

Theme Sheet 'Inspiring movement in motion'



*Inspiring Movement
in Motion*

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NB: The publication date of a printed version of the theme magazines must always be checked against the digital version of the document.

© The names of text writers and composers of apostolic songs can be consulted on the intranet of the Apostolic Society (Apostolisch Genootschap): www.apgen.nl

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Introduction

The Apostolic Society in its present form is already more than 70 years old. Together, we form a religious-humanistic movement of people who believe that the power from which everything was created is also active within human beings and can be expressed in the form of loving actions. We offer encounters to become inspired and encouraged and to (once again) become a loving person, based on the awareness that we are part of something much greater, whereby we awaken the desire to wish, be able to, and dare to take our place in the world. These encounters and meetings are for enthusiasts, persons who embrace the foundation of our belief and are searching for meaning. We feel the urgency of contributing to equality, solidarity, and inclusiveness in society. For that purpose, we need to work together to find sufficient inspiration and maintain enough energy to bring light and love into the world.

The society has always been visibly dynamic in nature and focused on maintaining its role in the future. The changes in recent years seem huge and to be taking place at lightning speed. As a result, the wish has been expressed to ensure that our 'belief story' and the path taken by the society towards shared responsibility can also be understood by younger persons. By using a theme sheet for that purpose, we stay in touch with what we already know and provide additional insight with the help of music, images, imagination, conversations, and exercises. The prezi presentation makes it all more attractive and enjoyable.

The title 'Inspiring movement in motion' came into being because, in the course of our work to accomplish the above, we became increasingly inspired and therefore moved by the dynamic path that we have traced together (at times barely visible) as a movement and as a society. A great deal is visible in the form of songs, in the work we do with our youngsters, in weekly letters, and in guidelines from followers of an apostle.

Working method

Theme sheet

This theme sheet provides you with all kinds of opportunities to do something, together with youngsters and children, with our mental legacy and the history behind our society. This theme sheet has a different layout than the usual one for the theme sheets. We expect that this theme sheet, together with the prezi presentation and the conversation cards from the folder of discussion images, will lead to fascinating conversations with a focus on making things clearer, digging deeper, and inspiring.

This theme sheet is based on three central elements:

1. 'Our belief story' in children's language
2. The text about 'The well' in children's language
3. A clear and simple historical timeline

All images were designed especially for this theme magazine. The tree with its roots symbolises our belief story. It is the foundation behind all the elements and gives direction to everything. The meandering river symbolises our history. The image of the well symbolises the meeting place where we encounter each other. The red line that is visible in everything symbolises our belief story and everything that we do and have done, and serves to connect all the various elements.



Prezi presentation

In the Prezi presentation, the content of the theme sheet is presented visually. Prezi is an online presentation program that focuses on the ability to zoom in on images. The program is very dynamic in nature, making it possible to capture and hold the interest and attention of youngsters and children via the beautiful images, texts, videos, and music fragments. The Prezi can be viewed [here](#).

Working method for Prezi:

- Click on the link.
- Click on the blue button in the middle of the screen, and the presentation will start.
- Next, click on the arrows at the bottom (right arrow = forwards left arrow = back)
- If you wish to stop, click on the X on the top right and the page will close.

Overview of slides in the prezi presentation:

