

Waking the Giant Training of Trainers

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Three basic questions

- How to engage churches and Christians in the SDG Agenda?
- How does Christian faith motivate and mobilize for such engagement?
- What biblical motifs and narratives may serve as tools for this engagement?

Reading the SDG Agenda as an opportunity for the churches' public witness and diaconal ministry

- Public recognition of the roles of churches and FBOs in the public space, as agents in civil society promoting human dignity, justice, peace and sustainable life styles
- The SDG Agenda corresponds to issues that since long have been on the agenda of international diakonia
- Assuming a critical and constructive role
 - Too optimistic?
 - Does not deal with the issue of power
 - Does not question the reigning economic model
 - Does not acknowledge the urgency of the climate change
 - Does not consider the shrinking space for civil society
 - Does not deal with the issue of migrants / refugees

The Biblical vocation to care for creation

- The task to “till and keep the garden” (Gen 2:15)
- Humans beings are to be good steward of God’s creation
- The liberation from slavery – so that the people could work/serve/worship
- A holistic (comprehensive) concept of service
- Martin Luther: the ethics of work – promoting common good

The ministry of Jesus

- Holistic ministry of proclaiming, teaching and healing (Matt 4:23)
- Announcing and anticipating The Kingdom of God – good news to the poor (Luk 4:18-19), justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom 14,17)
- A public ministry: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (Joh 20,21)
- A commission given to Christians as individuals (baptism) and to the community of Christians (diakonia)

How to read the Bible with reference to the SDGs?

- The Bible – window to see our reality better
- The Bible – a mirror that reflects our attitudes and ways of action
- The Bible – a lamp that show us where to go
- The method **see – judge – act**

See: what is the reality that surround us?

To identify the signs of the time in which we live.

- The wounded planet – the quest for climate justice
- Growing social differences between rich and poor – economic justice
- Violence against women – gender justice
- Pandemic affirming the differences among people and societies – health justice

Judge: How to discern the signs of the time in the light of God's word?

- How are we trying to deal with these challenges, what are our strengths and shortcomings – as citizens/civil society and as Christians/churches?
- How does God's word motivate us to hope and discipleship?
- How to interpret what we see in the perspective of Christian faith?
- How can the Biblical message help to discern?

Act: How can our action be renewed and become more targeted?

- Areas of action – the same as before?
- Methodology
- Partnerships
- Advocacy – the vocation for others (ad-vocatio)
- Provocation – the vocation to open for new understanding, new life style and action (pro-vocation)

One example:

SDG Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

Step 1: **SEE**

- What do we see around us?
- In the church
- In our society
- How do we understand economic growth?

SDG Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

Step 2: **JUDGE**

- Identify relevant biblical texts
- ... for the laborer deserves to be paid ... (Luke 10:7)
- They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit (Isaiah 65:21)
- Matthews 20:1-16. The laborers in the vineyard

SDG Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

Step 3: **ACT**

- How can the church be involved in promoting justice and decent work?
- What critical questions should the church raise regarding economic growth?