Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2014

June 29 to July 5 **Media Mission (Medienwerk)**

If I preach the gospel, I have no reason to brag, since I'm obligated to do it.
(1 Corinthians 9,16 CEB)

No more pressure!

„We are supposed to speak about God. However, we are men, and being just men we cannot speak about God. We are supposed to know both, our obligation and our inability, and honor God therewith." With these sentences Karl Barth (1886-1968) described, how difficult it is to have the commission of preaching. And it doesn't matter, whether that applies to a professional preacher or to a "common Christian". When our own life has been touched by God, we know right away that others should come to know this God, too. And then starts, what Karl Barth described. We want to speak about God and feel that we should really speak about God. And if in addition Paul says: "I'm obligated to preach the gospel!" the pressure becomes uncomfortable. The joyful God-oriented life becomes a lead-heavy burden. Karl Barth points a way out of this discrepancy. We "can honor God" exactly with that knowledge of "having to" and at the same time "not being able to". And the pressure is gone! We are no longer forced to look for chances, but may instead wait expectantly for chances to occur for speaking about God. Like that recent chance, when I met a woman on a train ride. She was at the start of a long travel beginning with her going to Frankfort Air Port, and then "far away – if only there were not that great water". One could see her fear of flying. Sympathetic words lead to a friendly conversation. When she left the compartment, her farewell voiced her fear of flying again. I wished her a "blessed and protected travel". This unusual words of encouragement surprised her, made her pause for a moment, and her face looked more relaxed.

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Translation: Irmingart Günsch

I GIVE THANKS

- For all the chances given to us to witness for our faith.
- For people who speak friendly, naturally, and joyfully about their faith.
- For the chances of modern media through which faith can become a topic at unusual places.

MY PRAYER IS

- That people in our congregations can calmly and quick-wittedly witness to their faith
- That our congregations see and use the chances to introduce their faith in God into conversations
- That the image of our church in public will cause people to become interested in the faith.

„We bring the Christian faith to men and women" is the working motto of our work for Radio Mission. A media-friendly presentation is looking for the best means and useable ways of bringing faith to people. This is the commission of the Medienwerk der Evangelisch-methodistischen Kirche (EMK) / Radio Mission of the UMC Germany in Frankfurt/Main

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