The triune God is Lord over life and death. Through His resurrection, Jesus Christ has conquered death. Thereby He has given mankind access to eternal life: “... our Saviour Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (2 Timothy 1:10).

What is the significance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation for the resurrection of the dead. Since He has resurrected, the dead will also resurrect, “some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt” (Daniel 12:2).

“Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (1 Corinthians 15: 51–52).

Are there any references to life after death in Holy Scripture?

A life after physical death is already suggested in the Old Testament. In the New Testament it is attested on several occasions. For example, we read as follows in 1 Peter 3: 19–20: “By whom [the Holy Spirit] also He [Jesus Christ] went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.”

Where do human beings find themselves after physical death?

The souls and spirits of human beings who have died enter the realm of the dead. We also describe this as “the beyond”.

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Love your enemies

(Luke 6:27-36)

After Jesus had called His twelve Apostles, He spoke to the people. He explained how they should behave.

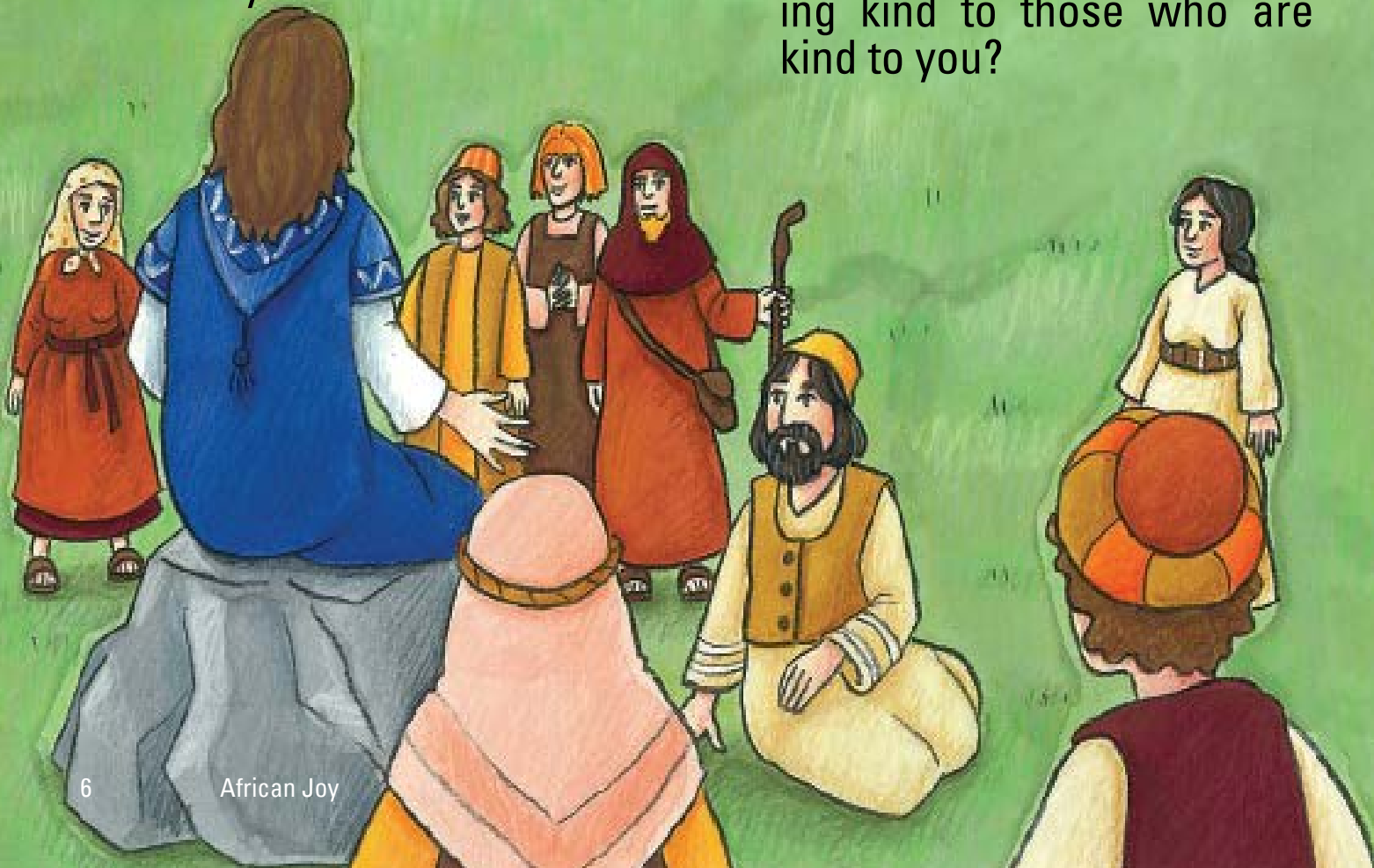
Love your enemies, and be good to everyone who hates you. Bless those who curse you and pray for those who offend you.

If someone slaps you on the cheek then offer him the other cheek as well.

