



# BISHOPS

Dec12 POST Jan13



“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” Mt 20,28 - I learnt this text off by heart as confirmand - any my confirmands also had to learn it. Jesus, the servant king, who sacrifices his life for us. Pastor Harry Wendt created this logo for his Crossways Bible courses that were introduced to our Church in the 1990’s.

During the time of Christmas we will again focus on and admire the God who humbled himself, became human, the poorest of mankind, to bring us salvation. We will again sing praises to this servant king, the child in the manger, the God who cares.



Yet ... - yes, there is a “yet” - this well loved text from Matthew actually does not focus on Jesus.

It is only the latter half of a sentence that starts in verse 26: “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

In other words: This text does not focus on what Christ did for us, but on the consequences that we should draw from his attitude: That we should be servants to others, for their salvation! Over the years I have encountered pastors that act as if they were little kings, to be served by their congregation, met bishops who enjoy to be called “Excellency” or “My lord bishop”, met congregants who secretly or openly lorded over their congregation. I am sure that each one of them loves Mt 20,28 because of what Jesus did for us.

It is time that we again see the whole sentence and hear Jesus challenging his disciples: You should become just like me! Children of the servant king, servant royalty!

May God fill us with peace and joy as we live with and become more like our servant King Jesus Christ!

I wish you a blessed time of Christmas, and may many, through you, have a wonderful 2013

Your fellow servant

*Horst Müller*

Horst Müller

## **News from the Church**

1. After Pastor Rene Risch was elected as pastor of St Peters, Pretoria on 29 July 2012 he was inducted on 18. November. May God richly bless him, his family and congregation.
2. On 14. October Pastor Dr Lutz Ackermann was inducted as Pastor of the Friedenskirche in Hillbrow. At the same time Pastor Thomas Wojciechowski was installed as Executive Director of the „Outreach Foundation“, the diaconical project of the congregation. The ELM (better known as Hermannsburg Mission) made him available for this position. May they work well together as a team, and may the congregation and Hillbrow experience God’s blessing through their input!
3. Pastor Dr Christian Nottmeier was inducted as Pastor of the Johannesgemeinde Pretoria on 7 October. We thank God that the family with all their possessions arrived safely in South Africa. May they settle in well!
4. The combined pastor’s convention of our and the Cape Church met from 7 to 12 October in Bonaero Park. The participants unanimously requested their Church Councils to seek close co-operation. The full text of the declaration can be found on our web page: <http://www.elcsant.org.za>