Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2014

4–10 May

Evengelisch-methodistisches Diakoniewerk Bethanien e.V. Chemnitz

May the God of peace ... make you perfect in all goodness so that you may do his will, and may he make of us what he would have us be through Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 13,20-21 NEB)

Passive Perfection

When speaking about "perfection" many of us think in terms of more physical fitness through sports. But the word is also used when talking about buildings when a construction must be reinforced or modernized to make it safer or better for use. The word can be used in an active as well as a passive sense. The athlete does his training to become perfect; a building is made perfect by renovation or reinforcement.

To be "perfect" means to do something with eagerness and persistence. And someone who wants to be perfect in doing good is expected to invest strength and commitment. However, the text from the letter to the Hebrews is initially not concerned with what we should do to become perfect, God is it who "makes us perfect" for doing good. Whatever helpful things people may be able to do is not possible because of their own efforts; they can do it because it is God who creates in their lives what pleases him. This is only possible, if someone is willing to be made perfect, to be strengthened, to be ready to serve. Important is the sequence: God first takes the initiative, and we give him the answer by giving him our lives. This message can be a great help for people – especially in social employments. To let God equip us with strength is the best way to be perfect in our service for others.

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I give thanks

- For all confirmation, encouragement and perfection God has given us in our life
- For people who are willing to be made perfect by God to enter into professional or voluntary services for him.
- For all the possibilities we have as church, congregation, congregational initiatives, and institutions to help others by standing at their side, strengthening, helping and healing them.

It is my prayer

- That all who need help and support will get as much as they need for their well being.
- That all who work in helping and healing professions and who are social volunteers will receive strength and blessings.
- That God will continue to make our church and our congregations attentive for people in need.

The **EmDw** was founded in 1974 to continue the Methodist Hospital Work in the GDR. Today its participation in the edia.con gGmbH and the Bethanien Krankenhaus Chemnitz gGmbH has been outsourced to the Evangelisch-methodistische Bethanien Stiftung. Both organizations continue to cooperate in forming the diaconal identity of the Bethanien-Krankenhaeuser (hospitals) in Chemnitz and Plauen. In addition it is more concerned with diaconal duties in the congregations now. One example among others is the sponsoring of a "meeting point for persons with psychic diseases" in Görlitz.

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