

# Western Pacific District News



Edition 35/2 - Spring 2020

Christ  makes free

**In this issue:**

**District Apostle visits to Redcliffe & Morayfield**

**Church dedication in Papua New Guinea**

**Divine service for seniors**

**Thanksgiving 2019 & 2020**



# From the desk of District Apostle Schulte



Dear brothers and sisters

## **Yesterday, today and tomorrow.....**

In a recent divine service our Chief Apostle mentioned that "we are sometimes tempted to compare the present to the past and conclude that it was much better before. Such an approach is not likely to comfort us. We would be better to follow Apostle Paul's example and view the present in light of the future."

Apostle Paul encouraged the Corinthians not to focus on looking back at the glory of the old covenant (which was glorious in its time), but rather live with the glory that is revealed today through the Holy Spirit and look to future glory with Christ.

We can never discard yesterday. We are thankful for the visionaries of yesterday and those who worked with them. Much of what we have today was established by them. Much of what we know today was learnt through the experiences of yesterday. The means and knowledge provided by our previous generations are the "tools" we work with today. We want to continue to recognise the value and the gift of the past.

We often look back and reflect on the "good old days"; in reality we are not looking back at the "good old days" as a whole, rather we are only reminiscing about the good days of the old days. There were many things that, as in today's world, weren't perfect.

In our church life, our predecessors - although not perfect - were guided by the glory of the Holy Spirit. Those who, through their teaching and example, taught us to pray, to offer, and follow Christ. They taught us of the gift of salvation, the gospel

message, and the promise of Christ's return to take us with Him to a place He is preparing for us.

I read an interesting article of an Australian pioneering family. The writer mentioned that the development of the land had been commenced by their predecessors (yesterday), then during her lifetime a lot of development, therefore progress, had happened (today). In concluding her story, she summarised by saying that progress and development wouldn't stop in her time but would continue into the generations to come (tomorrow).

Today, we live with and work with the glory of the Holy Spirit. The Apostolate works confidently with the promise of Christ that He would be with them until the end of the age. In His high priestly prayer the Lord Jesus prayed for the believers of the future. We live today still under the effects of this prayer. As Christians our hope lies with the gospel of Christ and His promises. Let us allow ourselves to go confidently into the future, being led by the Holy Spirit through the Apostolate.

Let us, with clear vision, embrace the glory of the Lord and be transformed into His image from glory to glory (2 Corinthians 3:18).

With loving greetings

Peter Schulte



# District Apostle in Redcliffe, Qld

**On Sunday, 23 August 2020, District Apostle Peter Schulte conducted the divine service for the congregation of Redcliffe. On that occasion he was accompanied by Apostle Trevor Williams, District Elder Uwe Hoffmann and District Evangelist John Thorne.**

In the current situation where we have to impose our COVID Safe plan, our church buildings have limited capacity for members able to gather. Hence, it was the case that all members of the congregation could not be present to experience the festivities of the day. The congregation's string ensemble created an environment for contemplation and meditation as preparation for the commencement of the divine service.

The accompanist played hymn 28, "We love the place, O God", as the opening hymn for the divine service. District Apostle Schulte's sermon was based the Bible word that we read in Luke 7: 33–35, *"For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by all her children."*

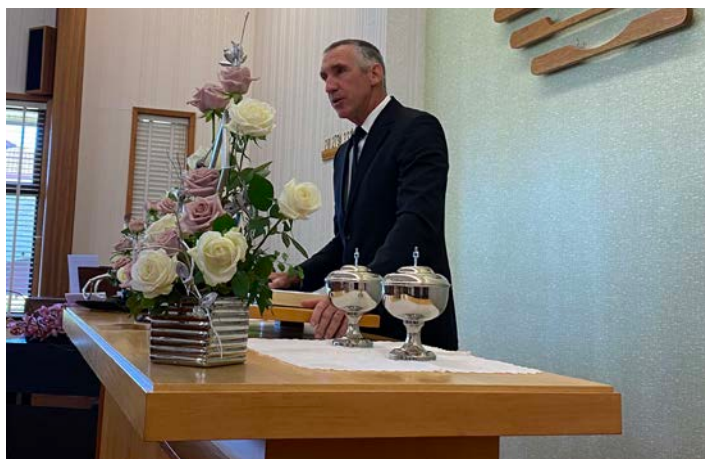
The District Apostle's message was that with understanding for the teaching of Christ we embrace the gospel and apply it to all the circumstances of our lives. The District Apostle explained, the people at that time of Christ criticised John

