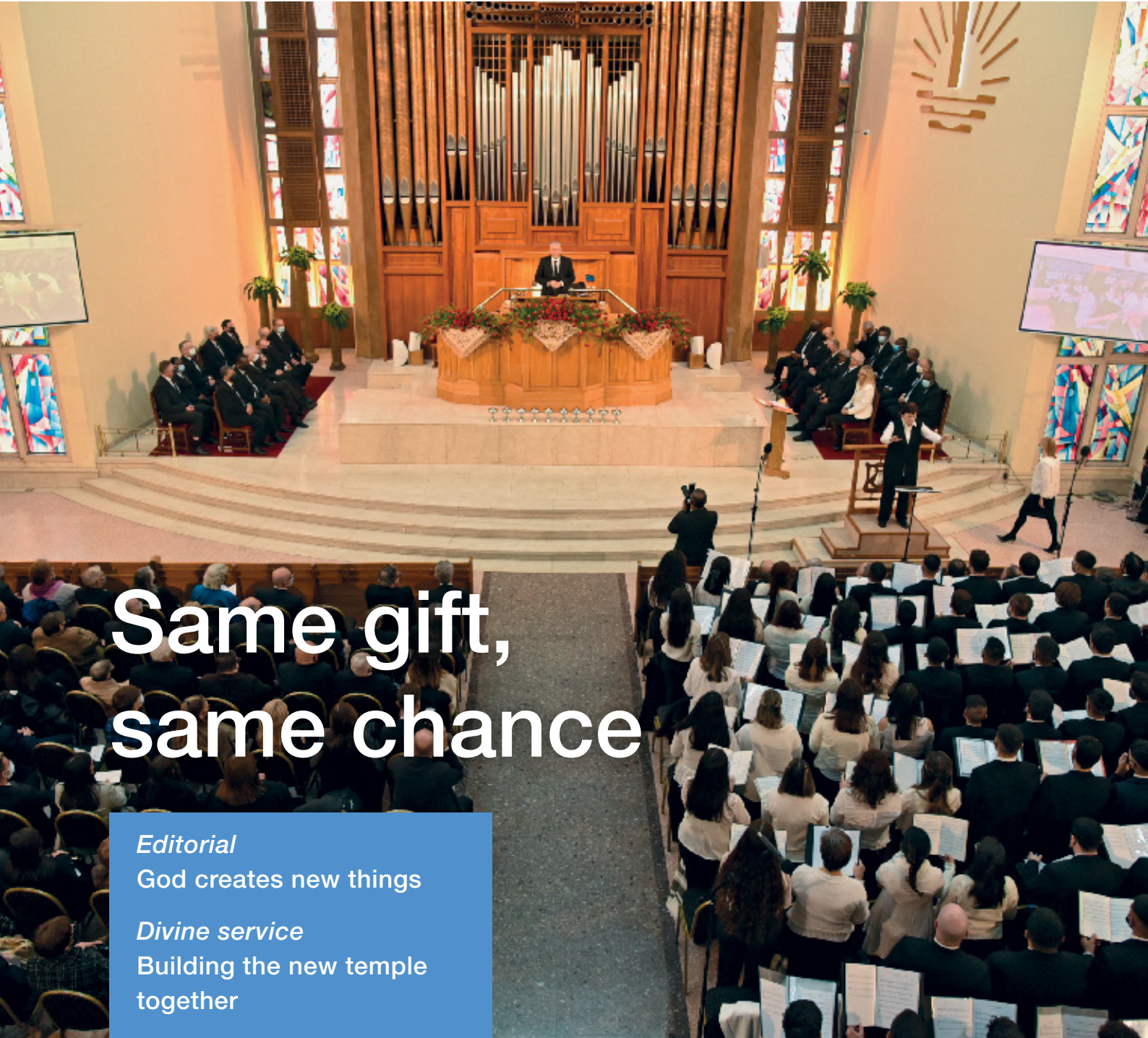


# community

The New Apostolic Church around the world

04/2022/EN



## Same gift, same chance

### *Editorial*

God creates new things

### *Divine service*

Building the new temple  
together

### *Doctrine*

A look at our concept  
of ministry

### *Regional News*

New Apostolic Church  
International





# God creates new things

The Lord creates new things. He also creates new knowledge through the Holy Spirit, and He leads us into the perfect knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Yes, I know that one or the other has trouble with these new insights. For years you believed certain things, it was preached for years, and now everything is different and new.

What is more important now? What you believed, said, preached, or heard for years? Or what comes from the Holy Spirit and brings us closer to Jesus Christ?

Dear brothers and sisters, let us not categorically cling to things only because we heard and believed them for years. The question here is not whether it was right or wrong.

The only question we need to ask ourselves is: does this new thought bring me closer to Jesus Christ? Does it correspond even better to the mind of Jesus Christ?

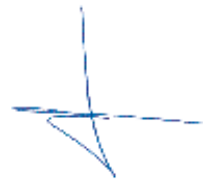
If it brings me closer to the Lord, then I will walk this path and accept this new knowledge. If it does not correspond to the will of God, then I do not want this new thought.



NAC International

However, if this new knowledge comes from the Holy Spirit it will lead me closer to salvation and blessing, and will bring me even closer to the mind of Jesus Christ. Let us accept it. Brother, sister, allow yourself to be guided.

Heartfelt greetings



Jean-Luc Schneider



# Building the new temple together

The Pentecost service took place in our central church in Buenos Aires in Argentina



■ NAC South America

1 Corinthians 3: 16

*“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”*

Dear brothers and sisters, we are really grateful and thank our heavenly Father that He answered our prayers and has made it possible that we can celebrate the feast of Pentecost here in your midst. We have been longing for it, and it is just wonderful to actually be able to experience it now. We are also very grateful that all the District Apostles and District Apostle Helpers could join us here. Their presence means something special for me, and maybe for you too. They represent all the children of God, all the New Apostolic Christians worldwide.

Together they are in charge of the Global Church, and through them we can connect in spirit with all the brothers and sisters worldwide.

When I think about the worldwide people of God, it strikes me how different they can be. What is striking is the huge diversity that exists among the people of God. First, they live in different countries. In some countries there is peace and security, but in a number of countries there is high criminality and war. Some countries are very developed, others are much less developed. Some countries are very wealthy, others are very poor. And this impacts the living conditions of our brothers and sisters, which really are very different.

There is also a huge diversity in our Church. In some countries we have millions of members, while in others there are maybe only a dozen. There are children of God who belong to a huge congregation, and there are others who are alone and isolated. And when you look at their personal situation the diversity becomes even bigger. Some are healthy, others have always been sick. There are poor and rich people. Some live very long, while the lifespan of others is very short. Some have plenty of gifts, skills, and potential; while others have much less. There is a huge diversity.

As human beings we cannot explain this. It is useless to even think about it, because one would not find an answer. All we know is that God wants to eliminate this injustice. He wants to lead all human beings into the new creation, where there is no injustice, where all human beings are free from evil, death, and sickness. That is all we know.

On Pentecost we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit—and that is something great. All children of God who have been reborn out of water and the Spirit have received the same gift: the gift of the Holy Spirit. With it they have received the possibility to be transformed into the image of Christ. They have been given the possibility to enter the kingdom of God as firstlings. And each one who has been reborn out of water and the Spirit has received exactly the same gift of the Holy Spirit. All have exactly the same opportunity, the same chance to enter the kingdom of God as firstlings. The conditions or circumstances one lives in do not matter. Whether one is healthy or not, rich or not, whether one is gifted or not is irrelevant. What does matter is one's willingness to be transformed into the image of Christ. If we are determined to enter the kingdom of God as firstlings, God will provide all we need. Whatever

conditions we may live in, the great comfort of Pentecost is that we have all received the same gift, the same chance. Which congregation you belong to, how old you are, and so on is irrelevant. Let us be determined to enter the kingdom of God and to be transformed into the image of Christ. I tell you, you can do it!

