

community

The New Apostolic Church around the world

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ZMW 20



Victory with Christ:
Perseverance is everything

Divine service in Angola:
Bought at a price

Catechism:
The doctrine of
future things

Catechism:
From the history
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New Apostolic Church
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Perseverance is everything

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the letters of the New Testament we find many references as to how we can gain victory with Christ. For one thing, we read how Apostle Paul takes stock of his life: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness” (2 Timothy 4: 7–8). Therefore, when it comes to faith, gaining the victory does not mean being the best of all, but rather enduring to the end and reaching the goal.

The letters to the Corinthians (9: 25–26), to the Hebrews (12: 1), and the Philippians (3: 13–14) likewise refer to the image of an athlete or a race. These passages help us to train in perseverance and endurance. Accordingly, those who want to endure till they reach the goal must

- know the goal. Ours is to enter into eternal glory. To this end, we must come to resemble Christ more and more all the time. But do we occupy ourselves sufficiently with this effort?
- keep their eyes on the goal. Let us not allow ourselves to be distracted from pursuing our course by the cheers or boos on the side-lines.
- divide up the distance. We do not need to be discouraged when we find we are still such a long way from acquiring the nature of Jesus. We can always resolve to focus on a single characteristic and live in accordance with it very conscientiously for a while.
- not overdo things. Those who find their life of faith too taxing might try treading more lightly when it comes to natural things and concentrating more on the spiritual instead.

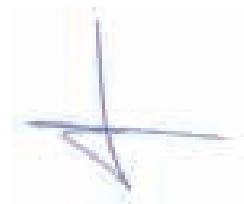


NAC International

- get rid of ballast. Guilt and irreconcilability make it difficult for us to make progress. Let us always seek forgiveness and in turn also grant forgiveness!
- stick with their diet. What sort of nourishment helps us in our course of faith? Let us only supply our souls with that which strengthens us enduringly. Above all, this includes the word of God and Holy Communion.

“Being there is everything” is the Olympic motto. When it comes to our life of faith, however, the thought that counts is “perseverance is everything”. Let us be inspired by the call to action recorded in 1 Timothy 6: 12: “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called.”

Warm greetings



Jean-Luc Schneider



Hermann Bethke and ENA Angola

Bought at a price

1 Corinthians 7: 23

“You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.”

Dear brothers and sisters, the hymn of the choir is an expression of our joy that we can participate in this divine service today. I share this joy with you, however, I can also well imagine that there are some among us who are not feeling so joyful—not because they cannot believe, but because they must live through trials, or have a great many cares, or perhaps are very concerned about their future or the future of their children. I would like to call out to these brethren today and say, “Dear brother, dear sister, you have not been forgotten. Today God desires to comfort and strengthen you. He desires to draw near to you so that you may feel, ‘God is very close to me!’ He assures you of His help.”

The greatest help God seeks to grant us is redemption from all evil. That is much greater than being delivered from a momentary illness. He will see to it that we are eternally redeemed from all suffering, from all evil, from everything bad. Therefore be of good cheer: God is working to help you!

This work began when the Son of God gave His life for us. That is what Apostle Paul is talking about when he states, “You were bought at a price.”

Through Adam’s fall into sin, all human beings have become slaves to sin. We suffer from the evil one because we are exposed to his power. All illness, all injustice, all suffering, and even death are consequences of sin. From birth on, human beings are slaves to sin. And it is precisely from this that the Lord desires to redeem us. It is for this purpose that He has bought us at such a price. He has given His life. He was condemned and executed—put to death—in our place.

He who was perfect, He who had never made a single mistake, took it upon Himself to be condemned so that we would not have to be condemned. He was chastised so that we would not need to be chastised as a result of our mistakes and sins. Through His merit we can be redeemed.

Our God loves us so much that He sent His Son to die for us. Let us also remember what God has undertaken for us even after the sacrifice of His Son such that we would be able

to profit from this merit: He has sent the Holy Spirit, He has given us the Apostles, and through all the centuries He has seen to it that the gospel of Jesus Christ could continue to spread. There were times in which many people accepted the gospel, but there have also been other times—times in

Let us not pursue our own way but rather follow Jesus Christ. We know that those who battle with Jesus Christ at their side will gain the victory.

Nearly 14,000 people attended the service in the basketball stadium Ciudadela and in the adjacent hall



which Christians were persecuted. But God has always seen to it that everything would carry on.

We are also mindful of the many individuals who have ensured that we today can discover the message of the gospel. Jesus Christ paid dearly for us—and many people have brought sacrifices in the service of Jesus Christ such that we today can be redeemed. There have been so many sacrifices so that the Apostle ministry can be active among us today!

Now Paul goes on to say, “You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.” This has nothing to do with individual persons, but is intended as a reference to the slavery of the world: God has redeemed you, has paid a great price for you, so that you never need to become slaves to this world ever again! Here the reference is to “slaves of men”. A slave

is not free. He is bound. He has a free will but has nothing to say. The slave must do what his master wants. He is compelled to work and does not receive any payment for his labours. He performs all his labour for free. As children of God, we are not meant to become slaves to this world ever again. What does this mean?

Following Jesus Christ is never in vain. Those who follow Him will receive the crown of eternal life, the greatest reward there could ever be.

In the Bible there are many examples of people who were chosen or purchased, yet who lost everything owing to a poor decision. Take Esau, for example. He had been chosen! He was the firstborn and was to have received a special blessing, but he got

caught up in his earthly needs. And because he was a slave to these needs, he was no longer able to make a free decision. He sold his blessing for a pottage of lentils! His earthly concerns were more important to him than the blessing. That is why he became the servant of his brother. In re-





Assisting in the divine service were District Apostles Patrick Mkhwanazi (top right) and District Apostle Noel E. Barnes (both from South Africa)



response to his question as to whether he had any other blessing left for him, his father told him, “Indeed I have made him your master, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants ... What shall I do now for you, my son?” (Genesis 27: 37).

There is a great danger that we too might become servants and slaves to our natural needs and that our natural well-being might become more important to us than the salvation of our souls. Some will then say, “I cannot come to the service because I have to go and do my work.” Others might say, “I cannot obey God—I cannot live in accordance with the commandments—when it comes to money.” And yet, at their Holy Baptism, at their Holy Sealing, or at their confirmation, they made the firm decision to follow Jesus Christ and live in accordance with the commandments of God. But because they became slaves to their earthly lives, they were no longer free—and were thus unable to keep the promise they had made. They stopped respecting the commandments because of their earthly needs.

We have been bought at a price! Let us not become slaves to the earthly ever again! We have decided for the Lord and are free to pursue the path that God has laid down for us.

Apostle Paul made it clear that the question of whether one is a slave or a free man, a Jew or a Gentile, a rich man or a

poor man, is not important for the salvation of one’s soul (Galatians 3: 28). What is important is the attitude of one’s heart. Let us have the right heart’s attitude. Let us not allow ourselves to be led by our earthly needs.

