

community

The New Apostolic Church around the world

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District Apostle Markus Fehlbaum retires

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A rich variety of gifts

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

For as long as human beings are inclined to compare themselves with others, they will always emphasise their differences: colour of skin, social status, nationality, abilities, possessions, and so on. And when it comes to such comparisons, our own position is often the preferred standard: whatever is dissimilar is recognised as a difference, regarded with distrust, and at times even condemned.

God Himself does not make such distinctions. Certainly He loves those who are like us, but He also loves those who are completely different from us. Let us not stand in the way of this love. All are to experience the love of God in the same manner.

Beyond that, let us join together to fight for God and with God. As those whom God has called, let us joyfully proclaim the gospel. For this we need one another. We need our differences. We need the gifts and talents of our neighbours—and they need ours.

When we look at it this way, our differences will still be evident, but we will no longer perceive this diversity as an obstacle. These differences will no longer be a reason for disparagement or condemnation for us. When we recognise that each of us can contribute our various gifts, we see our differences as an opportunity—they represent an added value for all of us.



NAC International

As members of the body of Christ, let us serve one another. Within the church of Christ, let us put our gifts and talents into the service of Jesus. In so doing we will feel a deep sense of gratitude toward all Christians, both past and present, who have placed—and continue to place—the gifts and talents they have received from God into the service of Christ and His church.

The gifts are very different. Let us all engage our gifts and strengths without the need for recognition—but always out of love for God and our neighbour!

With heartfelt greetings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' and 'L' followed by a horizontal line and a vertical line crossing it.

Jean-Luc Schneider

| Faith, hope, love



The service was held in our church in Berne-Ostermundigen and transmitted to congregations throughout the District Apostle Area

Jonas Spengler and Marc Genou

1 Corinthians 13: 13

“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

Dear brothers and sisters, I bid you a warm welcome to this special divine service today. It is also a special day that will go down in the history of the Apostle district: your District Apostle will be retired. Naturally this is not a matter of honouring and praising a man. We take this as an occasion to give thanks to God for that which He has done upon us over the last ten years. We thank God for the blessing He has granted us through the activity of the District Apostle, and for the fact that He has been with our District Apostle during these ten years of activity in this ministry. Now we find ourselves at the beginning of a new stage on our way to our heavenly home, as the choir has just sung.

When you have a car, it is quite normal to take it into the shop for an inspection after a certain period of time, just to see if everything is still in order and that the safety systems are still functioning properly. It is better to look after this ahead of time. Perhaps it is also appropriate for us to carry out an inspection in our life of faith in order to see if all the safety mechanisms in our souls are still in order.

Let us today open up our hearts to the activity of the Holy Spirit for just such an inspection. Is everything that has to do with the safety of our life of faith still in order?

What contributes to safety when it comes to our salvation? It is precisely that which Apostle Paul mentions here as the most important points. Here he is talking about faith, hope, and love.

After looking into it a little bit, I discovered that it has already been quite a long time since any Chief Apostle has conducted a divine service based on this passage. Certainly we know that faith, hope, and love are important, but here we are talking about our salvation. It is imperative for our salvation that this faith, hope, and love are still as manifest within us as the Lord would wish.

The first point that Paul mentions is faith. Faith is extremely important because salvation depends upon it. Only faith can save us. Only faith can lead us to God. It all comes down to faith. Everything else is secondary. Paul writes: "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5: 7). This means that—for as long as the Lord has not yet come, and for as long as the plan of salvation has not yet been completed, human beings must believe. Their relationship with God is based on faith alone.

What is faith? Faith is the certainty that something exists even though it cannot be seen or understood, or perhaps even envisioned. It is simply the inner certainty: this is how it is although I cannot see it or even envision it. That is faith. It is important for us to be aware of the fact that we will need faith until the end.

What do we believe in? We believe that God is love. That is the foundation of the Christian faith. We believe in the triune God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. These three are completely one and intimately connected with one another. This is precisely the definition of love. Love is this fundamental relationship that already exists in the Trinity between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Three different Persons are one. They cannot be separated. They are indivisibly bound to one another. This is the very definition of love.

The triune God has created mankind: "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness" (Genesis 1: 26). He wanted to incorporate mankind into this fellowship. Human beings were to share in this love. But they were disobedient and fell away from God. Nevertheless, God is love. All of His activity, right from the start, was aimed at bringing fallen mankind back into this fellowship and restoring the relationship between Himself and man, so that humanity can once again live in perfect fellowship with the triune God.

We believe in Jesus Christ. In His love, God sent His Son to earth. He became Man. Jesus Christ has revealed the nature, the thoughts, and the will of God to us. We believe this. We see God because we see Jesus Christ, and if we hear

We believe that God is love. That is the foundation of the Christian faith





Jesus Christ—and read His words—then this is God’s word and God’s will. We believe in Jesus Christ, whom God in His love sent to earth, and who brought His sacrifice for us. This is the path that God, in His love, has given us in order to find our way back to Him.

We believe in God, the Holy Spirit, the Maker of the new creation. In His love, God sent the Holy Spirit to earth. This Holy Spirit is now in the process of putting the love of God into practice and preparing a new creation. First, He creates a new man, He creates salvation, He completes the plan of redemption. God is present on earth today through the Holy Spirit. It is through Him that the love of God takes its effect. Through the Spirit, God executes His plan, with the objective of bringing all human beings into fellowship with Himself.

Furthermore, we believe that God, in His love, has given us the church, the ministry, and the sacraments, and we believe in the promise that Jesus gave—and which the Holy Spirit keeps alive—namely that the Lord will come again and that He will then establish His kingdom. We believe that God will bring into being a new creation for all people who follow Jesus. That is what we believe! It is important for us to continually remind ourselves about these things. Faith produces trust.



We believe that God is love. We believe that the love of God is still at work, and that God desires to grant mankind salvation.

Today we cannot always see this. Nevertheless, we believe that God also loves us! Even when we do not understand what God is doing, we trust Him—even when everything seems to be going wrong. We believe and have trust. God creates salvation. He is working on the salvation of all mankind. That is the future. We trust the omnipotence of God. Faith is the first important point. Salvation as a whole depends upon it.



The Christian faith is fundamentally oriented to the future

The second point Paul goes on to mention is hope. Hope grows from faith. We believe in the intentions of God. We long for these intentions to be fulfilled. We patiently wait for this to happen and prepare ourselves for this event. That is the definition of hope. The Christian faith is fundamentally oriented toward the future. Two weeks ago in Washington I already said—because this is a concern of mine—that when I look into the Christian world I notice that, while there is still some faith here and there, the hope for the future, for eternal life—which for us is the first resurrection, then later, salvation for all who have accepted Christ as their Lord in the new creation—has diminished.

For Christians, there is a great danger that the Christian faith might come to be perceived as nothing more than a set of ethics—a doctrine that imparts ethical values in order to facilitate human coexistence, perhaps—and these ethical values might indeed be very good, but they could also be replaced by others.

Where our faith is not associated with the future, it becomes nothing more than a tradition or a set of morals, but it will not bring salvation.

Our faith is oriented to the future. We are waiting for God to fulfil His promise. We are waiting for the salvation He will grant us. Ultimately we are waiting for the new creation. All those who have accepted Christ as Lord will then have found salvation.

Our hope consists of the fact that we know it will happen. The Lord Jesus said that the kingdom of God is already within us (Luke 17: 21). In other words, we have a bit of a foreshadowing of what is to come. Here Paul says, “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known” (1 Corinthians 13: 12). We already have an inkling of glory, of perfection today, but everything is still a little unclear. Yet we know it will come. Everything is already in the process of coming to be. The new creation is already present, but it is still in the process of coming to be.

The church is already there, but it is not yet perfected. It is still developing. Salvation, which God desires to grant all human beings, is already present, but it is still developing. We cannot see it quite clearly yet, but it is coming because God has promised it. God is as we have always believed Him to be. He will send His Son—we prepare ourselves for this. That is our hope. There is already something that we can experience now, but everything is still in the process of development—and still imperfect.

The church is not perfect, the ministers are not perfect, the believers are not perfect, salvation is not yet perfectly manifest, peace is not yet perfect ... All of this is still in the process of development. We have the certainty that it will come, and we prepare ourselves for that moment. This hope helps us to remain steadfast, even when we must go through trials, even when we are tested. We remain firm in our hope. It is worthwhile to remain faithful. The kingdom of God will come. We will enter into it and be blissful and happy for all eternity. Just wait. It is worthwhile to remain faithful.