the Baptist because he abstained from certain foods and, they criticised Jesus for what he ate and drank. This can be explained with the colloquialism; "Damned if you do, and damned if you don't". In summary the District Apostle stressed that we can have a life with all its responsibilities and faith as well. We do not have to give up one to have the other. That will just be an excuse for either not living your faith or being an irresponsible individual.

On this occasion, acts that were to take place during March earlier this year were carried out. The rector of the congregation, Evangelist Graham MacKrell – who had been an active minister for 44 years – was placed into well-deserved retirement. During his time of active ministry, Evangelist MacKrell served the children of God with kindness, patience and understanding. He had also made a considerable contribution to the development of the music work in the congregations throughout the Australia.

Priest Shaun MacKrell was appointed as the new rector for the Redcliffe congregation. Deacon Scott Andrews was ordained into the Priest ministry and Brother Siva Chetty was ordained into the Deacon ministry.

Another significant event on this day was the blessing bestowed on Priest Brett and Sister Natalie Schulte, who received blessings on the occasion of their silver wedding anniversary.



# Day of celebrations in Morayfield, Qld

On Sunday, 27 September 2020, District Apostle Peter Schulte conducted the divine service in the Morayfield congregation. For this special event, which had been postponed earlier in the year due to coronavirus restrictions, he was accompanied by Apostle Trevor Williams, District Elder Uwe Hoffmann and District Evangelist John Thorne.

The church was filled to its COVID-19 seating capacity. The divine service was also streamed to family members and friends who were unable to be present in the church to witness the retirement of the rector, Evangelist Graham Wolff, and the appointment of the new rector, Priest Kent Andersen. During the service, retired Priest Graham Herbert and his wife, Sister Sandra Herbert, received blessings on the occasion of their Golden Wedding anniversary.

District Apostle Schulte's sermon was based on the bible word that we read in Hebrews 3:14, "*For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end.*"

In the beginning of his sermon, the District Apostle reinforced the value of our relationship with Jesus Christ. Like the early Christians, our relationship is manifest in the four-fold worship that we want to steadfastly practice; the apostle's doctrine, fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayer. The District Apostle reinforced that though we pray for the best outcomes for our family's and our own earthly circumstances, this is not the measure of our blessing or our relationship with Christ. Our devotion to salvation; eternal life with Christ, is our greatest blessing that we have confidence in.





# Church dedication in Papua New Guinea

On Sunday 23 August, Apostle Allen Pouru conducted a church dedication service in Siririm, in the Morobe province of Papua New Guinea. On this occasion, he was joined by Apostle Patrick Silabe. Over 1600 members and guests were in attendance for the service. Apostle Pouru used a text from 2 Chronicles 6:20-21 "...that Your eyes may be open toward this temple day and night, toward the place where You said You would put Your name that You may hear the prayer which Your servant makes toward this place. And may You hear the supplications of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven Your dwelling place, and when You hear, forgive".

There was much happiness in the hearts of the brethren as they gathered to mark the dedication of the church, built to the honour of God. The message was given to remember that the mercy shown by Jesus Christ is felt time and again whenever God's children gather to worship. The plea was for everyone to come and worship in truth and in spirit. As the bridal souls, we look forward to the day when Christ returns to redeem us, and we can then experience His fellowship at the marriage of the Lamb.





