Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2014

23 February to 1 March **Migrant and international Ministries**

Now that you have decided that I am a believer in the Lord, come and stay in my house."And she persuaded us. (Acts 16,15)

Meeting, talking, listening – and wonder, what happens!

God called the disciples to find ways to talk to people about the kingdom of God. The disciples had organized in small groups. This time, Paul and Silas are on their second mission trip. After arriving in Macedonia they begin by going to a place where they can be sure to meet people: on the river banks. There they expect to meet people who are praying. And they really find some women there, and we are told in detail how they sit down with those women and talk to them. I think, they really discussed things with them. Somehow, an atmosphere of trust must have developed among them and especially with Lydia, a sales woman who dealt in expensive textiles. She listens to the two men, becomes a believer, is baptized and insists that Paul and Silas accept her invitation to her home. Here we become witnesses of the development of a mutual relationships. What a missionary success! In our multi-cultural times we can learn from Paul and Silas. It is important to meet people in their individual places. It is important to talk to foreigners and to listen to them. As for Lydia, she became immediately willing to participate and even offered her home. We are all invited to work together in God's kingdom. We might as well accept something from each other. Faith lives and grows in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Only when we overcome cultural and language barriers can we build the kingdom of God on this earth in Europe and in Germany today. Thanks be to God for opportunities!

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I GIVE THANKS

- To our God of multiple chances for the opportunities we have in our church and our world to converse across language barriers, in order to learn something new about ourselves and about those whom we often call »the others«.
- For Jesus our brother, who was a refugee in his childhood, and who walks with migrants here in Germany and everywhere in our world to helping them to cope with the difficulties in their new surroundings.
- For the Holy Spirit's power to give inspiration and courage to listen across ethnic barriers that our church and our society will find ways into the future.

MY PRAYER IS

- For members and leaders of international congregations in Europe: who speak English, Ghanaian or Vietnamese, and all others.
- For refugees and migrants to find generous people in their new places of living.
- That hatred and racism towards those called strangers will change to friendship and cooperation.

»Migrant and International Ministries« is the ministry in migrant congregations and international congregations of the United Methodist Church in Germany. There is a close cooperation with the ICUM – International Council of The United Methodist Church to promote the ministry in international and multi-lingual congregations in Germany.

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