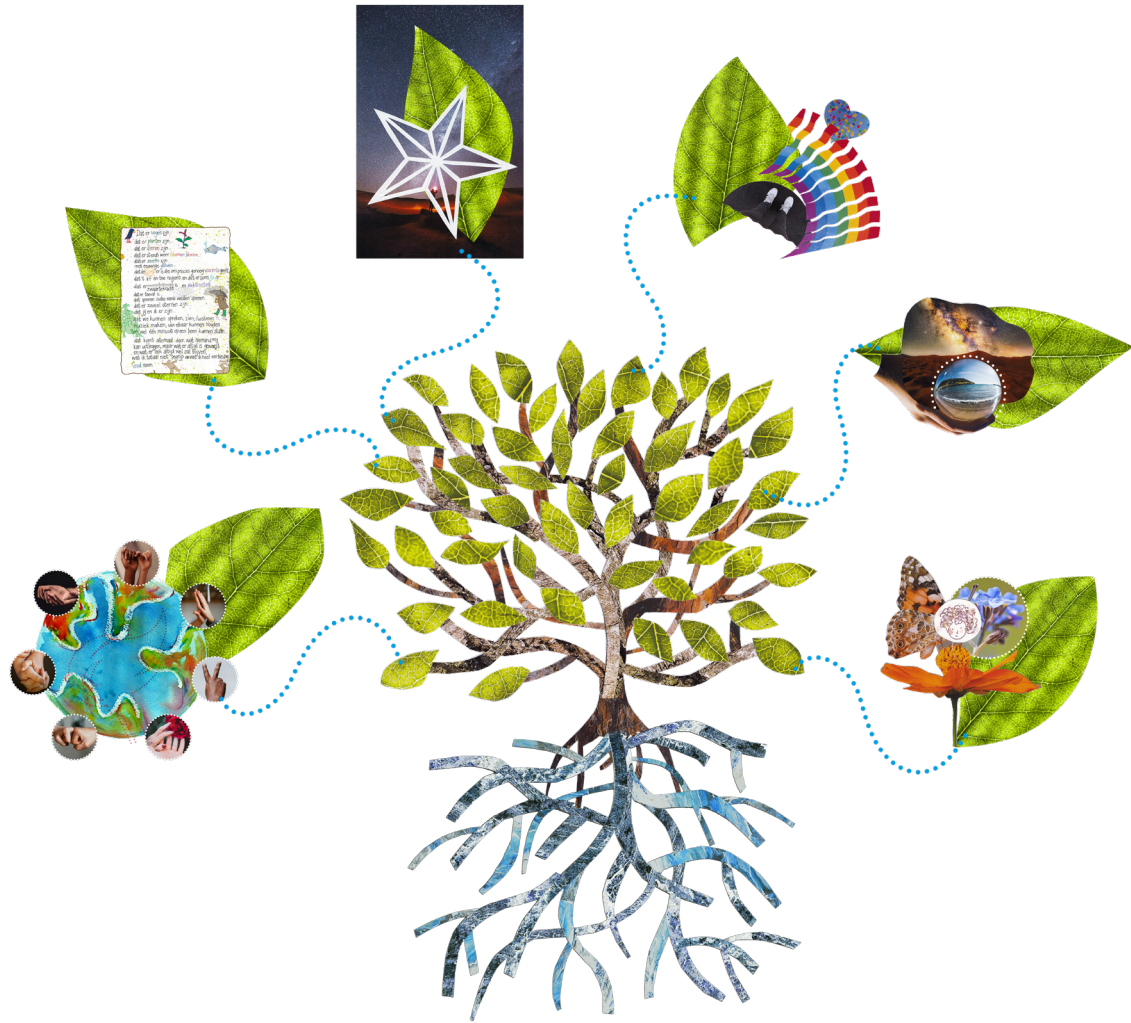
- o Belief story
 - The wonder of life
 - How good it is that you and I are here
 - The power of all that is
 - You can begin anew
 - There is a place under the sun for everyone
 - Spreading the light of love
- o The well as meeting place
 - Celebrating life
 - Compassion, solidarity and sustainability
 - Staying connected
 - Creating space
 - Living in awareness and love
- o Timeline
 - Apostle van Oosbree
 - Apostle L. Slok
 - Apostle J.L. Slok
 - Apostle D. Riemers
 - Apostle A. Wiegman
 - Sister N. Ziere and brother M. van der Wal

