

# Western Pacific District News



Edition 36/2 - Winter 2021



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# From the desk of District Apostle Schulte



Dear brothers and sisters

The subject of Covid-19 is getting a little old now yet it doesn't seem to be going away. Many in our Western Pacific district are living in 'lockdown' situations and all are still affected by restrictions in some way, shape or form. As this is and has been disruptive to our lifestyle in society, it has also been disruptive in our worship.

When we think about this - not being able to gather in our congregations at times, not being able to partake of Holy Communion, having to forego the joy of fellowship that we previously experienced in our congregations and our Apostle being unable to visit us, to name a few things - this is only being disruptive to a small portion of our faith life.

The greater part of our faith life is our personal conviction of faith in Jesus Christ and its practical impact in our life. Community restrictions do not affect this. We had an encouraging theme in our July divine services of living in accordance with the gospel. This can be very thought provoking for us.

### Compassion leads to eternal life

To attain salvation it is necessary to have a belief in and have a willingness to embrace the divine acts of salvation while living a life of loving God and our neighbour. This requires us to exercise our faith in Christ and have compassion for our neighbour at the same time. Our desire to put this into practice thereby testifies of the importance we assign to our salvation.

### Acting responsibly

We are required to place great value on the gift of our natural environment and the gift of salvation - this triggers thankfulness. Out of this thankfulness, we endeavour to work with these gifts in a caring and sensible way. Man was created in the image of

God. This is recognised in divine characteristics such as speech, reasoning, moral judgement and to produce and create. Man should not simply exist by taking what he needs but work with these divine characteristics and contribute to the benefit of all, including the future.

### Love for God and our neighbour

This is a life driven by a personal desire to love God and our neighbour. Brotherly love is expressed in tolerance, sharing, forgiveness, support and gratitude.

In Matthew 24:12 Jesus foretold that in the last days the love of many will cool because of the increase of evil or lawlessness. It is difficult to love others in a world plagued by injustice, violence and hatred. According to the gospel message, to be justified by Christ mankind must believe in Jesus Christ. To reject Christ is to commit evil. Therefore, we can interpret Matthew 24:12 in the following way: Love diminishes because faith in Christ diminishes! Love that develops through faith in Jesus Christ, is stronger than anything.

We look forward to the days when we can gather together and partake of Holy Communion without disruption however, in the meantime we have much to focus upon in our desire to become more like Christ.

With loving greetings

Peter Schulte

# Korea celebrates a Golden Jubilee

In early 1970, Priest Herbert Pache and his wife Joan moved from Canada to Japan to support the beginnings of the church in this country. At the time, this mission area came under the care of District Apostle Michael Kraus of Canada.

At the time, Brother Poelzig was stationed in Korea with the US Navy and Priest Pache asked him to make contact with souls interested in the Christian faith. Soon after, Priest Pache travelled to Korea to explore the potential of establishing congregations. This was the humble beginning of the work in Korea, and - as is often the case in the church's history - from nothing, something little began and over time the work continued to grow.

In 1971 the first souls were baptised. District Apostle Kraus and Bishop Wagner came to Korea to conduct the first holy sealings, during a service which took place in an office of a Seoul business. Slowly but steadily the church expanded all over Korea. It was not always easy but in rural areas especially, where the soil was fertile, many congregations were founded. The members built their churches with unhewn stones from nearby rivers, a building style which became legendary and characteristic for Korea.

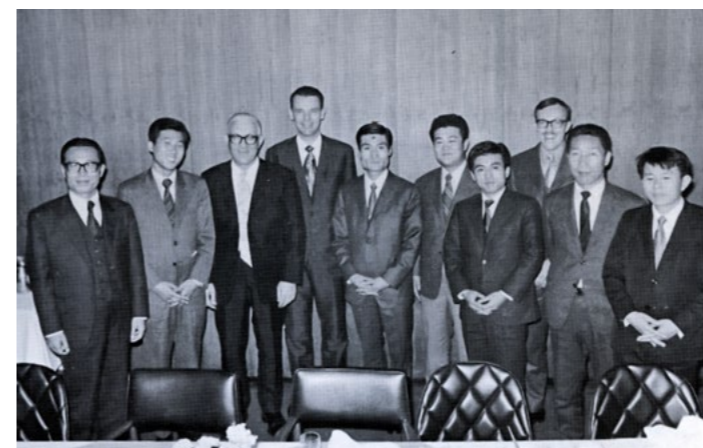
Herb Pache, by now a District Elder, fervently pushed the work in Korea, making regular visits from Japan. He was supported in this work by the brothers of the Canada district, as well as Brothers Oh and Suh in Korea. These two brothers moved and established a business to support their livelihoods wherever a congregation started to grow. It was not an easy lifestyle and it required many sacrifices in their personal lives. Yet, no sacrifice was too heavy;