Here and there a death occurs, and then people say, “Now he is dead. What benefit is there for him now?” But our hope transcends even death. It goes much further. Even if death should occur, this changes nothing about our hope! God has promised: “I will complete what I have begun! As long as you are in agreement, I will bring you into My king-



Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider retires District Apostle Markus Fehlbaum (left) and appoints Jürg Zbinden (right) as the new District Apostle

dom.” That is the hope that lives within us. It is for this reason that we do not give up. If we fall down a hundred and fifty times, we will simply get up again one hundred and fifty times. We will simply carry on! And because we have this hope, we purify ourselves, continue the battle against sin, and make the effort to overcome and to develop in our new life. We do not give up our hope!

We look into the world and see the hardships, the injustice, and the terrible lot of many people. We even see those who have distanced themselves from God, who are far away from Him. When we see all this we could become discouraged. Then some might ask, “Well, what is your God doing about that?” God is at work through His Holy Spirit. He is working on His plan of redemption for the salvation of all human beings. God will continue to work until the end.

It is worthwhile to continue serving the Lord and to continue to bring sacrifices for His work. It is worthwhile to help along because the plan is proceeding, and no one can stop it. That is our hope. We know it is coming. We are waiting for this. We long for this and prepare ourselves for it. We endure in patience and continue to do battle against sin, because we know the end of the story. At the end, in the new creation, there will be salvation for all.

And one last point: Paul mentions faith first, then hope, and then love. This is a bit peculiar. Most of the time, these would be in different order, but there is a good reason. After all, when our faith is in order and when there is hope, then

love will grow. Faith tells us: God loves you. God loves mankind. He allows us to feel this love. Hope shows us all the things God will give us. And it is on this basis that our love for Him grows. It is because God loves us in this manner that we too can love. This love grows from faith. Without faith, this love would not be possible. We believe that God is love. Even if we cannot see this, even if we cannot understand this, even if we cannot imagine this, we believe in it—and it is from this that our love will grow.

Paul says that faith works through love (Galatians 5: 6). Just as faith would be nothing without hope, so too, faith without love is a dead faith. Love is the standard by which our faith is measured. Where there is true faith, there will also be love, love for God. How does this love come to expression?

The Lord Jesus Himself said, “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him” (John 14: 21). Those who love Him will be obedient to Him. Many people—even many Christians—have a different conception of love. We cannot change anything about this passage. These are the words of Jesus Christ. Jesus defined it that way. Faith is measured by love. “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me.” Do we still have this sincere desire to live in accordance with the commandments? Do we still have this sincere desire to attune ourselves to the law of God and structure our lives in accordance with it?

If we know that faith matters, and that God measures our faith by our love, and that He defines our love by way of our obedience, then we may not find love so comfortable any more!

The commandment that Jesus gave is the commandment to love our neighbour. God has promised us fellowship with Himself. If we have this hope, we will long for that moment and prepare ourselves for fellowship with Him. We will attune ourselves in such a manner that we can already become one with Him today, such that His thoughts and His way of thinking also become our thoughts and our way of thinking. What is Christ's way of thinking? He loves my neighbour just as He loves me. We endeavour to grow into Christ's way of thinking. Jesus Christ is God. God is love. He loves my neighbour. That is how all of these things fit together. I grow in love because I have this hope: I am waiting for fellowship with God. I prepare myself for this fellowship with God. God is love, therefore I too must be love. That is the reason why love is so infinitely important. Therefore: faith is imperative for salvation, faith results in hope, and faith is measured by our love.

Now we come to the end. Paul says, "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three"—these are the foundations—"but the greatest of these is love." Paul does not say that love is the most important, only that it is the greatest. And he explains this himself. After all, faith will cease at some point in time. When the time for faith is past, we will come to sight. Then we will see what we have believed. Then faith will cease.

Today already we can experience our faith here and there. These experiences strengthen us in our faith. When we are with God, we will no longer need to believe. Then everything will be clear.

Hope: we are expecting something. Here too we have a little foretaste of fellowship with the Lord, namely in Holy Communion. It is beautiful when we can experience how fellowship with God might be, but it is only a foretaste. At some point in time, God will fulfil His promise. Then we will no longer need any hope. Then we will live in this new reality.

Love is also something that we can experience today already in many different ways, but it will never cease! Why? Let me come back to the beginning. We will then be enveloped in this relationship with God. We will then live in this relationship. And this relationship is love. When we have finally made it, once we have reached our goal, when we are admitted into this intimate fellowship with God, once we are fully one with Him, when we are so close to

Him that no one will ever be able to separate us from Him ever again—that is love! Love will never cease. Love will be perfect when we live in fellowship with God.

And what about our love for our neighbour? That will not cease either! It too will become perfect because we will be in the marriage chamber, and later on in the new creation. Human beings will live in new conditions. They will then all be completely immersed in the love of God. In this intimate connection with God, the relationship between human beings will also be completely different. Everything sinful will be gone. All human beings will then be completely focused on God. God will be all in all. The relationship between human beings itself is a divine relationship because it is based on God. It will be perfected by the love of God. The goal of the whole exercise is eternal love, that we may live in eternal fellowship with God and that the relationship between all human beings may be an image of the relationship within the Trinity. The relationship between all human beings will then only be based on love. That is our future.

There we have some thoughts about these three fundamental terms—faith, hope, and love. We would do well to occupy ourselves a little more with them. What do I actually believe? What do I believe in? Over time, so much dust has collected on this, and at times we may confuse faith with something else, perhaps tradition or whatever else there may be. Let us get to the heart of the matter. What do we believe? What do we actually believe in? And out of this faith, hope and love will grow. Without hope, our faith would be dead. Faith is measured by our love.

The goal is to be eternally enveloped in the love of God together with all our fellow human beings.

CORE THOUGHTS

Faith, hope, and love are indispensable for salvation. We believe that God is love and we trust Him. Faith generates hope and engenders love. We reciprocate the love of God by obeying His commandments and living in accordance with the example of Jesus.

The pledge of divine inheritance for all

“Let us give our neighbour a foretaste of the kingdom of God.” This is the 2018 Pentecost message which the Chief Apostle addressed to all New Apostolic believers across the world. What exactly does he mean?



Alisane Ferguson/Alex Ferguson

It is not only because it is the birthday of the church that Pentecost is important, Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider said on 20 May 2018 in Washington, D.C. (USA). It is more than that: Pentecost testifies of the faithfulness of God, because He keeps His promises. His incarnation in Jesus Christ, the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, and the sending of the Holy Spirit—all these things were inconceivable then and remain inexplicable. “We can only grasp this in faith.”

The same is true of the promises given to believers today. The return of Christ will be accomplished in a way that cannot be explained or imagined. “But we know one thing: it will happen! Jesus will return!” the Chief Apostle insisted. “That is our Pentecost joy: God fulfils His promises. Our God is the faithful God.”

The sign of our special relationship

“We have received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Holy Sealing,” the Chief Apostle said with reference to the Bible text from Ephesians 1: 13–14. The image of this seal shows: “We belong to God. We have a special relationship with Him, a relationship we call ‘childhood in God.’”

This implies a double promise. “For one thing, God loves you because you are His child. No matter what you do, even if you do everything wrong, it will not change anything for God. If you come back to God, whatever you have done, He will accept you as His child.” And secondly, “The Spirit who raised Jesus Christ from death dwells in you. You will experience your own resurrection.”



Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider with all active District Apostles and District Apostle Helpers following the service in Washington D.C.

how we can experience the peace of God already today.

A committed team for and with God

“God is all in all,” the Chief Apostle said with reference to 1 Corinthians 15: 28. “If we allow the Holy Spirit to shape us, we can overcome greed and selfishness.” Also the natural differences between human beings cannot prevent unity in Christ: “We need our differences. They are a chance and a blessing if we have decided to become a team and fight for God and with God.”

Finally, Holy Sealing implies that we are witnesses of Christ. Let us

show that the gospel is much more than a method for a successful life or a collection of standard ethical values, because the Christian faith is based on a promise: it is about the future, about eternal life.

“It is up to us that our neighbour can experience: God is love, God is grace, God is patient,” the Chief Apostle said in conclusion. “This is my appeal to you on this Pentecost feast: let us give our neighbour a foretaste of the kingdom of God.”

