



NAC YOUTHLINK



PENTECOST 2012

**Cologne Germany
Chief Apostle
Wilhelm Leber
with
Chief Apostle
Helper
Jean-Luc
Schneider**

Special Interest Articles:

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Schedule of
Activities*
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Apostle's
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EDITORIAL

My dear Brothers and Sisters in the Youth,

We have now our Confirmands coming to altar to make their vow of faithfulness to our Heavenly Father and His Son. This is public and the congregation witnesses their proclamation of commitment.

My personal message to them all is **REMAIN FAITHFUL**. This is what really counts. Many things change in life. Actually change is part of life. No matter what the circumstances are, our faithfulness shall never change. As faithful as we are to God, that faithful He is to us. Our prayers, our offerings, our time; all what is given to Him are manifestations of being faithful. No one ever regretted for having been faithful. The Lord acknowledges the faithful. Be assured of that.

Our Chief Apostle dedicated to confirmation 2012 the words from Proverbs 11:27 where it says "He who earnestly seeks good finds favour....."

The important thing is to strive for that which is good. That is certainly not always easy. Nevertheless if you always make the endeavour to do good things, the Lord will strengthen you and stand by your side. This striving for goodness is the key to a fulfilled life that is blessed by God.

What is good? First to remain faithful is good. Then everything which pleases God, what unites with Him, overcoming temptation, trusting the Lord, following the path He shows us through the ministry and then also the words "...in as much as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren you did it to Me" (Matthew 25:40) describe it further. It is the Holy Spirit who prompts in us what is good.

Please welcome all Confirmands into the circle of the youth. Some might be a bit shy others maybe have difficulties to understand. Be their friend, bring them in, and keep each other in. Thank you for your help and care for the youngest among you. That is also doing good. With love and a "big hug"

Urs Hebeisen

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*"He who earnestly
seeks good finds
favour....."*

Proverbs 11:27

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The new Chief Apostle Helper
Jean-Luc Schneider

District News Update

PENTECOST TRANSMISSION DIVINE SERVICE

Text; Romans 8: 16

'The Spirit Himself bears witness with our Spirit that we are the children of God'

Bible reading is out of **ACT 2: 1-4....**

The activities recorded in the Bible is most probably not a true reflection of what really transpired on the Day,,, this is but a glimpse into it, I would not have minded being part of this blessed happening ...May this penetrate deep into our souls, however today's happening will have no external, visible signs, all effects will be upon our souls.

It has become a blessed habit to have a Pentecostal greeting word for God's people across the globe. Today more than 96 countries across all 5 continents are connected. I prayed for a special word and was very happy and I received this word as greeting word...

LUKE 18:27

...HE REPLIED. 'WHAT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE PEOPLE IS POSSIBLE WITH GOD'... (NLT BIBLE)

Today we often also establish when we quickly reach our limits. How wonderful it is to know with God there is no limits. It is said here that **by** God all things is possible. Then I want to say **with** God everything is possible. And when we can fully utilize this power of God then we can achieve things mankind can otherwise not achieve. But I don't want to direct our site to earthly miracles.

I would rather like to talk about spiritual matters. Where this word can become very important and real. Let us then focus for a moment on spiritual matters. Let me take you through a few situations.

1) Perhaps there is anger and disputes where one cannot come together again. And this situation has perhaps been on-going for weeks and months. With man it appears to be impossible. But with God it is possible.

2) Another situation, perhaps a family breaks apart. And at times it seems if there is no way back. With Man this appears impossible – but with God it is possible.

3) We all have our own characteristics and sometimes they're not good. And we really want to control these bad characteristics and then we establish that it is not so easy and we repeatedly fall back. With man it appears impossible to control ones poor or bad characteristics – but with God it is possible.

If we fully utilize these divine powers then we can extend beyond limits – these are a few examples but I feel you understand what is meant. We reach our limits so quickly in particular in our spiritual being. But with God everything is possible.

4) Perhaps I want to go a little further and explain the Global situation we find ourselves in. We know that Christianity is retreating. And if we look a little bit into the future we can also be a little afraid – and the question could arise how would things progress. If we look into our own congregation there are also things (worries and concerns) that make us wonder how things are going to progress. And looking at this from the human aspect this could be difficult. But with God everything is possible. God can also change the circumstances in our time – everything is put in His hand and nothing is impossible.

5) We are waiting for the return of the Lord Jesus to fetch home his bride. The question simply arises how we can understand what it would be like. And we quickly reach a limit where we say "it is difficult to imagine". With man it is impossible. But with God it is possible. Therefore, let us trust in the help of God.

