community

The New Apostolic Church around the world

01/2016/EN

Motto 2016

Victory with Christ

Divine service in Auckland: God makes a covenant with us

Catechism: The church of Jesus Christ

Catechism: Ministry

Invitation: International Youth Convention 2019

New Apostolic Church
International

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Victory with Christ

NAC International

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

From the bottom of my heart I wish you God's blessing over the coming year.

- May you feel His nearness and support.
- May you feel His love carrying you.
- And may you experience His grace.

The turn of a year is always a good time to reflect and ask ourselves the question, "How far have I come on the way to my goal?"

There is a simple method. Imagine you are approaching a building from a distance. At first, the object appears very small and you can actually cover it with your finger. But the closer you come, the bigger the building appears and the better you can see it.

Our goal is to be forever with the Lord. Have we come any closer to Him in the past year? Has Jesus Christ become more important for us than He was a year ago? Are we better able to recognize His nature?

When it comes to moving forward, it helps to set interim goals for ourselves: "Labour in love", our 2014 motto, was one such goal. "Joy in Christ", our motto over the past year, was another stage along the way.

Now let us take the next step. Through word and sacrament, God gives us the strength to fight against those things that separate us from Him. He gives us the power to win this fight. With Christ we can gain the victory.

- Christ helps us to gain the victory over evil. He did not eradicate evil, but He rules over it. Nothing can prevent Christ from saving those who trust in Him.

- Christ helps us to gain the victory over fear. This year will not be any different: we will worry about the future. Perhaps there will be certain decisions that paralyze us because we do not know what we are getting into. But Jesus Christ is there to guide us.

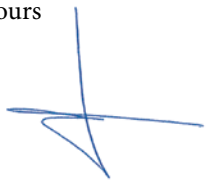
- Christ helps us to gain the victory over ourselves, for example:
  – over our pride, which keeps us from reaching out for God's help;
  – over prejudices that prevent us from loving our neighbour;
  – over the urge to express our opinion regardless of the consequences and the peace that may be lost as a result.

And how can I gain the victory with Christ?
- By believing in the truth of Jesus.
- By loving as He loved.
- By remaining with Him no matter what happens.
- By seeking oneness in fellowship.

These are just a few initial thoughts on our new motto. We have a whole year to delve into it and deepen it: a whole year for another big step on our way to the goal.

Let us make the year 2016 a year of "Victory with Christ"!

Yours



Jean-Luc Schneider

God makes a covenant with us

Nearly 900 people attended the divine service in Auckland. Another 1,100 on New Zealand's South Island, in Australia, Fiji, and Papua New Guinea were connected by transmission

NAC Australia

Deuteronomy 5: 3

"The Lord did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive."

Dear brothers and sisters, it is the first time that I am here in New Zealand. The District Apostle and the brothers told me that New Zealand is a wonderful country. I have seen nothing of the country, but I believe what I was told. I was also told that there are wonderful congregations and faithful brothers and sisters. I believe that too, but today I can actually see and feel it.

Yesterday we were together with the children and I must say it was a great day. The Sunday School children had their annual outing. The theme of their gathering was "Be about my Father's business". This motto is a reference to the

words of Jesus when He was a child and His parents were looking for Him and finally found Him in the temple. He said, "Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" (Luke 2: 49). This of course applies to all of us, not only to the children. We have to be about our Father's business. That could be understood as a constraint, a duty, an obligation. It is maybe not that nice knowing that my father has a business and that I must be about my father's business. But that is not what is meant here. This does not mean that we *must* come to church, that we *must* get involved in the New Apostolic Church, or else.

Let us look at what it means to be "about My Father's business". Or putting it another way, what is our Father's business? His business is to deliver all of mankind from evil, injustice, and ultimately from death. That is what He is working towards. To this end, He makes sure that everyone will come into contact with Jesus Christ, will be able to believe in Him, and then, ultimately, be saved by Him. That is the business of our heavenly Father, and we have the opportunity, the possibility, and even the commission to be involved and to help along. We ourselves have the opportunity to be saved and can help God to save others. So seeing the Father's business that way I do not see it as an obligation, but rather as grace and a source of joy and blessing. Brothers and sisters, all of us, not only our children, are invited to be involved in this mission to be about our Father's business.

The covenant, the promise, was not only made with our fathers, it applies to us who are here today and who are alive.

We have heard a Bible text that was addressed to the people of Israel. It is about the covenant God made with His people. You are familiar with the story. God had elected Himself a people—the people of Israel. It was certainly not the biggest nation, nor the strongest, nor the most important one at the time. In fact, there was no plausible reason for God to elect this people, but He did so out of love and grace, and made a covenant with them. First of all He delivered them from Pharaoh and Egyptian slavery and told them at Mount Horeb, saying, "Then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people" (Exodus 19: 5). That was the first part of the covenant. He led them through the Red Sea and delivered them from the hand of the Egyptians. He spoke directly to these special people telling them about the future He wanted to prepare for them, and then He gave them a promise and told them what plans He had with them: they were to enter a land flowing with milk and honey. And then He gave them His law and told them, "If you do according to this law you will be blessed."

All of this, the people's deliverance, their escape through the Red Sea, the covenant, the happenings at Mount Horeb, had happened a long time ago—and the generation who had witnessed this was dead. So there was nobody except Moses and a few others who had actually experienced the crossing of the Red Sea and who had witnessed God speaking to the people at Mount Horeb. Most of those who had witnessed the cloud on the mountain, the thunder and

Children sing to welcome the Chief Apostle and the Apostles in his company

The Chief Apostle called on District Apostle Noel E. Barnes (at altar) and the District Apostle Helpers David Devaraj and John Fendt to assist in the service

lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and then heard the voice of God were no longer alive. The generation to whom Moses was speaking to now knew all of this only from oral accounts. None of them had actually been there.

You know it is always the same story. When old people tell us something we tend to think, "They are probably exaggerating." When you only hear about something and have not experienced it yourself, you wonder how much truth there is to the story and whether it has not been embellished a little here and there.

Jesus died for you, and He rose for you, and He will come back for you to save you.

But Moses assured the Israelites that this had really happened as they had been told: that God had divided the waters and led the people through the Red Sea, and that He Himself had spoken to them on the mountain.

And then there is the story of the Promised Land. The people knew that they had reached the Promised Land, but they soon realized that they would have to fight to take this land because it was inhabited. But by then the wilderness was behind them and they thought, "It is not that bad here. Why don't we stay here. We understand that our fathers dreamed of the Promised Land while they were in the wilderness. They had nothing but hunger, thirst, and privation. They longed for a home. But we have left the wilderness behind us. So why don't we stay here. Why should we fight to enter the Promised Land?"

Moses was aware of this and said, "No, the covenant, the promise was not only made with your fathers, it applies to us who are here today and who are alive. God wants you

to enter this Promised Land, and it is worth fighting and struggling for."