The guarantee of salvation

With our sealing God confirmed His will to save us, the Chief Apostle said. “No power, no spirit can hinder the completion of God’s plan of redemption. Those who are sealed have the guarantee that they will be saved despite their mistakes and weaknesses. Don’t give up. Keep working. You can do it.”

“God will provide all we need to enter into His kingdom.” The Chief Apostle said that God will never allow anything to prevent our salvation. “However, this guarantee will only work for those who are willing to allow themselves to be prepared for the return of Christ, for those who make it a priority.”

The foretaste of eternal happiness

With the gift of the Holy Spirit, God makes man the heir of eternal life. In addition to this promise, the believer already today receives a pledge, that is, a down payment or a foretaste, the Chief Apostle explained.

Only once we are in the kingdom of glory will man see God as He is. “But already today we can get a rather precise idea of Him. We can perceive His presence more and more, and can recognise better and better that He is indeed love, that He is omnipotent and that He is grace.”

Eternal peace still belongs to the future. But if we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us, if we allow Him to shape our thoughts, desires, and our very being, then we will always be in accordance with the will and nature of God. This is

CORE THOUGHTS

Ephesians 1: 13–14

“In Him [Jesus Christ] you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

The gift of the Holy Spirit is a guarantee that God will save us. It is also a pledge of the perfect fellowship with God and a call to serve Christ.



NAC India

We cannot help but love

There are many reasons to ignore, despise, or even hate our neighbour. “But be steadfast in love, don’t give up,” the Chief Apostle says. “We believe in the final victory of love. That is our conviction.”

In the first century, the Christians in Asia Minor were persecuted by the authorities because they refused to worship the Roman emperor as their god. One of them, John, was banished to an island, where God gave him a message for the congregations. God told him: I know you; I know your situation, but I have something against you.

This is how Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider outlined the background to the Bible text he used on 12 November 2017 in Raipur (India).

In the kingdom of God

“The first important point is: we are partakers of the kingdom of God,” the Chief Apostle said. After all, mankind was able to experience the presence, love, and grace of God on earth through Jesus Christ. “Today we experience the presence of God, His love, and His grace through the Holy Spirit.”

The second point: the kingdom of God is present. Through Jesus Christ the kingdom of God was established on earth. Christ overcame death and evil. “We still benefit from His

victory today,” the Chief Apostle said. “Through Him, and with His help, we can overcome evil. We want Jesus to be the King in our hearts.”

The third point: “We are waiting for the future kingdom of God,” the Chief Apostle said. We are waiting for the return of Christ to lead us into His kingdom, where there will be no more evil, suffering, or death.

In tribulation

The first Christians suffered from persecution. “We too live in a time of tribulation,” the Chief Apostle said and went on to elaborate. “Many people today serve the god of money and possessions. Everything revolves around success, money, and prosperity. Of course we would like to live better lives, but not at all costs. Our god is Jesus Christ. The salvation of the soul is our priority.” Such an attitude can sometimes isolate us in today’s society.

“The temptation of the first Christians was that the return of Christ, which they were waiting for, did not take place,” the Chief Apostle continued. “When our requests and



wishes are not answered, then it is a test. For us it is a matter of abandoning ideas that displease God.”

In love

The same dangers lurk today as they did in the past, the Chief Apostle said, and referred to the warnings given to the congregations in Asia Minor.

“Because you are lukewarm ...” Being lukewarm means making compromises. Many people live according to the principle: making the most of your chances. “Do we really have to keep all the commandments? Is it really that bad if I tell a lie or if I take something that does not belong to me?” But Jesus told the congregations to be careful, there is great danger lurking.

“You have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.” Faith without works is nothing more than a religion based on tradition. And a religion based on tradition is not a living faith.

“... that you have left your first love.” Because people are not nice to you, because they are against you, you stopped loving your neighbour. In the best case, you are just indifferent. In the worst case, you hate them. That is a big danger.

What can protect us from these dangers? Let us be kind and do good to our neighbour, and keep the commandments, the Chief Apostle asked the congregation. “There are plenty of good reasons to give up and not love our neighbour. But we cannot help but love, because this love has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. We believe in the final victory of love. That is our faith, our conviction.”



Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider ordains the Apostles Devadas Basappa, Fred Charles Marihal, and Prabhakar Beergi

CORE THOUGHTS

Revelation 1: 9

“I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

We are waiting for the kingdom of God and are preparing for it today. We will not allow persecution, temptation, and struggles to discourage us. We show perseverance in faith, both in our mission and in love.



| Chosen, now what?

Called and chosen. This central concept from the gospel implies both inclusion as well as exclusion. How is that possible seeing that God loves all of mankind? Thoughts from a divine service by the Chief Apostle.

On his trip to Africa at the end of February this year, Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider also visited Cameroon and conducted a divine service in Yaoundé on 28 February.

Recognising the elect

Revelation reports that John saw the community of the elect with Jesus Christ after His return. Those who will be able to participate in the Lord's return can be recognised by the following, the Chief Apostle explained:

- the elect were not chosen for their merit or their achievements, but by God's will alone.
- the elect come from all tribes and nations.
- the elect are numerous, but their number is limited. This is how Chief Apostle Schneider interpreted the image of the 144,000.

Understanding election

Those who will participate in the Lord's return have been chosen

- to be firstfruits. They will be the first human beings after His resurrection to put on the resurrection body of Jesus.

- to constitute the bride of Christ. The image of the wedding means that these will be the first ones who will be intimately connected with Jesus, who will live with Him and share everything with Him.
- to serve and rule with Jesus. However, they will not rule over human beings. They will not exercise authority over them, but they will put all their strength in the service of the salvation of mankind.

Clinching our election

The elect bear the name of God. They belong to God. "Jesus has redeemed us with His sacrifice. The devil has no claim on us any more," the Chief Apostle said. And the elect follow His call: "You have become a child of God because Jesus has chosen you personally and redeemed you." And they receive the Holy Spirit: "This seal is of course also the symbol for the regeneration through water and Spirit, which we have received through Holy Baptism and Holy Sealing."

The elect refrain from practising idolatry, because idols keep us from God. "If education, money, and success are more important to you than Jesus, you have chosen an idol." Idol worship, so the Chief Apostle, also includes witchcraft



At the end of the service Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider ordained three Apostles: Ignatius Che Nchi for Cameroon (third from the right), Braima Saffa for Sierra Leone (second from the right), and Ernest Onyebuchi Onwukwe for Nigeria



and Spiritism: “We no longer trust Jesus, but seek help elsewhere.” And preachers can also become a danger for our faith: “When men become more important than Jesus, then this too, is idolatry.”

The elect follow Jesus. To follow Jesus means wanting to be with Jesus already today: “In divine service, in prayer, and particularly in Holy Communion.” The elect obey Jesus Christ unconditionally: “Because we love Him and want to be together with Him.” And the elect bring the message of salvation to strangers and sinners. “We love strangers. We love the weak.”

They are blameless. The elect acknowledge their sins and regret them. “God was able to wash away their sins, and they became blameless.”

