



DIAKONIA Prayer January 2020

"I believe; help my unbelief!" this verse from Mark 9.24 was chosen by the ecumenical study group for Bible reading as the annual catchphrase for 2020.

The verse is out of the story of a miracle. In great despair, a father turns to Jesus asking for help for his sick child.

He has little hope and says: "Jesus, if you can, have mercy on us and help us!" Jesus replies, "All things are possible to those who believe". The father then confesses his doubts and says: "I believe; help my unbelief!"

It sounds like a contradiction but it is not: "I believe; help my unbelief!" In the inner conflict of the person seeking help, is the realization: "I am human, but you are God. I can't do anything, but you are almighty." The father entrusted himself to Jesus and stands for all creatures who have lost footing and are longing for salvation.

At the end of the story, when the child is healed, the disciples ask Jesus why they could not heal and Jesus says this is only possible through prayer. The monthly DIAKONIA Prayer letter connects us as a worldwide community, may the power of prayer strengthen our community and radiate on our actions.

We pray for the victims of natural disasters in the Philippines, Indonesia and Australia, we pray for all the people who are fleeing war, violence, racism and oppression:

God, these days,
we often lose hope or have the impression our involvement is useless,
let the light of your resurrection shine deep inside our hearts
and light up our minds.

*Let it become the basis and source of our courage and our efforts,
to cope with the daily challenges
and to stand up against injustice,*

that endanger good coexistence. Amen
Prayer from Chile

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