I don't want to give you the impression that all difficulties can be eliminated. But if we have trust in God and allow ourselves to be guided by him and utilize His power then my dear Brothers and Sisters dear guests we can go beyond the natural limits. And now I wish very much that this word can accompany us. That everyone can make their own experiences. And this will make us strong and give us a new dimension in our faith. That which is impossible with men, this is possible with God.

Divine Service Text

Romans 8 vs. 16 where we can read...***"The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God"*** Perhaps this word is a little difficult to understand. One may not know exactly what one can do with this word. And when I read this word these were my feelings as well. But I tried to realize the deeper meaning of this word. And I came to the following sentence.

1) The Holy Spirit motivates us so that we can live as true children of God.

2) The Holy Spirit motivates and encourages us to act as true children of God. And how does the Holy Spirit motivate us. We need to think of a few situations.

3) When we are in the Divine service then we can feel the Holy Spirit which encourages us.

4) Also in our prayers the Holy Spirit motivates us, sometimes we oversee this. Perhaps we say that a prayer is an exchange between us and God then something must be returned from above. This is the encouragement or motivation of the Holy Spirit. We can remember and think of moments of stillness. Then the HS can encourage us.

5) It is therefore important that we always allow ourselves to be stimulated by the HS.

6) We want to have antennas to keep us aligned to the activity of the HS. And what is the objective through the encouragement of the Holy Spirit? That we live as true children of God. **Let me say a few thoughts in this context.** According to our faith we become a child of God through the Holy Sealing. But let our guests not feel estranged or limited by this. The Lord also has various possibilities for granting salvation in the future. And today there is still time and they can permit themselves to be sealed. It can be seen as exclusivity if we say Children of God in this context. What characterizes children of God?

What does the Holy Spirit stimulate us to do?

The First point,

The Children of God always retain their faith whatever the circumstances maybe Apostle Paul said at one time” we are children of God through faith” So faith is a characteristic of a child of God. And I know brothers and sisters it is not always possible to keep faith. We know that we are living at a time when our faith is attacked. But I want to calm you down if you feel uneasy in your soul. Our faith is certainly not always 100% present. And under certain circumstances our faith diminishes a little. **But we must also return to a strong faith.** I think the occasion was very impressive when a man came to the Lord Jesus and he prayed and asked something for his son. And the Lord Jesus first referred to the importance of faith and then we can read in the scriptures that this man cried out “**I believe Lord help my unbelief!**” Basically this does not fit together. But this shows that this man was not 100% sure. And he expressed himself to the lord Jesus because his faith was not as strong as he wanted it to be. But the Lord Jesus did not reject him, He healed his child. Despite his deficiency in faith the Lord gave him an experience that certainly strengthened his faith. Let this also be the case with us. If we sometimes are a bit unsure in our faith, this certainly does not mean that we have fallen out of the grace of God, one thing is important. This man approached the Lord. He did not go somewhere else. Despite his unbelief or his doubt he came to the Lord and there he received help. I give this as a counsel to the young brothers and sisters, who certainly go through a phase where they’re a bit unsure in their faith. We certainly should not be thinking that something terrible is taking place there. But we know with the Lord, approach the Lord repeatedly. The Lord will then confirm his strength. And then one becomes secure as a child of God. So let us hold on tight to our faith.

The Second point

Children of God are always ready to reach **for peace.** In the beatitudes recorded in the book of Matthew and the service on the mount we can read ‘**Blessed are the peace makers, for they shall be called sons of God**’ this means that children of God are characterized when peace is around. Let us strive for peace. Let us approach one another and also be a peace maker. This is the peace of the children of God.

Third point,

Children of God **submit themselves** to God. This means that they don’t complain. We can read somewhere in the letters of Apostle Paul where he says – **Do all things without complaining so that you may be blameless and true children of God,** Children of God are those who do not complain. I am well aware that there are difficult bitter circumstances, but children of God do not complain. But they trust in God.

And one final point.

Lord Jesus also spoke about the children of God, and he brought this in association with the life of resurrection. This is a wonderful expression, life of the resurrection – this will become visible on the day of the Lord. But this life of resurrection must be kept today. These are true children of God – may this life of resurrection develop in them.

Whatever the circumstances may be, we always look upwards. So these are true children of God. Who hold fast to their faith even if it becomes difficult? Who look for peace and who can build a bridge? Who submits themselves to the will of God? And who allow the live of the resurrection to develop within them. The Holy Spirit motivates us to be true Children of God. This means that we should grow repeatedly and that these characteristics may form deeply within our hearts and may we also be able to act accordingly as true children of God.