If someone takes away your coat then let him have your shirt as well.

If someone asks you for something then give it to him. If someone takes something that belongs to you then don't demand that he returns it. Treat others as you would wish to be treated.

What is so special about loving those who also love you? Everyone loves his friends. What is so special about being kind to those who are kind to you?



Everyone behaves like that. What is so special about giving something to people if you can expect to receive something in return? Everyone does that. Love your enemies and be good to them. Give to those who will not give you anything in return.

God will then reward you. You will be children of the Most High. God is good even to those who are unthankful and cruel. Have pity on others just as God, your Father, has pity on you.

The commandment to love our enemies is part of a longer sermon that Jesus preached to many people. In Luke's gospel we can read about a sermon He held on a level place. It is therefore often called the Sermon on the Plain. It is similar to the Sermon on the Mount recorded in Matthew. Both begin with beatitudes, continue with the commandment to love our enemies, and conclude with a warning to act upon that which has been spoken.



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Is there a reincarnation of the dead?

No. Any notion of repeated lives on earth (reincarnation), whether as a human being, animal, or plant, contradicts the statements of the Bible and thus the content of the gospel: "... it is appointed for men to die once" (Hebrews 9:27).

The term "reincarnation" refers to different conceptions—none of which are consistent with Christian doctrine—of repeated human existence on earth in various forms.

Can we connect with the departed?

By remembering the departed and praying for them, we have a connection with them. Attempting to contact the departed through necromancy or channelling is forbidden by God and is thus a sin: "There shall not be found among you anyone ... who [is] a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord" (Deuteronomy 18:10–12).

What is the condition of the souls in the beyond?

The condition of the souls in the beyond is an expression of their proximity to, or remoteness from, God. A person's soul has not undergone any change as a result of physical death. A person is not only defined by belief or unbelief, reconciliation or irreconcilability, love or hatred on this earth, but also in the beyond. This condition is also addressed in the parable of Jesus of the rich man and poor Lazarus (Luke 16:19–31), when He speaks of a place of security and a place of torment. The departed can become aware of their condition. Those who suffer torment can

hope for help.

Can the condition of the souls in the beyond be changed?

Yes. Since the sacrifice of Christ, it has been possible to change the condition of the souls in the beyond for the better. After His death, Jesus Christ went into the realm of the dead and preached there. The preaching of the gospel implies an opportunity to change for those who accept it in faith. Therefore a human being can also attain salvation after physical death.

How is it possible for souls in the beyond to change?

Souls in the beyond who have never heard of the gospel, never had their sins forgiven, and never received any of the sacraments find themselves in a condition of remoteness from God. This condition can only be overcome through belief in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice and by receiving the sacraments.

Can we help the departed attain salvation?

Yes, we can intercede in prayer for unredeemed souls and ask the Lord to help them. Likewise, we can pray that these souls come to believe in Jesus Christ and that they are open and prepared to accept the salvation God wishes to grant them.

Since both the living and the dead in Christ comprise a single fellowship, they will work both here and in the beyond in the mind of Christ, in other words, they will intercede in prayer for the unredeemed.

Redemption itself can only occur through Jesus Christ, however.



Serving with love, humility and joy

(An interview with Apostle Lambert published in the *Unsere Familie* Nr. 5, 5 March 2016)

When and how did your love for music come about?

As a child I was only exposed to music in our church. My parents loved to sing our church hymns at home, and I grew to love these hymns. However, I did not have access to professional music tuition, due to a lack of facilities in the town where I spent my childhood.

How did your musical career then develop?

My interest in music only developed as a teenager, but I still had no intention of making music my career. I planned to become a chartered accountant, and chose my school subjects accordingly. When leaving school, I made a last-minute decision to study music. However, due to my lack of tuition, I did not meet the technical requirements to study music at university. The professors reluctantly accepted me as a student, and told me that I stood no chance of succeeding. While studying, I was also active in the congregation as a Sub-deacon, Sunday School teacher, choir-conductor and organist. With the Lord's help, and hard work, I graduated four years later. For me, this was a great experience of faith: God made something possible which highly knowledgeable and experienced people believed to be impossible. This experience became a source of strength and reassurance to me when facing other challenges in my life. I taught at a school for 2½ years before being employed

at the administration office of NAC Cape.

Which instrument(s) do you play?

Do you also compose music?

I studied piano, organ and choral conducting. As a musician I mainly did choir work, but the bulk of my time was spent coordinating the music work in the District Church. In earlier years I wrote a few choir hymns, and more recently I wrote a number of congregation hymns for the English hymnal. However, composing has not been a priority for me personally. Fortunately we have a group of talented composers in our District Church, and we also mentor new composers.

You are in charge of the music department of the Administration of the NAC-Cape and as the music manager are responsible for all the musical activities of the District Church. Which aspects form part of your task?

In summary, my task is to lead, manage and develop the music work so that it supports the mission of the Church and the objectives of the District Church. This entails leading and coordinating the music structures and activities in all congregations, training and development, concert performance, special events, recording production, music publishing, departmental administration, asset maintenance and logistics, as well as collaboration with entities outside of our Church.