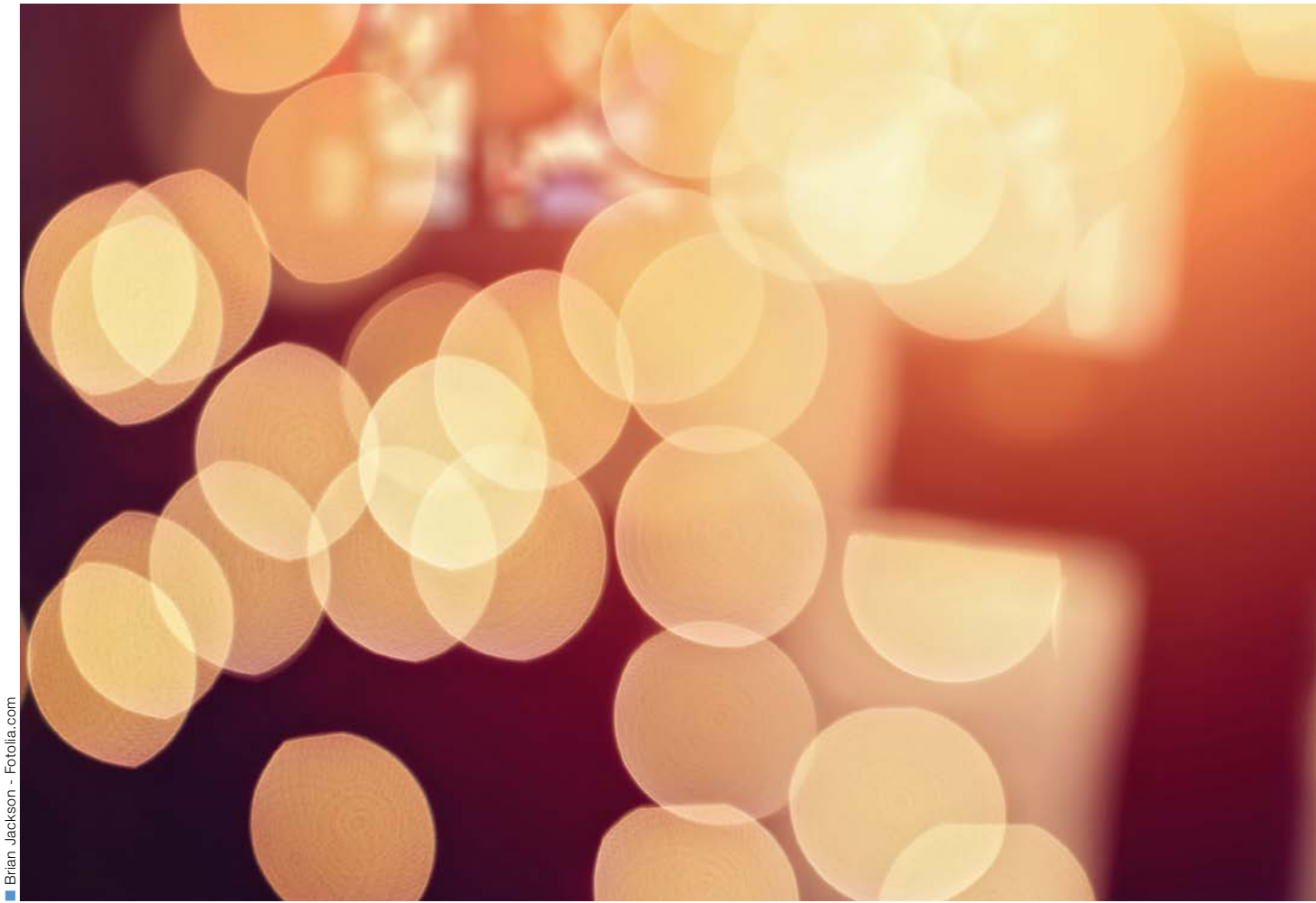
They follow the Apostles. Through the Apostles the elect receive the seal of the Spirit: “It is the apostolate that has received the mission to prepare the bride for the return of the Lord.”

CORE THOUGHTS

Revelation 14: 1

“Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads.”

We were chosen to become firstfruits of the Lamb. To achieve this, we give ourselves completely to God, reject all forms of idolatry, serve according to the example set by Jesus, long for grace, and follow the Apostles.



Brian Jackson - Fotolia.com

Prayer – indispensable in all situations of life

Why do we pray? What makes a prayer a prayer? And what does it take to have an active prayer life? Thoughts on our dialogue with God—originating from the pen of the Chief Apostle.



When we talk about prayer, we may at first be prompted to think about the prayers that are spoken in divine service. Adoration and worship, thanksgiving, petitions, and intercessions are essential elements of these. The prayers uttered in divine service are not merely personal expressions of gratitude, petition, and need on the part of the officiant. Rather, these prayers bring to expression the various elements that move and affect the congregation as a whole.

Nevertheless, public prayers in divine service repeatedly remind each and every one of the participants just how important private prayer is for an individual's faith. Prayer in divine service is intended to encourage the believers to likewise pray on their own—and not only in difficult situations of life, when they are in despair and no longer see a way out, but rather in all situations of life.

Expression of faith and fellowship

Prayer is an essential expression of communion—that is, of the relationship—between God and man. The Catechism states the following on the subject: “In prayer, the believer

experiences: God is present, God hears, and God answers” (CNAC 13.1).

Nevertheless, for many people, personal prayer—namely the practice traditionally described as “prayer life”—often fades into the background. For this reason it is necessary to remind ourselves again and again that we always have the opportunity to pray. Beyond that, if one is responsible for the religious upbringing of children, it is particularly important to pray with them regularly so that they may recognise that prayer is not only an element of divine service, but also a component of daily life.

First and foremost, our prayers are an expression of our faith, because without belief in God, it would be pointless to address Him or seek a response from Him. However, believers know that they can indeed address God in prayer—and that He answers. Human beings are creations of God, made in His image, and have thus already been addressed by God.

Those who make use of the opportunity to pray will also experience that God is our counterpart who listens and responds to us. This experience leads believers to recognise God and feel His presence. They thereby learn that He is interested in human cares and concerns, and that He accompanies them on their way of life. In this way prayer is also the expression of an inner attitude that is characterised by trust in God.

Those who pray should also be aware of the elements that are part of prayer. These will be more closely explored in the following.

Inner and outer posture

First of all, prayer usually incorporates some sort of physical expression, for example the folding of one's hands. This signals that we have ceased all activity and focus entirely on our dialogue with God. Those who kneel while they pray demonstrate that they are humbling themselves before God, and that they venerate Him as the almighty, exalted, and merciful, to whose care and providence they commend themselves without reservation. Closing our eyes while we pray keeps us from being distracted in our conversation with God.

Such an outward posture on the part of the supplicant already makes it clear that he is completely focused on God. Prayer occurs on the basis of a direct need to turn to God, to give thanks to Him for gifts received, and to ask Him for help or support. In prayer, human beings are there-

fore always the recipients, even when they are wrestling with God, as Jesus did in Luke 22: 44, and even when they come to Him in a demanding manner. The person praying is therefore the supplicant, and God the giver and benefactor. Ultimately, prayer is a matter of grace and salvation—something which human beings need, and which God in turn bestows upon them.

When we pray, God is our sole partner in dialogue. This also applies to collective prayer and the prayers in divine service. It is not the assembly of participants in the divine service who comprise the addressee, but rather God alone. In this way prayer is neither a monologue nor a speech to those assembled in prayer.

Those who commend themselves to God in prayer will experience that God is a loving Father and provider, who grants strength and support in the most diverse conditions of life. When we profess God the Father as the Creator, Jesus Christ as the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit as the Maker of the new creation, we can also experience that this is the case in prayer. For one thing, our profession will become part of our life and, on the other hand, our worship and adoration, thanksgiving, petitions, and intercessions—all of which are part of prayer—will grant us insight into the nature of God. It is for this reason that prayer is also an important source of direct knowledge of God.

Let us now explore the aforementioned aspects, which are elements of both public and private prayer alike.

Adoration and worship

First of all, prayer is comprised of adoration and worship. The experience of the divine, which is omnipotent, majestic, mysterious, and sublime, causes man to tremble, but also fascinates him at the same time. Worship occurs before any petitions or intercessions are expressed. Worship is owed primarily to God, because He far transcends anything we can directly experience, and because all limitations are suspended in Him. It is in adoration and worship that the individual approaches the majesty of God in reverence, which comes to expression in terms such as “holiness”, “omnipotence”, and “eternity”.

In both the Old and New Testaments, there are many examples of worship and adoration: “Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker” (Psalm 95: 6). Revelation 4: 10–11 relates both the proper posture and language of worship: “[Then] the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne saying: ‘You are wor-

thy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.’”

In the Old Testament, the only legitimate object of worship is the God of Israel, who is at the same time the Creator of the entire universe. The New Testament establishes that Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are due as much worship as God, the Father. The resurrected and exalted Lord is also to be worshipped. The Holy Spirit is worshipped as the presence of God and the Maker of the new creation.

The ultimate goal is that all people and nations, as well as all visible and invisible powers of this world, may come to worship the one God (Isaiah 45: 14; Zechariah 14: 9, 16; Psalm 96: 7–9; John 4: 20–24). The risen Jesus Christ is both the exalted Lord, who should be—and is—worshipped. That which was said of God in the Old Testament is now also applied to Christ (Philippians 2: 9–11). At the ascension of the Lord it becomes clear that Jesus Christ is likewise an object of worship: “And they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy” (Luke 24: 52).

