



Church News – August 2012

A greeting from the Danish pastor

During the years I studied to become a pastor I visited an elderly lady once a week. Her name was Anna. For every week I got to know her better through the stories of her life that she shared with me. Some days her memories were bright and happy, and other days they were sad, depressing and painful. She had lived a long life, experiencing happiness, blessings, lovely surprises and satisfaction in her daily life. And she had met disappointments and defeat, struggled and fought against the odds.

She liked to pass on good advice to me, so one day when I expressed my fear for a new project and wanted to skip it, she told me: “Don’t worry just catch it. It is better to live a life with 30 concrete defeats than a life with thousands of imaginary ones”.



Anna had experienced it all, victories and defeats, as a child, youth, adult, and now as an elderly lady. Now the defeats were different. One day she slipped on the street, she got confused by the new timetable for the public bus; she had problems sleeping during the night and found it too stressful to get out of the house. Her daily life was still full of

challenges, and she continued to fight because she wasn’t finished as she said. As humans we are never done but always on our way. No matter if we are three, 20, 50 or over 90 years old. Life is in front of us, waiting to meet us with its gifts and challenges.

Jesus said (Luke 18.17):” anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” According to God, we must be like the children: curious, when we fall we shall raise, when we are sad we shall cry, when we are happy we shall rejoice, try again and again. We shall meet adversity and victory, defeat and success because that’s the way life is, whether we like it or not. On a rainy and cloudy winter’s day it can seem confusing. But if we receive life like a child and let us surprise, try to forget ourselves for a moment and become open and curious, even when we know it all, then there is a big chance that we will be surprised and taken by the day; the



friendly smile from a stranger, the good smell of coffee, a sunbeam that breaks through the clouds, an early flower bud in the garden, or by an unexpected phone call. The great gift of life is that right here in the spot, where we fight, loose and gain, that's where we meet each other, the life and God's blessings. So catch the day and remember "it is better to live a life with 30 concrete defeats than a life with thousands of imaginary ones". Pastor Anja



Welcome to new board member Annette Vestergaard Jensen from Hamilton. Annette is a lecturer in **Occupational Therapy**. **She has three children and is a former president of the** Danish Society in Hamilton, now the NZ representative for Danes Worldwide. Annette has got a lot of experience working with organisations, fundraising, and as a volunteer. We are very happy that she has accepted to join the board, and look forward to work together with you.

We also **welcome back** Knud Fink-Jensen, the former Danish Consul-General in Wellington. We are pleased to have you and your huge expertise back on the board.



Congratulation to Patricia who got confirmed in Kolding the 29th of April. Patricia has received training by Pastor Anja Mathiassen for the last year, and wanted to be confirmed together with her friends in Denmark. We wish her all the best and God's blessing.

Thanks to Rita Jaegersborg, Vice Consul at the Danish Consulate-General in Auckland, for her excellent work for the Danish Church NZ. Rita has been a member of the board right from the beginning and has now stepped down.

Rita and her husband were involved in starting up the Danish Church NZ and Rita has been an essential support and great help in establishing the church. We are thankful for her engagement, professionalism, optimism and always friendly and warm personality and delighted that you will continue to be an active member of the Danish Church in New Zealand.



Next Church services;

Auckland the 5th of August at 4 pm in the Danish House

More information can be found at www.danishchurchnz.org

Would you like a service in your area then feel free to contact the pastor!

Events celebrated by the Danish Church NZ since last Church News:

Christmas services in Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin

A very special Easter service in Auckland.

'Fastelavns' party in Dunedin

Did you know, that ...

- The Danish Church New Zealand is a private church under the Danish Church Abroad/ the Danish Seamen's Church Abroad (DSUK). The church receives no funding from Denmark, and relies on contributions from members and volunteers, fundraising events, gifts and donations.

As a yearly contributor to/member of the Danish Church you will receive 3-4 church letters a year. See more about the church and all its activities on <http://www.danishchurchnz.org/>

Funds can be donated via online banking (Westpac NZ: 03 0502 0445253-000) or sent by cheque (to Treasurer Anne Cathrine L. Petersen, 10 Marion St., Dunedin 9014).

Alternatively you can contact Anne Cathrine on aclpetersen@gmail.com for more information.