On Pentecost we also celebrate the birthday of the church of Christ. The church of Christ became visible on earth on Pentecost through the assembled believers who were sealed with the Holy Spirit. In our Bible text, Apostle Paul compares the church of Christ with the temple. The church is the temple of the new covenant. Each believer is a stone that has been incorporated into this building by God.

In the Old Testament, the temple was the dwelling place of God on earth. The people of Israel came to the temple to meet God there. They gathered in the temple to encounter God, to praise Him, and to bring their thanks to Him. When they were attacked by their enemies they came together in the temple and pleaded with God for help. They also came to ask God to forgive them. And in order to be forgiven they brought sacrifices. That was the Old Testament.

In the New Testament the church is the temple of God. The church is the assembly of believers who have been baptised and who follow Christ. We come together in the divine service, in the fellowship of the children of God, in order to meet God. And because we know that we meet God in the divine service, we praise His name together and express our gratitude. We do this in our prayers, through music, by bringing our offerings, and by showing kindness to our neighbour. This too is a way to express our gratitude to God: serving one another, being kind to one another. Jesus said: "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me" (Matthew 25: 40). So this is a great way to express our gratitude when we come together in the fellowship of God's children and do something good for one another.

We also gather to ask for God's help. Above all, we ask Him to deliver us from evil. We know that when we come here and ask God for help He will help us! We can come to our heavenly Father and tell Him all our concerns regarding our earthly lives. We trust Him, He is our Father, He knows

*We are called to  
contribute with our gifts  
and strength and make  
sure that the gospel  
can be proclaimed also  
in the future*





what we need—and He will grant us what we need. And when we pray for each other, He will listen to us.

However, our most important prayer surely is: “Deliver us from the evil one. Lead us into Your kingdom, into freedom.” God will answer this prayer. He is already working on delivering us from the evil one.

We also ask God to forgive our sins. When we join in the Lord’s Prayer, we actually confess our sins and pray together that He will forgive our sins: “Forgive my sins, and forgive my brother and my sister their sins.” God also answers this prayer. And what is so nice about it is that we don’t even have to make any sacrifices to obtain forgiveness. We have Jesus Christ, who brought the sacrifice. He brought it once, and that is enough. His sacrifice is eternally valid for all human beings. So when we come together, we don’t have to bring any sacrifices to obtain forgiveness. When we come together we celebrate the sacrifice of Jesus Christ; and we praise and thank the Lord for His sacrifice. This is what we do when we celebrate Holy Communion. We express our gratitude. The sacrifice has been brought by Jesus Christ. It is still valid. It will always be valid.

This is the meaning behind the statement that the church is the temple of the new covenant. We gather to express our gratitude and to praise God, to pray and to ask Him to help us and our neighbour, and to ask Him to forgive our sins. And we celebrate the sacrifice of Jesus Christ when we come together.

*Every believer is a stone that belongs to the temple*

The temple had a further significance in the Old Testament. By building a temple Solomon wanted to send out a message. He wanted to make sure that all the Gentiles could see that the Almighty God lived on earth in the midst of His people. The temple was therefore the sign of God’s presence in Israel and thus on earth. The

church of Christ is the temple of the new covenant. The church is therefore also the sign that God is still present on earth and active.

When it says that every believer is a stone belonging to this temple it also signifies that every member of the church is a sign of the presence of God on earth. Or, to be more precise, since it is the church of Jesus Christ, every believer, every Christian, should demonstrate that Jesus Christ is not just a figure in history, but that He is the Living One, that



Holy Communion for the departed was received by the Apostles Gerardo Zanotti and Guillermo Canessa, who were both retired in this divine service

It is nice to hear, “Yes, we are preparing for the return of Christ, we attend the services, we bring our offerings and sacrifices.” However, the question that arises then is always the same: “Have we changed?” Everybody can answer this for themselves. Please, don’t look at your neighbour, look at yourself. I am absolutely honest: I am not happy with my own answer. We have to work on it. There are so many things we should and could change in our thinking, in our way of living. We should trust God a little bit more in certain situations. We could, we should, behave differently towards our neighbour. There is still a lot of work to do.

Let us demonstrate that God is active in His church and in our hearts. Remember, we are determined to be transformed into the image of Christ. God does His part, but we have to do ours.

He is present on earth, and that He is at work. You and I, brothers and sisters, have been called to be a visible sign of the presence and activity of God. We can bear witness that God lives in our hearts. He is not far away in heaven, and we even talk to Him from time to time. He is the Living One and He lives in our hearts! He is always with us.

And because this is the case, because God is with us and lives in our hearts, we want to please God and not human beings. This seems obvious, but it isn’t. When one sees how much energy people put into pleasing others... They do everything just to be like others, to conform to the prevailing opinion, to say exactly what others say just to get a few Likes on social media. They want to be accepted by others. Or, to use the language of the Bible, they want to please human beings. But what about God?

Let us show that God lives in our hearts. If this is the case, it will always be more important for us to please God than to please human beings. We should also demonstrate that God not only lives in our hearts, but that He also works both in the church and in our hearts. This becomes visible through our spiritual development. I know this is nothing new. This has been preached for decades and centuries. But I am wondering, and seriously wondering, how things are in terms of our spiritual development.

Another sign of the presence of God is the unity of God’s people. Jesus Christ prayed for the unity of His people. For Him the unity of the disciples reflected the unity of the Trinity. He wanted His people to be one, as He and His Father are one, and thereby show that the triune God is at work here. The church is the visible sign of the presence of God, which is why we are working on the unity of the people of God. This is one of the greatest signs of God’s presence. Where God is truly present, as the entity of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, there is unity.

We have all been called to contribute to the building of the church, the temple. In a way, we are responsible for the future of this edifice. We are all called to contribute with our gifts and strength and make sure that the gospel can be proclaimed also in the future; that the return of Christ can be announced to the next generations; that the bride of Christ can be prepared in the future; and that the believers can have fellowship with one another and with God in the future. Each baptised person is called to contribute with his or her specific gifts and abilities; we even have different responsibilities. But everyone is needed, and everyone can contribute. Let us serve the Lord together. And let us complement one another with our gifts. This is what is needed until the return of Christ.



Sure, we cannot build this church, this temple, in a human way. If that were the case, everyone would say, “It must be comfortable for me. I want the church to be built in a way that is comfortable for me. I do not want to have to change my opinion. I want to be accepted as I am. I do not want to change my habits.” Imagine a church built this way... It would be a mess. Rather, God says, “You are responsible for building the temple, but according to My plan.” His plan is very precise.

The plan of God is the gospel of Jesus Christ, the doctrine of the Apostles, as written in the Bible. Many people refer to the Bible to reinforce their own opinion. Sometimes I am really astonished that the Bible is used for just about everything. You can always find a word in the Bible that confirms your own opinion. Honestly, if you want to kill somebody, you can find a good reason to do so by reading the Bible. I am exaggerating a little bit, but I think you understand what I mean.

Let us not use the Bible in this manner. Let us rather read it in the light of the Holy Spirit. The apostolate is in charge of interpreting the Bible in the light of the Holy Spirit. And we have all received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Please use this gift, and not your own opinions, when you read and interpret the Bible. When you read the Bible in the light of the Holy Spirit you will be inspired to love God and your neighbour. In this way, reading the Bible becomes very useful because its message is to love God and your neighbour. And remember, it is more important to please God than to please human beings.

