Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2014

November 23 to 29 **Migrant and international Ministries**

Peter asks us „what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God…" 2 Peter 3,11-12

What are we waiting for?

It was in the midst of people from many cultures, loud Mariachi music, Mexican food, and general intercultural celebration, we had been working all day distributing and delivering food to one of the poorest neighborhoods in America. Doctors and nurses were providing free medical checks and it was late in the hot afternoon on the Texas Mexico border. Just at that moment, the President of one of our Methodist Universities who was working with us, looked around in the midst of that apparent chaos and said "Wow, this must be a bit like the kingdom!"

One of our unique Christian beliefs is that we believe we get to view and taste a little bit of what we call the "Kingdom of God," or the "abundant life" in this lifetime. Not in full, but a glimpse, or a "thin place", a place of grace, where we have a vision into that promised land. When we get a piece of that, Wow! We will never be the same again, ever seeking to have that hope fulfilled.

Our Wesleyan model tells us to take advantage of and to be in these places of God's grace. Means of grace are ways in which God works invisibly in disciples, hastening, strengthening and confirming faith, opening our hearts and lives to God's work.

Careful attention to the means of grace is, for Methodists, important in the process of sanctification through the work of the Holy Spirit. It is when we, in our personal lives and in our churches, are living under Grace and not being just social organizations, that we see (and others can see), in what we are really waiting for and hastening!

George Miller

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I GIVE THANKS

that as Methodists we live by two kinds of holiness:

- 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

- Our churches and leaders may, through our diversity, live into and be means of grace for their congregations and communities.
- The visitors to our churches, including migrants and refugees, that they may find that the EmK is indeed a means of grace.
- That we live and are lead by the Holy Spirit, not being just another social organization, but rather living into God's work.

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.

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