



Bishop's Post

October November 2022

Bible for the road ...

Isaiah 1,3 The ox knows its master, the donkey its owner's manger, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand."

Esther 4,14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place... And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?

22:13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End

The daily readings for October and November can hardly come from more differing times and books in the Bible.

Esther, the only Biblical book that never mentions God, Isaiah, the prophet speaking God's truth to a stubborn nation, and Revelation, encouraging persecuted Christians not to give up, since ultimately the victory belongs to Christ, the beginning and the end.

I am writing this as we are approaching our NELCSA Synod, where my successor as bishop is to be elected. As I am nearing retirement, I am busy writing a reflection on my time in our church since my practical year in 1981. In these 41 years my experiences, and that of our country and church, have been just as diverse as with these books. From the deep Apartheid days, through the rainbow nation up to a time of a faltering state. In this time there have been courageous people like Esther who stood up for what is right without mentioning God. Others, like Isaiah, called to repentance in the Name of God. As our government started sliding down the path of corruption and mismanagement, infrastructure crumbled away and load shedding hit the economy hard, many started giving up on our land. Some emigrated, many could not, but are without hope.

It is in this situation where I find the combination of these three books extremely helpful. Isaiah: Where do I need to be admonished, where is God calling me to repent? Esther: Where do I need the to be encouraged to do something? Do I need to realise that God has placed me where I am for a

purpose? Revelations: Where do I need to have my eyes opened to recognize that Christ is the Lord, the Alpha and Omega, although I currently don't see much of this?

As I hand over to my successor, I need to remind myself: I am retiring as bishop and pastor, but not as Christian. My calling as Christian remains as relevant as ever. This is true for every Christian. Because we belong to the one who is the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Whether you are a retiree, at the peak of your career or a young person only just starting - I pray that you will discover that God has plans for you and with you. I pray that Christ will time and again fill you with courage and perseverance. And I pray that our country will see deliverance because of God's people being willing to hear His call and do His will!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hart Müller". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

NELCSA News

Braunschweig congregation called **Pastor Randolph Kassier**. With his move there, **Vanderbijlpark** will be without a pastor as from January 2023. We pray that the Lord will provide "workers for the harvest". May Randolph and Maureen receive the strength for the farewell and new beginning.

The **Synod** Preparation Meetings again proved very productive, with various suggestions and changes being discussed. This will help to stream line Synod (14-16 October). Please pray that the Lord will guide and lead the deliberations and elections.

Parts of the Synod and the closing service, which will include the induction of the new Bishop, will be streamed online. The links will be shared closer to the time.

As one of his last duties before **retirement**, **Bishop Müller** will represent NELCSA at the EKD Synod in November. The final handover of duties, according to our constitution, has to happen by 1 February. The actual date will be finalised after the election.

eQuip 2023 is planned for 2-6 January in Hermannsburg, KZN. The theme is "Sawubona - a God who sees me". More details will be made available soon on nelcsa.net.