Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2014

November 2 to 8 **Diakonissen-Schwesternschaft Bethesda e.V.**

You show that you are Christ's letter (...) You weren't written with ink but with the spirit of the living God. Your weren't written on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.
(2 Corinthians 3,3 NEB)

Looking for what is real

A lot of mail lands on my desk every day – mainly bills and advertisement. Unfortunately. When leafing through it I sometimes think: I wish somebody has written me a real letter – handwritten with personal creative ideas, with something showing that it really means me. Advertising strategists have realized that many people are obviously looking out and hoping for such a real letter. Therefore, they are sending letters with seemingly handwritten notes on the envelope. I am always a bit disappointing when I realize that the writing is not real, and I am not really personally addressed.

Meeting people is quite similar: Reality is wanted. When people speak about their faith and one can see and feel how happy they are in their belief and in their life, then what they say and do becomes a very natural proof. It is the gift of God's spirit, and this will come true when we are willing and ready within us to be such a letter written by Jesus Christ. Then our encounters can become encouraging to others. Faith can grow. Belonging to Christ can be seen as a reality. I will remember that when I go through my mail the next time looking for something "real".

Sr. Elisabeth Dreckhoff

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I give thanks

- For God's faithfulness and help in those 128 years of our organization.
- For the access to many people who have no other helpers.
- For the possibility to harmonize prayer and work in our way of living.
- For the good cooperation with the Bethesda congregation.

It is my prayer

- That people in our second-hand-shop "Suchen & Finden /Search & Find / might not only find nice things but also – perhaps for the first time - an access to Jesus.
- That more volunteers are found for the shop.
- That the guesthouse of the Bethesda deaconesses will become a place of refreshments and spiritual encounter.
- That the diaconal impulses will be contagious and win others.

We are deaconesses, women, who have been touched by God's love. We have heard God's calling to stay free for him. To remain unmarried, live on a common fund, and be willing to be commissioned to services are our lifestyle. This gives us free capacities to turn to people who need us. Times for prayer and courage to proclaim our faith are basic.

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