

Western Pacific District News



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Christ *makes free*

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From the desk of District Apostle Schulte



Dear brothers and sisters

As New Apostolic Christians, we are aware of the vision and mission statements of the New Apostolic Church:

VISION: A church in which people feel at home and, inspired by the Holy Spirit and their love for God, align their lives to the gospel of Jesus Christ and thus prepare themselves for His return and eternal life.

MISSION: Reaching out to all people in order to teach them the gospel of Jesus Christ and to baptise them with water and the Holy Spirit. Providing soul care and cultivating a warm fellowship in which everyone shall experience the love of God and the joy of serving Him and others.

I was recently asked to put a few thoughts together on the topic of "Church-Congregation-Fellowship". When we ponder this theme we can see the core impulses of our New Apostolic Church vision and mission statements.

The meaning of these words can be:

CHURCH – a body or organisation of Christian believers.

CONGREGATION – a group of people assembled for religious worship.

FELLOWSHIP – friendly association especially with people who share the same interests.

The community is the greater boundary of these three. Church is part of the community, the congregation is part of the community and it is said that good fellowship is the binding factor of the community.

There are many examples of communities experiencing hardship who have rallied together in support of one another. We hear of individuals that are willing to volunteer their time and abilities to help out in such circumstances. These deeds and actions are often the beginning of friendships and gratitude that lasts for a lifetime.

So too when there is reason to celebrate; to be able to do this in the fellowship of our friends makes our joy complete.

For our communities to be strong there is a need for all of the individuals in it to want to contribute and be part of it.

As the saying goes "the more you put in, the more you get out". Also with our church, our congregation and our fellowship - the more we give our personal investment of time, talents and care the stronger and richer our community becomes for us and our neighbour.

Who holds the responsibility to bring our vision and mission statements to life? All of us! Differences within communities can sometimes have a negative effect, however we must also admit that it can add to the richness. When we all contribute in a manner which is not just imposing what we like, but also being open to the ideas of others, it allows all to contribute joyfully.

With loving greetings

Peter Schulte

Upon the sure foundation

Chief Apostle visits the Western Pacific District

Under the banner of "Upon the sure foundation" the Chief Apostle travelled to the Western Pacific district, arriving in Apia, Samoa, late on the evening of Friday 13 September.

It was a trip that almost didn't happen; as the Chief Apostle explained to the congregation on Sunday, his passport had been sent to him from the Russian embassy but had become lost in the post. This meant he had to request that his second passport be returned from another embassy. Finally it was received, just three hours prior to his departure. It is a reminder of the challenges that our ministers sometimes face when travelling for God's work, and the importance to keep them in our prayers.

Saturday was the "day of the youth" and the Chief Apostle, together with District Apostle Schulte and Apostles Lodewick and Williams, enjoyed a presentation which included cultural dances and a kava ceremony - a traditional welcome to the official party. At the conclusion of the ceremony a group photo was taken and the group made their way into the church building for some singing and a questions and answers session.

The divine service on the Sunday was held in the government chambers and was attended by members from the four congregations in Samoa. It was a great honour to also have the Governor General of Samoa in attendance. The Chief Apostle conducted the service using a text from **1 Thessalonians 4:9**: *But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;*

At the conclusion of the service the Chief Apostle greeted the members and shared a snack with them before travelling to the airport for a flight to American Samoa. As this involved crossing the international date line, the group travelled "back in time" and arrived on Saturday afternoon.





The second Sunday divine service of the weekend was conducted in the recently constructed Ililli church building where both congregations in American Samoa gathered together. The text used was taken from **Genesis 4:4**: *Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering.*

After service, the Chief Apostle joined the congregation for lunch which was prepared by the members. This included two large cakes to celebrate the birthdays of the Chief Apostle and District Apostle. The focus then turned to the youth who entertained the group with some cultural singing and dancing, and to their delight the Chief Apostle joined in with them. This was followed by another Q&A session.

On Monday, the official group had a short tour of the island before travelling back to Samoa. This again involved crossing the date line, meaning that after a 30 minute flight they arrived on Tuesday.

The following day the Chief Apostle celebrated his 60th birthday with cake provided by the members, before travelling onto Fiji.

