

# NAC YOUTHLINK



**40** 1972-2012  
years in the Philippines

**ONENESS IN CHRIST**  
**NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH**

**Thanksgiving Celebration**  
**7 October 2012**

## THANKSGIVING DAY 2012

# EDITORIAL



Dear Youth,

Again I was on tours, participating in various Youth Events in the Philippines. These weekends of sharing, fellowship, sports and games are most beneficial. In September I could meet the youth in Pangasinan, Davao del Sur, South Cotabato, and Negros Oriental. Ahead are still Zamboanga, Cebu and Negros Occidental.

In some bibles the heading of the chapter 3 in Proverbs reads: "guidance for the young" in verses 5 and 6 this guidance is:

**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart. And lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths"**

We can only trust when we believe. Yet it is more important than to depend on our own understanding such as experience, working and learning. Everyone has a chance to go ahead in life. Maybe different paths but going forward. The Lord does not have a blessing just for a few, but for **all who trust Him**.

If our ways are His ways, according to His will we acknowledge Him, focus on His goal and seeking to do His will, then **"....He shall direct your paths"** meaning, He will lead you.

Apostle Paul then in his time, wrote to the Thessalonians **"...the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and patience of Christ"** 2 Thessalonians 3:9

If our ways and our hearts are directed towards God's Love, which is Grace and the patience of Christ, which is steadfastness in the Gospel, then truly we will also have the same destiny as Jesus, Victory in overcoming, resurrection and ascension. After all Christ is the same yesterday in His sacrifice, today in word and grace and forever after His coming (Hebrew 13:8)

I am no more what we call a Youth. But me too, want to keep this up what I learned in the Youth. Trust and have my ways and heart directed to what God has prepared in His Love; the inheritance (Colossians 1:12)

Amicably yours

Urs Hebeisen

### Special Interest Articles:

- Experience of Faith
- District Apostle's Letterbox
- District News

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**"Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in name of our Lord Jesus Christ".**

**Ephesians 5:20**

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**DA Hebeisen with Retired Deacon Eguia – the first member sealed in the New Apostolic Church Philippines.**



# District News Update

## Forty-year anniversary of the New Apostolic Church in the Philippines

An historic photo: District Apostle Wagner (left) and Apostle Urs Hebeisen (Photo: NAC Canada)



The District Apostle, District of South East Asia (Image: Our Family)

Zurich/Manila. It has been 40 years since the New Apostolic Church was established in the Philippines. At the time, in October 1972, it was the Apostle Erwin Wagner who conducted the first divine service in Manila. Today this part of the world is home to many thousands of New Apostolic Christians. Across the country this Sunday, the District church will commemorate its history and thus also celebrate the Thanksgiving divine service as an anniversary service.

According to the church book, the then Apostle Erwin Wagner from Canada travelled to the capital on 12 October 1972 in order to conduct the first New Apostolic divine service in the country. District Elder Pache from Japan then took on responsibility for the ongoing efforts on location. Today the responsible District Apostle Urs Hebeisen lives in the Philippine capital of Manila. For 30 years he too has been travelling throughout the District Church of the Philippines. He states: "Writing down the history of the New Apostolic Church in the Philippines is associated with many emotions. Naturally I could list all sorts of facts and figures, but only the Lord knows what tremendous efforts were made in order to establish the Church here."

### A great deal of hope and faith

After ten years of the Church's work in the country, the first Apostle was ordained for the Philippines: it was the then District Evangelist Urs Hebeisen, who had moved to Manila in 1982 with his wife. He summarizes as follows: "I still remember very clearly the strong missionary zeal that was often enough eyed with suspicion in the country's pre-democratic period. Yet even under the regime of President Marcos, we were still able to develop spiritually. In those days of political restrictions, the people had a great deal of hope and a strong faith, which caused the churches to grow. There was not much else for which to hope!"

