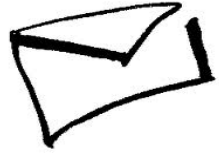




BISHOP'S
Aug 14 **POST** Sep 14



A paralysed nation

Trapped by the wrongdoings in the past.

Trapped in general societal misconduct - "everybody does it"

Paralysed by the vastness of problems.

That was the situation of Israel during the exile in Babylon. The forefathers had caused the situation, and the current generation had to live with it, and adapt to it. There was no way out.

The prophet Ezekiel is called by God to say: NO! There is a way out, there is a way forward. It starts with you! (Ezekiel 18)

Regardless of past history, the wrongdoings of your forefathers and even your own - you can start afresh, today!

Start today to do what is right - even if you are the only one! Don't be determined by what "everybody does", but do what is right and good!

Don't stay down in misery, blaming others for your condition, but stand up and live! God wants you to live! Now! Today! Here! He wants you to be a blessing where you are.

In Ezekiel it is formulated: "I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord. Repent and live." (18,32)

Jesus, in John 10,10 says: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

Changing a paralysed nation does not start with a mass movement, but with individuals who stand up and say: No more! I will stand up and do what is right!

Dear sister, brother in Christ, stand up and live as a Christian, where ever you are! Let Christ determine your actions.

Yours in Christ's service,

Horst Müller

News from the Church:

After a long wait the Johannes Congregation in Pretoria could in May finally welcome **Katrin Grüneberg** as their new youth deacon. May she have a blessed time in South Africa.

The **General Pastor's Convention** of both ELCSA (NT) and Cape meets from 15 to 19 September in Malmesbury, Western Cape. May the Lord bless this gathering.

ELCSA (NT) Church Council had a think tank in May, to deliberate on ways to deal with changing times and circumstances. A growing number of congregations can no longer raise the funds for full time pastors. New forms of ministry and congregational leadership need to be developed. The process continues.

A **task team of ELCSA (NT) and ELCSA (Cape)** meets on 4 August in Cape Town, to discuss the way forward for both Churches. The team consists of the bishops, treasurers and presidents of synod of each Church. May the Holy Spirit guide them!