

community

The New Apostolic Church around the world

02/2018/EN

ZMW 20



The Chief Apostle in Papua New Guinea

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New Apostolic Church
International



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Celebrating Sunday

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is a beneficial tradition for us as Christians to celebrate the Sunday.

We profess our belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Throughout the course of a week we experience many an injustice and see many terrible things that happen in this world. And then we come together on Sunday and profess: “Nevertheless, we believe that Jesus Christ has risen. He has conquered death, evil, and sin. He is right. He has the last word!” This is a wonderful way to close the week and begin a new week.

We profess our belief in the resurrection of the dead and hope for our own transformation.

We are waiting for the resurrection of the dead and the transformation of the living. And no matter what we have experienced, lived through, or seen: our hope is founded upon the return of Christ. We send a signal when we gather for divine service on Sundays and give first place in our lives to the things that are important.

We profess our belief in goodness.

There are various reasons for which people demonstrate, at times also because they want to show: “We do not agree



NAC International

with this or that. We see things differently.” As Christians we do not agree with injustice or the power of evil. And this is what we demonstrate when we come together for divine service on Sundays. We believe that goodness will triumph over evil. We believe in the first resurrection of Jesus Christ and in His return.

Let us celebrate every Sunday in this manner.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jean-Luc Schneider', written in a cursive style.

Jean-Luc Schneider

Divine gifts



Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider went on an extended eleven day journey to Australia and Papua New Guinea last year. On Thursday, 28 September 2017 he conducted a divine service in Kombikum in Papua New Guinea to celebrate Thanksgiving with the brothers and sisters there

NAC Australia



2 Corinthians 9: 8

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.”

Dear brothers and sisters, it is a great joy and grace for me to be able to experience this divine service with you. It is a special service: we are celebrating Thanksgiving today! We give thanks to God for everything He has granted us. It is clear that God neither needs our gratitude nor our offerings. He is not like us humans, who typically expect a thank-you when they do something, and if nobody thanks them they are upset or even angry. God does not need our thanks, nor does He need our offerings. The only reason He might want to have a thank-you from us would be to grant us even more blessing. Because what do we do when we prepare for Thanksgiving? We count God's blessings, and become aware just how much God has given us. We recognise how great His grace is towards us. And while we are preparing for Thanksgiving we also become aware how rich we are in God. The blessing lies in the fact that we recognise how rich we are in God. And joy is the blessing we receive today.

The Apostle writes here that God has an abundance of grace for us. When we celebrate Thanksgiving we profess our faith in God the Father. We believe that everything comes from God the Father and that everything is grace. God the Father is the origin of all life. God is the source of life, and we are thankful for this. Human beings cannot

create life. Life is only possible because God the Creator grants it. God created the world—nature—and entrusted it to man as a gift. He gave us His perfect creation, a gift we are grateful for.

But He gives us so much more. After all, He also sustains His creation and the created life. God grants us health. God grants us the strength we need to work, and He blesses our work.

Good health is a grace. It is nothing we deserve. I know many people who are far better than I am. Although they have done nothing wrong they are sick. So I am aware that good health is truly a grace. And we are thankful for this grace. God also gives us the skills and the strength we need to do our work. This too is grace, and we are thankful that we are able to work. But I know many people who work hard and just have no success. If God does not bless the work, there can be no success. Let us thank God that He has given us health and strength, and that He blesses our work.

God has also given us the people around us. I am sure you will agree with me: it is a grace to have a husband or wife. It is a special grace to have children. It is even a grace to have

God not only gives us a minimum, but an abundance so that we have enough to do good works

More than 24,000 people participated in the Thanksgiving service in Kombikum (Papua New Guinea)





other people around us. Our life would be very difficult if we were alone. We often depend on the help of others. It is a grace to be part of a family. It is a great grace to be part of a nation. And in His love and wisdom, God has also given us a law: the commandments. This too is a grace, because if we follow these commandments our life together will be peaceful and balanced. We are thankful to God for the commandments, for His law.

We thank God for everything that He has granted us: creation, life, health, strength and blessing, the people around us, and the divine commandments. We know and believe that God has given us enough so that we can do good works. However, He not only gives us a minimum, but an abundance so that we have enough to do good works.

What are these good works? The first good work is our gratitude to God. We thank God for all the gifts He has granted us. We believe that He always gives us enough so that we can say thank you. There is always enough to bring God a thank-offering: "This belongs to You, because You have blessed us."

As children of God, we believe that God has given us enough so that we can help our neighbour

Brothers and sisters, this is the kind of strong faith we want to show. God always gives us enough so that we can express our gratitude to Him through our offerings. We always have enough to reach out to our neighbour and share with him. In fact,

we can afford to not only think about ourselves. God has given us creation as a gift, and in our relationship to nature we can afford to not only think about our neighbour, but also about the next generation. We believe that there is enough, but we need to treat the environment with the



Many people walked up to seven days to attend the service. In order to provide food for all the visitors, the congregations planted additional crops already months before. They also built shelters

appropriate care, and not only think about ourselves. Even if we do not have too much, we believe that God always gives us enough so that we can help our neighbour in need.

I know many people who do not agree with that. They complain, "We are so poor. We have nothing at all." As children of God, we believe that God has given us enough so that we can help our neighbour. We believe that God has given us enough to live on and that we can afford to keep His commandments. We are not forced to commit a sin to get what we need. Many people think that they don't have enough to live on and become thieves. They have lost all honesty because they want more. That is not our belief. We are satisfied with what we can receive while observing the divine commandments. We believe that God has given us enough so that we can obey His law.

We even believe that we have received so much that we can afford to take care of our soul. You know, many people say, "Your church is nice, but I have no time to go to church. I have to work to provide for my family." We, however,

believe that God provides us with everything we need so that we can care for our soul and do not have to worry about being "punished" for going to church. We can afford to go to church and take care of our soul without suffering a shortage in our daily lives.

God has given us many gifts. By grace, He has given us enough so that we can be thankful, think about others, and help them. He has given us enough so that we can obey His law and take care of our soul.

But we are not only thankful to God our Father. We are also thankful to Jesus Christ. We are thankful to the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has given us a very special gift. He gave His life so that we can have eternal life. Through His sacrifice it has become possible for us to enter into the kingdom of God and have eternal fellowship with Him. Nobody else could have defeated death and evil. And, honestly, we do not deserve it. When Jesus laid down His life for me, I was not even born! Nobody knew that I would exist one day. But He loved me so much that He died for

Seated beside the altar:
District Apostle Helpers
Edy Isnugroho and Peter
Schulte, District Apostle
Andrew Andersen



me. What grace! We were able to contribute nothing, yet He gave us everything. We are thankful for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ; we are thankful for eternal life.

We are grateful to the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit we could certainly read the story of Jesus Christ in the Bible, but it would not help us. But through the activity of the Holy Spirit, we can receive eternal life through the word of God and the sacraments. The Holy Spirit helps us, or rather enables us, to attain eternal life. He sustains this life through His word and the sacraments. That is why it is such a grace that we know Jesus Christ and can follow Him. We are so thankful that the Holy Spirit gives us the strength to follow Jesus.

God has also given us other children of God. We are all part of the church of Christ. I think you agree with me: it would be very difficult to remain faithful if we were alone. We are so grateful to have so many brothers and sisters helping us, praying for us, and struggling with us and for us.

