Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2014

6–12 April **Mission Department (Evangelisationswerk)**

For this reason Jesus also died outside the city gate, in order to cleanse the people from sin with his own blood. Let us then go to him outside the camp and share his shame. For there is no permanent city for us here on earth; we are looking for the city that is to come. (Hebrews 13,12-14 God News for Modern Man)

Clear Glass

Have you ever noticed from how many churches you cannot look outside? Architects seem to be mainly concerned to build these spiritual places as a window to heaven. When we enter a church, everything else stays outside. And it feels good to take a deep breath and immerse in its quietness.

But Jesus lived his life outside, and outside he died. He talked with the woman at the well, with publicans, with chronically ill persons, with business managers and unemployed workers, with mothers and children – whoever he met. What a hurly-burly that may have been sometimes – even when he preached about the Kingdom of Heaven!

It's nice and quiet in our churches. We like that, and I really enjoy it. But if we want to be with Jesus, we must go out. "Outside the camp" as it says in the letter to the Hebrews.

Our congregation in Bremerhaven took that literally. Every fourth Sunday, our church service is held outside, as a window into the world, so to say. That's uncomfortable – even in sunshine. We never know what will happen, who will listen and who will be willing to be invited for life under the cross, when we tell about Jesus. "Outside" we are not in control, and sometimes we meet with headwind. "What's that! Why do these church people mix with normal life?" our daily newspaper asked angrily. Meanwhile, it has also influenced the other services in our congregation. We are always on the go, even when we are inside our church. And during the last renovation we exchanged the church windows – only clear glass. This makes our church building a window to heaven and a window to the world.

Christhard Elle

I give thanks

- For Christians who see themselves as missionaries in their professional and family life.
- For congregations that go "outside the camp" and look locally for new tasks.
- For missionary projects which are outgoing like the "Checkpoint" in Chemnitz, the "Kellerkirche 2.0 / Basement Church 2.0" in Duisburg or the "h3-project" in Metzingen.
- For good cooperation in the Evangelism Mission team despite great distances (Hans-Martin Kienle/Laichingen, Eberhard Schilling/Nürnberg, Barry Sloan/Chemnitz, Christhard Elle/Bremerhaven)

It is my prayer

- For new courage and creativity in our congregations to leave their own walls and turn to people in new ways.
- For all "outside" actions with the tent, the UMC-vehicle, the play vehicle and the new mobile stage of the Tent Mission that God will bless our taking risks.
- For the Forum E from 2nd to 4th April with the subject: Church Without Walls.
- For the necessary financial resources needed to support the Evangelism Mission in our congregations.

The Evangelism Mission supports our congregations in finding new ways to proclaim the Good News of God's Love. Main emphasis of this work is Evangelism (Barry Sloan), founding of new congregations (Eberhard Schilling), and revival of congregations (Christian Elle). The Evangelism Mission assists a variety of very diverse actions of congregations throughout Europe with the UMC-vehicle of the Tent Mission (Director: Hans-Martin Kienle). This offer is perfected by seminaries and consultations.

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