

## **Reflection on the LWF Eleventh Assembly theme “Give Us Today Our Daily Bread”**

“Give us today our daily bread.” This petition is central to the Lord’s Prayer.

It stands for the bodyliness, for the "embodiedness" of our human existence. It is a petition for the life-giving bread that the world received in Jesus Christ, a petition for both corporality and spirituality. It is a petition for help in overcoming our material and social deficiencies: Give us today our daily bread.

Jesus teaches us that when we pray it can never be for ourselves alone: *Our* daily bread. In our prayer, we include the needs of others.

The relief organization “Brot für die Welt” was founded in Germany 50 years ago. From prayer springs development cooperation, from prayer springs our awareness of our far-away neighbor.

When Christians gather in Stuttgart in 2010 for the Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation with this petition from the Lord’s Prayer as their motto, they will be praying. They will reflect about justice and plan concrete actions to make it an ever greater reality, so that, hopefully, in the future, the children of the world will be able to pray “Give us today our daily bread” more often out of gratitude than out of dire need.

As bishop of Württemberg I am pleased to have the opportunity to join in this common prayer in 2010 in Stuttgart.

God bless you.

Bishop Frank Otfried July