Through the Holy Spirit, God has also given us a special law. Do you know the law of Jesus Christ? Results and success are not decisive for Him. All that matters for Him is our love and our efforts. It would be terrible if all that would count for God were the things we were successful in. In this

case, I think we would be far fewer today. At least I would not be here, because I have made many promises to God—I will overcome this, I will not do that again, and I promise to do this for You—and failed to keep them. Thankfully, God does not consider this. The only thing that matters for Him is our love for Him and our dedication, as well as our efforts. And that is why we are so grateful for this law of Christ. He has given us the law of love and forgiveness. Otherwise we would not have such fellowship with each other. This is the law that God has given His people. For this reason it is possible to remain together and to remain united.

These are the divine gifts. By grace He has given us eternal life, which He sustains through His word and the sacraments. He has granted us the grace to be part of the fellowship of the children of God. He has given us the law of grace, love, and forgiveness. And He has given us so much that we can do good works. God has given us so much that we can renounce all those things that do not please Him. We do not need to follow the devil. God has given us so much that we can afford to give up our thoughts and opinions and accept the thoughts of Jesus. We have received so much from Jesus that it does not cost us much to say, “OK, You don’t agree with me? I will give up my ideas and think like You.” If Jesus tells us, “I don’t agree with the way you think,” we say, “OK, Jesus, I am going to change.”



We can afford that because we are so rich: the glory He has already given us and the glory He will still give us—eternal fellowship with God and taking on the likeness of Jesus. This is so magnificent that we are able to endure hardship on this earth and serve the Lord and our neighbour—simply because we know that it is worth suffering for Christ and with Christ. It is worth serving the Lord and worth serving our neighbour. Committing ourselves to God's work is worth it. The reward for it is eternal fellowship with Christ. The glory which we will experience there will be so great that we will not even think about our suffering and our service any more. Even those who have suffered all their lives will not think about it any more once they are together with Jesus Christ in His kingdom. God has given and promised us so much that we can serve and even suffer, if it has to be. This is a wonderful divine promise. God has given us enough so that we can become servants in the kingdom of peace. Imagine that! Although we are weak sinners and imperfect human beings, God has blessed us so richly that we can become servants of Jesus in the kingdom of peace, and can be a tool in God's hand for all people. Already today, God has given us enough so that we can share our spiritual wealth with our neighbour. And already today, we have so much that we can share our faith and the gifts of God with others. Not only in the kingdom of peace, but right now.

Brothers and sisters, these are a few examples of the gifts we have received from Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. We are so thankful for them. Let us do good works with them. Let us renounce everything that does not please God. Let us suffer for God and serve Him. We have received enough to do so. Let us share these gifts with our neighbour today and proclaim the teaching of Jesus. At the return of Christ we will become servants in the kingdom of God and be a tool in God's hand for all people. We have so many reasons to praise and thank God. And this gratitude is also a blessing for all of us.

CORE THOUGHTS

The abundance of grace we have received enables us to do good works on earth and be true disciples of the Lord.



Frank Schuidt

The secrets of a feel-good congregation

A congregation in which everyone feels welcome and loved. How is that supposed to work? The Chief Apostle’s answer: everyone can contribute. Here are ten reasons to rejoice and five building blocks that contribute to a feel-good congregation.

The beginning of a hymn that was sung by pilgrims on their way to the temple in Jerusalem was at the heart of a divine service on 26 November 2017 in Essen (Germany).

“To begin with, we see Jerusalem and the temple as an image of the heavenly Jerusalem,” Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider said, and cited five reasons why we should rejoice.

- Our motivation is not to escape an announced catastrophe, nor to flee an existence that has become unbearable for us. We want to go there because we love God and long to be with Him.
- Naturally, there will be no more suffering, no more pain. But what is even more beautiful for me: we will be delivered from our sinfulness, from our imperfections, and from our faults.

- With God there is enough room for all people. He wants to draw everyone to Himself.
- We do not only want to enter the house of the Lord because we ourselves want to be saved. We want to go there because we want to help people and support God.
- We can only walk this path together. Individualists will not make it. Let us do it together.

“We can also see Jerusalem as an image for the congregation today that gathers to celebrate divine service,” the Chief Apostle continued and cited five other reasons for joy.

- We rejoice because we can have fellowship with God already now: through His word and in the celebration of Holy Communion.
- We delight to go into the house of the Lord because it is precisely there that we receive the strength so that



District Apostle Joseph Opemba Ekhuya, District Apostle Helper Edy Isnugroho, and District Apostle Enrique Eduardo Minio were called to assist

we can follow the path that leads to the heavenly Jerusalem.

- We gladly go into the house of the Lord because we can be freed from the burden of sin there already today.
- We gladly go into the house of the Lord because we can pray together there. And we know: praying always helps.
- We gladly go into the house of the Lord because there we find everything we need to have fellowship and to build up unity—despite our differences. There we find everything we need so that we can live together in peace.

A task is connected with this, the Chief Apostle explained: “All New Apostolic Christians are jointly responsible that everybody comes into the house of the Lord gladly.”

- It is the house of the Lord, and this is something you have to be able to feel and experience: Jesus Christ has the final say here; His law applies here; He is the Master.
- It must not happen that some do everything in a congregation and the others are only “customers”, who show up when they need something. Let us all experience the joy that lies in mutual service.
- You can be a peacemaker. You can help in building peace and in preserving it. Everybody can do that. Every child of God has received this gift: you do not always have to say what you think; and you do not always have to be in the right.
- So that we may come into the house of the Lord gladly, a certain number of things are required, and for that we also need money. Here too, let us put our gifts into the service of God and the congregation.
- If everybody does what they want and uses their gifts on a whim, there will be chaos. An amount of organisa-

tion is necessary. We also need the Church leadership: globally, in the district, in the congregation. – It is not that simple, but we are doing our best to make it work.

Many are of the opinion that everybody should be able to find everything according to his or her own liking in their home congregation. “But that is absolutely impossible,” the Chief Apostle said. “And why? Simply because we are human and therefore all different,” he explained. His definition: “A congregation in which members feel good is one in which everybody comes to seek Jesus Christ—and finds Him.”

CORE THOUGHTS

Psalm 122: 1

**“I was glad when they said to me,
‘Let us go into the house of the Lord.’”**

We look forward to attaining eternal fellowship with God soon. We are happy to attend the divine service where we receive what we need to reach our goal. We humbly use our gifts to serve the Church.

“I wish I had sufficient vocabulary to describe it!”

How will the future kingdom of God actually be? In response to this question, the Chief Apostle simply stated that he was at a loss for words. But it might be helpful to read what the Bible has to say on the subject.



INA Brasil

“God desires to share His glory with us.” This was the clear message that Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider addressed to the congregation in Natal (Brazil) during a divine service he conducted there on 6 August 2017.

Jerusalem, an image for the kingdom of God

“Today we understand this text in view of Jesus Christ,” said the Chief Apostle as he began his sermon. Jerusalem is an image for the church. It is a reference to the heavenly Jerusalem, the community of the believers. “And it is to this community that God says: “I will free you from the evil one! And I will also lead many people to Jerusalem.”

- Jesus has conquered hell and death. He will share this victory with us. He will definitively free us from evil and death. We will never again have anything to do with the evil one. When Jesus comes, we will partake in His victory.
- Jesus has received the resurrection body. With this resurrection body He was the first to enter the kingdom of God. There He is the firstborn among many brethren, and He will share it with us.
- We will enter into the glory of God. I wish I had sufficient vocabulary to describe it. But there are no words for this. There is one thought that might help us envision it: this glory will be so great and magnificent that we will have a new reason to give thanks and praise to God with each passing day in eternity!



