



Bishop's Post

August September 2019

Go- with Purpose!

A man at a large building site is pushing a wheelbarrow. "What are you doing?" he is asked. "I am moving sand from here to there" is his answer. Another one comes, also pushing a wheelbarrow with sand. "What are you doing?" "We are building a new school for disabled children" he says. Briefly pausing, he explains why this project is so important for this community and that there are more than a hundred children that will benefit from this school. And off he goes!

Both are "on the go" – but the second one realises that the purpose of his work is far beyond just moving sand. This influences the way he does his work, whether he "works to rule" or to complete the task.

Why are we Church? What does my congregation exist for? To move from Sunday to Sunday? To pass on from generation to generation? Is that it? The theme of Synod hopes to remind us of the bigger picture and fill us with excitement: We are part of something big, something important, something desperately needed in our country! Romans 12, 9-16 will be the main guiding text, showing us how going with purpose changes the way we act.

In verse 11 we read: "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord." The New Living Translation has it as: "Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically"

The Synod planning team chose "Go- with Purpose!" as the theme for synod. It is not just about being active - but knowing why, and what you are active for!

You have already received the 10 Year Challenge, were you are invited to share: Where do you see your congregation, church and yourself 10 years from now?

Do you just see church, congregation, your own life like moving a heap of sand from A to B? Or do you see the bigger picture, the excitement that God is building something that the world desperately needs - his Church. A place where handicapped people receive help, hope, life. Handicapped through broken relationships, through messed up lives, through being distant from the Lord. The reasons for humans becoming disabled are endless. Jesus says: It is for such people that I have come! This is why I am building my Church, and why the gates of Hell will not stop it. (Mt 16,18)

"What are you doing?" someone might ask you. "We are busy building a place of hope, a space of life, a community of care, the Church of Christ. The world desperately needs it!

Yours in Christ,

Hart Müller

News from the Church

1. With **Synod** coming up, make sure to give your input in the “10 Year Challenge”! **Go- with Purpose!**

2. **Synod preparation meetings** are held on the following dates: 3 August in Vryheid, 17 August in Johannes Congregation, Pretoria and 31 August in Wartburg, always from 9h00 to 13h00. They are obligatory for synod delegates, pastors and congregational council members, but anybody else is welcome to attend. At these meetings a brief overview of Synod is presented, and major discussion points highlighted. This includes the finances. Participants are invited to ask questions and engage on these topics. If you plan to attend, please notify your pastor.

3. **eQuip 2020** will also build on the synod theme, slightly modified to:

20/20 vision: Go - with purpose!

It will be from 1-5 January 2020 in Hermannsburg, KZN. More information will follow soon.

4. Quite a few congregational councils have taken up the offer of doing **Council Workshops with Bishop Müller**. Especially the workshop on understanding how ELCSA (N-T) works has been well received. More information on these workshops is available from your pastor or chairperson.

5. On 9 June we bode farewell to **Pastor Heike Jakubeit**, who had been serving St Peters Pretoria for the last six years. She was elected into the leadership position of the Bremen Mission (Norddeutsche Mission). We thank her for her years of service in the congregation, German School and in our Church, and pray that the Lord will bless her on her way forward!.