

# community

The New Apostolic Church around the world

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Victory with Christ

## The fear of God and trust

Divine service in Brazil:  
Professing our faith

Catechism:  
The sacraments

Catechism:  
Life after death

New Apostolic Church  
International



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# The fear of God and trust

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The motto for 2016 is “Victory with Christ”. This also applies, and maybe even primarily so, to our day-to-day lives. Such a motto has many aspects, and I would like to focus on one of the key aspects here: to be victorious with Christ requires the fear of God and trust. To fear God means to have respect and profound reverence for God, our Creator and heavenly Father. Let us trust Him as long as we live, even on bad days.

Following are some examples from the Bible to illustrate this:

- Joseph’s fear of God helped him to triumph over sin. He was devout and knew that God saw him and was with him. When Potiphar’s wife tried to seduce him, he resisted her advances. Even in prison, forgotten by everyone, he remained faithful to God. Finally God intervened and he was released.
- We know that God sees and knows everything. Let us therefore avoid sin and trust Him. He will not forget us!
- Moses was a man who had complete confidence in everything God did. He waged a battle against Pharaoh that initially appeared futile. Moses asked the Egyptian king nine times to let the people go, and every time he refused. But Moses continued to trust God. Finally, Moses gave the order for the people to get ready to leave Egypt. Everyone obeyed and God liberated them.

What about today? How often have we not already experienced the power of God! Despite all the attacks of the evil one, let us trust God and obey Him. Soon we will escape the evil one once and for all.



■ NAC International

- Paul had to undergo a complete transformation. Everything that had been so important to him was called into question all of a sudden and became irrelevant. But he believed and put His trust in God and continued to be an instrument in God’s hand, leading the church of the Lord to redemption. The Son of God Himself commissioned Paul as an Apostle to go and proclaim the gospel to the world.

Things are similar for us today. God sends us into the world to proclaim the glad tidings of the resurrection of Jesus, His ascension, and His return. Christ will return. This is what He has promised!

Let us obey God out of deep reverence, and do so in all situations throughout our lives. We know that God sees and knows everything. We can trust Him. This will bring us the victory with Christ!

Together with all the Apostles around the world I send heartfelt greetings,



Jean-Luc Schneider

# We profess our faith despite challenges



Mount Corcovado, at 710 metres, is a granite peak that is situated just west of Rio de Janeiro's city centre and offers a fantastic view of the city. The hill is best known for its huge statue of Christ the Redeemer. Chief Apostle Schneider celebrated a divine service in Rio, Brazil's national capital, on 28 October 2015.

1 Corinthians 16: 9

*"For a great and effective door  
has opened to me, and there are  
many adversaries."*



My dear brothers and sisters, today's Bible text was written by Paul and addressed to the Corinthians. He is speaking about the work he plans to do in Ephesus. He was on a trip and stopped in Ephesus, where he decided that he wanted to create a congregation. And then he wrote to the Corinthians: "I am here in Ephesus, and I have the feeling that there is a great opportunity to do some effective work, despite the fact that there are many adversaries." I was thinking about this over the last couple of days and found it very interesting and wanted to know more about this. The story of how he founded this congregation is reported in the Bible, in chapters 19 and 20 of Acts. When I read that I thought about you, my brothers and sisters here in Brazil, because the situation here is very similar. I thought this would be a nice word for tonight.

Let's see. Paul came to Ephesus and seized the opportunity to establish a church there. He professed his faith and proclaimed the glad tidings to the inhabitants. Ephesus was a huge city, one of the biggest at the time. It had more than a hundred thousand inhabitants, and only twelve people accepted his testimony. Not a hundred, not fifty, only twelve (Acts 19: 7). That's it! And yet Paul saw this as a great opportunity. He did not lose courage, but thought, "Seeing that God sent me here, I have to do something here." And this in spite of the fact that many were against him.

First he went to the Jews. There was a group of very devout Jews there. He told these people about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and about his mission as an Apostle of Christ. In the Bible it says: "Some were hardened and did not believe" (Acts 19: 9). They were rooted in their tradition, and did not accept the tidings that Jesus is the Son of God and that Paul was an Apostle of Christ.

I am aware of the fact that the number of God's children here in Brazil is small compared to the population of this country and city. You make an effort to profess your faith, but many faithful Christians are not prepared to accept this new message. They are rooted in their faith and their traditions. And when you tell them that we have living Apostles, that Jesus will come back, and that He offers salvation to the souls in yonder world they say, "No, that is completely foreign to us. It is too new and strange, something we cannot believe. We will stay with our faith." I think there is no

point to insist. You know that better than I do. They are rooted in their faith, and we have to struggle with this kind of attitude. So Paul's first problem was that only a few were prepared to accept this new message.

Secondly, those who were rooted in their faith wanted to stay with it. And then he turned his attention to another group. Among the Jews in Ephesus there were some who travelled around and drove out evil spirits, using the name of the Lord Jesus to do so (Acts 19: 13). For Paul that was a big problem. They misused the name of Jesus Christ.

I think we are aware that many people today misuse the name of Jesus Christ to supposedly improve the lives of people. They promise them, "If you come to our church and follow Jesus Christ, you will become rich. All your problems will be solved. Your life on earth will be blessed." That

is a problem, because that is not what it says in the gospel. That is not the reason why Jesus came on earth. But this is the kind of thinking we have to deal with. And when we are then asked, "Do you perform miracles? Do you pray for miracles?" we have

to say, "No, we prepare souls for the return of Christ." It is difficult to bring them our message.

Paul had a third problem in Ephesus. He got in the way of some businessmen. There was a flourishing business in Ephesus. Miniature models of the temple of the goddess Diana were made and sold, and this yielded a big profit. The silversmith and those working for him were very rich. He called them all together and said, "We cannot accept the preaching of this man, he's jeopardizing our business," and they wanted to chase him out of the city.

We are familiar with this kind of spirit, the spirit who is always out looking to make money. Many say, "We have to go and make money so we can save some. You know, we have to work hard to make money. We have no time for God." For others the gospel even poses a danger for their business, because they think: "You cannot live according to the gospel of Christ and run a business. Don't tell me that I have to be honest. Don't tell me that I have to tell the truth. Don't bother me with these kinds of things, I want to make money." The gospel becomes an obstacle in their business dealings, so they do not accept it. This was the situation that Paul had to deal with.

*We have been given a great opportunity to do something for the work of God. This applies everywhere in the world.*

Basically, he could have said, “Oh, in this context what can I do? Nothing! It is too difficult. Most of the people want to stick with their traditions and will not accept the new message. Others are interested in Jesus Christ only because they hope for an improvement in their lives. And still others are just interested in making money.” Knowing all this it is interesting to see how Paul reacted, because he said, “For a great and effective door has opened to me.” He saw all this as a great opportunity to do missionary work. His great faith made this possible. He figured, “Seeing God has sent me here to this city, He wants me to do something!”

Brothers and sisters, the same applies to us today and here. We have been given a wonderful opportunity to do something for the work of God. This applies everywhere in the world. Some might ask now: How can I say something like that? It is quite easy to explain: Jesus Christ has not come back yet because there is still work to do.

