

Australia District News



Edition 32/2 - Winter 2017

In this issue:

Confirmation 2017

Youth Activities

WA Sunday school camp



From the Desk of District

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I was in a conversation recently where the topic of discussion was around the number of difficulties that had arisen in the brother's life and he jokingly said "does the Lord not see that I go to church?" We all have situations in our life from time to time where things happen that seem to be 'unfair' considering we are children of God. Though this might seem to be a reasonable way of thinking, we know that as we are human beings and live on this earth, there are no special earthly privileges given to those who have "citizenship in heaven" (see Philippians 3:20). Illness, hardship, poverty, war, injustice and a myriad of other adverse conditions are part of life and do not discriminate as to who become victims of some of these. We can, however, be confident that it is not God that places these conditions upon the individual but rather that they are just part of life on this earth.

In regard to this, a few years ago our Chief Apostle explained in a divine service in Sydney:

".....when we come to the question "Why does God allow all these things; why are there so many wars, so many "crazies", so much violence? Why does God allow that; why does He not say something; why

does He not just make it just impossible? War should not be possible; God should do something!"

"I have no answer to these questions. We just know that God created man and granted him freedom. Man is always free to make his decisions. He can decide to follow God, to obey God or choose another way. However, mankind has to deal with the consequences of their choices. That is all we know. God is faithful and He respects that. He created man and He lets him be free to decide to be on the good side or to be on the bad side. Some even have to struggle with the consequences of the decisions made by others. You will agree with me that is pure logic. That is the way that God thinks, but that's not an answer. Why does He not do something?"

"Brothers and Sisters, we have to use our faith. Our faith brings the answer our intellect cannot find and our faith tells us: God is love! He loves mankind; He loves me; He loves my neighbour. Even if I cannot understand how it works, I know God is love and at the end of the story everybody will see God was love and is love, that is why we trust Him. All we can do is, out of love for our neighbour, come to God and say:



Apostle Andersen

God, please help them, be with the victims, comfort them, save them. That is what we will do from the bottom of our heart, we pray for the victims, but do not look for an answer; you will not find an answer. It is a question of faith."

We do not use our life of faith and our relationship with our Heavenly Father as an insurance policy or with the intention of extracting favours from Him. Rather, we are thankful to Him for allowing us to be His children, to have citizenship in heaven and to have the opportunity to be with Him in His kingdom for eternity. In the meantime, we build on our relationship with Him and His Son Jesus Christ and we exercise our prayer life to thank Him for His grace and to ask Him for His assistance, guidance and protection.

We are fast approaching the time of the next visit of our Chief Apostle to our district. As a reminder, his visit schedule is:

- Melbourne, Australia on Sunday 24 September. He will be accompanied by District Apostles Hebeisen (Philippines) and Woll (Canada) and

District Apostle Helpers Dzur and Sabottka (Canada), Devaraj (India) and Isnugroho (Indonesia). This service will be transmitted to congregations in Australia and New Zealand.

- Papua New Guinea: Kombikum (Wewak area) on Thursday 28 September and Port Moresby on 1 October. He will be accompanied by District Apostle Hebeisen (Philippines) and District Apostle Helpers Devaraj and Isnugroho.

I hope that we can all make our preparations in our soul for this great opportunity to be together, either physically or via transmission.

With loving greetings,

Andrew H. Andersen

Buranda, Qld



Redcliffe, Qld



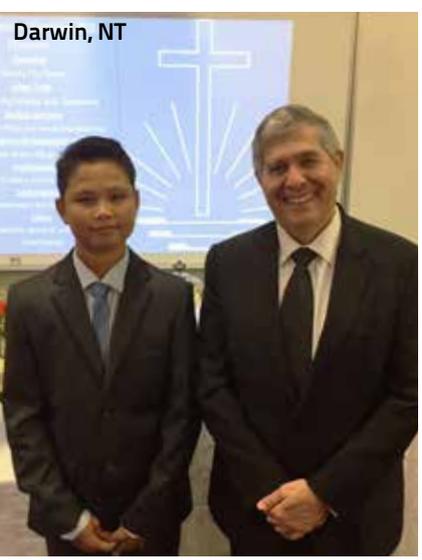
Croydon, Vic



Suva, Fiji



Darwin, NT



Elizabeth, SA



Toowoomba, Qld



Mulifanua, Samoa



Kingston, Qld





Confirmation 2017

Dear Confirmands,

Already before you were born God decided to make you His children. He elected you so that you can contribute to His plan of salvation. He wants to give you eternal life.

You have decided to accept your election and to follow the call of God. In a few moments you are going to say yes to God: YES, we want to follow Jesus Christ! YES, we want to serve Him! YES, we want to enter into His kingdom!

God will respond to your yes by blessing you. Through His blessing, He gives you the assurance that He is always at your side and will help you.

