Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2014

13–19 April — Educational Department (Bildungswerk)

So then let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and promoter. (Hebrews 12,1 CEB)

The willingness to get going

There are times when life seems to be an unbearable burden. Fatigue engulfs us. All joy of life and power is gone. As if someone has turned off the music of our TV. Whatever happens around us seems more like a film than reality. But what can we do? How can we regain the key to real life?

The writer of Hebrews reminds us of two words from sports: contest and perseverance. Life is not a leisurely walk. If we want to win, we must hang in it, stay with it and be prepare to suffer pain and exhaustion. Wanting to win is not enough, we also need perseverance.

Luther translated the Greek word with "patience". That sounds more like holding still, keeping quiet and waiting. The letter to the Hebrews thinks more in terms of endurance sports: Persistence, tenacity, the long breath, the ability to find one's own rhythm, the second breath when the first peak is reached. That's how life can be mastered.

And the letter to the Hebrews gives us courage: We can do that! Look, the stadium is full of fans. They all cheer us on: They are the ones who have run the race before us in this arena called life. Like a cloud of witnesses they are with us and cheer us on. Our race is not a lonely one. Many have struggled before us and won.

As a sportsman/-woman wears the sports dress appropriate for the contest, so we are willing to take off what burdens and hinders us. I find it worth noticing that the text emphasizes our personal willingness to get going. Willingness cannot be ordered – Are we willing?

Wilfried Röcker

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I give thanks

- For our mothers and fathers in the faith who were examples for us and accompanied and helped us through life.
- That I can throw off before Christ whatever burdens me and trips me up.
- For the encouragement and power which participants in workshops are taking back to their everyday life.
- For precious encounters during the meeting of the annual North-German synod at Oldenburg.

It is my prayer

- For people who are exhausted.
- For meditation and quietness during the coming Passion Week
- For the week of training for lay preachers at Wuppertal during the week after Easter.
- For the CS choir directors' meeting in Stuttgart Giebel the week after Easter.
- For the JAT-missions and workshops of the children and youth mission during Easter vacation.

The **Education Mission of UMC** Is concerned with adult education in the congregations supporting parent-child groups, devotional home-groups, senior meetings and congregation workshops by providing working materials and courses for co-workers.
The Education Mission acts as a consultant and support in conflict management, and development processes of congregations. Lay volunteers are educated for preaching, counseling and congregation management.

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