He sent Apostles on earth and commissioned them with a task. Once this work is accomplished He will come back! And as long as Jesus does not come back it means that there is still work to be done. The fact that the Apostles are still active on earth is the sign that it is still possible to do this kind of work and to proclaim the gospel. It is still possible—and it is the will of God—for people to become children of God. As long as Apostles are active on earth, this





is possible. And because Apostles are active here in your country I think—and I believe—that this can still be done also here.

Now let's see how Paul managed to do his work. First, he did not stop talking about the Lord Jesus and professing his faith. God wants us to do the same. Let us profess our faith. I am not talking about going to the beach to tell others about your faith. Nobody would listen to you; they would laugh at you. But in our day-to-day dealings with people we can talk about our faith as something completely natural. For example: "You know, I think that God helped me. Remember the problems I had last week. I went to church and in the divine service God gave me strength and comforted me." Nobody will laugh at you when they notice that you were sad last week and are much more cheerful now. Why? Because we went to church. We can also talk about our experiences of faith in a natural way. That is a seed we sow, you know.

*Let us prove that  
with God nothing  
is impossible.*

Let us do as Paul did. For him it was completely natural to speak about his faith, his experiences, and how the Lord helped him.

Paul did something else. God performed unusual miracles through Paul (Acts 19: 11). People said, "He does incredible things. He must be a man of God." I know that none of us—and this applies to me too—has the power to heal. But that is not the kind of miracle that God expects us to perform. The miracles we can do are those things that people think cannot possibly be done. These include such extraordinary things like being peaceful and confident even when we have to weather storms in our lives, being thankful and faithful to God even when everything goes wrong in our lives. That is something that people cannot understand. And they say, "He has reason to be sad and discouraged, and yet he is peaceful and confident." For many people this is a miracle. All faithful children of God can perform such miracles.

It is a miracle when people who are very different are one in faith and in love. When people look at our congregations they sometimes wonder, “All these people are so different. There are rich and poor members, very educated and less educated members, and yet they are one. How do they manage that?” Especially in our days that is a miracle, something people do not understand. It is beyond them how we manage that. So in a sense we can perform miracles too. For most people it is absolutely extraordinary when we forgive someone who has hurt us. Some might even say, “You are crazy? That’s not possible. A normal person would not do that.” We can answer, “Yes, actually it is impossible, but with my God it has become possible.” Let us prove that with God nothing is impossible. That is exactly what Paul did.

There was something else he did. He was in Ephesus for three years, and while he was there he shared the joys and sorrows of the people. He even cried with them. That is also a wonderful way to profess our faith and the core message of the gospel. In a world that is becoming more and more selfish we are able to share the joys and sorrows of our neighbour. When we see their suffering, let us try to comfort them. Let us help them by bringing them lasting joy and peace.

Paul did that for three years. And it did not go unnoticed by the people: “This man not only preaches a new theory, but he is actually here and shares our sufferings and cries with us.” That is how we can profess our faith, by helping to carry the burdens of those around us, even if they are not New Apostolic. I really think that our world needs such people who are prepared to help bear the suffering of others.



*In a world that is becoming more and more selfish we are able to share the joys and sorrows of our neighbour.*

There was a fourth reason for Paul’s strength. He said himself later on, “I’ve proved to you that I did not do this to protect my own interests. What I did, I did not do for money or glory.” And people must feel that it is the same way with us. They must know that we are not just interested in increasing the membership of our Church or the income of our Church. And that really is not our primary concern. What we want is to share the glory of the Lord with our neighbour; and this is something we do out of love. That is our only motivation.

Some people think: “If I invite many people and they become members in our Church, then my soul will be saved.” Is that the right motivation? I don’t think so, for two reasons. First, these people have the notion that they can earn salvation. But nobody can earn salvation, not even if one hundred people become New Apostolic through us. Secondly, God expects us to love our

neighbour. If my only motivation is my own salvation, then I am misguided because I am acting out of love for my own soul and not out of love for my neighbour. The future bride of Christ is filled with love for God and her neighbour: I love my neighbour; I want him to have what I have; I want him to be as happy and blessed as I am. And I am absolutely convinced that people can feel that. They can feel: “Many people want me to join their church for various reasons, but these people want me to be in their church because they want to share Jesus with me. They want to share their blessings and the glory of God with me; they love me.”

Actually, we are in a very similar situation as Paul was. And the message of the Holy Spirit tonight is: “Don’t be





The Chief Apostle called on District Apostle Rüdiger Krause (Germany) and Apostle Reinaldo Milczuk (Brazil) to assist during the service. Here the Chief Apostle and Apostle Milczuk (left) are in conversation with a sister



Chief Apostle Schneider, Apostle Milczuk, and the District Apostles Krause and Montes de Oca (left to right) say goodbye after the service



discouraged. Believe in the activity of the living Apostles. As long as they are active on earth we can still find souls desiring salvation—in this world and in yonder world.” Let us talk about our faith, about our experiences of faith, and what we experience in the divine services. Let us do miracles, in other words, those things that people think are impossible to do but which we can do. We are joyful even in hardships. We are full of confidence. We are able to forgive. We are able to bring sacrifices even if we have nothing. And we are one despite our differences. With God nothing is impossible. And then we want to share the sorrows and the joys of our neighbour and prove to him that we are not motivated by our own interests, but that we are acting out of love.

## CORE THOUGHTS

Let us profess our faith in word and deed despite the challenges this poses for us. May the awareness of our task and our love for our neighbour be our motivation. Apostle Paul is an example for us.

- Paul would not allow himself to be deterred from professing his faith.
- God performed miracles through Paul.
- Paul shared the joys and sorrows of the people.
- Paul was motivated by love and not by his own interests.



Michael Voigt

# Embracing the grace of God

More than 18,000 members took part in a divine service that Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider celebrated in Zwickau in Germany this past November. The service was broadcast throughout Central Germany, Poland, Belarus, and Slovakia. The Chief Apostle placed two Apostles into retirement and ordained a new Apostle.

The Chief Apostle began his sermon by focusing on the core of the Bible text: “Rest your hope fully upon ... grace,” saying that we should place all our hope and trust consistently upon the grace of God in all circumstances and until the end.

## Setting our hope on grace

The Chief Apostle then went on to explain some of the aspects of grace.

- The grace of knowledge. “Jesus is the Son of God, who has died for us, has resurrected, and has gained the victory over hell and death.” To know this is grace, because this has not been granted to everyone. “We trust in Jesus Christ. He will win. He will gain the victory!”
- The grace of our election. “We are privileged to be children of God. We are being prepared for the coming of the Lord by the Apostles. We fully place our trust in this grace. God will also complete the work He has begun in us!”
- The grace of the forgiveness of sins. Neither good works nor our faithfulness to the Lord can erase our sins. “Because we put our trust fully in the grace of God, we make every effort to attain it. For this reason, let us continue to improve. For this reason, let us forgive.”
- The grace of full redemption. “We hope for eternal glory, for eternal fellowship with God. This will surpass anything we could ever imagine. It is worthwhile to remain faithful.”



## Using our mind

“See to it that your mind does not deter you from following the Lord or from serving Him.” It was with these words that Chief Apostle Schneider interpreted the statement: “Gird up the loins of your mind” from the Bible text. “You need your mind, but see to it that it does not become an obstacle to you.”

