

Western Pacific District News



Edition 34/1 - Autumn 2019

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From the desk of District Apostle Schulte



Dear brothers and sisters

I was fortunate to be in Düsseldorf for the International Youth Convention. The motto of "Here I Am" was certainly evident, with approximately 30,000 people being part of the weekend. To be able to spend three days together in such numbers and in the atmosphere that this brings is something you need to be present for to comprehend. As this event was in Germany and the vast majority of participants, organisers and helpers were European, it had a European flavour however I commend the effort made by the hosting district to make it internationally inclusive. Our Chief Apostle mentioned that through their preparation and participation, the youth put life into the motto "Here I Am". I encourage not only our youth but all of us to present ourselves to God through living our faith and participating in our congregation. By opening our heart to God we will experience that He is "Here For Us".

With the celebration of Pentecost we were reminded of the power of the Holy Spirit. The powerful presence of the Holy Spirit is evident in the Church of Christ, the Apostle ministry, our congregations and our hearts. As of Pentecost 2019, the new concept of ministry was implemented. This has been introduced through various platforms including the presentation from our Chief Apostle which is still available on nac.today. You may be wondering what changes or differences we will see in our congregations? The answer is not much really. We still have the Deacon ministry, Priest ministry and Apostle ministry. In the Priest and Apostle ministries there are different functions and responsibilities.

What we may see from time to time is that Priest X conducts the divine service even though Evangelist X or a District Rector is present. All of these ministers have the authority of the Priest ministry. We will continue to address all ministers, both active and retired as they are currently known. Any future appointments will be addressed accordingly.

The visit of our Chief Apostle to our region is fast approaching. His divine service program for the Western Pacific District is as follows:

Sunday 15th September

SAMOA - 10.00am Tate Conference Centre

Sunday 15th September

AMERICAN SAMOA - 10.00am Illilli Church, Tafuna

Thursday 19th September

FIJI - 10.30am Nasinu Church, Suva

Sunday 22nd September

NEW ZEALAND - 12.30pm Christchurch Boys' High School

With loving greetings

Peter Schulte



District Apostle visits New Zealand

Since his appointment in September, the District Apostle has travelled to many different congregations. In the following pages, we bring you some highlights of his visits to New Zealand in recent months.

In December 2018 members of the Auckland and Waikato regions gathered together for the first service conducted by the District Apostle in New Zealand. On this day the District Apostle shared a bible verse out of Acts 24, part of verses 14 - 16 with the congregation: *"I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets. I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust. This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men."*

The District Apostle impressed on the congregation what a joy it was to be in the house of the Lord. He encouraged all to take the words of the opening hymn into their hearts – we love the place where God's honour dwells. We love this place and the presence of the Lord. We can be ourselves and we are loved, as we are.

The nature of our Saviour must grow within us; all mankind lives under the blessing of our Heavenly Father. The District Apostle asked the congregation – why are we here? What was our personal story? Let us look at our own life and story.

The District Apostle admonished the congregation not to lose hope. What makes hope powerful? When we believe that something is attainable. What makes our goal attainable? The fact that Christ made this possible, He made it real. He has done it already and He wants to share it with us.

Apostle Williams and Evangelist Scott were called to serve. In his final serving before retirement Evangelist Scott encouraged the congregation to live according to the will of God and pass it from generation to generation.

The divine service was followed by fellowship and a musical presentation from all areas of the work; choir, orchestra, soloists, Sunday school, youth and even district leaders and rectors presented items. It was a special and blessed event, enjoyed by all.



District Apostle visits New Zealand

In February the South Auckland congregation welcomed District Apostle Schulte and Apostle Williams into their congregation.

For this divine service the District Apostle chose a word out of Joshua 15:19: *"She answered, 'Give me a blessing; since you have given me land in the South, give me also springs of water.' So, he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs."*

In his serving, the District Apostle referred to the bible story in which Caleb's daughter asked for a blessing after being given the South land. The South land was a desert. She asked for springs of water as a blessing. Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs. Her father gave her more than she asked for. Our Father also blesses us with more than we ask for. To have water in the desert is a blessing of abundance. In the spiritual context, receiving blessings from the upper springs relates to our soul and blessings of the lower springs relate to our body. Without blessings we are barren like a desert where no growth can take place without water.

The District Apostle dispensed Ruby wedding blessings to Evangelist and Sister Adams and Priest and Sister Smith. After service the congregation enjoyed fellowship together. It was an event that would remain with the brethren for a long time.