# Divine service for senior members

With members in Victoria still in lockdown, and many senior members still not attending divine services in person due to higher risks during the pandemic, a special divine service was planned for the senior members, which took place on Sunday 18 October.

Arrangements were made for the seniors to gather in a Covid-safe environment in our churches in person (where possible), and others joined online. One or more active priestly ministers were present in the congregations to serve Holy Communion.

In a coordinated arrangement, six transmission points were engaged during the service:

- District Apostle Schulte conducted the service from Mackay, Queensland;
- Apostle Williams assisted from North Ipswich, Queensland;
- Apostle Lodewick served from his home in Melbourne, Victoria;
- Musical items were presented throughout the service from Beverly Hills (NSW), New Lynn (NZ), North Ipswich (Qld), and Kingston, (Qld);
- The transmission team in Kingston hosted the service over Zoom and YouTube

The service was conducted under the theme "I will never cease to love You, Lord", which was also the opening hymn. District Apostle Schulte used a bible word from Psalm 71:14 *But I will hope continually, And will praise You yet more and more.* The service reflected on the faithfulness and willingness of the seniors past and present to sacrifice. The work of God in our district is where it is because of this.

After all seniors present in churches received Holy Communion, the District Apostle celebrated the sacrament of Holy Communion for the departed in Mackay. The service concluded with the benediction and a musical item.

271 senior members were in attendance in person, and there were 126 online connections.

We are pleased to include a selection of photos of members who gathered both in churches and online in their homes.



Ballarat, Vic



Box Hill, Vic



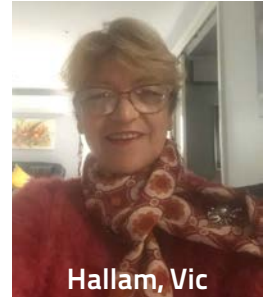
Springvale, Vic



Maidstone, Vic



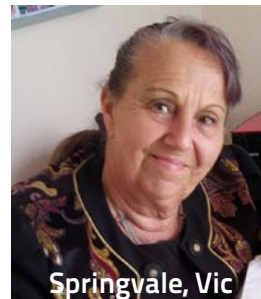
Geelong, Vic



Hallam, Vic



Box Hill, Vic



Springvale, Vic



Box Hill, Vic



Ascot Park, SA



Geelong, Vic



Kingston, Qld



Leumeah / Wollongong, NSW



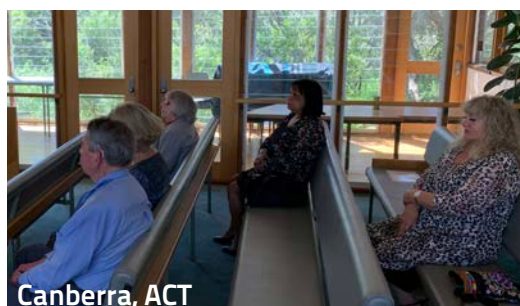
New Lynn, NZ



Mackay, Qld



Fairfield, NSW



Canberra, ACT



Beverly Hills, NSW



Gosford, NSW



# Apostle Williams visits Silkstone, Qld

Apostle Trevor Williams held the divine service in Silkstone congregation on Sunday, 30 August 2020. On this occasion, the Apostle was accompanied by District Elder Uwe Hoffmann and District Evangelist Richard Graf.

The church and the congregation were prepared as their rector, Priest Trevor Bruiners, was to go into his well-earned retirement during that divine service.

The accompanist played hymn 135, "Let us turn our faces to the light", as the opening hymn. Apostle Williams' conducted the sermon based on the Bible word that we read in Ezekiel 1:28; *"Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord."*

The Apostle's message was that our Heavenly Father remains with His children in the most difficult of circumstances. The prophet Ezekiel questioned why the glory of God was in Babylon and not in Jerusalem in the temple. He received the comforting explanation that God was with His people, even in the most difficult circumstances and situations.

