Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2014

August 24 to 30 **Migrant and international Ministries**

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.
Romans 11,29 (ESV)

Stumbling Block Or Agent Of Transformation

In an ecumenical pastors meeting, the question arises as to how one "does" multicultural ministry? The group often turns to me. "Let's ask the Methodists, they are a global, multicultural church." While true, the reality at the local congregation can be something different. A new World Council of Churches document, „Together towards Life, Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes", seeks to reclaim this critical part of our mission spirit and identity. Church and mission are impossible to separate, for it is the church's aim to fulfill God's missionary purpose. "Therefore, the church exists by mission, just as fire exists by burning. If it does not engage in mission, it ceases to be church."

Mission can be viewed as working on the margins of society, often in some distant land. Today, we find that the so-called "margins" have shifted and are right at our door or even inside our churches. More, the mission spirit having swept the globe has returned into our midst with groups of vital, spirit-led migrants. This development is perhaps particularly meaningful for any local congregations who's "movement" may have slowed or stalled as this gift can be a vital means of revitalizing our churches. It is here where we are both the frontiers and primary agents in the world. It is here in the local church where people decide to join with the church, and where their experience can either be a stumbling block or an agent of transformation. We are the places which provide the necessary sanctuary and "navigation" for the migrants. In partnership, we can be constantly renewed and inspired by the spirit of mission, finding our unique identity as a church.

In all cases, choose everything which gives whole and abundant life.

George Miller

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Translation: Irmingart Günsch

I GIVE THANKS

- That we can earnestly, in any conversation, give the source of our hope and to explain what it means to be a Methodist, especially a member of the EmK.
- That in the midst of our landscape of diminishing numbers in a post-modern society; we can be reassured of our calling into ministry as a church and that the power and gifts to fulfill that mission have not changed and are indeed irrevocable.

MY PRAYER IS

- For all the people "on the move" today. Especially for the migrants in our midst and those who are "unterwegs".
- hat if we embrace our calling and make the church a place where we are meaningfully engaged in our communities and in the world, we will provide the "life giving" gifts of God that all people are searching for.
- That we are able to bring all missing voices to the table and that rather than being seen as a problem, migration can be seen as offering new possibilities for churches to re-discover themselves afresh.

The central focus of Migrant and International Ministries is outreach to and development of international and migrant United Methodist ministries in Germany. This covers asylum seekers, migrants, students, undocumented workers, residents with foreign backgrounds, and military personnel and their families.

Kontakt:

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