



Bishop's Post

June July 2022

Bible for the road ...

“May all who love the Lord be like the sun when it rises in its strength.” Judges 5,31b

In June-July the daily Bible readings take us, amongst others, through the book of Judges. It speaks about the time after Israel entered Canaan, until the establishment of the kingdom. This was a time without clear leadership and many uncertainties. We read how, on an irregular basis, God calls people to stand up and take leadership to move the people forward.

Time and again two things stand out: God calls his people to live according to the commandments. If the population at a large scale has integrity, it can deal with these circumstances much better. Secondly, God calls individuals to stand up for justice, against corruption, oppression or whatever might be the major threat to the well being of the people.

I encourage you to read these fascinating stories asking: What can we learn from this in our time of failing local and national government, of economic struggles and international unrest and uncertainties.

Of course I hope that at some stage we will have political leaders with integrity and eager to serve the nation. But we currently cannot place our hope on that, nor wait till the politicians perhaps have a change of heart. We, who believe in Christ, are called to be people of integrity in our own sphere of influence, and join hands with other Christians, regardless of denomination, and say no to our current threats: Corruption, dishonesty, xenophobia, violence, racism and prejudice. We are called to live out the example that Christ set. This on it's own will already have a significant impact on our country and on this world, since there are many, many Christians around.

And then we need to pray that God will call “judges” - individuals who will give direction in their communities or region against the voices of selfishness, hatred, prejudice and destruction. May he call, and give

courage, to some to speak the truth to those in power, leaders that set an example of integrity and service. And may our country, in the not too distant future, have people in power that will serve the nation and the people living here, regardless of race, religion, gender or nationality. Let us not wait for the political leadership to start this process, but let us, as servants of Christ, hear his call and live out his example here and now! May all who love the Lord be like the sun when it rises in its strength.

Your fellow servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Horst Müller". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Horst" and last name "Müller" clearly distinguishable.

News from NELCSA

1. The biannual general Pastors' Convention takes place every two years. We could finally meet in person again. Our topic was "Living Christ's unity as a diverse church." We as NELCSA are a diverse church in a diverse country yet one in Christ. Bible Studies, various inputs and group discussions intended to help us that we as pastors can live, minister and lead, so that our congregants are enabled to embrace the diversity and our congregations become communities of hope for South Africa.

The ultimate example for us is Jesus himself, his teachings, and the way that he taught his disciples to be listening, serving leaders.

I am grateful that we had this opportunity to meet.

2. Synod challenge. Each congregation in NELCSA has received a small "tool kit" with a piece of cloth and paint. The challenge is to portray how you in your congregation experience that you are "ALIVE" in Christ. For the synod the pieces will be sown together to form a banner that will be passed from congregation to congregation in the months after synod, sharing our being alive!