

September 1 to 7

Senior Citizens' Work

God stands against the proud, but he gives favour to the humble.

(1 Peter 5:5 CEB)

Recognising the true foundation of life

Proud people are said to be unpleasant companions whose company is avoided. They are felt to be superior, condescending know-alls. But what some people see as pride may be seen as others to be healthy self-confidence coupled with powerful self-presentation skills. Or a desperate attempt to fend off the threat of diminution.

Pride is quite obviously going through the same kind of transformation as so many other things in this day and age. The same goes for humility, which has a poor image: today no-one gets any admiration for being introverted or even submissive and humble. On the contrary. And so we have to find out who God withstands and who receives His gift of grace.

One of the main characteristics of pride in the Bible is when people renounce God: people who reckon they

can take their fate in their own hands and don't need God in the end and can make their own happiness. Humility in the eyes of God characterises those who have nothing to show for themselves but empty hands and childlike trust. What a provocation in these meritocratic times that are even infiltrating the church.

It's important to look now and then to see how far my whole commitment is based on my own performance. Am I really aware of my inadequacies and frailty? Only then will I recognise that it is the grace of God which is the true foundation of my life.

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WE PRAY

for families involved in caring for others: disabled children, victims of accidents, people with chronic illnesses, old people

- that they may find the necessary strength every day and every night to cope with their monumental tasks.
- that they are not left alone, neither by their church nor by the state and its social organisations.
- that they may have possibilities for respite and to take care of themselves.
- that society and church may show the urgently needed recognition and appreciation of their efforts.

Specifically we pray for the "Impetus Day: dementia – challenges for family and church" on 9 November in Herrenberg, organised by the Senior Generations Committee of the South Germany Conference.

Senior Citizens' Work

Working with and for senior citizens addresses a target group of growing significance for church work. It begins with the generation of baby boomers who are now gradually beginning to notice their age, and includes fit silver agers as well as the very elderly who are increasingly in need of help and support. Senior Citizen's Work in the EMK offers a range of activities and makes suggestions for reinforcing faith and life in old age. Faith is exposed to particular threats as we get older and needs constant reassurance to remain viable.

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