The New Apostolic Church also grew. Congregations were established, and ministers were ordained. After the political shift of 1986, freedom, democracy, and economic growth swept through the country. Increased mobility and migration had an impact on the young congregations. Many Church members moved away. On the occasion of the 25-year anniversary of the

Church, District Apostle Erwin Wagner wrote: "We remember where we have come from and what we have experienced, and as Jesus said: 'I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' This is to be the guideline for our work."

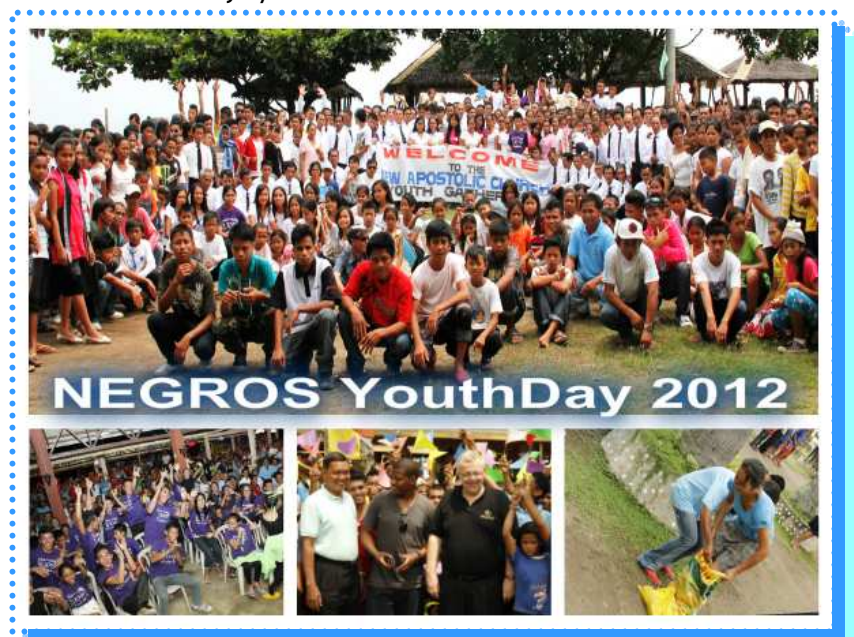
### Forty years and no end in sight

District Apostle Hebeisen goes on to add: "When I look back on the last 30 years with all their ups and downs, I can say with conviction: we would not have what we have, had we not lived through trials, challenges, and changes over these years." He also issues the appeal to continue the work: "We are very certainly no longer what we were 40 years ago, but neither are we yet that which we are to be on the day of the Lord."

## 2012 NEGROS YOUTH DAY

held at Aroma Beach Resort, Campuyo,  
Manjuyod , Negros Oriental

A day full of fun and excitement, the facilitators, the delegates, and spectators have come to enjoy the activities that were prepared. The theme for the youth day was taken from the book of Psalms 100: 2 which states, "Serve the Lord with gladness come before His presence with singing. It gives a lot of inspiration to the youth in serving the Lord that they must have the inner joy within them.



The New Apostolic Church youth out of Dumaguete City being the host have imparted their time and effort in preparation for the event. They raise funds through selling "nilugaw", home-made bread, fresh meat, and "lechon" to help the expenses for the said activity.

Indeed, the labor during the preparation is not in vain and cannot be replaced because of the joy and the fun that the event has brought. And of course it was the time that the youths were able to make fellowship with the other brothers and sisters coming from the different congregation.

During the day, the youth competes in various ballgames such as basketball for men, volleyball men, and volleyball for women. It also includes an amazing race, wherein, players must compete with speed and teamwork in finishing the race. An additional game is supposed to be included which "Frisbee" but because of lack of time to play the game was cancelled.

At night, the different districts showed what they've got in the presentation of talents entitled "Talent Soiree". The presentations of the different districts brought fun, enjoyment, and reminders to the youth of the good things that the Lord has made for us. It was followed by message shared by our



visitor from Malaysia, who is introduced by our very own Dist. Ap. Hebeisen. After, the message the program comes to a close with a closing prayer led by Ap. Catan.

