

Western Pacific District News



Edition 39/2 - Summer 2024

CHRISTMAS
190

Silent Night, Holy Night

And there were...shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks...

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All in calm and quiet
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Sleep - ing peacefully
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, born of the
4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Was born in the

Round yon vir - gin moth - er and may
Glo - ries stream from her - as a star
Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face
With the an - gels to

ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - enly peace
Al - le - lu - ia, Christ the Son of the Father
deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord of the Hosts
to our King: Christ the Son of the

Optional transition to "The Babe is Born"

peace,
born!
birth,
born.

In this issue:

Visit of Chief Apostle Schneider to PNG

Disaster report from Ap Patrick Silabe

Connecting with....

NACare update



From the desk of District Apostle Schulte



Dear Brothers and Sisters

From time to time we sing a beautiful hymn, 'We will keep our faith alive'. Faith is a gift from God and we cannot explain why one has a faith in God and not the other. Here and there our faith is challenged when we cannot understand why our omnipotent, loving God allows the varying degrees of unfairness and suffering, both personally and worldwide to happen. This has been the case throughout the ages.

The Psalmist expressed that his feet nearly slipped when he saw how the ungodly faired. He was distracted and tempted by their seemingly prosperous and trouble free life. There didn't appear to be any negative consequences or punishment for their actions of arrogance, violence and greed. However, his outlook changed when he went into the 'sanctuary of God'. We understand this as going into the temple, a place where the message of God is revealed and His presence can be felt. Through this, our understanding of God's nature and will grows. The Psalmist was then able to see a bigger perspective and realise that the outcome of a life remote from God would not end well. He was able to see life in the holistic manner of both the natural, daily life and the eternal, spiritual future. Let us never underestimate the

value and need of the divine service which helps us to see the holistic reality of our life. We thank God as the creator and giver of the natural environment which we are part of. We worship, praise and thank our triune God, who created and sustains our immortal, spiritual being.

He doesn't guarantee a prosperous, trouble free natural life, but He does promise a perfect, eternal future for us if 'we keep our faith alive'.

As we go into the festive period, I wish you a joyful and blessed Christmas. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your contribution in your congregation in 2024 and look forward to worshipping God and pressing toward the goal of our faith in the New Year.

With loving greetings

Peter Schulte

Report from Apostle Patrick Silabe

The region of Papua New Guinea that is overseen by Apostle Patrick Silabe recently endured torrential rainfall, which resulted in washed-away roads and bridges, as well as numerous landslides. Tragically, a local rector and his wife were caught in one such landslide while tending their garden. Despite rescue efforts, only the rector's wife could be saved.

In the wake of this disaster, funds were donated to provide much-needed aid. The Apostle and his team organised relief efforts, distributing non-perishable food supplies. Villagers, including youth, contended with washed-out paths and relentless rain to transport these provisions back to their communities. Alongside the relief efforts, divine services were conducted in each village, offering spiritual comfort and strength.

Following the initial relief mission, Apostle Silabe embarked on a gruelling journey to a remote, mountainous area last visited in 2014 via helicopter - a mode of transport now inaccessible due to financial and logistical constraints.

With unwavering determination, the Apostle and his team

travelled as far as possible by PMV vehicle before undertaking a three-day trek through treacherous terrain. Members from nearby villages also walked long distances to gather at central points for divine services.

During this mission, the Apostle conducted significant spiritual work. He sealed 393 souls at one location and 556 at another, in addition to performing 30 ordinations. The combined attendance across both locations reached 1,274. These gatherings were filled with spiritual joy and celebration, despite the immense physical challenges faced by all.

The return journey proved equally arduous, involving another three-day trek through the jungle. The team rested in makeshift shelters along the way, before finally reaching a point where they could access transport back home.

This account stands as a testament to the resilience, faith, and unwavering commitment of Apostle Patrick Silabe and his community. Together, they worked tirelessly to uplift one another - both spiritually and physically - amidst adversity.



Visit of Chief Apostle Schneider - PNG

In June 2024, Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider visited Papua New Guinea, accompanied by District Apostle Edy Isnugroho from Indonesia. He was joined by District Apostle Peter Schulte, retired District Apostle Andrew Andersen, Apostle Trevor Williams, and Apostle Des Lodewick from Australia. Their visit brought immense joy and inspiration to the members in Papua New Guinea.

