

June 3 to 9

International and Migrant Ministries

**“The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects the one who sent me.” (Luke 10,16)**

## Honest feedback from the “Cloud of Witnesses”

This text frames Jesus’ sending of the 70 ahead to proclaim the urgent message about the nearness of the Kingdom of God. He warns that some places will not welcome them. There they should shake the dust off their feet and leave. Jesus gives a vivid description of what will happen to those who reject the news.

What a responsibility! God works through us in the world. Are we capable? Jesus gives us authority and power where nothing can hurt us. Thus, upon their return, the 70 are overjoyed at what they have accomplished. Yet Jesus instructs them not to rejoice in these things which can lead to pride, but rather in the eternal reward that their names are written in Heaven.

As Christian leaders, we must recognize that we all have a dark or shadow side that we must wrestle with and try to reconcile. Helpful is self-examination, also to surround ourselves with a cloud of witnesses, who can support us, have informed advice for us, hold us accountable for our actions, and to give the honest feedback even when it hurts.

The 70 have revealed the richness of God’s grace to others. This is what people can see of God in us that is so attractive! It is not us, our reputation, the power, or even the success of control over even the demons! It is about the Love of God!

*George Miller*

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## I GIVE THANKS

- that as Christians we can recognize our own faults, failures and shortcomings yet have a sense of god’s mission in this crazy world which the society so often finds to be nonsense.
- that they will know us by our love, not our pride. Love which allows and demands a place of forgiveness and reconciliation in the Christian walk.
- that it is through this love, that the sinner, including ourselves, can be freed from the bondage of sin.

## IT IS MY PRAYER

- that those who with we are not reconciled, the “other” to us, can know that they are loved and are lovable, and there is a way toward reconciliation.
- that we each, and collectively as a church, engage in witness with the world from our ministry of Reconciliation
- that when the uncertainty, fear and doubt visit, we will be able to draw from the teachings of the Spirit that is part of our everyday life and that we have the courage to be ever ready to “bear witness” to the source of hope and faith that lies within us.

## International and Migrant Ministries

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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