Over 400 believers gathered at the Holiday Inn in Natal (Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil) for the divine service celebrated by the Chief Apostle on 6 August 2017. His sermon was interpreted into Portuguese at the altar



Not only tomorrow, but already today

“However,” said the Chief Apostle, “we do not necessarily have to wait until the Lord comes. We can already experience a foretaste of this today. In the divine service we can experience that God grants us grace. Today already we can benefit from the merit of Jesus Christ.” And this, he admonished, is something that the people around us should actually notice.

Our future — our present — our task

After all, Jesus has died for all human beings, and for this reason His sacrifice is also valid for all. He will still lead many people to His city. That is why the following words apply to those who already have a place there: “Go out to them, show them the way, move the stones out of their way.” This, he said, is our task, namely to show them the way through our conduct, our testimony, our words and our deeds.

Chief Apostle Schneider concluded by saying: “We are to guide people and show them the way. That is our future, that is our present, that is our task.”

CORE THOUGHTS

Isaiah 62: 10–11

“Go through, go through the gates! Prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway! Take out the stones, lift up a banner for the peoples! Indeed the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the world: Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Surely your salvation is coming; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him.’”

Upon His return, the Lord will share His glory with us. Thanks to Christ’s merit, we can be in fellowship with God already today. Jesus wants to draw all sinners to Himself. He asks us to lead them to Him.

On our way home

Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us. First surprise: this place was finished a long time ago. Second surprise: man has already been there. The question now is, how do we get back home?

More than 114,000 participated in the divine service which Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider celebrated in the congregation of Claremont in Cape Town (South Africa) on 15 October 2017—most by video transmission.

Looking further to see the whole picture

When Jesus spoke these words He was together with His disciples, telling them what was about to happen to Him: betrayal, suffering, distress. The disciples were beside themselves, but Jesus expanded their perspective. He told them that He was going to His Father. That was the purpose, the Chief Apostle explained: “He wanted them to know the end of the story.”

This is also true for us. “We know that we have to go through hardship, we know that we have to carry heavy burdens.” But God does not lead us into tribulation or into hardship. In fact, He wants to lead us out of tribulation and hardship and into His kingdom. “Let us have this broader perspective, let us see further through the Holy Spirit.”

Where human beings were intended to be

Jesus went to prepare a place for us. What kind of a place is this? The place where man should have been in the first place. God created human beings because He wanted them to live with Him, to have fellowship with Him. But by falling into sin they lost the privilege of living with God.



The Chief Apostle addresses Apostle John G. Stephens, who is retiring after 44 years as a minister, 17 of these as an Apostle



The Chief Apostle pointed out that Jesus came to prepare this place again: “Through His sacrificial death and His resurrection He made it possible for human beings to enter into the kingdom of God.” This place has been ready for a long time. “Everything is ready. Each and every one of us has a place in heaven. It’s there, ready and waiting for us.”

It is not enough to just stay on the way, we must move forward

The way there is clear. “I am the way,” Jesus said. “Let us take this way,” the Chief Apostle said. His way is one of

- faith. “I am the kind of guy who wants to understand, who needs proof. And when it is clear in my mind I’m okay. But when it comes to Jesus and His work and His deeds I have to come to terms with the fact that I cannot understand it. Let us follow the path in faith.”
- the sacraments. Whoever wants to enter the kingdom of God must be reborn of water and Spirit. And whoever wants to be caught up must partake of the flesh and blood of Jesus. “This is not an invention by the Church. It was defined by Jesus Himself.”
- obedience. “Whoever wants to follow Jesus must keep His commandments. Let us stay on this way even if it is difficult. It is the only way, the one paved by Jesus.”
- self-denial. “Jesus Christ wants more than just obedient people. He wants us to be transformed into His image so that His thoughts become our thoughts. Are we still on the way of transformation?”
- oneness. “We must learn to become one in Christ because He will not return to take individuals unto Himself. He will come and take home a people that is one.”

“It is not enough to just stay on this way. We must move forward,” the Chief Apostle said in conclusion. “Jesus will return. He will come and meet us because He knows that we will not be able to make it by ourselves. And if I pray: ‘Lord Jesus, please come!’ then I can hear His answer in my soul: ‘Yes, I am coming, but you have to come too. Don’t stop, keep moving on this path.’”

CORE THOUGHTS

John 14: 3–4

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

Through His sacrifice and resurrection, Jesus prepared a place for us with God. He will return in order to take those with Him who meet His expectations.



Helen Holton - fotolia.com

Salvation in the new creation

Nearer my God to Thee: which role will the bridal congregation play in the kingdom of glory. Will it have a special position? Will it be closer to God? The answers are clear.

The Catechism makes it clear that the New Apostolic Church professes belief in the return of Christ as formulated in the early church creeds. We believe that Jesus Christ will return in (power and great) glory in order to judge both the living and the dead (Apostolicum in Catechism-QA 34) and “we look for ... the life of the world to come” (Creed of Nicaea-Constantinople in Catechism-QA 35).

When we speak of the return of Christ, we are first of all referring to the rapture of the firstlings. This is the work the Apostles concentrate on, since the gathering and preparation of the bridal congregation is one of the main reasons for the renewed personal occupation of the Apostle min-

istry in the nineteenth century. However, in all of this it is important not to lose sight of the divine plan of salvation as a whole.

God will be all in all

The actions of God make it possible for all people of all time periods to gain access to salvation. The firstfruits (firstlings), whom the Lord will take to Himself, will be brought together with those human beings who gave up their lives for the sake of Christ in the great tribulation. During the thousand-year kingdom of peace, salvation will be offered to all human beings. All those who will then decide for



Christ will be granted access to the new creation, and they will have the fullness of divine life. After all, “God will be all in all” (1 Corinthians 15: 28). Human beings will (then) live in eternal fellowship with God. Peace and joy will prevail eternally because everything—the new heaven, the new earth, and all those who inhabit them—will coincide with the will of God.

Images pertaining to the future

Jesus Christ made use of various images when He spoke of salvation. The parable of the talents (Luke 19) might seem to indicate that there is a “hierarchy” of salvation: the nobleman promised the first servant power over ten cities, and promised to set the second over five cities. However, the parable does not point to a hierarchy of salvation. On the contrary, it emphasises the kind of attitude that is important for attaining salvation. When Jesus Christ speaks of “having power”, this is to imply that the believers

- will reign with Him, in other words, share His glory with Him.
- will be assigned a working area, which means that they will continue to serve Him.

No hierarchy of salvation

The question arises as to what place the bridal congregation will occupy in the new creation. The Revelation of Jesus Christ speaks of New Jerusalem and of servants who will serve God and reign with Him.

These are images for the fellowship that human beings will enjoy with God and among one another. The idea that there would be two categories of salvation in the new creation is not convincing in light of the account in Revelation. Can we really claim that there will be two classes of fellowship with God in the new creation? Can we really claim that those who participated in the return of Christ will occupy an exceptional position in the new creation?

Such notions do not correspond with the testimony of the New Testament. If God is going to be all in all, then there cannot be anything that goes above and beyond that. There is nothing that could be greater than the fullness of eternal life or eternal fellowship with the triune God in His glory and light!

For all: fellowship with God

Love for the Lord is inseparably linked to the love for our neighbour. Jesus expects His own to love the neighbour the same way He loves them. He, the Perfect One, is prepared to share His inheritance with us sinners because He loves us. If we truly love others the way Jesus loves us, we will not be indignant if He allows our neighbour to have the same reward He grants us ...

