

July 22 to 28

Training Work

.....so live your life as children of light. Light produces fruit that consists of every sort of goodness, justice and truth. (Ephesians 5: 8-9 CEB)

A bit too much?

GOODNESS, JUSTICE, TRUTH – words that I imagine being written in capital letters. Weighty, demanding, challenging. I would gladly bring my life into line with these – but is that maybe a bit too much for me?

The Bible verses which underpin this interpretation begin thus: “You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord” - followed by the statement which forms our text of the week. Incidentally, it doesn't say, “You once lived in darkness, now you live in the light” but rather, “You were darkness, now you are light” That is completely different! The one who lives in the light must take extra care not to move away from the beam. When I'm a child of light, however, then I am connected inseparably with that light! It envelops me. It radiates from me, I can neither leave it nor lose it.

GOODNESS, JUSTICE, TRUTH are the fruits of this light – not my fruit. Nevertheless, the writer of the letter to the Ephesians tells us to “live our lives as children of the light”. I can and should play my part, living my life so that the fruits of light spread out and grow; even when I don't bring them forth myself.

GOODNESS, JUSTICE, TRUTH – a bit too much for me? If I were left to do this in my own strength, that would surely be the case. But as a “child of the light” I pray for wisdom, strength and courage for every day, so that I can play my part in spreading goodness, justice and truth.

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I give thanks

- for people who convincingly live out goodness, justice & truth.
- for those who work for peace, justice and the protection of creation.
- for those who work for the rights of refugees
- for those in the media who work for honest and truthful reporting.
- that we don't need to bring forth these fruits of ourselves, but can rely on God's faithfulness and guidance.

I pray

- for those who feel they're on the darkside of life, that they might see the light and gain courage.
- for those who take care of people in need, that they might not tire.
- for those with responsibility in politics and society, that global conflicts and chaos may be settled through negotiation.
- for those who have responsibility in our church in Germany, and also worldwide, that they might make wise decisions.

Training Work

The EmK Training Work promotes adult training in our churches, groups for parents and children, house groups, get-togethers for pensioners as well as church seminars. It does this through workshops and courses for co-workers. The Training Work advises and supports congregations in church development and conflict management. It trains volunteer workers in preaching, counselling and leadership.

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