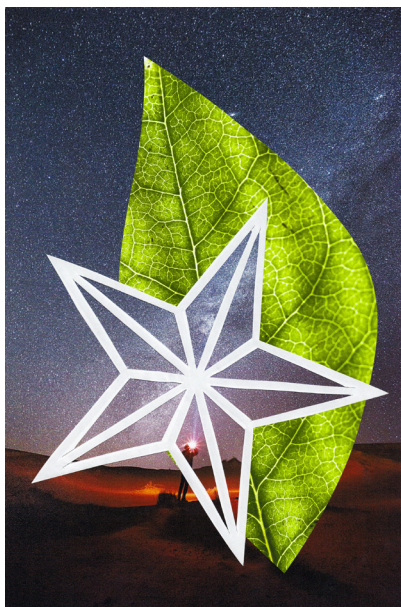
Discussion card set

In the discussion card set, you will find conversation cards related to the images and texts of 'our belief story' and 'the well'. The front side of the card displays an image that can also be seen in the theme sheet and the prezi presentation. The back side of the card contains the "translated" texts and a few questions, which can help to get a good conversation started.



Our belief story





The wonder of life

We feel that creation is a profound mystery that fills us with wonder and awe. We realise that all life is a finite part of an infinite and indivisible whole.

Translation:

Life is a wonder that continually amazes us. But sometimes it also saddens us, like when we see that people go hungry or are at war or when a volcano erupts. Before you arrived, there were other people, and after your departure, there will be new arrivals. So all people are part of a long chain of human existence.

That I exist

When I watch stars on a dark night
and I see them form bright showers,
I get silent all inside me,
and this may go on for hours.
Is there any life 'round that bright star?
Well, I just don't know,... it is so far!
Wonderful how all those suns there
simply brighten up the dark sky,
and it fills me with amazement
that I even see them that high!
Silently surprised my thoughts go on
what a miracle that I was born!

Song no. 2 children's choir



Film Powers of 10 (Machten van tien)





How good it is that you and I are here

Since we believe that all life comes from a single source, we wish to view all people as equals and are continually searching for that which we have in common. We believe that the power from which everything was created is also active in all human beings and can be expressed in the form of loving actions. This awareness is the context within which we wish to give meaning to our lives.

Translation:

All people are made of the same elements, but all of us are also different. That sometimes makes it difficult to feel our common connection, which is why we wish to focus primarily on those things that we have in common. And to say to each other: 'How good it is that you and I are here!'

All on one planet

Refrain:

Together all of us live on this lovely planet Earth
Everyone is different, it's been that way from birth
That's what makes it nice, and if we alle get some space
Then under the sun we will find our own place.

Song no. 12 children's choir





The power of all that is

If we use the word God, we do so to give a name to that which surpasses us and moves us, to create space, within the human reality, for the inexpressible.

Translation:

The power that has brought everything into being: people, trees, plants, animals, mountains, lakes and seas. We cannot really explain it or understand it; we call it God.

God

When I'm outside and look around,
what I see's plants and creatures
and lots of flowers in the fields
and more of nature's features.

Say, how can all this be alive,
and where do I come from?

How can it be that you and I
are part of this whole sum?

The oceans of the world are full
of many tiny droplets.

The sun shines like a big warm lamp
on people walking their pets.

Say, how can all this be alive,
and where do I come from?

How can it be that you and I
are part of this whole sum?

The cause of this is something huge
nobody can explain.

It's part of everything we see,
the sun and moon and rain.

It's hard to put it into words,
but it will always be.

When I look at all this
I know that it's God that I see.

Song no. 35 children's choir





You can begin anew

We gain confidence from our ability, in all of life's circumstances, to be a loving person or to become one again. That gives us courage in our own lives to make values such as compassion, solidarity, and sustainability perceptible.

Translation:

We think that you can always be a loving person or become one again, regardless of what happens in your life. Being a loving person means taking good care of others and everything around you. And of course that includes yourself. That may not always be easy, but we continue trying. And if we don't always succeed, we simply begin anew.

Little voice

Little voice that I hear deep in me,
As if you say out loud:
"You could have done that diff'rently."
Then I don't feel so proud.