Let us contribute to the construction of the temple in this way. Let us put our gifts, our skills, our strength, and our energy together so that the gospel can be proclaimed also in the future, that the return of Christ can be announced, that the bride can be prepared, and the children of God can have fellowship with one another. This temple is not yet finished, of course. It is still under construction. When you look at a building under construction, you can tell that it is unfinished. The visible part of our church, the assembly of the living, is still unfinished, imperfect. Don't get upset about it. This is normal. It is still under construction. It is not the number of imperfections that matter, but how we deal with



The new Apostles Néstor Manzelli, Claudio Videla, and Pablo Basso

them. The church cannot be perfect as long as it is on earth. But with God's help and His guidance through the Holy Spirit we are perfectly capable of dealing with these human imperfections. Again, let us be inspired by the Holy Spirit, for He teaches us how to deal with these imperfections.

On the day of Christ's return, He will take unto Himself that part of the church that is ready for His return. They will not be perfect, but He will make them perfect through His grace and merit. This is the only way we can enter the kingdom of God.

The temple will finally be established in the new creation. Then all people who believed in Jesus Christ and followed Him—all those who were accepted by God—will live in perfect and eternal fellowship with God in the new creation. What grace! We do not need to wait that long. We are waiting for the return of Christ already now. Amen.

*Following the contributions of District Apostle Helper Helge Mutschler and District Apostle John Kriel, the Chief Apostle continued as follows:*

The power of the Holy Spirit does not depend on age. It works in those who are young as well as in those who have become older. This morning we have another opportunity to experience this power of the Holy Spirit.





of forgiving our neighbour. With the power of the Holy Spirit, we can take this step.

Then we experience the power of the Holy Spirit in the celebration of Holy Communion. Through the power and activity of the Holy Spirit, you can receive not only bread and wine, but the body and blood of Jesus Christ. This is only possible because of the activity and power of the Holy Spirit.

By partaking of Holy Communion, by receiving the body and blood of Christ, our fellowship with Jesus Christ is strengthened. Jesus tells us, “Take and eat, this is My body. See, I love you and I died for you. See, I am here. I am with you. See, I want to lead you into My kingdom and want you to be with Me in eternity. Take it, it is Me.” This strengthens the fellowship with Jesus Christ.

When we prepare ourselves for the forgiveness of sins and the celebration of Holy Communion, we pray together: “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” Since this is a communal prayer, we are not only praying for the forgiveness of our own sins, but we are also asking God to forgive the sins of our neighbour. Thereby we commit ourselves to forgive our neighbour. These are two different things. On the one hand, we ask God for forgiveness, and on the other hand, we also want to forgive our neighbour. I know that in some cases it is extremely difficult to forgive someone who has done something really horrible. This makes people anxious and they wonder, “Will God forgive me if I am not able to forgive?”

Chief Apostle Leber often said: “What is important is that you are at least willing to forgive.” Don’t worry if it takes time until you manage to do so. God will see your efforts to forgive your neighbour.

Then, however, comes the other aspect: we pray and ask God to forgive our neighbour. That is something else. Brother and sister, if you are not yet able to forgive your neighbour, at least take the first step and ask God to do so. Give up on the idea that God should punish him, that God should condemn him. That is a first step. Let us pray: “Please God, I cannot forgive, but you can forgive him.” I am convinced that this is a decisive first step in the process

When we receive the body and blood of Jesus, and thereby His divine nature, we also receive the power to overcome. Let us remember to change. Let us take a step forward in our spiritual development. We receive the power to do so in the celebration of Holy Communion. When we celebrate Holy Communion, we are gathered around Christ and this strengthens our fellowship and unity. We may be very different, but we are together in Christ.

## CORE THOUGHTS

The church of Christ is the assembly of believers who have been baptised and who follow Christ. Let us be a visible sign that God is present and working on earth and in our hearts. We are called to contribute to the building of the church. We do this in accordance with God’s plan, in accordance with the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Björn Frenz

# A look at our concept of ministry

“The New Apostolic understanding of the spiritual ministry”: this is the title of a 32-page doctrinal text that the ministers recently received. Here are excerpts of the most important points for all those who are interested.

Ministry and service are part of the life of the church. Without them the church cannot fulfil its mission, namely to bear witness to Christ in a credible manner. “A spiritual ministry constitutes authorisation, blessing, and sanctification issued through ordination for service in the church of Christ. It is exercised in the power of the Holy Spirit” (Catechism of the New Apostolic Church, CNAC 7.1). “In the church of Christ, ministry is to be distinguished from the various duties which serve for the proclamation of the gospel and the benefit of the believers, and which can also be performed without ordination” (CNAC 7.1). So there is no need to be ordained in order to take on a task or function in the congregation or the church. “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” (CNAC 7.1). This universal priesthood of believers is manifested through following Christ in word and deed.

## The two natures

As Christians of all denominations believe and profess, Jesus Christ has two natures, and is thus true man and true God (CNAC 3.4). If Jesus’ person and deed are to constitute the standard for the church and all that is associated with it, then it is only logical that the doctrines of the church and of the sacraments must be closely related to the doctrine of the dual nature of Christ.

Concerning the church, we read: “In its nature, the church of Christ reflects the dual nature of Jesus Christ. His divine nature is concealed or invisible, whereas His human nature is visible or manifest.” This means: “Likewise, the church of Christ has a concealed—or invisible—and a visible—or manifest—side. Like the divine nature of Jesus Christ, the concealed side of the church is ultimately indescribable. Its

presence, however, can be perceived in the salvific effects of the sacraments and in the word of God. ... The revealed side of the church of Christ, like the man Jesus, shares in the general history of mankind. In contrast to Him, however, the human beings at work within the church are subject to sin. Hence the errors, aberrations, and lapses inherent in mankind are also to be found in the church” (CNAC 6.3).

The doctrine of the dual nature of Jesus Christ is also of decisive importance for our understanding of ministry. This will be illustrated on the basis of the definitions regarding ministry and person.

## Ministry and person

In the New Testament, Paul is an outstanding example of the fact that person and ministry—private life and public activity—comprise a single entity. The Apostle can speak about the unity between person and ministry because he is filled with faith in Christ, follows Christ—not least of all in the sense of sharing in the latter’s suffering—and is loyal to the gospel.

The Fifth Article of Faith states that God is the one who designates an individual for a ministry. “Thus the ministry is not a human work, nor is it ultimately that of the congregation. Rather it is God’s gift to His church. The human being, as expressed in the Fifth Article of Faith, bears his ministry on the basis of divine will and not human decision” (CNAC 2.4.5). The yes of the elected individual to his election occurs when the person accepts this divine election and endeavours to live up to its demands with all his being. The good abilities and characteristics that this person possesses are placed into the service of ministerial exercise through the act of ordination. At the same time, it becomes evident that ordination is not associated with the imparting of new talents.

When it speaks of the Apostles as “fellow workers for your joy” (2 Corinthians 1: 24) or as “examples to the church”, section 7.6.3 in the CNAC refers to the ministry’s frame of reference, namely the church. Affinity—in other words, love—for the congregation can only succeed when both the ministry and the person, the exercise of ministry and lifestyle, are consistent, in that both are oriented to Jesus Christ.

## A dissoluble unity

The ministry and the person—like man and God in Jesus Christ, or the visible and invisible church, or the bread and wine with the body and blood of Christ—comprise a single

entity. However, this entity is not perfect, but is rather vulnerable and fragile owing to the sinfulness of the person. Although the ministry is received by the person, and although it is the person who is responsible for its proper exercise, the ministry is nevertheless always oriented to the congregation and has its place there.

The act of ordination is likewise a reference to the doctrine of the dual nature of Christ: the divine nature of the eternal Word entered into a bond with the human nature through His conception by the Holy Spirit. In the ordination, the ministry—which is holy, and is imparted by the power of the Holy Spirit—enters into a bond with a sinful human being.