the fire of zeal was burning. Both brothers became the first local district rectors and Ho Ryu Suh served as bishop for many years until Bishop Yang was ordained into this ministry.

As Korea developed as a nation, industrialisation brought about an exodus from the rural countryside, and within a few short years new cities came into being. That took its toll on congregations and many did not survive, simply because the villages were deserted. Yet, members gathered in their homes and eventually suitable premises could be rented.

One Korean practice which made things difficult was the rentals. Rather than a monthly rental amount, a deposit of capital over a certain time was required. The financial needs were enormous, but with the assistance of the Canada district and the offerings of the Korean members the church eventually became self-supporting and a church could be constructed in Ilsan, on a corner lot where there were once only rice fields. Today, this church stands in the midst of a highly developed urban city. The prosperity of Korea as a nation also attracted immigrants from amongst the ethnic Korean communities in China. Thus, contacts could be made in other parts of Asia as well.

On 9 May, Chief Apostle Schneider conducted a divine service for the congregations in Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan. As travel was still restricted, the service was conducted from the church conference centre in Zurich, Switzerland and transmitted via audio visual means. District Apostle Schulte assisted from Australia, and the musical items came directly from South Korea.



# 50th Jubilee in Box Hill, Victoria

The first divine services in Melbourne were conducted in the Footscray area in the early 1950's. As more migrants arrived, and the membership grew, a mission was established in the suburb of Mitcham, located on the other side of the city. Subsequently, services were conducted in English on Sunday mornings in Footscray, and in German on Sunday evenings in Mitcham.

The hall in Mitcham became unsuitable over time, and in the early 1960's the congregation moved to another venue in Blackburn and, soon after, to a hall in Burwood.

Some years later it was decided that a more permanent location should be found, and so a parcel of land was purchased in preparation for the building of a new church for the congregation. First, however, it was necessary to demolish the existing house that stood on the block, and many members sacrificed their time to assist with this task. Once construction was completed, many hands again made light work of the finishing touches required, including the establishment of the gardens.

On November 22, 1970, the church in Box Hill was dedicated by District Apostle Otto Gerke, who was accompanied by Apostle Eric De Lisen. The rector at this time was Priest Rudolf Braun. Since that time the congregation has been supported by a number of rectors: Evangelist Horst Lethaus, District Elder Geoff Barker, Evangelist Hans-Peter Hoppner, Evangelist Derrick Yon, and Evangelist Kevin Malan. The current rector of the Box Hill congregation is Priest Keith Riddle.

A number of further congregations have been established as a result of missions supported by the Box Hill congregation, including the Croydon and Hallam congregations.

Due to COVID restrictions and lockdowns, the celebration of the 50th jubilee was put on hold until earlier this year. In April, District Apostle Schulte took advantage of the reduced restrictions to travel to Melbourne, where he conducted the festive divine service. On this occasion he was joined by Apostle Lodewick. At the conclusion of the service the congregation enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship together.



# Divine services in New Zealand

On Sunday, 25th April the youth from Auckland gathered together for an ANZAC dawn service. The day started early, at the beautiful Long Bay Regional Park. The sound of the water lapping the shore and the birds singing in the background created a captivating atmosphere in which to absorb the word.

The service commenced with a minute's silence in memory of those who gave their life at Gallipoli. Priest Walter du Plooy used the bible verse out of Genesis 3:10 as a foundation for the service, which focused on freedom and boundaries. He called Priests Eckardt and Stevens to serve.

The service highlighted the sacrifice New Zealand soldiers made for the peace the nation has today, and how this act of selflessness interlinks with God's love for us.

