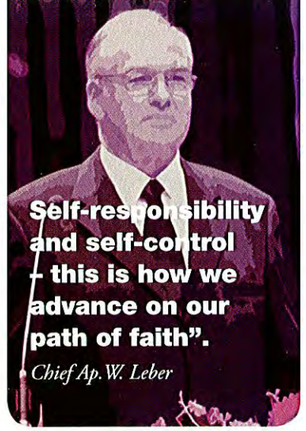
Continued from Page 1

Questions: From time to time, does our environment cause us to feel as though our life is out of control? Are we sometimes frustrated because God does not immediately change our circumstances?

2 While the Biblical text does not use this contemporary terminology, could we not say that Christ possessed a strong internal or core belief structure? He seemed very decisive; very sure of His "identity" and His "mission" despite His weakened physical condition. He also possessed sensitivity and wisdom from the Holy Spirit that allowed Him to determine the identity of the tempter and the consequences of accepting his offer. His rejection of Satan's offer was immediate and absolute.

Our New Apostolic Mission statement has been prominently communicated as of late in all congregations.
Questions: Can we say that we have "internalized" our mission statement? Does it accurately reflect who we are and what we believe? Do we routinely engage the Holy Spirit in our decision making?

3 Notice the subtlety of Satan. His initial offer was not extreme. It was actually quite defensible; perhaps even reasonable given Christ's hunger. Also notice his



tenacity and his attempt to manipulate Christ through human vanity and greed.

Lastly, note the timing of the temptation. Was it coincidence that the tempter chose the moment of great weakness to make his offer?
Questions: Have we ever made a poor or even tragic decision in life that started with a small, seemingly innocent or easily rationalized choice (it seemed like a good idea at the time)? Have we been especially tempted during episodes of personal difficulty, stress, depression or turmoil?

4 Finally, let us not lose sight of the extraordinary conclusion of this episode in the life of Christ. The outcome was quite wonderful. Not only was Christ victorious over the temptation, but the devil left Him and God the Father sent angels to minister to Him. That must have been quite the dining experience!
Questions: In addition to temptation, have we experienced the joy of being ministered to by God's angels? Lastly, have we ever found ourselves called to be an angel whereby God ministers to others in need? ✹

Youth

2010 National Youth Convention

The word is out! Plans are in the making to hold a National Youth Convention at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana over July 9 – 12, 2010.

This will be the highlight of the year for 2400 young people from around the nation to spend a weekend together building strong faith, sharing experiences, and creating bonds of friendship and fellowship. In addition to the Sunday Divine Service, our youth will conduct a public benefit concert for charity, be able to take in a number of quality life skills seminars, participate in a Youth Olympiad, and share iServe3 ideas.

Purdue University is centrally located so that the majority of our youth will be able to drive less than twelve hours to attend the convention. For those youth living farther than a twelve-hour drive, we will help arrange airline flights to Chicago and bus travel to Purdue.

The cost to attend the 2010 Youth Convention is $300. This early notice should give every young person adequate time to raise funds for the event. ✹

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Children

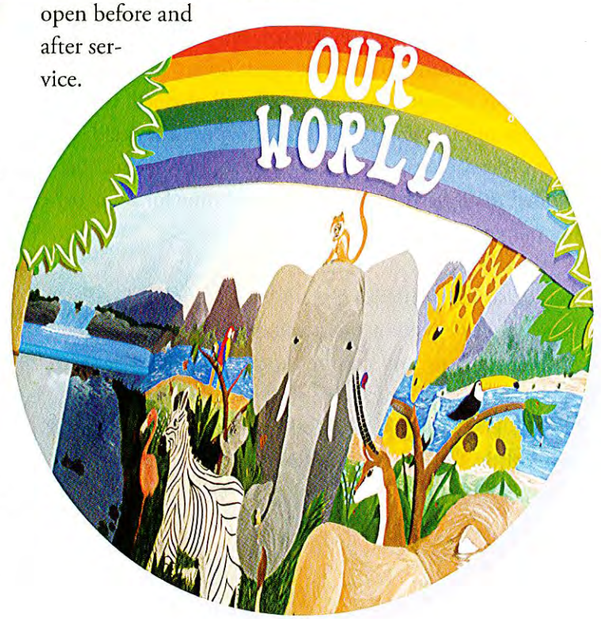
Here is an idea for our children that may prove useful in creating a positive experience and perception of their congregation. This concept, called "Children's Place", is currently being used successfully in various locations. It is offered only as a suggestion that may be adopted in whole or in part based upon the unique circumstances and resources available within each congregation. A careful assessment of available resources should be conducted by the Sunday school coordinator in collaboration with their Rector prior to implementing such an approach. Here are the highpoints:

1. A child's world is full of color, imagination, pictures, shapes, and designs. They are naturally drawn to places where they can explore, discover and create. Children encounter these elements of stimulation everyday within their "world" of school, daycare and play.