New Chief Apostle Helper appointed on Pentecost 2012



Zurich. In the divine service on Pentecost Sunday, Chief Apostle Wilhelm Leber appoints a Chief Apostle Helper. “I would like to set an early course for the future,” stated by Chief Apostle, who will turn 65 this year. The date when he himself will retire remains open—perhaps in 2013 or 2014—however the work of a Chief Apostle Helper will already lighten his load quite perceptibly now.

Jean-Luc Schneider (52), who has served as District Apostle in France since September 2004, was now the Chief Apostle Helper.

WEDDING at MAKATI CENTRAL CHURCH

After ten (10) years of being in a relationship and after a year of being engaged our Brethren and member of the youth, Sr. Genesa Azarias and Deacon Rey Macalalad exchanged vows at Makati Church on Pentecost Saturday, 26th May 2012. Apostle Mercurio Nuyad officiated the wedding. He used the text word from Ephesians 4:32, it says, “**And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you**” Serving the Lord, means serving each other. Sister Genesa the daughter of retired Bishop Azarias is a staff member of NACSEA Asia office. Congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple.



EXPERIENCE OF FAITH

THREE STRIKING WORDS

Our Family No. 5, May 2012

"Never give up!" Our Chief Apostle had expressed this forceful plea at the end of last year in a divine service.

Let us never give up in prayer, in love for God and His work, in our battle against sin, or in our service to the congregation and our neighbour," said the Chief Apostle as he listed some examples. Brother and Sister Webber kept on thinking about these words. And over the ensuing days they also had an opportunity to put what they had heard into practice.

On 27 November – which was also the first Sunday of Advent – a service for guests had been scheduled in all congregations in their district. Sister Webber and her husband were occupied by all sorts of different thoughts in view of this special service: "Does it even make any sense to invite people into God's house – particularly in our fast paced time and during the pre-Christmas bustle? After all, everyone is busy with Christmas markets, Christmas parties, and many other things. The prevailing beautiful weather would sooner draw people into nature than to church! And then there was a referendum on a controversial rail project that day that would likely draw more people than a church event..."

But all these negative thoughts soon came to a stop when the couple remembered those three striking words: "Never give up!" Although they were both advanced in years, they wanted to make use of the few days at their disposal in order to invite guests to this divine service.

Their prayers became more and more intense, and the couple pleaded with the Lord to help them meet the right people. Brother Webber even crafted and printed out an invitation card of his own on the computer. Wherever possible he would present it to people in person, but he also sent out others by mail. Brother and Sister Webber also invited their friends, neighbours, and acquaintances by telephone – and not without success. The last conversation on the subject took place on Saturday evening and ended with a promise by two guests to attend the service.

Naturally the two seniors were really excited when it came to the results of their work. "I have to emphasize that we are part of a small but very active New Apostolic congregation," relates Brother Webber. "Members from eight surrounding villages come together here."

With three guests in their car, the couple drove the six kilometers to church. Their joy was already great on account of this alone! Brother Webber stayed outside right up until the start of the divine service in order to welcome any guests who might still arrive. "I could barely believe that I was able to greet another seventeen guests with a hearty welcome!"

Deep gratitude toward the Lord filled their hearts as a result of the tremendous blessing on their work – but they were also deeply thankful to the Chief Apostle for those three striking words: "Never give up!" G.W.



District Apostle Letterbox



Many of the young people always asking "If we have the right to choose who we want to be our Youth Leader?" Now, it is also a question to me. Do we have the right to choose? Thank you very much and hoping for your kind understanding about this matter. M.A.

ANSWER:

The right to choose? If one has a personal connection to the one and less to the other then of course one is free to choose who he wants to approach for advice, prayers or guidance. In this context of course everybody is free to reach out to Ministers with a free choice, Youth leaders included.

Is the question now asked in the context of holding an election of who will be youth leader then this might be a bit outside of our church structures since spiritual maturity, understanding and other qualifications are needed here and an assessment is necessary by the District Rector resp. the Apostle. A Youth leader is chosen for a purpose of blessing and not just entertainment of organizing events where of course everybody is welcome to take an initiative. A youth leader must be able to exercise a purpose oriented leadership.

From my personal experience, I must say the choices available to fulfill the criteria are not very big. Should somewhere a gifted Brother be overlooked I gladly look at it and welcome proposals.

Should the background of this question be a conflict situation, then please let us know about and we gladly look into it to help?

URS HEBEISEN

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