



BISHOP'S
Dec 14 POST Jan 15



Children - During this time of the year children are very much the focus: School Holidays start. In January for many it will be the first day of kindergarten, pre-school or school. And, of course, there is Christmas. Hardly any body is more excited about Christmas than young children. Their bright, shining eyes, the faces showing their expectation, are a joy to watch.

Finally, there is the celebration of the birth of Christ - Child in a manger. God chooses the way of a child for his own appearing on earth. He becomes vulnerable in the hands of human beings.

Indeed, every child is vulnerable, in the hands of other human beings.

What do we adults do with our children? Do we lead them to the Christ child, and from there to the Lord and Saviour? Are we an example to them? Or do we just leave them on their own. Too often we teach them reading, writing, values - but in matters of faith many think they must find their own way.

Recently I had the opportunity to take my grandchild on a miniature steam train ride. At first he was hesitant, wanted to get off. But when I held him, and we did the first round, his response was: More! Behind us, on the miniature "passenger coach", a whole bunch of children were enjoying the ride. Round after round they would continue - no matter who the driver was.



"Jesus called the children to him and

said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" Luke 18,16.

It is our task as parents, grandparents and guardians to hold our children and introduce them to Christ, so that they can experience the joy of belonging to this Lord.

At the same time we must realise that these little children will follow and learn from adult role players - no matter who the driver is, no matter where we are taking them.

For that reason we must take great care to lead them, not only to literacy and numeracy, but on a way to life!

May we hear them saying "More", when we tell them about Christ!

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a good start for 2015

Host Müller

News from the Church

Personnel

Although all of these issues have been reported on previously as new pastors were elected, I would like to mention all the moves that are happening during December/January.

Pastor Dirk Köstlin is relocating from Vryheid to Bethany, Pastor Manfred Müller-Nedebock from Bethany to Hillcrest and Pastor Reiner Focke from Harburg to Trinity Zululand with Pastor Rolf Schmidt from Trinity Zululand to Harburg and Pastor Rene Risch from St Peters Pretoria to Hermannsburg congregation and school pastor.

Pastor Burgert Brand relocates from Hermannsburg to Namibia as Pastor in Windhoek and Bishop of the ELCIN GELC.

We wish all these families strength for the move. May God also guide and bless the congregations in the time of change.

At this stage I would like to thank Pastor Brand for his many years of service in ELCSA (NT). He came to us from Namibia to pastor the newly established Midrand congregation, and pioneered the first phase of development. During this time he also served as Dean of the Central Circuit, till his re-location to Hermannsburg as School and Congregation pastor.

During this time his wife Ute was appointed as principal of the school.

Since 2009 Pastor Brand was also the deputy to the bishop and served in Church Council again.

We thank the family for their many years of involvement and dedication. By now the children have become independent, and the couple returns to Namibia “alone”. May God bless the new phase as bishop, and continue to bless the co-operation between the Churches.

eEquip retreat “eEquip for discipleship” takes place from 2 to 7 January in Hermannsburg. More information is available at www.elcsant.org.za . May it be a blessing to all participants.

Cape-NT discussions. At the time of writing this the task team was preparing for its next meeting. Please keep this process in your prayers!

Students of Theology. We are in the fortunate position that a small group of students will be doing their 5th year of training, leading to the first theological examination. More information will be given after the course has started in January.