The Chief Apostle's first-ever planned visit to the island of Kimbe had to be cancelled due to a flight disruption. However, District Apostle Schulte and Apostle Trevor Williams, accompanied by Apostles Allen Pouru and Patrick Silabe, were still able to travel to Kimbe. They were warmly welcomed by the Sunday School children and conducted a divine service with the local members.

Meanwhile, the Chief Apostle continued with his scheduled activities, including a meeting on Saturday afternoon with all Apostles. This gathering strengthened the unity and collaboration among church leaders.

On Sunday 9 June, the Chief Apostle conducted a divine service at the Sir John Guise Indoor Sports Complex Hall in Port Moresby. Approximately 1,400 members from across the country gathered to participate in this special occasion. The youth and Sunday School children greeted the Chief Apostle with a spirited performance of singing and a marching band, creating an atmosphere of celebration and togetherness.

During the service, Apostle Allen Pouru was placed into retirement after 37 years of faithful service in the Apostle ministry. District Elder Kenneth Korokai was ordained as an Apostle, ensuring continued care for the spiritual needs of the congregations.

For the first time, the service was transmitted live to all congregations in Australia and New Zealand, connecting members across three countries in a shared experience of faith. This historic visit highlighted the strength and resilience of the members in Papua New Guinea, affirming the bond of unity within the global New Apostolic Church.

Divine service in Kimbe

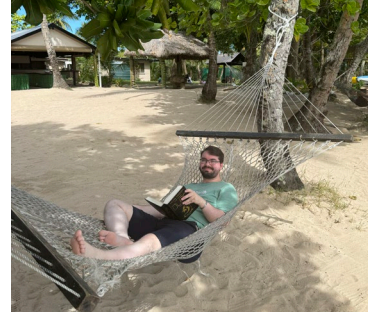


Visit of Chief Apostle Schneider - PNG



Young Adults Retreat - FIJI

A group of young adults from Australia recently travelled to Fiji to join local youth for an unforgettable weekend of fun and fellowship. The weekend began with a warm welcome and dinner together on Friday evening. Saturday was filled with adventure as the group explored the sights and culture of Fiji's vibrant capital city. The highlight of the trip was Sunday's divine service, led by the District Apostle alongside Apostles Williams and Lodewick, during which the District Apostle carried out sealings and ordinations. This special weekend was a celebration of connection, friendship, and shared spiritual joy.



Connecting with QUEENSLAND

The Townsville congregation in North Queensland hosted a combined service with the District Apostle and Apostle Williams. During the service, Pr Andre & Sis Debbie Mentor received Silver wedding blessings. At the other end of the state, the Ashmore congregation on the Gold Coast enjoyed several outings recently, including a games night, a beach walk and BBQ breakfast, and a youth trip to O'Reilly's Plateau.



Connecting with NEW SOUTH WALES

Apostle Trevor Williams recently visited the Leumeah congregation, where he conducted a divine service. This was followed by a shared lunch and an informal Q&A session. The Leumeah congregation also continued their Thanksgiving tradition for the fourth year, providing donations to support food relief for the homeless and those in need in the Macarthur region of NSW. In Beverly Hills, a special Sunday School service was held, which was followed by a communal lunch and enjoyable activities for the children.

Leumeah congregation



Ministers in the vestry in Leumeah



Congregational lunch

Q&A session



Donations from Leumeah congregation

Beverly Hills Sunday School service



Children's activities

Connecting with VICTORIA

Apostle Trevor Williams visited Melbourne, where he conducted a combined divine service for all of Victoria in Hallam. During the service, he dispensed the sacrament of Holy Sealing. Following the service, members enjoyed morning tea and reconnected with the Apostle, reflecting on relationships spanning many years.

In Albury, Apostle Des Lodewick led a divine service, bringing spiritual nourishment to the local congregation. Meanwhile, Victorian seniors embarked on a scenic cruise to Tasmania. After arriving in Hobart, Tasmania, Apostle Des Lodewick conducted a divine service with the Hobart congregation, where much joy was experienced by all.



