



# Ich bete für meine Kirche 2018

September 16 to 22

Reutlingen School of Theology (RST)

Now his grace is revealed through the appearance of our saviour Christ Jesus. He destroyed death and brought life and immortality into clear focus through the good news. (2 Timothy 1: 10 CEB)

## The seed will grow

What a world that would be in which death stood no more chance, and was no longer a reality! When we look around our planet, we see that it is death indeed which holds sway – and in many places in such a dreadful manner (war, terror, hunger, epidemics, the refugee crisis etc.) Doesn't that just make a mockery of our Bible text? Yes, but only when looked at in a simplistic way. The fact of the matter is (at least for those who believe in Jesus) that Jesus has destroyed death – through his resurrection and elevation to God. The promise of the text is this: he has brought life and immortality into the realm of death. It is no accident that the Gospel message is that which is spoken of here. The promise is made in the first instance to those who believe the good news. It tells us that death is not the final reality of our existence.

Through faith we are in fellowship with Jesus and his way, so that we have eternal life (in and with God), and that death has no chance of holding onto us after leaving this life. This living hope doesn't just lead us to a personal assurance; it motivates us to proclaim the reality of Jesus and his life in a world plagued by death – through our witness to him in word and deed. This is how God sets the seed of eternal life, where it is surrounded by the reality of death. And this he has promised: the seed will grow – in a new world where death definitely no longer exists.

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Translation: Chris Woodhead

## I GIVE THANKS

- for the many people who come every year to study at the RST – they profit not only in their personal lives, but also in their future ministry in both the church and the world
- for a good start to the vocational Master's degree course, "Christian Spirituality in the Context of Various Religions & Cultures". 12 students have already graduated and others have now registered

## I PRAY

- for wisdom in the planning of our new building programme (renovation of the classroom block, extension of the library, a new lecture hall and new canteen area) and for the finances to bring this to fruition
- for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the question of setting up a further course which majors on "Theology and Social Work"

## Reutlingen School of Theology (RST)

The RST is the institution of theological higher education of the UMC in Germany, Switzerland & Austria. It continues in a 150 year old tradition of training church leaders. In 2005 the RST became a federally accredited university, and can award internationally recognized BA and MA degrees. The community presently consists of 70 students, 7 professors, 5 teachers and 4 colleagues in the house & administration work.

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