

GREGOREO

NEWSLETTER

CAPE ORANGE DIOCESE

17 SEPTEMBER 2011

Dear Reader

We have been urged in the last couple of Sunday meditations to be proactive in eradication discord amongst us. A process was put forward by Matthew to make sure that harmony is restored speedily to prevent our pain moving into hatred with time. This not only annihilate our prayer but also our prayer partners and so our intercession for the establishment of the kingdom of God.

We are alerted to be watchful and constantly go the extra mile (70X7) to restore relationships as time is precious, but also a destruction agent when we are urged by Satan to nurture our pain and ill-feelings instead of reconciling.

May our supreme FORGIVER strengthen us and teach us to forgive speedily! We hear the echo again across Jerusalem: "*Father forgive them for they know not what they do*"

PREMIER SNIPPETS FROM THE THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT OF MARTIN LUTHER

"For we have found this man a pestilent fellow and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes" (Acts 24: 5)

Every one is fretting and fuming about the fact that the Gospel can cause a lot of discord, strife and tumult in the world. They also go on about things being worse since the arrival of the Gospel than before when everything was nice and peaceful without

persecutions when people live in harmony with one another as good friends and neighbors. There is only one answer to people who are always mouthing off in this way: "Life cannot be and should not be a bed of roses." For how can it be all nice and peaceful when the devil's rule hold sway and when he is at the same time a sworn enemy of the Gospel? That is why I do not even hope for peace as Christ is walking about the devil's territory. (Luther's Breviary 2007)

SEPTEMBER 11- WHAT IS BEING KEPT ALIVE EVERY YEAR?

That evil need to be eradicated the majority on this planet will agree about. It is however a completely different thing to agree and define this evil. What or who is evil?

Every year the media makes sure we remember 9/11. But what are we learning every year? So many people- so many views, I deduce every year when debates are rekindled on this event. Conspiracy theories also grow with time, which seek enmity from within and without the USA.

As the years are drifting away from 2001, the question is whether the wounds are slowly healing, or whether this annual remembrance is not used to keep the wounds open? What are being instilled at these gatherings? Is the stress on the Biblical injunction to forgive 70 X7 or the need to be prepared and thus fear, vulnerability, hatred, revenge becomes the driving force to keep us alert? Do we learn from our pain and more so are we prepared to do introspection as to the reason this pain was inflicted?

I guess it is easy so far removed from those affected by this catastrophe to theorize about what is supposed to happen. Perhaps if we are at the receiving side, we will sing a different tune and then act completely different.

Reminded of the following called Empathy's power: "Something powerful happens when people feel understood and supported in their pain" When empathy is experienced, we feel that our pain is being shared and understood. It is then that we will begin to take steps in the direction of change or healing."(Joannah Sadler)

For now let us consider our own commemoration events and be more aware to check what our goals at these events are? Do we fuel a fire or do we strive for reconciliation?

FROM THE CIRCUITS

KALAHARI CIRCUIT

Welcome back to Dean Bezuidenhout and his fellow delegates from a Partnership visit to Germany. We are all ears to hear about your experiences and the results of this interaction. (We are watching this space Ed.)

WESTERN CAPE CIRCUIT

The Induction of Pastor Sidwell Karelse will be on the 25th September 2011 at Grassy Park. We pray God's blessings upon this servant of God and pray that God will be honored through his ministry in this parish and the Circuit.

FREE STATE CIRCUIT

Our condolences to the Jacobsdal congregation and Koffiefontein Parish for their loss of an elder, teacher, Women's League member, treasurer, mentor and example in the person of Sr. Maudie de Koker who passed away on Friday 9 September. May God comfort the family and the congregation.

NORTHERN CAPE CIRCUIT

All is set for the Prayer Women's League Diocesan Rally 29th September -2nd October 2011 at the Diocesan Centre, St Paul's Kimberley. We pray God's wisdom upon the leaders and organizers when they attempt to give flesh to their theme: **Bear one another's burdens**. Gal 6:2a. May the fruit of this gathering and theme be visible in all congregations in due time.



WHO'S WHO PROFILES

REV. SIDWELL CHARLES CARELSE

Sidwell Charles Carelse (50 years old) Born in Mossel Bay (Tarka) on the 08th of August 1961 and attended both Frederick Scheffler Primary School and Soa Bras Senior Secondary School.

The Bible verse at confirmation in Evangelical Lutheran Church Mossel Bay (Immanuel) was Isaiah 55:6 "Turn to the Lord and pray to him, now that he is near."

THEOLOGICAL TRAINING

Started theological training in January 1979 – December 1982 and continued with post graduate studies. Completed a Diploma in Theology (Dip. Th), Licentiate Theologiae (LTh) , at the Evangelical Reformed Theological School and the Theological Seminary of the CRC respectively, followed with a BA (Hons) in Theology (University of the Western Cape) and is completing a research thesis towards Masters Degree (MTh) at University of Stellenbosch.