On this occasion, acts that were to be carried out earlier this year took place. As stated, the rector, Priest Trevor Bruiners, who had been an active minister for 26 years, was placed into retirement. During his time of active ministry, Priest Bruiners was an outstanding example for all in pastoral care. He served all brethren with love and understanding, bringing many sacrifices unselfishly. Priest Basil Scott was appointed as the new rector for the Silkstone congregation.





# Support for Solomon Islands

## COVID-19 DONATIONS

At the end of March this year, the Solomon Islands government declared a State of Emergency in response to the COVID -19 pandemic. Due to the limited health resources in the country, it was felt that the only way to keep the population safe was to ensure that the virus did not enter the Solomon Islands.

Restrictions imposed centred around the closure of borders, limiting of the movement of vessels and aircraft and temporarily closing public spaces.

Schools and educational institutions were shut down for 8 weeks, and informal markets – a source of food and income for many members of the community – were banned from operating in the capital of Honiara. As a result, many people living in the city returned to their villages.

The State of Emergency has now been extended until November. The self-sustaining culture that exists in the villages means that those people who have returned from the city can be provided for by their families. However, many people who remain in the cities are now struggling, and with little government assistance available to them many face an uncertain time. The New Apostolic Church was pleased to offer support by donating food items such as canned fish, rice, noodles, tea and sugar, which were distributed to those who found themselves needing assistance during this time.

Should you wish to help support communities within Australia and the South Pacific region prepare for, and recover from, natural and man-made disasters, donations can be made to NACare ([nacare.org.au](http://nacare.org.au)). All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible within Australia.

## REPAIRS TO BUILDINGS

Due to cyclones and aged buildings, termite infested timber and simple wear and tear, long outstanding repairs were recently undertaken in a number of areas. Local labourers were used, including members who have building experience. In some instances material for the repairs was donated by others, for which we are very thankful. In the White River church, all labour and material for the internal repairs of the building was donated.





# Apostle service for Samoan members

Due to Covid-19, the borders of many countries have closed, meaning that international travel is not possible at this time. As a result, it has become the "new normal" to conduct divine services and meetings using online tools and platforms. In some cases, this has involved some modifications to service times, to take into account time differences.

On Sunday, 20th September, Apostle Lodewick conducted an online service from Melbourne, Australia for the congregation in Vailima in Samoa. Twelve months earlier, the congregation came under the word of the Chief Apostle when he visited Samoa. Since that time, it has not been possible for the congregation to have an Apostle service, and so this was a very blessed opportunity for all who could be connected.



# New website for Western Pacific District

As previously advised, a new website for the Western Pacific District has now been launched. Hopefully you have by now had an opportunity to visit the site.

