

May 5 to 11

Senior Citizens' Work

I am the Good Shepherd. My sheep listen to my voice. I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life. (John 10:11+27-28a CEB)

Great prospects for the future

I'm always pleased to see a herd of sheep when I'm out walking or cycling. I haven't a clue about sheep and how to handle them, but there is something familiar, warm and natural about a herd of sheep that I like.

I also like the image of Christ as the Good Shepherd. The shepherd looks after his sheep and leads them to green pastures (Psalm 23). That works well when the sheep listen to the shepherd's voice and follow him.

So what about me? Do I hear the voice of Christ the Shepherd? And if I listen to his voice, do I follow him? Often I listen to the voice of duty that tells me what I should do or not do as pastor, husband, car driver or tax payer. I also listen to the voice of my own personal needs. Heeding and listening to myself and my needs is important for my personal satisfaction. I've learnt all about that. And these are just two voices among many.

There's an overwhelming promise that comes with heeding the voice of Christ the Shepherd: Christ promises "eternal life" to those who listen to him and follow him. Eternal life - what great prospects for the future, but also what a consolation and boost, what added radiance to my life here and now.

I want to listen first of all to the Shepherd's voice, because this is what opens the doors of heaven to me. Then I can turn to my own needs and to those of other people.

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I GIVE THANKS

- for Jesus Christ, who is my Good Shepherd.
- for the Word of God that gives us guidance and promises us the love of God.
- for the role model that we see in older people who are true followers serving our Lord Jesus Christ with faith and great joy.
- for being able to share openly with our brothers and sisters about our personal journeys and the journey of our church.

I PRAY

- that we have open ears and an open heart for what Jesus Christ is saying to us.
- for courage and strength to meet and accompany each other like Jesus Christ, in great love and truth.
- for patience and hope when people face hard journeys.
- for all those bearing responsibility and taking decisions in our church.

Senior Citizens' Work

The Senior Citizens's Work is part of the EmK's educational programme. It offers retreats, training courses and conferences. Once a year it issues the "Horizons" magazine with suggestions for working with senior citizens. The current issue looks at "How we want to live". That is a real challenge for many older people. The current issue of "Horizons" is available in local churches or from the Education Mission.

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