Proff HSA Engdahl and HJ Hendriks approaches and teachings of ecclesiology and missiology stimulated my theological thinking. I specialised in Missional Transformation with the emphasis on Ministerial Practise (*Praxis Ministri*).

ORDINATION:

Ordained on 18 December 1983 with laying on of hands and served and commenced on 01 September 1984 as full time parish minister in the following places for almost 28 years in ministry of Word and Sacraments:

Somerset East, Knysna, Gordon Memorial Mission (Pomeroy;Kwazulu-Natal), Graaff Reinet, Geluksdal/Alrapark (Combination). For the last 11 years was called to and served the Rhenish Church (Rynse Kerk) Bellville as part time minister whilst being employed with the Department of Home Affairs from April 1995 to July 2011.

ELCSA:

After being accepted into the ordained ministry in ELCSA, the Diocesan Council appointed me as pastor in charge of Grassy Park Parish from 01st August 2011.

People that inspired and played an influential role in choosing ministry as career was: Pastor H.P.Steneberg (late), Messrs N.Abrahams (late) and J.Scholtz (Mossel Bay Parish). I recall conducting prayer meetings under the guidance of the aforementioned people. My longitudinal friend since grade one, Dean Newton Brandt, is also my colleague in the ministry.

FAVOURITE HOBBIES:

Have a keen interest in astronomy and physiognomy. Enjoy listening to favourite composer Bach's music as well as Taize music.

FAMILY LIFE:

Is married to Ronell with whom I have one child, Sidwell (jr) and I also have three children and one grandchild out of previous marriage.

FAVOURITE FOOD:

Favourite food is "afval", soup and fish.

HOLIDAYS:

Next family holiday destination is Egypt and pilgrimage to Holy Lands.

CHALLENGE FOR THE CHURCH:

I consider the biggest challenge for the church of today is to be relevant, especially to reach the upcoming generation and marginalised people in society.

HIGHLIGHTS IN THE MINISTRY:

One of the highlights in my ministry was the empowerment of leaders to become missionally orientated.

MESSAGE FOR MY PARISH:

Let us build healthy relationships. Keep communication channels open. Give your support in Prayer, Presence and Praise!!!

FAVOURITE QUOTE:

'We can only live changes: we cannot think our way to humanity. Every one of us, every group, must become the model of that which we desire to create.' - *Ivan Illich*

SOME THOUGHTS by C.H.Spurgeon

CHOICES ...

Better alone than in bad company
Better leave undone than have to undo
Better suffering without cause than cause suffering
Better than a star on the breast, is a conscience at rest
Better suffer a great wrong, than do even a little one
Better poverty with truth than prosperity with falsehood
Better die than lie; better suffer than sin
Better be last amongst the saints than first among sinners.

FORGIVENESS...

Forgive and forget: When you bury a mad dog do not leave his tail above ground
(Here is the difficulty with some, they harbor the memory of the wrong, and so the snake of anger is scotched and not killed. It wiggles itself to life again. Have done with it and let the memory of it die altogether)

YOUTH SECTION

BORN AGAIN - *By Desiree Kapaletswe*

I am certain it is not the first time you hear of the term “born again”. My first encounter with this term was in grade 12 in the year 2006, my best friend who was a born again Christian asked me “wouldn’t you like to be born again” and like a stupid teenager I laughed and said “are you crazy?” but she wasn’t. In the book of John 3v3, Jesus said to a Jewish leader Nicodemus “I am telling you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born again” it was not until she had given me a book of John to read that I began to understand what she meant. Even after all these years of accepting Jesus as my personal Savior, I still ask myself “can I say I am born again?, have I fulfilled all the things I needed to, to say I am born?” probably not but I know that regardless of all this I am still a child of God and I am going to find out what it takes to be born again because in John 3v5 Jesus said “I am telling you the truth no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and spirit” and I too want to enter the kingdom of God.

(A Challenge and a quest to all , fortunately within our reach of St Augustine Ed)

Augustine Confessions

Late have I loved you,
beauty so old and so new,
late have I loved you.

And see, you were within,
and I was in the external world and sought you there,
and in my unlovely state I plunged into those lovely things
which you made.

You were with me, and I was not with you.
The lovely things kept me far from you,

though if they did not have their existence in you
they had no existence at all.

You called and cried out loud and shattered my deafness.
You were radiant and resplendent, you put to flight my blindness.
You were fragrant,
and I drew my breath and now pant after you.
I tasted you, and I feel but hunger and thirst for you.
You touched me,
and I am set on fire to attain the peace which is yours.

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WHAT'S IN A NAME....?

New to our newsletter? Want to know the background to "Gregoreo"? Just check the previous issue.

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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