

March 17 to 23

Evangelism Work

But God shows his love for us, because while we were still sinners Christ died for us.
(Romans 5:8)

Because!

Love is at the heart of the Gospel. The love of God. For the Apostle Paul, who wrote the letter to the Romans, God's love was most clearly shown in Christ and through his work on the cross. Paul brings God's nature – his being – into focus, that is his love. Because God is God, we become reconciled with him. Because God is love, we are no longer his enemies. This love is not just meant for God's friends, the people of Israel, but also for the godless and the Gentiles (Romans 5:6). The love of God excludes no-one. Because it is God's love, and because God is love, sinners are also included. God and his love can do no other. People certainly can. Not half! But not God.

The death of Jesus didn't just happen to turn away the wrath of God, so that he could finally accept and love sinners. The first readers of the letter to the

Romans were mostly Non-Jews. In the eyes of the Orthodox Jews, sinners were regarded as outcasts, who didn't belong. Through Paul, however, they now hear the liberating good news: God loves you! You do belong. And rightly so! Why? It's very simple: because God is love.

How can we show our love to God, and to our neighbours?

Barry Sloan, leader of the Evangelism Work

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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, so that many people might experience the welcoming love of God

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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 (Christhard Elle). 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.

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