Orchestra plays before service



View into the congregation



Ministers in vestry



Senior's cruise



Seniors with Hobart congregation



Albury congregation

Connecting with PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Apostle Silabe recently held a departed service at Badibo Boana congregation in Morobe Province, attended by 605 brothers and sisters, many of whom walked 4-5 hours to the central church for the occasion. Meanwhile, Bishop Yasi conducted a divine service in Chimbu, Highlands Province, and also held services in Yebi and Ames in the Southern Highlands. In Madang Province, Apostle Silabe was warmly welcomed by Sunday School children at Mekarop congregation before he travelled to Bemo in the Bogia district.

Departed service in Badibo Boana



Congregation in Badibo Boana



Bis Yasi in Chimbu



Members in Chimbu



Southern Highlands Province



Ap Silabe with ministers in Mekarop

Members in Southern Highlands Province



Sunday School welcome in Mekarop



Travelling to Bemo



Church in Southern Highlands Province



Bemo congregation



Members in Southern Highlands Province

Connecting with PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Sadau congregation, established in 1982, has reached a significant milestone with the dedication of their new church. This achievement stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment and sacrifice of the congregation members. Over the past eight years, they worked tirelessly to complete the chapel, beginning construction in 2016. Materials for the chapel were carried by hand over a challenging three-hour trek to the village.

The dedication service was conducted by Apostle Patrick Silabe and attended by 1,678 members and 565 guests, including government leaders and church representatives. Leaders from Bulolo, Lae, Markham, and Madang were present, alongside district rectors from Madang and Morobe. Retired Apostle Allan Pouru also joined the celebration, further adding to the joy of the occasion.



Connecting with NEW ZEALAND

In recent months, the Christchurch and Timaru members came together for a ministers and spouses service conducted by District Apostle Schulte. On another occasion, he also travelled to Whangarei, where he conducted a divine service for the local congregation.

Members of the Christchurch congregation enjoyed a sunny family fun day with a BBQ and plenty of fellowship. In Drury, District Evangelist Shaun van Wyngaard held a Sunday School service, which was followed by fun activities for the children. Meanwhile, Howick's youth supported the Auckland charity initiative, 'Jammies for June,' collecting pyjamas and delivering them to the local library for distribution.

Ministers & spouses service - Christchurch



Whangarei congregation



Jammies for June initiative



Sunday School service - Drury



Christchurch fellowship



Christchurch fellowship



Christchurch fellowship

Connecting with FIJI

District Evangelist Shaun van Wyngaard travelled to Fiji for a number of scheduled activities and two divine services.

The visit included a meeting with the Young Adults in Natalau, a Youth gathering in Suva, and sessions with Sunday School teachers in Natalau, Nasinu, and Bucalevu. These meetings were a source of great joy as additional resources and materials were provided to support the teachers and children. A ministers' seminar was also conducted in Nasinu, further enriching the visit.

Divine services were held with the brethren in Natalau and Bucalevu, where the joy and thankfulness of the congregation were evident in their heartfelt preparation, vibrant singing, and uplifting worship. The fellowship shared throughout the visit made it a truly memorable and spiritually enriching experience.



Young Adults in Natalau



Ministers in Nasinu



Youth meeting in Suva



Natalau congregation



Sunday school teachers in Nasinu



Sunday school teachers in Bucalevu



Bucalevu congregation



Fellowship after service in Bucalevu



Sunday school teachers in Natalau



View towards altar in Bucalevu

Connecting with SOLOMON ISLANDS

Apostle Lodewick and District Evangelist Volkwyn recently visited the Solomon Islands, beginning their trip in Munda in the Western Province. They travelled by boat to the Patmos congregation, where the Apostle conducted a divine service filled with joyful singing and warm fellowship. The following day, they visited Barasipo for a divine service with Holy Sealing before continuing to Noro, where the Apostle conducted another service, including the baptism and sealing of two children.

The week continued in Honiara, the capital city, with a midweek divine service for the White River congregation, bringing further spiritual joy to the visit.

