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zum Hauptthema der EMS-Synode 2009

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“Mission: For God’s Sake – for the Sake of the World”

We confess: We believe in God - the Creator

- the Redeemer and Reconciler

- the Sanctifier through the Holy Spirit

It is the Triune God who accompanies projects and programmes in the EMS fellowship.

The Mission Statement says: “We are on a journey together towards an international ecumenical fellowship of churches and mission societies sharing our hope in the kingdom of God. The gospel concerns all dimensions of life.”

Our common language in the EMS fellowship “Missions moves, connects, opens up” compels all stakeholders to become “mission friendly”, upholding that mission is compassion, is witness: exhibiting EMS in the twenty first century, moving through actions; signs of solidarity; connecting through sharing; networking; opening doors and horizons. We are charged to promote peace and reconciliation, to fight poverty, to facilitate education, ecumenical learning, theological training, the work of ecumenical co-workers and programmes like “Reading the Bible through the Eyes of Another”.

“Common Witness” is the essential aspect of the mission statement. Mission is activated and comes to life through the three core areas: “sharing of life concerns, sharing through cross-cultural witness and service, sharing of resources (human and financial)”.

The church credibility on earth is sustained only when the church is involved in mission. God is the originator, sustainer and preserver of mission. We cannot afford to withdraw from the world, we are in the world, but not of the world (“Be involved but not contaminated”).

“Mission: For God’s sake – for the Sake of the World” demands that we act as salt of the earth, as the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-16). Mission is about transformation. Jesus calls the church out of the comfort zone to the areas of need. God’s mission is of mercy and grace. It is grace that makes transformation possible.



The missionary church (calling and sending) must past agents of change to where humankind groans inwardly, eagerly waiting for adaption as sons and daughters... the redemption of the bodies (Romans 8:22-33).

Sending is for all people. Obedience to calling and sending assures the church (the members), as chosen people, holy nations, people belonging to God. In John 17:21 Jesus prays: "... , that they may be one father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

Involvement in mission for God' sake and for the sake of the world demands complete submission to God, the Author of mission, and unwavering empowerment by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:7-11 refers to receiving power. Jesus says: When the Holy Spirit comes, you will become my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

Mission: For Gods sake... Is it about the prosperity Gospel; the starting of mega churches? Listen to an extract from a poem written by a bishop from a very poor country.

"Walk with us"

Help us to discover our own riches.

Don't judge us poor because we lack what you have.

Help us discover our chains.

Don't judge us slaves by the type of shackles you wear.

Be patient with us as people.

Don't judge us backward simply because we don't follow your stride.

Be patient with our pace.

Don't judge us lazy simply because we can't follow your tempo.

Be with us and be open to what we can give.

Be with us as a companion who walks with us; neither behind nor in front.

In our search for life and ultimately for god.

We are challenged to be in solidarity with people.

"We share what we have with them, but dare not presume that we have nothing to receive from them."

Mission is motivated by the love of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:14). Christian compassion enables the church (in mission - for God's sake - for the sake of the world) to cross barriers in society and identify with all who are stigmatised, ostracised, or oppressed by embracing them.



Christians are to be advocates in society on behalf of those whose voices have been silenced, in this process creating awareness of their needs. Mission makes it possible to live according to the Gospel command to love God and to love our neighbours as ourselves. This is the key to being salt and light in the world.

Our service: Serving God in practical acts of love and compassion. (James 1:27 and Matthew 25:34-40). Christians have a history of service to those in need. Concerted acts of Christian charity can complement those of secular bodies and bear witness to God's love for the world. Serving those in need is not an alternative to or a preparation for preaching the gospel. It is part and parcel of the gospel and the good news of the word made flesh. We are called to live the gospel daily.

Our hope: To believe is to hope (1 Peter 1:3). Christians have a message of hope. It is a living hope confirmed in the resurrection of Christ and the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit. Hope in Christ empowers Christians to give hope to the hopeless.

Our task: To be Christ's ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20). Since Christians are called to be Christ's ambassadors, through us, God's desire to reconcile the world in Christ, can be fulfilled. We practise living according to the disposition of Christ by demonstrating loving care, forgiveness and acceptance in order that God's mission in the world can be accomplished. God's spirit is in us, working ceaselessly to accomplish God's will through us.

The present day tasks are the promotion of education, caring for the neglected and marginalised, acting as voice of the voiceless, taking care for the welfare of the poor and exploited through advocacy. Noticing human trafficking, mission for God's sake and for the sake of the world must compel us to challenge such dehumanizing practices and promote improvement of quality of life and better living conditions (transformation). Prophetic voice in the twenty first century is in great demand.

Undertaking Mission for God's sake and for the sake of the world assists one never aspires to be great or the first, but to become a servant and allowing yourself to be the last. If this attitude is adopted, there will be no room for complex (inferior/superior), all will be acknowledged as created in the image of God. Peter Boehler talking to John Wesley: "Preach faith until you love it... when you have it, you'll preach it." Matthew 9:35: "Jesus went through all the towns and villages teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness." When Jesus sets apart agents in God's mission... for God's sake... proving how much God loved the world... he gives them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness (Matthew 10:1). Jesus calls, equips and sends... Again Jesus said: "Peace be with you, as the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:21).

Outcomes of Mission must be transformation, reconciliation and empowerment (Acts 2:41-47). The Lord Jesus Christ calls his church into being so that it may serve him on earth until he comes. Mission from the very outset has God in the Power of the Holy Spirit as an abler and mentor. Only God secures his church. One of the essential features of the church is fellowship: We share our faith in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Christian unity, joint activities in promoting



mission will continue as we remind ourselves we share: “One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and the father of all.” (Ephesians 4:5). The church as the community of faith walks in the “way of the son”, the way of incarnation, the cross and resurrection.

With the hope in us, let us do God's mission, for God's sake, for the sake of God's world.



Mission bewegt | verbindet | öffnet

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