Another example from the Old Testament is the story of Samson, the judge of Israel. His mother dedicated him to God when he was born. God had chosen this man in order to fight against the Philistines, the enemies of Israel. At that time, when a man was dedicated to God, when a man stood in the service of God, his hair was never to be cut. Everyone knew: whenever someone comes along with long hair, he must be a man dedicated to God, a servant of God. This was also the case later on with Samuel. No one was allowed to cut his hair either (1 Samuel 1: 11).



Left: Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider ordains District Elder José Calenga Baza (kneeling) as an Apostle. Apostle Alfonso Avelino (standing) was placed into retirement in this service after 30 years as a minister

Samson was very strong and fought against the Philistines, but one day he met Delilah, and this woman was bribed by the Philistines. The princes of the Philistines came to her and said, “Convince him to tell you what gives him such great strength, and find out how we can overpower him such that we may bind him and capture him, and we will each give you eleven hundred pieces of silver.” Delilah continued to pester Samson with the question, “Please just tell me the source of your great strength!” After some time Samson finally gave in just to please her, and ultimately told her, “No razor has ever come upon my head for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother’s womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man” (Judges 16: 5–17). In other words, his strength lay in his intimate connection to God. What did the woman do? She cut off Samson’s locks of hair. She thereby deprived him of the very symbol of his relationship with God. He was then taken captive and became a slave to the Philistines. Why? Because he had made the wrong decision. The favour of this woman had become more important to him than the favour of God.

We endeavour to fill our place in society and cultivate good relationships with other people, but these relationships with others must never become more important than our relationship with God! Let us please God more than men. There are times when we must say, “No, I will not go along with this, even if you do not like it. I will not do this because the favour of God is more important to me.”

A third example from the Old Testament: Israel was the chosen people of God. Naturally this did not please the other nations. On another occasion, the Philistines came to make war on the people of God. And this time

the enemy had a mighty man on their side, namely Goliath, a giant with heavy weapons who terrorized everyone. He mocked the Israelites, made fun of God, and said, “Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us” (1 Samuel 17: 8–9). The Israelites were afraid—and their fear very nearly made them slaves to their enemies. Fortunately, little David came along—and he was not afraid. He knew that he would be able to conquer Goliath with God’s help. And David liberated his people.

At times we also feel we are too weak and that the spirit from below is so powerful. After all, his theories are spread with such great force. Those who follow him are so successful, and at times we have such a struggle in our lives. The Devil has such means at his disposal that we cannot defend ourselves against him! — But that is simply not true! Even if our enemy is as powerful as all that, we know that we can gain the victory with Christ! Christ is stronger than our enemy! We follow Jesus Christ, and we take up the battle against evil. With Him we will win. Let us not become slaves to the evil one!

This last example was given by Jesus Himself. He shared the following image with His disciples: “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first” (Luke 11: 24–26). This image holds a message for us.



Following the divine service, the Chief Apostle answered questions put to him by the local media

Through our baptism, through Holy Sealing, we were purified. The evil one was driven out and had no more claim on us. We belong to Jesus Christ. But now it is up to us to decide who will live in our hearts.

The evil spirit with its seven companions could come back to us if our hearts are empty and there is room for them.

Let us see to it that the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts and that He fills our whole heart, our whole life. The new creation in Jesus Christ must develop within us. If the life we have received out of the Holy Spirit fills our whole heart, no other spirits will find any room there. But if a person is baptized and sealed, and his heart is not filled with the Holy Spirit, the evil spirits will return and this person will then be very unhappy.

Then the same spirit who came to Jesus in the time of His temptation will come to this person and say, "Why don't you utilize your childhood in God to have a better life here on earth?" And then, although this person may well come to the divine services, he will be more concerned about his earthly concerns, and will simply pray, "Dear God, please see to it that things go well for me. I am Your child, after all. Please make me rich." The old spirit will thus have returned, and now he decides what one should pray and what one should do. And such a person will have a difficult time of things because he will notice that it simply does not work. "I am New Apostolic, but I am not becoming wealthy." And then he is worse off than he ever was before.

It may indeed be the case that one is baptized and sealed, and that one's heart was purified, but if one does not really

allow the Holy Spirit to develop properly, another spirit will come back and take His place.

Another example. Perhaps there are some who feel they want to be a "somebody" in the congregation, in the Church. All they are concerned about is to shine in the Church and through the Church. Perhaps they sing in the choir, but not in order to praise the Lord but to be in the limelight. And perhaps there is a brother who will do anything he can in order to attain a higher ministry. He wants to become the boss. He has thus become the servant to another spirit and no longer serves the Lord. He only seeks to work to his own advantage. Everything he does is done with an ulterior motive. One wants to become rich, the other wants to count for something in the Church. These people become servants to another spirit and will not receive what they are after! At some point they will be disappointed.

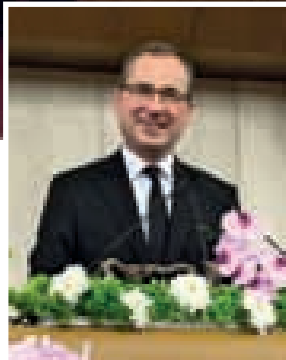
These are just some simple examples of people whom God had chosen for blessing but who made a poor decision. They ended up becoming "slaves of men" again.

Let us be servants and handmaidens of Christ. Out of love for Jesus we are very closely connected to Him. Let us not pursue our own way but rather follow Jesus Christ. We know that those who battle with Jesus Christ on their side will gain the victory. Following Christ is never in vain. Those who follow Him will receive the crown of eternal life, the greatest reward there could ever be. And because we have been bought at such a price, let us truly be disciples and servants of Jesus Christ. The reward for this will be indescribably great.

CORE THOUGHTS

Christ paid dearly for us with His sacrifice. Let us therefore make sure that we

- are not servants to earthly concerns;
- please God more than mankind;
- are not awed and impressed by the power of the evil one;
- allow the Holy Spirit to fill our whole heart.



The fundamentals of divine comfort

In a divine service in Berlin (Germany) on 14 February 2016, Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider developed a multi-dimensional agenda on comfort. There is more to it than just receiving comfort ... Including the 70 congregations that received a video broadcast of the service, there were more than 8,100 participants.

This much is clear: “As New Apostolic Christians we are not better or worse off than other people,” the Chief Apostle said. “We are human, have to deal with illness, death, and injustice.” And maybe even a bit more, because in the face of all of this we still try to remain faithful to God. And this is really a battle sometimes, he said.

“As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you,” is a promise given by the Lord. “God always comforts us through the Holy Spirit.” The Comforter and Helper does not force Himself upon us. “He comes when we call Him.”

God’s agenda on comfort

Chief Apostle Schneider developed a three-stage agenda of divine comfort in his sermon. The first aspect of comfort is the alleviation of pain. This occurs through love: “God has not forgotten you. He loves you as much as He loves His Son Jesus when He was on earth.” Then there is hope: “Things will not remain as they are. They will soon change.” And then there is still God’s presence: “Through many small signs and experiences you realize and feel just how close God is to you.”