The following weekend, District Apostle Schulte and Apostle Williams travelled to Wellington. This was the District Apostle's first visit to the city.

The visit commenced on Saturday with a divine service for ministers and wives. A total of 16 ministers and wives attended this service.

On Sunday the congregation came together for the service of intercession for the departed. The District Apostle used a word from the Chief Apostle - Psalm 145:18-19: *"The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfil the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them."*

Priests Nagel and Schubach were called to stand as proxy for the celebration of Baptism, Holy Sealing and Holy Communion for the departed. After service the congregation enjoyed the opportunity to have fellowship and spend time getting to know the District Apostle.



District Apostle visits Papua New Guinea



On Saturday 30 March District Apostle Schulte, accompanied by Apostle Pouru, travelled to Popondetta, in the Oro Province of Papua New Guinea. From there, they took a hired vehicle and went all the way to a congregation in the Kokoda district called Sisireta, where more than 1000 members had gathered to attend a divine service.

On Sunday the Apostles drove to another congregation called Kararatta on the coast of the Oro province. Here, another thousand members attended the divine service.

During the next few days the District Apostle conducted divine services in a number of congregations in the Madang province, before flying to Port Moresby to conduct meetings with Apostle Pouru and Apostle Wasimbai.

On Saturday the Rainbow congregation organised an outing with the confirmands. They had discussions about their faith and asked the District Apostle and the Apostles many questions. After that they went sightseeing before heading back to the camp for lunch.

On Sunday the District Apostle conducted the divine service in the Rainbow church where 260 members were in attendance. During this service the confirmation blessing was bestowed on twelve young people, including the daughter of the late Apostle Hungito.

At the conclusion of the service the congregation celebrated together with the confirmands over lunch. The 60th birthday of Apostle Pouru was also celebrated with a surprise birthday cake presented by the Rainbow youth, confirmands, Sunday School and the Apostle's children.



Sunday School Big Day Out



On Sunday 2nd December the Sunday School children of the Auckland and Waikato districts of New Zealand came together for their final Sunday School Service and Big Day Out event for 2018.

The service was officiated by District Elder Graf and the theme for the divine service was "It's more blessed to give than to receive". During the divine service the District Elder engaged five children to show the different attitudes when giving. To further support the theme the children donated tinned foods to the Auckland City Mission and presents to the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal.

Following the divine service, the children enjoyed an afternoon filled with plenty of games in the sun and, to the delight of our young ones, a visit from Santa!



Youth Convention - Victoria

The combined youth convention with Victoria and South Australia took place at the BIG 4 Ballarat Windmill Holiday Resort over the Labour Day long weekend.

The youth engaged in multiple activities that helped to strengthen their bond with each other. They had an opportunity to ask District Apostle Schulte some tough questions. They were also involved in various team building activities and spiritual quizzes. During the downtime the youth took advantage of the facilities that were on offer. There was go-karting, gym, sauna, pool, spa, tennis, basketball and footy.

Thank you to all the youth that were in attendance and the coordinators for making this event possible.



Youth Convention - New South Wales

The 2019 youth convention was a great opportunity that enabled the youth to spend quality time together and grow closer through our relationship with God. Through activities such as playing card games, the obstacle course activity and telling stories, our bond and friendships grew.

On Saturday night we were able to discuss a range of topics with Apostle Williams. Exploring the cultures that we share in our youth group allowed us to understand and appreciate each other's experiences. Additionally, we discussed the tragic act of inhumanity experienced in New Zealand two weeks earlier which cost the lives of 51 people. The cruel reality of this world, whereby individuals take extreme measures to fulfil their radical ideas, has been felt very close to home and has left us shaken and in disbelief. This left us pondering: "How can we reconcile with evil?"

The youth and Apostle Williams reached the conclusion

that we as Christians should lead by example, and not punish by repaying evil with evil. We should not tolerate anti-social behaviour and should promote and contribute towards the establishment of a peaceful and harmonious society by respecting each other for who we are, irrespective of our differences. We ought to respect and accept others, even when we do not necessarily agree with their beliefs.

We CAN forgive those who do evil but acknowledge that everyone should be responsible for their actions and this also applies to perpetrators of profound immoral events. We ought to be a blessing without condemning and practice what we preach by loving our neighbour.

On behalf of the youth, we would like to thank those who organised the weekend, especially Priest Andre and Sister Alana who gave up their time to look after us and made this convention one to remember.