After the service the youth discussed the commandments: thou shall not steal and thou shall not take another's life. This

discussion allowed them to express their values and morals, bringing them to the conclusion that their perspectives on the different commandments were significantly influenced by backgrounds, upbringings and environments. The discussion provided an understanding and safe environment for the youth to express their opinions and learn more about each other, ultimately enhancing the bond between them.

On Sunday, 30th May District Apostle Schulte conducted a divine service in Auckland. Given the unpredictable nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was a wonderful and rare opportunity for members to gather together in a large forum.

It was also the first time in 15 months that the District Apostle had been able to visit Auckland.

During this divine service a total of 28 souls were sealed, and a priest and deacon were ordained.



# Around the Congregations:

- 1-5. Ev Charles Soto travelled around the Solomon Islands, and shares some photos of congregations and church building projects in the region
- 6. Retirement of Pr Gladwin du Plooy in Beckenham (WA)
- 7. View into the congregation during a divine service in Puarie (PNG)
- 8. Confirmation in Samoa
- 9. Confirmation in AM Samoa
- 10. Orchestra playing prior to the divine service in Hackham West (SA)
- 11. Members in Orewa (NZ) enjoyed fellowship together prior to the Pentecost service
- 12. Seniors' service for Auckland district conducted by DEv van Wyngaard



# Around the Congregations:

- 1. Confirmation of Pr Oliver Schlotz (c) for the Geelong (Vic) congregation
- 2. Mother's Day in Hackham West (SA)
- 3. Auckland (NZ) district seniors' service with DEv Thomas
- 4. Appointment of Pr Sebastian Eckardt (I) as rector for Howick (NZ)
- 5. Confirmation in Beverly Hills (NSW)
- 6. Orewa (NZ) Sunday School children enjoyed some activities which focused on the events of Pentecost
- 7. Sunday School outing for children in Christchurch (NZ)
- 8-9. Members in Chimbu (PNG)
- 10. Ap Wasimbai conducted a divine service at Maregrehe in Sepik (PNG)



# Around the Congregations:

1. Sunday School children in Seven Hills (NSW) singing at the conclusion of the divine service
2. Newly dedicated church in Vanimo (PNG)
3. Appointment of Pr Ewan Macaskill (l) as rector of Drury and Pr Deon Abrahams (r) as Rector of New Lynn (NZ)
4. Ordination of Pr Frank Auda for Gorou, Central Province (PNG)
5. Auckland (NZ) confirmands for 2022 enjoyed a fellowship outing
6. Confirmation of Pr Terence Stevens (l) for North Shore (NZ)
7. DEL Graf conducted his last service in New Plymouth (NZ) prior to his retirement in October
8. Retirement of Pr Schubach and Dcn Pretorius in Wellington (NZ)
9. Mother's Day in Buranda (Qld)
10. The youth enjoyed some time together after a youth service in St Marys (NSW)

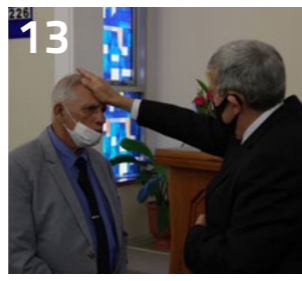
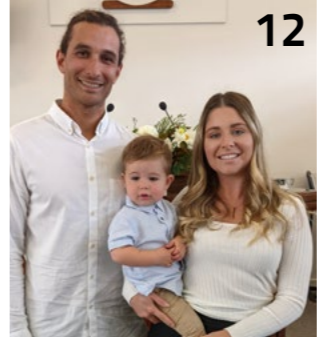
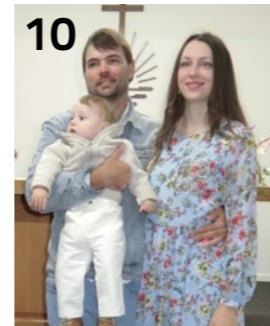
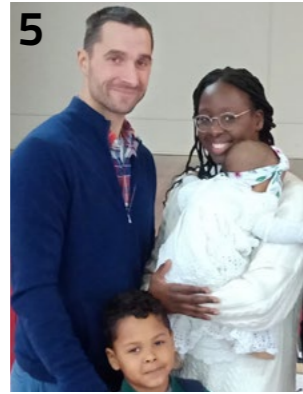
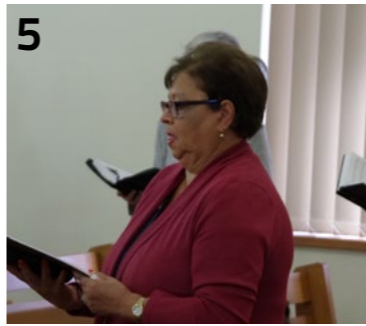