Little voice, little voice, deep in me,
I hear you say: "Let's see,
was what you did real handy?"
I often must agree.

I have really always known it
when I'm speaking in this way:
my silent partner's my conscience
telling me if we're okay.

Little voice, little voice, deep in me,
I'll listen up to you,
'cause something down inside me
Knows what you say is true.

Song no. 7 children's choir





There is a place under the sun for everyone

We feel that it is our responsibility to choose these values and wish to work together, in love, to create a more humane world. Being apostolic means believing and working. It gives meaning to our existence and contributes to our joy in life.

Translation:

We want to help ensure that there is a place under the sun for everyone in this world. That is the essence of being apostolic and brings us joy.

Peace

If all the children on earth walked
hand in hand from this day on,
life would take on greater value
and finally peace would dawn.

If all the people on earth walked
hand in hand from this day on,
life would take on greater value
and finally peace would dawn.

Song no. 8 children's choir





Spreading the light of love

We wish to cherish the light of love and transfer it on to every next generation.

Translation:

We wish to spread the light of love to everyone, young and old alike, and ensure that love continues to exist.

The emblem

I wonder do you really know
what our nice emblem has to show?
I see the world,
a burning torch, two reaching hands.
There are the oceans, a great many,
and towns like Abergavenny.
I can see the outlines of exotic lands.
That torch burns with a cheerful light
and shows the way in darkest night,
it is a symbol
of our love across the nations.
The torch is handed on to one who
will stand firm and will continue
an eternal bond
with the next generation.

Song no. 19 children's choir



The well



The well

They gathered by the well: leaders and water carriers drink from the same source.
Rituals, sacraments cross each other by this water. So has it been, so will it be after.

To lift your heart at the well or sink into thoughts singing songs into eternity.
Old façades, new shops, echoes through the shop windows, rough abrasions of time.
At the well wishes are dreams water of the spirit flows. If you are thirsty, you may drink.
Draw comfort here, live with purpose. Just look through the water's surface into the
bottomless heavens.

Erik Botter



The well (only in dutch)





Celebrating life

[Download the activities here](#)

People have always looked for places to celebrate life together with others, longing to be able and bold enough to make life a celebration: a place where you can refresh yourself at the source, where you can draw clear and cool water, and a source not only for your own use but for serving the community.

Translation:

Many people find it important to regularly celebrate life together, not because life is always a party but because they appreciate the wonder of life and are simply happy to be part of it. You celebrate life by laughing together during joyful and happy moments and by sharing tears and comforting each other if someone is sad.

Stillness

If you wish I will tell you
where I look for stillness:
in the sun and in the rain
sometimes in tranquillity and sometimes in the uproar.
In music, a glance or a smile
or in reading a book.
In these things I find stillness
the stillness I often search for.
If you wish I will tell you
where I find stillness.
Sometimes by listening to each other
a moment before you begin.
Sometimes it requires anger, or tears
or time running after you.
And fortunately, there are people
with whom I find this stillness.

Song no 1. youth choir (literally translated, not singable)



Celebrating life



Children's choir song 'Stillness'





Compassion, solidarity and sustainability

[Download the activities here](#)

We can create places where you can find comfort and hope, where you can be who and as you are, as one human being among fellow human beings. These places inspire you to be a loving person and to work together with others to create a world of more compassion, solidarity, and sustainability.

Translation:

We come together to learn from each other, for example how you can be a loving person. Lovingkindness means that you take good care of other people, of animals and plants, and everything around you. And of course that includes yourself. By doing so, you make the world a better place. And when we come together, you can simply be yourself. You are just fine the way you are.

We are the world

Do you sometimes also long for
a place for yourself
where others really wish to know you
and the outside doesn't count?
Where the people differ greatly
from each other and you and me
but only wish to be together
and be themselves.
Do you sometimes also long for
a world like a home
like a hostel for everyone
far off or close to home?
For all the people of the world
men and women, black or white
for the big ones and the small ones
the regular ones and the special ones.
Is there a place for this new world
in my own heart?