“We still live in the time of faith, not of sight,” he explained. “There are certain things that we simply cannot comprehend. We have to believe them. Although reason may call many spiritual things into question, whatever comes from the Spirit must also be grasped with the mind.”

## Processing things correctly

“What does it mean to be sober?” asked the Chief Apostle, in reference to the Bible text. “This means we are to process things correctly and act accordingly.” This includes the knowledge that as long as the earth exists, there will be war, suffering, misfortune, and injustice: “It is not God’s plan to rid the world of these things. He plans to create a completely new world ... Those who follow Christ must also battle and pick up their cross. We take the strength we need for this from the Lord.”

But above all: “Spreading the glad tidings of the gospel and letting our light shine is a concern for each and every Christian. And as children of God we have also been given another message: the Lord is coming soon! Let us be prepared. You have the opportunity to be there too!”

At the end of the service, the Chief Apostle placed the Apostles Gerald Bimberg and Achim Burchard into retirement and went on to ordain District Elder Helge Mutschler as a new Apostle.



The Chief Apostle with the retiring Apostles Bimberg and Burchard, and the new Apostle Mutschler (clockwise)

## CORE THOUGHTS

*1 Peter 1: 13*

**“Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”**

- We trust in the word, love, and victory of Jesus Christ and yearn for His grace.
- Our human reasoning must not get in the way of our following Jesus Christ.
- Let us concentrate on what matters: serving the Lord.

# Seven stumbling blocks and a guiding principle

Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider celebrated a divine service in our Dinwiddie church in Johannesburg (South Africa) on 11 October 2015. Nearly 1,500 members followed the service in Dinwiddie directly, while another 27,000 throughout the District Church of South East Africa were connected by audio-visual transmission.

“This stone is Jesus Christ,” the Chief Apostle said and explained the historical context of the Bible text. “Jesus was sent by His Father in order to save Israel. But they would not accept Him.” – “How could Jesus Christ ever become a stumbling block for us?” the Chief Apostle asked, and launched into an answer. “Let us take a look at a few examples.”

## Stumbling blocks

“The people of Israel were disappointed at first that Jesus did not meet their expectations,” he explained. “He did not free the people from the yoke of the Romans nor did He heal everybody.” It is not any different today, he said. “Sometimes we wish that the Lord would solve all our

problems. But if this help does not materialize and our life situation does not improve, we tend to be disappointed.” “But,” he continued, “His salvation consists of showing us the way to eternal life. We keep on walking.”

Some people were irritated at the time of Jesus because He insisted that He was the only way to salvation (John 14: 6). “Many people today think: God is not that tiny. He has other ideas,” the Chief Apostle said. “They take offence in the words of Jesus. But we Apostles cannot teach something other than Jesus Christ taught us. We need His word, His grace, and Holy Communion.”

“Jesus Christ was very demanding. This was a stumbling block for some,” the Chief Apostle explained, and referred





Top: Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider addresses the new Apostle Siphon Mogane

to the parable of the rich young man. “Under normal circumstances it is not so hard to reconcile our everyday life with our life of faith and our goal.” But sometimes God asks us to choose: “Do you want salvation or is your top priority earthly success?”

“No matter what we do—even if we were the best person on earth—there is nothing we can do that will entitle us to the kingdom of God. It is grace,” the Chief Apostle said and mentioned another stumbling block. “Sometimes we are just a little irritated when we see that someone else gets just as much as we do although he may have done less than we.” But salvation is salvation. When it comes to that there is no such thing as a little bit more or a little bit less.

“Some were irritated because Jesus refused to answer their questions.” Such as the question of His return. “For some the short answer: ‘Only believe, the Lord’s return is imminent,’ is a cause of annoyance. But we believe that Jesus Christ is the truth and we trust Him.”

Sometimes it is more important to proclaim the gospel than it is to help the poor. This is how the Chief Apostle interprets the anointment of Jesus at Bethany (Matthew 26: 6–13). This also applies to the way the Church deals with the offerings: “The first mission of the Church is to make sure that the gospel is taught, and in a second step we take care of our neighbour. For some this is a stumbling block, but ... we believe in the mission of the church.”

Jesus’ family background as the son of a carpenter from Nazareth or Paul’s past as a persecutor of Christians ... For many people it was difficult to recognize the Son of God or His messenger. “Today the Lord has also chosen servants.” These men are not perfect. And some are irritated by this.

“Please accept those whom God has sent—despite our failings and weaknesses.”

### The guiding principle

“Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame,” the Chief Apostle said in conclusion, quoting the Bible text once more. “This is a divine promise and every one of us can experience it.”

## CORE THOUGHTS

*Romans 9: 33*

**“Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offence, and whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”**

Our faith keeps us from stumbling and falling over them. We believe

- in eternal life.
- that Jesus Christ is the only way to God.
- that He does not expect too much of us.
- in His grace.
- in the word and promise of Jesus.
- in the mission He gave His church.
- in the sending of His servants.

# More than just consumers and spectators ...

On Sunday, 22 November 2015, Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider celebrated a divine service in Phnom Penh, Cambodia's national capital, with 500 brothers and sisters. He placed nine Apostles into retirement and ordained five new Apostles in this service. He based his sermon on a passage from Acts.



NAC Canada

“After Jesus had commissioned the first Apostles they went out and preached and baptized. But before long they met with resistance from the religious leaders,” Chief Apostle Schneider summarized the happenings two thousand years ago. But the Apostles were not afraid and did not allow this to shake them. They asked the congregation to help them fulfil their commission.

## Actively involved in the plan of salvation

The Apostles of today also have to deal with difficulties in connection with their commission. The congregations help them in their work. They pray for the Apostles and bear witness of the gospel through word and conduct. With this the Chief Apostle quoted indirectly from the *Catechism of the New Apostolic Church*, where it says in chapter 7.1: “It is also important to distinguish ministry from the call that has gone out to all believers, namely to serve the Lord by following Him ... Just as the Apostles bear witness of the gospel through word and conduct, reborn Christians do

the same in fellowship with them, thereby supporting their great commission.”

“A child of God should not be content with just being a spectator or a consumer in the Church. We have to support the work of the Apostles,” the Chief Apostle said. “Members of the congregation are not customers who come to church when they need something, buy it, and then go home again. We are actively involved in the plan of salvation,” he said.

## The difficult mission of the Apostles

The congregation at the time of the first Christians shared the Apostles' concerns. “They came together, worshipped God, and prayed that the Apostles would be able to fulfil their commission. It was surprising that they did not ask God to help them solve the problem by killing their adversaries or changing the situation.” No, the first Christians prayed that God give the Apostles the strength needed to fulfil their commission.



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# Love instead of hate

“The stranger is your neighbour!” This was one of the core messages from Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider in the past year. This will also continue to occupy us this year—especially in times of terrorism and war, waves of immigration, and xenophobia.

The year 2015 ended as it began: with bloody attacks in Paris. On 7 January Islamic extremists killed 16 people in the offices of a satirical magazine and a supermarket. And eleven months later, on 13 November, terrorists murdered some 130 people at eight different locations in the French capital. New Apostolic Christians worldwide reacted with compassion and pensiveness.