“This is the second aspect: God strengthens us through His Holy Spirit and shows us how we should pray. And in every divine service the Holy Spirit gives us strength from God through Holy Communion. Every time God permits a test, He gives us an assignment. He tells us, ‘I want you to be a blessing and an example for your neighbour.’” “And then we come to the third aspect. God’s comfort is also redemption.” God grants His grace. “If you have made a mistake, don’t worry about it. Everything is fine again.” Jesus gained the victory over evil: “The work of redemption is already in progress—and the lion’s share of it is already done.” And then there is the promise for the future: “The great redemption is still ahead of us: the day we will enter God’s kingdom, where He will wipe away all tears.”

Prepared to comfort others

“What God does for us we are asked to do for our neighbour,” the Chief Apostle said, and gave some guiding principles.

There are several ways to alleviate pain. One way to do this is to refrain from judgement and accusation: “The



A congregation of 1,500 gathered in Berlin-Lichtenberg for this divine service in which Apostle Hans-Jürgen Berndt was placed into retirement after many years of dedicated service



dumb response, 'It's your own fault,' has never helped anyone." Secondly, we can show empathy: "Let us take time to listen." And a third possibility is to inject new hope: "Don't worry, things will change. The Lord will change your situation."

Let us provide help and strength. This is best done through intercession: "The first thing we can do to help is to pray for the neighbour." We can also provide help by being a testimony: "We can simply talk about the help we have received from God." And then let us express our admiration: "You know, you are a real example for me. I admire how you manage all of this."

We can contribute to redemption by working on our own redemption, for example: "The more I overcome the evil in my heart, the less I am a stumbling block for my neighbour." Another way to contribute to redemption is to fight evil with good: "If something happens then let us simply do more good to balance things out again. The good must always outweigh the evil." And then we can pray for the return of Christ: "Let us not become tired, but continue to pray for the Lord to come soon."

CORE THOUGHTS

2 Corinthians 1: 3–4

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

- The Holy Spirit comforts us in trials by alleviating our pain, providing help and strength, and redeeming us from the evil one.
- We comfort the suffering by showing empathy and sharing their pain, by supporting them, and by fighting against evil.

The strategies of the Adversary

Nearly 30,000 members participated in the divine service that Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider conducted on 3 April 2016 in Buenos Aires (Argentina). The service was broadcast to congregations in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay. – Unbelief, disobedience, and irreconcilability are only a few of the methods the Devil has to separate man from God. But there is an antidote.

“Peace in Jesus Christ does not mean that there are no conflicts and difficulties, that everything is quiet and we can enjoy life,” the Chief Apostle said. Peace in Jesus Christ, he went on to say, is distinguished by a special relationship with God: “Peace in God means perfect oneness.”

“Man was created to have fellowship with God.” But as a result of the fall into sin, man had to leave this fellowship.

But the sacrifice of Christ has opened up the possibility of restoring this fellowship, and the gospel points the way.

The intentions of the evil one

“But there is a problem. We have an adversary,” Chief Apostle Schneider made clear. “He does not want us to have this peace in God and is doing everything he can to separate



NAC Brazil



us from God.” It is very important that we recognize these machinations and resist them—based on the example set by Jesus Christ. The Chief Apostle mentioned five specific points.

The Devil uses the suffering of humankind to sow doubt about God’s love for man. “Sometimes we do not know why God allows the one or other thing. But let us not doubt the love of the Lord, but trust in His love.”

Satan makes enticing offers, the Chief Apostle said. “All he wants is to lure us into sin because he knows that sin separates from God.” The antidote: being obedient to God, because we know that He can give us far more than the evil one.

To further his cause, the evil one tempts us with our freedom of will: “This can become a problem if our ideas were to differ from those of God. That would mean we cannot have fellowship with Him.” Let us follow the example of Jesus and make the heavenly Father’s will our own so that we can do what we wanted to do in the first place: enter the kingdom of God.

Another strategy of the Devil is to sow injustice in order to plant the desire for retaliation in us: “Such thoughts can grow in our hearts to the point where we are no longer prepared to forgive. But if we do not forgive,” the Chief Apostle continued, “we cannot be forgiven.” The antidote: “Because we want to obtain grace we forgive our neighbour.”

Satan uses the weaknesses of our neighbour, of our brothers and sisters, to provoke us to stay away from the services

by telling us: going to church is useless; it is full of sinners. “But”, the Chief Apostle says, “staying away from the divine services means separation from God, because then we no longer receive Holy Communion. And without Holy Communion we cannot become more like Jesus.”

“Let us recognize that Satan is behind all of this and wants to separate us from God,” the Chief Apostle said in closing. “But you and I have decided that we want to be one with God. That is why we put up a fight and look up to Christ, the Overcomer, and follow His example. And with Christ we will overcome.”

CORE THOUGHTS

John 16: 33

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Doubt, disobedience, different ideas than those of God, refusing to forgive, and not partaking of Holy Communion are things that separate us from God. Thanks to Jesus Christ we can overcome these conditions that separate us from God and have fellowship with Him.

The importance of development

There is no question about it, light supplants night. The day of the Lord will dawn. That means that we have to wake up in time and do the right thing. Highlights from a divine service the Chief Apostle celebrated in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan.

NAC Berlin-Brandenburg



Whether at the creation or at the time of Jesus' birth, the miraculous escape of Peter from prison, or the conversion of Paul: "Wherever God is present and active, there is light and clarity. Wherever God is present, there is truth, security, and life," the Chief Apostle said. "We can find this image time and again in the Bible."

This image of night turning to day is to illustrate that the return of the Lord is unstoppable: "However dark and long the night there will definitely be a new day! Darkness cannot prevent the new day from dawning. This is an absolute certainty."

A wake-up call

Associated with this is an urgent call: "It is high time to wake up." Paul already refers to this in verse 11. The Chief Apostle went on to highlight two aspects.

A person who is asleep shows no reaction. But "every time we hear that the Lord is coming soon, there must be a re-



action. Something must stir in us. Let us be filled with zeal: 'I must get ready! What else do I still have to do?'"

Someone who is asleep is unaware of any dangers around him. "If we believe that it is enough to be baptized and



Reception to promote a peaceful religious dialogue. Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider met with representatives of the state, other churches, and Islam

sealed, to remain faithful and come to every divine service, we are in danger. Our faith is not a tradition,” the Chief Apostle said. “It is not a matter of repeating the same things over and over again. We must develop and change and become a new creation.”

Casting off works of darkness

Verse 12 of Romans mentions two more points where we need to act: we are to cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light.

“The works of darkness are everything we do in secret, everything we do when no one sees us,” the Chief Apostle explained. “Let us not only cleanse our deeds, let us also cleanse our thoughts. Let us also overcome our secret sins, the sins that no one knows and no one sees. They are just as important to the Lord Jesus as all our other sins.”

The armour of light can also be used as a weapon.

Our faith helps us to resist the thought that God may have forgotten us. “When the night around us is very dark then let us draw this weapon and say, “I believe that God loves me!”