The whole congregation is delighted with your decision. On this special day I would like to convey the following message to you on behalf of the Apostles, the ministers, your parents, and the congregation:

"Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord God-my God-will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord" (1 Chronicles 28: 20).

This is the experience we have made, and you will also see the same unfold in your own lives!

My dear confirmands, I wish you much joy in serving the Lord, and send you my most heartfelt greetings,

Jean-Luc Schneider

Auckland, NZ



AM Samoa



Lane Cove, NSW

Buvusi, PNG





Youth Activities

A number of activities have taken place amongst the ranks of the youth in recent months. Here are a selection of photos from these events.

1-2: New Zealand confirmands travelled to Christchurch for the 2017 Confirmands camp. They visited a number of sites in Christchurch and then enjoyed the divine service on Sunday with the members of the Christchurch congregation.

3-4: Ap Williams and D/Ev Samuel Muller travelled to Fiji for the NACYAC

5: Youth convention in NSW

6: Youth in Auckland, NZ took part in a bush restoration project and planted over 100 native trees

7-9: The congregations in Perth, WA staged a Valedictory Concert for the confirmands, which included a number of musical performances. Each confirmand also received a gift from the members



WA Sunday School Camp

The Bickley Outdoor Recreation Camp was the venue for the WA Sunday School camp this year. Upon arrival, everyone made their way to the registration desk where each child was given a wrist band to represent their faction. There were 4 factions: Red, Orange, Green and Blue. Over the course of the weekend, teams were allocated points for following the camp rules and participating in the activities.

The theme for the camp was "Music - is the voice of your Soul". On Friday we played a few ice-breaker games incorporating music to encourage the children to engage and get to know each other. After all the singing and dancing, the children participated in table tennis, fuzeball tournaments and dodge ball.



Saturday was a day of music and adventure. Each group was given a pop song with the task of interpreting the song and adding their own musical beats using a variety of instruments. This was later presented to everyone gathered in the amphitheatre.



After lunch the children made their way to the raft making and flying fox activities. Participants were given advice on how to construct rafts using ropes, planks and drums. They then had to build rafts in teams in preparation for a major paddle challenge.



The flying fox, offering a 50m high speed traverse across the picturesque Bickley Reservoir, was an exhilarating experience for many, especially for those who overcame their fears with the help of their friends. After dinner the confirmands gathered to build an altar while the Sunday School children rehearsed musical items and hymns in preparation for the divine service.

The Sunday morning service was held at the camp and was officiated by District Elder Francois Witbooi. After service everyone gathered around to enjoy cake & tea, after which the faction winners were announced and certificates were handed out.

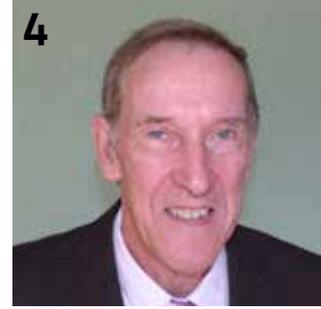




Around the Congregations:

1. Buvusi (PNG) Sunday School children
2. Retirement of Priest Vuna and Priest Jeoli in Suva (Fiji)
3. Divine service in Mulifanua (Samoa)
4. South-East Qld Sunday school picnic
5. Passion week presentation in AM Samoa
6. District Elder Schulte and members from Gladstone (Qld) congregation visited Sis Dot Bebedorf in hospital
7. Divine service in Afiamalu (Samoa)
8. Sunday school children presented an item to the confirmands during the valedictory concert in Perth (WA)
9. Sunday school service Nuku'alofa (Tonga)
10. Geraldton (WA) congregation
11. Ap Hungito visited congregations in Madang province (PNG)
12. A busy bee was held at the Elizabeth (SA) church in preparation for the upcoming 50th anniversary celebrations
13. Albury (NSW) congregation
14. Seniors coffee morning in Auckland (NZ)
15. Sunday school children in Caloundra (Qld) enjoyed some Easter treats
16. A high tea was held in honour of the mothers for Mother's Day in Auckland (NZ)
17. Mother's Day in Mackay (Qld)
18. Mother's Day in Croydon (Vic)
19. Brethren in Bonriki (Kiribati)
20. The orchestra plays in Albury (NSW)
21. Aureligo congregation
22. Gosford (NSW) Sunday school children
23. Sunday School recorder lessons in Howick (NZ)
24. Mother's Day in Drury (NZ)







Celebrations:

1. Br & Sis Spence of New Lynn (NZ) received Silver wedding blessings
2. Pr (ir) Peter & Sis Jean Schmidt of Ascot Park (SA) received Golden wedding blessings
3. Ev (ir) Horst Lethaus of Croydon (Vic) celebrated his 75th birthday
4. Pr (ir) Merv Probst of Caloundra (Qld) celebrated his 70th birthday
5. Holy Baptism of Patrick Enright & Hugh Lange in Mackay (Qld)
6. Adoption of Br Kenneth Lloyd, Br James Albert Espinosa Azaule & Sis Genida Espinosa Petersen in Elizabeth (SA)
7. Pr Albert Muyaya & Sis Christine Vogler received engagement blessings in Ascot Park (SA)
8. Adoption of Sis Carmen Edwins in Henderson (NZ)
9. Sis Freda Schulte of Gladstone (Qld) celebrated her 90th birthday
10. Sis Nell Kogler of Croydon (Vic) celebrated her 85th birthday
11. Br Daniel & Sis Emilie Schulte received wedding blessings in North Ipswich (Qld)
12. Sis Alma Davids & Sis Delores Hunter of Ashmore (Qld) celebrated their 70th birthdays
13. Br Carl & Sis Michelle Alexander of New Lynn (NZ) received Silver wedding blessings
14. Holy Sealing in Afiamalu (Samoa)
15. Holy Sealing Suva (Fiji)
16. Holy Sealing in Vailima (Samoa)
17. Holy Sealing of Freddie Yon in Croydon (Vic)
18. Holy Sealing of Br Davyd Castro in Lane Cove (NSW)
19. Sis Margot Lechnitz of Geelong (Vic) celebrated her 80th birthday
20. Sis Norraine Schultz of Geelong (Vic) celebrated her 80th birthday
21. Holy Sealing in Am Samoa
22. Sealing in Mulifanua (Samoa)
23. Holy Sealing of Jai Kruger in Geelong (Vic)
24. Sis Irene Schlotz of Geelong (Vic) celebrated her 90th birthday
25. Pr Samuel & Sis Deborah Du Preez of Henderson (NZ) received wedding blessings
26. Br Michele & Sis Allison Mattiuzzi received wedding blessings in Beverly Hills (NSW)
27. Holy Sealing of Harper Watson in Ashmore (Qld)
28. D/Ev (ir) Trevor & Sis Siverena Hearn of Geelong (Vic) received Ruby wedding blessings
29. Dcn (ir) Dietmar & Sis Frieda Schirk of Newcastle (NSW) received Diamond anniversary blessings
30. Dcn (ir) Jannie & Sis Theresa Blignaut of Rivervale (WA) received Golden wedding blessings
31. Pr (ir) Derek & Sis Tasmia Jolliffe of Ashmore (Qld) received Ruby wedding blessings
32. Pr (ir) Paul & Sis Sandra Collins of Mackay (Qld) received wedding blessings

For your Information

Chief Apostle Schneider's schedule:

Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Sept 2017
2: Homabay, Kenya	6: Natal, Brazil	17: Alicante, Spain
16: Lubumbashi, Democratic Rep of Congo	20: Saurimo, Angola	24: Melbourne, Australia
23: Barcelona, Spain		
30: Zepernick, Germany		

In Memoriam:

Pr (ir) John Robinson of North Ipswich (Qld)	† 30/3/17
Br Ray Pistilli of Hackham West (SA)	† 30/3/17
Sis Alice Kazakoff of Kingston (Qld)	† 12/4/17
Pr (ir) Noel Adonis of Koondoola (WA)	† 20/4/17
Pr (ir) William J Dressels of Beckenham (WA)	† 4/6/17
Sis Elsie Klass of Maryborough (Qld)	† 7/6/17
Br Michael Jonathan of Croydon (Vic)	† 15/6/17
Sis Maria Cameron of Croydon (Vic)	† 15/6/17
Sis Karen Krone of Leumeah (NSW)	† 16/6/17
Sis Gloria Freilich of Beverly Hills (NSW)	† 19/6/17
Br William Schoeman of Rivervale (WA)	† 22/6/17

District Apostle Andersen's schedule:

Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Sept 2017
2: Rockingham, WA	6: Kingston, Qld	3: Windsor, Qld
9: Ashmore, Qld	13: Redcliffe, Qld	10: Drury, NZ
16: Maryborough, Qld	20: Papua New Guinea	17: Toowoomba, Qld
23: Morayfield, Qld	27: Townsville, Qld	24: Melbourne, Vic
30: Melbourne, Vic		

Online offerings now available

If you prefer to transfer your offering electronically, this option is now available for all members. All account details are hidden and transactions are confidential.

Bank: ANZ

BSB: 014-275

Account No: 4832-99915

Reference: Your congregation (eg Redcliffe, Qld)

AVAILABLE FOR CONGREGATIONS IN AUSTRALIA ONLY

Upcoming Events:

Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Sept 2017
2: Service for Departed		3: Father's Day
7-9: NACYAC		18: Chief Apostle Schneider's birthday
		21: International Day of Prayer for Peace
		24: Chief Apostle service in Melbourne

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