## There is violence everywhere

The Chief Apostle and the District Apostles interceded in prayer on behalf of all the victims and their loved ones, but also encouraged the members of the Church to see the bigger picture. “Things like this occur every week in one or the other place around the world—and they are terrible no matter where they happen,” said Chief Apostle Schneider, referring to attacks in Niger, Mali, Kenya, Afghanistan, and Syria.

What this means for the people on the ground in concrete terms was shown on *nac.today*. For example, more than 4,500 members from the Baringo region in eastern Kenya were on the run from conditions akin to civil war. Divine services had to be cancelled in Niger after several dozen Christian churches went up in flames as a result of violent riots.

## Do not give room to hatred

In addition to comfort, the divine services conducted by the Chief Apostle offered direction for dealing with hostile fellow human beings in the aftermath of the attacks. “Hatred has no place in the house of the Lord,” he said in a divine service in Zwickau (Germany) in November. “I cannot assume that all Christians are bad because a few Christians have done something terrible. By the same token, I cannot hate all Muslims just because a few Muslims have committed terrible things.”

## LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

(LUKE 6: 27-36)

*After Jesus had called His twelve Apostles, He spoke to the people. He explained how they should behave.*

Love your enemies, and be good to everyone who hates you. Bless those who curse you and pray for those who offend you.

If someone slaps you on the cheek then offer him the other cheek as well.

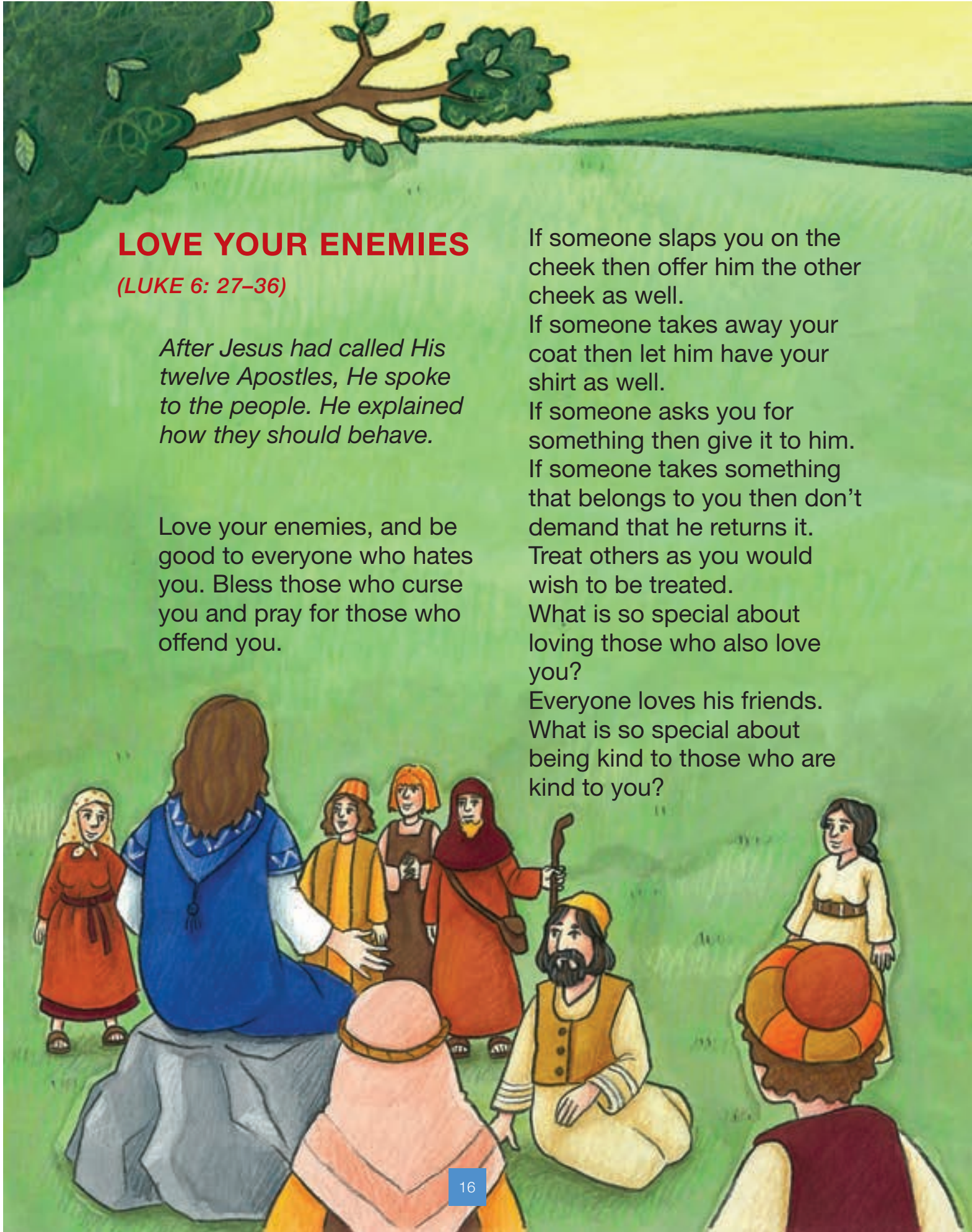
If someone takes away your coat then let him have your shirt as well.

If someone asks you for something then give it to him. If someone takes something that belongs to you then don't demand that he returns it. Treat others as you would wish to be treated.

What is so special about loving those who also love you?

Everyone loves his friends.

What is so special about being kind to those who are kind to you?





Everyone behaves like that. What is so special about giving something to people if you can expect to receive something in return? Everyone does that. Love your enemies and be good to them. Give to those who will not give you anything in return.

God will then reward you. You will be children of the Most High. God is good even to those who are unthankful and cruel. Have pity on others just as God, your Father, has pity on you.

The **commandment to love our enemies** is part of a longer sermon that Jesus preached to many people. In Luke's gospel we can read about a sermon He held on a level place. It is therefore often called the Sermon on the Plain. It is similar to the Sermon on the Mount recorded in Matthew. Both begin with beatitudes, continue with the commandment to love our enemies, and conclude with a warning to act upon that which has been spoken.





This past September, the *Catechism of the New Apostolic Church in Questions and Answers* was published. *community* presents excerpts of some of the 750 questions and answers. In this issue we will look at the sacraments and life after death.

#### **What are sacraments?**

Sacraments are fundamental acts of God's grace. In these holy acts—which are performed by human beings upon human beings—God grants the recipient salvation.

#### **What is the purpose of the sacraments?**

The sacraments allow human beings to attain salvation: through them, human beings are adopted into the fellowship of life with God and preserved in it.

Receiving the three sacraments of Holy Baptism with water, Holy Sealing, and Holy Communion gives a human being the opportunity to be united with the Lord at the return of Christ.

#### **What occurs in Holy Baptism with water?**

Through Holy Baptism with water a fundamental change in the relationship between a human being and God comes into being. Through the washing away of original sin, the baptized is led out of his original state of remoteness from God and enters the proximity of God. He becomes a Christian.

Through his faith and profession of Christ, the baptized now belongs to the church of Christ.