Others fear that we might call our election into question if we stated that God will open up the prospect of life in eternal fellowship with Him for all. However, let us bear in mind that we have not been elected so that we can be the only ones saved, but rather to have the opportunity to be the first to be delivered! Let us not forget that our election is first and foremost a calling: we have been called to serve the Lord, to proclaim the praises of God, both today and in the thousand-year kingdom of peace. Let us fulfil this service with joy in order to give thanks to God for His grace, and not in order to receive a reward.



Oliver Fürtten

The meaning of the confirmation vow

It began with baptism. The confirmation vow of the New Apostolic Church is more than 1,700 years old. More on its history and significance.

Our present confirmation vow is contained in a text that was drafted at the start of the third century AD. This text is known as the *Traditio Apostolica*, which, when translated from Latin, means “Apostolic Tradition”. This *Apostolic Tradition* is ascribed to the scholar Hippolytus of Rome. Next to the *Didache*, the “doctrine of the twelve Apostles”, which dates back to the second century, the *Traditio Apostolica* is the most important source of information concerning congregational life and divine service order in the early Christian congregations.

The text of our confirmation vow is contained in the *Apostolic Tradition* among the specifications for baptism. It was thus originally a baptismal vow that was, as a rule, given by adults who had converted to the Christian faith and had completed their course of baptismal instruction. When children were baptised, their parents or another family member would give the vow on their behalf.

In the New Apostolic Church, this ancient baptismal vow is used as a confirmation vow. When they give this vow,

the confirmands confirm the vow which their parents gave on their behalf at their baptism and sealing.

The term “confirmation” derives from the Latin *confirmatio*, which can be taken to mean “reinforcement” or “consolidation”. At confirmation, the confirmands reinforce the yes given on their behalf when they received the sacraments, and thereby promise to live a life of following Christ.

The confirmation vow consists of two formulas, one of them a formula of renunciation and the other a confessional formula, which bring to expression some fundamental decisions that are part of being a Christian: the no to evil is a renunciation of Satan, while the yes to the triune God signifies surrender to God as the Lord of our lives.

The renunciation formula reads: “I renounce Satan and all his work and ways.” (In the original it says: “I renounce, you, Satan, all your pomps and all your works.”)

The idea behind this formula is that the confirmands have decided to deliberately turn away from evil, which has become personified in Satan. From then on it is their own responsibility to do so! Examples of the works of the evil one include the temptation to turn away from God or even to rise up in rebellion against Him, as well as idol worship, contempt for the sacrifice of Christ, disregard for the will of God, lovelessness, or unbridled thirst for power. Those who utter these words in faith thereby express the desire to distance themselves from all of this.

This renunciation formula does not mean, however, that those who have spoken it are suddenly without sin or that they will always succeed at resisting the influences of the evil one. Rather, it brings to expression

that the confirmands are aware of their sinfulness and do not want to lead a life in the domain of that which is evil and opposed to God. That is why the support and help of the Holy Spirit are necessary, and the confirmands have already received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Using only their own strength, human beings are incapable of keeping this vow.

Following the renunciation formula is the confessional formula, which declares: “I ... surrender myself to You, O triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in belief, obedience, and the earnest resolution to remain faithful to You until my end.”

First of all, those who speak this formula thereby make it clear that they accept the triune God as their Lord, and that He is to define their lives. Belief and obedience are the essential aspects of a life with God. To believe in God is to have trust in Him. Obedience to the divine will is an essential result of faith.

At the end of this vow, the confirmands speak of an earnest resolution. This brings to expression that the confessional formula is not lightly spoken, but rather that those who speak it are serious about fulfilling it. They thus profess the will to live their lives with God in a manner consistent with their faith—in other words, the will to remain faithful to Him until their end. Here the faithfulness which the confirmands promise is nothing other than their response to the faithfulness of God, which comes to expression in the gift of the sacraments and in His protection and support.

“I renounce Satan and all his work and ways, and surrender myself to You, O triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in belief, obedience, and the earnest resolution to remain faithful to You until my end. Amen.”



Markus Glombitza

The social media policy of the Church

Not sure what the Church's position is regarding Facebook and Co.? A little unclear on how to handle the blurry boundaries between professional, private, and religious use when you post? The District Apostles have ratified *The Social Media Guideline of the New Apostolic Church* to provide guidance on the wise and appropriate use of social media.

We should appreciate others and treat them respectfully. We are encouraged to be transparent and authentic. That really goes without saying for a Christian. In the age of virtual personalities, nicknames, and online profiles the question should, however, be allowed how we can actually live up to this.

Guidance for Church members

At a recent meeting of the District Apostles with Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider in Dortmund (Germany) they

also discussed the *Social Media Guideline*, which a working group had compiled over the previous weeks. The Guideline has been written for Church members, but it also provides information for communication officers in the national churches and for ministers. Clear positions and recommendations distinguish the paper.

In line with the gospel

In the foreword, Chief Apostle Schneider explains the reason for such a guideline: "Ministers and workers in the

Church, and also members, acknowledge themselves and their faith quite naturally online. They ought to know where the New Apostolic Church stands on activities in social media.” And he adds: “What is important is that everyone is aware of the consequences of his statements and behaves in an appreciative and respectful fashion, in accordance with the gospel.”

Communication is faster and more public than ever before. The number of contacts and dialogues is on the increase. Information and news are visible and freely available around the world via the social media networks. “Let us use social media responsibly, and carefully weigh up the use of our time and our words,” Chief Apostle Schneider requests. It is important to the president of the Church that we are careful how we communicate on the Internet.

A policy of good conduct is described in the codex; ten points that do not constitute a panacea, but that express recommendations and encourage users to communicate in a respectful way in the digital world.

The heart of the Guideline: the Codex

1. We respect our neighbour. We respect our neighbour. We maintain a respectful tone and are aware that we are communicating with other people. We have consideration for their emotions and feelings. That is why we refrain from any expression which could be construed as racist, violent, extremist, fanatic, sexist, discriminatory, or otherwise offensive. We publish only what we would say to the recipient in a personal conversation.

2. We are friendly. A clear, understandable language—free of irony, sarcasm, or provocation—is the basis for a constructive exchange of views. Rage, anger, and frustration do not lead anywhere. Criticism is possible, as long as it is not hurtful or personal. Problems with individual people are not discussed publicly. We remain calm, even when others are not.

3. We are honest and authentic. We use our real name and do not deceive. If we are not serving the Church in an official capacity on social media, we can decide for ourselves whether we admit in our profile whether we are working full-time or voluntarily for the New Apostolic Church.

4. We respect the intellectual property of others. Content, whether text or images, may in general only be published with the permission of the original author (copyright).

When third parties are quoted, the quotes must be clearly identified and the source of the quote given. Quotes are only ever used as a supplement to one’s own thoughts (right to quotes). If pictures or videos are published, the people depicted must be in agreement (right to one’s own image).

5. We act responsibly. Each person is responsible for the content which he publishes on social media. We do not speculate. Communication on the Internet is often simple and in places banal. Whenever it concerns topics to do with Church we try to keep the conversation above the ordinary.

6. We spread good news. We are witnesses of our faith and the public face of our Church. In our activities on social media we demonstrate Christian values.

7. We protect the private sphere. We are aware that what we communicate on the Internet is, on principle, public. Even if we try to limit the visibility of our social media activities to certain people, content can at any time be redirected, either inadvertently or on purpose, and thus be made public. Private information must remain private. This includes, among other things, personal data and confidential information.