Thanksgiving

Gratitude emanates from the certainty that the whole of human existence is affected by one’s relationship with God. Those who give thanks do so first and foremost on their own behalf, for their very existence—regardless of whether they are successful by human standards or not. This gratitude brings to expression that God is the creator and sustainer of His creation and that the individual understands himself as part of this creation.

The experience of divine protection as well as the presence and gracious care of God in their lives inspires human beings to give thanks to Him. This gratitude is expressed in the knowledge that one’s life and conditions of life are not governed by coincidence, but are defined by that which God permits and forbids.

Petitions

At times it appears as though our prayers consist primarily of petitions. Even in the Lord’s Prayer there are many petitions. Turning to God in petition makes it clear that God is the One who can be addressed in all situations of life. The supplicant also incorporates his own situation of life into the prayer.

Anyone who asks God for anything recognises in Him the helper, giver, and benefactor of life. In prayer, man experiences that God is merciful and kindly disposed to His cre-



ation. Human beings recognise Him as the One who either grants or denies petitions. A prayer of petition is based on the insight that God inclines Himself to His creation and that He loves that which He has created. God is not distant from, nor indifferent to, His creation—of which human beings are an integral part—but rather accompanies and protects it. He desires to make salvation and eternal life accessible to all human beings.

Intercessions

Intercessions arise from the believer's awareness that he does not practise his faith on his own, but rather in the fellowship of other believers. Beyond that the supplicant knows that he has been created in the image of God, and thus exists in relationship to other human beings—as they have likewise been created in the image of God—and therefore shares in the fellowship of all God's creatures together with them.

Beyond that, intercession follows from the commandment to love one's neighbour. The plea of the supplicant that God should also protect and preserve others and grant them salvation protects the believer from the danger of desiring salvation exclusively for himself.

Summary

Anything that moves and stirs within a human being's heart—including our own needs and wishes, as well as the needs and wishes of others—is part of prayer. Prayer incorporates fears and joys, health and sickness, life on the threshold of death, the magnificence of nature, and the beauty of humanity in fellowship and being there for one another, but also that which is unfathomable, such as the destruction that man inflicts on nature and other human beings. Prayer is therefore an indispensable element of a life defined by faith and following.

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District Apostle Charles Ndandula announces his retirement

By Nathaniel Lowa in Lusaka



District Apostle Charles Ndandula will go into retirement on July 21, 2019.

In a circular to all active Apostles and Bishops in Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe, dated 2nd August, 2018, the District Apostle thanked God and the members of the church for the rare occasion to serve God and the members as District Apostle.

“I would like to thank our heavenly Father who accorded me this rare opportunity to serve Him and to serve you as a minister from 12th March, 1983 when I was ordained as Priest and later on 28th June, 1987 when I was ordained in the high ministry of Apostle at the age of thirty-three (33) years. It was a great challenge to serve as an Apostle on a part-time basis, since I was still working for a parastatal Company then. I was greatly moved and frightened such that for a few moments, I asked God, ‘but why me?’ With the fear of God I anchored myself upon the Lord,” he said.

The District Apostle also emphasized that God always gives the necessary strength, protection, knowledge and wisdom to whom so ever He chooses to serve Him and to serve His children.

He further said that from the time he was ordained as District Apostle on 13th March, 2005, he strove to serve with humility.

“From 13th March, 2005 I was called by the Lord to serve Him and His children in the very high ministry of District Apostle for the countries of Zambia and Malawi. From April 2007, Zimbabwe was added to our District Apostle Area. Indeed greater responsibilities were again placed on my shoulders. I have striven to serve my heavenly Father with fear and trembling every day and seeking His grace and guidance through prayer, sacrifice and humility.”

District Apostle Ndandula further thanked the Apostles, ministers, members and his family for the support rendered to him.

“I would like to thank my fellow Apostles and all the ministers for their support and prayers. I would like to thank all the brothers, sisters, my wife, my children, my grandchildren, the whole family (including the extended family such as brothers, sisters, uncles, aunties, cousins, nephews, nieces, in-laws, etc) and all friends for their great support, without which it would have been very difficult for me to serve God and all His children entrusted into my care.

“It’s a great pleasure to work with all of you and it is my joy to serve you. There have been many challenges also, but we have all learnt that our God has never disappointed His children and His servants. All the challenges that God permitted were all well-meant and He helped us to overcome all of them. The Lord will not permit trials which we cannot endure,” he said.

He encouraged members to endure the challenges they face in the journey to the goal of faith.

“The scripture tells us that those who endure until the end, the same shall be served. Therefore, we shall have to endure many things on this great journey to the goal of our faith.”

He also made reference to Colossians 3: 23-24.

“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”

He also encouraged members to remain focused.

“There will still be further challenges in the future and the same God will never leave us alone as long as we continue doing those things that please God. Whether we are criticised, ignored, thanked or even accused, we should remain focused and serve God, and not to serve man or ourselves,” he said.

District Apostle Ndandula equally asked the members to give the same support they gave him to his successor.

“Please give the same support to my successor and God will spiritually prosper all of us. The work belongs to God and not to any individual person. I urge you to pray together with me for my successor and for the work of God.”

Whatever has been achieved from March 13th, 2005, and even before that, has been achieved by God through me and all of you my dear brothers and sisters together with all our predecessors.

Without your sacrifice and support together with the help of God, nothing could have been achieved,” he said.

With over 4,000 church buildings completed in Zambia, the District Apostle expressed his gladness for this achievement but called on members to continue with the same zeal and support in building their own temples.

“As I go into retirement next year, I am glad that we have a good number of church buildings, but we still need to build many more churches. I have noticed the zeal in our brothers and sisters to build their own temples from own resources and I pray that such zeal should be supported and sustained.”

I am also glad that the church in Zambia is now self-sustaining without getting any subsidy from our Headquarters in Zurich, as from January, 2013. We shall need to work very hard in order to sustain the church operations from our own resources.

The church in Malawi too, will be self-sustaining from January 1st, 2019, and they also need to work hard in order to sustain the operations from their own resources.

In Zimbabwe there is more work to be done before we can reach self-sustenance,” he said.

He also mentioned some of the major challenges that the church faces.

“Among the major challenges that we shall have for quite some time are:

- (A) To increase the attendance in all congregations.***
- (B) To increase our offerings.***

The times have changed and indeed will continue to change, nevertheless, we should keep the traditions of our faith which we have been taught while adapting to and managing the change. We should also keep the joy, the love for God and one other, and the unity. We also need to keep the peace which our Lord Jesus Christ left us with. Please let us remain at peace with God, with one other and at peace with all others even those who are against us,” he said.

The District Apostle said that it is a necessary step for him to announce his retirement one year in advance.

“I know that this is a departure from the norm for me as District Apostle to inform all the members, one (01) year in advance about my retirement. I, however, believe that it is a necessary step. I wrote to the Chief Apostle on 11th January, 2017 informing him about my desire to go into retirement and after some meetings and discussions he approved my proposed date of retirement. It is my hope that in future the District Apostles and all other ministers will inform the members regarding their retirement well in advance, through the Apostles and, where the circumstances allow, informing the members about the names of their successors. This will, however, require a change of our mindset, especially the ministers,” he said.

In conclusion, the District Apostle says he will visit all the Apostle areas, at least once, before he retires.

“I hope to visit each Apostle Area, at least once, in this coming year before July, 2019. These will not be farewell services because I am not leaving you. I will be with you but in retirement while the responsibility of the District Apostle ministry will be with my successor,” he said.

The birth of NAC in Isoka Elder District

By Nathaniel Lowa in Isoka



Old Chiwanda Church (Right) next to new uncompleted Chiwanda Church building (Left).



Isoka Central Church

The New Apostolic Church in Zambia is present in all the provinces. For many of these provinces, the works of faith were pioneered by children of God who were led by the desire to fellowship with one another.

In Muchinga Province, Isoka to be specific the New Apostolic Church started in the year 1970 by sister MARY ELEVINE NAMUNYIMBILI who testified to some people in that area. During this time, sister NAMUNYIMBILI then received support from leaders in neighbouring towns among them, Muyombe.

As time passed, members decided to construct a church building at Chiwanda out of clay blocks and a grass thatched roof and this was officially the first New Apostolic Church building in Isoka.

Chiwanda congregation then registered a growth in membership which led to the construction of a temporary church building at Isoka central church and with this significant increase in membership by the year 1994, a committee was constituted to spearhead the acquisition of land and eventually construction of a proposed 500 seater capacity church building.