#### **What did Jesus say to His disciples concerning baptism?**

After His resurrection, Jesus gave His Apostles the Great Commission: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28: 19). Baptism is thus one of the tasks of the Apostles. When the New Testament speaks of “baptism”, it is often referring to a two-part baptism, namely with water and with the Holy Spirit (Acts 8: 14 et seq.). Holy Baptism with water and the baptism of the Spirit are thus closely linked.

#### **Who can receive Holy Baptism with water?**

All human beings can receive Holy Baptism with water. The prerequisite is that they believe in Jesus Christ and His gospel.

#### **Why can children be baptized?**

The statement of Jesus: “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God” (Mark 10: 14) indicates that the blessings of God should also be made accessible to children. This includes the sacraments.

The New Testament attests that entire households were baptized together: “And immediately he and all his family were baptized” (Acts 16: 33; cf. also 16: 15). Households and families include children. From this the Christian tradition of baptizing children has developed.

Moreover, when children are baptized, those entitled to raise them profess belief in Jesus Christ on their behalf and take responsibility for the religious education of their children in the sense of the gospel.

#### **Are baptisms performed in other Christian denominations valid?**

Yes, the dispensation of Holy Baptism with water is possible and effective in all parts of the one church of Christ. Baptism with water is the first step on the way to perfect redemption. Wherever believers are baptized with water and in the name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the baptism is valid. Baptism with water has been entrusted to the church as a whole. The reason for this lies in God’s universal will to save.

#### **From what does the term “Lord’s Supper” derive?**

The term “supper” refers to the circumstances in which Jesus Christ instituted this sacrament: on the evening before His crucifixion He celebrated the Passover meal with His Apostles.

#### **What happens when the wafers are consecrated?**

The body and blood of Jesus Christ become present in the consecration. Bread and wine are not changed in their substance through the consecration. In other words, the bread and wine are not transformed. Rather, the substance of the body and blood of Jesus is joined to the bread and wine. This event is described as “consubstantiation”.

In Holy Communion, bread and wine are not mere images or symbols for the body and blood of Jesus. Rather, the body and blood of Jesus Christ are truly present after the consecration.

#### **Is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ present in Holy Communion?**

Yes, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is present in Holy Communion. This sacrifice is not repeated, however, as it has been brought “once for all” (Hebrews 10: 10, 14).

#### **What are the effects of Holy Communion?**

Holy Communion establishes intimate fellowship with Jesus Christ. It imparts the nature and strength of the Son of God. Partaking of Holy Communion also serves to promote the unity of the believers with one another, because they develop together into the nature of Jesus Christ. Thus Holy Communion is an important means of preparation for the return of Christ.

#### **What is Holy Sealing?**

Holy Sealing is the sacrament whereby the believer receives the gift of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and prayer of an Apostle. The believer thereby becomes a child of God with the calling to become a firstling.

#### **How is the sacrament of Holy Sealing dispensed?**

The sacrament of Holy Sealing is dispensed by Apostles when they impart the gift of the Holy Spirit in the name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit to a baptized person. In so doing they lay their hands on the forehead of the baptized believer and pray.

#### **What are the effects of Holy Sealing?**

In Holy Sealing, the believer is enduringly filled with the Holy Spirit. God thereby allows him to share in His being. God thus grants him His strength, His life, and His love for mankind: “The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us” (Romans 5: 5).

The sealed believer is now the property of God. God’s Spirit has taken up His enduring dwelling place within him (cf. Romans 8: 9).

The human being is now a child of God. He has been called to be a firstling; the rebirth thus has a present effect in childhood in God and a future effect in the calling to become a firstling.

As a child of God, the believer is now an heir of God and a joint heir with Christ. The Spirit of adoption, which is active within the human being as a result of Holy Sealing, now confidently addresses God as “Abba, Father”.

If the sealed believer gives the Holy Spirit room to unfold, divine virtues will come into being. These are described figuratively as “fruit of the Spirit” (Galatians 5: 22).

# | Life after death

## Is there a life after death?

Yes. Man is both a physical being and a spiritual being. He is an entity consisting of body, soul, and spirit. The human body is mortal and is thus transitory. It is taken from the earth and will return to the earth (cf. Genesis 3: 19). Soul and spirit, by contrast, live on after physical death, and are thus immortal. The personhood of a human being—that is, his essence, that which comprises him, and that which he has experienced, felt, believed, and thought—thus continues to exist after physical death.

*“For God created man to be immortal, and made him to be an image of his own eternity” (Wisdom of Solomon 2: 23).*

## What is death?

There is a distinction between the physical death and the spiritual death of a human being. Physical death signifies

the end of life on earth. When it occurs, soul and spirit leave the body. Spiritual death is the separation of a human being from God. It is the consequence of sin. When the Bible speaks of the “second death” (Revelation 20: 6; 21: 8), this refers to the separation from God that takes effect after the Last Judgement.

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6: 23).*

## Who has power over death?

The triune God is Lord over life and death. Through His resurrection, Jesus Christ has conquered death. Thereby He has given mankind access to eternal life: “... our Saviour Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (2 Timothy 1: 10).



Frank Schuldt

### What is the significance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation for the resurrection of the dead. Since He has resurrected, the dead will also resurrect, “some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt” (Daniel 12: 2).

*“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (1 Corinthians 15: 51–52).*

### Are there any references to life after death in Holy Scripture?

A life after physical death is already suggested in the Old Testament. In the New Testament it is attested on several occasions. For example, we read as follows in 1 Peter 3: 19–20: “By whom [the Holy Spirit] also He [Jesus Christ] went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.”

### Where do human beings find themselves after physical death?

The souls and spirits of human beings who have died enter the realm of the dead. We also describe this as “the beyond”.

### Is there a reincarnation of the dead?

No. Any notion of repeated lives on earth (reincarnation), whether as a human being, animal, or plant, contradicts the statements of the Bible and thus the content of the gospel: “... it is appointed for men to die once” (Hebrews 9: 27).

*The term “reincarnation” refers to different conceptions—none of which are consistent with Christian doctrine—of repeated human existence on earth in various forms.*

### Can we connect with the departed?

By remembering the departed and praying for them, we have a connection with them. Attempting to contact the departed through necromancy or channelling is forbidden by God and is thus a sin: “There shall not be found among you anyone ... who [is] a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord” (Deuteronomy 18: 10–12).

### What is the condition of the souls in the beyond?

The condition of the souls in the beyond is an expression of their proximity to, or remoteness from, God. A person’s soul has not undergone any change as a result of physical death. A person is not only defined by belief or unbelief, reconciliation or irreconcilability, love or hatred on this earth, but also in the beyond. This condition is also addressed in the parable of Jesus of the rich man and poor Lazarus (Luke 16: 19–31), when He speaks of a place of security and a place of torment. The departed can become aware of their condition. Those who suffer torment can hope for help.

### Can the condition of the souls in the beyond be changed?

Yes. Since the sacrifice of Christ, it has been possible to change the condition of the souls in the beyond for the better. After His death, Jesus Christ went into the realm of the dead and preached there. The preaching of the gospel implies an opportunity to change for those who accept it in faith. Therefore a human being can also attain salvation after physical death.

### How is it possible for souls in the beyond to change?

Souls in the beyond who have never heard of the gospel, never had their sins forgiven, and never received any of the sacraments find themselves in a condition of remoteness from God. This condition can only be overcome through belief in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice and by receiving the sacraments.

