

POETIC RECORDING: TIME TO REFLECT

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200 Years Berlin Mission

Time to reflect and time to look forward
with Berlin Mission's partners

200



INTRO

At first I saw a sign (a print on a banner)
»Zusammen streiten« – let's fight together
I hope that's not meant forever?!
I just got up, so I was a bit under the weather...
And I thought, uhm seems illogical to me –
Why fight, when belief and peace
should be common sense and so easy to see?

But yes, I agree – there are different opinions
About the details of theory and practice
But these shouldn't be a hindrance
When it all comes together like tetris!

So let's open the discussions
Name the horse and rider
concerns that matter, thoughts inside us
Have fights but in constructive sessions

Let's get into our heads
And reach into our souls
Connect the hearts and threads
Also, address the doubts

The challenges and difficulties
Rooting in the lords different trees
Spread around the globe
Trying to absorb all forms of hope

Because we might bring different conclusions
Despite about the knowledge there is of course no confusion
But still room to grow and wisen up
Because experience and enlightenment
Is also a matter of Individual horizon
To widen...

BIBLE SHARING ROUND

»With faith, you can move mountains.
But sometimes nothing happens« –

Who knows what is moving in the distance?
May the rocks shake with a rumbling
or the mountain's hearts slowly crumbling...

Conviction works over generations
So does change in situations
But often, there is not only bigger cause
But a bigger force with a massive source
– »Faith can't prevent wars...«

Currently there are many sources of distress

For many believers, times are dire
People suffer malice, crimes, injustice
– a global wildfire
While other parts of the world don't pay any attention
no perspective, no change, no empathic intention

There seems to be no visible help
In a lot of situations
Lack of food, shelter, protection, solutions
between earth and sky, between the nations

But a movement is underway
As long as there is belief
As something in you always is
deep inside like a breathe

Believing means bearing sufferings
And this is easily challenging
Demanding our utmost daily managing
Keeping us on our feet without room for recovering

Still we feel our conviction stays
As cruel as it is, these seem to be the hard times

Jesus was a refugee
without a temple, shelter, steeple
And pursued by mighty enemies
full of hate for him and his people

He may have wavered but still perceived
the words which were conceived
He knew command and mission
He had intel we had to believe
And stick to his teachings and intuition

Doubt is not a test!
It's a fact, condition, actuality
Doubt belongs to humanity
Like mistrust and hostility

At the lord's table, doubt is allowed
There is no »cup of judgement«
Because being human shouldn't make us worried
It should make us proud
I mean: humble but confident

Because it completes a human mind
To all feelings and sides we are not blind
Doubt is a part of faith and makes us critical
More analytical and it's a typical protestant principle

But as well as doubt is a part of faith
Church will always be a part of society
In each facility
There is room for the doubtful
As it is for solidarity

THREE PERSPECTIVES (1): MIDDLE EAST

In Palestine it's war time // everything but peace
People trying to escape but by closed borders are detainees

Everyone knows about the situation
What helps is interreligious »collaboration«
Which is an inspiration and an invitation
To at least comfort a (newly) traumatized generation

And to generate understanding that belief can be relief
»we need to let Muslim peers sit next to Christian peers
and eat together, sharing meals
Having a feast in peace«

As families are barely making it to daily meals
or fulfilling basic needs
No jobs, no hope, almost no civil rules
we need to make sure
they wish to come to our schools
Find calmth, distraction and places on stools

THREE PERSPECTIVES (2): TAIWAN

It's good to see that indigenous culture
is given room in the institution of church
an acknowledgement of heritage
Because there is diversity
in many spirits and identity

THREE PERSPECTIVES (3): CUBA

The church in Cuba is facing dire conditions
It turned its activities more towards social missions
Trying to aid the situational transition
Forming coalitions and ambitions for nutrition

the economy collapsed and the families are broke
But folk solidarize, communities invoked
Education and self-organisation
But lacking international engagement and donations

QUOTES

Suffering swings both ways: it can de- and increase faith

Solving crises can't be done in a day

Some things are challenging but also can be salt

Faith can't prevent wars

»The U.S. has a large geography but our thinking is not as large«

After the civil war about the legacy of slavery
Followed the »Jim Crowe era« of legalized discrimination
Led to a division in society that works until today

Instead of being fully integrated church is still very segregated

We need bubble crushers instead of echo chambers

Building bridges only works through encounters!

In Africa, there's hell on earth in some places
But people find home in the church
Also therapy, they are looking for something

Germans now, if they tend to God or not, had 80 years of peace
People have to eat and have undisturbed sleep

When we suffer to God we turn
Only rich people don't go to the church

Membership decline

What can we learn from growth, what can we learn from the growing churches?

»England doesn't want people« (so do many other EU countries)

There is a reason for everything
Also in the Berlin Mission
By establishment, peace we bring...
And heal not only the German fission

Also make amends for historical mistakes

From which perspective are you telling?

Our Mission is commission
Reflection through exhibition reflection

We need to build bridges
Because we can't manage
every problem every challenge
alone...

it's important to keep it in our heart

We don't want conflict, it's not in our spirit!

ON IMPULSE SPEECH BY ULRIKE TRAUTWEIN – CLOSING

Church will always be asked
to fulfil present and future tasks:
pursue peace and solidarity
for the troubled: retreat, hospitality

Help, shelter, medicinal and psychological aid
Society and political transformation, not only by faith
Social work and educational structures
Building bridges to other religions and cultures

Climate change: help establish sustainability,
Spread knowledge and science
stop land grabbing, teach ecological resilience,
take up the 17 goals, save gods creation

Counter the polarisation
By civil open dialogue installation
Initiate / spend dignity to society
Preach optimism love and charity

And also work up the colonial heritage
Postcolonial structures

WHAT CHURCH CAN BE

The teaching can be a scaffolding
Offering and securing the values we uphold
Recruiting future workforce for strongholds
For our offspring and for who we upbringing

Church means constant transition
between progress and tradition
Between change, political as well as societal
Supporting integrity as well as individuals

Personally amazing for me was to see
how churches work in variety
For each regional society
From spiritual edification and education
Over retrieve and reharbor its sheep
To help securing the utmost basic needs

May you be successful, peaceful and prosper
Help to ease global grief of those you foster
Grow hope and help in abundance
As these are today's wonders...

Time to reflect
Can never end nor be perfect
But as we say in German:
Es wird noch immer mehr entdeckt
– There are still things to discover
On this earth's beautiful blue pearl/marble
And also between the Abrahamic religions

I will close with a little surprise quote
From the Persian poet *Saadi Shirazi* who wrote the *Golestan* in the
13th century:

Human beings are members of a whole,
In creation of one essence and soul.
If one member is afflicted with pain,
Other members uneasy will remain.

If you have no sympathy for human pain,
The name of human you cannot retain.

Die Kinder Adams sind aus einem Stoff gemacht,
als Glieder eines Leibs von Gott, dem Herrn, erdacht.

Sobald ein Leid geschieht nur einem dieser Glieder,
dann klingt sein Schmerz sogleich in ihnen allen wieder.

Ein Mensch, den nicht die Not der Menschenbrüder rührt,
verdient nicht, dass er noch des Menschen Namen führt.

FINALE – A LITTLE CROSS RHYME (KREUZREIM)

Every time we draw a line
between us and others
Not minding our sisters and brothers
Jesus is on the other side

So those who stick to brutality
causing daily tragedy
Will sooner or later recognize
What it means: to apologize
And hopefully, one day reconcile

For this world is our home
And nobody ever walks alone ...