

# COD NEWSLETTER

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**AUGUST 2011**

## **PREMIER SNIPPETS FROM THE THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT OF MARTIN LUTHER**

Get this right- for heaven's sake...

*(...) but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat for you will surely die. Gen 2:17*

*The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. Joh.6:54*

The green wood produces sin and death, whereas the justification and Life came from the dry wood (cf. the cross. {Ed}). This is why it was said: 'Do not eat of the green tree if you do, you will die; now however, it can be said: ' Eat of this dry wood or you will remain dead. You will indeed eat of one tree and have your fill, but I shall set up a tree so full of fruit that you will never be able to eat it all.' However just as you found it difficult to keep away from that green tree, it will be just as hard to eat from the dry tree and enjoy its fruit. The first tree took the form of life, happiness and everything that is good; the second one which we have here and now has taken the form of death, suffering and tears. The first tree blossoms and flourishes whereas the second is desiccated. That is why it is so deeply rooted in the human hearts to seek life where there is certain death and to shun that death that leads to certain Life. **(From Luther's Breviary 2007)**

## FROM THE CIRCUITS

### KALAHARI CIRCUIT

**INVITATION:** COD PRAYER MEN'S LEAGUE CONFERENCE

**WHEN:** 14 till 16 October 2011

**WHERE:** Upington.

All circuits please send your total of members who is going to attend the conference on or before 2 September 2011 because it will have an impact on the accommodation fee.

### WESTERN CAPE CIRCUIT

#### **Congratulations:**

To **Rev. Cynthia Davids, Rev. Michael Jacobs Rev. Mark Lakey and Rev. Dualaneo Prins** who were ordained into the Self-Supporting ministry on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2011 in Cape Town Athlone Parish. May you be rooted in Christ and build on His sure foundation so that your ministry can yield fruit to the glorification of His name.

### FREE STATE CIRCUIT

**INVITATION:** Heritage day Festival & Fun Day

**WHEN:** 24 September 2011

**WHERE:** Adamshoop

**Theme:** Surely I have a delightful inheritance (Ps 16:6b).

## WHO'S WHO PROFILES

### REV. ALISON WILLIAMS



My name is Alison Catherine Williams I am the youngest and only daughter of George and Alice Williams and I have three brothers. I was born in Cape Town and raised in Lotus River, Grassy Park. I attended Perivale Primary School and Grassdale Senior Secondary School. I was confirmed in the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grassy Park Parish in November 1999 by Pastor J. Melando.

I always felt that church did not accommodate us as young people and to be honest at one stage I felt that it was a very boring place to be. It was only when I became involved in the church in the youth league and as a Sunday school teacher that I realized that the church is a home for all. One should not sit on the sideline and criticize instead you should be involved. Since that time I saw the church as a place of safety, the one place in this world that offers security the type that this world cannot give.

It was always my desire to serve people. I wanted to enter the hospitality industry and at the same time since grade 8 I was involved in the church especially the youth league. On Saturday morning's I did job shadowing at many different hotels in Cape Town and Sunday mornings I taught Sunday school. After some time I had to make a decision to either go to hotel school or work after Matric. It was then that I realized that the work at the hotels during schools holidays and weekends did not bring the same amount of joy that I felt when I was at involved at church. I then decided that I would dedicate the rest of my life to serve the people of God instead of preparing food at a hotel or restaurant. I remember a sense of contentment and too this very day I have no regrets with the choice that I have made and also because I believe that I have been called.

I studied at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal since 2005-2009. I completed my bachelor's degree in 2008 and continued with bachelors in theology honors in 2009. In 2010 I did a ministerial formation course for six months and internship in my home congregation. My years as a student was the most exciting time of my life and it was a time when I learned to stand on my own two feet. I had many helpful lecturers who were always willing to assist us as students especially when we did not understand our work.

I was ordained on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2011 in Kimberley at St. Paul's congregation. Before my ordination I served in the Grassy Park parish for six months as part of an internship program in 2010. From the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2011 I served in the Kalahari Circuit Rietfontein Parish where I am currently still serving.