“Love is the only weapon that always wins but never causes injury.” It helps to defend us when we are attacked by the weaknesses and imperfections of our neighbour. And: “This is the weapon we use to fight for our neighbour’s salvation.”

Hope is the weapon we use to fight against discouragement. “We think about the glory we will have in the future and fight for our salvation. We fight for the Lord because we know that this fight is worth it.”

“We defend ourselves and fight against evil with faith, love, and hope,” the Chief Apostle said in conclusion. “Our victory is assured. Those who fight with Christ on their side are victorious.”

CORE THOUGHTS

Romans 13: 12

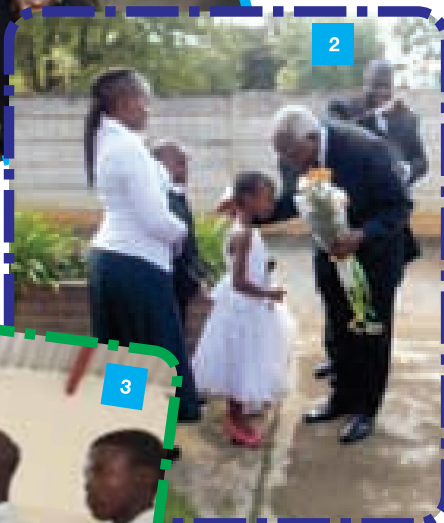
“The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.”

The return of the Lord is certain. We are preparing ourselves for it by

- purifying our thoughts,
- growing in love,
- fighting against evil with the weapons of faith, love, and hope.



1. District Apostle Charles Ndandula with Sunday school children at Chelsea congregation in Lusaka on 25 March, 2016.



2. District Apostle Charles Ndandula being welcomed at Eastlea congregation in Harare on 7 February, 2016.



3. Sunday school choir sang during the Good Friday service at Chelsea Congregation, on March 25, 2016.



4. Sunday school children perform during a musical presentation before District Apostle Charles Ndandula and his entourage at Mansa Central congregation on 1 May, 2016.



5. District Apostle Charles Ndandula greets Sunday school children in Namwala at Treasure Congregation, after the divine service on 05.06.16

6. At Chazanga congregation - dedication service, Sunday 10 January, 2016.



7. Sunday school children perform during a musical presentation before District Apostle Ndandula and his entourage in Mazabuka on 16 January, 2016.



8. Day of the children in Solwezi - Mufumbwe Apostle area on 23 April, 2016.



9. At Burma on New Year's Day 1 January, 2016 after service.



10. District Apostle Charles Ndandula arrives at Chingola Central congregation on 18 June, 2016.





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The doctrine of future things

The *Catechism of the New Apostolic Church in Questions and Answers* was published in September 2015. *community* presents excerpts of some of the 750 questions and answers. In this issue we will look at the doctrine of future things and at aspects concerning the history of Christianity.

What future event is the goal of faith of New Apostolic Christians?

Jesus Christ is coming again—that is a central statement of the gospel. Since His ascension into heaven the Apostles have proclaimed the return of the Lord. It is the goal of faith of New Apostolic Christians to be accepted by Him on this occasion.

Who promised the return of Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ Himself promised His Apostles: “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” (John 14: 3). This promise of Jesus was reinforced by angels at His ascension into heaven: “This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven” (Acts 1: 11).

Who knows the exact point in time when Christ will return?

Neither angels nor men know the day or the hour of Jesus Christ’s return. Only the triune God knows this.

What does the promise of Christ’s return mean for us?

It is one of the fundamental certainties of the gospel that Jesus Christ will return and take His bride unto Himself. He Himself has promised His return (John 14: 3).

Why do we believe that the promise of Christ’s return is near?

The fact that the Apostle ministry is once again occupied is a sign that the return of Christ is imminent. The expectation that this promise of the Lord will be fulfilled is as much

the focal point of the New Apostolic faith today as it is the hope of each individual to personally experience the return of Christ and the rapture.

How do we prepare for the return of Christ?

The Apostles prepare the believers for the return of Christ through word and sacrament.

The believers conscientiously align their lives by this.

What will happen at the return of Christ?

In summary, the following results from the statements of Apostle Paul: At the return of Christ, the dead who have died in Christ, will be the first to resurrect incorruptible. The living who have allowed themselves to be prepared for the return of Christ will experience the transformation without having to suffer physical death.

Both the dead and the living will receive a glorious body. This body will be like the resurrection body of Christ. Together they will be caught up to Jesus Christ and will thus enter into eternal fellowship with the triune God.

These events are part of the first resurrection mentioned in Revelation 20: 5–6.

Who will be caught up at the return of Christ?

The rapture at the return of Christ is first of all promised to those who have been granted the rebirth out of water and the Spirit, who believe in Jesus Christ, and who follow Him. This group is also called the “bridal congregation” or the “male child” (Revelation 12: 5).

Whether God will also grant the grace of the rapture to others is beyond human judgement and is subject to the decision of God.

Are there any characteristics for those who will belong to the bridal congregation?

Yes—one such outstanding characteristic is that they wait daily for the return of Christ and are steadfast in praying: “Come, Lord Jesus!” (Revelation 22: 17, 20).

What events comprise the first resurrection?

During the first resurrection, the dead in Christ will resurrect and, together with the living who belong to the bridal congregation, will be caught up to God.

After the marriage in heaven, the martyrs from the great tribulation will resurrect and be numbered among the royal priesthood.

These two events are described as the first resurrection: “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (Revelation 20: 6).

What follows the conclusion of the first resurrection?

After the conclusion of the first resurrection, Jesus Christ will establish His kingdom of peace and exercise His royal reign for a thousand years. These thousand years symbolize a long, but limited, period of time.

What transpires during the period of the kingdom of peace on earth?

During the time of Christ’s kingdom of peace, Jesus Christ and the royal priesthood will preach the gospel unhindered. The gospel will be brought to all human beings living on earth as well as to all souls in the realms of the departed. By the end of the kingdom of peace, all human beings of all time periods will have become acquainted with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

What happens to those who find grace in the Last Judgement?

Those who find grace in the Last Judgement will—together with those who partook in the first resurrection—become citizens of God’s new creation. They will then all have eternal fellowship with God. The others will remain in the misery of remoteness from God.

What does the Bible have to say about God’s new creation?

After the Last Judgement, God will replace the old creation with a new creation: “He [God] will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God” (Revelation 21: 3). Thereby the expectation expressed in 2 Peter 3: 13 will be fulfilled: “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” This kingdom of God will be eternal, and then God will be all in all (1 Corinthians 15: 28).

From the history of Christianity

How did the first Christian congregations come into being?

The first Christian congregation came into being on Pentecost (Acts 2: 37 et seq.). This congregation consisted only of Jews. Owing to the persecutions that followed, many of the believers fled from Jerusalem (Acts 8: 1; 11: 19). In their new surroundings they continued to preach the gospel, which also met with faith there. So it was that Christian congregations began to form in other places.

