



District Apostle Urs Hebeisen now leads the New Apostolic Church in South East Asia

Stammapostel Leber verabschiedet den
scheidenden Bezirksapostel Tansahtikno (links) und
begrüßt den neuen Bezirksapostel Hebeisen
(rechts). Foto: Peter Wild, VFB

Yogyakarta/Zurich. An era has come to an end: for 23 years, District Apostle Alfons Tansahtikno was responsible for the New Apostolic Church in Indonesia. As of Sunday, 18 January 2009 he will enjoy a richly deserved retirement. His successor in ministry is District Apostle Urs Hebeisen (56) who will now not only lead the Church in Indonesia, but also many other countries of South East Asia.

Chief Apostle Wilhelm Leber, the international leader of the New Apostolic Church, had travelled to Yogyakarta in order to discharge the long-serving Indonesian District Apostle Tansahtikno (65) into a well-earned retirement. He especially emphasised the latter's steadfastness and strong conviction of faith. He was already serving as a Deacon in a city congregation in Bandung at the age of 16. In 1985, the then District Apostle Richard Fehr ordained him a District Apostle for Indonesia by commission of Chief Apostle Hans Urwyler, who had fallen ill. Alfons Tansahtikno has thus worked as a minister of the Church for 49 years—a long time indeed! His life's motto is: "All that the Lord has spoken, I will do" (cf. Exodus 19: 8). In a country with over 200 million inhabitants, of whom only about nine percent belong to Christian churches, this is no easy task. In his thanks to the retiring District Apostle, Chief Apostle Leber expressed: "You have tended and nurtured the flock of Christ as a loving and kind shepherd. You can be assured of the Lord's reward and our heartfelt thanks."

New District Apostle district of South East Asia

The new Church leader in Indonesia and a number of other countries in South East Asia is District Apostle Urs Hebeisen from Manila, Philippines. With the ordination of the new District Apostle, the Chief Apostle simultaneously established an entirely new District Apostle district, which will in future be known as the New Apostolic Church of South East Asia. It will include countries and regions such as Brunei, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam. In total, 18 countries with a good 2,000 congregations between them will thus be united into a single District Apostle district ([we reported](#)).

Chief Apostle Wilhelm Leber conducted the festive divine service in Yogyakarta's Grand Pacific Hall. He based the service on a passage from Colossians 1: 28, and called upon the brethren to remain steadfast in faith, following, oneness, love, and hope.

On Monday the international Church leader flew on to Sumatra, where he conducted a divine service in the afternoon. Following this is a very strenuous leg of the journey which will take him to North Indonesia where he will conduct another divine service.

The new District Apostle district of South East Asia is comprised of the District Churches of Brunei, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Myanmar, Palau, The Philippines, Sabah, Sarawak, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

20 January 2009