In the same year in 1994, the local municipal council in Isoka offered land to the New Apostolic Church for the construction of the 500 seater church building.

In 1975, then Apostle Duncan Mfunne conducted a divine service where 21 members received the holy sealing and 6 years later in 1980, 38 more members were sealed by him.

Finally in 2011 on the 30th of November, the construction was completed and the entire project cost a total of K262, 187. Isoka central church was dedicated on the 5th of December, 2011 by the District Apostle Charles Ndandula.

District Apostle Helper Robert Nsamba visited Isoka district from the 27th to the 30th of July, 2018. During his visit, the District Apostle Helper was received by Apostle George Fwalo who is the area Apostle on Friday 27th July, 2018.

On Saturday 28th July, 2018, the District Apostle Helper then headed to Chitunji, a locality which is about 112 kilometers from Isoka central town and located at the border area of Zambia and Malawi. To get to Chitunji, the District Apostle Helper and his entourage had to go through Kanyala border between Zambia and Malawi.

District Apostle Helper Robert Nsamba then held a divine service at Chitunji church at 11:00hrs. The text word for this divine service was from the book of *Phillimon 1:25*.

The District Apostle Helper further encouraged the members to identify the gifts that the Lord has given them.

“We receive a lot of blessings out of God’s grace, such as the life we have today. God has provided us with abundant



The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

During the service, the District Apostle Helper emphasized the need for children of God to avoid bargaining with God.

“Coming to the house of the Lord does not mean that we bargain with Him so that we get something in return. It is not in our position to bargain with Him because our focus is working towards our salvation and God at His own time will provide everything we need.”



1. District Apostle Helper Robert (DAH) Nsamba during service at Chitunji Congregation on 28th July, 2018.
2. Chitunji Congregation during service with DAH Robert Nsamba on 28th July, 2018.
3. Chitunji Church.
4. District Apostle Robert Nsamba during service at Isoka Central Church on 29th July, 2018.

“blessings that we take for granted without even acknowledging that these are blessings from God, but as children of God, we need to always thank our heavenly Father for all that He gives us.”

In winding up the service, the District Apostle Helper ended the service on an encouraging note.

“Let us, as children of God, use our talents and gifts in the house of God with humble & thankful hearts: let us always thank God for everything He has done for us so that we bring honor and glory to His name.”

This service was attended by 162 members.

After the divine service, the District Apostle Helper left for Isoka town around 14:00hrs.

The climax of the events in Isoka was the following day 29th July, 2018, when the District Apostle Helper Robert Nsamba held another divine service at Isoka Central Church. For this divine service, *Romans 1:11-12* was read as the text word.

For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gifts, so that you may be established - that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. (NKJ)

In opening the service, the District Apostle Helper explained what the text means.

“Dear brothers and sisters, what does it mean to impart the gifts through the Apostolate? It means that they are commissioned to give these gifts. Jesus is the redeemer and savior, so the message of spiritual gifts is meant to make us realize that Jesus is indeed the redeemer and savior.”

The District Apostle Helper further added that children of God need to live as one.

“We as children of God need to have the spiritual gifts of loving our neighbour. Let us not segregate against anyone, but to bring others closer in the house of God. Therefore, we need to have an approach of accepting others in the same manner we were accepted by Jesus Christ, our Lord.”

District Apostle Helper Robert Nsamba further added that the Apostles have the gifts to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of sins and the celebration of Holy Communion. He also added that the congregation has gifts of being an example to others who need salvation, by living the gospel. He further encouraged the members to continue praying and living in unity and love.

“Let us, therefore, make disciples for Jesus because he was and he is the greatest physician,” he said.

This divine service with the District Apostle Helper Robert Nsamba at Isoka Central was attended by 1,753 members.

Immediately after the divine service, the District Apostle Helper Robert Nsamba and his entourage then went to carry out inspection works at the construction sites of Chuwi and Chiwanda churches, respectively.

During the inspection, the District Apostle Helper was happy with some of the works and advised the technical teams constructing the churches to enhance on a few items he noted which included roofing, flooring and doors among others.

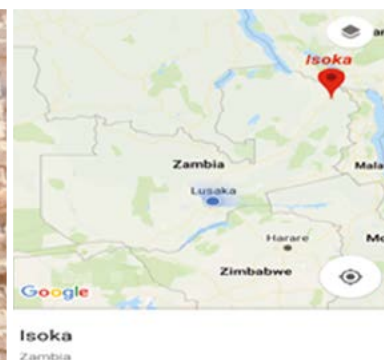
Isoka is a town located in the Muchinga Province of Zambia near the borders with Tanzania and Malawi. The district is populated mainly by Winamwanga speaking people but the Wiwa, Nyika and Tumbuka speaking people are also found here. The traditional ceremony called Ngondo is celebrated in the district.



DAH Robert Nsamba during inspection of Chuwi Church in Isoka on 29th July, 2018.



DAH Robert Nsamba during inspection at Chiwanda Church in Isoka on 29th July, 2018.



Youth Service in Abishai, Malawi

By Nimon Muleya in Salima – Malawi



DAH Mhango arriving at Abishai congregation in Salima for the youth service on September 23rd, 2018.

299 young New Apostolic Church Christians of Abishai and surrounding congregations in Salima, Malawi, attended a youth service conducted by District Apostle Helper (DAH) Arnold Mhango.

The divine youth service that started at 09:00hrs was held on September 23rd, 2019. This was part of DAH Mhango's five (5) days programme in Malawi Central Apostle Area.

Revelation 21vs5 was used as text word.

“Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’ And He said to me, ‘Write, for these words are true and faithful.’”

In reference to the text word, the District Apostle Helper



DAH Mhango addressing the youths during the interactive youth fellowship held at Abishai congregation on September 22, 2018.

encouraged the young people to be true ambassadors of Jesus and His church.

“My dear brothers and sisters, dear young people. The Spirit of God which we received during the baptism of Holy Spirit, after the baptism of water, makes us new creatures. Jesus lives in us! Let us, therefore, be true and worthy ambassadors of Christ and His church.

As new creatures, the vitals of Jesus must be seen in our lives. We must at all times conform our way of life to the teachings of Jesus, then we will be true and faithful representatives of our Lord Jesus,” he said.

In the morning of Saturday, September 22, 2019, DAH Mhango had an interactive fellowship with youths of Abishai congregation. During this fellowship, the youths discussed contents of chapters 9 & 12 of the Catechism of the New Apostolic Church. The fellowship was also in line with the Apostle Area Strategic Plan under self-education.

DAH Mhango later had a meeting with the Adhoc Committee of the 2019 International Youth Fellowship, where he was briefed about the preparations for the event.

New Apostolic Church young Christians from Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe will gather in Salima, Malawi, from 25th - 28th April, 2019, for the International Youth Fellowship. This will be the first time youths in DAA 28 come together for a fellowship.



Part of the youth congregation that attended the youth interactive fellowship with DAH Mhango at Abishai congregation on September 22, 2018.

Salima to host the 2019 International Youth Fellowship

By Nimon Muleya

New Apostolic Church young Christians from Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe will gather in Salima, Malawi, from 25th - 28th April, 2019, for the International Youth Fellowship. This will be the first youths gathering in DAA 28 where youths come together for a fellowship.

The host Apostle Area – Malawi Central, has constituted an Adhoc Committee to ensure strategic planning and successful implementation of this event. Area Apostle, Moses Chipanda is the overall Chairperson.

The Adhoc Committee has had several meetings to look at logistics for the successful hosting of the event. The Committee met on September 22, 2018 in Salima; below was the agenda and resolutions for this meeting:

1. Number of participants from each Apostle Area

The meeting resolved that each of the 24 Apostle Areas that form DAA 28 will send 125 youths to participate in the 2019 International Youth Fellowship. The restriction on the number of participants from each Apostle Area is due to limited availability of critical resources such as accommodation. Apostle Areas are advised NOT to register more than 125 youths for this event.

2. Participation fee/mode of payment/deadline

The Participation fee for the 2019 International Youth Fellowship is \$31 or equivalent per individual. This amount will cater for meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) and accommodation from April 25 – 29, 2019, as well as a branded t-shirt. Respective Apostle Areas will meet their own transport cost to and from Salima, and any other travelling related costs. Participating youths will pay the participation fees to their respective Apostle Areas. Deadline for payment of participation fee is December 31, 2018.