Moses was also aware that now that they were no longer in the wilderness they would come into contact with other people, other nations, who lived under a completely different law, and that this might lead the Israelites to question the law of God. They would see that other people were allowed to eat pork, that they were allowed to do this and that, and that they were doing well. "Their life is as good as ours, they are happy and successful. Those people live under a different law, but obviously it works too, so why should we continue to fulfil God's law? Maybe we can find a compromise."

That is why Moses had called the people together and told them, "The Lord did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive."

That was the old covenant. Now we come to the new covenant. The new covenant is the continuation of the old one: God sent His Son to deliver His own; to deliver them through His sacrifice, through His resurrection, and through His merits. His disciples had witnessed all of this. They knew Jesus, they lived with Him, they spoke to Him, and they had encounters with the Risen One and knew: "It's Jesus. He died and rose from the dead. He gained the victory over death." Jesus had given them the promise: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14: 3). What a wonderful promise! He gave them His commandments and the gospel, and told them that if they kept all of this they would be blessed. This happened two thousand years ago. What about today?

Today nobody can say, "I have seen the Risen One. I can verify this; He has risen indeed, as He said He would." And I must say, even in Christianity you hear voices that say, "Well, who knows whether the story of Jesus' death and resurrection really happened that way … Maybe it has been embellished a bit too. Maybe it is just an image, a metaphor. And what is important here is the meaning. You do not actually have to believe that He died and rose from the dead. To think that someone had to die for us, for our salvation, is that not a little bit much?" Many people find this a little strange and disconcerting today. That is a danger of our time.

The ministry of the new covenant, the Apostle ministry, was sent by the Lord to bear witness to Christ's sacrifice, His death, and His resurrection. Believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ! It is the truth. What the Bible says about Jesus Christ's death, sacrifice, and resurrection is the truth. That is what our faith is all about. To bear witness of this is the most important task of the Apostles, the ambassadors of Christ. Jesus commissioned them with the words: "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me" (Matthew 10: 40). That is why the Apostles can speak with the authority of Christ. And what is the message that the Apostles have to convey? They have to proclaim the truth to all: Jesus died for your sake, for

you who are here today and are alive; His covenant is for you personally.

All of this happened for you, for your sake, for your salvation: Jesus died for you, and He rose for you, and He will come back for you to save you. That is the covenant God made with you.

That is the task of the ministry of the new covenant. We the Apostles will never tire of carrying out this task given us by our Lord and Master. We believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus died for our sake and that He will come back for us and redeem us. He promised that we will enter the kingdom of God, His glory, and have eternal fellowship with God.

Some think that this message was meant for our ancestors. They had a difficult life. They had to struggle for survival, had to deal with poverty, sickness, war, and many dangers and crises, so they simply needed something to pin their hope on: "Yes, one day you will be delivered. Then everything will be better!"

Today we have good medical care, we do not have to worry so much any more, and do not have to fear the future. We have our life under control, there are solutions for many problems. There is peace in our country, and we can build ourselves a future. We no longer have to hope for a better future in heaven. If we are smart enough, if we are tough enough, we can build ourselves a nice life here on earth and be quite happy. We no longer have to dream about a better life in the hereafter. The longing for eternal fellowship with God in His kingdom is decreasing in our society. It no longer plays a role. Many people are no longer interested.

In the new covenant, however, God sent the Holy Spirit with the commission to teach and to glorify the Son of God. He proclaims the glory of Christ to us, leads us into the knowledge of Christ, and explains to us what the glory of Christ consists of. Jesus said of Him: "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you" (John 16: 14).

It is the task of the Holy Spirit today to teach us who Christ is, to teach us about the glory of Christ, and to lead us into the knowledge of Christ and into His grace. His glory is far greater than anything we can imagine. The fellowship with God is something so wonderful that it is inconceivable. The Holy Spirit tells us, "Believe in the promise of Christ. Follow Jesus! It is worth it. It is worth walking the path that leads to the kingdom of God, His glory, and eternal fellowship with Him. You will not regret it."

The ministry of the new covenant, the Apostle ministry, has also received the commission to celebrate Holy Communion. Every time we celebrate it, we reinforce this covenant with God, and discover Jesus Christ more and more. And the better we know Jesus Christ the more we will love Him and the more we will want to be with Him. That is the deep significance of Holy Communion. Jesus said, "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6: 53–54). It is the task of the apostolate to also proclaim this to mankind.

Chief Apostle Schneider celebrates Holy Communion for the departed

Eternal life, eternal fellowship in the kingdom of God is something so great and wonderful that it is worth every effort. It exceeds our imagination by far, and there is nothing on earth that compares to it. In order to achieve this Holy Communion is indispensable, and that we receive in the divine services. It is not enough to say, "I am a faithful Christian, I believe in God, I am a faithful child of God, and I do good as often as I can." To be able to enter into

the kingdom of God we have to take the nourishment that Jesus gives us: the Holy Communion that is dispensed here in His church, where Apostles are active.

The people of Israel received manna to be able to walk to the Promised Land. We receive Holy Communion that serves as nourishment on our way. We cannot do without it.

It is not my intention to persuade people to attend the services, but I cannot hide the fact that the worthy partaking of Holy Communion is indispensable in order to be ready on the day of Christ's return and to enter eternal fellowship with God.

The first danger that Moses saw is still there today. People say, "This law of God, the commandments, and the gospel are all very well, but we know plenty of people who believe in something else. They have their own laws, their own rules. Just look at them, they are as happy as we are. Sometimes they are even happier than we are. And maybe that worked for our fathers and grandfathers, but it just does not work any more today. Others are more successful." That means we have to define what success is. Jesus said, "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him" (John 14: 21).

We do not need the gospel to become rich, successful, and happy, and to prosper here on earth. There are many other ways to achieve that. But to experience the love of Christ, to experience His kindness and His nearness, and to know Him, there is only one way: obedience to the gospel and implementing it in our daily lives. This already applied to our ancestors and it applies to us today. We do not practise the gospel to get more money, to be spared from illness, or to make sure that our children prosper. We obey the commandments of the Lord, the law of God, because we want to experience the love of Jesus Christ. We want to feel that He is with us. We want to know that Jesus is happy with us. That is why we follow the precepts set by the gospel. And the more consistent we are in following the law of Christ, the better we can understand it and the better we understand His plans for us.

His covenant, the new covenant, is not for our ancestors. It is for us who are here and alive today. We believe that Christ died for us and that He will come back for us. This is the covenant that He made with us, His promise that applies to us and whose fulfilment we want to experience. That is why we attend the divine services, why Holy Communion is so important for us, and why we are always concerned that we partake of it in a worthy manner. Let us follow the path the Lord shows us and be obedient and apply the gospel in our daily lives.

I am aware that none of this is anything new, but maybe today's word is especially for you or for me and maybe serves as a prompt to change something in our life. Who knows? It could be!

CORE THOUGHTS

We believe that Jesus Christ died for us and that He will return to take us with Him.

