

Mehrdad Sepheri Fard, Persian-speaking pastoral care in the EKvW, Paderborn

Input Workshop 5 on Saturday, 29.5.2021  
Mission in intercultural encounters and "in-between spaces"

"The congregations united in the International Church Convention Rhineland-Westphalia inspire us with their lively worship services, their lived spirituality and last but not least with their missionary orientation. For ecumenical encounters, intercultural "in-between spaces" are necessary, which uncover cultural constrictions and also reflect the multifaceted richness of the Christian witness."

With a few sentences I would like to respond to thesis 7 and the mission paper of the EKvW . I am a pastor for Persian-speaking pastoral care and work in the intermediate space between the regional church and Persian-speaking Christians. Through baptism courses, faith courses and church services I reach many people who are looking for contact with the Westphalian church and ask to be baptized. But they ask even more about the lived faith that sustains Christians.

I would therefore like to add a few sentences to the EKvW's mission paper that have become important to me in my work.

- 1) The Christian faith is not an inheritance that one receives from one's parents.
2. the Christian faith is a new life in Jesus. Nationality, skin color or geographical origin make no difference.
3. the Christian life makes the difference: One can learn Christianity, but Christian faith must be lived.

In the workshop I will elaborate on these sentences.

Thank you,  
Mehrdad Sepheri Fard, 26.5.2021