A divine service was conducted in the Suva church in Fiji on Thursday morning. The Chief Apostle and apostles were welcomed to the church by a Sunday School choir, with one of the young children serving as the conductor. As the church could not accommodate all the members inside a tent was set up in the grounds and the members were connected via video link. The text used on this occasion was taken from **John 12:26**: *If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.*





In Christchurch, the Chief Apostle, District Apostle and Apostles Lodewick and Williams were joined by District Apostle Edy Isnugroho of Indonesia, District Apostle Helper Frank Dzur of Canada, and the apostles of the Western Pacific District - Apostle Fred Wolf (Thailand), Apostles Allen Pouru and Aimol Wasimbai (Papua New Guinea) and retired District Apostle Andrew Andersen.

The weekend commenced with a morning tea event with the Christchurch congregation, and the Chief Apostle talked with those members from our district who have endured a number of disasters - both natural and terror related - in recent times. The Chief Apostle was particularly engaged with the youth and happy to answer questions from them.

On Sunday a divine service was conducted in the Christchurch Boys' High School, with a text from **Zechariah 8:22-23**: *Yes, many peoples and strong nations Shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, And to pray before the Lord.' "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."'"*

During the service, the Chief Apostle acknowledged the passing of Apostle Hungito in Papua New Guinea last year, and the necessity to fill his role. Additionally, due to the volume of work in that region, a request had been made for an additional apostle to support the work. Accordingly, District Elders Lucas Supok and Patrick Silabe were ordained into the apostle ministry. The Chief Apostle impressed upon them to lead with a heart of love and to spread the simple message of the gospel - Jesus loves you, come!

In total, over 560 members were in attendance in the divine service in the Christchurch Boys' High School. Another 1462 were connected to the transmission in various congregations around Australia, New Zealand, and a number of other countries around the district.





Apostle Lodewick visits Solomon Islands

After arriving in Honiara - the capital of the Solomon Islands - the Apostle flew to the Western province region and met up with the area leaders for a two day condensed trip. They travelled by boat to visit the various village congregations, and conducted sealings and meetings, and enjoyed fellowship together.

From there, Apostle Lodewick went to the South Malaita area, where he again met with the leaders and visited the various village congregations. This involved more boat travel, and hours of mountain climbing. Finally, after returning to Honiara, the Apostle completed his visit with a divine service in our city congregation, White River.

In the capital city he also visited a preschool education centre run by volunteers, to gain more understanding of the situations faced by the parents and children who cannot afford this. As NACare is investigating the possibility of assisting in this sector from our White River church, this visit proved to be most informative.

All in all, despite the many challenges faced, the brethren in the Solomon Islands are joyful and are keeping their faith.



NACare Update

NACare evolves to include ongoing projects

Since its inception, NACare has provided assistance to many communities within Australia and the South Pacific region in response to a variety of natural disasters that have occurred. Over this time, NACare has also been made aware of the need for ongoing support in a number of situations, particularly in the South Pacific nations.

Investigations are currently being conducted into the feasibility of providing assistance in the following areas through specific projects that will help communities over the long term:

Fiji:

It is proposed that NACare provides funding for the purposes of building a cyclone safe building in a village that has a history of being ravaged by cyclonic weather. It would be used for community purposes that are customary in Fijian culture, and in times of natural disasters - such as cyclones or flooding - the building would provide safe shelter for the community.

Solomon Islands:

NACare is proposing to undertake a project to provide ongoing assistance in the area of early childhood education in a local community. This would be in partnership with a local entity

who have an understanding of the needs of the children in the area, taking into account their traditions, customs and circumstances.

These projects do not take the place of our primary mission, which is to offer assistance and financial support in the immediate aftermath of a natural disaster. This mission continues to be an important and ongoing focus for NACare, and we continue to raise awareness of - and provide a timely response to - these situations as they arise.



Preschool in Solomon Islands

Bushfire crisis

In response to the recent bushfire situation in Australia, NACare has donated all funds received over the period of the appeal to date to assist affected communities:

December 2019

\$5,000 to NSW Rural Fire Brigades

\$5,000 to QLD Rural Fire Brigades

February 2020

\$5,000 to the Victorian Government Bushfire Appeal

\$4,400 to the South Australian Government Bushfire Appeal

Thank you for your generous donations towards this unprecedented and ongoing situation.

Donations

If you, or anyone you know, would like to make a donation to NACare at any time, please go to the website www.nacare.org.au and enter your credit card details. All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible (applies to Australian taxpayers only).