How did Christendom develop after the second century AD?

What had begun with the stoning of Deacon Stephen grew into waves of persecutions: many Christians were killed for their faith and thereby became martyrs. Despite these persecutions and many obstacles, the Christian faith spread throughout the Roman Empire.

How did Christianity develop in the time before the Middle Ages?

During the great Migration Period (in the fourth and fifth centuries) Christianity gained in strength in both Europe and Asia.

Monasticism, which first came into being in Egypt in the third century, played a special role in the spread of Christianity. One of the principle duties of the monks was to live a life of poverty in accordance with the example of Christ, and to spread the Christian faith. In the Middle Ages, monks and nuns accomplished outstanding achievements in science, and were also involved in agriculture and social issues.

Increasingly, Christianity came to define the lives of the people, as well as the culture, politics, and society of Europe. In the year 1054, tensions led to a split between the Western Church (Roman Catholic) and the Eastern Church (Orthodox).

What else did Christians have to contend with starting in the seventh century?

Starting in the seventh century, Christians in parts of Asia, Africa, and even Europe had to contend with a new religion, namely Islam. Many areas were lost to the Christian faith, for example the Middle East and Northern Africa.

This led to battles, for example, the Crusades. These took place between 1095 and 1270 in the Middle East with the stated objective of conquering Jerusalem and the Holy Land for Christendom.

What developments led to the efforts to reform the church?

Over the course of the Middle Ages, the church became more and more secular—faith and doctrine lost more and more of their value. This can be attributed to a lack of orientation from the gospel.

It was for this reason that an increasing number of efforts were made to reform the church. On the one hand, there were endeavours to reform the church within monasticism, and on the other hand, others like the Frenchman Peter Waldo (1140, died before 1218), the English theologian John Wycliffe (1320–1384), and the rector of the University of Prague, John Hus (1369–1384), began to make efforts of their own. All of them were consistent critics of the secularized church. The movements initiated and supported by them affected large parts of Europe, and eventually led to the Reformation.

What is the Reformation?

The Reformation (from the Latin *reformatio*, meaning “restoration” or “renewal”) was a religious renewal movement in Europe, which was based on the desire to return to the gospel. It is closely associated with the German monk Martin Luther (1483–1546). According to his conviction, the sole basis of the doctrine was to be the biblical testimony of Jesus Christ. Luther translated the Bible from the Hebrew and Greek languages into German, and thus made it accessible to the people. The Anglican state church came into being independently in the year 1534.

What was the condition of Christendom in the nineteenth century?

In the nineteenth century, increasing efforts were made in order to win back those who had, through poverty and ignorance, grown alienated from the faith, for the gospel (“Inner or Home Mission”). Beyond that, “missionary societies” were established in order to see to the spread of Christianity in countries outside of Europe, particularly in Africa.

What important developments occurred in the Christendom of the nineteenth century?

The so-called “revivalist movements”—which became especially popular among Protestants in England and the USA—were also of great significance: believing Christians appealed for people to turn away from “cultural Christianity” and return to a living Christian faith. This call for reflection on the gospel was often associated with the hope in the return of Christ.

This is the historical context in which God prepared for the renewed activity of Apostles.

How did the renewed occupation of the Apostle ministry in the nineteenth century come about?

Between 1826 and 1829, believing men gathered for conferences in Albury (Southern England), in order to study the Revelation of Jesus Christ together. These conferences took place at the invitation of the banker Henry Drummond (1786–1860) in close collaboration with Edward Irving (1792–1834), who was a clergyman of the Scottish National Church. The participants of these conferences wanted to gain clarity on the biblical statements concerning the activity of the Holy Spirit and the return of Christ.

Believers of various denominations in Scotland were also waiting for an increased activity of the Holy Spirit. In 1830, manifestations of healing, glossolalia (speaking in unknown tongues), and prophecy occurred in their circle, and were widely noticed.

In the autumn of 1832, John Bate Cardale (1802–1877) was called by the Holy Spirit to be an Apostle and was designated as an Apostle by Henry Drummond.

Starting in September 1833, another eleven Apostles were called by prophecy—especially through the prophet Oliver Taplin (1800–1862).

How did the Catholic Apostolic Church come into being?

In 1835, the Apostles withdrew to Albury for a year of intensive deliberations together. They developed the *Great Testimony* (1837), a confessional text that was made available to all spiritual and secular leaders of Christendom.

In this document the Apostles called upon Christians to gather under their leadership and thereby prepare themselves for the return of Christ. They were thus not interested in establish-

ing a new church, but rather in bringing the various existing churches together under the leadership of Apostles.

The majority of Christians did not accept the call of the Apostles, however. The few Christians that did believe the Apostles banded together in a new church, namely the Catholic Apostolic Church.

How did the New Apostolic Church come into being?

Priest Rudolf Rososchacky (1815–1894), the rector of the Catholic Apostolic congregation in Königsberg, was called to be an Apostle by the prophet Geyer on 10 October 1862. The Apostles of the Catholic Apostolic Church did not acknowledge this calling.

The prophet Geyer and the leader of the Catholic Apostolic congregation in Hamburg, Friedrich Wilhelm Schwartz (1815–1895) were, however, convinced that this calling had been the work of the Holy Spirit.

The congregation in Hamburg thus acknowledged the calling of this Apostle on 4 January 1863, and was excommunicated from the Catholic Apostolic Church as a result.

Thus the beginning of the New Apostolic Church dates back to January 1863.

Even after Apostle Rososchacky resigned from his ministry a short time later, Geyer, Schwarz, and the Hamburg congregation remained firmly convinced that his calling had been a divine one.



Peter Johanning

Working on developing our conception of ministry

What is a spiritual ministry? And what is an organizational structure? Questions such as these were not only on the agenda of a recent District Apostles' conference, but are also occupying the Apostles of the New Apostolic Church right around the globe.

The topic that the Church leaders have been working on for at least two years is called "conception of ministry". The Catechism—published at the end of 2012—supplies a whole chapter of answers to the question: "How do we understand the term 'ministry'?" "But now we have follow-up questions to deal with," Chief Apostle (ret.) Wilhelm Leber already said in an interview in 2013.

What this is all about was explained by Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider at a panel discussion at the International Church Convention in Munich in June 2014: What is ministry? What are duties? What happens at an ordination?

Only once the theological groundwork has been rethought can one begin to consider social aspects: Who can carry a ministry? What will a congregation accept? What is possible at the regional level?

- 1 | District Apostle Leonard R. Kolb (USA) speaking at the conference of District Apostles
- 2 | District Apostle Noel E. Barnes (left) and District Apostle Helper John L. Kriel (South Africa)
- 3 | District Apostle Tshitshi Tshisekedi (left; DR Congo) and District Apostle Helper Arnold N. Mhango (Zambia)
- 4 | District Apostle Wilfried Klingler (Germany)



All Apostles are involved

The Working Group Questions of Faith has been doing the essential groundwork for this since early 2014. The District Apostle Meeting, as the Church’s highest executive board, has been deliberating over this regularly since March 2015.

