

December 9 to 15

Evangelism Work

....stand up straight and raise your heads, because your redemption is near.  
(Luke 21:28)

## Call to stand up

The 21<sup>st</sup> chapter of Luke's gospel is both fascinating and difficult. Jesus is talking about the end-times. He is talking about the destruction of the Temple, the persecution of the church, the end of Jerusalem and the coming of the Son of Man. The talk is of war, rebellion, natural disasters, famine and plague; of hatred and betrayal. Subjects which, at that time, were difficult for people to grasp. Not today, though.

Over and over again in this chapter, however, in the midst of all these dreadful signs of the end which was coming, the words of Jesus speak of comfort and encouragement. These reach their zenith in verse 28: "...raise your heads because your redemption is near".

In Advent we prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus. We await the coming of our redeemer. In the

world around us we see war, plague, famine, hatred and greed. For this reason alone, we cannot just sit and wait passively. Yes, our redeemer is coming! But "stand up straight and raise your heads" are not just words of comfort. This statement is above all a call to engage. A call to rise up. The Greek word here can mean both look up and stand up. Today, Jesus wants to say to us, "Wake up. Don't look down at the ground. Don't look away. Look up. Stand up. Your redemption is near."

*Barry Sloan, leader of the Evangelism Work*

Contact: [barry.sloan@emk.de](mailto:barry.sloan@emk.de)  
Translation: Chris Woodhead

## I give thanks

- for the new initiatives in churches, where people outside the church are served in the love of God
- for the churches which think about their call to mission, and take steps to act on it.
- for the various campaigns carried out across Europe this year by the tent mission

## I pray

- for the evangelism team: that their work may be a blessing to churches, and that by the grace of God, and for his honour, they may see fruit for their labours
- for ongoing co-operation throughout all levels of the church, so that our mission to proclaim the Gospel remains at the centre of our ministry
- for open and visitor-friendly churches during the Advent and Christmas period. Especially at this time can we expect to see a lot of guests in our services

## Evangelism Work

Passing on the good news of God's love in new and relevant ways – this is how the Evangelism Work is supporting our churches. Main emphasis: evangelizing (Barry Sloan), church planting (Eberhard Schilling) and congregational development (Anne Detjen). With the tents & vehicles of the Tent Mission (led by Hans-Martin Kienle) the work is supporting churches throughout Europe in various evangelistic campaigns. Central & regional training plus counselling is also on offer.

### Contact:

EmK- Evangelism Work  
Gottlieb-Daimler-Straße 37  
89150 Laichingen

Telephone: 07333 5062  
[buero@evangelisationswerk.de](mailto:buero@evangelisationswerk.de)  
[www.evangelisationswerk.de](http://www.evangelisationswerk.de)