The visit culminated in a combined divine service for White River and Boneghe congregations, conducted by District Apostle Schulte. This special service included Holy Sealing and Holy Communion for the departed, with participants travelling long distances to attend. The visit concluded with a ministers' seminar, leaving all who participated deeply inspired and filled with joy.

On a separate occasion, the Sunday School children in Honiara enjoyed a fun-filled games day, bringing much excitement and laughter to the young participants.



Connecting with KOREA

District Apostle Schulte and Apostle Wolf visited South Korea, where they held various activities with the local members.

On Saturday, District Apostle Schulte met with ministers and their wives, offering valuable teachings and insights. He particularly focused on the topic of 'most Holy Faith' shared by the Chief Apostle during Pentecost. After a brief break, he spent over four hours answering many questions from the ministers and their spouses, addressing as many concerns as time allowed.

On Sunday, District Apostle Schulte led a divine service for around 200 members, both in person and online. During the service, two priests were placed into retirement. Afterward, members enjoyed a joyful lunch fellowship, reconnecting and sharing the blessings of the visit.



Connecting with MARSHALL ISLANDS

Apostle Des Lodewick travelled to the Marshall Islands to spend time with the members. The journey from Australia can be quite challenging, with limited flight options and long travel times, often making the travel itself longer than the visit. Despite these challenges, the joy and fellowship shared during these visits make the effort well worth it for all involved.



Update on NACARE

The NACare Foundation Early Childhood Development Centre in Honiara, Solomon Islands, has continued to grow from strength to strength since its inception in 2021. Initially focused on providing early childhood education for children in the White River region of Honiara, the programme has expanded to Boneghe (Honiara), Barasipo (Western Province), and Makaruka (Weather Coast), with the generous support from our partners and friends. These contributions have strengthened the curriculum, provided learning resources, and enabled the construction of additional classrooms and facilities.

The programme, which began with children aged 5 to 7 in Honiara, is now open to all children, regardless of background or belief, and is not intended as a proselytising tool. In September 2024, the project visit aimed to monitor and strengthen the White River facility, formalise the programme's expansion across the Solomon Islands, open new classrooms to introduce Year 1, and build a playground for early learning. Attendance has increased to around 85%, with a small fee helping ensure regular participation. The Year 1 syllabus has seen strong results, with 12 out of 15 children achieving an average score of over 80%, and four scoring above 90%.

The Boneghe centre has also grown, with funds allocated to resources and the development of a new classroom for 25 students. Discussions with teachers have led to improvements in daily reporting and measuring learning outcomes, which are expected to improve in the coming academic year.

During Apostle Lodewick's September visit to the Western Province, he discovered a self-funded initiative inspired by the

White River centre, which has since expanded to the Weather Coast. NACare is exploring ways to support this grassroots effort.

The White River centre also celebrated the opening of its newest classroom in September, with a festive event attended by parents, children, teachers, and community leaders. Apostle Lodewick thanked everyone for their contributions to the success of the school, reiterating the programme's commitment to protecting children and fostering strong communities.

For a long time it had been the ambition of the programme to provide an opportunity for volunteers from Australia to travel to the Solomon Islands and contribute in a meaningful way. This project visit saw our first volunteer, Pr Derek Clark travel with the team to build a playground for children enrolled in the programme. This involved guiding a team of willing helpers in the design and construction of a swing and cubby house.

Despite instructions that the equipment was only for the children, District Apostle Schulte took time to test the swing and ensure its safety for the children before officially opening the playground. The event was attended by the Minister for Home Affairs, Honourable Isikele Vave, and other dignitaries, and was made possible through generous donations from individuals and organisations.

Looking ahead, NACare plans to send another group of volunteers to the Solomon Islands in March 2025 to assist with building desks, blackboards, and other infrastructure. Donations are welcome, and those interested in volunteering are encouraged to get in touch.



