

August 19 to 25

Zwickau District

He won't break a bruised reed; he won't extinguish a faint wick.. (Isaiah 42:3 CEB)

Taken into care.

In a throw-away society, a bruised reed and a faint wick have a sell-by date. A walking-cane which has lost its inner support belongs in the trash. A wick whose oil supply is blocked, is no good for anything. Without a thought, one would just look elsewhere for another source of light. The so called „Second Isaiah“ lets us know that God takes a different view of our reality. Israel was given to understand that God attaches great importance to that which is seemingly useless. The hurt, the wounded, the feeble remain in his care. He will neither smash them nor extinguish them, nor will he throw them away.

In the church we have a strong preference to see strength and positive impact in events – or even in congregations. Thus, we behave in just the same way as the world does.

We do this in spite of the fact that, in our churches, we increasingly have situations to deal with which are more comparable to a bruised reed or a faint wick. What is our answer to this? What situation do we live in?

Our society is one which is dazzled by light, by full power and euphoria. Bruised souls are quickly left behind and fall by the wayside. What situation do we live in? What is our task as ambassadors of the one who will not extinguish the faint wick?

Stephan Ringeis

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Translation: Chris Woodhead

I GIVE THANKS

- the small
- the imperfect
- the injured and the offender
- the contemptible

I PRAY TO GOD FOR RENEWED STRENGTH & PATIENCE

- for those who walk around with their heads down
- for those whose hearts are broken
- for those who feel useless
- for those whose vitality is gone

I PRAY TO GOD FOR GOOD EYESIGHT

- in those who walk upright
- in those who shine
- in those who are bursting with vitality
- in those who are daily fulfilled by all they do
- in those who.....

that they might see those in the shadows, who live alongside them.

Zwickau District

The Zwickau District is one of two districts in the East German Conference and covers parts of Sachsen-Anhalt, Thuringia & Saxony. 2600 confessing members, 1700 associate members & 900 friends belong to 56 churches in 25 circuits. 21 pastors, 2 educationalists, a congregation assessor and a pastoral assistant make up the ministry team. Both the Training & Meeting Centre at Schwarzenhof and the Zwickau offices of Children's & Youth Work-East are in the District. 20 pastors are living here in retirement.

Contact

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