

September 8 to 14

International and Migrant Ministries

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

Four conclusions from God's providence

At the end of each day during Creation, God saw how good it was. In this verse from Isaiah, God therefore knows that reeds get bruised, storms uproot many plants and cause devastation, and that the wick of an oil lamp or candle won't burn forever. Nothing is eternal, apart from God himself. But even so, in God's eyes, creation is good! It all depends on how we view it and what we do with what has been given to us.

Firstly, we must care for and look after surroundings. We must reinforce our own strengths, given to us to use for the community and not for our own good. We must have a positive impact on society to the glory of God.

Secondly, we all have a job to do when "repairs" are necessary. After a storm or natural disaster, every-

one has to help with clearing up again, saving what can be saved. Looking back, people often recall the solidarity and social cohesion that emerges during such difficult times.

Thirdly, aid and concern is needed. When a reed is bruised, when a branch threatens to break under the load of all its fruit, then support is needed. Among others, this refers to refugees who have left their homes and all their belongings. We should help them and offer them a new home.

Fourthly, we should also be politically proactive. The importance of political commitment is illustrated by the example of climate change and the way it affects each and every one of us.

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I GIVE THANKS

- for all churches and individuals who are helping refugees to find a new home.
- for all churches who put their own needs on one side to have the necessary hope and strength for this major, long-lasting task.
- for all refugees whose daily gratitude touches us; who have shown great courage in coming to a strange country, starting anew right at the bottom in a foreign language.

I PRAY

- that we may encourage and strengthen each other, because God also led Abraham to a new country, to a new home.
- that we may receive plenty of strength to let the needs and conflicts of the refugees change our churches – and that our churches tolerate such change and help to make it a positive thing.
- that we will have refugees who are passionate believers in our midst who praise God and strengthen our churches.

International and Migrant Ministries

In Germany's increasingly multi-cultural society, the central focus of the EMK's Migrant and International Ministries is outreach to and development of international and migrant United Methodist ministries in Germany. This covers working with asylum seekers, refugees, migrants, students, missionaries, students and others.

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