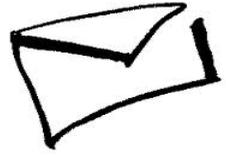




BISHOP'S Feb 14 POST Mar 14



“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1,14). As we embarked on the first eEquip retreat after Christmas, we started off reflecting on these words. We reflected on the wonderful fact that in Christ God came to us. In the Old Testament, as in all other religions, the challenge is on mankind to make its way to God. But in Christ God comes to us. This is His new beginning, the new creation, His New Testament!



Jesus comes into this world. He does not isolate himself. He celebrates with the people, laughs, cries, is angered by evil. God enters this world completely.

When he greets his disciples at his ascension, he does not bid them farewell, but rather says: “I am with you always, till the end of times!” (Mt 28,20)

As eEquip met in the lush and green Hermannsburg, we also reflected on this world, and what it means for us as Christians to belong to Christ (being not of this world) whilst at the same time saying yes to this World and the people that we live with (being in this world). All too easily we Christians dissolve ourselves into this world, being just like every body else. Alternatively many devout Christians distance themselves from the world, isolate themselves in an attempt to keep their faith and live pure and undefiled.

In John 17 Jesus prays for his disciples - and for us, the Christians. He prays that we will be able to live this tension of being in, but not of, this world. For three years he had been preparing his disciples for this, teaching them what it means to be a follower of Christ. This training does not stop with Ascension. Rather, Jesus sends the Holy Spirit, who continues the training, who teaches us and reminds us of what Jesus has taught. (John 14, 26)

To be a Christian means to be with Christ IN this world. Our words, deeds and attitude show that God made a new start in Christ, that he is present in our midst as Saviour of the World.

Just as the Father has sent him, he sends us! (John 20, 21)

With kind regards,

Horst Müller

News from the Church

In November the **Hillcrest** congregation elected Pastor **Manfred Müller-Nedebock** as their new pastor. He will commence duties there at the end of 2014. During this year retired Pastor **Werner Harms** has agreed to help out. We are grateful for that!

With the re-location of Dean **Theo Jaeckel to Kroondal**, retired pastor **Helmut Dedekind** will help out in **Augsburg** till the end of May 2014. We are grateful for his willingness to serve.

Quite a few **youth camps** happened during the December/January holidays. We thank God for all who are willing to lead and assist in these camps, and for the young people who are blessed through them!

The first **eEquip in Hermannsburg** went of well. The 29 participants (plus three children) agreed that they would like to see this initiative to continue. Thus the planning for the next eEquip will commence soon. The Church's web page will keep you informed.

Coming up: The **biannual brass festival** is planned for **11 May in New Germany**. If you have not attended one before, do yourself a favour to come and listen!

Talks with the Cape Church. Both Churches have nominated a small team consisting of presidents of synod, treasurers and bishops, to meet and clarify the next step.