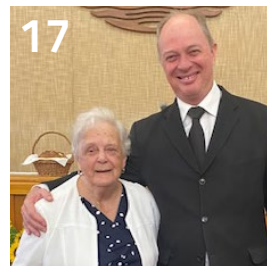
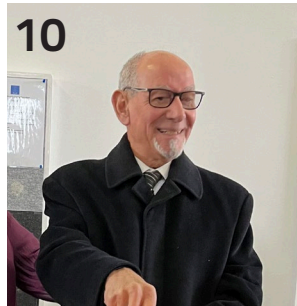
Around the Congregations:

1. Ordination of Dcn Berenice Riley for Whangarei (NZ)
2. Fellowship for brothers in Christchurch (NZ)
3. Sunday School children sing in Ashmore (Qld)
4. Father's Day - Seven Hills (NSW)
5. Father's Day - Hallam (Vic)
6. Pr Clayton Mann confirmed in his ministry for Maidstone (Vic)
7. Assignment of leadership roles in Christchurch (NZ)
8. Reinstatement of Dcn Roger de Jager in Howick (NZ)
9. Father's Day - Ascot Park (SA)
10. Retirement of Pr Rob Smith in Drury (NZ)
11. Mother's Day - Toowoomba (Qld)
12. Sisters in Christchurch (NZ) enjoyed some fellowship
13. District Rectors from around Australia & New Zealand in Ashmore (Qld)



Celebrations

1. DEv (ir) Yahata of Japan celebrated his 91st birthday
2. Priest (ir) Jeff Mustapha celebrated his 75th birthday in Hallam (Vic)
3. Br Heinz Mallon of Croydon (Vic) celebrated his 96th birthday
4. Sis Dorothy Bebendorf of Caloundra (Qld) celebrated her 96th birthday
5. Holy Baptism of James Moritz in Seven Hills (NSW)
6. Holy Baptism of Ivy & Ronan Ausage in Christchurch (NZ)
7. Ev (ir) Denver & Sis Judy Davids of New Lynn (NZ) celebrated their Ruby wedding
8. Sis June Lethaus of Croydon (Vic) celebrated her 80th birthday
9. Engagement blessing of Dcn Kylie Graf & Andrew Frazer in Kingston (Qld)
10. Br Owen Marney of Hallam (Vic) celebrated his 80th birthday
11. Holy Sealing of Zaria Fortune in Howick (NZ)
12. Holy Sealing of Nelly Muyaya of Ascot Park (SA)
13. Br Benny & Sis Dahnell Duenzl of Ascot Park (SA) celebrated their Ruby wedding
14. Holy Baptism of Markus Jordaan in Queenstown (NZ)
15. Br Joshua & Suwida Cunningham of Maryborough (Qld) received wedding blessings
16. Pr (ir) Jacob Boersma of Christchurch (NZ) celebrated his 90th birthday
17. Sis Yvonne Isaacs of Seven Hills (NSW) celebrated her 90th birthday
18. Holy Baptism of Luan Henry in Maidstone (Vic)
19. Holy Sealing in Sadau (PNG)
20. Holy Baptism of Micah Saunders in Hallam (Vic)
21. 40th anniversary blessings for Br Manie & Sis Linda Du Rand in Caloundra (Qld)



Celebrations



1. Holy Sealing of Br Craig and baby Micah Saunders in Hallam (Vic)
2. Br Stephen & Sis Tina-Louise Withers of New Lynn (NZ) celebrated their Silver wedding
3. Holy Sealing in Japan
4. Engagement blessing of Br Matthew Fredericks & Meka Bentley in Maryborough (Qld)
5. Adoption of Br Craig Saunders in Hallam (Vic)
6. Sis Marilyn Davids of Leumeah (NSW) celebrated her 75th birthday
7. Holy Baptism of Nelly Muyaya of Ascot Park (SA)
8. Holy Baptism of Zaria Fortune in Howick (NZ)
9. Holy Baptism of Christiaan Saaayman in Hamilton (NZ)
10. Holy Sealing in Bemo (PNG)
11. Holy Sealing in Christchurch (NZ)
12. Sis Irene Kenzler of Bundaberg (Qld) celebrated her 93rd birthday
13. Holy Baptism of Zara Tomkins in Maryborough (Qld)
14. Holy Sealing of Jordan Johannes & Eliana Gilles of Wollongong (NSW)
15. Sis Martha Martinez of Leumeah (NSW) celebrated her 80th birthday
16. Dcn (ir) Karl-Heinz & Sis Inge Strenge of Ascot Park (SA) received Diamond wedding blessings
17. Holy Sealing in Marshall Islands
18. Holy Baptism & Sealing in Rainbow (PNG)