As a music manager have you had an experience that has left a special impression on you?

I have had the grace to be part of so many great events and experiences, that it is difficult to single out a particular one. Furthermore, when one experiences the Lord in a special way, it does not necessarily appear impressive from a human point of view. For me, what stands out most is how the Lord has shown His help and presence in our activities – over and over again.



Which music projects are currently in progress?

Subsequent to the release of the English hymnal, we are working on new congregation hymnals in the other languages of our District Church, namely, Afrikaans, Lozi and Xhosa. In addition, we will also be starting work on a new choir hymn collection. These are big projects which take years to complete. Our Composers' Workgroup plays a major role in these projects, as we aim to include as much locally-written music as possible.

Is there a series of concerts planned? Are special events coming up?

Every year we have in-house concerts for invited New Apostolic audiences, as well as public concerts which, as the name implies, are open to the public. Our public concert on Good Friday has become an annual event, although in 2016 we held it on Easter Sunday as an exception.

A special highlight is an in-house concert planned for December 2016 during the visit of Chief Apostle Schneider to Cape Town. This concert will be presented by our children's choir and our orchestra at an amphitheater on the Spier wine estate in Stellenbosch. We will also be hosting a concert by a youth orchestra from Switzerland in October 2016, in which a youth choir from Cape Town will also participate.

We plan to release, among others, a music DVD of our Advent 2015 concert to coincide with the visit of the Chief Apostle.

Will you continue in your function as a music manager in spite of now being an Apostle?

District Apostle Barnes has asked me to continue as music manager for now. This will change at a suitable point in the future.

You would then surely sorely miss this task?

Music will always be close to my heart. However, I am now approaching three decades in this function, and I believe that change is necessary. My focus has broadened in recent years, during which I completed studies in business management. I love to engage the gifts and talents of others in the Lord's work; this includes developing conductors for the future. When I see them doing better than I did, it becomes even easier for me not to miss doing it myself.

What advice do you have for musicians in our church?

Our love for the Lord should be greater than our love for music. This will help us to persevere in serving the Lord even when we encounter difficulties and disappointments. When we are driven firstly by our love for music, there is the danger that we give up when things do not go our way, and the danger that we elevate our own priorities above the Lord's priorities. In the eyes of God, music work is not more important than other tasks which are less visible, less glamorous and less specialized. He expects us all to serve with love, humility and joy, and there will be no differentiation in the reward that we receive from Him.





Avondale



Brakenfell



Gelvandale



Ngweze

Confirmation

On Sunday 10 April 2016 confirmation services took place across the whole district church of the Cape. Over 4200 confirmands made a vow to serve the Lord and thereby passed into spiritual adulthood.

The Bible word for this divine service was Luke 9:11 where we read: "But when the multitudes knew it, they followed Him; and He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing."

The young adults were encouraged to stay close to Jesus and to follow His example, for, by doing this they would always receive the help they need according to His will. They were also made aware that, by vowing to follow Jesus, they express their determination to obey His laws, take Him as a role model and strive daily to enter His Kingdom.

After the divine services on this special day the confirmands received a letter from Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider. In His message he reminded them that God is always greater than what we think He is. All confirmands were handed a hymn collection as a gift for this milestone in their spiritual life and then it was time to capture the events photographically.



Rosedale



Rustdene



Vredendal



Windhoek



Service for the Departed

On Sunday 3 July 2016 we will again experience a divine service for the Departed. This blessed New Apostolic tradition requires a special preparation from every believer as we pray that unredeemed souls may find salvation. May the time leading up to this service contain blessed moments and memorable experiences.

Living benefits

During 2015 the NAC Burial Fund Cape enhanced the benefits to policy holders without there being any additional cost to the existing premium. These benefits provide help where legal services or trauma assistance is needed. To date there have been many members who have reported receiving good service when calling for help. If you would like to make use of the Living benefits facility all you need to do is call: 0860 555 992. Once you have quoted your Burial Fund membership number you will be given the required assistance.

Retirements

On Sunday 3 July 2016 Bishop K Schoeman who is responsible for the Tafelsig area will be retired by District Apostle N Barnes during the service in Tafelsig. In addition, Apostle W Diedericks will be placed into retirement by the District Apostle on Sunday 31 July during a divine service in Kensington Central. This service will be audio visually transmitted to congregations on the Church network.



Electronic offering

For the sake of security members have three methods to offer by electronic means:

1. Stop orders from their bank account to the Church's dedicated bank account.
2. Over the counter deposits into the Church's dedicated bank account.
3. Electronic/Internet bank transfers into the Church's dedicated bank account.

The account details are as follows:

Beneficiary: New Apostolic Church Cape

Bank: Standard Bank of SA Ltd

Branch: Constantia, Cape Town

Account No: 071820175

Branch Code: 025309

Reference: (Four Digit Congregation Code)