We long for our eternal home and worthily partake of Holy Communion in order to reach this goal.

We follow the divine law so that we can experience the nearness of Jesus.

NAC RDC Sud-Est

Experiencing the glory of God already now

A speed-boat whisked Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider across Lake Kivu to Bukavu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a divine service there on 13 July 2015. More than 2,000 brothers and sisters had gathered to hear him. He ministered in French and his sermon was interpreted into Swahili.

Following is some background on the Bible text: Moses gave up a lot to follow God's call and lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. And when the people turned away from God and started to worship the golden calf, he was very disappointed and asked God to please show him His glory.

But God told him that no man can see His face and live. Instead God told Moses to come closer and stand on a rock, where He would pass by him so that he could experience God's glory in passing. Then God proclaimed His goodness, His love, His grace, and His faithfulness, and finally gave Moses His laws and commandments.

Faith precedes experiences

Also "we have given up many things in our lives for the Lord Jesus", the Chief Apostle said, referring to the parallels in the life Moses. "But from time to time, we experience the power of evil. Then we are discouraged and turn to God for comfort." Here too God's invitation to draw close to Him applies.

"To draw near to God means to come to God in faith." Many people have the following expectations when it comes to God: "Show Yourself, I want to see You, and then

Many people had to sit outside the church under a makeshift tent

I will believe in You." But that is not how it works. If we want to see God we will have to believe first.

Encounters in divine service

If we want to see God, the Chief Apostle said, we also have to go to the place where He reveals Himself. "When you come in faith to the divine services and under the word of the Apostles, you will be able to meet God," Chief Apostle Schneider added. "And what happens in the divine service?" he asked, before listing four points in response.

- God proclaims His goodness. "Jesus did not come to punish sinners. Jesus came to save sinners. He wants all of mankind to be saved."
- God proclaims His love. "In every divine service, we can celebrate Holy Communion. Jesus draws near to us and says, 'Listen, believe Me: I love you. I died for you.'"
- God also tells us that He is faithful. "He reminds us that Jesus loves us and that this love will not change even if we have committed the greatest sin."
- God speaks to us about His grace. "He reminds us that He offers us eternal fellowship with Him. This is something that I will never deserve. He knows that and that is why He wants to give us something we do not deserve: His grace."

And only then comes the law, just like at the time of Moses. "The sequence is important," the Chief Apostle said. "God wanted to show that His law is an expression of His love." For "His law is not meant to subjugate us, to enslave us. God's commandments will preserve us from harm."

Understanding in retrospect

Moses was not able to see God, but he was certainly able to feel His presence. "When we come to the divine services in faith, we hear the proclamation of God's word," the Chief Apostle said. "We feel His presence in Holy Communion. We also feel the presence of Jesus in our fellowship."

Just as Moses was able to experience the presence of God when He passed by, we too can experience Him whenever we look into the past. "When we reflect on everything, we can understand how He prepared the way, and we recognize the hand of God in our personal history. If we apply His commandments we will be preserved from harm. Here again, in retrospect, we can see God's activity in His word."

CORE THOUGHTS

Exodus 33: 18

"And he said, 'Please, show me Your glory.'"

In the divine services the Holy Spirit reveals the glory of God to us by proclaiming God's goodness and kindness, His love, His faith, His grace, and His law.

In the celebration of Holy Communion and the fellowship with the brothers and sisters we experience the presence of the Lord.

We recognize God's intervention in our past.

A good foundation for good decisions

The Chief Apostle visited Armenia and Georgia this past August, two former Soviet republics that gained independence in 1991. The New Apostolic Christians in these two countries are looked after by the New Apostolic Church North Rhine-Westphalia of Germany. We have four of our own church buildings in Georgia and a youth centre in Tbilisi, the country's national capital, where the divine service took place.

God has a goal. "He wants to redeem us. That is the work that He wants to complete," explained the Chief Apostle. "In this work of redemption it is all about you—all about you personally. And anything that applies to you also applies to me and to our neighbour."

"God always leaves decisions up to us. He never wants to force us into anything. You and I are absolutely free. We can decide what we want to do." Nevertheless, "He desires to lead us. He speaks to our hearts. Through His word He shows us the love of God and the patience of Christ."

NAC North Rhine-Westphalia

The Chief Apostle was given a guided tour of Tbilisi, the national capital of Georgia. Of the country's 4.5 million people 1,103 are New Apostolic Christians

Love and patience

Chief Apostle Schneider listed three points by way of which the Holy Spirit shows us the love of God.

- "In His love, God desires to lead you back into fellowship with Himself."
- "Out of love for mankind, God came to earth in Jesus Christ in order to serve."
- "God gives us this for free, out of pure grace. No human being is good enough to deserve this."

The Chief Apostle likewise listed three points with regard to the patience of Christ.

- "Jesus Christ died for you. But it is because He loves you that He endured until the end."
- "In His love, God gave His Son the strength and help that He needed."
- "Even when human beings are unfaithful, God remains faithful and continues to help them."

A good foundation

Now it is up to us as human beings to make our own decisions using the free will God has given us. "God expects us to be mature children of God." There are many, he said, who may desire to do the will of God, but ultimately leave the decision up to someone or something else, be it a random page in the Bible or the point of view of a minister.

"This is immature," explained Chief Apostle Schneider. After all, anyone who acts in this manner abdicates his own responsibility. "We are to make the decision ourselves. But we are to do this by thinking about the love of God and the patience of Christ. And then we will make the right decision."

Good decisions

The Chief Apostle listed the following as good decisions made on this foundation.

- "I want to serve God because I love Him."
- "I will love my neighbour because he is so valuable to God."
- "Then we will look for the right kind of help," and ask God, "Please also give me the strength to bear my cross."
- "Then we will also endure to the end."
- "Then we will also be patient with our neighbour."

"Those who make such decisions will come closer to God."

CORE THOUGHTS

2 Thessalonians 3: 5

"Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ."

The Holy Spirit motivates us to love and to endure by helping us to recognize the love of God and the patience of Christ.

NAC South East Asia

Serving in the mind of Christ: a guideline

On Saturday, 27 June 2015 Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider held a divine service in Gendeng/Yogyakarta in Indonesia. Nearly 1,900 ministers and their wives participated in the divine service either directly or by transmission; the service was broadcast to 40 locations.

The Chief Apostle based his sermon on John 17: 18: "As you sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world."

Jesus Christ: the perfect example of a servant

The Chief Apostle said that Jesus Christ is the perfect role model for serving. "As Jesus was sent by His Father so all of us have been sent to serve. And we want to serve as He served." An important aspect here is His statement: "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me" (John 7: 16). "We are servants of the Lord. That means that we proclaim His word and His teaching, and not our own ideas and opinions," the Chief Apostle explained.

"To proclaim the gospel means that we teach things that are valid for everybody in every situation everywhere. Anything else is not really the gospel," he said, setting the standard. "It is not our task to establish new laws and rules. Of course we need rules, but they have to be corroborated by the gospel." Ministers cannot say, "If you behave this way and if you respect this rule you will be saved." All a minister can say is, "If you apply the gospel you will be saved."

