

October 8 to 14

Methodist Youth Work

And this is the victory that has defeated the world: our faith. (NRSV, 1 John 5:4)

Looking beyond the horizon

Life is about victory and defeat, both in history and in sport. Who wouldn't rather win than lose? Rather succeed than fail?

What is meant by our faith being the victory? Faith means looking beyond the horizon, like Christians living on a south sea island might say. To see beyond the horizon of grief and death; beyond the horizon of a world threatened by terror and fanaticism; beyond the horizon of a society which judges people according to their performance, social standing, possessions or vitality.

This faith will also allow critical and doubtful questions, in the hope that God will somehow bring clarity for us. This comes about through studying the Bible, through conversations with other Christians and

in prayer. And it also happens there, where some aspects of faith are being shaken. This victory is ours. As Christians we have a share in this. The great victory over death makes the somewhat smaller victories in life also possible. We can be confident of this: God will do everything to ensure that life triumphs. That gives us hope and strength to take a hold of that which promotes life.

And when we experience defeat? Then we can rest assured that even our defeats are safe in God's hands. We won't be disqualified. On the contrary: God will qualify us anew. He will pick us up and strengthen us. So that we can pick up our lives again, and so that life may succeed.

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I GIVE THANKS

- for the many young people and teenagers who bring both new ideas and unconventional questions into our churches.
- for all the volunteers who, with much love and commitment, use their free-time for the benefit of teenagers and young people.
- for all the adults who make the effort to engage with children and young people on an "eye to eye" basis.
- for all people who are committed to non-violence in both word and deed.

I PRAY

- for the young people in our society, who are seeking credible answers to questions of faith and to successful relationships.
- for young people who can see only a pointless future when considering their chances in our society.
- for the refugee children who are fleeing a life of violence, and who long for a new home and the security which that brings.
- for a frank and honest cooperation between young and old in our churches.

Methodist Youth Work

In each of the conference areas, the EmK has set up a work area for children and young people. These teams work closely together as the Children's & Youth Work of the German Central Conference. They deal with the concerns of teenagers and young people in our churches, together with Christian and political youth associations in Germany. This provides support and training, and organizes events like the National Youth Rally at Whitsuntide (BUJU) every two years.

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