Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2014

26 January – 1 February — Children's Ministry (Kinderwerk)

Peter said: "I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality for one group of people over another. Rather in every nation, whoever worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him."
(Acts 10,34-35) (CEB)

Fulfilling Contact

The controversy about immigration policy in Germany is going on. Xenophobic slogans are continually proclaimed in many places. In this situation it is just the right time to hear about Peter on his way to Cornelius – a stranger and heathen. What has happened to our friendliness and acceptance of strangers? How often are we harboring old and new prejudices, real dislikes. These feelings are not somewhere far away, they are right here with us in our congregations, among us as Christians. We'd rather ignore "those others".

I admit, it is not always easy to make contact with strangers. It often starts with new neighbors. But when we take the risk, when we overcome our prejudices and dare to be open for new contacts we will be surprised with exciting experiences.

Our family came into contact with a refugee family. At first the language barrier caused uneasiness – especially for our children. And yet, after an afternoon together we all went home filled with joy. We had met wonderful people. This was a fulfilling experience not only for us but also for our children. I want to pass on to my children what Peter understood and experienced. Peter learned something that changed his life, and it continues to be encouraging and comforting for us as Christians to this day. God does not show partiality for people. God accepts each and every person regardless of his or her descent, gender or social background. He loves everybody and wants people to be willing to accept his love and love him in return.

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I give thanks

- For the children in our congregations.
- For all congregations where children can experience God's unconditional love regardless of their family background, gender or social setting.
- For all persons who pass God's love on to children in Sunday schools and children's services, youth groups and open kid's clubs, at the WesleyScouts and in church teaching groups.

It is my prayer

- For children who happen into our congregations, that they may come into contact with God.
- For children who feel unaccepted and are looking for love and respect, for friends, for help, and for a kind word.
- For all coworkers in children's groups who work for the good of the children trying to pass God's love on to them.
- For all coworkers that they are filled with God's spirit enabling them to do this precious work without becoming burned out.

The UMC Children's Ministry wants to guide children to Jesus Christ and stay with them. We want to help the young to develop their personality. We want to support children's rights in church and in society. We want to provide areas of safety for children in our congregations and our church. We support the protection of child welfare of girls and boys. We want to be "a church of all God's children" together with them.

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