2. By providing a creative place within the church for them to gather, children attain a sense of "belonging". A place where they feel safe, and can learn, share and grow with their friends. Children's places assist in making our church approachable. It encourages them to develop a positive view towards the congregation and a place where their friends are welcome.

3. Children's places have been the creation of the members within the congregations. Parents, youth, seniors and the children themselves have combined to provide the creative, artistic and financial efforts required. They can be created in the fellowship hall, lower auditorium or Sunday School room.

It is recommended that the children's place be staffed. Adults rotate their time with the children and monthly schedules are created to keep this managed. Children's places are usually open before and after service. Before service, Bible stories are read, games are played and crafts prepared that have significance to the divine service. The children are encouraged to make their way into the sanctuary 10 minutes prior to service and to shake hands after the service before heading back to their area. This arrangement may prove useful also during hours of fellowship or adult meetings. ✹



Comforting news

Chief Apostle's intercession for USA members in economic difficulties: During a divine service in Singen, Germany on May 10th, the Chief Apostle described the stressful economic conditions faced by many brothers and sisters in the USA district and asked the congregation to pray for those in need. He then concluded the service in prayer and interceded specifically for those in the USA facing unemployment and financial uncertainty. May this be a source of comfort and inspiration for all who struggle in these difficult times. ✹

Upcoming events

July 5th ~ Service for Departed. Let us create congregations of prayer and compassion to support the work of redemption in the eternal realms. The July 4th holiday may inspire special consideration for those who have lost their life in service to their country.

NEW! **September 5, 2010** ~ This date will find us together with our **Chief Apostle in DETROIT, MICHIGAN!** For this festive event, we will seek a venue large enough to open the way for anyone who desires to be in this service.

Congregational pilot programs

Dear brothers and sisters,

From time to time we will be implementing pilot programs in selected congregations; always in the interests of furthering our objectives of Health, Growth and Completion. Effective change is essential, but it often causes certain stresses and must be managed. A very important phase of any change, no matter how well planned, is the initial test or pilot program. This is how we will decide if a new idea will actually work and if so, how it must be modified to create the best possible outcome for some or all of our congregations.

I would ask your patience and understanding in this process as well as your active participation. For those in test congregations, you may be exposed to new ideas that frankly may be uncomfortable simply because they are different. Please discuss your feelings openly with the local congregational ministers. It is also quite possible that a pilot program will be tried and then discontinued giving some a feeling of inconsistency. This is an unfortunate but necessary byproduct of the process.

For those not in a test congregation, you may hear of a new idea and wonder why it can't be done in your location. Please understand that effective new ideas will be rolled out as quickly as possible after they have been reviewed, refined and approved by all the apostles.

I hope this will minimize confusion and misunderstandings and wish the very best to you as we step forward aggressively towards healthy and growing congregations that are being prepared for the return of Christ. ✹

LRK.

Health, growth, completion

Vision

New Apostolic Church
USA District News
Summer 2009

Happy summer!

My very dear Brothers and Sisters,

We enter the summer fresh from our Pentecost experience with our Chief Apostle in Chicago. May the Bible verse "Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (2 Corinth. 3:17) remain within our thoughts. I sincerely wish that our Pentecost fellowship inspired by the Holy Spirit will remain a source of inner strength and accelerate us on our journey home.

In this summer issue, we will continue our study of self responsibility and self control. I hope that discussing this topic in various circles will further our understanding of this important issue and help us counter the manifold influences that surround us daily.

Recently, our Chief Apostle spoke of deceptions or specifically the thought "It doesn't really matter". This seemed to be evident in the people of Israel as they built a golden calf when Moses was up in the mountain. Mistakenly, they reckoned the idolatry of other nations would not really matter to the Lord. Sadly, this action greatly displeased God [ref. Genesis 32:7-10]. Let us be personally cautious (exercise self responsibility) in perceiving what matters most in our faith life and avoid this type of deception from the evil one.

Connected with the apostles, I greet you in love,

Leonard R. Kolb

Perspectives on self-responsibility:
Keep yourself 1 JOHN 5:18

In keeping with the theme of self responsibility and the admonition to "Keep Yourself" as found in 1 John 5:18, we might consider the following application:

Keep yourself in control (self control).
"Chief Apostle Urwyler once imparted the concept of self-responsibility. To this I would like to add self-control. Self-responsibility and self-control – this is how we advance on our path of faith".
Chief Ap. W. Leber, Divine Service 2/09/2009, Magdeburg, Germany

Everyone experiences dark moments in their lives and times of temptation and indecision. The temptation of Christ gives us useful insights that may help us attain a blessed outcome and avoid being misled by evil. The reader may want to reacquaint themselves with the different accounts of this event as described in Matthew, Mark and Luke.

1 In this critical and defining moment, Christ was completely alone. Temporarily, He had no external support system to provide direction or guidance. In terms of our everyday life, there was no minister to call for instructions; no admonishment from Mom, Dad or the Sunday school teacher. The answers needed to come from within. Additionally, we can note that the evil one had a certain measure of control over Christ's external environment. Furthermore, God did not intervene by changing this environment.

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