Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2018

September 2 to 8 **Methodist Diaconal Work "Bethanien"**

Let my whole being bless the LORD and never forget all his good deeds (Psalm 103: 2 CEB)

The "good old days" and the present

A reflective culture of remembering, filled with gratitude, is something which can do diaconal initiatives and institutions some good – and not just them. It is often claimed, however, that the old days were much better, and that the diaconal world was then still in order. One had more time for patients, clients and residents – and for each other as colleagues. Different from today when such things fall victim to the demands of economic efficiency.

Grateful recollection looks different: it recognizes all the challenges and problems of the past and sees that, amazingly, God allowed the work to grow and to expand in spite of these difficulties. Furthermore, it discovers in the good things of the past the roots which now flourish in the loving and helpful achievements of the present.

The one who recalls with thanks in this way, recognizes that God is the same one who enables people at different times and in different ways to be there for others; helping, healing, as a companion or a comfort, and that we recognize his presence in all things – and at all times. That gives us cause to rejoice about the great and loving work of God, both in past and present – instead of complaining with nostalgic lament about the supposéd "good old days"!

Frank Eibisch

Contact : frank.eibisch@ediacon.de

Translation: Chris Woodhead

I give thanks

- for those who in times gone by, and through God's Spirit, were there for others: lovingly healing, helping and caring
- for all the possibilities we have for diaconal & social work in our society
- that God gives people both love and competence to be engaged in diaconal work for the good of others

I Pray

- for those who, in a particular way, are reliant upon help, support and care
- for those who are prepared not to be ensnared by stubbornness and egotism, but rather to share the love of God with others
- for those who through their desire and willingness to help, reach the end of their own strength

Methodist Diaconal Work "Bethanien"

The Methodist Diaconal Work "Bethanien" was founded in the GDR in 1972, to ensure the continuation of the Methodist Hospital Work there. Today it is chiefly engaged in church-linked diaconal initiatives: it runs for example the Nordcafé in Leipzig, which enables face to face encounters between refugees and local people. At the moment, combining the work of Bethanien with the Bethesda communities in former West-Germany is actively being prepared.

Contact:

Methodist Diaconal Work „Bethanien" c/o edia.con gGmbH, Erich-Zeigner-Allee 9
04229 Leipzig

Tel: 0341 989 76 220

Printversion of »Ich bete für meine Kirche« © 2018 Office for Communications of the Germany UMC - www.ichbetefuermeinekirche.de