

March 4 to 10

Commission of Church and Society

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**No one who puts his hand on the plough and looks back is fit for God's kingdom. (Luke 9: 6)**

## Goal-oriented life

Look into the left-hand wing mirror, turn head to the left, and then, if the road is clear, drive off. That's what I learned in the driving school. When driving, one's view should always be directed ahead, whilst the approaching traffic from behind should also be taken into consideration.

In this Bible verse the assumption is of an unmotivated agricultural worker whose view should always be directed ahead. That's to say that a goal-oriented life brings clarity of purpose. In some matters, looking back can also bring clarity; but constantly looking backwards and forwards doesn't help at all. Wouldn't it have been much nicer to stay in bed for a while longer? Wouldn't it have been better to decide against that attractive job offer? Should I have maybe waited a couple of days before signing that

purchase agreement? Life is an ongoing process, and that's true with Christian development too: following Jesus of Nazareth, the saviour of the world. A goal-oriented life in a community where everyone is regarded with equal value and equal dignity. Goal-oriented in a world where all life is respected and protected: not just of people, but also of plants and animals, and everything else which is created. Goal-oriented in a global community where each person's need for peace and justice is not only seen as being justified, but something to be worked towards through politics, business and society as a whole. A goal-oriented life together with faith in God in one world.

*Hans Martin Renno, Speaker for Church and Society*

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## I GIVE THANKS

- that God has given us this wonderful earth, and that we can look after it with care
- that we can look forward, with hope, to a future that we can help to shape
- that we can be happy for children who have their lives before them
- that we can learn from life along with our children

## I PRAY

- for insight into how we, in various ways, contribute to the destruction of God's creation
- for the courage to bring our destructive behaviour to a halt
- for the power to practise new ways of behaving and to be seen doing so
- for God's strength to follow in the footsteps of his son Jesus Christ – peaceably, non-violent and with love in all our doings

## Commission of Church and Society

The field of activity, "Church & Society" encourages us to shape and change ourselves, and our society, to become like what Jesus described as the Kingdom of God. For those people on the fringe of society, for social justice, peace and the protection of creation – our church makes its voice heard.

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