



## *Bishop's Post*

*December 22 January 23*

### **Bible for the road ...**

#### **“Beer-Lachai-Roi”** Genesis 16,14

No, this is not the name of a beer, but indeed of a drinking place - a water well in the desert. Hagar chose the name, because at this well the Lord spoke to her when she was ready to give up on everything. The “well of the Living One who sees me” (English translation) became the turning point in her life. At this well she realised that God not only sees her, but appreciates her and has a plan for her.

The watchword for 2023 is the preceding verse. The reason why I chose this specific verse is because it is also the daily Bible reading for 31 January 2023, the date of my official retirement, a turning point in my own life.

This is the last Bishop's Post that I am writing. I look back at 13 years as bishop of NELCSA, and also remember how 42 years ago I started my practical year in Verden-Dundee. And now I am reaching another major turning point. For NELCSA it is the turning point where, for the next 7 years, you will walk with Bishop Theo Jäckel.

Many who are reading this might also be at a turning point in life: Matric, University studies completed, a new job, moving house, etc. Some might feel like Hagar, overwhelmed, fearful, at whit's end. Some might be grateful and joyfully looking forward, like me. But, no matter how we feel, we all may hear: We have a Lord who sees us!

As I end my term, I want to leave you with a special gift: The well “Beer-Lachai-Roi”. I started drinking from this well when I was 10 years old. That is when I discovered a Bible in a shelf and started reading on a daily basis. Many times since then I experienced in my reading that God is seeing me, guiding me, appreciating me. Especially when I was facing difficult situations it was amazing to then realise: God is speaking to me now, God knows, God guides.

A well is useless if we don't drink from it. The Bible is silent if we don't read in it. “Beer-Lachai-Roi” - may this well be a place for you where you come to drink every day, and may you too receive strength and encouragement as you drink from it!

Your brother in Christ

*Horst Müller*

# NELCSA News

1. NELCSA Synod elected Dean Theo Jäckel as its bishop. We congratulate him on his election. May he receive strength, joy and wisdom from our Lord. We wish him and Ramona strength for the time of farewell in Kroondal and settling in at their new home and work environment.

The intention is that by the end of January 2023 Bishop Jäckel will have taken over all the duties as bishop.



2. Other elections at synod:

Deputy to the bishop: Petra Röhrs

Ordained Member of Church Council: Udo Lütge

Dean, Northern Circuit: Detlev Tönsing

Deputy Dean, Northern Circuit: Nicole Otte-Kempff

Dean, Eastern Circuit: Mark Meier

Deputy Dean, Eastern Circuit: Reiner Focke.

We wish all of them strength and joy for their tasks.

The circuit elections are till the Synod in October 2023, when all Deans and Deputy Deans are to be elected for the next term of six years.



3. The Synod in October 2023 marks the beginning of a new Synod cycle of six years and the end of term for all current delegates. All congregations are requested to elect new synod delegates at their annual general meetings in 2023.

4. Pastor Dieter Klee has accepted a post in the Regional Church of Hannover, Germany as from January 2023. We thank him and his wife Gudrun for the many years that they served in NELCSA: 1998-2004 in Moorleigh-Winterton, 2010-18 in New Hannover and 2019-2022 in Kempton Park. May the Lord guide and strengthen them as they move to their new (Gudrun) and old (Dieter) home country.

5. As a result of the above, both Kroondal and Kempton Park congregations will be vacant as from January 2023. May the Lord guide the process of filling the post. In view of the shortage of pastors the words of Jesus become even more important: "The workers are few, the work is plenty. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send workers into the field".

6. On 2 February Hermann Düvel is taking his First Theological Examination in Stellenbosch. If everything goes well he will then start his first year of internship, as arranged by the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa.

7. eQuip 2023, "Sawubona - you are a God who sees me" is planned from 2-6 January 2023 in Hermannsburg, KZN. Please register by 15 December at [equip@nelcsa.net](mailto:equip@nelcsa.net). More information can be found at [www.nelcsa.net](http://www.nelcsa.net).