

June 2 to 8

EmK World Missions

When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to me.
(John 12:32 CEB)

Sheltered and safe as a fawn

The meaning of these words in John's gospel is not necessarily clear on first reading. But a bit of thought and research reveals that it's actually about Easter.

An unexpected discovery in our own garden has helped me to understand. Behind our house in Wuppertal there's a small bit of woodland. We have about ten large trees on our side, and there are possibly another 25 on our neighbour's side. Over the years we have repeatedly seen deer in the garden. They seem to feel at home here, although we are some distance from the outskirts of town. The nearest wood is a quarter of a mile away beyond the town cemetery. Yesterday evening, my wife saw a deer lying in the green undergrowth. Why was it lying there so long and why did it keep turning its head to one side? We needed the binoculars to discover that there was a fawn lying next to the deer, hidden in the grass. A

few minutes later it got up on very wobbly legs. The deer still had the umbilical cord hanging out, and kept on licking the little one with tender loving care. The miracle of a deer birth in our garden! My wife and I were quite fascinated.

I think the words from John's gospel also refer to this miracle. Through Jesus Christ and His resurrection and exaltation, we can become new and can be born again in Him. Jesus Christ brings us close to God, the separation disappears. This is the miracle of Easter. We may accept it and share in it. When we hold onto it, we are as sheltered and safe in His loving hands as the fawn, being lovingly tended by its mother!

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WE GIVE THANKS

- for the work of our country coordinators Dennis Bangalie in Sierra Leone and Clarence Benson in Liberia, who are involved among others in projects to train boys and girls living in poor and difficult conditions in order to give many young people a new outlook in life.
- that our missionaries in Malawi (the Schmidt family) and Mozambique (the Härtner family) have survived the recent cyclones and flooding in both countries without coming to any harm.

WE PRAY

- that the young people in the abovementioned training projects may be moved by the love of God through the devotionals and pastoral care.
- that the many people affected by the storms and floods in Mozambique, Malawi and neighbouring countries obtain sustainable aid and that the many helpers on the spot receive the necessary financial and spiritual support.

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The EmK World Missions is the branch of the German Methodist Church responsible for mission and international church partnership. It works closely with other Methodist missionary organisations in both Europe and the USA.

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