



“Perfecting the Ordinances“ – Historical Observations on the Ministry of Evangelist in the Catholic Apostolic Church

Prefatory Remarks

The German version of this article was first published without annotations in the German church periodical *Unsere Familie* No. 8/2007 of 20 April 2007. We present this English version simultaneously with an annotated German version.¹

As indicated by the title, we intend to offer some observations intended to show that there were changes in the way the evangelist ministry was exercised in the Catholic Apostolic Church. There is still a lot of work to be done if we want to understand the evolution of the complex Catholic Apostolic ministries and hierarchy. In the course of further research we may have to revise some of the findings here presented.

In the title we refer to the concept of perfecting the ordinances. We would like to point out that the mission of “the sixty” is just one aspect of this theme. On various occasions we shall have to refer again to the concept of “perfecting the ministries”.

In the German version of this article we refer to a controversy which seems irrelevant to English readers. We ask leave to repeat a final passage from our answer to some critical remarks:

We are aware that the kind of research we do may seem a problem to those who adhere to the traditional account of events. In referring to those problems we leave the purely historical view and enter the region of personal faith. Many events the Catholic Apostolics expected did not take place although they were based on prophecy. Does this mean that these prophecies were wrong? Folkmar Schiek, who claims to defend orthodox Catholic Apostolic positions against what he considers an attack Manfred Henke launched on them, tries to explain the difficulty by saying that there had been a “plan of God”, but also “events that disrupted this plan”.² Such an explanation fits in with authoritative Catholic Apostolic views of their history,³ but it leads to difficult questions concerning the characteristics of divine revelation. Always supposing that we accept divine revelation apart from Holy Scripture, we now have to ask: Is a revelation refuted by its non-fulfilment? Like us, Schiek does not seem to think so.

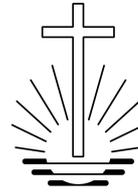
Some Hints on Sources

Readers of the following article will notice that we have not only used printed books that can be found in scholarly libraries, but also internal Catholic Apostolic sources that are not generally available to scholars at present. Most of them were in a fraternal spirit entrusted to the New Apostolic District Apostle Karl Weinmann nearly fifty years ago by somebody who was

¹ Once again, the authors would like to thank Dr. Tim Grass F.R.Hist.S. of Horsham, West Sussex, for his help in checking the English version of this article for linguistic and stylistic accuracy.

² Cf. Folkmar Schiek, “Das Evangelistenamt in der Katholisch-apostolischen Kirche. Ein Beitrag von M. Henke in der ‘Unsere Familie’ 67. Jahrgang, Nummer 8, vom 20. April 2007. Eine Auseinandersetzung“, p. 9. This review can be found at http://www.adfontes.mediasinres.net/ad_documents/ad-118_evangelistenamt_kag_beitrag_uf_henke.pdf. Note also the less compelling arguments *ibid.*, p. 2: “Let us say from the start that Henke fails to present a full view which takes account of unforeseen events and developments.” As we see it, it is only from the perspective of the people involved in those events, that one can refer to “unforeseen events and developments”, but this cannot apply to the omniscient God.

³ Cf. (*int. al.*) Cardale, *Notes of Lectures Delivered in the Seven Churches in London in the Months of October, November, and December, 1860*, London [1861], pp. 43f.



officially engaged in distributing Catholic Apostolic books. This happened at a time when churches were closed and libraries and documents dispersed or even destroyed.

We have discussed publication of the “Notes of Conferences” and the “Minutes of Conferences” with scholars from outside the New Apostolic Church, and we have arrived at the conclusion that publication is both legitimate and appropriate. We are still discussing how to do so. We ask the reader for patience until we have finished our work. Several hundred pages of handwritten lithographed minutes have to be got ready for publication.