The ministry is not transferred to the possession of the person, nor does it leave an indelible mark on the person, but is and remains a gift of Christ, which Jesus Christ controls, and which He can grant or deny. The possibility of separating or detaching the ministry from the person is a logical consequence of the non-sacramental understanding of ordination in our Church.

## Aspects of ministry

The ministry is received through ordination—that is, through the imparting of authority, blessing, and sanctification. For the minister, the ministry has its [source in Jesus Christ](#), and is imparted to him through the ordination performed by an Apostle, which is—just to stress once again—not a sacrament. Through the Holy Spirit, the person receives something that is fundamentally external to his own potential and abilities.

Like the church as a whole, the minister is dependent on the presence of the [Holy Spirit](#), and must pray for the activity of the latter in his exercise of ministry. The Holy Spirit not only enables the minister to rise to the demands of his mission, but is also active in his exercise of ministry, no matter whether it relates to the sacraments, preaching, or pastoral care.

The spiritual ministry is, on the one hand, a [service to God](#), and on the other hand, a [service upon human beings](#). In this respect, the exercise of ministry is oriented to the dual commandment of love. Service to God and service to one’s neighbour belong together. Service to God is comprised of bringing praise and glory to God, and of proclaiming God’s great deeds. On the one hand, service to one’s neighbour consists of pastoral care and support for the members of the congregation, but on the other hand, also of the endeavour to show this same care and support to all people.



## Ministry and authority

The Greek word for authority—*exousia*—has various meanings in the New Testament. It denotes the authority with which Jesus teaches, forgives sins, and performs miracles, but also refers to the authority imparted to the disciples to exorcise demons, the authority to impart the gift of the Holy Spirit through laying on of hands, as well as apostolic authority in general.

The authority of the disciples—so the New Testament texts allow us to conclude—is directly dependent on Jesus, just as His authority is directly dependent on the Father. The ministries that Jesus holds—namely Priest, King, and Prophet—are expressions of the authority that has its foundation in God and is brought to expression in the categories of the ministry. Jesus is the emissary who has been equipped by God with the corresponding powers.

The apostolate thus participates in the authority awarded by Jesus Christ. The powers of the other ministries are derived from the authority of the apostolate.

## How the ministries emerged

The starting point of ministry and church were the disciples who followed Jesus wherever He went and who occasionally testified of His sending by God in both word and deed. It was from among these disciples that Jesus chose the twelve Apostles. It was only through the activity of the Holy Spirit starting on Pentecost that they emerged with apostolic power and authority.

The New Testament does not develop any doctrine of ministry. The early Christian congregations did not have any generally binding or structured ministerial order. At first, only the Apostles were active in the congregation of Jerusalem, but soon they began choosing helpers to take care of the poor and see to the diaconal service in the congregation. The Pauline texts provide references to a further development of the ministry. More important and more decisive for the New Testament congregation were the presbyters (Elders) and bishops (Bishops), both of which were designations for congregational leaders.

## The development of the ministerial order over time

A closer look at the development over the last hundred years makes it clear that the Church repeatedly abandoned certain ministries or instituted new ones over time. The essential element of the apostolic movement throughout the ages was the ministry of the Apostle.

Up until the early decades of the twentieth century the notion persisted to some degree even in the New Apostolic Church that a fourfold ministry—consisting of Apostles, prophets, Evangelists, and pastors—was a necessary part of the church. The letter to the Ephesians does not establish any general or ever-valid ministerial order. On the basis of these findings, the doctrine of the fourfold ministry was recognised as untenable.

The ministerial order outlined in the Catechism of the New Apostolic Church (2012) derives from the progressively diminishing ministerial order that began to develop in the time of Chief Apostle Bischoff. Over the course of time, ministries such as Prophet and Community Elder were either discontinued or no longer occupied. This was also the case with the ministry of Sub-deacon.

The ministries of Evangelist, Shepherd, District Evangelist, and District Elder are no longer occupied. Those who have been ordained to these ministries will continue to serve in these ministries and can also be addressed with the corresponding ministerial designation. The District Apostle and Bishop ministries are no longer occupied either. However, the designation of District Apostle continues to be used, namely in reference to an Apostle who has the mandate of leading a Regional Church. The designation Bishop also remains in use, and serves to describe that priestly minister who functions as an assistant to the Apostle.

## Ministerial authority and ministerial mandate

A ministry comprises both ministerial authority and a ministerial mandate. The ministerial authority is of a theological nature, while the ministerial mandate is of a canonical nature.

**Ministerial authority** constitutes the right to act and speak in the name of the triune God, which is founded upon Jesus Christ and issued through the Apostle by way of ordination in the power of the Holy Spirit. Ministerial authority is issued through ordination. It ends when the Apostle accepts the resignation of the minister, the minister is relieved of his ministry, or at the time of the minister's death.

In the **ministerial mandate** the minister is assigned the right and responsibility to fulfil his tasks in the ministerial authority he has received, within a framework that is limited in terms of both duration and location. The ministerial mandate ends when the minister moves outside the area for which his mandate applies, when he retires, after the Apostle accepts his resignation, when the minister is relieved of his ministry, or dies.

## Ordination, appointment, and assignment

In the ministerial order now in effect, the three levels of ministry emerge more clearly than ever before. Spiritual authority, which is part of a ministry, is now more clearly distinguished from the tasks that need to be fulfilled in a church organisation.

**Ordination** is the investiture of a spiritual ministry. It is performed in the name of the triune God by the Apostle through laying on of hands and prayer. In the ordination, the minister receives authority, sanctification, and blessing.

Upon ordination, the **Deacon** receives the authority to properly proclaim the word of God and to dispense the Trinitarian blessing. Above and beyond the powers already received, ordination to the **Priest** ministry confers the authority to proclaim forgiveness of sins, to dispense the sacraments of Holy Baptism with water and Holy Communion, and to perform acts of blessing. Above and beyond the powers already received, ordination to the **Apostle** ministry confers the authority to dispense the sacrament of Holy Sealing and to ordain ministers.

The selection of ministers to be ordained takes into account that the competencies required for the fulfilment of services associated with the respective ministry are already present in them.

The fact that the Chief Apostle is ordained represents a special case, because even the Chief Apostle is a bearer of the Apostle ministry. This is the case because, in his exercise of the office of Peter and the administration of the authority of the keys associated with it, the Chief Apostle takes on the leadership of the church as a whole.

An **appointment** is the allocation of a service associated with a spiritual ministry, which involves a leadership function within the Regional Church, district, or the congregation. In the appointment, the minister receives sanctification and blessing. The appointment is not bound to the duration of one's ministerial activity, but ends along with it.

An **assignment** is the allocation of a spiritual service to ministers or non-ministers. The blessing of God is requested for the fulfilment of these services. Ministers can be assigned in order to support other ministers who exercise a leadership function.



Photo: Marcel Felde

Publisher: Jean-Luc Schneider, Überlandstrasse 243,  
8051 Zürich/Switzerland  
Verlag Friedrich Bischoff GmbH, Frankfurter Str. 233,  
63263 Neu-Isenburg/Germany  
Editor: Simon Heiniger



## JESUS AND THE CHILDREN

ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 18: 1-5

*One day people brought little children to Jesus so He could bless them.*

The disciples tried to keep the children away from Jesus. They thought that He might feel bothered by them. They had no idea how much Jesus loved children.

Jesus saw that the disciples wanted to send the children away. He told them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Then He placed His hands on them and blessed them.

Another time the disciples came to Jesus and wanted to know who the greatest is in the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus called a little child to Him, and placed it among them. He





said, "Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Then Jesus said: "Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me. But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me

to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. My Father in heaven does not want any of these little ones to perish."





