

# Verlaufsplan: Look, I am making all things new!" Justice between generations, or: how to encourage contacts between elderly and young people in church

**Termin: 24.8.09**

**Ort: Workshop Leuven**

**Leitung:**

| Zeit        | Ziel   | Inhalt/ Formen  | Material/ Sonstiges |
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| 10.45-11.00 | Feeling welcomed and introduced in the topic | <p>Welcome to this workshop! I am happy, that you answered my invitation with interest and are here with us to think about justice between elderly and young people.</p> <p>In my hometown my job is adult education and I am specialized for old people. And that includes, that I think about, how young and old people can live together, can have a sense of community.</p> <p>I gave the workshop a biblic title: Look, I am making all things new. In the bible you often have the word: Look! Always when the biblic authors want to say: Look, be aware of all the good things God will give for you.</p> <p>In that moment I look at you and you look at me and you look at each other. For the moment I want you to stay looking and to introduce us. So I have prepared some questions and I beg you to stand up, if you want to say "Yes"</p> <p>Who is working mostly with young people?</p> <p>Who is working with elderly People?</p> <p>Who is working with all generations?</p> <p>Who has tried something new last week, f.e. cooked a new ..., tried out a new sport.... How did you like it? Did you need courage to do that?</p> <p>Who has played with a child last week? What and with whom?</p> <p>Who of you had a happy or good meeting with a teeny?</p> <p>Who has been angry about a teeny in the last two weeks?</p> <p>Who of you thinks, that we have a lot to thank the generations before us?</p> |                     |

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|                    |   | <p>Who of you thinks that we, who live today have a high responsibility for the coming generations?</p>  |  |
| <p>11.00-11.10</p> | <p>comparing experiences what means "Youth" and "old age".</p>                          | <p>When we talk about the youth and the Elderly it is helpful to imagine concrete person. In a second step I want you exactly to do that: think of a concrete young person, perhaps your children, nieces or nephews or your pupils or your Sunday school class.....<br/>         And then please imagine a concrete elderly person.....<br/>         Please take for the moment the role of that person, make a role exchange and introduce yourself as tat person.</p> <p>For example: I am Lisa, I am 18 years old. I like football, tattoos and the piercing on my lips and my tongue.</p>   |  |
| <p>11.10-11.20</p> | <p>You will look from a biblical, prophetic perspective on the demographic changes.</p> | <p><i>The EU is facing unprecedented demographic changes that will have a major impact on the whole of society from now until 2030 the EU will lack 20.8 million (6.8 per cent) people (*) of working age. In 2030 roughly two active people (15-65) will have to take care of one inactive person (65+). And Europe will have 18 million children and young people fewer than today.</i></p> <p>"The issues are much broader than older workers and pension reform. This development will affect almost every aspect of our lives, for example the way businesses operate and work is being organised, our urban planning, the design of flats, public transport, voting behaviour and the infrastructure of shopping possibilities in our cities – and it will have a big affect in our congregations, our churches.</p> <p>I be affected as people live longer and enjoy better health, the birth rate falls and our workforce shrinks.</p> |  |

**Raising life expectancy**

People are living longer and older people are enjoying better health. By 2030, the number of "older workers" (aged 55 to 64) will have risen by 24 million as the baby-boomer generation become senior citizens and the EU will have 34.7 million citizens aged over 80 (compared to 18.8 million today). Average life expectancy at 60 has risen five years since 1960 for women and nearly four years for men. The number of people 80+ will grow by 180% by 2050.

**Fertility rate**

The EU's fertility rate fell to 1.48 in 2003, below the level needed to replace the population (2.1 children per woman). The paper shows that the EU's population will fall from 469.5 million in 2025 to 468.7 million in 2030. By contrast, the US population will increase by 25.6 per cent between 2000 and 2025. However, demographic decline is already here: in one third of the EU regions and in most of the regions of the new member states the population was already falling in the late 90s.

In the year 2030 we will have a few children baptized and small groups of children in Sunday schools. But we will have big groups of elderly people with a lot of working experience, life experiences and many of them will live as a single.

All life is life in relationship. That applies for the relationship of man to God and for his or her relationship to other people. We are given to each other and we need each other: that is also true for a sense of community between the generations. Living together succeeds when there are trust and acceptance and a just and fair balance of the interest of generations.

That is, what the bible is talking about. I have bible words, who may be helpful to deal with the relationship between people.

What do you think – which of the bible words attracts you?

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| <p>11.20-<br/>11.40</p> | <p>you will share ideas, how the gap between young and old can be bridged.</p> | <p>Why is it attractive and what consequence does it have for you and your work?<br/>Please share your ideas.</p> | <p><b>Bible words on a sheet of piece of paper</b><br/>God created humankind in his own image.<br/>1.Mos. 1,27</p> <p>Honor your father and your mother just as the Lord your God has commanded you to do, so that your days may be extended and that it may go well with you in the land that he is about to give you.<br/>5.Mos 5,16</p> <p>Moreover, the Lord who rules over all says, 'Old men and women will once more live in the plazas of Jerusalem, each one leaning on a cane because of advanced age. And the streets of the city will be full of boys and girls playing. Sacharja 8, 4-5</p> <p>The Lord owns the earth and all it contains,<br/><br/>the world and all who live in it.</p> <p><b>Ps 24,1</b></p> |
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| 11.40-11.50 | <p>You will be introduced to some projects bringing together young and older people and have broken down barriers in a southern german town</p> <p>and together we try to find enriching solutions for your congregation at home.</p> | <p>Bilder von generationsübergreifender Arbeit<br/>         Let's have a look on these fotos</p>   | <p>Bilder von Interviewprojekten<br/>         Theaterprojekten,<br/>         Erzählen von Großeltern<br/>         – Kinder Führungen im Museum<br/>         Handykurse<br/>         Computerkurse</p> |
| 11.50-12.00 |   | <p>Look – I am making all things new.<br/>         You have looked on photos, you have heard a lot in this last hour.<br/>         Did you see or hear something new?<br/>         Did you get a new idea your congregation at home?</p> |   |
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