Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2014

May 11 to 17 **THEOLOGISCHE HOCHSCHULE REUTLINGEN**

God isn't far away from any of us. (CEB)
(Acts 17,27)

Whom does God send to cross our way?

More and more congregations in the setting of our church are rediscovering our biblical missionary commission. It is important to them that the church should not only be self-sufficient but have a commission. They listen to God in a new way, are more aware of people's situations around them, and try to make contacts in words and deeds. Thus the missionary charisma of traditional congregations increases. New forms of religious expressions (www.freshexpressions.de) are developed in cafés, shopping centers and fitness studios where Christians find new ways of bringing their faith into the everyday world. This reminds me of the scene describe in The Acts. Paul climbs up the Areopagus, the hill underneath the Acropolis in the center of Athens. There scientists and highly educated citizens meet to for discussions about God and the world. Paul has seen many statues honoring all kinds of idols and among them an altar with the words "To an unknown God" written on it. That is his hint: "What you worship as unknown, I now proclaim to you." Then he talks to people who have never heard about Jesus Christ: "He is the God who has created the world and everything in it", he assures them. "God isn't far away from any of us!" Then he presents to them Jesus as the savior sent by God. His listeners react in various ways. Some turn away and ridicule him, and others say they will listen to him again some other day, but some are willing to joined him and become believers. "God isn't far away from any of us!" – this promise is motivation for individuals, congregations and the church to make a new effort in turning to those whom God sends to cross our way.

Achim Härtner
Kontakt zum Autor: achim.haertner@emk.de
Translation: Irmingart Günsch

I GIVE THANKS

- For the exiting possibilities and challenges of theological teaching and research at our university.
- For the good cooperation in the university community where students and teachers benefit from one another.
- For the encouraging experienced that studying theology has a lasting effect and influence on people in their belief, knowledge and lifestyle.
- For the increasing readiness in our congregations for a new missionary thrust.

I AM PRAYING

- For people who cannot believe that God is not far away from us.
- For people who live their faith authentically and visible for others
  - in our university, in congregations, in their everyday lives.
- For traditional congregations and new forms of church life in their missionary efforts to bring people into contact with the God News.

The **Theologische Hochschule Reutlingen/Theological College Reutlingen** has been educating leaders of our church for more than 150 years. It is supported by five Annual Conferences in Germany and has been a state recognized professional university with Bachelor and Master qualifications since 2005. Sixty students, seven male and female professors, six lecturers, and five employees for household and administration are forming the university community.

Kontakt:
Theologische Hochschule Reutlingen
Staatlich anerkannte Fachhochschule
der Evangelisch-methodistischen Kirche
Friedrich-Ebert-Str. 31, 72762 Reutlingen

Telefon: 07121 9259-0
Internet: www.th-reutlingen.de

Druckversion von »Ich bete für meine Kirche« © 2014 Medienwerk der Evangelisch-methodistischen Kirche - www.ichbetefürmeinekirche.de