After the children's service in Algrange in France in May everyone posed for this picture



NAC France

Children in Barcelona in Spain planted ornamental and edible plants in the church garden in April this year



NAC Barcelona

# Church for and with children

The greatest wealth of a congregation is its children. This is a treasure that should be cherished and fostered—whether in special services for children or singing together or planting a garden. Here are some inspiring ideas to imitate.

A divine service for children and their teachers took place in the district of Algrange in France on 27 May. The topic of the service was “The good Shepherd”, and the officiant based the service on John 10: 14–15: “I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.” It was an interactive service and he developed the focal points together with the children. For example, he asked, how we can follow Jesus. “By speaking with Him and keeping His commandments,” was the answer from the children.

Even in times of virtual divine services, the New Apostolic Church Canada made sure that its Sunday School and Pre-Sunday School children were well taken care of. Before a divine service, they could go to the Church’s website and click through until they found the activity page for that specific service, which they could fill out or colour in during the service. This made it easier for the children to ask their parents, Priests, or Sunday School teachers after the service what they may not have understood and to talk to them about what particularly touched them.

## Music overcomes borders

There were 9,400 kilometres between them, but even so they were very close when they sang together. Two children’s choirs, one from Wiesbaden in Germany and one from Cape Town in South Africa, met on Zoom at the beginning of April. The children talked to each other in a mix of English and German and sang songs together. One child from Germany said, “It was great to be able to sing with children from South Africa.” The South African children not only learned a little bit of German, but also the Cup Song, in which the cup game is used as the song’s percussion. The South Africans in turn taught the German children the traditional Cape Town song, which turned out to be a real earworm. “It was cool to be online in Africa,” one of the German children said at the end of the joint rehearsal.

To finally be able to make music again together following the pandemic, the Committee Pastoral Care for Children of the New Apostolic Church Western Germany developed a plan to promote singing and music-making with children.



NAC Cape Town



Children of the Woodlands congregation in Cape Town launch their planting project “My little garden”

The name of the initiative is “Music with Children. How to go about it after Covid?” Choir directors, as well as anyone who enjoys making music with children, can register on the online training portal of the New Apostolic Church Western Germany. During the training, participants will be made familiar with the teacher’s folder for the German children’s songbook *Stimmt mit ein*, will learn voice training stories, and how to make instruments themselves and then incorporate them. Music is an important aspect of religious education, supports personality development, and promotes fellowship.

### Children bring spring to the church garden

Marigolds, daisies, spices, cherry tomatoes, strawberries, and even a tangerine tree... The church garden of the congregation in Barcelona, Spain, is bright and beautiful. In April, the Sunday School children and their teachers met to spruce up the garden and welcome spring. The children went to work with great excitement and paid attention to their teachers’ instructions. To make sure that the garden will continue to bloom so beautifully for a long time, the children were divided into teams to take turns in caring for and watering the plants.

The children of the Woodlands congregation in Durban, South Africa, have already got an ahead start for this year’s Thanksgiving Day. They thought it would be a good idea to launch their planting project “My little garden” early. On a sunny day in April, the Sunday School teachers set up raised garden beds in front of the church, and the children planted the seeds. After the service, the adults marvelled at the beds of onions, broccoli, cauliflower, and many other vegetables to be. There was not much to see yet, of course, but the children had created little flags and labelled them,

indicating what they could eventually harvest.

### Entering adulthood

Thirty-eight young brothers and sisters took their confirmation vow on 1 May 2022 at Kumasi Central Congregation and received a blessing from Lead Apostle Samuel Oppong-Brenya. The divine service was based on Hebrews 13: 15–16: “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.” The Apostle said that the best sacrifice, one that is pleasing to the Lord, is doing good to our neighbour. “Let your good deeds be evident so that others can see you as their saviour.”



NAC Ghana

The confirmands in Kumasi Central in Ghana



# If you don't look the other way...

...you see so many situations in which people need help. No matter if many or only a few look more closely, the help is gratefully accepted: in Ukraine, in Sierra Leone, and in the Philippines.



NAC Sierra Leone

Apostle Sanpha Sesay confirms that the water in Bumbuna is good

In Sierra Leone, a tropical and humid country, there is also a dry season in winter, in which rains are scarce and in which the country struggles to provide clean and safe water for the people. It is a blessing to have a well that stores water from the rainy season. That is why the people in Bumbuna were so happy when Apostle Sanpha Sesay came for a visit and commissioned a newly constructed well which had been funded by donations. This was reported by the New Apostolic Church Sierra Leone on its website.

## Help for Ukraine

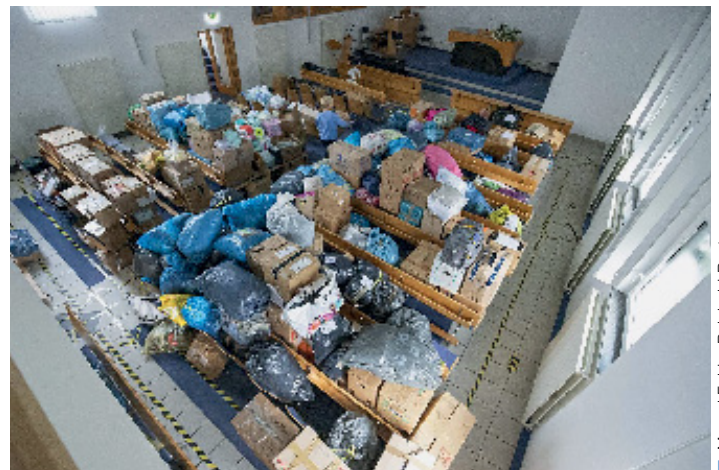
Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine there have been numerous relief efforts. Also the New Apostolic Church is doing its share. At the beginning, for example, many private individuals quickly organised much needed relief supplies and brought them there and brought people back with them to safety. Congregations too were quick to respond.

The Dutch relief organisation of the New Apostolic Church, Stichting Corantijn, reached out too. When an employee

of the Swiss river cruise company Skylla AG approached them to ask whether they could provide toiletries, among other things, for Ukrainian refugees who were being accommodated on board one of its cruise ships docked in Düsseldorf (Germany), the charity did not hesitate. The company made one its ships available on 14 March to house refugees. Up to 100 people can be accommodated on the ship. The company then appealed to private individuals and other companies, including Stichting Corantijn, for hygiene items, toiletries, diapers, and medical supplies.

The New Apostolic Church in Langen in Germany was unrecognisable. For three days, the members from several congregations and a municipal church organisation collected donations in kind for the refugee camps that had sprung up on the Polish-Ukrainian border. They sorted the items, packed them into boxes, labelled them in several languages, and then stored them in the church. Before long, not only the ad-

Our church in the German town of Langen is packed with relief supplies



Marcel Felde, Reinhold Rust



A van full of donations for Ukraine

Helpers in Plauen sort through the donations and repack them



NAC Plauen

joining rooms were full, but also the church hall was overflowing with boxes of donations. In the end, it took several trucks to bring clothing, hygiene products, baby food, other food, children's toys, and much more to the border.

When, after an ecumenical prayer for peace, the leader of a Christian organisation in Plauen (Germany) asked the participants for help and donate to a Christian refugee home in Balti in Moldova—which is situated close to the Ukrainian border—the members of the New Apostolic congregation in the town also started to collect aid. Within a few days they had gathered clothing, toiletries, essentials for babies, toys, and food, put everything in boxes, labelled them, and then brought them to the collection point. So many donations had been received that the vans had to make two trips to Moldova, 1,800 kilometres each. The rector of the New Apostolic Church in Plauen was also on board both times. The relief organisation of the New Apostolic Church of Southern Germany, human aktiv e.V. supported the transport financially. The best thanks for all the efforts was to see

the happy faces of the children, who immediately started playing with the footballs.

