DOKDIEK PRAAT UIT SY HART 48

My liewe broers en susters in Christus,

hierdie is die laaste " Dokdiek praat uit sy hart" . In opdrag van die Ekologie Taakspan van die NG Kerk Wes-Kaap Sinode en die VGK se Wes- en Suid-Kaapse Sinode (op sy eerste vergadering jare gelede) , het ek begin om deur middel van hierdie brief aan julle wat toegang het tot die Internet-webwerf te vertel wat die Ekologie Taakspan namens julle alles aanvang, en om julle dinke te rig na die Ekologie om julle.

Vir my was die drie hoogtepunte uit die Ekologie Taakspan die 2013 Aardesorgkonferensie in Bellville en Pinelands; die onlangse praktiese afronding van die Kortkursus vir predikante in Tulbagh, wat ons kon voltooi; en ons Voorsitter , ds. David Botha, se weeklikse Ekologie-bydrae in die Sinode se Vrydagnuus op die Internet.

Ons as Christene is nie net Hemelkykers (hier op Hemelvaartdag!) nie, maar ook Aardversorgers. Ons Drie-enige God het aan Elkeen van ons, sy kinders, Twee opdragte gegee, nl. sorg vir die Aarde en vertel almal van Jesus Christus. So eenvoudig soos dit, maar so min van ons God se kinders wat daardie opdragte uitvoer.

Intussen is die Aarde besig om pyn te ly en is dit vandag dubbel soveel nodig vir gwone mense , die sg. stille meerderheid, om moed bymekaar te skraap om dit te doen en om te inspireer voor dit heeltemal te laat is.

'n Duidelike voorbeeld is vandag se (nie-) hantering van ons as God se kinders , om die Waterkrisis in die Wes-en Suid-Kaap te lei. Uit die Sinode se ander spreekbuise word 'n lys van hulpmiddels aangebied om die krisis uit 'n Christelike oogpunt volhoubaar te hanteer. Die reaksie van ons gemeentes en individue is maar eina. Dit is 'n ideale geleentheid, bv. vir 'n gemeente om n paar watertenke op te rig langs sy groot geboue en dan die gemeente en gemeenskap te nooi: " Kom maak jou emmertjie vol. Kom tap grys water verniet vir jou tuin , jou toilet , die was van jou kar" 'n Nuwe vlaag of gees van mededeelsaamheid sou in hierdie krisis kon ontwikkel het , maar dit het nog nie gebeur nie.MYNE. MYNE, MYNE! Ook jy wat 'n watertenk op jou werf het , laat jy jou bure toe om daarvan te gebruik , of skerm jy dit af vir jouself?

Hierdie watertenk-nadruk is net 'n voorbeeld. Ander moontlikhede is om alle maniere en tegnologiee aan te wend in en om ons kerkgeboue as 'n model om na te volg om water permanent spaarsaam te gebruik. Ons as Christene moet die voorbeeld stel , die aanmoediging deur dade bewys , om onsself en ons medemens te leer: van nou af is 50 liter per persoon per dag die maksimum.

Aan die anderkant moet ons ons stem verhef as verkeerde dinge plaasvind soos boorgate in 'n verklaarde natuurreservaat ; goedkeur van duisende nuwe swembaddens en duisende privaat boorgate toe te laat; ondergrondse waterbronne oorontgin; en ons riviere en strande te besoedel.

Daar is 'n tydperk van groot sigbare take wat vir ons voorle, maar as dit eers 'n gwoonte geword het , is dit later gladnie moeilik nie. 'n Sin wat my getref het is :" If your circumstances allow you to continue, then know that it is truly worth it". My omstandighede, om 80 jaar oud te word , maak my ophou hierdie gereelde brief opstel en uitstuur, maar sal nie verhoed dat ek elders skryf oor wandade teenoor die Ekologie van my medemense, of dat ek strooitjies en glas optel op die strand

hier voor my woonstel , of date k die gemeente se herwinningsprojek nou nie meer ondersteun nie. Solank die Here vir my en jou seen , gaan ons voort om Hom te die nom ons deel te doe nom die aarde te versorg.

Moenie ophou omdat ek hier ophou met my laaste brief nie....neem die stokkie uit my hand en draf daarmee na die einddoel van alle Aardsorgers : Hemel toe kyk en Jesus sien kom!

Liefdegroete Dokdiek

DOKDIEK TALKS FROM HIS HEART 48

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ

this is the last "Dokdiek talks from his heart' . At the initiation of the Ecology Task Team of the DR Church's Synod and the Uniting Reformed Church's Synod , many years ago , i started to inform those of you with access to this internet web site about the activities of the Ecology Task Team and about ecological matters in general.

The three outstanding moments over these years were the Earth Keepers Symposium in Bellville en Pinelands; the recent completion/practical application in Tulbagh of our proposed short course on Ecology for ministers heading their congregations ; and the weekly Ecology contributions by our Chairperson , rev. David Botha to the Western Cape Synod's Friday Newsletter.

Writing this on Ascension day 2018 , we , as Christians are not only people (only) looking up to Heaven for our ultimate salvation , but are also , by God's command, Earth Keepers. Our Trinity God commanded each One of us , His children , Two commandments, viz. to care for the Earth; and to tell everyone about Jesus. It is so direct and simple, but , sadly, so few of even God's children daily carry out these love deeds.

Meanwhile " the Earth is in pain" and today it is even more necessary that ordinary people, such as you and me , the silent majority, take up the challenge and assemble our courage to take action and to inspire others before it is too late.

A clear example today is our (non-) handling as God's children of the present Western Cape Water Crisis. In the Church's other websites and media messages a long list of resources are made available to congregations and individuals. However, the reaction is virtually non-existent. This crisis is such an ideal opportunity where , for example , a congregation can erect water tanks next to their large buildings and invite the congregation and the community : " Come and fill your bucket. Come collect grey water for your garden , your toilet or for washing your car". A new wave or spirit of openhandedness would be able to be developed, but it is not occurring yet. It is mine, mime , mine! Yes, also you who erected a water tank next to your house—do you share it with others, or do you fence it off for yourself?

This accent on water tanks is only an example. Other opportunities are the application of old and new technologies as a model to others on church property to minimise water use. We as Christians should set the example by following it up with deeds to reach the people around us : 50 litres of water per person per day is the new maximum!

We must also raise our concerns when wrong developments take place or are advocated , e.g. bore holkes in declared nature reserves; approving thousands of new swimming baths and thousands of new private bore holes; exploitation of our precious ground water; and pollution of our rivers and beaches.

So , there is a time ahead of increased intense earth keeping for you and me. Remember that when it becomes a habit, it is not difficult any more. I read somewhere :" If your circumstances allow you to continue, then know that it is truly worth while" . My circumstances, reaching 80 years old, make me terminate this regular letter writing and sending, but it will not prevent me from e.g. writing letters to the editor about transgressions to Ecology; picking up plastic straws and glass on the beach in front of my flat ; or stopping to assist my congregation with their recycling effort. As long as the Lord blesses you and me, we will continue to carry out our earth keeping deeds, however small.

You , my brother and sister, do not stop because i stop my newsletter. Rather take up the baton and run with it to the finish line of any Earth Keeper : Looking up to Heaven to see Jesus descending to you on Earth!

Greetings in Christ,

Dokdiek