

GREGOREO

NEWSLETTER OF THE CAPE ORANGE DIOCESE

14 OCTOBER 2011

Dear Reader,

We have many examples of courage and convictions. From the pages of the book of Hebrews to Church History and modern History role models can be found. But what do we leave for the next generation? Is it possible that our fervor and zeal can be misplaced and contrary to God's will? In an ever, (fast) changing world it is getting more difficult to chart a straight course-on the straight and narrow. Fortunately we were promised that we will not have to try to sort it out alone, but the Counselor will be with us (Joh.14)

Please take time to reflect on the different segments and sharpen your faith with the help of the Holy Spirit. May we not be ruled by fear, but with the peace of God in our hearts.

PREMIER SNIPPETS FROM THE THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT OF MARTIN LUTHER

For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judges me is the Lord. (1 Cor. 4: 4)

No matter how just, how sacred, how guiltless, how divine your cause may be, it is essential that you treat it with trepidation and in all humility and proceed in fear and humility in preparation for the judgment of God. By no means trust in your own powers. Instead, trust in God's mercy. Judas Maccabaus was slain in a just war. Similarly, many have fallen in conflicts which were both good and praiseworthy as is written in the Book of Judges by the children of Israel, chapter 20: They put their trust in the justice of their cause and not in God's mercy as Paul refers in 1Cor 4:4. . (Luther's Breviary 2007)

WELCOME TO GLOBALIZATION. WHAT'S AT STAKE?

The spirited (angry?) media conference of Bishop Tutu last week, created divergent views about where South Africa is at and going. Hard words fell on the ears of the ruling party.

Reaction to these, on the one hand is the casual perception to not let "a lousy party" spoil our relationships with China, after all, one of our major trading partners and who can open lots of doors and opportunities for us with pacts and trading blocks. Thus, our future and living standards are at stake here.

On the other hand, others were drawn to the Bishop's words, laden with emotions and frustration not only linked to human rights abuses and freedom from oppression for Tibet, but also with the way South Africa goes about her representation of her citizens and our continent.

The perception is that the light of the lighthouse (once so hailed internationally!) are turned off at crucial stages when storms are raging and ships are in need of direction. Are we indeed succumbing to outside pressure to lower our standards and standpoints, so not to offend our strategic partners? Should we act more independent and be guided by clear and abiding principles and values irrespective of the medium/long term consequences?

Whilst you battle with juggling the world and her problems to a win-win situation let me make it easier and more difficult by bringing it to our personal realm.

As Christians where does God fit into our future and providence? Should we trust Him to provide or create our own outcomes? What underpin these outcomes? Will we compromise God's guidelines to achieve our goals? Who do we deal with and from whom do we flee?

I think you will agree with me that convictions take courage, especially in the face of loss on a personal /family /community level.

I pray that we will be able to take and maintain a long term vision of our faith. This world is not our home, we are just passing through, states the songwriter. Challenges, crises and the cross of Christ are bound to come. May His indwelling Holy Spirit then assist us to remain faithful despite the odds.

FROM THE CIRCUITS

NORTHERN CAPE CIRCUIT

Your intercession is called upon for the 94th Diocesan Council meeting in Kimberley next week - 20th -21st October 2011. This may be the last for this current term of the representatives of this body and we pray that they will prepare for free and fair elections next year. May God prepare and call the laborers to take our COD forward in the challenging and exciting future.

KALAHARI CIRCUIT

God's richest blessing to the Prayer Men's League Gathering in Upington. We pray God's mercy upon the Hosts and their preparation and pray that the fruit will in time be visible in all parishes from this encounter around the Word of God and with one another!

WESTERN CAPE CIRCUIT

Circuit is eagerly gearing up for Reformation Sunday Worcester was the place to be at today. My colleagues and I met to finalize our Reformation festival with an open-air service. Everybody so excited and can't wait for the 30th October to arrive. We would like to wish all the congregations, church wide a very blessed and spirit filled Reformation celebrations. {Reformation and Freedom}, what an exciting theme“(Dean Dinale)

FREE STATE CIRCUIT

Building bridges will continue in the Motheo Parishes (Bloemfontein) with the third and final All Lutheran Gathering in Rocklands (youth Centre) hosted by the Bloemfontein South Parish. All are welcome to attend on 23 October.



WHO'S WHO PROFILES

PASTOR CYNTHIA MARIAN DAVIDS

(Co-pastor in Kraaifontein/Paarl Parish) with Pastor JJ Melando)

I am married to Elmer Davids with 2 daughters: Melissa and Candice.