We don't force people

"I am absolutely convinced that as Chief Apostle I am only an instrument," he stated. "Maybe God will say already tomorrow that He needs another instrument and will call another man," he continued. "Our person is not important. It is not our congregation. Our congregation is the church of the Lord."

When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, He made it very clear that He refused to use His power either for Him-

Left: Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider and the retired District Apostle Alfons Tansahtikno

self or for others. In the same way, ministers must not exercise their power and authority and rule over the members in their congregation to "make sure that they follow us". As an example the Chief Apostle mentioned such threats as: "Imagine what is going to happen if you don't come to the services." This would be using force to fulfil our mission.

Meeting people on their level

"Jesus served the people. He served everybody, the good ones as well as the bad ones," the Chief Apostle explained. "God decides who belongs to His people. That is none of our business. He wants us to serve all those whom He has chosen, even if they don't agree with us or are even against us."

"Jesus even went a step further. He came to mankind. His concern was always: Am I close enough to the people?" the Chief Apostle said and continued, "Jesus was very close to the people and approached them on their level. Let us do the same and come near to the people."

Role models and helpers

"There is a difference between a servant and a teacher," the Chief Apostle said, and went on explain that it is not enough to proclaim the gospel. "We have to work and lead by example. We are the first to whom our sermons apply. We have to practise what we preach." And then he added, "It is nice to teach, but it is far more important to be there for our brothers and sisters when they need help. A servant of God is a helper, not just a teacher."

At the end, the Chief Apostle mentioned a point that was very important for him. "Jesus did not serve to receive a reward. He served because He wanted to give mankind the same thing He had: He wanted to share His glory and inheritance with them." That was His only motivation. Ministers do not serve in order to receive a reward either. "Our motivation is that our brothers and sisters receive the same thing that we long for: salvation. And because we love them we want them to receive the same thing we want: eternal fellowship with God. That makes a wonderful servant of God."

CORE THOUGHTS

John 17: 18

"As you sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world."

We are in the Lord's service: we proclaim His will to His people and do our work in accordance with His will. We go to the faithful and minister to them and lead by example, helping them where we can so that they can enter eternal fellowship with God.

The Creation

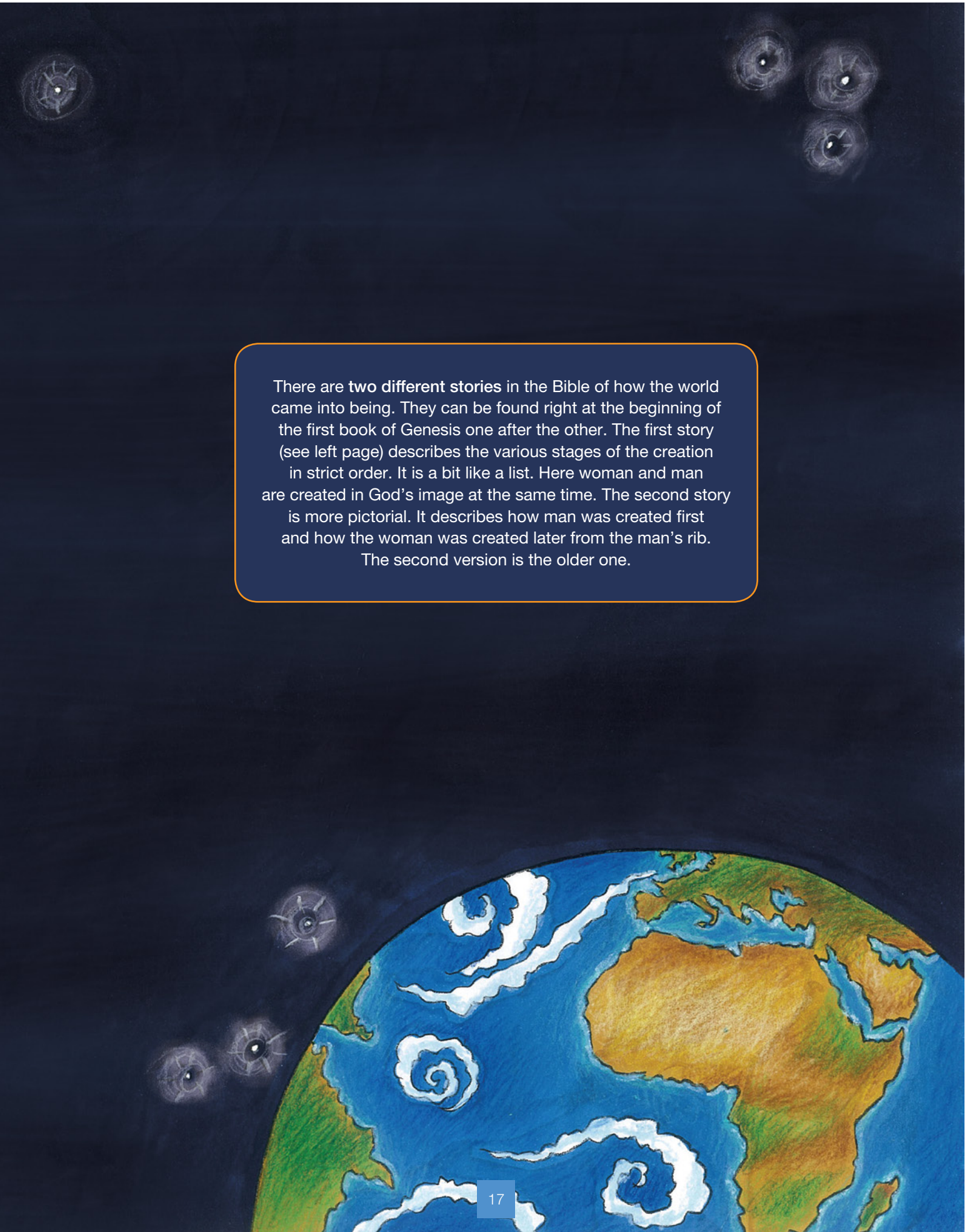
(Genesis 1)

The story of the creation is the first story in the Bible. It tells how God created heaven and earth, the plants, animals, and mankind.

In the beginning God created heaven and earth. The earth, however, was dark and empty. Then God created light and He separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night.
Then He separated the land from the water. The water became streams, rivers, lakes and oceans.
After this God made grass, herbs, flowers, and trees. They grew and they all bore fruits. Everything blossomed and the earth became bright and colourful.

God also placed lights in the sky: the sun, moon, and stars.
Then He made animals that lived in the water, whales and other creatures, and there were birds in the air. The waters swarmed with fish, mussels, and crabs. And in the sky the birds swished through the air.
Later all the other animals came along. There were creatures crawling, hopping, and running all over the earth.
Finally God created mankind; both man and woman. They were to multiply and care for everything that God had created.
God looked at everything He had made—and it was good. Then He rested.

