

Brass Band Association ELCSA (N-T) ~ Report 2010/2011

In April/May 2010 both Brass Band Directors of the “Evangelischen Kirche in Mitteldeutschland“ (EKM), Matthias Schmeiß and Frank Plewka, and five of their brass players visited our brass bands of the Central and Northern Circuits. Unfortunately they could not visit the Brass Bands of the Southern Circuit as their departure from Germany was delayed for a full week as a result of the volcanic eruptions in Iceland. Their generous assistance made it possible that Manfred Kuhn and Klaus Drews passed the “D-Exams” for Brass Conductors at a brass workshop in Augsburg.

Our church’s Brass Festival took place in Vryheid on the weekend of 8-9 May. The Michaelisgemeinde in Vryheid were excellent hosts and a wonderful spirit of companionship in the brotherhood of the church community prevailed. At the Representative’s Meeting the following persons were elected into their respective Association Council offices: Manfred Kuhn - Regional Brass Band Director (South), Dieter Drews – Deputy Regional Brass Band Director (South), Walter Lilje - Regional Brass Band Director (Central), Arthur Hinze – Deputy Regional Brass Band Director (Central), Klaus Drews - Regional Brass Band Director (North), Egmont Ottermann – Deputy Regional Brass Band Director (North), Walter Johannes – Training Director, Pastor Dirk Köstlin – Spiritual Counsellor. We are gratefully indebted to the outgoing Spiritual Counsellor, Pastor Helmut Dedekind and the outgoing Training Director, Martin Schütte, for their many years of loyal service. The Chairman of the Representative’s Meeting of the EKM, Johannes Thoß, addressed our Representative’s Meeting on Saturday and the Chairman of the Brass Band Association of the FELSiSA, Ingbert Hillermann, said a word of Greeting at the Service on Sunday. Our next Brass Festival is planned for the 13th May 2012 in Kroondal.

The historic first Brass Festival of the Evangelical Brass Band Association of Southern Africa (EBBASA) took place in Port Elizabeth on the 25th and 26th September, hosted by the BBSA and their President, Tyrone Hitzeroth. About 400 brass players from the Brass Band Associations of the ELCSA (N-T), FELSiSA, BBSA und LBB took part in the proceedings which took place in the Feather Market Centre. It was a joyous event: the long trip and a few organizational glitches did not dampen our spirits at all. It was a wonderful experience to praise our Lord with brass instruments as one South African community – we will take heart from this experience to build an organization in which we will all want to participate.

The three Regional Brass Festivals will all take place in September this year – I am pleased to report that our Brass Bands took the Church’s request, to have the festivals in the latter half of the year, to heart. The details are as follows:

1. Regional Brass Festival (North): 4th September in Germiston
2. Regional Brass Festival (Central): 11th September in Augsburg
3. Regional Brass Festival (South): 18th September in New Hanover

Siegfried Prigge

Brass Band Director: ELCSA (N-T)