

Chief Apostle Visits the Philippines

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EDITORIAL

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Youth,

The Chief Apostle has visited us in the Philippines. Maybe the one or other of you could meet and shake hands with him as well. It was a splendid evening, that Friday 2nd July night in Makati.

He was then also in Negros and Davao and totally 11,722 souls could be served. In a meeting with Apostles and Bishops, the Chief Apostle said

“LET US BE ENTHUSIASTIC”

Enthusiasm is certainly something the Youth likes. Are you not enthusiastic when you think about your future? As children of God who trust our Heavenly Father we certainly can.

We can be enthusiastic about.....

1. **Sacrifice of the Lord.** Never underestimate this wonderful miracle of Love. It is not understandable intellectually but most powerful uplifting
2. **Grace** God is a God of Grace. In the Holy Communion we come into His presence. It is marvelous and not somewhere in a cloud
3. **Presence of Holy Spirit** Holy Spirit is a spirit of strength. We are happy being filled with it and want to give it room to develop our inner man
4. **The Goal** Our Lord comes.

***“Can a blind
man lead the
blind?”***

Luke 6:39



In the service
Bishop Crisanto Azarias
entered into an
honorable retirement.
The Chief Apostle thanked him
for his ministerial work for over
26 years, of which 18 years as
a Bishop

Here and there one gets tired and maybe enthusiasm is not what is really driving us. Then we can always find help in prayers. Ask and you will be given. The Lord delights to renew our strength.

Loving greetings to all of you and much joy and happy experiences in your forthcoming meetings and programs.

Urs Hebeisen

DISTRICT NEWS UPDATE

Chief Apostle visits the Philippines

Months of anticipation, preparations and prayers came to a conclusion when the Chief Apostle landed in **Manila** on Thursday morning, 1st July 2010. After a short rest he made a **soul-care visit** at the home of DA and Sr. Hebeisen, followed by an encounter with a youth delegation from Makati and Baguio who presented songs over dinner.

The second day was in the focus of **preparation for the service for the departed**. DA Kitching and DA Latorcai joined the Chief Apostle in his Philippine program and the first divine service was conducted at our Makati Church, in the evening of Friday, 2nd July. Many Brothers and Sisters with responsibilities in the various countries of what is today known as NACSEAsia have meanwhile arrived as well.

Very moving and soul touching was the Chief Apostle's visit to the **American War Memorial**. Thousands of graves, but also endless listings of names of those whose body was never found, testify of the souls in eternity that lost their lives in the battles of World War 2. The Chief Apostle invited all but also those who lost their lives under similar circumstances to come and receive the offer of Grace by Jesus Christ.



After a short visit at the offices, the Chief Apostle was welcomed at Makati Church by the children of the congregation. 604 attended the Divine Service in preparation for the service for the departed.

Bishop Azarias entered into well deserved retirement.

Saturday was travelling day to Bacolod in the Province of Negros. An island where we have the biggest New Apostolic population in the Philippines. First we had to prove our patience. Due to haze the flight was delayed 7 hours. Once the air traffic was back to normal, a long line up of airplanes promised further delays. Thanks to the presence of a senator among the passengers the Chief Apostles plane had first priority.

"Be enthusiastic" was the theme of the Apostles meeting. "Let the enthusiasm of Paul be visible also in the Church today. The gospel is like fire which spreads. Enthusiasm must be a common characteristic besides our individual personality" the Chief Apostle said to the Apostles who gathered before dinner.

In the Bago City Coliseum everything was prepared for the Divine Service for the Departed. 5,146 Brothers and Sisters were counted in attendance. Many came from rural even mountain areas. Unfortunately many could not make it due to challenging transportation situation. The Chief Apostle embraced all in his prayers, also those who could not come.

The Chief Apostle and all who accompanied him stayed overnight at the Airport Hotel in Cebu and was surprised during dinner by a Youth delegation of Cebu City who presented various hymn renditions. As always when the fellowship at the dinner table reached a highpoint, the, by now famous Filipino **Apostles** choir was enjoyed by all.

After a flight to **Davao** the Chief Apostle travelled to **Panabo City**, and served in the local Sports Coliseum 5,972 souls who have come from all over **Mindanao**. Bishop Leonilo **Desoloc** was ordained

as an Apostle for the northern and western Mindanao region.

We are very thankful that the Chief Apostle graced our country. 11,722 souls were touched by the word. May the effect be long lasting and the blessing he left behind become visible. /uh

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Chief Apostle Divine Service at Makati Church

The visit of the Chief Apostle Wilhelm Leber in Makati last Friday, 2nd July 2010 for Luzon area was welcomed by 604 brothers and sisters who travelled from Bicol, Quezon, Batangas, Laguna, Rizal, Bulacan, Bataan, Pangasinan, Abra and Ilocos Norte and hosted by Metro Manila.

Outside the church already 230 members participated with enthusiasm and patience for those who remained standing during the service.

The children welcomed the arrival of the Chief Apostle with hymns, flowers and souvenir made by the Sunday school Children of Makati Congregation.



Together with the Chief Apostle Wilhelm Leber are District Apostles Urs Hebeisen, Leslie Latorcai, and Johann Kitching.

The Chief Apostle emphasized to everyone the values of PRAYER. He quoted from Acts about Peter who was led by the angel out of prison. And it was the PRAYER of the congregation that prompted God to send an angel to Apostle Peter.

He encouraged everyone to do the same. CONSTANT PRAYER is the SECRET TO SUCCESS. But a short prayer will not prompt God to immediately answer. It requires CONSTANT PRAYER, with patience and with a whole heart.

