

## **MORE STEADFAST IN MISSION CALLING & EVANGELISM**

“On their way from city to city Paul and Silas conveyed the decisions that the apostles and elders had made in Jerusalem with a message that the churches should obey them. Thus the churches were confirmed in the faith, and were increasing in number” (Acts 16:4-5).

This month is December, the last month of our journey as His congregation in 2021. Usually at the end of the year we re-evaluate our life journey as a church and as His disciples before we take further steps, namely by looking at what things we have succeeded in doing this year and also what things we haven't finished yet. We should be grateful to God for all the things He has done in our lives during this year's journey, because God has been with all GMI congregations in all cities in Germany and in the Netherlands, and is very real in taking care of His congregations, even though the number of souls is small and still limited, but to this day still able to survive and run in His plan. Entering the upcoming 2022, we must further increase the task of carrying out local missions and evangelism that must be carried out by every member of His body. This task is so urgent. When the Lord Jesus Christ was still serving in this world, He once stated this and invited His disciples to complete the work given by His Father. In John 9:4 the Lord Jesus said, “We must do the work of Him who sent Me, while it is still day; the night will come when no one can work.” And when He was in Samaria, His disciples urged Him to eat, but He explained to them the need to look at the yellowing fields by then (John 4:34-35). He kept in mind other cities to be reached (Luke 4:43); other sheep that needed to be put into the fold (John 10:16); prodigal son who must return to the Father (Luke 15:11,ff.). Then in Matthew 9:37-38 the Lord Jesus once said to His disciples: “The harvest is indeed much, but the workers are few. Therefore ask the Lord who is the harvester to send workers for the harvest.” He did all this until the day in prayer He announced to the heavenly Father that His work was done (John 17:4). He unceasingly introduced them to the Father with His love and glory. This urgent task is perpetuated by Him through the people He has discipled. They were all equipped with power from on High, that is, filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; 2:1, etc.). And since the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost until the day Paul and Silas walked from city to city (Acts 16:4-5), even today the Holy Spirit continues to bless and anoint His disciples. In those days, when Paul and Silas were walking around from town to town asking the churches to obey them, the churches were strengthened in their faith and grew in number more and more people who were won for Christ. Likewise, if the congregations of today want to obey what God has ordered to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20) and unite to want to move forward together, then He will also fulfill the same thing for us. The Lord's church is currently preparing itself to welcome the second coming of the Lord Jesus. The signs of the last days as written in 2 Timothy 3:1-9 are becoming more and more evident before us. We are called to be witnesses of the gospel of His Kingdom. And while the devil is also working hard in these last days to destroy and kill His living church so that it loses its testimony, we must remain strong in the strength of His might. We must keep fighting and praying that God can resurrect us as His church. Therefore, let's celebrate Christmas this year with God's vision. The real Christmas is not a party, but a mission of God's love to humans. Pray that those who have not been saved can be won over and that our faith can also be strengthened even more at the end of this year and in preparing ourselves for the year 2022. We pray that His visit will be upon us in Europe. Merry Christmas 2021 & New Year 2022, Lord Jesus be with us and bless our next journey. Amen!

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