**1. Who of your classmates are still in the ministry?**

Franklyn Clarke Harwood who is a Dean in Botswana Diocese, Lindiwe Shongwe in Swaziland, Maake Sono, Simphiwe Shwabede, Thembaletu Buthelezi, Alilali Mukhevho, Rev. Ntamo, Vincent Ngubane and others.

**2. How do you approach and prepare a sermon?**

The first thing that I do before I prepare a sermon is to find out about the social context of the congregation and experiences both positive and negative of the congregation so that if necessary and in line with the theme then I mention something that they can relate to for contextualization purposes. I start preparation a week before the actual day of sermon delivery. I try to use stories or concepts that grab the attention of the listeners and try my best to stay on the level of the people using the language that they speak.

**3. What are your hobbies? How do you relax?**

I love cooking, listening to music, watching movies and spending time with family and friends. To relax I light a candle and listen to music from Taize and meditate it calms me after a busy day and helps me to relax.

**4. What is your favourite food?**

I love seafood and afval potjie.

**5. Where is your favourite place for holidays?**

Cape Town and Durban because I love the beach

**6. Tell us something that very few people knows about you**

I am very short tempered

**7. What do you think is the greatest challenge to the Church today?**

I think the greatest challenge is for the church to respond to issues like global warming, drugs, prostitution, women and child abuse, homosexuality and HIV/AIDS and to openly speak about these issues through Bible studies and in sermons. It is a challenge because it demands that as a church we become involved and this is not always easy.

**8. Tell us of some highlights during your ministry?**

There are many but the one I would like to share is when we started with a project where we collected clothes and food for underprivileged people in the community. We went to our first home and gave the members of the family a warm plate of food. The look on the faces of the people will forever be in my memory and how grateful they were. This experience taught me to be grateful for what I have and to stop complaining.

9. In short what message do you have for your congregation?

The advice from my father, "Stay on your knees", it carried me through my weakest moments.

## SOME THOUGHTS ON PRAYER...

*O, for the mercy of the Heavenly King....*

"God tolerates even our stammering, and pardons our ignorance whenever something inadvertently escapes us - as, indeed, without this mercy there would be no freedom to pray"- **John Calvin**

Reminded of this a quote, I try to imagine the response of an earthly king when a servant would approach him that stammers (of course this would hardly happen as the person would take precaution and bring someone along to speak on his behalf) or when someone could not express him/herself properly, does not know what s/he really wants. Very seldom will this audience last very long or end without the one being angry (for wasted time) and the other sad for being misunderstood.

Now can you imagine God being bombarded with all our requests and prayers and yet, this KING is patient amidst the stammering of His servants; that tolerates their ignorance even when they completely miss the mark. Even when we fail to ask what is relevant and needed that is forgiven.

Dwell a little on these two scenarios and then remember that God is more willing to listen to our prayers than we are willing to pray!

May we indeed utilize this gracious gift and opportunity to be heard.

*Do not worry about anything, But in every thing by prayer and supplications with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Phil. 4:6*

## REQUESTS

1. Your participation is STILL awaited to suggest a new name for this newsletter. Please motivate your suggestion if need be. Your efforts will be rewarded with a book prize and CD from Ivan Rens (specializing in LUTHERAN Hymns).
2. Vacancies STILL exist for two dynamic and committed persons, a woman and young person to join the Newsletter team to bring fresh articles/ info from these two perspectives to the readers.
3. A reader outside the ELCSA COD membership is requested to post ecumenical articles and info to expand the insight of our readers.

### HAVE YOUR SAY >>>

Readers are requested to send comments to the Exec. Secretary, Rev. M.Manong via email ( [mjmanong @yahoo.com](mailto:mjmanong@yahoo.com)), Facebook or Twitter (use link @website [www.elcsacod.co.za](http://www.elcsacod.co.za))

#### *Newsletter Team*

Bishop W. Bowles (Consultant and Advisor))

Rev. M.Manong (Website Co-ordinator)

Dean N.Brandt (editor)

Rev. S.Carelse (Co-editor +researcher)

Mrs. S. Vorster (Layout +Typesetting)

Women' Advocacy (Vacant)

Youth foci (Vacant)