Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

# Ich bete für meine Kirche 2014

**August 10 to 16** **Theological College Reutlingen (THR)**

**When you were slaves of sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. But now that you have been set free from sin and become slaves to God, you have the consequence of a holy life and the outcome of eternal life.** (Romans 6,20+22 CEB)

## Sin: A difficult topic

A student complains: "Why all this talk about sin? I don't understand the entire concept!" Her complaint is made in relation to an interdisciplinary seminar about the subject of redemption. – And from what is man being redeemed? From sin, which is neither a moral dimension to be frowned upon nor silly little everyday trespasses like not dieting correctly or making a traffic offence. Sin describes the human as "crouching inside". That describes human beings as they really are, and, it is an important description.

## Justification before God through Christ

We see ourselves as sinners when we experience God's gracious attention and forgiveness, and become "slaves of righteousness". But we cannot justify ourselves before God by our own actions (and neither the well meaning talk about an unmerited justification nor the constant excuse that "we are all sinners" can do that.)

## Sanctification – The Methodist Way

And where do we find the answer? Paul answers and – thank goodness – talks in human terms about holy matters: "In service of righteousness." The liberated faith is made willing and cheerful by the Holy Spirit to do good towards everybody (Luther). That is sanctification, and it is not obtained through human efforts but it is a gift from God.

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## I GIVE THANKS

- For God's gracious attention towards us.
- For people whom God has called into the service of proclaiming the Good News.
- For the many talents God has given to men.
- For all supports of the Theologische Hochschule /Theological College/ Reutlingen through prayers, gifts and oher tokens of friendship.

## I AM PRAYING

- That God will open our ears, eyes, and hearts, that we can more and more clearly hear what his word is saying, and that we can pass it on to others.
- That God be with those who study, teach, and live at the Theological College Reutlingen and with all their contacts to people all over the world.
- That God will call people to the harvest in his vineyard.

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.

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