3. Registration Process

A registration form has been developed and will be sent to ALL Apostle Areas. This form is to be given to the youths that wish to participate in the 2019 International Youth Fellowship. Participating youths will register through their respective Apostle Area youth coordinators/leaders. Collectively, respective Apostle Areas will deposit participation fee for 125 youths into the New Apostolic Church bank account. The registration form has three (3) parts (Personal information, Apostle Area Information, Emergency contact); correctly filled in forms MUST be sent to the undersigned, accompanied by deposit slip/s of the

participation fee of \$31 or equivalent, before December 31, 2018.

4. Safety issues/risks

The organising team places a high alert on safety and risk issues to the participating youths. Considering that this event will take place on the shores of Lake Malawi, participants must be safety-conscious. Trained-life savers have since been identified and will constantly keep vigil at the lake shore. The lake will also be demarcated to show the safe zones and no one will be allowed to go beyond the demarcated safe zones. There will be no swimming in the lake after the stipulated time (18:00hrs). Upon arrival, the youths will be oriented to the area, safety and risky matters will be explained.

Considering that most, if not all, participating youths will travel to Salima by road, the organising team STRONGLY recommends the use of appropriate road-worthy transport. Hiring of lorries is highly discouraged. Apostle Areas that will cover over 600ks to reach Salima must ensure the service provider has two (2) licensed PSV drivers. Speed limits and other road safety measures MUST be observed at all times. There must be NO overloading of passengers. Apostle Areas must ensure service providers have valid documents.

The committee further recommends that ALL travelling youths obtain group travel insurance cover to mitigate any risks that may be associated with travelling to this event.

5. Customs/immigration

Participating youths from Zambia and Zimbabwe MUST have valid travel documents, such as passports and any other travel document issued by the relevant authority. NO visa is required by Zambians or Zimbabweans to visit Malawi.

Transport service providers from Zambia and Zimbabwe must have valid documents to cross/drive in Malawi. A list of documents needed to cross/drive in Malawi will be provided.

6. Events/activities

Events/Activities are categorised into four groups: Spiritual, Social, Entertainment, Sports. These activities will have to be educative, entertaining and informative as shown in the diagram below. Much as most of the activities will run concurrently, all the youth are to be present when it is time to be together. Furthermore, out of the many activities available on the days, there will be aerobics sessions on Friday and Saturday to keep bodies physically fit.

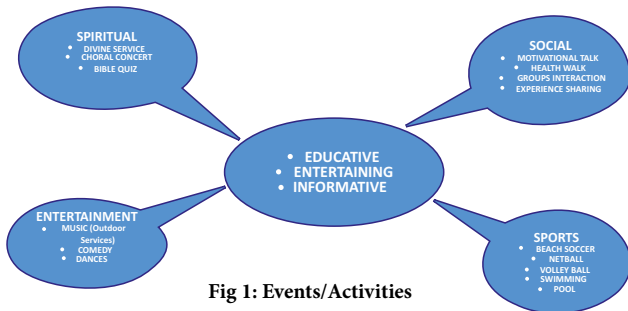


Fig 1: Events/Activities

7. Logistics (accommodation)

All the youths will be accommodated at the campsite of Livingstonia beach (the venue for the event), communal tents will be provided. However, those that wish to carry their camping tents must indicate on the registration form. Participating youths MUST carry the following;

1. Church uniform for Sunday service
2. Beddings
3. Sleeping bag/small mattress
4. 2plates, cup and spoons
5. Sports attire
6. Appropriate swimming costume

Hotel accommodation will be available at own cost. Information on the available hotels/lodges and costs will be provided.

8. Official logo and name of the event

The official logo is undergoing minor adjustments to suit the event and will soon be submitted for onward consideration and approval. The proposed official name of the event is “International Youth Fellowship”.

9. Assessment of PA system needs

Effective PA system will be very critical during the event and the divine service on Sunday. It is recommended to use PA system for the District Apostle's office – which was used during the Chief Apostle's service in Livingstone. Working with relevant authorities, the organising committee will facilitate the necessary documentation for tax waiver on the PA system.

10. Arrival and departure dates

All youths must arrive in Salima on Thursday, April 25, 2019. Departure dates for youths from Malawi is Sunday, April 28, 2019 while youths from Zambia and Zimbabwe will depart on Monday, April 29, 2019.

The meeting recommended and resolved that participating youths MUST observe high level of discipline during the event. Anyone found consuming alcohol, abusing/use of illicit drugs/activities will be sent away immediately. The committee appealed to the Apostles to strongly sensitize the youths from their areas on the need to observe discipline during the event.

The organising team will put together relevant information – in form of a brochure which will be sent to all Apostle Area youth coordinators/leaders, through the respective Apostles.



NAC Zambia launches communication policy

By Nathaniel Lowa in Ndola



District Apostle Charles Ndandula during the launch of the Communication Policy in Ndola on 24th August, 2018.

Social media has become a significant part of daily life but its growth and evolution has been in the works since the late 80's during the development of the internet on 1st January, 1983. In Zambia for instance, from the late 90's during the days of community radio listening points to the introduction of internet in the late 90's and eventually social media, it has changed the way of communication, gathering and sharing of information is done, and given rise to a connected global society.

The New Apostolic Church being an international Christian church which bases its teaching in the Holy Scripture equally uses social media to reach out to all members as stated in its mission statement.

“Reaching out to all people in order to teach them the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to baptize them with water and the Holy Spirit.”

“Providing soul care and cultivating a warm fellowship in which everyone shall experience the love of God and the joy of serving Him and others.”

Social media, therefore, has become an important tool for the New Apostolic Church in reaching out to all people. However, social media comes with its pros and cons. Therefore, the New Apostolic Church sets guidelines on the proper usage of social media to the benefit of God's work.

The District Apostle Area 28 (DAA 28) which is headed by District Apostle Charles Ndandula, in its Communication Policy, is committed to promoting and opening different communication channels to all church stakeholders and for this reason, the DAA 28 has launched a Communication Policy which seeks to outline

responsibilities of the various communication functionaries of the church so as to reduce speculations that subsequently lead to misinformation which is costly to correct.

This comes in the wake of numerous advancements in communication technology that have enhanced information dissemination and access. According to the DAA 28, statistics show that nearly 1 in every 5 minutes spent online is on some kind of social media network.

The Communication Policy was launched in Ndola on the Copperbelt Province, Zambia on the 24th of August, 2018 during the Copperbelt Day of the Youth.

The 2018 Copperbelt Day of the Youth was attended by over 5,000 youths who came from various parts of the Copperbelt.

On 24th August, 2018, the District Apostle Charles Ndandula flagged off a march past from Mpezeni grounds to Chifubu Secondary School located about 1 kilometer away. The District Apostle was accompanied by District Apostle Helper Kububa Soko, Host Apostle Jacob Mwansa, Apostles Ranford Simumbwe, Peter Mukonda, Patrick Poho and Steven Lindunda.

At Chifubu Secondary School, the venue for the Youth activities, the District Apostle and his entourage interacted with the youths as they presented various doctrinal matters including marriage & courtship, the return of Jesus Christ, Holy Communion among others. In addressing the youths at Chifubu Secondary School grounds, the District Apostle encouraged the youths to continue staying steadfast in God's work. He equally cautioned them of the dangers of one involving oneself in ungodly activities as a youth.

The youths presented musical performances, poems, doctrinal knowledge, among others.

Activities in Ndola did not end there as the District Apostle and his entourage then headed to Mitanda Home of the aged, which is managed by the Salvation Army Church. Mitanda home of the aged is a multi-residence housing facility intended for the elderly.

The District Apostle made a donation of various commodity items to Mitanda Home of the Aged valued at K10, 000 as part of the New Apostolic Church's humanitarian aid. At the donation, the District Apostle encouraged those looking after the aged to continue.

"It is our duty as children of God, to look after one another, especially the elderly. It is demanded of us, in our faith, to care for one another, just as Jesus taught us so let us continue looking after each other," he said.

And Mitanda Home of the Aged Centre Manager of the Salvation Army, Colonel Fraza Chalwe, thanked the District Apostle for the kind gesture and called upon other denominations to emulate what the New Apostolic Church did.

The District Apostle and his entourage at 15:00hrs graced the presentations prepared by the youths at Ndola Central Church, where matters such as drug abuse, entrepreneurship and motivational talks were presented. During the presentation, the District Apostle then officially launched the Communication Policy and advised the youths to adhere to guidelines stipulated in the document, that gives a guideline on the usage of social media, as New Apostolic Church members.