But the night is not yet done the youths remained in their seats and next activity continues, we called it "Youth Jamming". It is again another song or dance presentation by the youths who wanted to showcase their talents wherein, a game and rewards were given after every song or dance. It ended with a smile and the feeling of fulfillment of the whole day activity.

### Serving the Lord with Gladness

**Proverb 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths"** this is the text word from the Divine Service of District Apostle Hebeisen among our brothers and sisters of during the Divine Service for the Youths of Negros Province last Sept. 30, 2012 in Aroma Beach Resort, Manjuyod Negros Oriental.

District Apostle Hebeisen says that already then, King Solomon might have had thought about the youths and our paths. As the youths of today, when we think of future we have to trust the Lord, have patience for God's work will always be accomplished. When we allow ourselves to be directed and guided we follow His guidance and by following we trust.

### New Apostolic Thanksgiving Day

Countless blessings from above are showered to each of us every day. From the time we wake up in the morning till the time we sleep at night, a marvelous guidance and provisions we had received from our Heavenly Father. God always want us to bless, for His love is measureless; He wants nothing but only best for us. Being a child of God, faith is the only connection that connects Man and God. Being connected to Him is already a blessing. The gift of life and forgiveness of sins is a great blessing we had received from Him. Of all the abundant blessings we received, we should find time to acknowledge and thank our Heavenly Father.

New Apostolic members have their own way of returning back to God for all these blessings they received. Every first Sunday of October yearly, New Apostolic Church celebrates "Thanksgiving Day". This is one of the most awaited events of the church every year. Yearly, congregations around the globe, bring back together their thankfulness to the Father Creator. Members have brought offers to the altar as a sign of their thankfulness to our Heavenly Father. These offerings do not only include the material things that are being offered in the altar, but most especially their heart to God.

### Makati Congregation Celebrates Thanksgiving Day plus 40<sup>th</sup> years Anniversary of NAC in the Philippines

Double celebrations were held last Sunday, October 7, 2012 in Makati Congregation, Thanksgiving Day and 40<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of New Apostolic Church in the Philippines. A lot of preparations were made to make this big event memorable.

Day before the said event, Saturday afternoon, the physical arrangement of church was made. Members brought their offerings such as fruits, vegetables, rice, breads, flowers and others. All members from Sunday School Class, youths, ministers, couples and adults, combined forces for this event. Some were busy in cleaning the church, others also in segregation and cleaning of fruits and vegetables. Some were in-charge in the flower arrangements and some made the altar theme design. Everyone was very happy while serving the Lord and their overall efforts made the altar beautiful. Their willingness to serve and to offer brings joy and happiness to the whole congregation most especially to the Lord.



On the day of Thanksgiving Day, members and guests from nearby and distant places arrived early in church. All of the members were fully prepared with their offerings both material and spiritual. Some of the offers are food like *Kakanin*, cakes, dishes and desserts. Congregation from Batangas, Laguna, Cavite, Las Piñas, Antipolo and Bataan joined the Makati Congregation to celebrate this big event of the year. They also arrived early together with their heartily offer to the Lord.

The officiant of the Divine service was District Apostle Urs Hebeisen with a text word, **"Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in name of our Lord Jesus Christ"**. Ephesians 5:20.

The message that came from the altar tackles more on giving back to God for all the goodness He has done for us. At the same time, District Apostle Hebeisen also illustrates the 40 years of NAC in the Philippines. He preached some of the struggles they have in the early days of New Apostolic Church. But for God nothing is impossible, they became successful. Many souls accepted the doctrine, the reason why we're celebrating 40<sup>th</sup> years of NAC here in Philippines. The theme of the anniversary was "Oneness in Christ". The orchestra also played beautiful songs and the choir sang thanksgiving hymn. The Spirit of our Heavenly Father surrounds the whole congregation.

After the service, a short video clip of NAC pictures was played and right after, as part of the event, picture taking took place.

### Thanksgiving Fellowship

"Barrio Fiesta Style" was the theme of the fellowship. Prayer for the food was led by DA Hebeisen and right after the prayer, the eating time started. All the foods were served and everyone was very happy and busy while choosing food to eat. After the fellowship, the distribution of fruits and vegetable follows.