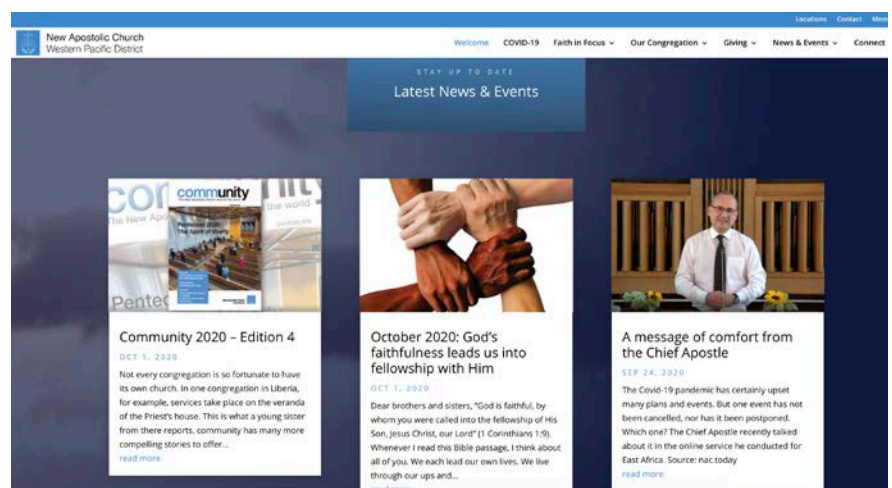
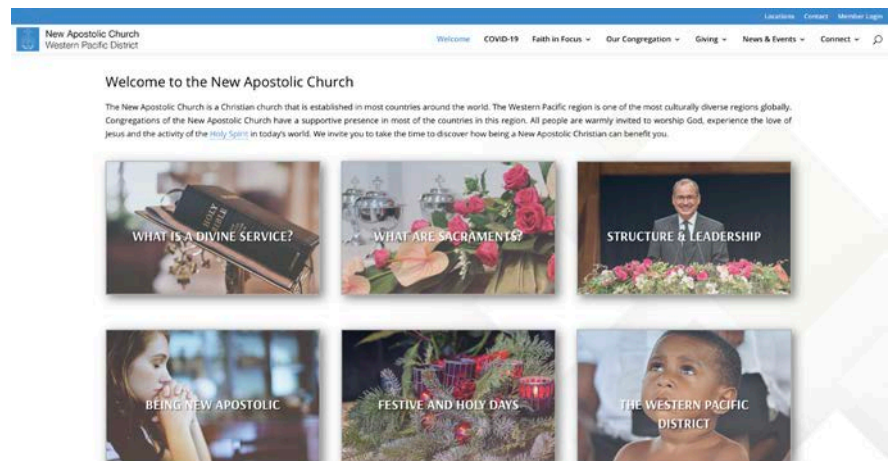
The website offers many features, including news and event reports, divine service summaries, details for online offering and links to the Catechism and other resources. The "Word of the Month" from the Chief Apostle is uploaded to the website every month, and our Western Pacific District News and Community publications can also now be found here.

In addition, there is a page with a comprehensive list of information regarding the Covid-19 situation. This includes links to government regulations and helplines, the cleaning protocols being practiced in our churches, and a special message from the Chief Apostle. Furthermore, the links to connect to the online divine services can also be found on this page.

The website is designed to provide information to both members and guests alike. It will continue to evolve and will be reviewed and adapted as necessary. We hope that you enjoy this fresh and updated website and find it informative and easy to navigate.

The new website can be found under the domain name of [www.nacwesternpacific.org](http://www.nacwesternpacific.org)

We have also created a Facebook group called "[New Apostolic Church - Western Pacific District](#)" which will have links to any news or information as it is uploaded to our website.







