

June 23 to 29

Commission of Church and Society

**Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me.**

(Luke 10:16)

## Going on with confidence

What confidence Jesus had in his friends! He sent them out even though he knew them well. He knew how quickly they became insecure. He had experienced how, in spite of all the signs and wonders, they had doubted. I can really identify with them. Is it not comforting that we are also sent out as messengers of Christ just as we are? Isn't it wonderful that this is enough for him?

„Whoever listens to you listens to me.“ - What a blessing and encouragement! As messengers we are not left alone. We are equipped with the confidence of Christ within us. His spirit and his love accompanies us. Even when we fail. It is not that perfect life which we would like to lead, but rather the honest stories about our relationships and our failures that touch the hearts of others, both comforting and encoura-

ging them. How do people hear the Gospel? It's when we as children of God can show them from our fragmented lives what it means to feel loved and secure. When we can change and fashion our lives through and out of God's forgiveness.

The verse of the text also doesn't mean that we can claim to speak in God's name. That is something which only the person listening can recognize. The second part of the verse also makes it clear that, then as now, this message doesn't interest everyone. Again, Christ associates himself with us, „whoever rejects you rejects me“. It's not our fault when people don't want to know. We can go on with confidence to be a living witness, and God is behind us.

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Translation: Chris Woodhead

## I GIVE THANKS

- for the many encounters with people who have given my work valuable new impetus and have broadened my horizons. The invitation to the Missions Forum in Leingarten was especially important - to experience how closely entwined the Gospel is with compassion and the protection of the planet
- for all churches which are engaged with the promotion of social justice, peace and the protection of the planet, and thereby show the world a kinder face

## I PRAY

- for preparations around the EmK-Congress in 2020
- for good ideas & the development of a suitable plan for the involvement of our churches in global social justice & ecological responsibility
- for all who have taken on political responsibility, that they find the courage to make far-reaching changes to policies on peace and climate change

## Commission of Church and Society

The field of activity, "Church & Society" encourages us to shape and change ourselves, and our society, to become like what Jesus described as the Kingdom of God. For those people on the fringe of society, for social justice, peace and the protection of creation – our church makes its voice heard.

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