# Around the Congregations:

1. Mother's Day in Maidstone (Vic)
2. Confirmation of Pr Chris Matthews (c) for Howick (NZ)
3. Retirement of Pr Berney Probst (c) in Riverleigh (Qld)
4. Confirmation of Pr Robert Smith (l) for Drury (NZ)
5. Sunday School children in North Shore (NZ) prepare for service for departed
6. Redcliffe (Qld) Sunday School children set up their own picnic during a congregational lunch
7. Sunday School service in St Marys (NSW)
8. North Shore (NZ) Sunday School children enjoying some Easter treats
9. Retirement of Ev Denver Davids in New Lynn (NZ)
10. Retirement of Pr Johan Van Deventer in Hamilton (NZ)
11. Taupo (NZ) congregation enjoying fellowship with DEv Thomas

# Celebrations

- Holy Sealing in Beckenham (WA)
- Holy Baptism of Surae Withey in Orewa (NZ)
- Pr (ir) Jeffrey & Sis Rhaedeline Mustapha of Hallam (Vic) received Golden wedding blessings
- Br Michael & Sis Henrietta Seale received Golden wedding blessings in Koondoola (WA)
- Holy Baptism of Sasha Bradtke' in Dunedin (NZ)
- Holy Baptism of Elijah Maxwell in Geelong (Vic)
- Holy Baptism of Catherine Bimray in North Shore (NZ)
- Holy Baptism of Caleb De Jager in North Shore (NZ)
- Holy Baptism of Asher Kruger in Geelong (Vic)
- Holy Baptism of Br Ashley Hold & his son Austin in Mackay (Qld)
- Holy Baptism of Christian Dela Paz in Ashmore (Qld)
- Holy Baptism of Finn Sickinger in Hackham West (SA)
- Holy Sealing of Br Basil Harrison in Hallam (Vic)
- Holy sealing of Br Ben Brammall in Hackham West (SA)
- Adoption of Br Gary & Br Jason Marquard in Henderson (NZ)
- Br Gary & Sis Lucille Oliver of Howick (NZ) received Silver wedding blessings
- Holy Baptism of Gigi Smith in Christchurch (NZ)



# Celebrations

- Br Allan Goward of Canberra (ACT) celebrated his 90th birthday
- Sis Gloria O'Shea of Redcliffe (Qld) celebrated her 80th birthday
- Sis Isle Kreinbihl of Rockingham (WA) celebrated her 100th birthday
- Brian Michell, who lives next door to the Caloundra (Qld) church, celebrated his 80th birthday. He works in the yard and acts as security guard, and is a great help to the congregation
- Sis Eleanor Van Der Poel of Hallam (Vic) celebrated her 70th birthday
- Sis Sylvia Lohmann of Elizabeth (SA) celebrated her 70th birthday
- Sis Eunice Muller of Rockhampton (Qld) celebrated her 80th birthday
- Holy Baptism of Lincoln Hallal in Geelong (Vic)
- Holy Baptism of India-Aiko Overmeyer in Hamilton (NZ)
- Holy Baptism of Theodore Nagel in Wellington (NZ)
- Pr (ir) Archie & Sis Sybil Schulte of Caloundra (Qld) received Golden wedding blessings
- Holy Baptism of Soli Zinn in Geelong (Vic)
- Holy Baptism in Solomon Islands
- Br Alex & Sis Christel Anderson of Elizabeth (SA) received blessings for their 75th wedding anniversary. Br Alex also celebrated his 100th birthday
- Holy Baptism of Elijah Williams in Howick (NZ)
- Holy Sealing at the church dedication service in Vamino (PNG)
- Holy Baptism in Solomon Islands

# For your Information

## Chief Apostle Schneider's schedule:

Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus pandemic, the Chief Apostle's schedule is not available at this time.