There are **two different stories** in the Bible of how the world came into being. They can be found right at the beginning of the first book of Genesis one after the other. The first story (see left page) describes the various stages of the creation in strict order. It is a bit like a list. Here woman and man are created in God's image at the same time. The second story is more pictorial. It describes how man was created first and how the woman was created later from the man's rib. The second version is the older one.



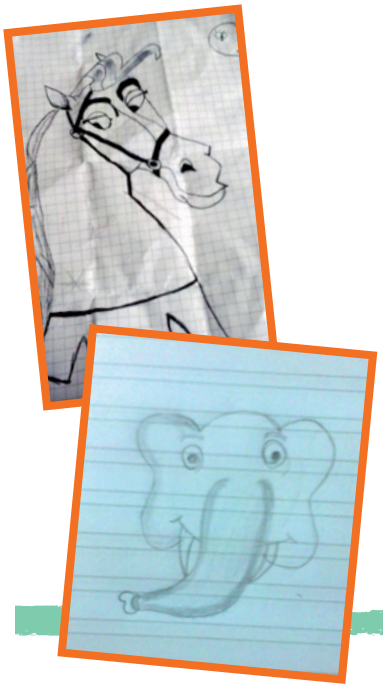
Mirella Fortunato

AT CAMILA'S IN ÑEMBY (PARAGUAY)

private

Hello, my name is **Camila**. I am nine years old and live in Paraguay. That is a country in South America. In Guaraní, which is a language spoken by the indigenous people, this means "Water that goes to the water", or "River that gives birth to the sea". Our country is named after the Río Paraguay, a big river that cuts through Brazil—from north to south. It divides the country into two distinct halves. West of the river is the Gran Chaco, a semi-arid region with high summer temperatures that sometimes reach more than 45 degrees Celsius. Cattle ranching is big here. In the East there is plenty of rain, in fact there are even rainforests.

The banks of the Río Paraguay are home to the largest rodent in the world, the **capybara**. Adult animals grow to over one metre in length and weigh more than 60 kilograms. They are herbivores and eat mainly grasses and aquatic plants. Capybaras look a bit like humongous guinea-pigs, which are their closest relatives by the way. They have webbed feet which allow them to swim fast.



I have painted a picture of a **horse** and an **elephant** for you. I love to draw in my spare time. When I am grown up I want to be an art teacher. As you have probably already guessed, my favourite subject at school is art. In Paraguay, school is mandatory up to grade nine. Right now I am in grade four. Since both Spanish and Guaraní are official

languages we get instructed in both. I am also taking **violin** lessons. My sister, Verónica, also plays the violin. She has had music lessons for a long time and sometimes plays in the divine service. Verónica also sings in the choir. She is already 18.

This is the New Apostolic **church** in Fernando de la Mora. This is the church that Mama, Verónica, and I go to. My mother, Carina, is

the Sunday School teacher. There are five children in her class. We live about 20 kilometres from the church.

My father, Ernesto, has a really long drive to church. He is rector of the congregation Ciudad del Este, a congregation that is 324 kilometres from where we live. He travels there every weekend, crossing Paraguay from west to east. Ciudad del Este is the second largest city in Paraguay. My **family**—my parents, my sister, and I—live in Ñemby, a suburb of Asunción. That is the largest city in our country and one of the oldest cities in South America. Its official name is very long: *La muy noble y leal ciudad de Nuestra Señora Santa María de la Asunción*. In English this reads: The Very Noble and Loyal City of Our Lady Saint Mary of the Assumption.

Letterbox

HOW DO YOU START A NEW YEAR?

"My parents and my brother and I ring in the new year with fireworks. I am responsible for lighting them." **Matias, aged 12, from Montevideo in Uruguay**

"I start the new year with my family. We go to church and think of all the nice things that are going to happen." **Santiago, aged 7, from La Coruña in Spain**

"I would like to go horseback riding next year." **Frederik, aged 5, from Königstein in Germany**

"I'd like to visit my aunt as she has such sweet dogs." **Christian, aged 8, from Königstein in Germany**

Oliver Rütten

The church of Jesus Christ

In September 2015, 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 church of Jesus Christ and the concept of ministry.

What does the term "church" mean in general?
The term "church" has three different meanings in general usage. On the one hand, it is used in reference to a Christian place of worship (e. g. the local parish) in which the believers gather for divine service. Another meaning of "church" refers to the congregation in a particular place. Beyond that, "church" can be used in reference to a Christian community (denomination), for example the New Apostolic Church or the Catholic Church.

"Denomination", derived from the Latin denominatio *("identification", "naming"), is a non-judgemental term for a religious community.*

Is church necessary?
Yes. Church is necessary for being a Christian, because it is only there that we hear the word of God, receive the sacraments, and experience fellowship with God and with one another. As a whole, these elements are indispensable for attaining salvation. Without church this is impossible for human beings.

How do we experience the invisible side of the church of Jesus Christ?
Among other things, we experience the invisible side of the church in its effects of salvation. These are invisible to human beings and can only be grasped in faith.

For example, we experience effects of salvation
- when God forgives sins,
- when original sin is washed away through baptism,
- when God grants the gift of the Holy Spirit,
- when the body and blood of Christ are given in Holy Communion,
- when the sacraments are dispensed to the departed,
- when acts of blessing (confirmations, ordinations, etc.) are performed,
- when God acts through the human words of the sermon,
- when the blessing of God is laid upon the congregation.

How do we experience the visible side of the church of Jesus Christ?

Among other things, we experience the visible side of the church when human beings act in the church. This is perceptible, for example,
- when people profess Jesus Christ,
- when divine services are celebrated,
- when water is consecrated for baptism and the act of baptism is performed,
- when the ministers consecrate bread and wine for Holy Communion and dispense Holy Communion,
- when the Apostles lay their hands upon believers and perform the act of Holy Sealing,
- when the ministers preach,
- when people pray,
- when charity is practised.

What are the identifying features of the church of Jesus Christ?

The church of Christ—both in its visible side as well as its invisible side—has these four distinguishing features: oneness, holiness, universality, and apostolicity. These identifying features of the church are called the *notae ecclesiae*.

What do we mean when we talk about the "oneness of the church of Jesus Christ"?

The church is one because there is only the one God. The church testifies of the oneness of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who works within it. Jesus specifically referred to the oneness of His followers and the love they bear one another as distinguishing features of those who belong to Him. It is in this way that the nature of God is manifest in the church. "God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him" (1 John 4: 16).

What do we mean when we talk about the "holiness of the church of Jesus Christ"?

The church is holy because the triune God is holy. He is active in word and sacrament in the church of Christ.

What do we mean when we talk about the "universality of the church of Jesus Christ"?

The church of Christ is universal because God is there for all human beings, both living and dead. There are no limits to the proclamation of the gospel.

What do we mean when we talk about the "apostolicity of the church of Jesus Christ"?