The discussions have now reached a new stage. Following an initiative by Chief Apostle Schneider, all Apostles—of which there are currently some 350—are informed about the status quo as well as pending questions and have been asked to submit a statement. After all, the Catechism defines the apostolate as authoritative for doctrine.

The District Apostles spent almost the entire Thursday, 10 March, poring over the feedback from the nineteen District Churches. Dozens of points and suggestions were up for consideration. The results have now been referred back to the specialist group to prepare another round of worldwide consultations.

Status quo in the Catechism

The entire seventh chapter of the Catechism is dedicated to the conception of ministry. The spiritual ministry “constitutes authorization, blessing, and sanctification issued through ordination for service in the church of Christ” and “it is exercised in the power of the Holy Spirit”.

Other passages examine the foundation of the ministry on the sending of Jesus Christ as well as corresponding references in Scripture. Ordination and the exercise of a ministry are also among the topics being discussed. The ministerial hierarchy is represented in three levels: the diaconal, the priestly, and the Apostle ministry. The Apostle ministry is given the most comprehensive definition in the Catechism.



Meeting with delegation from the United Apostolic Church



NAC Cape

The United Apostolic Church of South Africa was founded in the 1950s. This goes back to a break with the New Apostolic mother church in South Africa and several countries in Europe at the time.

On 6 February 2016, for the first time, representatives of the New Apostolic Church travelled to Port Elizabeth for a first official meeting with the delegation of the United Apostolic Church. The delegates of the United Apostolic Church were Apostle Johannes Erasmus, Bishop Robert Swiegelaar, District Elder Colin Richter, and Community Elder Carel Smith. District Apostle Helper John Kriel, the Apostles Gerome Mintoor, and Brian Swartbooi, as well as Bishop Frans Flores represented the New Apostolic Church.

The meeting was of an exploratory nature. The representatives wanted to get to know and understand the contents and teachings of the other church. Both churches have undergone great changes and important developments since their separation.

The cordial atmosphere of this first meeting gives rise to hope that more meetings of a similar nature will take place. The two delegations were unanimous in this. Apostle John Kriel of the New Apostolic Church extended an invitation to Apostle Erasmus when he travels to Cape Town again. The meeting was concluded by collectively praying the Lord’s Prayer.



Frank Schudt

Being a help to the dead is an expression of God's will

In all churches there are memorial ceremonies and services—defined to a greater or lesser extent—for loved ones who have passed away. Some Orthodox denominations celebrate with bread and cake at the grave. Other churches celebrate services of remembrance. The New Apostolic Church celebrates divine services for the departed three times each year.

“Divine services for the departed take place three times a year, on the first Sunday of March, July, and November, respectively,” it says in the *Catechism of the New Apostolic Church* (12.1.13). This describes a practice which only developed concretely over the course of church history, but was actually always in existence. Apostle Friedrich Wilhelm Schwartz (1815–1895) already acted in accordance with this practice. In the early travel reports of the Apostles, we often even find specific references as to how

many were sealed, whether from among the living or the dead.

The current practice—namely to have three divine services for the departed each year—dates back to a ruling by Chief Apostle Johann Gottfried Bischoff in the year 1954. Accordingly, departed souls are to receive Holy Communion every Sunday through an Apostle. And three times each year, special divine services are to be conducted in which

the sacraments can be dispensed to departed souls who long for salvation.

Early church tradition

The purpose of a divine service for the departed is to impart sacramental acts—at least in those places where the Chief Apostle or the District Apostles are conducting divine services. In all other congregations it is a service of remembrance. The Catechism makes reference to an early church tradition: “Already in the congregation of Corinth, the living were baptized on behalf of the dead (Corinthians 15: 29). 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 then commemorated in a special prayer after the celebration of Holy Communion.”

God’s offer of salvation applies to all

Such divine services for the departed have an important place in the New Apostolic church year. The congregation is prepared for this special service on the preceding Sunday. Compassion and empathy are to inspire intercessions on behalf of the departed. The preparatory service leading up to the service for the departed in March was based on Psalm 95: 6: “Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.”

It was with these words that the praying congregation of that time was encouraged to worship God, who created the world and who guides it in His sovereign power. Such an attitude is also necessary in view of a service for the departed. After all, people generally need to summon up a great deal of faith for things they cannot see or assess in a scientific manner. Despite our limitations, however, the will of God remains unchanged: salvation is offered to both living and dead alike.

The Apostle ministry is necessary

In the early post-apostolic period, the church began to distance itself from the practice of intercessory dispensation of sacraments to the dead, and ultimately prohibited baptisms for the dead in the year 397 at the Third Council of Carthage. From the New Apostolic perspective this is not surprising, because it was only the renewed personal occupation of the Apostle ministry in the 1830s that made a renaissance of this early Christian practice possible.

The New Apostolic Catechism emphasizes the importance of the Apostle ministry for the dispensation of the sacraments: “The Apostles fulfil the commission of Jesus—namely to proclaim the gospel, to forgive sins, and to administer the sacraments—upon both the living and the dead. They act in Christ’s stead and in His name. Just as Jesus Christ brought His sacrifice on earth, salvation is also imparted through the Apostles on earth. Since sacraments always have a visible component, they can also only be performed in the visible realm. The effect of the sacraments as essential elements in imparting salvation is the same for both the living and the dead” (Catechism 9.6.3)

Not Spiritism

The dispensation of the sacraments in New Apostolic services for the departed must not be confused with Spiritism. The object is not to gain or procure insights into the beyond. It is not a matter of acquiring knowledge about the worlds in the beyond or the condition of the dead. By no means is the beyond to be incorporated into the here and now or made accessible to us. This practice is not intended to satisfy any sort of metaphysical curiosity. It simply expresses the promise of salvation which, according to the will of God, applies to the living and the dead equally.



Marcel Felde

Round-up of Sisters' Fellowships



Apostle Baker Chakwana with the interpreter during an open air divine service at Mukwela on 24 April, 2016.

Sisters in the New Apostolic Church play a significant role in uplifting God's work. Various projects are successful on account of their works and sacrifice.

On Saturday, April 23rd 2016, over 5000 sisters from Choma - Kalomo Apostle Area met in Mukwela, about 80km away from Choma for fundraising. Various activities were lined up for the gathering where K148,000 was raised.

The climax of the gathering was on Sunday, April 24th 2016, when Area Apostle Baker Chakwana conducted an open air divine service. Apostle Chakwana used part of Matthew 6:13 as text word.

"For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen"

During the service, the Apostle thanked the sisters for the wonderful works and sacrifices they do in the work of God. He assured them that their labour is not in vain as there is a blessing attached to it from God.

Meanwhile, in Zimbabwe, 129 sisters met in Gweru on Saturday May 28, 2016 for the Apostle Area sisters' fellowship and raised US\$1022.40. This function also served as a preparation for the Chief Apostle's visit in Bulawayo in November this year. Among others, the gathering was characterized by presentations on soul care, women empowerment.