Windsor, Qld



Ashmore, Qld



Beckenham, WA



Rainbow, PNG



Drury, NZ



Hamilton, NZ



Hobart, Tas



Leumeah, NSW



Nowra, NSW

# Thanksgiving Day 2019



Tama, Japan



Newcastle, NSW



Morayfield, Qld



Lane Cove, NSW



Vailima, Samoa



North Ipswich, Qld





Afiamalu, Samoa



Mackay, Qld



Falefa, Samoa



Hallam, VIC



Tauranga, NZ



Wollongong, NSW



Hackham West, SA



Hong Kong



Redcliffe, Qld



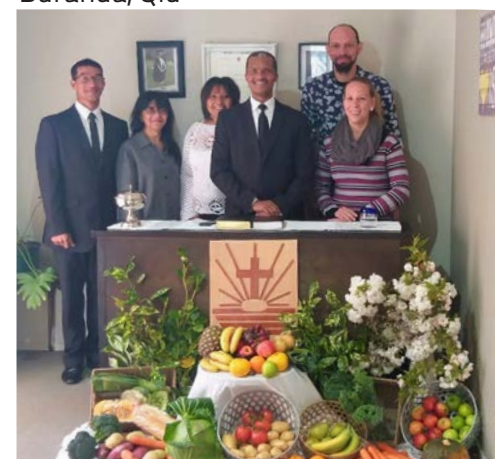
Buranda, Qld



Mt Hagen, PNG



Geraldton, WA



Invercargill, NZ





Chuncheon, South Korea



Ashmore, Qld



Ascot Park, SA



Lane Cove, NSW



Drury, NZ



Hamilton, NZ



Tama, Japan



North Ipswich, Qld



Ahnssshan City, Korea



Christchurch, NZ



Vailima, Samoa



Rainbow, PNG



Blenheim, NZ



Morayfield, Qld



Windsor, Qld

# Thanksgiving Day 2020





Afiamalulu, Samoa



Mackay, Qld



Falefa, Samoa



Bolba, PNG



Tauranga, NZ



Busu, PNG



Redcliffe, Qld



Bunbury, WA



Hackham West, SA



Buranda, Qld



Mt Hagen, PNG



Boundary Rd, PNG



Cromwell, NZ





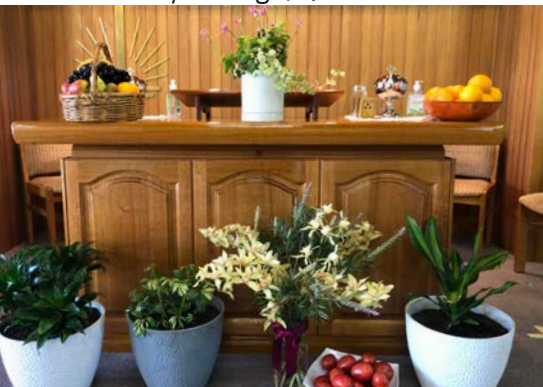
Maryborough, Qld



Howick, NZ



Hanuabada, PNG



Leumeah, NSW



Gladstone, Qld



Henderson, NZ

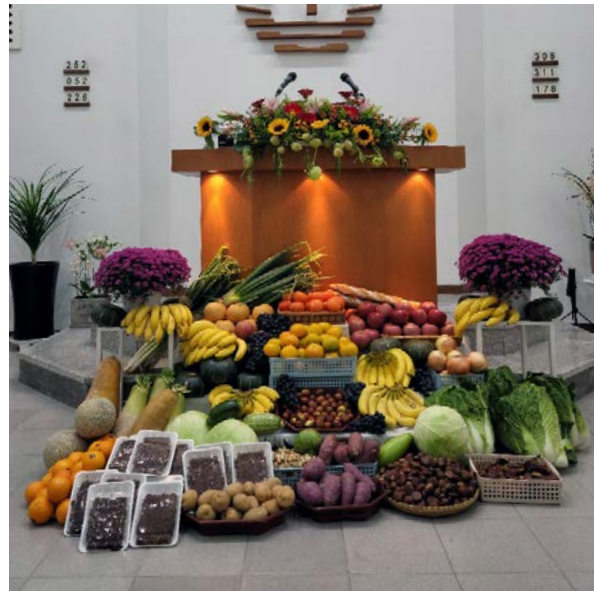


Daejon City, Korea

# Thanksgiving Day 2020



Orewa, NZ



Ilsan City, Korea



Cromwell, NZ



Toowoomba, Qld



Kingston, Qld



Paihia, NZ





New Lynn, NZ



Rockingham, WA



Pohang City, Korea



Mulifanua, Samoa



Namwon City, Korea



Silkstone, Qld



Wellington, NZ



Pago Pago, AM Samoa



Gwangju City, Korea



Korea

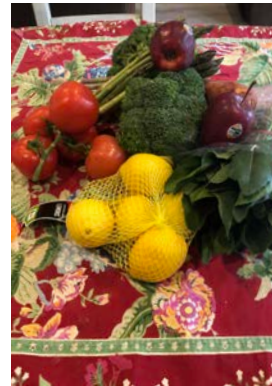


Koondoola, WA



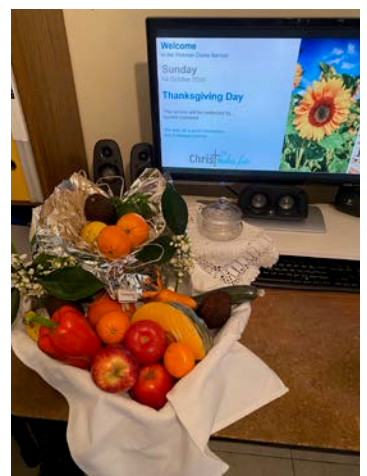
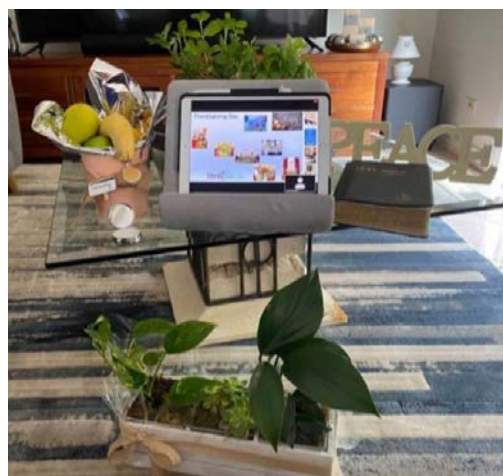
Jeonju City, Korea



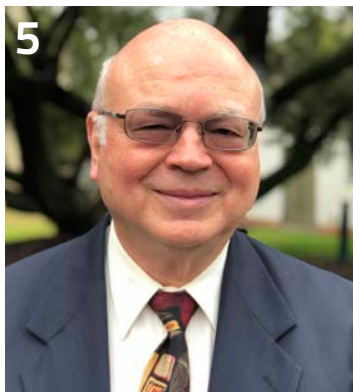


# Thanksgiving Day 2020

As our members in Victoria were still unable to attend services in our churches due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, many of our members celebrated Thanksgiving in their homes with the inclusion of a decorative fruit and vegetable display.