My interests/Hobbies: Music, Singing, Cooking, Reading, Flower Arranging

MY INVOLVEMENT IN CHURCH OVER THE YEARS:

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Sunday School teacher for over 20 years.

Attended Sunday School Leadership Courses and worked for SANSSA in Training Sunday School Teachers in their different age departments.

Planned/Helped with Vacation Bible Schools – every 2nd year at different churches during June Holidays.

MUSIC:

Sang in different church choirs, ladies choirs over 20 years

Organist in Church - Responsible for music for Church Choir/Ladies Choir in Kraaifontein

SCHOOL:

Senior Certificate Elsie's River High (1979)

TEACHERS DIPLOMA COMMERCE:

Peninsula Technikon(1982)

FURTHER DIPLOMA IN COMMERCE:

Peninsula Technikon (1988)

B. Theology: (UWC): 2009

PART OF SERMON THAT I DID ON DAY OF ORDINATION

What we need for our challenges (this was part of the sermon of Ordination)

Mark, Michael and Dualaneo, we ought to be examples of living a **LIFE OF FAITH.**

The principle in Heb. 11:6 says - that "without faith it is impossible to please God" and this is so important to **EFFECTIVE MINISTRY.**

Our work in this Ministry requires **FAITH.**

And if we fail in **FAITH**, we had better not have undertaken this call.

It is proven - that success in the Lord's service is based on our **FAITH.**

It has nothing to do with our abilities

It has nothing to do with our gifts

It has nothing to do with our talents But rather according to the **MEASURE OF OUR FAITH**, for this is a law of the Kingdom: and that is:

"According to your faith so will it be unto you"

It is essential then, that we should have **FAITH** if we are to be useful.....

and that we should have **GREAT FAITH** if we are to be **GREATLY** useful.....

Mark, Michael and Dualaneo - We will have our obstacles and challenges in this ministry – just like this woman had hers! But let us remember: Faith makes the impossible, **POSSIBLE**.

YOUTH SECTION

IGNORANCE IS BLISS NOT WHEN IT COMES TO HIV

By Desiree Kapaletswe

The most threatening challenge of our time is **HIV/Aids**, and as youth we tend to pretend as though it does not affect or even faze us. It's shocking when you still hear people say "if I had HIV I'd rather not know about it". I believe it would be better if you knew what you were facing than living with the fear of the unknown. As young people we need to be more responsible for our own health, we need to be cautious in life. Telling people to abstain from sex till marriage is a bit overrated because even today people get infected in marriages. The next best thing to do is to use protection all the time, test regularly and remain faithful to one partner. Truth is, no matter how much you get taught about HIV/Aids your own ignorance towards the disease is going to determine your reaction to the pandemic. Let's all work together to fight the stigma associated with this pandemic and show all those affected and infected by HIV/Aids all the love and care we have, as much as we want to deny it we know we are all affected by it. Positive attitude cultivates positive actions so spread the love.....SPEED kills and so does HIV/AIDS!!!

EXAM FEVER

It's that time of the year again where we get tested on our year's school work. We all writing exams but the people most under pressure are Matriculants. They are looked upon by the whole country to make us proud with a high or positive outcome and this is major added pressure on the poor students. But my message to Matriculants is "you and only you can know what you really want from life, so start by making yourself proud and in turn everybody will realize your achievements. Follow your own dreams and don't let

anything stop you from reaching your goals" to everybody else you are as much important as matrix and you should do by any means to work hard and pass your exams. Study hard and forget about your social life a little. **GOD BLESS** on your period of exams and remember do **YOURSELF PROUD!**

A PRAYER ...

from **THE CROSS IS HEAVEN** by A.J. Appasamy

(I think this asked for some contemplation from us. Ed)

YOU ALONE DO I DESIRE....

My Lord God, my all in all, life of my life and spirit of my spirit, look in mercy upon me and so fill me with Your Holy Spirit that my heart shall have no room for love of aught (anything whatever) but You. I seek from You no other gift but Yourself, who are the Giver of life and all its blessings. From You I ask not for the world or its treasures, nor yet for heaven even do I make request, but You alone do I desire and long for, and where You are there is Heaven. The hunger and the thirst of this heart of mine can be satisfied only with You who have given birth to it. O Creator mine! You have created my heart for Yourself alone, and not for another; therefore this my heart can find no rest or ease save in You, in You who has both created it and set in it this very longing for rest. Take away then from my heart all that is opposed to You, and enters and abides and rules in it for ever. Amen.

Make the best of your time...

As the years tick by we need to start becoming more and more aware that:
"The day will soon come when your life will be spent, Nor can you expect to return here again."

HAVE YOUR SAY >>>

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

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