### Helping fisherfolk restart

The people affected by natural disasters such as Typhoon Odette in the Philippines must not be forgotten. Last month, the New Apostolic charity NAC SEA Relief stepped up its efforts to help fishing communities that had been left with little to no livelihoods or food sources after Odette had crashed through the islands in December 2021. The help that the survivors usually receive is short-lived: food, water, clothing, and shelter materials, but nothing to rebuild their livelihoods. That is why NAC SEA Relief has donated marine engines and cash assistance to repair fishing boats and help fishermen in rebuilding their lives so they can go back to the only source of income they know: fishing.

Filipino fishermen are all smiles over the new engines for their fishing boats. They can finally start rebuilding their livelihood



NAC SEA Relief



Jessica Krämer



# Walking the path together

It began with positive steps towards one another that developed into a common path forward. Much has happened since the ecumenical work of the New Apostolic Church started 22 years ago. One of the initiators who has done a lot of work in this area has now stepped down.

It was a sunny Thursday afternoon on which the members of the Working Group Contacts with Denominations and Religions (WG CDR) and delegates of the Council of Christian Churches in Germany met to bid the outgoing chairman of the WG CDR a heartfelt farewell. He welcomed the guests with a beaming smile, either with an elbow bump or a heartfelt embrace. Apostle (ret.) Volker Kühnle was in his element.

## Ecumenism is not a magic wand

After a musical introduction by a small string ensemble and a Bible reading by the chairman of the Council of Christian Churches, Dr Verena Hammes, Bishop Peter Johanning greeted the guests. He spoke about the change that is visible everywhere—also in the Churches. Change is not always positive, he said. “Ecumenism is not a magic wand,” Bishop



Verena Hammes, Bishop Peter Johanning, Apostle Volker Kühnle, Pastor Albrecht Haizmann, Pastor Reinhard Hempelmann



Representatives of the Council of Christian Churches in Germany

another. Even the renowned religious scholar, Professor Dr Helmut Obst, a recognised expert of the apostolic scene in Europe, agreed: “The New Apostle Church has become theologically fit for ecumenical circles.”

Apostle (ret.) Volker Kühnle summarised the subsequent developments with the words: “The positive steps towards one another developed into a truly common path forward!” The outgoing chairman ended his talk by expressing his thanks once again.

Johanning admits, “but at least it is an encounter across denominational borders. And we need this connection with one another.” In closing, he said, “If there were a prize for ecumenism within the New Apostolic Church, Volker Kühnle would have won it long ago.”

### Time to say goodbye

This was the title of his presentation. In the programme it was introduced with the following words: “22 years WG CDR in 22 minutes”. Apostle Volker Kühnle began his talk with words of thanks and then tried to summarise his time in the Working Group Contacts with Denominations and Religions in 22 minutes. It all began in the year 1999, also on a Thursday. The project group Ecumenism was founded by then Chief Apostle Richard Fehr. Its mandate was to find out to what extent the essential doctrinal statements of the New Apostolic Church are compatible with those of the ecumenical movement. The challenge was to determine the essential doctrinal statements in the first place, and this at a time when there was irritation within the Church and external prejudice. But he remembered the good things: “We consider it a special gift of God that we encountered critical but predominantly benevolent dialogue partners.”

With the publication of the Catechism in 2012, certain prejudices had become obsolete. In many places in Germany, and also in other parts of the world, Apostle Kühnle’s active work made the membership in the Council of Christian Churches a reality—it was a series of genuine positive steps towards one

### Fellowship instead of separation

Then District Apostle Rüdiger Krause stepped onto the small stage and, after a short speech, handed over the chairmanship of the Working Group Contacts with Denominations and Religions to Bishop Jürgen Kramer.

After the string quartet’s performance of the “Palladio”, two further speeches followed by the pastors Dr Albrecht Haizmann (head of the Baden-Württemberg branch of the Council of Christian Churches in Germany) and Dr Reinhard Hempelman (who chaired the EKD Institute for Research on Religious and Ideological Issues in Berlin for 20 years). Grateful, the latter said: “Bridge-building is usually not a short-term project, but a long-term project. For 22 years you have been building bridges to other Churches.” And Dr Haizmann expressed His gratitude to God and said: “That fellowship was able to develop from what was previously separation and aloofness is absolutely great!” Afterwards, the participants enjoyed this fellowship over some refreshments.



The Working Group Contacts with Denominations and Religions with their new chairman, Bishop Jürgen Kramer (centre)



The District Apostles met in Buenos Aires two years later than planned



NAC South America, Peter Johanning

# What the District Apostles talk about

The last International District Apostle Meeting in Buenos Aires ended two years later than planned. The agenda included a wide variety of topics. Here is an overview.

In fact, the conference had been planned in the Argentinian capital already for Pentecost 2020. However, as we all had to learn, the Covid pandemic made such trips and meetings impossible right into the first half of the following year. The District Apostles could only meet again for the first time in November 2021 in Zurich.

The Church leaders followed up on the subjects that were tabled at that meeting and continued their deliberations on the subject of the ordination of women. They followed the

roadmap outlined by Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider in his annual interview in 2021. What does God say? What does the Bible say? What does our Church say? What is the situation in the individual countries? “As we looked into this subject, we realised just how broad and deep it is. It will not do to give it a simple yes or no,” the Chief Apostle had emphasised before already. “We are giving ourselves time for these consultations and will—as soon as all decisions have been made—publish a paper as was done in 2019 with our revised concept of ministry.”

## One Bible, but many versions

The question of a trusted Bible translation with a more modern vocabulary had been raised in the circle of the English-speaking Regional Churches. The New King James Version (NKJV) is used in English-speaking countries, having replaced the classic King James Version (KJV) in 2001. However, also this revision is characterised by traditional language.

The result of professional analysis of various translations is that there is no one-size-fits-all solution. The NKJV will continue to be the authority for the doctrine and liturgy in the New Apostolic Church. Outside of the official framework, the study and use of other translations is welcomed.

Basically, the same applies for all countries. In addition to the official Bible translation for doctrine and liturgy, comparisons with more modern Bible translations are possible; the District Apostles will make recommendations in this regard.

## Religious Instruction classes

During their meeting, the District Apostles were also informed about the progress being made on the teaching materials for children: now that an extensive range of materials for Sunday School children—including printed materials, a web portal, and apps for mobile devices—is available, a short version is in the pipeline. This is aimed

at countries, especially in Africa, where infrastructure does not allow for the full version to be supplied to every child. In the meantime, work has started on material for Religious Instruction, intended for older children.

The subject of religious instruction in general is a priority for Chief Apostle Schneider. “Instruct the ministers, and establish Sunday School for children in all congregations,” the Chief Apostle had said when issuing this agenda at the meeting of all African Apostles on Pentecost 2015 in Zambia. “I am aware that this is demanding, but I also believe that with God nothing is impossible!”

## Sharing responsibility

And then there was that special historic moment: Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider asked the District Apostles to vote by secret ballot on a Board of Directors. This board will be responsible for advising and assisting the Chief Apostle by mandate in the financial matters of the Global Church. The District Apostles gave their votes to District Apostles Mark Woll (Canada), Michael Ehrich (Southern Germany), Joseph Opemba Ekhuya (East Africa), and Apostle Robert Worship (Southern Africa).

“I am very grateful for this step,” he confessed after the vote. He said that it had been a concern of his for some time to share his leadership of the Church particularly in financial matters, which are linked to his ordination as Chief Apostle, with an elected board of directors.



The District Apostles met in Buenos Aires over Pentecost for their semi-annual conference



# Let this be your dwelling place

After many years of prayers and sacrifices, the Lord blessed the New Apostolic community of Olympus (formerly known as Constantia Park) with a beautiful church building which District Apostle J Kriel dedicated on Sunday, 17 July 2022.

