Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2014

16–22 March **Youth Mission (Jugendwerk)**

By faith Abraham lived in the land he had been promised as a stranger. He lived in tents along with Isaac and Jacob, who were coheirs of the same promise.
(Hebrews 11,9 CEB)

On Transit

Abraham migrates to a new land. Things happen which he had never thought would be possible. Sarah, his wife, conceives in her old age, and the longed for son is being born. Abraham is successful; the family becomes wealthy. He is tempted to say: Now we have reached what we wanted. Let's get settled for good – for eternity so to say -; now let's enjoy life. We have been on the move long enough. But Abraham continues to live in tents like a nomad. He moves from pasture to pasture.

The biblical words "By faith Abraham lived in the land he had been promised as a stranger" admonishes us not to become tied to closely to the things of this world. Abraham had reached the promised land – but he was not allowed to get settled there.

Here is a story that can highlight this: Surprised by the modest furnishing of the rooms a visitor to a monastery asks a monk: "Where is your furniture?" Quick-witted the monk asks back: "Where is yours?" "I don't need any", is the visitor's reply, "I'm here on transit." "See", says the monk, "so are we!"

In our faith, we are only on transit. This gives us much freedom. We need not find our identification in perishable things. We need not stress and slave ourselves by hunting for fortune and money. We can live on our trust in God. Some may consider this unrealistic. But when we walk in faith we will find new ways of living.

Jesus also went on this walk of faith. He did not hold on to the status he deserved but entered the strange realm of becoming human. He fulfilled God's promise: As strangers on transit, we find our way back to our home in God. This is how we can learn to live guided by God.

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I GIVE THANKS

- For the many young people who bring new ideas and unconventional questions into our congregations.
- For volunteers who in their free time attend with love and enthusiasm to teenagers and young people.
- For adults who are openly and authentically addressing youth, teens, and children "at eye level"

MY PRAYER IS

- For young people in our society who are searching for reliable answers to their questions about faith, and for successful relationships.
- For young people whose future seems desperate because of their chances in our society.
- For an honest and successful cooperation between young people and adults in our church life.

The UMC in Germany has organized a Mission for Youth and Children in each conference area. These missions cooperate as Child Mission and Youth Mission in the Zentralkonferenz (ZK)/Central Conference in Germany. The ZK acts for the concerns of teenagers and young persons of our congregations in denominational and political youth organizations in Germany. It provides educational materials and seminaries for co-workers and organizes mayor events for our youth like the bi-annual youth event / Bundesjugendtreffen (BUJU) on Pentecost.

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