### Can we help the departed attain salvation?

Yes, we can intercede in prayer for unredeemed souls and ask the Lord to help them. Likewise, we can pray that these souls come to believe in Jesus Christ and that they are open and prepared to accept the salvation God wishes to grant them.

Since both the living and the dead in Christ comprise a single fellowship, they will work both here and in the beyond in the mind of Christ, in other words, they will intercede in prayer for the unredeemed.

Redemption itself can only occur through Jesus Christ, however.

# “The ministry is so great and its bearer so small”

The gap between expectations and reality, between the ministry and its bearer ... This field of tension made for some moving moments in a divine service for ministers in Europe last September: the Chief Apostle apologized.



Oliver Rütten

The minister as a servant of God and a servant of the congregation ... That was the topic of the divine service that took place on 27 September 2015 in Düsseldorf in Germany. All active and retired ministers in Europe were connected by video transmission. Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider asked the congregation to show more humility. One particularly important aspect he made clear right at the beginning of his sermon.

## Scale and holiness of the task

“We believe that the Lord Jesus gave the Apostles a particularly holy and great task: we have to proclaim the gospel, offer salvation, and prepare the bride of the Lord,” the Chief

Apostle said. “The more we Apostles occupy ourselves with this, the holier this task becomes for us and the more we realize: this is something we will never manage.”

“First of all, this applies to me in my ministry as Chief Apostle. We are not able to cope with the holiness and scale of such a task,” he made clear. “We will not be able to manage because the Chief Apostle and the Apostles are still imperfect human beings.”

## Disappointments and injuries

“Sometimes difficulties arise, and sometimes the brothers and sisters are a little bit disappointed because the Apostle

ministry is so great and its bearer so small. Sometimes the one or other is even hurt because the Apostles are not as holy as their ministry,” the Chief Apostle continued.

“I would like to apologize on behalf of all Apostles and ask you to please forgive us. Forgive us if we have hurt you, if we have disappointed you. We promise we will make every effort in executing our Apostle ministry even better.”

### “Don’t cut yourselves off from Jesus Christ”

It was not the first time that the Chief Apostle clearly addressed the fallibility of the Apostles. “Sometimes you have to suffer because of our imperfections,” he told the ministers in Indonesia on 27 June 2015. “No Apostle is perfect, no Chief Apostle is perfect—and you forgive us. We are doing our best to improve. We are so thankful that you accept us despite our weaknesses.”

And the Chief Apostle went even further during a divine service in Saarbrücken in Germany on 5 July 2015. “We call all those who have left the Lord for whatever reason: you are more than welcome to come back,” Chief Apostle Schneider said during the celebration of Holy Communion for the departed. “Please accept our apologies if we, if the congregation, or the Church has done something wrong. Please come back, don’t cut yourselves off from Jesus Christ because of our imperfections.”

### In line with his predecessors

Such confessions are not a spur-of-the-moment idea, but belong to the core commission of the ministry for the Chief Apostle. “The Apostle ministry is the ministry of reconciliation. This is what it says in Scripture,” he explained in an interview in October 2014. And what is most important, he continued, is that we admit our own faults. “We really mean that. It is not only a statement in the Catechism, but it is our deep inner wish to do justice to the will of God.”

With this stance, Chief Apostle Schneider is fully in line with his predecessors. “I extend a hand in reconciliation, also on behalf of the Church,” Chief Apostle Wilhelm Leber had said at the European Youth Day in the year 2009, addressing the Apostolische Gemeinschaft (Apostolic Community). “Mistakes were also made from our side, the side of the New Apostolic Church.”

### Learning from mistakes

And Chief Apostle Richard Fehr wrote in an article in the German edition of the *Our Family* in 1996: “Whenever people work together mistakes will be made. It was not always possible to prevent mistakes being made in our Church in the past, and this cannot be ruled out now nor in the future. Important is,” he continued, “that we realize that we are all still imperfect and that we learn from our mistakes.”



Left: Also in Düsseldorf were the retired Chief Apostle Wilhelm Leber (right) and District Apostle Armin Studer (left)

## | The New Apostolic Church in Zambia



Chisanga Mission Health Centre - Officially opened on December 17, 2015 by her honour Mrs Inonge Mutukwa Wina, Mp, Republican Vice President of Zambia

More than 1,100,000 people belong to the New Apostolic Church in Zambia. The Church that has existed for over 88 years is one of the oldest in the country. From its humble beginnings in 1928, the New Apostolic Church has now grown to 7,300 congregations spread throughout Zambia. It was introduced to this country by Evangelist George Henwood Mkandawire who was travelling from Cape Town, South Africa, enroute to Nyasaland, now Malawi his home country.

Henwood as he popularly became known, made a stopover in Livingstone, a town in southern Zambia named after a British missionary – Dr. David Livingstone. While in Livingstone, Henwood in the company of a New Apostolic Church friend only known as McPherson professed the

New Apostolic doctrine to Jeremiah Njamba, Kamwi Masule and Anderson Katiba who were shoe repairers and handicraft vendors in the shop corridors of present day tourist capital of Zambia.

Brother Njamba and his friends willingly accepted the word as preached to them by Henwood and his companion and they invited them (Henwood and McPherson) to Njamba's house in Malota Township where they even spent a night. Njamba and his friends became the first converts of the New Apostolic Church in Zambia, then Northern Rhodesia. Evangelist Henwood then postponed his journey to Nyasaland (Malawi) and became a resident of Livingstone while his friend McPherson returned to Cape Town. Henwood continued testifying about the doctrine of the



New Apostolic Church to many people of Livingstone. The first divine service and other gatherings were held in the house of Brother Jeremiah Njamba in Malota Township in Livingstone.

God blessed the labours of Henwood such that within a short time, the congregation grew up to 32 members who became deeply rooted in the Apostle's doctrine. The New Apostolic Church in Livingstone began to grow such that in 1929 it was registered by the Northern Rhodesian Government. The first sealing service was held on 21 September 1932; during that service 244 souls were sealed by Apostle Schlaphoff from Cape Town. In a short time, the New Apostolic Church began to spread to other countries in Central Africa.

For administrative purposes, the Church, at the highest level is divided into districts known as District Apostle Areas (DAAs). Zambia lies in DAA 28 along with Malawi and Zimbabwe and the District Church headquarters is in its capital city, Lusaka. DAA 28 is headed by District Apostle Charles Sakavumbi Ndandula, who was ordained District Apostle on March 13, 2005 by Chief Apostle Richard Fehr in Lusaka, taking over from District Apostle Duncan Burton Mfunne whose time to retire had come.

District Apostle Area 28 (Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe)– DAA 28 - is further divided into 25 Apostle Areas, 19 of

which are in Zambia. As of 31st December 2015, the total membership of DAA 28 stood at 1, 435, 933 that of Zambia was 1,181,523 with 7,424 congregations while Malawi's was 242,059 with 2,056 congregations and Zimbabwe's was about 12,351 members with 122 congregations.

District Apostle Area 28 has a total of 35,213 ministers. In Zambia the New Apostolic Church has 19 Apostles and 10 Bishops. In Malawi there are 5 Apostles and 4 Bishops while Zimbabwe has 1 Apostle and 1 Bishop.

