

eQuip

2-3 January 2021

“Go - With Purpose! ... but ...
Gone is the Going!”



It is eQuipping time again! Actually, it **would** have been. But now it is e-eQuipping time. No travel to Hermannsburg, no green tranquillity, no chatting over meals - just a press of the button, and you have arrived! I would have preferred the travel, the fellowship. This is, however, the next best thing to do!

Hopefully it will also mean that some can attend, that otherwise would have been prevented from doing so. But it also means that we will drastically shorten the time to four sessions and one divine service over two days.

You are heartily invited, and encouraged, to give it a try! And yes, you can invite friends, and yes, you can even attend in your pyjamas if you feel like it!

We started 2020 with the "punny" theme "20/20 vision Go- With purpose!". The invitation said: *We can go with purpose, even if we do not have clear vision, because we have faith in the one who sees. What better way to start 2020 than by reflecting on my vision for the year, my vision for life and asking: Lord, what do you see for me?*

Although Covid -19 had already started to create havoc in China, the world was unaware of the global chaos it was about to cause. Little did we know how little we knew, and how the "Lord, what do you see for me?" would get a completely new meaning during 2020!

For this e-eQuip (eeeh!) we decided to latch onto the previous theme:

"Go- with purpose ... Gone is the Going!"

Lockdown resulted in change of plans, or postponement, postponement again and finally cancellation. Our life style changed from hectic to slow paced, like the chameleon, blending in behind our masks, careful not to become infected or infect others. Everything had changed!

No mask can hide the disappointment caused by cancelled weddings, jubilees and celebrations. No sanitiser can remove the loneliness experienced when our grieving the death of a loved one had to happen in isolation. And so the idea came to make the overriding theme of eEquip 2021 that of a desert experience.

The program is as follows: (The detailed program can be seen at www.)

Saturday 2 January, 9h00-11h00

Dreadful Surprise of Desert (Horst Müller)

When Israel left Egypt, they were excited, looking forward to a short, even though strenuous, journey through the desert into the promised land. They did not prepare for forty years of desert-roaming.

When in March the lockdown was announced, many people looked forward to a short, forced break and even had time to stock up some wine. Others dreaded the thought of isolation, but it would only be three weeks. Not to go to church over Easter was a shock - but after three weeks we would make

up for what was lost. What a dreadful surprise when the weeks became months.

What did the dreadful desert surprise do to Israel? How did lockdown impact on us?

Session 2: 16h00 - 18h00

Desert as time for reflection and recovery (Detlev Tönsing)

Desert is empty and life-threatening – but in the Bible, it also is a symbol for closeness to God, reflection and new beginnings. Desert time, in the Prophets, for Jesus and Paul, stands for a time when God's people came to rely on God in a special, close relationship. Similarly, the time in the monastery was, for Luther, also a desert time, in which his reformational discovery grew. For us, too, the desert time of lockdown could also have been or be a time of reflection and growing closer to God.

Sunday, 3 January

9h00: Divine service (virtual) (Horst Müller)

Session 3: 11h00 - 12h30

Surprising Miracles in the desert (Gertrud Tönsing)

"Desert wanderings" are times of hardship, but sometimes also times of surprising experiences of new hope and sustenance, of small or larger miracles. We reflect on the experiences of the Israelites and also our own in the last months. What kept us going?

Session 4: 16h00 - 18h00

Wisdom from the desert (Volker Keding)

Life, even life of a believer, is not possible without periods of forlornness and misery, where life seems dried out. The metaphor of the desert depicts the emotional state of such moments. When we read the biblical narratives, we find two different attitudes to sadness: On the one hand there is grumbling which is unwise and fruitless. On the other hand, there is the wisdom of Israelite culture of praying psalms of lament which put all trouble

prayerfully before God. Looking back to a number of crises, Volker is going to share his own narrative witnessing gratefully examples of God's interventions in his life, granting second chances and blossoms of new life.

