Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2014

16–22 February — Mission for senior men and women (Seniorен)

God says to Moses: I'll have mercy on whoever I choose to have mercy, and I'll show compassion to whomever I choose to show compassion. So then it does not depend on a person's desire or effort. It depends entirely on God. (Romans 9,15.16)

No more use for the crowbar!

Did Paul really fully understand what he wrote to the congregation in Rome? Things don't depend on human will and effort but on God's mercy? Is everything in vain, all our endeavor, all we try to achieve and promote? Is it altogether wrong? If you are somewhat familiar with the contents of Paul's letters, you will know that Paul is not recommending an easy going lifestyle and an attitude of: leave everything to God and enjoy comfortable relaxing. There are other writings, where Paul urges his readers on and motivates them to get going and aim for great goals.

Obviously, both aspects are true and right. We have been created to use our physical and mental abilities as best we can and even sometimes to our limits, to produce brilliant works of thought and form masterpieces with our hands. We are supposed and allowed to do everything to make our lifetime and especially our senior years fruitful. But it also shows wisdom of life to recognize the limits of our abilities and efficiencies. The crowbar of making has become obsolete and is exchanged for a faithful trust. Not everything I wanted has found its time. There are things for which their time will never come. I can brood about this and become bitter. Or I can accept it and look for traces of God grace in what I was not granted. Many elderly people have learned the lesson that 'God's thoughts are greater than my thoughts'. Their faith is indispensible for our world.

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Translation: Irmingart Günsch

I give thanks

For older people, men and women

- who are living examples of faithful devotion to the their church congregation
- who stand for their faith in sacrificial modesty without ever becoming bitter
- who are open for learning and risking new ways even in older years
- who critically and tolerantly support and accept new developments
- who remain open minded towards the younger generations

I am praying

For elderly men and women

- who are self-evidently engaged in volunteering
- who are partners for talking with children and young people
- who accept their lives as God given despite many difficulties
- who care for senile and dying persons and become their companions on their way to the end

Mission for senior men and women (Seniorен)

The number of older people in our country and among our church members is growing, and this makes our mission for them more and more important. We encourage seniors to enrich our world and our church with their competence, experiences, and wisdom. The elderly and the very old are most valuable partners for building the kingdom of God. They can make an indispensable contribution because they have been specially commissioned by Jesus Christ.
The Mission for Seniors is a special section within the Educational Mission of the UMC.

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