It is a very fulfilling feeling to witness and to be a part of this wonderful event. The joy and gladness to serve and to offer will linger forever.





# EXPERIENCE OF FAITH

## *Make no plans without the Lord*

Our Family No. 9, September 2012

I felt burnt out and had come to a low point in my life, both personally and professionally. After having concluded a successful consulting project in another country, I was lacking direction in my profession.

In a divine service some time ago, the Priest who had been called to serve along referred to a hymn: "Make no plans without the Lord". This hymn has been part of my life since then.

But it is best to start at the beginning. As project leader of a small commercial consulting company I advise clients from the most diverse branches of industry. I do this with passion, and my life – as well as that of my family – is significantly affected by the irregularity of my work and the serious imbalance between my work and leisure. This also interferes with my work as a Deacon in the cause of the Lord.

After concluding a project in China, my employer found himself in a crisis. We live in an underdeveloped region and the ensuing period of reduced working hours made me feel as though I was walking through a long, dark tunnel that simply did not want to end. My prayers were unanswered. In the end I could no longer hide my despair from my family. Our situation was getting more and more serious.

Owing to differences of opinion in our management, our company soon decided to establish a spin-off company. A short time later I was able to get back to work together with one other colleague in the newly founded company. Would everything be alright now?

My joy was short-lived. Our hopes and expectations were disappointed. As a result of the poor economic prospects – in combination with various other problems – my colleague and I ultimately lost our jobs.

Once again I began an intensive search for a new employer. In the meantime, I had begun to strengthen my connection to my rector. He prayed that the Lord would make things very simple for me. I asked the Lord for orientation in my professional life, however in so doing I decided to give priority to my family. After many interviews, a few hopeful conversations with prospective employers, and long period of waiting, hoping, and many disappointments, I finally received a temporary employment contract with an engineering service provider, but this was not satisfactory for me.

A few days before I was to start to work, another company informed me of their interest and wanted to send me a contract. There were some delays however, so I had to decline. I recognized that the Lord had also spared me the decision in this matter – as He had also done on many other occasions. Grateful to have found a job at all, I commuted 800 kilometers every week, and made use of the short weekends to spend time with my family. This was not quite what I had been praying for!

In the divine service, the Priest who served along made reference to the aforementioned hymn. I opened it up and read the following in the third verse: "Courage will the Lord be sending, grant each task a happy ending, if with Him in one accord." What comfort! My prayers became more and more intense and I began to take new courage.

The prospects and working conditions that had been promised by the engineering company failed to materialize. In a rather restless state of mind, I summoned up my courage and called up the manager of the company whose offer I had previously declined. The manager had not found anyone to fill the position in the meantime, and was overjoyed at my phone call. We agreed upon a date to meet with his colleagues and I asked the Lord to please let me hear back from them on the very same day I was scheduled to meet with them. The interview went very well. They told me I would hear back from them over the next few days. But later that same evening, as I was on my way home from our meeting, my cell phone rang. I was given the position!

Grateful – not least of all the many intercessions – I can now take sure and certain steps into the future with my family! The Lord has made things very easy for me and has revealed His will to me in miraculous fashion. He had acknowledged my faith and helped!

I have derived four important insights from this experience of faith:

- Depend on the Lord and not on your own intellect!
- Give the Lord time to work for you!
- It does not help to know why the Lord is guiding your path in a different direction than you expected – His ways are right!
- Have patience and be thankful for all gifts of grace!

Others have even greater cares than you do!

C.R.

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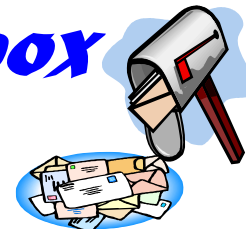
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## *District Apostle Letterbox*



Do you have questions in mind and  
waiting for an answer?



Now it's your time to get an answer!

Just send your question directly to District Apostle Hebeisen or send an  
e-mail to Dist. Elder Depaz

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