8. We keep politics and business separate from Church involvement. As far as social media activities for the Church are concerned, we refrain from any party political remarks. Likewise, we keep a strict separation between voluntary or Church involvement and business or professional interests.

9. Count us in. A responsible use of social media during work time may be possible. We clarify with our superiors to what extent we may, during work time, use social media to establish contacts, increase our knowledge, or build networks.

10. We do not have to know everything. If we are unsure we ask the person in charge. We do not spread rumours. When we make a mistake we admit it, apologise, and learn from it.

Good Friday and Easter services

By Nimon Muleya in Vic Falls and Livingstone

District Apostle Charles Ndandula conducted a Good Friday divine service on March 30, 2018 in the Victoria falls Church in the tourist resort town of Victoria Falls of Zimbabwe.

John 19:30 was used as text word. In this special festive divine service, the bible reading was from Luke 23:13 – 25.

Text word: **“So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, It is finished! And bowed His head and gave up His Spirit.”**

During this service District Apostle Charles Ndandula also bestowed the confirmation blessing on nine (9) young brothers and sisters.

In his sermon, District Apostle Ndandula urged the members to commemorate Good Friday by emulating the life of our lord Jesus Christ.

“Jesus gave His life on account of love; He sacrificed His life for you and me. Jesus was also sinless, as we heard from the bible reading, Pilate too did not find Jesus with any fault. Let us use this moment to reflect on the life of our Lord Jesus, His sacrificial death and emulate His life,” he said.

District Apostle Ndandula further encouraged the members to remain faithful as the Lord will fulfil His promise.

“My dear brothers and sisters, as we prepare for the return of our Lord Jesus, let us keep our faith and occupy ourselves with things that

express our faith to God. From our text, Jesus said 'it is finished'. Surely, the Lord will complete His work and fulfil His promise, let us remain faithful”;

391 members attended this divine service.

After the Good Friday service, the District Apostle took a short trip to Livingstone, Zambia, for the 5th Adhoc Meeting on Saturday, March 31, 2018, ahead of the visit of Chief Apostle Jean Luc Schneider, who will be visiting Zambia from April 26 – 30, 2018.

On 1st April, 2018 (Easter Sunday), District Apostle Ndandula conducted another festive divine service at Dambwa north congregation in Livingstone.

Acts 10:40 – 42 was used as text word, while the bible reading was taken from Luke 24:1 – 15.

Text word: **“Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead”.**

The District Apostle told the members that the resurrection of Jesus must be the centre of their faith.

“The Lord Jesus was human; He died, rose from the dead and revealed



1



2



3

1. District Apostle Charles Ndandula bestowing the confirmation blessing on the confirmands during the service at Victoria Falls congregation on March 30, 2018.
2. Part of the congregation during the Good Friday service at Victoria Falls congregation on March 30, 2018.
3. District Apostle Charles Ndandula and his entourage pose for a photo with confirmands at Victoria Falls congregation on March 30, 2018.



Sister Cynthia Sahandu Masamu giving a bible reading during the Easter service at Dambwa congregation on April 1, 2018.

His first service was at Mufulira's Kamuchanga Church on 25 March, 2018, Palm Sunday.

The Apostle used a text word from Zechariah 9:9. At the end of the service, the Apostle bestowed the Confirmation blessing on 65 young brothers and sisters.

687 souls attended the Palm Sunday Service in Mufulira.

On his second service, Apostle Mwansa was in Ndola's Kabushi Church, on 30 March, 2018, Good Friday.

The Apostle read a text word from John 19:30. In this service, the Apostle confirmed 144 young brothers and sisters. At the end of the service, the Apostle watched presentations on doctrinal subjects by the Confirmed youths who



Part of the congregation during the Easter service at Dambwa congregation on April 1, 2018.



Apostle Kububa Soko addressing the couples before bestowing marriage blessing during the Easter service at Gondar congregation on March 30, 2018.

Himself to those that believed in Him, the witnesses chosen by God. God blessed those who believed in Jesus. Let this be the anchor of our faith, let us believe in our Lord Jesus and we shall experience the abundant blessings of God", he said.

The District Apostle further told the congregation at Dambwa to be worthy witnesses of Easter.

"When the Lord appeared to those who believed in Him, Mary being one of them, she went to tell others (Apostles of Jesus) about what had happened. Let us also tell others about our faith, let us go out there to preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus, our way of life must give testimony of our belief in Jesus Christ – we must conform our lives to the teaching of Jesus", he said.

1716 members attended this service.

The District Apostle was accompanied by Apostles Daniel Mulemba of Zimbabwe, Baker Chakwana of Choma, Godwin Nyuwa of Sesheke and Remie Muiyenga of Livingstone.

From Ndola – Mufulira Apostle Area, Shardrick Wilima reports that during the Easter period, Apostle Jacob Mwansa conducted three divine services in the Apostle Area to commemorate the passion week and also to bestow the blessing of confirmation on the young people who were waiting to be confirmed.

were clad in graduation gowns.

1103 members including 7 visitors attended the service.

After the Service, the Apostle proceeded to St Anthony's Children Village, an Orphanage Centre for abandoned children as well as children with special needs. He was accompanied by all Ndola based district leaders and a group of sisters.

Here the Apostle made a donation on behalf of the New Apostolic Church through the Sisters' Fellowship. The donation included assorted groceries valued at K5,500.

On 1 April, 2018 ,Easter Sunday , the Apostle conducted a service at Kamirenda congregation in Luashya. The Apostle read from Acts 10:40-42.

After the service, the Apostle bestowed a blessing on 63 confirmands. 662 souls including 3 visitors attended the service.

From Chipata Apostle Area, Shepherd Lufupa reports that the Area Apostle Kububa Soko conducted a divine service on Easter Sunday at Gondar congregation where he confirmed 70 confirmands and bestowed marriage blessings on two couples; Brother Morris Shimikobo and Babra Milimo Gondar and Brother Golf Daka and Idah Mumba.

Service for the Departed in Kabwe

By Nathaniel Lowa in Kabwe



Holy scriptures in relation to revelations of the Holy Spirit are the foundation of the belief of New Apostolic Christians in the life after death.

According to the booklet, “Belief in the afterlife for New Apostolic Christians,” the state of an unredeemed soul in the afterlife can be changed for the better. Help here solely reposes in the grace resulting from Christ's sacrifice and the merit associated with this.

Divine services for the departed take place three times a year, on the first Sunday of March, July, and November respectively. With this in mind, New Apostolic Christians also pray that souls who have died in an unredeemed state may find salvation in Christ.

God's will to redeem encompasses all human beings. Jesus Christ is Lord over both the dead and the living as explained in Romans 14: 9.

“For to this end, Christ died and rose and lived again that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.”

The living are baptized on behalf of the dead as explained in 1 Corinthians 15: 29.

“Otherwise, what will they do who are baptized for the dead, if the dead do not rise at all? Why then are they baptized for the dead?”

This practice is continued in divine services for the departed conducted by the Chief Apostle and the District Apostles: in them, two ministers receive Holy Baptism with water, Holy Sealing, and Holy Communion on behalf of the dead. The sacraments are performed in the same manner as usual. In the other congregations, the departed are interceded for in a special prayer after the celebration of Holy Communion.

Divine services for the departed have an important place in the New Apostolic calendar. On the preceding Sunday, the congregations prepare themselves for this in a special divine service. Compassion and sympathy are to move their hearts to intercede for those who have died in an unredeemed state.