While the New Apostolic Church focuses on spiritual matters in most of its operations, charity work is also an important component in the Church. In 2002, the Church established the Henwood Foundation (named after George Henwood Mkandawire, the pioneer of the Church in Zambia), as a humanitarian wing of the New Apostolic Church Zambia incorporating Malawi and Zimbabwe. The Henwood Foundation is registered under the Societies Act Chapter 119 of the laws of the Republic of Zambia.

The Foundation's activities are anchored on humanitarian support and promotion of programmes aiming at improving the livelihood of the less privileged and vulnerable people in the communities. Henwood Foundation serves New Apostolic Church members and non-members in the communities where the church operates without any form of segregation or preference.



1. District Apostle Charles Ndandula unveils the new name for Henwood Foundation (NACRO) on December 19, 2015 at Lima Garden Lusaka.



2. District Apostle Charles Ndandula with her honor the Vice President Mrs Inonge Wina MP, during the official opening of Chisanga Mission Health Centre.

Arising from this reflection, the Church opened Graceland Mission in Mkushi, Zambia as a Centre of Excellence focusing on three areas; namely evangelizing, community service and sustenance of the church through commercial ventures as part of implementing the District Apostle Area 28 Strategic Plan. Already, the New Apostolic Church has commissioned Graceland Chisanga Mission Health Centre which was officially opened on 17th December, 2015 by Her Honour Mrs. Inonge Mutukwa Wina, MP; Vice President of the Republic of Zambia to serve communities based north of Mkushi district

Last year (2015) the Henwood Foundation changed its name to New Apostolic Church Relief Organisation (NACRO). The name Henwood Foundation was rightly thought out in honor of the pioneer of our faith in Zambia and Malawi, the late Apostle George Henwood Mkandawire. However, it needed to be explained to other people for them to associate it with The New Apostolic Church. It was therefore necessary to change the name of this organisation so as to directly link works of Henwood Foundation to the New Apostolic Church while also associating the Church with community work.

The New Apostolic Church in Zambia hosted the festive Pentecost Divine Service by Chief Apostle Jean - Luc Schneider, the World leader and president of the New Apostolic Church, on 24th May, 2015. The Pentecost Divine Service is an annual high point event in the New Apostolic Church Calendar. Pentecost is designated as the birthday of the Church of Christ and commemorated as the day when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the believers.

This was the first time Zambia was hosting such an important and historic event where all (19) New Apostolic Church District Apostles, District Apostle Helpers (9) and all (256) active Apostles working in Africa are in attendance.

This special and very important event in the New Apostolic Church was transmitted live to the whole world from Lusaka, Zambia. Over 71,000 souls gathered in the National Heroes Stadium in Lusaka, Zambia, an occasion that may not be repeated in the life time of many.

THE New Apostolic Church is an International Christian

Church. The foundation of its teachings is the Holy Scripture. It developed from the Catholic Apostolic Church in 1863 and is led by the Apostles.

The Church recognizes the three (3) Sacraments: Holy Baptism, Holy Sealing and Holy Communion. Baptism with water is the first and fundamental act of the Triune God's grace upon a human being who believes in Jesus Christ. Through the act of Holy Sealing, the baptized believer is filled with the Holy Spirit. This occurs through prayer and laying-on of hands of an Apostle. The body and blood of Jesus Christ are imparted in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

The return of Jesus Christ to take home His bride is a central component of New Apostolic Church doctrine. Other significant elements are missionary work and love for one's fellow human being.

The New Apostolic Church emphasizes the personal accountability of its members for their actions. The individual is responsible to God for his/her behavior. The gospel of Christ and the system of values inherent in the Ten Commandments provide clear orientation in this respect.

The New Apostolic Church is politically neutral and independent. It is financed by the voluntary donations of its members.

Over ten million Christians around the world currently profess the New Apostolic faith.

### ***Vision of the New Apostolic Church***

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 Statement of the New Apostolic Church***

Reaching out to all people in order to teach them the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to baptize 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.

# Good Friday with Confirmation – Chelsea



District Apostle Charles Ndandula (left) on the altar with the interpreter during the Good Friday service with confirmation on 25th March, 2016 at Chelsea congregation in Lusaka.

## “The unique and special sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ”

District Apostle Charles Ndandula commemorated Good Friday with brothers and sisters of Chelsea congregation in Lusaka, Zambia. It was also a special day for 300 young people who received their confirmation blessing during the Good Friday service. He was accompanied by Apostle Stanley Munsaka who is area Apostle and other ministers.

During the service, District Apostle Ndandula read from Matthew 27:29 – 29

*“Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. And then they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head and a reed on in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!”*

The Bible reading was taken from Isaiah 53:3 – 12.

In his sermon, District Apostle Ndandula said the unique and special sacrifice of our Lord Jesus brought salvation to mankind.

“Jesus paid it all through His great sacrifice – so it is important to come into the house (temple) of God on a day that Jesus gave His supreme sacrifice”, he said.

In reference to the text, District Apostle Ndandula highlighted the difficult times the Lord Jesus went through, leading to His crucifixion and that as Christians, we should not be ashamed to profess our faith.

“Dear brothers and sisters, our text word for today gives an account of some of the difficult times our Lord went through, leading to His death. He was mocked – we too will be mocked for being followers of Jesus; they put a crown of thorns on His head – but all this did not make our Lord Jesus change His mind in believing in God. Let us also not have fear to do that which is right

before mankind and before God. Let us not be ashamed to pray. We should not be ashamed to profess our faith, let us have the courage to serve our Lord as Jesus did. When we do that, our Lord will exalt us”, the District Apostle said.

He further said that, the greatest exaltation will be for those who will remain faithful to the end.

“And these will meet with the Lord on the day of the first resurrection. They will see Him as He is and will be like Him as recorded in 1 John 3 v 1. Such will thereby have attained victory with Christ”, he said.

On Easter Sunday, District Apostle Ndandula confirmed 142 young people of Chanyanya congregation in Kafue.

Confirmation is that act of blessing in which young New Apostolic Christians take upon themselves the obligations which their parents undertook on their behalf at their baptism and sealing. From then on, these Christians, who have reached the age of spiritual maturity, bear full responsibility before God for everything they do or neglect to do. They commit themselves to the faithful God and publicly confirm to profess the New Apostolic faith.

The confirmation blessing is bestowed upon young people between the age of 14 and 15 who will have completed their two year course of instructions. It is usually administered around the Easter Festive season. To this effect, several confirmation services take place every year on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. This year, Palm Sunday fell on 20th March while Good Friday was on 25th March and Easter Sunday on 27th March.

On Palm Sunday, Apostle Stanley Munsaka of Lusaka Central-Kabwe East Apostle Area confirmed 115 young people drawn from Chikupili, Yongwe and Kapila districts at Lukomba Congregation in Kapila District. On Easter Sunday Apostle Munsaka was in Chibwe congregation where 118 young people from Likumbi, Chang'ondo and Chibwe districts received their confirmation blessing.

Meanwhile, 618 members of Chipata Main congregation witnessed the confirmation of 20 young people on Easter Sunday in a divine service conducted by area Apostle Kububa Soko.