Do you know that:

- NACare is a registered charity organisation that anyone can donate to
- Since NACare's commencement, donations have been received from individuals and businesses throughout Australia and internationally
- All donations to NACare over \$2.00 are tax deductible in Australia (to Australian taxpayers)
- 100% of all funds raised through specific appeals are passed on to beneficiaries of the appeal
- Donations can be made through the NACare website www.nacare.org.au and a receipt is issued



Activities of the young

Our Sunday School children have enjoyed many activities throughout the year, including camps, social activities, Sunday School services and the annual end of year breakups. Here are a selection of photos from around the district.

1-5 Sunday School children in Victoria enjoyed a weekend camp, which included activities such as "getting to know you" and "the amazing race", and the use of the camp facilities. The divine service on Sunday was conducted by District Evangelist Volkwyn, and included a group of confirmands acting out a scene.

6 A Sunday School service took place in Leumeah (NSW)

7-9 A Sunday School service was held in Maidstone (Vic) for the children from all Victorian congregations, and centred around the theme of "treasures". The service included the children singing and playing recorders, and giving an example of the items they treasure

10 Families in Sydney (NSW) enjoyed fellowship in a park with the children

11 Sunday School breakup in Seven Hills (NSW)

12 Sunday School breakup in Caloundra (Qld)

13 Redcliffe (Qld) Sunday School breakup

14 Movies and toasted marshmallows in Hackham West (SA)

15 Sunday School children in Rainbow (PNG)



..... and the young at heart



The senior members - the stalwarts of our congregations - have also had opportunities to enjoy fellowship together. A number of special divine services were conducted throughout the year with the focus on the senior members.



1-4 Gladstone (Qld) congregation played host to senior members from around Queensland who enjoyed a weekend of activities, including a harbour cruise and barbecue. The weekend culminated in a divine service conducted by District Apostle Schulte. This was followed by lunch and a variety concert, to which the local community was invited and participated in.



5 A divine service for seniors was conducted by Apostle Lodewick in Rivervale (WA)

6-8 Senior members from NSW travelled to Albury for a weekend of Octoberfest celebrations. On Sunday the members gathered for a combined service with the Albury congregation

9 Seniors from NSW congregations participated in a concert which followed a divine service in Lane Cove, conducted by Apostle Williams



Around the Congregations:

1. Members in Hackham West (SA) enjoyed a bonfire
2. Over a few weekends, member from Queensland congregations travelled to Riverleigh (Qld) to help the congregation paint the church, both inside and out
3. Ordination in Majuro, Marshall Islands
4. Seniors' Christmas Lunch in South Australia
5. Invercargill (NZ) congregation
6. Members in Caloundra (Qld) enjoyed lunch together prior to the Sunday School breakup
7. Youth from South Korea with Apostle Wolf
8. Members from Seven Hills (NSW) participate in a bells ensemble on Wednesday evenings
9. Youth meeting in Fairfield (NSW) with Apostle Williams
10. Fellowship in Geraldton (WA)
11. Picnic in Bundaberg (Qld)





Around the Congregations:

1. Father's Day in Ascot Park (SA)
2. Croydon (Vic) fathers on Father's Day
3. Father's Day in Redcliffe (Qld)
4. Father's Day in Geraldton (WA)
5. Fathers Day in Seven Hills (NSW)
6. Retirement lunch for Pr Michael Fisher in St Mary's (NSW)
- 7-9. Photos from Bishop Yasi's trip to the Highlands in PNG



Celebrations

1. Holy sealing in White River (Sol Is)
2. Br Raymond Kenzler of Bundaberg (Qld) celebrated his 95th birthday
3. Apostle Trevor & Sis Donna Williams of Kingston (Qld) received ruby wedding blessings
4. Sis Harigatha Surtie of Leumeah (NSW) celebrated her 90th birthday
5. Adoption of Br Ryan Faux in Mackay (Qld)
6. Holy baptism of Archie Thompson in Hackham West (SA)
7. Br & Sis Du Plessis received golden wedding blessings in Croydon (Vic)
8. Pr (ret) Noel & Sis Val Bebandorf received diamond wedding blessings in Riverleigh (Qld)
9. Holy Sealing in Waikoukou (Sol Is)
10. Holy Sealing of Elsa Gelderblom in Lane Cove (NSW)
11. Holy Sealing in Matsuyama (Japan)
12. Holy Sealing in Majuro (Marshall Is)