In this manner, District Apostle Charles Ndandula conducted a preparatory service for the departed at Mwachisompola congregation in Kabwe on 3rd March, 2018 which was re-dedicated following its reconstruction.

Colossians 4:5-6 was read as the text word for this divine service.

“Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”

In his opening remarks during the sermon, District Apostle Ndandula explained the importance of having to rededicate the church building.

“We first want to remember those who took part in the construction of this church that have gone in the realms of the departed but also those who are still alive. There's need to rededicate it as a way of showing thankfulness to God.”

Furthermore, the District Apostle encouraged the members to remain firm as children of God.

“Like the construction of this building, its foundation is firm and strong just as we should be if we trust and believe in the foundation of Jesus Christ. Therefore let us remain firm on this sure foundation regardless of what we pass through.”

The sermon for this divine service was based on the teaching of belonging inside the body of Christ and gaining knowledge about His word. District Apostle Ndandula called upon the members to remain inside the body of Christ.

“In order for us to have the love of Jesus, we need to show love to those who are outside the body of Christ but we also need to be baptized in the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit,” he said.

The District Apostle was however quick to caution the members about being inside the body of Christ and yet the hearts are outside.

“It doesn't mean that those who are baptized cannot be outside, once they do not conform to the likeness of God, they are regarded as being outside even if they appear to be inside the body of Christ,” he said.

District Apostle Ndandula made reference to the teaching of Paul on wisdom.

“Paul says it's important to be wise because many are outside the body of Christ and therefore this wisdom requires us not to conform to the likeness of those who are outside,” he said.

He made reference to Romans 12:2.

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

The District Apostle further added that children of God should persevere regardless of whatever circumstances they may face. He equally encouraged the members not to fear those who are outside the body of Christ because God will always be their help. He wined up the sermon with a reading from the book of Luke 12:32.

“Do not fear little flock for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”



Members of Mpima congregation on a rainy day during departed service on 4th March, 2018 with District Apostle Ndandula. The church was full and the tents provided were also full, hence some had to brave the rains.

The District Apostle was accompanied by District Apostle Helper Robert Nsamba, Apostles Stanley Munsaka of Lusaka, Ranford Simumbwe (Host) of Kabwe – Serenje and Patrick Poho of Solwezi – Kabompo Apostle working area.

The service was attended by 1500 members.

Mwachisompola Church is one of the many chapels built on “Self Help” basis in the Apostle area with the help of funds generated through the Sisters’ Fellowships and from the members’ contributions as per the Apostle Area Strategic Plan.

Mwachisompola congregation started in 1980 with a membership of only ten. Members initially congregated in a chicken run but in 1994 the congregation shifted to the current site where retired District Evangelist Mumba spearheaded the construction of the first permanent church building, which was dedicated by retired District Apostle Mfune in 1996.

Construction of the new structure commenced on 25th January, 2018 and was completed on 28th February, 2018 thus taking one month to complete.

The District Apostle's visit to Kabwe – Serenje Apostle working area did not end there. He then conducted the service for the departed at Mpima Congregation in Kabwe on Sunday 4th March, 2018.

For the text word, District Apostle Ndandula read from the book of Mark 6:34.

“And Jesus when He came out saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So he began to teach them many things.”

The District Apostle began the sermon by making reference to the teachings of Jesus Christ to the great multitude.

“Jesus taught the multitudes about the love of God that is unconditional despite the many situations that we may go through,” he said.

He further encouraged the members not to despair whenever they go through challenges in life but thank God and allow Him to help us.

District Apostle Ndandula also added that Jesus taught the multitudes about the grace of God.

“He taught them about the grace of God because it covers all multitudes of sins and through this grace, our sins are forgiven but we too need to forgive and love others.”

The District Apostle also encouraged the members that God will always help them in all their situations. He made reference to the faith of the Canaanite woman as recorded in Matthew 15:26 – 27.

“But Jesus replied, It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs’. And she said yes Lord, even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters table.”

He then winded up the sermon by reminding the members that the love of God is not restricted to the living only as he made reference to 1 Peter 3:19-20.

“By whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison who formerly were disobedient when once the divine long suffering waited in the days of Noah while the ark was being prepared in which a few, that is eight souls, were saved through water.”

The District Apostle then served the departed through the proxies. After retiring one District Evangelist and one District Elder he ordained two District Evangelists and two District Elders.

The service at Mpima congregation was attended by 2797 members.

In July 1989, Mpima congregation was registered as a congregation and had the first Sunday service on 2nd July 1989. In 2003, members replaced the grass thatched roof with an iron sheet roof but faced challenges caused by weather and other natural causes.

In 2013, the congregation bought a building which was vacated by its previous occupants, at a cost of K10, 000. The congregation with the support of the district renovated the church till its completion.

The District Apostle during his visit to the congregation was accompanied by District Apostle Helper Robert Nsamba, Apostles Stanley Munsaka of Lusaka, Ranford Simumbwe (Host) of Kabwe – Serenje and Patrick Poho of Solwezi – Mufumbwe Apostle working area.

Kamirenda Congregation dedicated

By Nathaniel Lowa in Luanshya and Ndola

The New Apostolic Church has about 59, 000 congregations worldwide and in Zambia alone, the church has about 8, 624 congregations.

The District Apostle, by his commission, has the duty to dedicate newly constructed church buildings; sometimes, this responsibility is delegated to the District Apostle Helpers and Apostles.

In the latest dedication, District Apostle Charles Ndandula on 17th February, 2018 dedicated Kamirenda church in Luanshya on the Copperbelt Province in Zambia.

He was accompanied by Apostles Jacob Mwansa of Ndola - Mufulira Apostle Area (Host), Steven Lindunda of Kitwe - Chingola Apostle Area, Micheal Milupi of Lusaka East - Kafue Apostle Area and Edwin Kasamu of Monze - Mazubuka Apostle Area.

In his dedication service, District Apostle Ndandula read from the book of Joshua 6:20 as the text word.

“So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the

trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.”

District Apostle Ndandula emphasized the need to build God’s house.

“Those who build with God will grow as desired by God and that’s why it’s important to build the house of the Lord because this is where the Holy Spirit and the sacraments are dispensed.”

As District Apostle Ndandula began his sermon in reference to the text word after he officially dedicated Kamirenda church, he made reference to the teaching of obeying God as learnt from the Israelites and their encounter in the city of Jericho.

“God helps those who obey Him as we can learn from the Israelites when they turned to Joshua by asking him what they could do to overcome the city of Jericho”, he said.

District Apostle Ndandula further encouraged the members to learn from the encounter the Israelites had in the city of Jericho.



1. District Apostle Charles Ndandula unveiling the plaque of the newly constructed Kamirenda church in Luanshya on 17th February, 2018.
2. Members of Kamirenda congregation during service in Luanshya on 17th February, 2018.



District Apostle Charles Ndandula during service at Kamirenda congregation on 17th February, 2018.



Apostle Micheal Milupi during service at Kamirenda congregation on 17th February, 2018.



Apostle Edwin Kasamu during service at Kamirenda congregation on 17th February, 2018.

“The lesson we learn from this, is that we need to wait for God’s instructions by being patient as the Israelites did; we also need to believe and trust in the Lord. The falling of the walls of the city of Jericho means that if we wait upon the Lord, He will help us overcome temptations”, he said.

During the sermon District Apostle Ndandula reminded the members that God’s word is strong.

“We need to know that God’s word is so strong that it can overcome and conquer; even at times when it seems as though things are falling apart, let us trust and believe in God, the Lord will help us to overcome, in times of trials”, he said.