Great joy, excitement and anticipation was in the air as the members waited for the dedication divine service conducted by the District Apostle. He was accompanied by District Apostle Helper M Mkwanzazi and all the Apostles of South Africa, Namibia, and Botswana, which added to the festivities. The members of Olympus and Lyttelton congregations, along with various District Rectors and Rectors of the Gauteng-Limpopo Apostle Area, were also in attendance.

The Bible word for the divine service was taken from Psalm 84:4, "Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; They will still be praising You. Selah." During the divine service, the District Apostle mentioned that the congregation had to

endure many situations that caused the delay of the building of the church, whilst approval was sought from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment. Notwithstanding the various obstacles, the church building was completed in May 2022. The District Apostle encouraged the members to make the Olympus Congregation their dwelling place where they can find joy and peace.

The District Apostle Helper was also called upon to serve along.

Apostles T Nene and J Cronje stood as proxies for the serving of Holy Communion for the departed.

After the divine service, the District Apostle, along with all the Apostles, took time to greet the congregation.



# Sunday School – Winter school

During 27-01 July 2022, the **Kimberley Apostle Area** embarked on a week-long Winter Sunday School project in 5 different congregations.

The programme focused on expanding the knowledge of the children's religious and non-religious activities. Amongst others, firefighters, who exhibited an excellent performance on fire-fighting techniques, also presented. The K-9 dog unit from the South African Police Service also made an appearance, much to the delight of the children. Presentations on child protection, bullying and abuse developed into an interesting interactive session. Role-play, singing, dancing, recorder development, catch-up lessons, and Bible Bingo games were some of the other activities that took place in the various congregations.

The highlight for the Kimberley Central congregation was the visit of Apostle W Von Schaeffer. The children from Greenpoint Congregation also surprised one of their senior members with a visit.

The refreshments that were served were thoroughly enjoyed by all the children, and it created a joyful fellowship.



**Grahamstown congregation's** Sunday School team embarked on an initiative to encourage more Sunday School children to return to church and thereby return to attending in-person Sunday school classes.

The Sunday School team arranged a winter school programme that commenced on 5 July 2022 until 7 July 2022. The children attended with much enthusiasm and excitement.

A few of the activities included a short workout, dancing, baking cupcakes and a quiz session. The Sunday School children were taught about their role as New Apostolic Christians in the church, as well as music development. Awareness was raised on protective behaviour which was presented by a social work student from the Child Welfare Department. The Sunday School team are confident that many children will return and find their joy in attending in-person lessons again.

July was the month for winter school within the **Kuils River District**. The coordinators and members went all out to entertain and feed over 400 children.

The children were entertained with movies, safety talks by the police and various other activities.





# International Coastal clean-up day

On Saturday 17 September 2022, Lentegeur District's Sunday School children participated in a beach clean-up event.

This event formed part of the International Coastal Clean-up Day with a promise to bring cleanliness and purity to nature as a whole.

One of the ministers opened in prayer and off the group went to clean up the beach. The starting point was Mnandi beach, and the team ended at Bluewater Beach. The Rocklands neighbourhood watch formed part of the security team to protect the children from any harm and danger. The children were so excited. There were times when they walked in and out of the ocean. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The event was a huge success.



# Masakhe Foundation training

On Saturday 24 September 2022, the Masakhe Foundation concluded a six-week addiction awareness training programme for volunteers of the Bellville, Delft and Tygerberg districts.

The venue for the training was Erica East Congregation which is situated in the community of Belhar.

The aim of the programme was to equip facilitators on various topics such as

- Understanding the role of the facilitator/support
- Understanding addiction
- The role of the family/friends of the addict
- Assisting the addict
- Healing the family.

Saturday's session concluded with a ceremony where the participants who attended all the sessions received a certificate from District Apostle J Kriel.



# Music



On Saturday 25 June 2022, the music leaders of Apostle Nene's area came together for a workshop at **Buffalo Flats Congregation in East London**. The session was arranged by the Apostle Area music leader, Deacon R Groep.

Apostle Nene opened the workshop with a prayer whereafter he addressed the leaders and encouraged them to remain diligent in their labours of love.

District Evangelist C Miles was also in attendance and also shared a few words of encouragement.

The retired Shepherd H Groep shared some of his experiences of faith and encouraged everyone to persevere in their tasks, while serving the Lord with complete loyalty and commitment.

The workshop continued with discussions regarding the music structures. Responsibilities were highlighted, and choir and orchestra development plans were set out and communicated. Those who attended were inspired to continue their commitment in the Lord's work.



On Sunday 17 July 2022, the **Cape Town Male Choir** held a concert at Lentegeur Congregation. Invited to the musical hour were all the music leaders within the Cape Coastal Apostle area.

This in itself made for a festive atmosphere. The male choir held nothing back as they performed each song with gusto. Sharing the centre stage with the male choir were the children's choirs of the Lentegeur and Westridge districts.

One of the aims of the concert was to revive male choir singing. Currently, there are a few developmental programmes running within the Cape Coastal area. This includes

- the organ development programme;
- conductor training and
- instrument training.

These concerts become platforms for the above-mentioned training and development strategies to be showcased.

This magnificent male and brass performance not only brought the audience much joy but also showed the importance of investing in the children's future.





# New Portuguese Hymnal in Maputo

On Saturday 17 September 2022, District Apostle J Kriel launched our new Portuguese hymnal in Maputo.

The work, which began in 2010, was concluded by the local project team under the leadership of Deacon John Rodrigues.

In addition to Portuguese, which is the main spoken language in Mozambique, 5 local languages, (eMacua, eChua-bo, Chichewa, Changana and Sena) are also included in the hymnal. The hymnal consists of 359 hymns and includes 30 traditional and newly composed hymns.

The District Apostle thanked all who contributed to the final version of the hymnal.

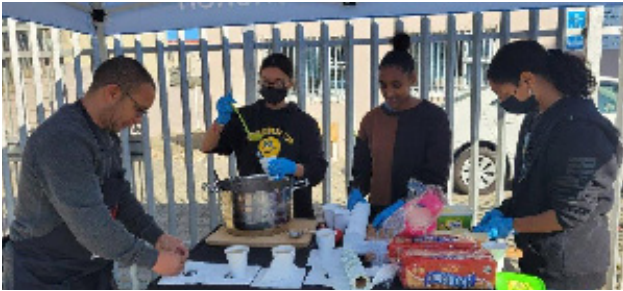


# Young people – Mandela Day

On Saturday 16 July 2022, in honour of Mandela Day, the young people of **Malibu Village** and **Happy Valley congregations** came together to serve their community.

The Rectors, Community Evangelists Frank Geduld (Happy Valley), and Steven Poole (Malibu Village) also joined in the activities.

The young people managed to hand out more than 300 slices of bread, 15 pots of soup, packets of peanut butter, oranges and chips to the community.



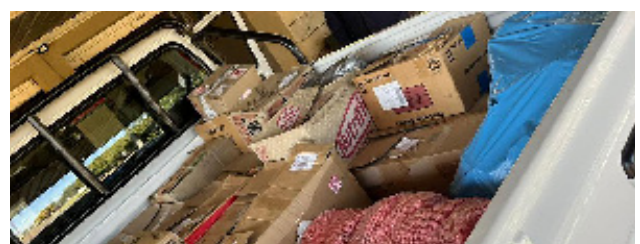
On Saturday 16 July 2022, the young people of **Woodland Congregation** served their community with soup and bread in aid of Nelson Mandela International Day.

Mandela Day is about changing the world no matter how small your action is. The young people did this, and the community was overjoyed and very appreciative.

On 16 July 2022, a group of young people from the **Ekhurhuleni East District** embraced the call of #caring-2gether. They undertook a trip to the Balfour Congregation in their district to perform the task of neatening and painting the building.