Area Apostle, Daniel Mulemba on Sunday, 29 May 2016, conducted a divine service in which he read from Mark 4: 25

"For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."

321 members attended the service.



Part of the congregation at Mukwela on 23 April, 16.

Over 7,000 sisters from Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe are this year expected to meet for the Annual International Sisters' Fellowship in Malawi north from 25th – 28th August 2016.

The fellowship will be held under the theme; 'Victory with Christ,' and will be at Luwinda Day Secondary School. The purpose of the event is to raise funds to construct a multipurpose hall for the New Apostolic Church in the area.

Two Chief Apostles together—a rare thing indeed



Björn Renz

Nordheide in Germany is a thirty-minute drive from the city of Hamburg, Germany's big port and gate to the world. And Nordheide is the place where Chief Apostle Wilhelm Leber goes to church. Since his retirement on Pentecost 2013 he has been a member there and plays the organ now and then; also on Good Friday this year. Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider had announced his visit and was thrilled to have his predecessor at the organ for the service. It was a special service for Chief Apostle Schneider: no transmission, just the small congregation, and the region's District Apostle, Apostles, and Bishops as guests.

There was a special atmosphere in the small congregation that somehow lightened the normally somewhat solemn and mournful mood on a Good Friday. In his sermon—which was based on Isaiah 53: 10—the Chief Apostle explained that a Christian has every reason to look on Good Friday with gratitude. He made clear that the Son of God made Himself equal to mankind. "He overcame evil. If we are confronted with evil, we can find strength in Christ so that we can remain faithful to God and do His will, serve Him, and forgive our neighbour," the Chief Apostle said.

NAC – Zambia to hold an exhibition

The New Apostolic Church (NAC) in Zambia will on July 30, 2016 hold an exhibition at Lusaka National Museum.



Priest Sundano Sundano
Manager Administration,
NAC Zambia

In a letter addressed to District ministers and Rectors in Lusaka urban congregations, Manager Administration – Priest Sundano Sundano said the event will give an opportunity to New Apostolic Church members, the general public and the Church office to interact on various issues.

other materials our members need.

“In addition, clarifications will be made on issues our members and the public do not understand about the New Apostolic Church and its doctrine and we hope to use this opportunity to do a market research on church literature and other materials”, he stated.

Exhibitions and events are valuable because they allow face-to-face communication and offer opportunities for networking.

Admission is free!!

“As part of our Communication Strategy, the Public Relations and Income Generating department will hold an exhibition in Lusaka on 30th July, 2016. The exhibition will be held from 10.00 to 16.00 hours at Lusaka National Museum. The exhibition will be graced by District Apostle Charles Ndandula. The event will provide a two-way communication process between the Church administration, members and the general public”, read part of the letter.

It is planned that there will be several booths or exhibition points such as:

- Doctrine and Knowledge
- New Apostolic Church Relief Organisation (NACRO)
- Church Office
- Public Relations & Income Generation/Sales outlet
- Choir and orchestra

The envisaged exhibitions will give the Church (NAC) an opportunity to find out more from our members about their information needs.

Priest Sundano said the church will also use this platform to carry out valuable market research on church literature and

New Apostolic Church
Zambia, Malawi & Zimbabwe

Exhibition 2016

COME & FIND OUT MORE!!

- Doctrine & Knowledge
- New Apostolic Church Relief Organisation (NACRO)
- Church Office
- Public Relations & Income Generation/Sales outlet
- Choir and Orchestra

The New Apostolic Church invites all its members and the general public to an Exhibition to be held on **Saturday 30th July, 2016** at the **Lusaka National Museum**.

The exhibition that will among others highlight the Church activities in Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe will start at **10:00hrs** and end at **16:00hrs**.

Admission is free and all are invited to come and share what the New Apostolic Church is all about.

District Apostle Charles S. Ndandula will grace the event.

For details Call:
0967-454809, 0977-585902

“Chief Aposto mu Mansa”



District Apostle Charles Ndandula with the interpreter during a divine service at Mansa central on 1 May, 2016.

Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider is scheduled to visit Mansa in June, 2017. “Chief Aposto mu Mansa” meaning “Chief Apostle in Mansa”, became the local slang among New Apostolic Church members in that area. This followed an announcement of the Chief Apostle’s impending visit by District Apostle Charles S. Ndandula when he visited the area recently.

The District Apostle who was accompanied by District Apostle Helper Robert Nsamba and Apostles Edwin Kasamu of Chikankata, and Steven Lindunda of Kitwe undertook a 10 hour journey to Mansa by road on April 28, 2016.

Mansa is the capital of the Luapula Province of Zambia. It takes its name from the local Chief Mansa and the small Mansa River which flows west to the Luapula River. During British colonial rule, the town was named Fort Rosebery. The town took its current name after independence in 1964. Mansa has a population of about 179,749 people of whom 42, 277 are New Apostolic Church members.

On his way to Mansa District Apostle Ndandula was waylaid by New Apostolic Church members in Samfya, about 70km from Mansa, comprising of mainly sisters and ministers, who serenaded the District Apostle and his entourage with a local composition

signaling their welcome to the province. District Apostle Ndandula, who spoke in the local language (Bemba), could not hide his joy for the gesture.

“Twa totela pamilimo yenu iyabutemwe. Mwachita ichi pa mulandu twisa mwishina lya kwa Lesa. Lesa abe naimwe, amipale, nokumipela fyonse ifyo mukabila mubumi bwenu. Na twikatane no kubombela chapamo, ukufika ubushiku infumu ikesa, natotela”, (we are grateful for your works of love; you have done this because we have come in the name of the Lord. May the Lord be with you, may He bless you and grant you the needs in your lives. Let us be united and work as one until the day of the Lord. Thank you), he said.

On Saturday, April 30, 2016, District Apostle Ndandula had a meeting with all ministers in Luapula province at Mansa Central church. For the meeting that started at 10:00hrs, Luke 17:10 was used as text word

“So likewise you, when you have done all these things which you were commended, say, ‘we are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do’”.

In reference to the text, District Apostle Ndandula urged the ministers to serve Jesus Christ and His church.

“This work belongs to our Lord – He is the owner of the work of salvation. Therefore, we must serve our Lord and the church. As servants of God, let us always know that the congregation belongs to Jesus”, he said.

District Apostle Ndandula further said that the congregation and its members were chosen by God.

“In the bible, Jesus said 'no one comes to me unless My Father draws him to Me'. Therefore, as ministers, we must know that we are accountable to God because the scriptures further tell us that 'whatever you do to the least of My brothers, you have done it to Me'”, he said.

He also urged the ministers to provide pastoral care to the members of the church and to pray with them and to pray for them.

During the meeting, the District Apostle officially announced the visit of Chief Apostle Jean Luc Schneider to that area in June 2017 and was delighted that preparations for the Chief Apostle's visit are already underway.