## Celebrations:

1. Br Brian Davids of Leumeah (NSW) celebrated his 75th birthday
2. Sis Betty Farmer of Buranda (Qld) celebrated her 80th birthday
3. Holy Baptism of Hunter Probst in Mackay (Qld)
4. Holy Baptism and Sealing of Grayson Hayes in Caloundra (Qld)
5. Pr (ir) Goetz Bayer of Albury (NSW) celebrated his 75th birthday
6. Sh (ir) Brian Wilkins of Rivervale (WA) celebrated his 80th birthday
7. Br Brendon & Sis Maria Holt received wedding blessings in Maidstone (Vic). Due to Covid restrictions only 5 people were in attendance
8. Holy Baptism of Jack Vogler in Mackay (Qld)
9. Holy Baptism of Paige Smith in Hamilton (NZ)
10. Holy Baptism of Br Ben Brammall in Hackham West (SA)
11. Holy Baptism of Storm Page in Caloundra (Qld)
12. Sis Norma van der Westhuizen of Rivervale (WA) celebrated her 80th birthday
13. District Ev (ir) Don Welsh of Hackham West (SA) celebrated his 80th birthday
14. Sis Margaret Andersen of Redcliffe (Qld) celebrated her 75th birthday
15. Sister Elizabeth Hearn of Geelong (Vic) celebrated her 90th birthday
16. Pr (ir) Heinz Vietmeier of Leumeah (NSW) celebrated his 90th birthday





# Around the Congregations:

1. Bishop Joseph Yasi visited Anea congregation in Papua New Guinea
2. Apostle Lodewick conducted a Sunday School service via transmission for the children in Perth.
3. Sunday School and Youth in Orewa (NZ)
4. Apostle Pouru conducted a presentation in preparation for Thanksgiving in Rainbow, PNG
- 5-6. Members from Buranda (Qld) congregation enjoyed their first post-Covid activity, with a 4.5km hike through the Australian bush. They even spotted a koala in the trees!
7. District Apostle Schulte and Apostle Wolf conducted an online youth meeting with the youth of South Korea
8. Chuncheon (Sth Korea) congregation
9. Members in Gwangju City (Sth Korea)
10. Confirmation of Pr Jacob Johannes van der Westhuizen in his ministry for Elizabeth (SA) congregation
11. The District Apostle conducted the Palm Sunday service via transmission for the congregation in Japan. The bible reading was done in Japanese.







