Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2014

9–15 February **THEOLOGISCHE HOCHSCHULE REUTLINGEN**

**We did not repeat crafty myths....Quite the contrary,
we witnessed his majesty with our own eyes. (CEB)**
(2 Peter 1,16)

Life is convincing – not arguments!

Some people pretend to have the correct answers to questions of the Christian faith and living, and they try to convince others that their knowledge is the only right one. From their point of view, all questions about our faith can be solved, if we only fiddle about them sufficiently and try to get all logical contradictions out of the way. But is a certain faith attitude more convincing, only because it is based on more logic "fiddling" than another? When the letter of Second Peter was written many well fiddled thought systems were under way. Sophists (itinerant teachers with special practical and theoretical doctrines) saw salvation in their special art of convincing. Gnostics (people with alleged secret religious revelations) offered inauguration into their secret teachings.

According to Second Peter the early Christians were much less sophisticated. They were motivated by the living example of a Jewish itinerant preacher in whom they recognized God. They reflected the power of this example in their own lives. Or, to use the words of our text: The witnessed holiness of Jesus Christ had become a lamp shining in their inner darkness. (Verse 19)

This is how the Christian faith begins: existentially moved, not mentally convinced by elaborate arguments. Therefore, the way of following Jesus Christ is the way of an attentive and open witnessing of traces of God's love. Such a witness is more contagious and convincing in the depth of one's heart than a self-opinionated proclamation of one doctrine of faith or another.

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I GIVE THANKS

- For our life in the college community, where people enrich each other in discussions, in celebrating and dining together.
- For the experience to see people grow in faith and living, and in accepting calls into the service for other persons who are searching for the meaning of their living.
- For the increasing willingness to accept different convictions of faith, and to enjoy the common convictions of faith in all their varieties.

I AM PRAYING

- For people who are suffering from the confusing varieties in which salvation is offered in our globalized world.
- For people to find new ways of sharing their faith experiences with others.
- For Christians in the regions struck with crises in our world that they can be courageous enough to witness in the midst of all sufferings of God's Incarnate Love.

The Theologische Hochschule Reutlingen / Theological College at Reutlingen Germany/ stands in a well over 150 years' tradition of educating ministers for the UMC in Germany. Five German speaking annual conferences provide this college with Bachelor and Master graduations. At present, the college community is composed of about sixty students, seven full-time professors, six lecturers, and five employees responsible for the practical duties of the college household.

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