Around the Congregations:

1. Congregation in Banz, PNG on Good Friday
2. Hackham West (SA) congregation had an outing to the Historic Railway Museum
3. Townsville (Qld) congregation
4. Ajaltake congregation (Marshall Is)
5. Bishop Yasi with members of Chimbu congregation (PNG)
6. Bishop Yasi with ministers at a district leaders' meeting in Jiwaka (PNG)
7. The Geraldton (WA) congregation joined two young members for their first confirmation lesson
8. Sunday School teachers in Adelaide (SA)
9. Tauranga (NZ) congregation celebrated the Silver wedding anniversary of Br & Sis Little
10. SE Qld youth enjoying fellowship after a youth service in Caloundra (Qld)
11. Orchestra playing during a divine service in Ascot Park (SA)
- 12-14 Bishop Yasi Yebi conducted a divine service in Yebi (PNG)





Around the Congregations:

1. Elizabeth (SA) congregation
2. Apostle Williams held a youth service in Wollongong (NSW)
3. Ascot Park (SA) congregation
4. Toowoomba (Qld) Sunday School breakup
5. Beckenham (WA) congregation
6. New Plymouth (NZ) congregation
7. Geraldton (WA) congregation
8. Seniors visit Hamilton (NZ) congregation
9. Lu Malu congregation in Solomon Islands
10. Gosford (NSW) seniors enjoyed fellowship lunch together
11. Seniors in Howick (NZ) met for breakfast
12. Apostle Lodewick with Sunday School children in Ascot Park (SA)
13. Seven Hills (NSW) congregation gathered for the address from the Chief Apostle
14. Adelaide (SA) Sunday School breakup



Celebrations

1. Pr (ret) Ernie & Sis Irene Schulte, and District Apostle Peter & Sis Tammy Schulte received 65th and 25th wedding anniversary blessings respectively in Mackay (Qld)
2. Br Brent & Sis Lorna Barnes received silver wedding blessings in Maryborough (Qld)
3. Holy Baptism of Chloe Jones in Hallam (Vic)
4. Br Deon & Sis Shireen Wallace received silver wedding blessings in New Lynn (NZ)
5. Holy Baptism of Ethan Loveday and Aaliyah Coughlan in Box Hill (Vic)
6. Adoption of Sis Marinela Jackson in Seven Hills (NSW)
7. Holy Baptism of Ashton Daniels in Howick (NZ)
8. Holy Baptism of MacKenzie and Beauden Bürger in Christchurch (NZ)
9. Holy Baptism of Elijah Mulamba in Newcastle (NSW)





Celebrations

1. Holy Baptism of Leonardo Martinez in New Plymouth (NZ)
2. Pr (ret) Ron & Sis Rona Goss received silver wedding blessings in Toowoomba (Qld)
3. Br Ross Smith of Ascot Park (SA) celebrated his 95th birthday
4. Dcn Simon Glatz & Sis Simonette Wallace received wedding blessings in the Halton congregation in Ontario, Canada
5. Br Charles Davids of Beverly Hills (NSW) celebrated his 90th birthday
6. Sis Ena Morris of Ascot Park (SA) celebrated her 96th birthday
7. Br Neil & Sis Kelly Fletcher of Beckenham (WA) received wedding blessings
8. Apostle Lodewick conducted Holy Sealing in Rockingham (WA)
9. Holy Baptism of William Schmidt in Christchurch (NZ)
10. Br & Sis Little of Tauranga (NZ) received silver wedding blessings



Celebrations

1. Holy Baptism of Sloane Hayes in Caloundra (Qld)
2. Sis Thelma Marshall of Buranda (Qld) celebrated her 80th birthday
3. Holy Baptism of Kanye Ramati in Hallam (Vic)
4. Sis Shirley Doman of Henderson (NZ) celebrated her 75th birthday
5. Sis Irene Kleb of North Ipswich (Qld) celebrated her 80th birthday
6. Sis Lila Robinson of North Ipswich (Qld) celebrated her 80th birthday
7. Holy Sealing of India Barwick in Ascot Park (SA)
8. Holy Sealing of Ethan Loveday & Aaliyah Coughlan in Box Hill (Vic)
9. Sis Stephanie Berney of Hackham West (SA) celebrated her 80th birthday
10. Sis Katrina Stephenson of North Ipswich (Qld) celebrated her 70th birthday
11. Holy Sealing in Afiamalu (Samoa)