The young people were joined by the District Rector, Rector and Deacon of the area to enjoy the fellowship.

During the build-up to the event, the young people also collected clothing and non-perishable food. This was handed to the Rector for distribution to the Masakhe Foundation as part of the Dare2Care initiative of the Young People.





# | One Spirit and Dare2Care

The #Dare2Care weekend culminated on Sunday 14 August 2022 when District Apostle John Kriel conducted an AVT divine service for all young people at Kimberley Central Congregation. The divine service was conducted in English and interpreted into South African Sign Language at the altar by sister Natasha Parkins-Maliko.

The District Apostle was accompanied by Apostles J Joubert and W Von Schaeffer, a music ensemble and the NACTV crew. This divine service was made available on NACTV, Cape Town TV on DSTV channel 263.

The Bible word for the divine service was taken out of 1 Corinthians 12:12-13: “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”



# Indian Oceans

In early August 2022, Apostle R Worship was able to visit the Indian Ocean Islands for the first time in three years. The trip included divine services, meetings, pastoral visits, and administrative duties.

On Sunday 07 August 2022, the Apostle conducted a divine service in Mayotte. During the divine service, one child was baptised and three children received the gift of the Holy Spirit. A meeting for ministers and meetings with the local government departments concluded the visit to the Island in Mayotte.

On Tuesday 09 August 2022, the Apostle and District Evangelist Laurette from Seychelles travelled to Reunion Island. Here they conducted pastoral care visits to Priest J Techer and his wife, and the family of the Rector, Community Evangelist Guy.

During a divine service conducted on Wednesday 08 August 2022 in Reunion Island, two children were baptised, while five souls received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Priest Techer was also placed into retirement. Nine guests at-

tended the divine service which was followed by a hearty French-styled fellowship.

On 11 August 2022, the travels took the Apostle and the District Evangelist to Rodrigues Island which is the most eastern congregation of the District Apostle Area. On the Friday evening, a divine service was held in the church in La Ferme, Rodrigues Island. After the divine service, a meeting for ministers ensued.

The final leg of the journey was to Mauritius. On the Saturday, the Apostle made pastoral visits to Community Evangelists Chretienne and Gounden.

On 14 August 2022, the Sunday morning divine service was conducted in the rented hall used for divine services in Mauritius. The divine services saw the musical contributions by the choir and orchestra, and also a young boy soprano. After the fellowship, a divine service at the home of Priest Dan was conducted. Due to a prolonged period of illness, he was placed into retirement.





# Divine services and meetings in Madagascar

During the week of 24-28 July 2022, Apostles Felix, Lama and Worship met with all District Rectors and Bishops of Madagascar. Two meetings and divine services also took place during the visits.

On Sunday 24 July 2022, the leaders from the area of Apostle Lama gathered in Fianarantsoa for a divine service and meeting. On Tuesday 26 July 2022, it was the turn of the Apostle Felix's area. The divine service took place in Tamatave on the Northeast Coast of the country. A meeting on Wednesday 27 July 2022, concluded the activities in the country.

The divine services focused on the return to all fellowship elements of the Church which was a challenge during the Covid-19 pandemic. The meetings enabled the leaders, who formed a national synod, to vote on the change of the Church constitution.

Road travel in the country remains a challenge, with a 300km journey taking 10 hours. After the heavy rains in the area, some roads were flooded. The only way of reaching the congregation was by "Tuk-Tuk", the local 3-wheel variation of a taxi. The Apostles and the local leaders echoed their thankfulness for being able to gather in person.



# Workshop for marriage preparation counsellors

On Saturday 17 September 2022, Marriage Counsellors met for a training session at the Family Life Centre in Johannesburg.

District Apostle J Kriel expressed his concern over challenges mostly experienced in marriage and the preparation of couples. For this purpose, he tasked Apostle G Mintoor to facilitate the way forward. Apostles in the Johannesburg area nominated facilitators to attend the training which was presented by the Family and Marriage Society of South Africa (FAMSA).

Some of the focus areas of the workshop included the following:

- Help the couple explore their relationship strengths and growth areas
- Prime couples for feedback on their relationship
- Promote honest and personalized dialogue about a couple's relationship
- Explore their relationship and their families of origin
- Help couples learn important skills in the areas of communication, conflict resolution, financial management, and stress management
- Provide a personality assessment and comparison of the two individuals.





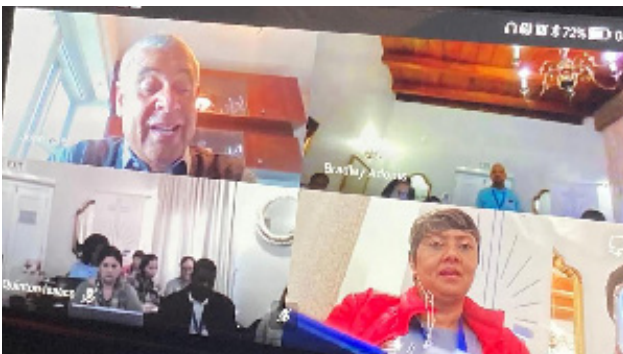
# Sunday School Conference 2022

The Sunday School Conference took place from 19 – 21 August 2022 in Cape Town and was attended by Apostle Area Co-ordinators of the District Apostle Area.

Delegates from as far as Namibia, Limpopo, Gauteng, KZN, and closer to the Cape Town area all braved the cold weather to attend the conference. The cold weather could not dampen the joyful atmosphere experienced by everyone.

Friday evening started with a meet-and-greet session by Quinton Isaacs who welcomed all the delegates as they arrived at the venue. This was followed by the opening and welcome by Bishop Adonis. After all the formalities, the weekend programme commenced with a presentation on teamwork presented by Heinrich Benjamin. Teamwork and leadership from the icebreaker exercise provided the foundation for the conference and the delegates moving forward into their respective areas of responsibility.

After breakfast on the Saturday morning, the official proceedings for the day commenced with a spiritual address by District Apostle J Kriel via Microsoft Teams. The message from the District Apostle was very impactful and inspiring, and left the group with the determination to do more for the children. The District Apostle concluded his address, requesting the team to ensure that our children are prepared for the future.



The objectives of the weekend:

- Delegates to familiarize themselves with the new curriculum for SS1 – SS4
- Equip Apostle Area Co-ordinators to train the teaching body
- Agree on a solid roll-out strategy
- Focus on areas of Confirmation Strategies, Registration of Sunday School Children & Responsibilities and Roles of Sunday School Coordinators.

The sessions were informative, constructive, and very effective with everyone fully engaged. The day's programme ended at 9 pm.

The weekend concluded with a divine service conducted by the then District Rector Gavin Van Der Hoven. Soon the weekend was over, and it was time to depart from one another. In complete accord, the group confidently professed that the vibrancy and spontaneity of the weekend will linger in their memories for a long time. The team's love for Sunday School just got greater!







# Coming up

- 2 Oct. 2022 Evreux (France)
- 13 Oct. 2022 Taguihon (Philippines)
- 15 Oct. 2022 General Santos (Philippines)
- 16 Oct. 2022 Tupi (Philippines)
- 23 Oct. 2022 Limburg (Netherlands)
- 30 Oct. 2022 Kiel (Germany)
- 6 Nov. 2022 Indiana (USA)
- 13 Nov. 2022 Nuremberg (Germany)
- 20 Nov. 2022 Winterthur (Switzerland)
- 27 Nov. 2022 Moldova (Moldova)
- 1 Dec. 2022 Bloemfontein (South Africa)
- 4 Dec. 2022 Cape Town (South Africa)
- 11 Dec. 2022 Wiesbaden (Germany)
- 28 Dec. 2022 Amnéville (France)
- 25 Dec. 2022 to be determined (France)

New Apostolic Church  
International