Celebrations

1. Sis Eleonore Muelot of Ascot Park (SA) celebrated her 97th birthday
2. Pr (ir) Ralph Connolly of Leumeah celebrated his 80th birthday
3. Holy sealing in Pohnpei (Micronesia)
4. Sr. Lucy Cavernelis of Kingston (Qld) celebrated her 70th birthday
5. Pr (ir) Ralph Davids of Leumeah celebrated his 70th birthday
6. Holy baptism of Sophie Toerien in Beckenham (WA)
7. Holy sealing of Grace Seeley in Beverly Hills (NSW)
8. Pr Andre & Sis Alana Smith of Lane Cove (NSW) received silver wedding blessings
9. Holy baptism of Eoin Gilles in Leumeah (NSW)
10. Holy sealing in Tama City (Japan)
11. Holy sealing in Patmos (Sol Is)
12. Holy baptism of Liam Rhodes in Geraldton (WA)



For your Information

Chief Apostle Schneider's schedule:

Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020
9: Pô, Burkina Faso	1: Berlin-Lichtenberg, Germany	5: Manado, Indonesia
16: Hagen, Germany	22: Kissidougou, Guinea	12: Schwäbisch Hall, Germany
23: Karachi, Pakistan		19: Lüneburg, Germany
		26: Bloemfontein, South Africa

District Apostle Schulte's schedule:

Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020
2: Geelong, Vic	1: Kingston, Qld	5: Manado, Indonesia
9: Auckland, NZ	15: Maryborough, Qld	12: Mackay, Qld
16: Morayfield, Qld	29: Asia	26: Papua New Guinea

Upcoming Events:

Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020
	1: Service for Departed	5: Palm Sunday
	7-8: Youth Convention (Vic / SA)	10: Good Friday
		12: Easter Sunday

CDs for sale

We have a number of CDs in stock that are now available for sale at a reduced price. To order, please visit the members website and select Products:
members.newapostolic.org.au

All CDs are priced at \$AU10.00 and will be sent to your congregation free of charge

**Glorious Light
Forward with Faith
One: Faith, Spirit, Goal
Striving onward, pressing forward**

Ministerial Changes:

Name	Event	Ministry	Congregation
Pr Riaan Scheun	Confirmation	Priest	Taupo/Hastings, NZ
Dcn Riaan Theron	Confirmation	Deacon	Tauranga, NZ
Pr Revon Richen	Confirmation	Priest	Ascot Park, SA
Br Salevi Faitasi	Ordination	Deacon	Vailima, Samoa
Br Afiamalu Livigisitone	Ordination	Deacon	Afiamalu, Samoa
Br Torise Magalo	Ordination	Deacon	Afiamalu, Samoa
DE Patrick Silabe	Ordination	Apostle	PNG
DE Lucas Supok	Ordination	Apostle	PNG
Br Lawson Jeilar	Ordination	Deacon	Long Island
Br Ruan Jooste	Ordination	Deacon	Christchurch, NZ
Pr Shane Bruyns	Assignment	District rector	NZ2
Pr John van Etten	Retirement	-	Wollongong, NSW
Pr Gerald Adams	Retirement	-	Hallam, Vic

In Memoriam:

Br Helmut Funk of Ashmore (Qld)	†	5/10/19
Sis Theresia Nemeth of Beverly Hills (NSW)	†	5/10/19
Sis Irmtraud Hagemester of Hobart (Tas)	†	6/10/19
Br Garry Maeyke of North Ipswich (Qld)	†	10/10/19
Sis Catharina Eksteen of North Shore (NZ)	†	23/10/19
Sis Shirley Ruebhart of Hallam (Vic)	†	5/11/19
Sis Gertraud Magi of Canberra (ACT)	†	8/11/19
Sis Hazel Heuer of Bundaberg (Qld)	†	12/11/19
Sis Johanna (Joyce) Finger of Redcliffe (Qld)	†	17/11/19
Sis Susan Andersen of Redcliffe (Qld)	†	23/11/19
Br Julius Badovsky of Croydon (Vic)	†	7/12/19
Br Luciano Ricci of Newcastle (NSW)	†	8/12/19
Br Friedhelm Koehler of Koondoola (WA)	†	8/12/19
Br Karl Teubrecht of Canberra (ACT)	†	14/12/19
Ev (ir) Glenn Scott of Henderson (NZ)	†	16/12/19
Sis Rosita Rossman Frank of Nowra (NSW)	†	21/01/20
Sis Gertrud Rubhart of Croydon (Vic)	†	3/02/20
Pr Thomas Magi of Canberra (ACT)	†	4/02/20
Br William Galka of Hackham West (SA)	†	8/02/20

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