Celebrations

1. Sis Elfriede Teufel of Hallam (Vic) celebrated her 80th birthday
2. Ev (ret) Henry De Lisen of Bundaberg (Qld) celebrated his 80th birthday
3. Pr (ret) Jeffrey Mustapha of Hallam (Vic) celebrated his 70th birthday
4. Br Bill Westman of Buranda celebrated his 90th birthday
5. Sis Monica Schmal & Br David Thompson received wedding blessings in Hackham West (SA)
6. Holy Sealing of Br Joe Brown and baby Charlize Turner in in Rockingham (WA)
7. Sis Roxane & Br Hannes Reimers of New Plymouth (NZ) received wedding blessings
8. Pr (ret) Ernie Schulte from Mackay (Qld) celebrated his 90th birthday. He is pictured with his sister Sis Evelyn Robinson of North Ipswich (Qld) who celebrated her 91st birthday
9. Holy Sealing of Annaliese McSherry in Hallam (Vic)
10. Holy Sealing in Samoa



For your Information

Chief Apostle Schneider's schedule:

Jun 2019	Jul 2019	Aug 2019
2: Düsseldorf, Germany	7: Kinshasa, DR Congo	4: São Paulo, Brazil
9: Goslar, Germany	14: Graz, Austria	11: Zurich, Switzerland
23: Leogane, Haiti	21: Lusaka, Zambia	18: Brampton, Canada
30: Oberhausen, Germany		

District Apostle Schulte's schedule:

Jun 2019	Jul 2019	Aug 2019
2: Düsseldorf, Germany	7: Papua New Guinea	4: Melbourne, Vic
9: Goslar, Germany	21: Auckland, NZ	11: South Korea
23: Fiji	28: Sydney, NSW	18: Asia
		25: Gladstone, Qld

Upcoming Events:

Jun 2019	Jul 2019	Aug 2019
2: International Youth Convention	7: Service for Departed	
9: Pentecost		

In Memoriam:

Pr (ret) Graham Isaacs of Gosford, NSW	†	20/1/19
Br Emile Vollenhoven of Drury, NZ	†	23/1/19
Sis Esme (Pat) Dietz of Kingston, Qld	†	18/2/19
Ev (ret) Heinz Hammacher of Beverly Hills (NSW)	†	23/2/19
Sis Joy Bebedorf of Gladstone (Qld)	†	25/2/19
Sis Brigitte Maunz of Canberra (ACT)	†	13/3/19
Sis Rebecca Schmelz of Caloundra (Qld)	†	17/3/19
Sis Crystal Powell of Henderson (NZ)	†	28/3/19
Sis Anneliese Operacz of Wollongong (NSW)	†	1/4/19
Sis Christine Gotts of Box Hill (Vic)	†	13/4/19
Br Carl Graumann of Maidstone (Vic)	†	15/4/19
Sis Ursula Ware of Bundaberg (Qld)	†	21/4/19
Sis Sylvia Gardner of Gladstone (Qld)	†	15/5/19
Br Edward Harrison of Geelong (Vic)	†	20/5/19
Br Christopher Bercza of Windsor (Qld)	†	31/5/19

Ministerial Changes:

Name	Event	Ministry	Congregation
Pr Garth Toerien	Commission	Rector	Beckenham, WA
Dcn Luke Backhouse	Confirmation	Deacon	Christchurch, NZ
Pr Revon Richen	Confirmation	Priest	Koondoola, WA
Pr Peter Vogler	Confirmation	Priest	Koondoola, WA
Pr Fred Mwaba	Confirmation	Priest	Koondoola, WA
Dcn Monre de Wet	Ordination	Priest	Henderson, NZ
Dcn Gary van der Poel	Ordination	Priest	Hallam, Vic
Br Luke Tamloi	Ordination	Deacon	Shark Bay
Dcn Adam Loveday	Ordination	Priest	Box Hill, Vic
Dcn Brendt Bloemstein	Ordination	Priest	Morayfield, Qld
Br Telea Latu	Ordination	Deacon	Mulifanua, Samoa
Dcn Edward Henry	Retirement	Deacon	Rockhampton, Qld
Pr Leon Petersen	Retirement	Priest	Fairfield, Qld
Pr Ronald Sullivan	Retirement	Priest	Hallam, Vic
Pr Ken Collins	Retirement	Priest	Silkstone, Qld



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