

February 18 to 24

Methodist Youth Work

God's Son appeared for this purpose: to destroy the works of the devil. (NRSV, 1 John 3:8)

Looking beyond the horizon

According to a survey taken in 2012, two out of ten Germans believe in the devil. Seven answered the question with "No" and one said "I don't know". I'm not included in this survey. I'm very indifferent on the subject of the devil. Quite frankly, it doesn't bother me whether he exists or not.

Actually, I believe in Jesus – not in the devil. The devil, whether a reality or something which represents the evil that he stands for, is unimportant; especially now that Jesus has died and is risen. Maybe that is why our reading is given precisely at this time: at the beginning of Lent.

I know that there are many Christians who are concerned about the devil and about demons, and who are very fearful of them. Why is that, I wonder?

"If God is for me, who can be against me?" So writes Paul in the letter to the Romans. And he is speaking about the God who reveals himself to this world through Jesus Christ. On Good Friday and Easter Sunday, he defeated the devil and opened an indestructible entrance into life. He has broken the vicious circle of the devil!

That doesn't mean that everything is now going to be just fine. We know for certain that in our lives, and in the world, that is not the case. Those who don't believe in the devil, also know about evil, injustice and death. But Jesus has laid the foundation. The vicious circle has been broken. Things don't have to stay this way. There is hope for us and for our world.

Jörg Hammer

Contact: jhammer@emk-jugend.de

Translation: Chris Woodhead

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 (BUJU) every two years.

Contact:

Methodist Youth Work
Giebelstr. 16,
70499 Stuttgart

Telephone: 0711 - 86 00 68-3

Web: www.emk-jugend.de