During the festive divine service, District Apostle Ndandula blessed a newly married couple, Mwikisa Mwikisa and Mercy Ndandula Mwikisa. He congratulated the couple and wished them well in their future as husband and wife.

Kamirenda congregation first started in 1996 with only 43 members. At the time, members would congregate in a classroom and as the membership increased, the local council granted the congregation a piece of land to construct a church building.

The construction officially started in 2013 and was completed in 2018. The project costed a total amount of K296, 618.

A total of 1285 members attended this service.

Meanwhile the following day, 18th February, 2018, District Apostle Charles Ndandula conducted another divine service in Ndola at Tug Argan congregation.

Tug Argan was a land battle between forces of the British Empire and Italy which took place in 1940. The battle was part of the Italian conquest of British Somaliland, in which Italy successfully attempted to conquer the latter British colony, and thus is included in the larger parts of Africa where Zambian troops fought in that war, hence the name “Tug Argan”.

Tug Argan barracks in Ndola was named after this battle and the

For the divine service, District Apostle Ndandula read from the book of Luke 12:49 – 50.



Kamirenda church in Luanshya dedicated on 17th February, 2018 by District Apostle Charles Ndandula.



1. District Apostle Ndandula blessing Mwikisa Mwikisa and Mercy Ndandula Mwikisa in celebration of their marriage at Kamirenda church on 17th February, 2018.
2. District Apostle Charles Ndandula planting a tree at Kamirenda congregation after dedicating it on 17th February, 2018.
3. Tug Argan congregation in Ndola.

District Apostle Ndandula further added that children of God need to keep the fire burning in their hearts by not quenching it. He made reference to the book of 1 Thessalonians 5: 19 **“Do not quench the Spirit”**.

“I came to set fire on the earth, how I wish it were already kindled but I have a baptism to be baptized with, how distressed I am till it is accomplished.”

He encouraged the members to rekindle the fire from time to time by keeping the faith alive and allowing themselves to be consumed by it.

The District Apostle began the sermon by referring to Jesus Christ and what kind of fire He (Jesus) brought on earth.

Before the end of the service, the District Apostle ordained District ministers. The ordinations mean Ndola will now see an increase by two Elder Districts.

“Jesus Christ brought the fire of the gospel which He started and now it has spread all over the world therefore it is up to us to align ourselves to the teaching of the gospel”, he said.

Among those ordained include:

The District Apostle explained further what the fire that Jesus Christ brought does to Gods children.

1. District Elder Richard Chinyama
2. District Elder Mwangala Situmbeko
3. District Evangelist Kingsley Selemani
4. District Evangelist Isaac Kamwimba
5. District Evangelist Collins Nyundu
6. District Evangelist Capson Muntanga
7. District Evangelist Nyambe Sikondwama

“The fire our Lord Jesus brought purifies us and aligns us with His teaching”, he said.

The service was attended by 1, 196 members.



District Apostle Charles Ndandula during service at Tug Argan congregation in Ndola on 18th February, 2018.

Members of Tug Argan congregation during service with the District Apostle Charles Ndandula on 18th February, 2018.

Divine Services in Loanja and Mwandi

By Nimon Muleya in Loanja and Mwandi



District Apostle Charles Ndandula during a divine service at Mwandi congregation on 25 February, 2018

District Apostle Charles Ndandula, visited New Apostolic Church members in Loanja and Mwandi in Sesheke – Mulobezi Apostle Area from February 23 to 26, 2018.

The divine service in Loanja was held on February 24, 2018 and Luke 12 vs 36 – 37 was used as text word.

“And you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them”

The choir beautifully sang “Standing up for Jesus” as after text hymn.

In reference to the hymn, the District Apostle urged the members to have courage and confidence.

“My dear brothers and sisters, standing up for Jesus requires a lot of confidence and courage. It means believing in our Lord Jesus Christ. Believing in the gospel of Jesus, standing up for Jesus means believing in His Apostles and that He will come to take the bridal congregation”, he said.

The District Apostle further said standing up for Jesus means worshipping Him and God the Father.

In reference to the text word, the District Apostle urged the members to be watchful for the return of God.

“Beloved, the Lord is coming! Let us prepare and be watchful for His return. Jesus came to serve God, but also to serve mankind. The Lord will return to take His own home, let us be prepared for His return, as we wait and watch for



1. The choir singing the after text hymn in Loanja on 24 February, 2018.
2. Part of the congregation that attended the divine service in Mwandu on 25 February, 2018.

the return of our Lord Jesus, let us serve God and serve one another (Mat 20v28). The Lord will save those who will open their hearts to Him, those who believe He is the Son of God.

The District Apostle also assured the members of God's help.

“Let us trust our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us believe in Him. When faced with trials and temptation let us call upon His name, let us seek the close connection with God – He will grant us His help!

In the preparatory divine service for the departed held at Mwandu central congregation on February 25, 2018, District Apostle Ndandula read from Matthew 14:29 – a text word which was recently used by the Chief Apostle in Cape Town.

“So He said “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.”

In reference to the text word, District Apostle Ndandula urged the members to positively respond to the invitation from Jesus.

From our text word, we see the image of our salvation, as Jesus said to Peter, “Come”, the Lord is saying to you and I,



“Come” so that we can enter the Kingdom of God. Our childhood in God is as a result of the invitation from our Lord Jesus; but responding to this invitation means conforming our lives to the teaching of Jesus, we must live as Jesus lived. Responding to this invitation gives us an opportunity to have fellowship with Jesus,” he said.

The District Apostle further urged the members to have the longing to be in fellowship with the Lord.

“From our text word, Peter did not walk to Jesus to show that he too could walk on water, but because he wanted to be with Jesus – let us also desire to be in close fellowship with Jesus. Also, when Peter walked on water, he began to sink into the sea, but our Lord Jesus helped him. Similarly beloved, whenever we are faced with trials and temptations, let us turn to Jesus, He will help us just like He helped Peter,” he said.

1595 members attended this service.

Events in Pictures



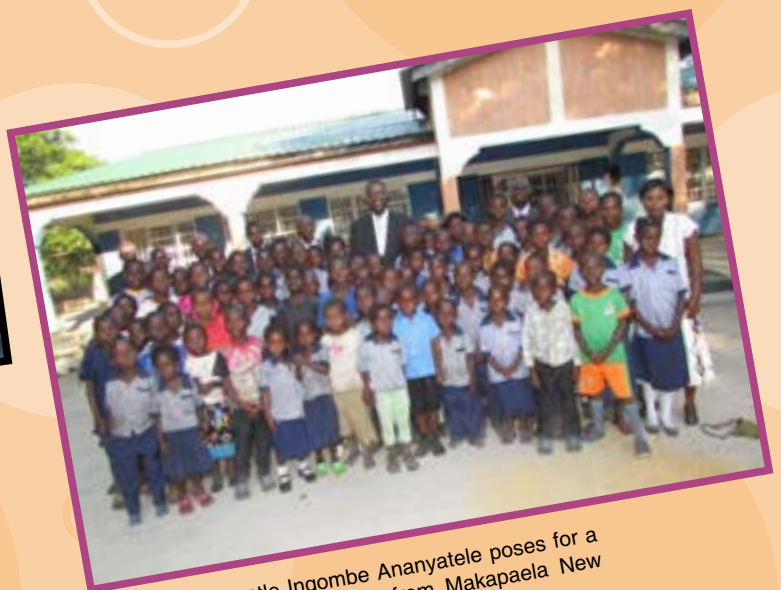
Apostle Ingombe Ananyatele of Mongu Apostle Area greeting sister Musisanyani of Limulunga congregation who turned 100 years in December 2017.