“In 2017, our dear Chief Apostle will visit this Apostle Area. This is the first time that the Chief Apostle ministry will be visiting Luapula province of our country. Let us pray for the successful visit of the Chief Apostle to this area, and let us work together as ministers and with our brothers and sisters. I am happy to note that preparations are already underway and the various committees have been formed. Let us remain committed to ensure that everything goes as planned”, he said.

In the afternoon of the same day, District Apostle Ndandula was guest of honor at a musical presentation held at Mansa Central Church, with performances from the school choir, orchestra and the children's choir.

The climax of his visit was a divine service he conducted at Mansa Central congregation. John 16:33 was used as text word.

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

With reference to the text, District Apostle Ndandula told the members that the Lord was aware of the troubles of the world.

“The Lord knows about the troubles we will find here on earth, but he said 'In Me you will have peace', this beloved is an assurance from God that we shall overcome all the tribulation – with the help of God. Let us trust Him!”, he said.

The District Apostle further urged the members to be obedient to God.

“Dear brothers and sisters, the devil will want to take advantage of our situation – such that we would doubt the presence of God in us – but whenever faced with such a situation, let us trust the Lord and have confidence in Him. Let us always be obedient to God”, he said.

1, 371 members attended the service.

In June 2017, Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider is scheduled to visit Zambia for two divine services in Zambezi and Mansa.



1. District Apostle Charles Ndandula and his entourage during a meeting with all ministers in Luapula province at Mansa Central congregation on 30 April, 2016.

2. Over 1000 members attended the divine service of District Apostle Charles Ndandula at Mansa Central on 1 May, 2016. Some members were seated outside the church.

Senanga hosts the 2016 National Council Meeting for Apostles



District Apostle Charles Ndandula with all New Apostolic Church Apostles of Zambia during the 2016 National Council meeting of Apostles at Senanga Safari lodge on 11 June, 2016.

About 12 000 members participated in an open-air divine service that District Apostle Charles Ndandula conducted on June 12, 2016 at Libala congregation in Senanga –Western Province. This divine service was also attended by 20 Apostles of Zambia.

Jeremiah 29:11 was used as text word.

“For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not evil, to give you a future and a hope”.

After the text was read, the choir sang 'Jesus is the living stone. In reference to the after text hymn, District Apostle Ndandula told the members that Jesus Christ is the foundation of our faith and that our faith must be anchored on Him.

“Dear brothers and sisters, we must realize that Jesus Christ is the firm foundation, He was never moved by that which came from the prince of darkness, and not even food was a temptation to Him. Jesus did not come on earth to please mankind – but to do the will of His Father who is the Lord God Almighty. Jesus Stood for the truth and He remained firmly connected to His Father. Let us also remain firmly anchored in the doctrine of the Apostles of Jesus Christ”, he said.

In reference to the text, District Apostle Ndandula urged the members to trust God and remain focused on the eminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“In our text, the Lord through His prophet is assuring us a future and a hope – “to give you a hope” beloved despite our circumstances, let us trust God, let us love God for He has

thoughts of peace for us as His children. Our hope is in the living stone; our hope is in the return of the bridegroom of our souls – Jesus Christ. Let us love God and our neighbor. We should also trust God. Let us practice forgiveness. When we do that, then we will have a future and a hope that the Lord has prepared for us”, he said.

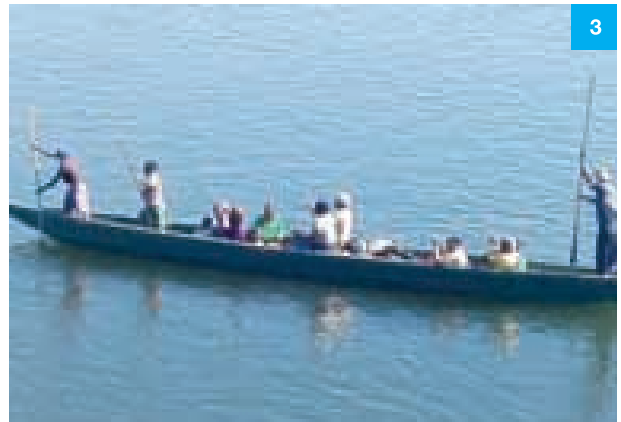
On Saturday, June 11, 2016, 20 Apostles of Zambia met at Senanga's Safari lodge for the 29th National Council of the New Apostolic Church Zambia, chaired by District Apostle Charles Ndandula.

The Meeting was preceded by the Board Meeting which was held at the same venue (Senanga's Safari lodge) on June 10, 2015.

The National Council is a body of the New Apostolic Church that sits annually to formulate strategies on the operations of the church in terms of logistics; review various activities taking place in all Apostle Areas, and the financial

position of the church regarding expenditure on operations of the church as well as appreciating the fixed and current assets.

The next National Council Meeting is scheduled to be hosted by Lusaka Central – Kabwe East Apostle Area.



1 - 2. District Apostle Charles Ndandula with all New Apostolic Church Apostles of Zambia at Senanga Safari lodge on 11 June, 2016.
3. New Apostolic Church members from other districts travelled to Senanga by boat via the Zambezi river for the divine service with District Apostle Charles Ndandula on 12 June, 2016.
4. Part of the 12 000 members that attended an open air divine service with District Apostle Charles Ndandula at Libala congregation in Senanga on 12 June, 2016.



Coming up

3 July	2016	Vancouver (Canada)
9 July	2016	Tirana (Albania)
10 July	2016	Tirana (Albania)
15 July	2016	Tshikapa (DR Congo)
17 July	2016	Kananga (DR Congo)
22 July	2016	Kampala (Uganda)
24 July	2016	Kampala (Uganda)
7 Aug.	2016	Leipzig (Germany)
14 Aug.	2016	Heilbronn (Germany)
11 Sept.	2016	Innsbruck (Austria)
18 Sept.	2016	Krefeld (Germany)
24 Sept.	2016	Gramado (Brazil)



Coming up

Sat 2 July 2016	Mkushi
Sun 3 July 2016	Chibombo – Service for the Departed
Sun 10 July 2016	Kasomalunga
Sat 16 July 2016	Chinyunyu
Sun 17 July 2016	Luangwa – Dedication service
Thur 21 July 2016	Siakwale, Livingstone
Frid 22 July 2016	Kachola, Livingstone
Sat 23 July 2016	Hilcrest, Livingstone
Sun 24 July 2016	Libuyu, Livingstone
Sat 6 Aug 2016	Mzimba
Sun 7 Aug 2016	Mzuzu
Sun 14 Aug 2016	Kasama
Sat 20 Aug 2016	Kalenda
Sun 21 Aug 2016	Bulungu – Dedication service
Sat 27 Aug 2016	Luanja, Sesheke
Sun 28 Aug 2016	Mulobezi – Dedication service
Sun 4 Sep 2016	Bulawayo
Wed 7 Sep 2016	Harare
Sat 17 Sep 2016	Lumezi Central
Sun 18 Sep 2016	Lundazi main
Sat 24 Sep 2016	Mbanyutu
Sun 25 Sep 2016	Kaoma town – Dedication service

