



BISHOPS

April POST May13



I am running late for an appointment. If there is not too much traffic, I should almost make it. Where is it again? I roughly know the direction. Or should I rather first look it up in the map again, program my GPS? That costs time. Then I'm almost sure to be late!

I'll trust my memory and instinct.

After crisscrossing around for almost 10 minutes I stop the car. I'm late anyway now. I start the GPS, put in the address. I should have done this right from the start!

Luke 10, 38ff tells us of Martha who is upset that Mary is not helping to cater for the guests. Jesus responds: Mary has chosen what is better - to listen to my Word.

This beautiful story does not challenge us to choose between helping and listening, but puts the two in perspective: By taking time to listen to Christ's Word, we will be able to better distinguish between important and less important actions. Like Martha, we are "worried and upset about many things" - the task at hand is much bigger than we can ever hope to accomplish. The task of the Church in this world is much too big for any generation to complete. The calling of each congregation is a taller order than any number of dedicated co-workers can ever achieve. In the image of my appointment: It is virtually impossible to be on time. But taking time to read the map, set up the GPS, helps me to arrive without wasting time.

In stead of rushing off into activities Jesus invites us to take time to listen to Him. After sitting at His feet, absorbing his Word, we will be able to tackle our task with more composure and also be more relaxed about those things that inevitably have to fall by the way side.

As the year is now in full swing, my prayer is that you will make the time to sit at the feet of Jesus, receive from him words of life and encouragement, and from there receive strength and direction to do what needs to be done, and let go of what can be let go of!

With kind regards,

Horst Müller

News from the Church

1. On 14 December 2012 Pastor em. Friedrich Graz passed away aged 73. The memorial service was held on 21 December in Bellville. The Graz Family arrived in South Africa in July 1976 when Pastor Graz started serving in the Transvaal Church. He founded the Kempton Park Congregation, was the first dean of the central circuit of ELCSA (N-T), the first Theological Advisor, and, after the sudden death of Präses Lothar Müller-Nedebock, acting Church leader of ELCSA (N-T). From 1991 till his retirement he then was seconded to LUCSA as first Executive Director. We thank God for the many blessings that flowed through him to many. May our Lord comfort the family.

2. On 2 March 2013 Pastor Em. Herbert Kraus passed away, aged 92. The funeral service was held on 8 March in the Stadtkirche Bad Reichenhall. Pastor Kraus started serving UELCSA as Tutor in 1979 at the newly established Theological Training Centre. During his tenure there he had a big impact on the students. They benefitted from his well prepared, solidly founded teaching. Up to today Pastors love to share anecdotes from that period. We are grateful for the impact that he had on our training, which bears fruit up to today. We pray that God will also comfort this family in their time of grief.

3. On 3 March St Peters Pretoria elected Pastor Heike Jakubeit from the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Oldenburg, as second pastor. Her planned starting date is 1 September 2013. We are grateful that the week was such a positive experience.

Since middle February retired Pastor's couple Hans and Adelheid Mikosch from Gera, Thuringia are helping in Pretoria. Whilst serving in Gera, Hans Mikosch studied the impact of Dictatorial Government and reconciliation in his home country. He now is studying our South African experience in parallel times. We thank the couple for their input!

We also thank Pastor Em Werner and Ilse Harms, for helping out in Pretoria for a few months. May they have a good rest before they serve again!

4. A big thank you also goes to Herbert and Ute Meissner, who are helping in the Northern Parish from middle February till end of April 2013. We trust they too will be blessed in this time!

5. Pastor Albrecht Hahne retired for medical reasons at the end of 2012. We thank him for the many years of full time service in the Church, and hope that he will regain strength. He hopes to still preach on a regular basis.

5. On 21 April 2013 our Church celebrates its song festival in Piet Retief. May many people come, participate and enjoy the day!