District Elder Chimuka (right) with some ministers on their way to Kakeme congregation in the Barotse plains, in Mongu.



Youths from Livingstone Apostle Area on their way to the youth divine service at Mbufu island on the Zambezi river.



Apostle Ingombe Ananyatele poses for a photo with pupils from Makapaela New Apostolic Church School in Mongu.

Children Write

**Pelekelo Mulonda – Kobyia
Congregation, Mongu**

“Jesus is the bread of life, the living waters, the rock of ages, the chief cornerstone, the great physician and a great comforter. In Him all of us find life”

Sibeso – Nanjai Congregation, Likuma

“Our God is great, He doesn't care about....., no wonder He blessed the little children. He doesn't care about experience no wonder He blessed David a young man. He doesn't care about your past.....He doesn't care about appearance, He chose Zacchaeus (the shortest one). God loves you and me too.”

**Mubanga Nyumbu – Nanjucha
Congregation, Mongu.**

“Jesus is the Son of God who came to die for our sins. Jesus is the messiah (Christ) and through His crucifixion and resurrection, we can be reconciled to God for our salvation and eternal life.”

**Ngombo Kalima – Libala
Congregation, Mongu**

“I like my church, we pray too hard and we learn in the Sunday school. We also sing church songs. This makes me feel good.”

**Mufuka Kakoma – Likuma
congregation, Mongu**

“I thank God who cares for me, who blesses mu parents that care for me.”

Sitali Mulonda – Likuma Congregation

“God is love, He loved his creation before and after.....Adam and Eve sinned against Him but He still loved them and forgave them. Our God is merciful that He allowed His only Son Jesus to come and die for our sins. God is our creator, redeemer and sustenance of life. Blessed be the Almighty God the...of all blessings and author of all types of love. God be with you always, Amen!”

My Apostle - I.B. Luneta

By David Nalumino Mwiya



Apostle (i.r) Ignatius Luneta

His name (in his native language Mbunda) means a small fish, but in God's work it is big, associated with the apostle area with the largest number of elder districts in the entire District Apostle Area D A A 2 8 ; a stunning fifty

nine (59) Elder Districts, a membership of 75, 752 and 536 congregations! The area has four political districts namely Senanga, Shangombo, Nalolo and Sioma, and is divided into two parts by the river Zambezi known as East and West bank. This is Ignatius Bisenga Luneta, who had led the Senanga – Shangambo Apostle Area from 20th September 1992 to 29th April 2018, when he was retired. All his three names have a meaning; Ignatius (which means ignites), Bisenga (Small Fish), Luneta (Trumpet in Mbunda).

He was born on 25th August 1952 to Luneta Kangumbe (father) and Kalumbu Mukonda (mother) in Sangambo Village west of Kalabo district, and is the last born in the family of five, of which only three are alive.

He was introduced to New Apostolic doctrine by his parents who were members, and was baptized on 1st January 1966. He was sealed on 20th March 1968 by Apostle Jeremiah K. Njamba, and in 1970 he was confirmed by the then District Evangelist Sitali Mukubesa.

For his education, he went to Ituya Primary School for lower primary and, for his upper Primary he attended Nalionwa Mission School still in Kalabo and did his secondary school education at Kalabo Secondary School.

He trained as an Environmental Health Technician at Chainama College of Sciences, and upon completion, he was employed by the Ministry of Health, working at Kakoma and Lunga Health Centers and later Solwezi General Hospital in North Western Province. In 1977, he was transferred to Namushakende Health Centre in Western Province, before moving to Sefula Rural Health Center and eventually Senanga District Hospital on promotion as Senior Environmental Technician and lastly as a District Health Trainer, a position he held until his ordination as Apostle in 1992.

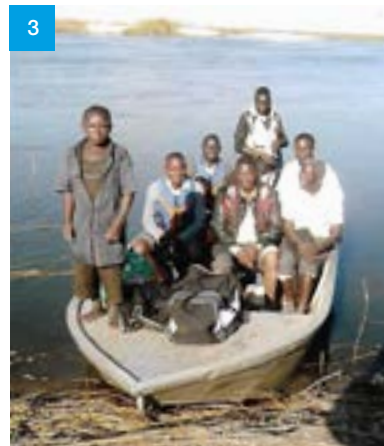


Besides his health profession, he studied Economics at Russia's Moscow University from 1980 to 1982, graduating with a Diploma. He also studied for a Diploma in Adult Education at University of Zambia from 1997 to 1999.

Apostle Luneta is married to Pumulo Simunyeu, a school teacher and current Deputy Head at Namalangu Secondary School in Senanga and have 11 children together; 6 girls and 5 boys, and fourteen grand children.

As a minister, he received the following ministries;

Ministry	Date of Ordination	Ordained by
Deacon	17 April, 1977	Apostle helper B.N. Sianga
Priest	14 October, 1983	Apostle B.M. Shambwe
Community Evangelist	7 December, 1986	District Apostle Helper B.N. Sianga
District Evangelist	19 October, 1987	District Apostle J.A. Fernandes
District Elder	20 July, 1989	District Apostle D.B. Mfunne
Apostle	20 September, 1992	Chief Apostle R. Fehr



1. Apostle Ignatius Luneta with church members and community members in Sioma district during a handover of cassava stalks in 2012. The cassava stalks, a drought resistant crop, were donated by the New Apostolic Church, as part of its humanitarian aid to the community.
2. Apostle Ignatius Luneta with members of Matongo congregation, at Matongo congregation on the plains of Baroste land in Western Province - Zambia.
3. Apostle Ignatius Luneta on the Zambezi river in 2008, on his way to visit New Apostolic Church members of Matongo congregation.



Coming up

- 1 April 2018** Nottingham (England)
- 8 April 2018** Karlsruhe (Germany)
- 15 April 2018** Toronto (Canada)
- 22 April 2018** Trebaseleghe (Italy)
- 29 April 2018** Livingstone (Zambia)
- 10 May 2018** Trier (Germany)
- 20 May 2018** Washington, D.C. (USA)
- 3 June 2018** Ostermundigen (Switzerland)
- 10 June 2018** Luanda (Angola)
- 17 June 2018** Leipzig (Germany)
- 24 June 2018** Landshut (Germany)



Coming up

Sun, April 1, 2018	09:00	Dambwa	Easter Service
Fri, April 6, 2018		Mufumbwe	
Sat, April 7, 2018	10:00	Lumwana	
Sun, April 8, 2018	09:00	Nkulumazhiba	
Sat, April 14, 2018	10:00	Situmbeko	
Sun, April 15, 2018	09:00	Bulungu	
Sat, April 21, 2018		Musi O Tunya	
Sun, April 22, 2018		Nakatindi	
Sun, April 29, 2018		Nakatindi with Chief Apostle	
Tue, May 1, 2018		Libala, Senanga	
Wed, May 2, 2018		Sesheke Central	
Sun, May 13, 2018		Ibex	
Sat, May 26, 2018		Chainda	
Sun, May 27, 2018		Bonaventure	
Sat, June 9, 2018		Mumbezhi	
Sun, June 10, 2018		Kabompo	
Sat, June 16, 2018		Kariba - Zimbabwe	
Sun, June 17, 2018		Sivonga	
Frid, June 22 - 24, 2018		Mazabuka - National Council Meeting	