Song no.16 youth choir (literally translated, not singable)



Action sheet 'Compassion, a bridge to each other' (only in dutch)



Theme sheet 'The same reward' about compassion (only in dutch)



Charter on compassion (only in dutch)



Solidarity



What is solidarity?



I show solidarity (only in dutch)

Solidarity



Action sheet 'Caring for the future' (only in dutch)



Self-made present



Theme sheet 'Living sustainably' (only in dutch)

You are fine just as you are

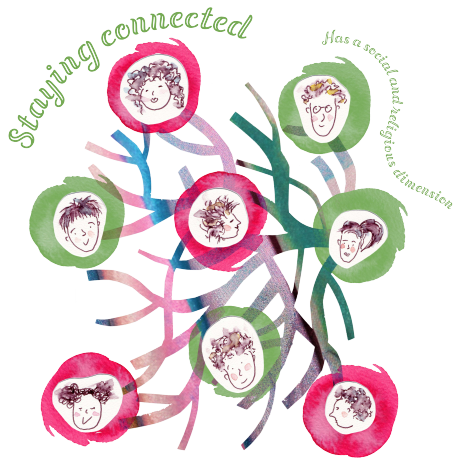


Children's qualities game (only in dutch)



Song 'you're fine as you are' (only in dutch)





Staying connected

[Download the activities here](#)

Solidarity has a social and religious dimension. We live in a time in which there is more space for individual expression, and as a result individual differences and preferences are more obvious. The challenge we all face is to see this as an opportunity instead of a threat. If you feel deep inside you that every person comes from the same source, then you can embrace the differences and choose what is most appropriate for yourself, in solidarity, without excluding the community.

Translation:

We cannot live without others; we belong with each other. But it can still sometimes be difficult to live together as we are all also different. Of course, these differences also make life more interesting and more fun. And because we are so different, we can also learn a great deal from each other. So let's just simply remember to tell each other: 'How good it is that you and I are here!'

The difference

What is in a little drop, a simple drop of oil?
A rusty gate will open without the need to toil.

What's a plaster for a scratch which on a wound you stick?
Just put it on the sore spot, and it will do the trick.

What is in a simple A? Don't sing it out of tune.
When it rewards my schoolwork, I am over the moon.

Refrain:

It's often just the tiniest of things which
will change everything for you.
It all depends on what I say to others
and on the things I do.

Song no.: 3 children's choir



Similarities and differences



Theme sheet 'Being a friend' about solidarity (only in dutch)





Creating space

[Download the activities here](#)

The resulting space provides an opportunity for us to express the ways in which we nourish and communicate our being apostolic. We continue to be enthusiasts, and more and more space is created, space for you and for me, space for doers.

Translation:

Everyone who wishes to be a loving person can do so in his own way and, in doing so, make the world a better place. And working to make the world a better place is the essence of being apostolic.

Space

What we think and long for
 our dreams and pain
 our laughs and cries
 what we sing and who we are
 all those dreams we dream
 seemingly far away
 share the endless space
 with the stars and the light.
 In that space lies the future
 in that space life is growing.
 You will find the person you can be
 in the space that you give
 and as soon as we can embrace
 the world with our arms
 we will be big enough
 to enter that space forever....
 Mmm...

Song no.6 children's choir

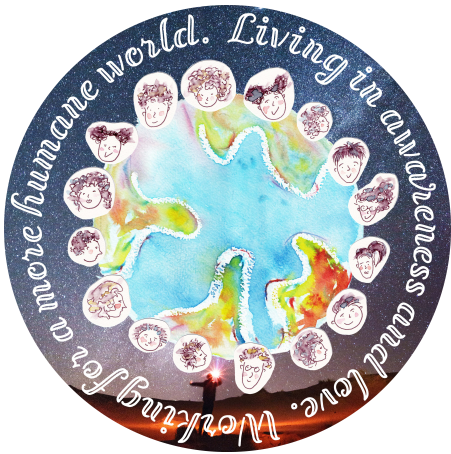


Enthusiasts



Theme sheets about 'being apostolic' (only in dutch)





Living with awareness and love

[Download the activities here](#)

We continue to look for places where water bubbles up and we continue to dig wells, so that there will always be meeting places where people come together and inspire each other to live in awareness and love.