## District Apostle Schulte's schedule:

Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus pandemic, the District Apostle's schedule is not available at this time.

## Upcoming Events:

Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021
	5: Father's Day	3: Thanksgiving
	21: International Day of Prayer for Peace	

## Ministerial Changes:

Name	Event	Ministry	Congregation
Pr Mark Amsterdam	Appointment	Rector	Springvale, Vic
Pr Craig Scott	Appointment	Rector	Ashmore, Qld
Pr Sebastian Eckardt	Appointment	Rector	Howick, NZ
Pr Oliver Schlotz	Confirmation	Priest	Geelong, Vic
Pr Jacobus Oelofse	Confirmation	Priest	Seven Hills, NSW
Pr Terence Stevens	Confirmation	Priest	North Shore, NZ
Pr Christian Kleb Sr	Confirmation	Priest	North Ipswich, Qld
Dcn Eric de Wet	Confirmation	Deacon	Townsville, Qld
Dcn André Holtzhausen	Confirmation	Deacon	Albury, NSW
Pr Christopher Matthews	Confirmation	Priest	Howick, NZ
Pr Robert Smith	Confirmation	Priest	Drury, NZ
Pr Timothy Smith	Confirmation	Priest	Christchurch, NZ
Dcn Adrian Adonis	Ordination	Priest	Henderson, NZ
Br Roger De Jager	Ordination	Deacon	North Shore, NZ
Dcn Keith Hildebrandt	Ordination	Priest	Ashmore, Qld
Pr Johannes van Deventer	Retirement	-	Hamilton, NZ
Pr Berney Probst	Retirement	-	Riverleigh, Qld
Dcn Keith Pretorius	Retirement	-	Wellington, NZ
Pr Robert Schubach	Retirement	-	Wellington, NZ
Pr Jeffrey Schulte	Retirement	-	Cairns, Qld
Dcn Lawrence Kleyn	Retirement	-	Drury, NZ
Pr Charles Möller	Retirement	-	Elizabeth, SA
Pr Neville Meyer	Retirement	-	Geraldton, WA

## In Memoriam:

Sis Marie Allindore of Seven Hills (NSW)	†	24/3/21
Br Conroy Weber of Hallam (Vic)	†	29/3/21
Priest (ir) Oscar Lecuna of Fairfield (NSW)	†	29/4/21
Sis Alma Wolff of Morayfield (Qld)	†	4/5/21
Br Horst (Con) Muelot of Ascot Park (SA)	†	21/5/21
Pr (ir) Ernst (Ernie) Schulte of Mackay (Qld)	†	31/5/21
Br Mervyn Gerke of Windsor (Qld)	†	4/6/21
Pr (ir) Walter Kogler of Croydon (Vic)	†	29/6/21
Sis Paula Bebandorf of Kingston (Qld)	†	9/7/21
Sis Elizabeth Ludecke of Redcliffe (Qld)	†	10/7/21
DEv (ir) Donald Welsh of Hackham West (SA)	†	17/7/21
Sis Hannelore Schuhmann of Geelong (Vic)	†	17/7/21
Br Gerhard Heine of Kingston (Qld)	†	30/7/21
Sis Harigatha Surtie of Leumeah (NSW)	†	30/7/21
Sis Irene Schlotz of Geelong (Vic)	†	11/8/21

## Online Offerings:

Members in Australia and New Zealand are now able to make an offering via credit or debit card through our website.

Funds can also be deposited directly into the NAC bank account, and the correct account details for both Australia and New Zealand are also available on the website.

Go to <https://nacwesternpacific.org/giving/offering/> and click on the appropriate link for further information.

Please contact Evangelist Warren Riddle at the Admin Office with any queries: [warren.riddle@newapostolic.org.au](mailto:warren.riddle@newapostolic.org.au)

## NACare update:

The NACare website has recently undergone an update. The website offers many features, including news and event reports, information about disaster appeals and current projects, and links to other New Apostolic charity divisions. Donations to NACare can be made directly through the website, and all donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible (within Australia only).

The new website can be found at <https://nacare.org.au>

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