## Around the Congregations:

1. Youth in Henderson (NZ) congregation
2. Bolba congregation in Banj, Jiwaka Province (PNG)
3. Father's Day in Seven Hills (NSW)
4. Ministers in Henderson (NZ)
5. Namwon City congregation (Sth Korea)
6. Members of Cromwell (NZ) congregation
7. Father's Day in Toowoomba (Qld)
8. Falefa (Samoa) congregation
9. Congregation in Vailima (Samoa)
10. Tauranga (NZ) congregation
11. Congregation in Jeonju City (Sth Korea)
12. Wellington (NZ) congregation
13. Orchestra in Wellington (NZ)
14. Members in Pago Pago (AM Samoa)





# For your Information

## Chief Apostle Schneider's schedule:\*

Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021
1: Auerbach, Germany	13: Lübben (Spreewald), Germany	3: Kiel, Germany
8: Nürtingen, Germany	20: Kitchener, Canada	10: Karlsruhe, Germany
29: Schaffhausen, Switzerland	25: Strasbourg, France	17: Video transmission to North American
		24: Zofingen, Switzerland

\* subject to change, due to Covid-19 restrictions

## District Apostle Schulte's schedule:

Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021
29: Townsville, Qld	25: Mackay, Qld	Not available at time of printing

## Upcoming Events:

Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021
1: Service for Departed	25: Christmas Day	3: New Year service
29: First Sunday of Advent	27: Close of year service	

## In Memoriam:

Sis Sandra Little of Buranda (Qld)	†	10/7/20
Sid Edeltraut Martens of Croydon (Vic)	†	10/7/20
Br David Riddle of Elizabeth (SA)	†	19/7/20
Sis Ena Morris of Ascot Park (SA)	†	26/7/20
Sis Sheila Isaacs of Gosford (NSW)	†	21/8/20
Dcn Allan de Lisen of Box Hill (Vic)	†	4/10/20
Sis Rita Kumar of Beverly Hills (NSW)	†	11/10/20
Sis Frieda Schulte of Gladstone (Qld)	†	26/10/20
Pr (ir) Horst Glaser of Ascot Park (SA)	†	26/10/20

## Contact Details:

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## Ministerial Changes:

Name	Event	Ministry	Congregation
DEv Malcolm Rose	Appointment	Rector	Rockingham, WA
Pr Shaun MacKrill	Appointment	Rector	Redcliffe, Qld
Pr Basil Scott	Appointment	Rector	Silkstone, Qld
Pr Kent Andersen	Appointment	Rector	Morayfield, Qld
Pr Peni Waqatakirewa	Appointment	Rector	Veisaru, Ba
Dcn Scott Andrews	Ordination	Priest	Redcliffe, Qld
Br Siva Chetty	Ordination	Deacon	Redcliffe, Qld
Pr Timonthy Smith	Confirmation	Priest	Paihia/Whangarei, NZ
Pr Johan Du Plessis	Confirmation	Priest	North Shore, NZ
Pr Andrew Koebergh	Confirmation	Priest	Wellington, NZ
Pr Jacob van der Westhuizen	Confirmation	Priest	Elizabeth, SA
Ev Graham MacKrill	Retirement	-	Redcliffe, Qld
Pr Trevor Bruiners	Retirement	-	Silkstone, Qld
Dcn Frank Appleton	Retirement	-	Kingston, Qld
Ev Graham Wolff	Retirement	-	Morayfield, Qld

