Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2014

12–18 January — Educational Department (EmK Bildungswerk)

Selected Verse: He won't break a bruised reed; he won't extinguish a faint wick.
(Isaiah 42, 1-9)

Care for the endangered can change the world

The festive time is over. The Sundays after Epiphany will follow. They are five this year until Septuagesimae stands at the beginning of the time of fasting and meditating the Lord's suffering until finally culminating in the releasing message of the resurrection. At present we feel that these coming weeks should give us a chance for taking a deep breath and relaxing after an intensive time of festivities. Now it is time to find our way back to a normal routine and into the new year. The text for the first Sunday after Epiphany poses the question of how to go on. What will remain of the grand message of Advent and Christmas? What will continue to have an effect on my life?

The so-called "Songs of God's Servant" by the prophet Isaiah were seen as a description of Jesus by the early Christians, a description of how he lived and acted.

When reading these texts, I am irritated by this negative picture as a description of a hero. It questions my own ideas of how God should act in our world. Can we as Christians be mainly interested in results, in success and in winning attention? Isaiah describes a completely different servant. He accepts to be sent by God as a friendly, quiet, sacrificing worker. He lives his commission of love and justice with unbelievable perseverance. Here the endangered (the bruised reed, the faint wick) finds attention, and that is what changes the world.

What about your goals?
Are we willing to hear and live this commission in this year?

Wilfried Röcker

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I give thanks

- For valuable contacts during the holidays, and that we can start blessed and strengthened into the new year.
- For people and places that give us the chance to meet God, and to say Yes to our own weaknesses.
- For all experiences of support.

It is my prayer

- That the Christmas message will be effective for a long time into the new year (for me personally, in the congregations, and in our society).
- That care be taken that the weak ones in our success oriented society will not be overlooked and overrun.
- To have courage and imagination on the way to love and justice.
- For strength for the many administrative duties for the annual financial statements in the congregations and departments.

The UMC Educational Department promotes adult education in the congregations, in parent-children-groups, house meetings, seniors' meetings, and congregational work-shops with study materials and courses for church workers.
The Educational Department educates non-profit workers for preaching, pasturing, and leadership.
Work-shops on current subjects and study excursions are also provided.

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