For your Information

Chief Apostle Schneider's schedule:

Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025
5: St Gallen, Switzerland	2: Nairobi, Kenya	2: Nigeria
12: Spreewald, Germany	9: Heidenheim, Germany	9: Germany
19: L'Djamena, Chad	16: Bogota, Columbia	23: Ushuaia, Argentina
		30: Montevideo, Uruguay

District Apostle Schulte's schedule:

Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025
5: Redcliffe, Qld	2: Perth, WA	9: Papua New Guinea
26: Gladstone, Qld	9: Ashmore, Qld	16: New Zealand
	23: Hallam, Vic	23: Maryborough, Qld
		30: Seven Hills, NSW

Upcoming Events:

Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025
5: New Years' service		2: Service for departed

Ministerial Changes:

Name	Event	Ministry	Congregation
DE Kenneth Korokai	Ordination	Apostle	Papua New Guinea
Br Petero Moceituba	Ordination	Deacon	Nasinu, Fiji
Br Ilaisa Ketenilagi	Ordination	Deacon	Natalau, Fiji
Br Viliame Ravucake	Ordination	Deacon	Natalau, Fiji
Br Ofa Vakameilalo	Ordination	Deacon	Nuku'alofa, Tonga
Sis Uikelotu Vakameilalo	Ordination	Deacon	Nuku'alofa, Tonga
Sis Eleni Sitani	Ordination	Deacon	Nuku'alofa, Tonga
Sis Violeti Kaho	Ordination	Deacon	Nuku'alofa, Tonga
Dcn Pouono Tupai	Ordination	Priest	Mulifanua, Samoa
Dcn Kingsly Bai	Ordination	Priest	Papua New Guinea
Br Raymond Varo	Ordination	Deacon	Papua New Guinea
Dcn Robin Wasmatain	Ordination	Priest	Rainbow, PNG
Dcn Mark Semeatu	Ordination	Priest	Ili'ili, AM Samoa
Dcn Uldarico Calingacion	Ordination	Priest	Ili'ili, AM Samoa
Br Kalepo Levi	Ordination	Deacon	Ili'ili, AM Samoa
Br Paul Eves	Ordination	Deacon	Pago Pago, AM Samoa
Sis Berenice Riley	Ordination	Deacon	Paihia/Whangarei, NZ
Dcn Paul Arendse	Ordination	Priest	North Shore, NZ
Sis Melanie Smith	Ordination	Deacon	Timaru, NZ
Dcn Janalie Nelson	Ordination	Priest	Rockingham NZ
Ap Allen Pouru	Retirement	-	Papua New Guinea
Dcn Fatua Vakameilalo	Retirement	-	Nuku'alofa, Tonga
Pr Ofa Okusi	Retirement	-	Nuku'alofa, Tonga
Pr Harry Ficks	Retirement	-	Christchurch, NZ

In Memoriam:

Sis Lillian Uys of Bundaberg (Qld)	†	01/07/24
Sis Eva Thomas of Ashmore (Qld)	†	04/08/24
Br David Targett of Paihia / Whangarei (NZ)	†	15/08/24
Br Robert Damon of Drury (NZ)	†	07/09/24
Sis Heidi Steinebronn of Canberra (NSW)	†	08/09/24
Br Ronald Keiler of Riverleigh (Qld)	†	20/10/24
Br Eric Ludecke of Redcliffe (Qld)	†	28/10/24
Pr (ir) Kevin Rayson of Elizabeth (SA)	†	02/11/24
Br Jeremy Heynes of Darwin (NT)	†	05/11/24
Sis Erica Martens of Croydon (Vic)	†	11/11/24
Sis Valma Neubauer of Bundaberg (Qld)	†	21/11/24
Sis Erica Mettbach of Bundaberg (Qld)	†	25/11/24
Br Colin Bebendorf of Gladstone (Qld)	†	26/11/24



*Wishing all a blessed, peaceful and safe Christmas,
and a joyful entry into the New Year.*

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