The Chief Apostle advised everyone to focus our life in seeking closeness to our Heavenly Father thru PRAYER. Through such direction of our life we will experience God who gives us strength in all situations of our life.

The Lord Jesus also advised: Pray without ceasing, the Lord Jesus wanted to us gain strength and power in PRAYER. And with such power we can be a tool of blessing to those who need our help in time and eternity.

The Chief Apostle uses the text out of **Luke 6:39; "Can a blind man lead the blind?"** Those who are blind for the love of Jesus, those who never experience the power of faith, and those who never prayed their whole life.

STEPS ON HOW TO HELP THE BLIND:

1. We have to see those who are blind or helpless – this means we open our eyes to eternity
2. We have to decide to help the blind – this means that we have a longing to help them
3. We have take them by the hand and lead them – this means we should have a heart full of compassion and pray constantly for them
4. We must have patience – this means we must have patience on how long it takes for souls to believe.



SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES AUGUST 2010

**Sunday
August 01, 2010
Divine Service, 10 AM
Makati Central Church**

**Sunday
August 08, 2010
Divine Service, 10 AM
Makati Central Church**

**Sunday
August 15, 2010
Divine Service, 10 AM
Makati Central Church**

**Sunday
August 22, 2010
Divine Service, 10 AM
Makati Central Church**

**Sunday
August 29, 2010
Divine Service, 10 AM
Makati Central Church**

Midweek Service every Wednesday @ 8:00 pm

Experience of Faith

A woman in tears

Our Family, Volume 56, Number 6 June 2010

When our rector asked us ministers what was on our minds at one meeting, I told him about a dream I had been having recently.

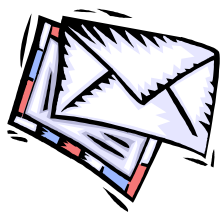
In intervals of approximately three weeks I had the same dream three times. I saw a burning house in a neighboring town, and I saw a woman who lived there crying. The rector proposed that I look up that house with another minister, make a visit to the people who lived there, and invite them to our divine services!

We followed his advice, and when we came to the house, we were even invited in. We told the couple about our faith and invited them to church. We did not feel any sort of rejection. As we were about to leave, we asked whether we could come back every now and then. They agreed. One interesting thing stood out in my mind however: throughout our conversation, the husband would often glance over at his wife, and it seemed to me that he had a petrified sort of look on his face. The matter left me no peace. A couple of weeks later, I asked my fellow minister to accompany me for another visit to this house. We were invited inside. This time the woman was alone at

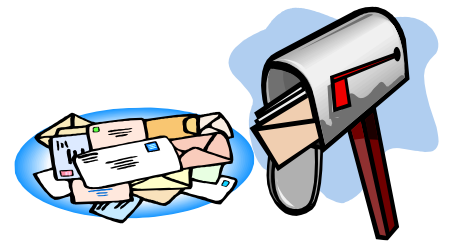
home. After short conversation she suddenly began to cry. She told us that she was in fact a New Apostolic Christian, and that she had even been confirmed in our Church. When she married her current husband, she was still quite confident that he too would one day attend the services with her. "But things turned out very differently," she sobbed. "After a few years he even forbade me from going to Church. In order to keep the peace in our family, I finally acquiesced. Today I miss the services so much! I have always found such great comfort and peace there." We tried to comfort our sister in faith, and promised to pray for her.

Months later our rector received a phone call. He had been asked to go to the hospital as a patient there had asked to receive Holy Communion from a New Apostolic Priest. It was the woman from the "burning" house. "Never in my life," said the rector when he told us about his visit later on, "have I met a soul with such a longing in her heart. When I felt she even kissed my hand! That is how thankful she was." Two days later, our heavenly Father called her into the beyond.

E.S./I.B.



District Apostle Letterbox



Dear District Apostle,

Good day, I am a youth from the Makati congregation. There are some things that I could not answer and some people that I asked for they could not tell and explain to me. I wonder to whom I will tell this question that no one could not answer. Then I read the youth link that is asking so now I wrote this question to know what I am asking for.

Last March 27, 2010, we have a confirmation camp. There are many Confirmands from different congregation. I'm nervous because of the test but when I look around we are incomplete and I asked if they could not come in that exam they will still confirm? And our District Elder said NO, because if they not able to come we not no if they have learn and why they'll be confirmed.

So my question is why we don't confirmed if we don't take the test but we are always attend confirmation classes every Sunday and memorized all we have to memorized and learn about the confirmation except we don't take the test?

In the old times they do not have any test, classes and memorized but they still confirmed but why?

Thank you for reading this I hoped you answer.

My dear concerned Youth,

Thank you for your letter and I am happy to answer. Let me also give you peace of mind, Confirmation test serve no other purpose but to determine what Confirmands understood from what they learned. One should not be nervous about that.

Confirmation is a serious matter and we would like to create awareness among the Confirmands because after all making a vow at such young age is of importance and needs some level of understanding. Often this is not the case and then the young Sister or Brother is troubled and feel insecure and it would be better to postpone confirmation another year. Because confirmation should not only be faith based but also bring along some conviction.

The test is not binding for being confirmed or not. That was may be not precisely communicated by me. The test is to help to determine the knowledge and if necessary to give some additional lessons on matters not quite clear. Naturally if the test reveals that no knowledge is existing then I think it is better not to be confirmed because one might just be too young. Confirmation means to make a vow and a vow of faithfulness has certainly consequences if not kept. No body is judged because a test is failed, even more so we would know where help is needed.

Attending the confirmation class regularly and then not taking the test should be discussed with the Confirmation teacher; after all he knows and can determine whether one is ready.

Can I assume that you took the test and received confirmation blessing? If not please let me know.

Loving greetings

Urs Hebeisen

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