

Newsletter No. 01 of 2009

(09-09-2009)

I called this Newsletter Number 01 of 2009 as *Miktav Alef (Letter 1)*, as the 'official' Newsletter of Cape-Orange Diocese (ELCSA) will only be launched in October 2009. However, I aim to give you a 'teaser' of what our Newsletters will contain. I also know that those registered members on the COD-website are really anxious to receive some news and cannot wait to become a part of a very exciting venture of the COD.

Indeed in nature and in our Diocese we are experiencing a state of transition and transformation. Spring, and more so, October is designated the most beautiful month of the year. Also, in our Church Year 'green' is the designated color for the Sundays after Trinity, a sign of growth. I thus take my cue from the garden and gardeners' world when I call upon you to support this newsletter.

Fruit comes after months of input and thus we will go through some growth (teething) stages. Let us cherish the initial seeds in the seedbeds, the weak seedlings, the tender shoots and know that with time the required fruit will emerge. No gardener can act alone, and likewise no editor can go it solo. I will need your input as "journalists" from time to time. Already I have vacancies in my "foreign correspondents' department" to be filled and I ask you please to intercede for the Deans to be elected in the Kalahari, Free State and Moria Circuits.

Allow me to share with you what I plan at this stage for our *biweekly* newsletter.

The following will hopefully become regulars:

- 1. Walking in the Light.**
A short Biblical reflection to empower the readers on their daily Christian walk, amidst all the challenges of the modern world.
- 2. What shall we say about all these?**
Reflections on the current national and international news events will be mirrored by/in the Word of God to console, direct and challenge (where needed).
- 3. Joys and sorrows.**
We are called upon to be there for one another and this will be a vehicle to keep us informed.
- 4. Chess(nee CHURCH) moves: Bishop to...**
All the movements of the Bishop (and deans), where they sow, plant; water will be made known so you can pray to God for these ventures at your Prayer groups and during Worship services.

5. **What about....?**

This will attempt to spice up your congregational life and ventures. Not necessarily only tried and tested, but also ideas that can enhance the worship life, organizations, fundraising, etc. will be shared. Of course these can/will need to be adapted, changed at your leisure to suit your circumstances.

6. **Spotlight on....**

The idea is to feature a person, congregation or noteworthy topic as the situation dictates.

7. **What's in it for me?**

Who knows what prizes can await you for visiting our COD-website and reading the newsletter.

These in a nutshell are my thinking. My wish then is to inform, stimulate, to involve and to grow the visitors to our site. It is my wish now to hear from you before the launch on Friday the **9th October 2009**. Please volunteer to contribute to any of these regular features. You also need tell us your needs and whether these regulars are sufficient and cater for your expectations. Any other brilliant ideas will be gladly accommodated.

Eagerly hearing from you!!

Reverend Newton Brandt

[signed electronically]

Assigned Editor of the COD-Newsletter

The editor can be contacted at newtonbrandt@gmail.com or 072 267 8681.

/end