The presenters

Bishop Horst Müller,
Pastors Gertrud & Detlev Tönsing,
Pastor emeritus Volker Keding

The aim of the e-retreat is:

- Bible Study - getting to know the Bible and it's background better. How does the Bible speak to this topic?
- Sharing with fellow Christians in virtual small groups - hearing from others how they view issues, and sharing your own opinions, insights and concerns. (Even in the virtual setting small group discussions can happen and work quite well)
- Time to reflect- the program allows time for reflection and meditation between session.

The Venue

eEquip 2021 2&3 January 2021 on the following link for all sessions:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83865675655?pwd=NFkrUUJvZFFZYVRNTU4rUlgxejNGdz09> Meeting ID: 838 6567 5655 Passcode: 563389

1Who is invited?

This is an online Zoom eEquip. You can join as a group sharing one screen/TV, or as individual from your smartphone or computer.

The input parts will be recorded and will be available for later viewing and sharing as a YouTube link.

If you have not attended before, this is an opportunity to get a feel for eEquip and then attend at a later stage, when a physical retreat will be possible again.

eEquip is planned by NELCSA, but you are welcome to invite friends or colleagues who are not members of our church.

The costs

There is no charge. You can, however make a donation towards the NELCSA Solidarity fund, from where congregations have so far received assistance of R 430 000 in view of the Covid-19 Impact.

Name: NELCSA, Standard Bank Current Account

Acc No: 272936936 Branch: 051001

with the reference (**eEquip+your Name or just eEquip**)

Bring along

Data and an Internet connection needed and a Bible at your side. Paper and pen will also be useful.

Registration

Register by 28 December 2020 by email to equip@nelcsa.net

It helps for our planning to know how many people will attend. You can, however, also join without registering.

eEquip Retreat 8, Zoom 2 to 4 January 2021 From "Go with purpose" to "Gone is the going"
Time plan and daily topics

	Sat 2 Jan	Sunday 3 Jan
<p><i>Explanation:</i></p> <p><i>VK: Volker Keding</i> <i>DT: Detlev Tönsing</i> <i>GT: Gertrud Tönsing</i> <i>HM: Horst Müller</i></p> <p><i>Children's Program: Magriet Frey MF</i> <i>2x 45 minute sessions: Saturday 11-11.45</i> <i>Sunday 15.00 to 15.45</i></p> <p>Due to Covid 19 this will be a Zoom eEquip</p> <p>Participants can opt to meet in small groups to log in together to the life sessions, and then have the group discussions in person, or they can join from their homes - alone or as couple, and join the break away group discussions via Zoom.</p> <p>Another idea, for those who need the break: Choose a holiday destination where you have internet access, and join the sessions from there.</p> <p>The input will be recorded, so that it can be shared with others - but the group sessions will be "live" only. The Sunday service will be pre-recorded and made available for the whole of NELCSA, and forms part of the eEquip theme.</p>	<p>Session 1: 9h00-11h00 Welcoming Devotion: Buyisiwe Matema</p> <p>Introduction with break away groups HM two or three times 3 persons, 5 minutes - short introduction to each other.</p> <p>Short break to get coffee, tea, chatting as people come back</p> <p>Input 1: Dreadful surprise of Desert HM (Inputs are also recorded) Break away group</p> <p>Plenary: How did it go so far? How do you experience this method? Song</p> <p>Children's session 11h00-11h45 MF</p>	<p>Service - pre recorded NELCSA Service, part of the theme and at the same time an invite to NELCSA to attend the remaining sessions. Time flexible</p> <p>Session 3: 11h00 - 12h30 Song Input Surprising Miracles in the desert GT Break away Plenary</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Break</p> <p style="text-align: center;">There will also be suggestions for videos related to the topic, that can be watched at own leisure during the "retreat"</p>	
	<p>Session 2: 16h00 - 18h00 Song Input Desert as time for reflection and recovery DT Break away Possible Coffee break Plenary Song</p>	<p>Children's session 15h00-15h45 MF Session 4: 16h00-18h00 Input Wisdom from the desert VK Breakaway Plenary Evaluation with google forms. Closing with Communion service Live with own preparation at home</p>