



# Ich bete für meine Kirche 2019

July 28 to August 3

Stuttgart District

**Don't fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.**  
(Isaiah 43:1 CEB)

## Already home!

For many years, this verse spoken by the Prophet Isaiah is one of my favourite verses in the Old Testament. It speaks to me more than almost any other part of the Bible. God calls me by my name! He knows me as an individual amongst billions of people. And he even calls me. He wants something from, he is planning something for me! Of course I know on the face of it that the "you" in this verse does not mean me personally: it means "Jacob", it means the people of Israel. For decades the people of Israel have been living in captivity in Babylon and long to go home. And so initially the words mean "You, my people, have had to live in a foreign land. But I know you, I have not forgotten you. And I have called you. I am calling you back home! You are mine!" Many Israelites who heard this are sure to have thought: "That's all very well, but I haven't seen anything of it yet! We're still captives. When

is it all going to happen? When can we go back home at last, home to Israel, to the temple, to Jerusalem?" That is the big secret behind this verse. The people hear God, He has called them long before they were set free. God gives his people courage in an apparently hopeless situation and says to them: "Have faith in me, for me you are already free today and soon you will experience this for yourselves!"

And this is exactly the call that is meant for me! Even if I can't see it today, God has already set me free and called me. I am already home, home with God.

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## I GIVE THANKS

- for all those in full-time ministry who have been called to serve and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- for all who come together in church services in order to encounter God.
- that God's love makes us brothers and sisters, and bounds us together in churches, circuits, districts, annual churches and the Church worldwide.

## I PRAY

- for the unity of our church and for the wisdom to see ourselves as brothers and sisters despite all our many differences.
- that God will give all our ministers constant joy in serving and fruitful thoughts for their preaching.
- for the ministries and institutions of our church in the Stuttgart District
- that people will find their way into our churches and that there they will find Jesus Christ.
- that the people in our churches will find the help and support they need.

## Stuttgart District

The Stuttgart District of the South German Conference is the smallest in area, but from the number of people and churches one of the largest Methodist districts in Germany. It includes 33 circuits with 62 churches. 53 pastors are in active ministry in the District, and 36 live here in retirement. The "Children's & Youth Ministry", the "Training Ministry" and the EmK's private radio station, "radio m" are all found in the District.

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