However, the highlight of the weekend in Ndola was the following day 25th August, 2018 when the District Apostle held a Youth divine service at Ndola Central Church. During the divine service, Deuteronomy 4:29 was read as the text word.

"But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul."

During this divine service, the District Apostle encouraged the youths to continue seeking God.

"We must use our hands to pray and to do that which is Godly, because God has called us to pray for one another, especially the weak in faith, therefore, we need to continue seeking His presence even at our weakest moments," he said.

He further called upon the youths to rely on God for all their needs.

"Dear youths, let us know that success is not always about having wealth of this earth, but knowing that we are true children of God. Let us, therefore, rely on Him for all our desires and needs and He will provide at a right time."

In winding up the service, the District Apostle called upon the youths to be humble.

"Seeking God means that you must be humble and not be selfish or have self interest. It also calls for us to take up the cross with Jesus because in Christ we find our salvation. Finally, let us review our faith each day to see where we need to improve on in order for us to continue being on the path of righteousness," he said.

This service was attended by 7,908 members.

The District Apostle then held an ad hoc meeting with the accompanying Apostles, Bishops, District Elders, ministers and committee members. The meeting was held to discuss the visit of the Chief Apostle in Zambia in 2019.



1. Copperbelt Day of the Youths on 24th August, 2018 at Mpezeni grounds.
2. Ndola Central church during the youth day presentations on 24th August, 2018.
3. Goods valued at K10, 000 donated to Mitanda Home of the Aged on 24th August, 2018.
4. District Apostle C.S. Ndandula during service at Ndola central church on 25th August, 2018.

District Apostle Charles Ndandula visits Central Province

By Nathaniel Lowa in Central Province



District Apostle Charles Ndandula (left) during service at Kasokota Church on 15th, September, 2018.

District Apostle Charles Ndandula visited Mkushi and Chibombo Districts of Central Province, Zambia. The District Apostle arrived in Mkushi on the 14th of September, 2018. On Saturday 15th September, 2018, the District Apostle held a dedication service at Kasokota Church.

During the dedication of Kasokota Church, the District Apostle read from John 17: 15.

“I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.”

In opening the divine service, District Apostle Charles Ndandula emphasized that Jesus wants to keep us away from the evil one.

“Jesus wants to separate us from the evil one. It is His desire that we must be preserved from the evil one for as long as we do the will of God, He will preserve, protect and provide for us,”he said.

In conclusion the District Apostle emphasized the need to seek the kingdom of God and made reference to Luke 12: 13. This service at Kasokota Congregation was attended by 1,530 members.

The District Apostle held another divine dedication service at William Church on Sunday 16th September, 2018.

During the dedication service at William Church, for the text word, the District Apostle read from the book of 1st Corinthians 11:26.

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.”

The District Apostle emphasized the need to partake of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“We must partake of Holy Communion, because it puts us in the image of Jesus and it allows us to live in Him, so that His nature and attitude can be with us at all times,”he said.

The service at William Church was attended by 1, 949 members. The District Apostle and his entourage left Chibombo around 14:00hrs.



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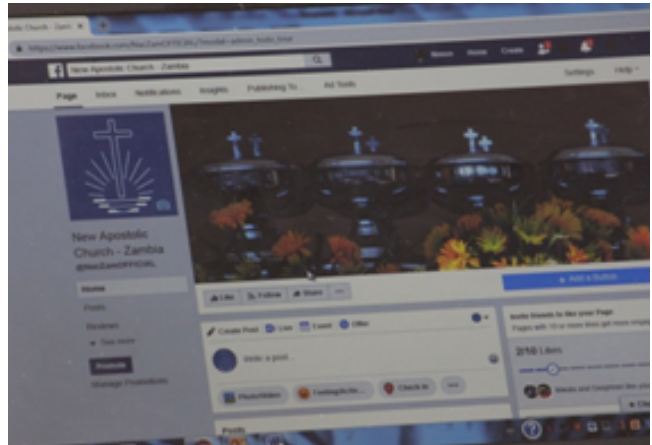


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1. Kasokota Church - Mkushi, Central Province.
2. William Church - Chibombo, Central Province.
3. District Apostle Charles Ndandula (left) during service at William Church on 16th September, 2018.

INAC Zambia on facebook

By Nimon Muleya



The New Apostolic Church in Zambia, incorporating Malawi and Zimbabwe has signed up on facebook.

In a circular to be read in all congregations in Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe, District Apostle Charles Ndandula said the official facebook page is called New Apostolic Church – Zambia, with the profile picture of the church emblem and 8 Communion chalices as the initial cover picture.

The page can also be accessed on facebook/naczamofficial.

District Apostle Ndandula said this development will streamline communication in the church.

“This platform will be used to communicate with the members and the general public. I urge you to like the page so that you could be up-to-date with official, current and accurate information and learn more about the doctrine of the New Apostolic Church. The Church will use web-based technology which has become a new frontier for communication, to communicate to its members. The Church will use social media platforms, in addition to traditional media (print and electronic), to communicate timely, accurate information and activities in a transparent and coherent manner,” he said.

District Apostle Ndandula appealed to the members to use social media appropriately and wisely.

“As you interact on this forum, I appeal to you to bear in mind the Social Media guidelines of the New Apostolic Church for appropriate and wise use of Social Media. Let us avoid hate speech, falsehood but instead, we must act responsibly, truthfully and friendly as we reach out to many using this platform,” he said.

During the Day of the Youths in Ndola held in August this year, District Apostle Ndandula launched the Communication Policy of the New Apostolic Church in Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe.



The primary objective of the Policy is to facilitate a better understanding of the Church's mission which is; ***“reaching out to all people in order to baptize them with water and the Holy Spirit and to teach them the gospel of Jesus Christ. Providing soul care and cultivating a warm fellowship in which everyone shall experience the love of God and the joy of serving Him and others.”***

The Communication Policy shall serve as a solid communication structure that will give every area of the Church adequate visibility. The Policy also outlines how the Church will use web-based technology which has become a new frontier for communication, to communicate to its members. The Church will use social media platforms, in addition to traditional media (print and electronic), to communicate timely, accurate information and activities in a transparent and coherent manner.

In addition, the Communications Policy outlines the channels and tools of communication and allocates responsibilities for communication to the various organs and officers of the Church.



Coming up



Coming up

- 6 Oct. 2018 Setúbal (Portugal)
- 7 Oct. 2018 Sasseiros (Portugal)
- 12 Oct. 2018 Brasilia (Brazil)
- 13 Oct. 2018 Curitiba (Brazil)
- 21 Oct. 2018 Warsaw (Poland)
- 4 Nov. 2018 Sindelfingen (Germany)
- 11 Nov. 2018 Uster (Switzerland)
- 22 Nov. 2018 Palangka Raya (Indonesia)
- 25 Nov. 2018 Bandung (Indonesia)
- 9 Dec. 2018 Pretoria (South Africa)
- 16 Dec. 2018 Berlin (Germany)
- 23 Dec. 2018 Weimar (Germany)
- 25 Dec. 2018 France

Sat, Oct 6, 2018	10:00	Bulawayo	Divine Service
Sun, Oct 7, 2018	09:00	Eastlea	Thanks Giving Service
Fri, Oct 19, 2018	10:00	Sikongo	Divine Service
Sat, Oct 20, 2018	09:00	Kalabo	Divine Service
Sun, Oct 21, 2018	10:00	Mongu Central	Divine Service
Sun, Nov 04, 2018	09:00	Kalomo	Service for the Departed
Wed, Nov 21, 2018	18:00	UNZA	Day of Repentance & prayer
Sun, Nov 25, 2018	09:00	Twatasha	Divine Service
Sat, Dec 01, 2018	10:00	Victoria Falls	Int. Apostles Meeting
Sun, Dec 02, 2018	09:00	Victoria Falls	Advent Service
Sat, Dec 15, 2018	10:00	Senanga	Divine Service
Sun, Dec 16, 2018	09:00	Katima-Mulilo	Divine Service
Sat, Dec 22, 2018	10:00	Chikanta	Divine Service
Sun, Dec 23, 2018	09:00	Manungu	Divine Service
Tue, Dec 25, 2018		Burma	Christmas Service
Mon, Dec 31, 2018	09:00	Matero	Closing of Year Service
Tue, Jan 01, 2018		Burn	New Year Service