The church is apostolic because apostolic doctrine is proclaimed within it and because the apostolic ministry is at work within it.

Where can the church of Jesus Christ be experienced?

The church of Christ can be experienced wherever oneness, holiness, universality, and apostolicity—albeit to varying degrees—are present. The church of Christ is most clearly revealed where the Apostle ministry, the dispensation of the sacraments to the living and the dead, as well as the proper proclamation of the word are present. It is there that the Lord's work of redemption is manifest, in which the bride of Christ is being prepared for the marriage in heaven.

What do the individual Christian denominations have in common?

Binding elements in the individual Christian denominations include baptism in the name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the profession of Jesus Christ, and belief in the triune God. Through the baptized who live their faith and profess Christ as their Lord, the church can be experienced as a fellowship of faith, hope, and love.

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NAC Cape

Ministry

What do we understand by the term "ministry"?
In general, the term "ministry" is understood as a function or official position associated with specific tasks and responsibilities. In a further sense, those who hold ministries have been given the authority to lead a community and make corresponding decisions.

What is the source of the spiritual ministry?
The spiritual ministry is founded upon the sending of Jesus Christ by God, the Father. Jesus Christ is thus the One sent by God. As such He is authorized, blessed, and sanctified for the redemption of mankind. The Apostles are those who have been sent by Jesus Christ. The spiritual ministry is always linked to Jesus Christ and the Apostles sent by Him. Ministry and the apostolate therefore belong together: wherever the Apostle ministry is active, the spiritual ministry will also be present.

The term "apostolate" is used primarily in reference to all bearers of the Apostle ministry as a whole (apostolate = the Apostles of Jesus). The priestly ministries and Deacons work by commission of the apostolate and perform duties in pastoral care, preaching, and the dispensation of the sacraments.

What do we mean by "authorization" for a spiritual ministry?
A spiritual ministry is conferred by an Apostle by the commission of Jesus Christ. Thereby the recipient of the ministry receives part of the authority of the Apostle. He is to make use of this authority by commission of the Apostle. The recipient of this ministry thereby acts in the name of the Apostle and represents him in the scope defined for that ministry. After all, the Apostle is the one who sends the ministers, and those who are sent are accountable to, and dependent on, their sender.

Examples of activities performed by authorization:

When the Apostle proclaims the forgiveness of sins, he is acting on the basis of the authority conferred upon him by Jesus Christ (concerning this see Question 424). It is for this reason that the Apostle proclaims the forgiveness of sins with the words: "I proclaim unto you the glad tidings: in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, your sins are forgiven."

When the priestly minister proclaims the forgiveness of sins, he acts in the stead of the Apostle. For this reason the priestly ministry proclaims the forgiveness of sins with the words: "In the commission of my sender, the Apostle, I proclaim unto you the glad tidings: in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, your sins are forgiven."

What do we mean when we talk about "ministrations" in the church of Jesus Christ?

Every baptized believer is called upon to serve the Lord in active love for his neighbour and by professing his faith (John 12: 26). When specific mandates and areas of activity that serve for the benefit of the believers and the proclamation of the gospel are assigned to individual believers in the church of Jesus Christ, we understand these as "ministrations". Such ministrations are discharged wherever baptized individuals profess their belief in Jesus Christ as their Lord in word and deed.

What distinguishes ministrations in the church of Jesus Christ from the spiritual ministry?

Ministrations are distinguished from the spiritual ministry in that they can be discharged without ordination.

Which ministry was instituted by Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ only gave His church one ministry directly, namely the Apostle ministry. He authorized, blessed, and sanctified the Apostles and equipped them with the Holy Spirit: "'As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.' And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained'" (John 20: 21–23). He entrusted the administration of the sacraments to the Apostles. In this manner His sacrifice becomes accessible to human beings (Matthew 28: 19–20).

The authority of the Apostles to "administer the sacraments" refers to the fact that the Apostles have been commissioned by Jesus Christ to dispense the sacraments. Even if not all sacraments are dispensed by Apostles themselves, the sacraments nevertheless exist in relationship to the Apostle ministry (concerning this see also Question 424).

According to the New Testament, who dispensed the gift of the Holy Spirit?

From Acts 8: 15–18 it follows that the dispensation of the gift of the Holy Spirit is bound to the Apostle ministry: Philip preached in Samaria and baptized the believers with water. The Apostles heard about this and thus sent Peter and John there. These two men "prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit." This is underlined in Acts 19: 6: "And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them."

What were the other important tasks of the Apostles?

An important task of the Apostles was to proclaim that Jesus Christ had been active among them, had died, and had resurrected from the dead (Acts 13: 26–41; 17: 1–4). They fought against heresies that sought to deny these things (1 Corinthians 15: 3–8; 1 John 4: 1–6).

What was the first ministry to come out of the Apostle ministry?

The Apostles began to fulfil their commission and preach the gospel on Pentecost. Soon after, they discovered that they needed helpers, and so seven men were chosen for this task. The Apostles prayed and laid their hands upon these men and so blessed them in preparation for their service. These seven men are described as the first Deacons.

"[These men were] set before the Apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them" (Acts 6: 6).

What ministerial levels and ministries are there in the New Apostolic Church?

In the New Apostolic Church there are three ministerial levels with differing spiritual powers, namely the Apostle ministry, priestly ministry, and diaconal ministry.

- The Apostle ministry includes the Chief Apostle, the District Apostles, and the Apostles.
- The priestly ministry includes Bishops, District Elders, District Evangelists, Shepherds, Evangelists, and Priests.
- The diaconal ministry includes Deacons and Sub-deacons.

Invitation to the International Youth Convention 2019

EYD photo team

There will be a remake of the European Youth Day from 30 May to 2 June 2019—this time with participants from around the world. “I hope to see many young people from all over the world in Düsseldorf on Ascension 2019,” Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider says.

Some 35,000 young people from around Europe came to Düsseldorf (Germany) in the year 2009. Five years later, in 2014, some 45,000 New Apostolic Christians attended the International Church Convention in Munich. For 2019, another five years on, the Church is planning its next big event. The District Apostles of the New Apostolic Church agreed on this at their recent conference in Johannesburg in South Africa. District Apostle Rainer Storck (North Rhine-Westphalia/Germany) presented the preliminary plans for the international youth convention.

In the heart of Europe

Choosing Düsseldorf for the 2019 youth convention has several advantages. The bustling city is located in the heart of Europe. It has good connections and public transportation, excellent intercity railway services, as well as an international airport. A further advantage is that the organizers are familiar with the exhibition grounds from the European Youth Day 2009, something that will certainly facilitate the organizing of the youth convention. The unique selling point of Düsseldorf is that there is a large stadium with a fully retractable roof right next to the exhibition grounds, allowing the organizers to plan without having to consider the vagaries of the weather. The stadium seats 45,000 people and can even be heated.