Translation:

We wish to continue coming together: to see each other, to talk with each other, and to learn from each other how we can become and continue to be loving human beings.

A little push

How great it will be for us all
if every child agrees:
treat with respect each animal,
yes, even flies and bees.
It is so simple, just look at
the domino effect:
the first knocks down the next in
line,
and trrr,
hard to perfect!

How great it will be for us all
if everyone decides:
respect all children that you meet,
make love the force that guides.
It is so simple, just look at
the domino effect:
the first knocks down the next in
line,
and trrr,
hard to perfect!

How great it will be on the day
when all our acts reflect:
we want to deal with everyone
with love and with respect.
How great it will be for us all
to see what's the effect:
each one will pass on to the next
trrr
his love and his respect!

Song no. 36 children's choir



Meeting places



Consciously and unconsciously



Theme sheet 'my talent is love' (only in dutch)



Timeline



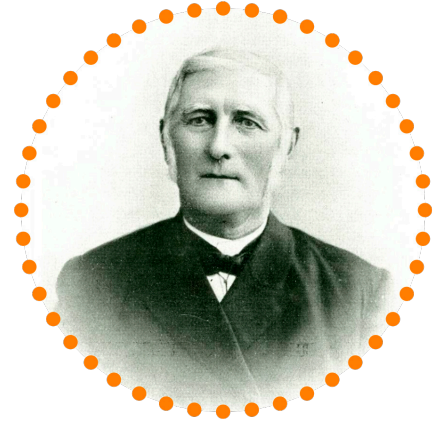
A bit of history about the origin of apostolic work



H. Drummond
1851-1897



F.W. Schwarz
1815-1895



J. Kofman
1898-1910

[Background information is shown here](#)



Apostle van Oosbree

J.H. van Oosbree 1862-1946
Apostle from 1910 to 1946



[Background information is shown here](#)



The spiritual legacy of apostle J.H. van Oosbree (1862-1946) (only in dutch)



Theme sheet 'The spiritual legacy of apostle J.H. van Oosbree (1862-1946 - 1946)
(only in dutch)



Apostolic timeline



Believe in yourself



Different view of the role and task of the apostle



Apostle L. Slok

L. Slok 1904-1984
Apostle from 1946 to 1984



[Background information is shown here](#)



Founding of the Apostolic Society in 1951



'We are here for God' (only in dutch)



Apostle is given a central role in interpreting the faith



We will move mountains (only in dutch)



Apostle J.L. Slok

J.L. Slok 1930- present
Apostle from 1984 to 2001



[Background information is shown here](#)



Appointment of apostle J.L. Slok (only in dutch)



Advice in testament for the new apostle



Role of the apostle changes



Role and content of the communion changes



Apostle D. Riemers

D. Riemers 1947- present
Apostle from 2001 to 2011



[Background information is shown here](#)



A religious movement



The shutters must be opened and remain open



Dialogue at eye level



Apostel A. Wiegman

A Wiegman (1956 - present)
Apostle from 2011 to 2022



[Background information is shown here](#)



Find the answer in yourself



Three 'course elements'



Changing belief story (only in dutch)



Sister N. Ziere and brother M. van der Wal



Nanda Ziere 1968 -



Marten van der Wal 1980 -

Pastor, 1st person responsible for the spiritual counselling 2022-present

[Background information is shown here](#)



What needs to be followed up on?



Nearness, inspiration and delving deeper (only in dutch)



What would love do?



APOSTOLISCH
GENOOTSCHAP