In Kasempa area Apostle Patrick Poho confirmed 54 young people at Kasempa central congregation on Easter Sunday.



1. Apostle Kububa Soko with confirmands at Chipata main congregation on Easter Sunday.
2. Apostle Patrick Poho with confirmands at Kasempa congregation on Easter Sunday.
3. District Apostle Charles Ndandula with confirmands at Chelsea congregation on Good Friday.

# NACRO increases its investment in the Chibombo farm

In line with its strategic plan, the New Apostolic Church (NAC) in Zambia, through its humanitarian wing – New Apostolic Church Relief Organization (NACRO), has continued to implement the humanitarian programmes in the communities the Church operates in.

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On March 15, 2016 NACRO Zambia Patron, Apostle Michael Milupi visited the 19 hectare NACRO Farm in Chibombo to familiarize himself with the activities being implemented there. The Chibombo farm was acquired by the Church to be used as a training center for NACRO farmers in horticulture and small livestock management.

Located in Chisamba District, about 89 kilometers from Zambia's capital city Lusaka, the farm is in addition, earmarked for hosting a tomato processing factory and a training centre for the vulnerable families and former street kids.

The development of the farm is being funded by New Apostolic Church - Zambia and Nak karitativ (NAC International Relief Organisation) who have so far invested over Euros 150,000.00 in the farm. The farm has several sections under which the above mentioned developments are being implemented.



Part of the agriculture activity taking place at the Chibombo Farm.



1. Part of the poultry activity taking place at the Chibombo Farm.
2. NACRO Executive Director Community Evangelist Tebuho Yubai inspecting the field.
3. Part of the tomatoes harvested at the Chibombo Farm.
4. Part of the piggery activity taking place at the Chibombo Farm.

liters tank that has been installed. The second bore hole and tank will be installed soon. There is also a poultry house with a holding capacity of 2,000 broiler chickens that has already been erected and is operational. In addition, a piggery unit with 200 pigs is also operational. Two hectares has been installed with drip irrigation which is operational and another hectare has overhead irrigation which is operational.

The patron expressed happiness with the developments at the Chibombo farm and assured NACRO that the New Apostolic Church will continue supporting the organization in the delivery of social and economic programmes.

Other planned investment areas include a fisheries unit and accommodation for staff. Currently, the whole land is secured with a game wire fence. The farm has a borehole and a 10,000

“This is good. I am happy with what I have seen here. In line with our strategic plan, we remain committed as a church to help in alleviating poverty in the communities where we operate by embarking on social and economic empowerment



programmes such as the ones we are implementing at this farm”, he said.

Apostle Milupi further said the constructing of the tomato paste processing plant, which was at window level at the time of the visit, would contribute to sustainable development to both tomato producers and suppliers.

In 2002, the Church established the Henwood Foundation (named after George Henwood Mkandawire, the pioneer of the Church in Zambia), a humanitarian wing of the New Apostolic Church Zambia incorporating Malawi and Zimbabwe. The Henwood Foundation is registered under the Societies Act Chapter 119 of the laws of the Republic of Zambia.

The Foundation’s activities are anchored on humanitarian support and promotion of programmes aiming at improving the livelihood of the less privileged and vulnerable people in the communities.

However, last year (2015) the Henwood Foundation changed its name to New Apostolic Church Relief Organization (NACRO). The name Henwood Foundation was rightly thought out in honor of the pioneer of our church in Zambia and Malawi. However, it needed to be explained to other people for them to associate it with The New Apostolic Church. It was therefore necessary to re-look at the name of this Organization.

While the New Apostolic Church focuses on spiritual matters in most of its operations, charity work is also an important

component that the Church accomplishes through the New Apostolic Church Relief Organization or NACRO in short - the humanitarian arm of the New Apostolic Church operating in Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe. It must be noted that NACRO is the successor to Henwood Foundation which was established in honour of the pioneer of the New Apostolic Church in Zambia and Malawi, the late Apostle George Henwood Mkandawire.

The change in the name was necessitated by the need to directly link works of Henwood Foundation to the New Apostolic Church while associating the Church with community work. NACRO serves New Apostolic Church members and non-members in the communities where the church operates without any form of segregation or preference.

Meanwhile, about 1200 families in Senanga – Shan’gombo Apostle area were assisted with drought resistant farming inputs that included Cassava stalks, Sorghum and Millet seeds worth K140,000.

The help was part of the humanitarian aid from the District Apostle Ndandula’s Office under the social response programme.

In the 2014 – 2015 farming season, some parts of Zambia did not receive sufficient rainfall resulting in poor harvest of maize - the staple food. This prompted area Apostle for Senanga – Shan’gombo, Apostle Ignatius Luneta to write to District Apostle Ndandula’s Office for help.

In his response, District Apostle Ndandula’s office made a provision of K140,000 for the purchase and delivery of drought resistant farming inputs for 2015 – 2016 farming season, in order to help affected families in the area. Priority was given to vulnerable groups such as female headed households and the aged.

Agriculture experts from the District Agriculture Coordinator’s office in Senanga were on hand to provide the recipients technical information on how to grow the crops NACRO had provided.



## Coming up

3 Apr.	2016	Buenos Aires (Argentina)
4 Apr.	2016	Bahía Blanca (Argentina)
6 Apr.	2016	Pucallpa (Peru)
10 Apr.	2106	Bogotá (Colombia)
29 Apr.	2016	Pointe-Noire (DR Congo)
30 Apr.	2016	Pointe-Noire (DR Congo)
5 May	2016	Lörrach (Germany)
8 May	2016	Stockholm (Sweden)
15 May	2016	Frankfurt (Germany)
22 May	2016	Tama-Tokyo (Japan)
29 May	2016	Daejeon (South Korea)
12 June 2016		Metz-Grigy (France)
19 June 2016		Hannover (Germany)
25 June 2016		Bălți (Moldova)
26 June 2016		Chişinău (Moldova)



## Coming up

Sat 2 Apr. 2016	Mongu Central, Mongu
Sun 3 Apr. 2016	Kashembe, Mongu
Sun 10 Apr. 2016	Lusaka Central, Lusaka
Sat 16 Apr. 2016	Chavuma
Sun 17 Apr. 2016	Zambezi Central, Zambezi
Mon 18 Apr. 2016	Zambezi - Meeting
Wed 20 Apr. 2016	Kabompo Sec Sch
Sat 30 Apr. 2016	Mansa - Meeting
Sun 01 May 2016	Mansa Central
Thur 05 May 2016	Salima, Malawi
Sun 08 May 2016	Mtakataka, Malawi
Sat 14 May 2016	Blantyre, Malawi - Meeting
Sun 05 May 2016	Blantyre, Malawi
Sat 21 May 2016	Dundumwenze
Sun 22 May 2016	Nyawa
Sat 28 May 2016	Chadiza
Sun 29 May 2016	Chipata
Mon 30 May 2016	Kazembe
Tue 31 May 2016	Nyimba
Sat 04 June 2016	Pemba
Sun 05 June 2016	Treasure, Namwala
Sun 12 June 2016	Senanga
Sat 18 June 2016	Chililabombwe
Sun 19 June 2016	Chavuma, Kalulushi
Sat 25 June 2016	Apollo
Sun 26 June 2016	Bonaventure - Lusaka West

