

Building on a new future together

Beloved person,

What gives me, us, something to hold onto in this day and age? This is a question that has been on my mind for a long time. It appears in all kinds of different situations. When people tell me that being part of a community no longer gives them something to hold onto. When world leaders make choices that, until recently, were thought impossible. When young people mention that they hardly feel safe to share their feelings with someone.

I like what is familiar to me, also within our society. The recognisability of what we do and of who we want to be for each other, the language we speak, the music and the rituals give me something to hold onto. Maybe you recognise that too. And although I know that it is (of course) not possible, out of the desire for certainty, I might (deep in my heart) want everything to stay as it is or to go back to how it was. How to deal with change is a quest for every person. Because reality forces me to face the facts: living means continued change. With that reality in mind, I let questions permeate that are about what is needed now and tomorrow to live from love and to find something to hold onto:

Do I, do you, do we have the courage to build a new future together?

What does this ask of us as committed people who want to realise the body of thought of the Apostolic Society? What steps are we going to take in this regard?

Do we really want to contribute to healing instead of hurting, to remedy instead of destroying? To peace, to daring to be gentle (meek), to inspiration? To hope?

We can - if we want to - create familiar and new places together, where your deepest inner world can make itself felt. Where something of the intangible eternity, of love, of power, of creation touches you and others. Where we look at fragile and precious life and where we search for language to express our religious and interpersonal experiences.

It takes courage to look at our future together in this way and to broaden our perspective on what we know with new possibilities. When we get to know new people, it requires us to practice and to embrace. We can offer places where people, who are also searching, can come together. People who want to give and receive inspiration. People who need closeness and want to offer this to others. Places where you don't have to do everything together and where you are respected for who you are.

Let it show

Blow the dust off once again
Polish it up so that it gleams
Be proud, be brave
I am, therefore I connect

I marvel, I amaze
I meet, and I shine
I stare ahead with emotion
I give the other my hand

And I address the other
Learning to look through different eyes
I am, therefore I connect
And I will let it show¹

I pray that we want to work on this together.

With a warm-hearted greeting, also from Brother van der Wal
gladly your sister Nanda Ziere



¹ **Ralph Koenis**, Delivered during the national devotional of March 12, 2023