The exhibition grounds in Düsseldorf offer a number of halls with a total area of about 90,000 square metres. Distances between the venues are short. The Conference

Centre offers additional rooms for workshops or smaller events anywhere from 20 to 150 people. Also available are halls with on-site catering facilities, and nine halls with 123,000 square metres that will offer space for up to 24,000 people to sleep in. The grounds outside can be used as an open-air stage.

More than 30,000 participants expected

All New Apostolic Christians between the ages of 14 and 35 are invited to this youth convention—irrespective of their marital or family status. There will of course also be chaperones and many hundreds of helpers. Already at the time of the European Youth Day 2009, many young people beyond Europe's borders had expressed great interest in an international youth convention. Several hundred from Africa, the Americas, and Asia had travelled to Düsseldorf at the time. But this time the organizers are hoping for even more international guests.

Preliminary plans call for the opening service on Thursday, Ascension Day. The opening ceremony has been scheduled for Friday morning. This will be followed by two days of exhibitions, presentations, workshops, concerts, and much more. On the agenda for Saturday is an evening of music. The divine service by Chief Apostle Schneider on Sunday will both be the highlight as well the closing event of the youth convention.

International guests, international programme

The international youth convention will be hosted by the New Apostolic Church North Rhine-Westphalia, who had organized the 2009 European Youth Day with District Apostle Armin Brinkmann at the helm. Like then, it is the District Church's wish that as many New Apostolic Christians as possible from as many different parts of the world as possible come and actively participate in the programme. That was why District Apostle Rainer Storck reached out to the District Apostles at their recent conference in Johannesburg, asking that as many District Apostle Areas as possible get involved and contribute their ideas to the programme, "I really look forward to every guest from every country, culture, and nation."

"It is a big honour, but also a challenge for us as hosts," District Apostle Storck said, who has been responsible for the New Apostolic Church North Rhine-Westphalia since 2014. "But with the experience we gained in 2009, and with the help of the many committed brothers and sisters in our congregations, I am sure that this event will be a success."

Already today, District Apostle Storck is grateful for anyone who is prepared to help over the 2019 Ascension weekend. "We will need many helpers in order to look after our guests and help with all the events." But he is not worried, he says. "Many are still talking about the European Youth Day and its special atmosphere. So I am confident that we will manage to win many helpers to assist us with the youth convention in Düsseldorf."

Task force launched

Details of the International Youth Convention 2019 still have to be worked out. This is something that a task force will do that will begin its work next year. It will work in close consultation with the District Apostles.

To realize the youth convention, the founding of a non-profit company has been planned—as was done for the European Youth Day. Shareholders will be a number of European District Churches.

The significance of world peace

"Peace, O how precious" it says in a song in our English hymnal. And how true! Christians worldwide are aware how precious peace is. And they want nothing more than peace. But Jesus already told His disciples that they would have tribulation in the world, but that they could be of good cheer as long as He was with them. And what about today?

Is there peace in the world? Hardly. In the last year alone there have been over 30 wars, most of them civil wars, which have resulted in the deaths of countless innocent people. Terrorist gangs wreak havoc. Many people in North Africa and the Middle East are fleeing from violence and death and are leaving their homelands. The refugee crisis has taken on epic proportions.

And yet there is an International Day of Peace. It is observed every year on 21 September and is organized by the United Nations (UN). It is to be a day of cease-fire, a day when weapons are silent and people come to their senses. But this appeal is largely ignored.

Christian churches around the world support this appeal for peace with worldwide prayers. Each year the World Council of Churches calls upon its more than 350 member churches to get involved with prayers for peace. The New Apostolic Church also joins in. Congregations all around the world participate in praying for peace. The theme of this year's commemoration was "Partnerships for peace. Dignity for All".

Marcel Felde

Peace today

One of the most important papers in human history is the Charter of the United Nations. Its very first Article cites the preservation of world peace as the most important goal of the UN. In the past, peace was defined as the absence of war, but today we understand it to mean something more: respect for human rights, conflict prevention, disarmament, education for peace, and even human post-conflict rehabilitation. The United Nations has published good material on this subject. Today's understanding of peace has grown, but so has the list of wars and civil wars.

Over the course of its history, the United Nations has established numerous institutions whose goal is to preserve world peace, for example, the Security Council, UNESCO, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Human Rights Council, and the International Court of Justice. And yet true peace refuses to manifest itself.

Jesus is peace; peace is in God

Christians know this. They seek peace with God, with Jesus Christ. Living in peace is more than keeping peace. "Living in peace" was the focus of our divine services on 23 September. And living in peace with our neighbour is where everything begins. Jesus Christ is our peace. Christians know that. Christ sacrificed His life so that mankind could be reconciled with God. He was the one who spoke the words: "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14: 27). Faith in Jesus Christ gives us peace.

And what about us? What can we do?

The letter to the Hebrews tells us to pursue peace with all people (Hebrews 12: 14). This is an important call to action! Let us allow charity and kindness to prevail. And here we must remember that our neighbour is always the one whom God has put beside us. The peacemakers are called blessed. Are we prepared to make peace?

Nine million members in nearly 190 countries

The New Apostolic Church is active in almost all countries on all continents. Africa is home to the majority of members. Countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia top the list. At its recent conference in Johannesburg, the District Apostle Meeting made a slight adjustment to the worldwide membership figures.

The District Apostles and their administrative offices in the respective countries all agree: to accurately determine the number of members and to keep track of the changes is a challenge. In a lengthy and meticulous process, the administration of the New Apostolic Church International—NACI Administration—found that the focus over the past twenty years was on the registration of sealings, in other words the recording of new members. Deaths, however, were not recorded everywhere or not accurately registered. There were serious reasons for this, unfortunately: wars and displaced people being only two of them.

Looking at these figures over the long term, it is clear that the systems in place to keep track of the membership figures could often not keep up with the rapid growth in membership. This led to discrepancies between the figures registered in databases and the actual number of members in the Church.

In a lengthy process, worldwide membership figures were reviewed for plausibility. Local statistics on life expectancy served as a guide. In addition, the procedure for registering and administering membership figures has been improved and will continue to be improved.

Continent	Members	Congregations	Ministers
Africa	7,391,328	50,647	213,585
America	225,852	1,590	9,639
Asia	627,210	4,534	8,861
Europe	451,033	2,740	21,511
Australia, Oceania *	121,567	832	5,500
Total	**8,816,990**	**60,343**	**259,096**

UN/Isaac Alebe Avoro Lu'uba

Refugees make their way to Europe

Many millions of people around the world are refugees. Many of them flee their countries for fear of terrorism and out of concern for life and limb. Helping them when they arrive in their new country is an expression of active charity.

According to estimates from the United Nations Refugee Agency, there are approximately 60 million people around the world who are currently displaced. This is the highest figure that has ever been recorded by the UNHCR. This means that an average of 42,500 people are fleeing their countries of origin every day—in search of peace, security, and a new life. They include elderly people, children, and entire families. They have lost everything: their homes, their possessions, and all too often people close to them. On the occasion of World Refugee Day on 20 June, *nac.today* took a look inside the refugee camps of East Africa. A very touching story emerged.

Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider made some clear statements against violence, xenophobia, and hatred in a divine service in Luxembourg in January 2015. Terrorism in North Africa and in the Middle East has led to a refugee influx of unprecedented scale. Already in his opening prayer, Chief Apostle Schneider prayed for all victims of violence, "We pray for all people who are in deep need. We pray for those who have become victims of injustice." And he went on to pray especially for all people who are in great danger because of their faith. "People are trying to harm or even kill them, just because they have a different faith. This really worries us."

They are victims of injustice

The guests in attendance at this divine service in Luxembourg at the time included high-ranking clergymen of various religions and denominations. During a gathering after the divine service, Chief Apostle Schneider expressed his thanks to them for their attendance, and declared his solidarity with all victims of racism and intolerance, whether Jewish, Muslim, or Christian.

In a letter sent out to the members of the District Church of North Rhine-Westphalia, District Apostle Rainer Storck likewise stressed the importance of charity and support for others. "The state government in Düsseldorf estimates that some 100,000 refugees and asylum seekers will come to North Rhine-Westphalia alone by the end of the year. This will result in some special challenges for our society, which will not bypass us as a Church," he expressed in his letter to the congregations.

Many collective efforts

Many collective efforts have already begun, including donations of clothes and money, offers of accommodation, language lessons, and assistance in dealing with the authorities. "I really welcome this and encourage more of the same," writes District Apostle Storck. "Above and beyond all our intercessions in prayer, such personal care as an act of Christian charity is a matter of course." He went on to add that New Apostolic Christians also demonstrate their solidarity through such efforts. "We stand opposed to any and all forms of xenophobia."

In his letter, the Church leader recommends working together with local aid organizations or the aid initiatives that have since been established in many areas. He goes on to note that it is also advisable to get into contact with local authorities for information on the need for help, in order to thereby assess the ways in which it may be possible to provide assistance.

All the District Apostles are giving similar instructions. All over Europe, New Apostolic congregations have declared their solidarity with these people who have fallen on hard times. Significant assistance has been provided in all District Churches. While the terms "migrant" or "immigrant" often sound very technical, the reality is that these are people in bitter poverty, who are all too often struggling for their very survival.

To lend a helping hand is to show solidarity

NAK-karitativ, an aid organization of the New Apostolic Churches in Europe, is appealing for donations. Their website states that an enormous number of people are being forced to flee their home countries as a result of persecution, war, or hunger. They come from Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, and similarly unstable countries in Africa. "When they flee their home countries, they are often dependent on criminal smugglers who charge exorbitant fees to bring them to Europe. These people arrive in the south of Europe completely exhausted, often abused, and robbed of all their possessions."

Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider expressed deep concern over these conditions, "We are not interested in using our assistance in order to highlight our Church affiliation. Rather, it is completely natural for us to practise charity and show empathy to others in obedience to the gospel!"

Let us pray for these people, let us give them our assistance, and let us declare our solidarity with them.

NAC North Rhine-Westphalia

Cobe

Media offer 2015: *nacfaq* is the Catechism app with 750 answers

The *Catechism of the New Apostolic Church in Questions and Answers* has just been published. The book can be used in class by students and teachers and is a good tool for self-study. Internet users will be delighted: the matching app is available for download free of charge.

The *nacfaq* app runs the short and easy-to-understand texts of this new version of the Catechism and offers the user the entire reference work with all of the 750 questions and answers. With the *nacfaq* app you are never without the Catechism.

The app can be downloaded on your mobile device and installed from the iTunes store on iOS devices or from the Google store on Android devices.

Despite its substantial content it weighs nothing

For many people life without smartphones and tablets has become unthinkable. They carry them in their pant or jacket pockets or have them on their desks, ready for various applications. The new Catechism app could not have arrived at a better time. It weighs nothing, needs next to no memory space, and the text appears at a click.

Scrolling or swiping makes for easy and comfortable reading—whether at home or on the road. Also included are the subject index and the index of Bible references.

Individual settings: language and font size

The app provides the Catechism in five languages: English, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish. The language version as well as the font size can be switched at any time.

The central search function allows you to find random words or chapters in the Catechism, including the subject index and Bible reference index.

Read and share

The app allows users to set bookmarks and to organize personal favourites on a particular topic. The easy-to-use search function and the managing of your bookmarks is one of the strengths of the app, and an advantage over the book.

The app allows the Catechism texts to be shared with others either via email or social networking services such as Facebook and Twitter. The Church's own network, *nacworld.net*, will follow soon.

Apps by the Church for mobile devices

The *nacfaq* app expands the already existing media offer of the New Apostolic Church. In addition to the new *Catechism in Questions and Answers*, the New Apostolic Church also runs an app with the long version of the Catechism. It can be downloaded from the iTunes and Google stores.

In addition to this, the Church offers an app in the iTunes and Google stores that update news from around the New Apostolic world several times a day.

Media offer 2015: *nacnews*, the news app

For a number of years now, the New Apostolic Church International has provided an application for viewing news from around the New Apostolic world. The application, more colloquially termed an "app", has been in use by many thousands of Church members for daily information since 2010. The software can be installed very quickly on mobile devices. Once installed, the app features an overview of constantly updated news from participating websites all around the world, without the need for further registration or log-in.

Push functionality for immediate notification
Starting immediately, users can subscribe to individual feeds in the app. With these subscriptions, news items from selected websites can be shown right in the display with a Push Notification as soon as they are published.

Spanish-language option added for international information
The app also features a Spanish-language channel to supplement its selection of news, also known as "feeds". Users can choose to read their news in English, French, German, and/or Spanish. The individual app settings can also be done in any of these four languages.

New functions in version 3.0.0
Many functions of the *nacnews* app have been optimized in version 3 or completely redeveloped, such as

- a faster update of the start page by gesture control: pull to refresh.
- no limits on previews: overviews can be scrolled dynamically.
- a comfortable slideshow: simply scroll through image galleries with swipe gestures.

JM themetwister

Coming up

3 Jan. 2016	Siegen (Germany)
10 Jan. 2016	Uyo Obio (Nigeria)
12 Jan. 2016	Yamoussoukro (Ivory Coast)
7 Feb. 2016	Ulm (Germany)
14 Feb. 2016	Berlin (Germany)
19 Feb. 2016	Lubango (Angola)
21 Feb. 2016	Luanda (Angola)
27 Feb. 2016	Mwanda (DR Congo)
28 Feb. 2016	Kinshasa (DR Congo)
6 Mar. 2016	Bielefeld (Germany)
13 Mar. 2016	Zurich (Switzerland)
20 Mar. 2016	Kimberley (South Africa)
25 Mar. 2016	Nordheide (Germany)
27 Mar. 2016	Bremen (Germany)

New Apostolic Church
International