

## **BUILD A SPIRIT THAT BUILDS UP EACH OTHER**

“For God did not designate us to be wrathful, but to be saved through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we watch or sleep, we may live with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, as you are doing” (1 Thess. 5:9-11)

Praise God, we have been led by God to enter the month of June 2022. June is a historic month for us, because on the first Sunday in June 1993, GMI was finally able to stand up and start in Frankfurt after about a year (1992) struggling with God's plan. In June 2022, GMI in Frankfurt will enter its 29th year. In entering the age of 29, we are challenged to become God's family that can build each other up. We are grateful to God who has entrusted us with making disciples of His children and shepherding God's flock that is within us, not only in Frankfurt and its surroundings, but also in several cities in Germany and the Netherlands. Together with all God's servants and intercessors in all GMI congregations, we have been praying and working together to build each other up. Each city has its own advantages and disadvantages. We also continue to ask God to give us more and more ways of discipleship and outreach to new souls that will glorify His name and are also easy to practice, especially by using social/digital media tools that exist in our time today. GMI also needs more and more of God's workers in every city or future leaders of GMI who are loyal, committed and willing to pay the price to work together to achieve the vision that God has entrusted to them (see website: [www.gereja-misi-indonesia.org](http://www.gereja-misi-indonesia.org)). The year 2022 is a year full of challenges and changes in GMI's body, because God allows tests and filtering. However, I am grateful that to this day there are still members who are loyal and committed to continue and to participate in building His church according to God's plan and will. Therefore, according to our theme, let's keep fighting and keep building a spirit that builds each other up according to what God wants. We need to continue to be processed to reach spiritual maturity. The struggle of the church so far is that there are still many Christians whose spiritual growth is stunted because they only think about their own interests and are not ready to build each other up for several reasons. It often happens that there are people who follow God by presenting themselves as if they seem spiritually mature, but in reality they are not. Many are supposed to be “spiritually mature” and able to build each other up. But when the ability to process problems feels deadlocked and insurmountable, they choose to distance themselves and leave the church, the place where they should be planted and pastored. Such people find it difficult to grow into spiritual maturity because they often treat others only as objects to fulfill their interests and not to build each other up. The root of the problem lies in a false spirituality, which is not rooted in the understanding and truth of His Word. The guiding verse of God's Word today says, "For God did not designate us to be afflicted with wrath, but to be saved through Jesus Christ our Lord, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together same with Him. Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing” (1 Thess. 5:9-11). Therefore, let us be more serious in advising one another and building one another up, so that we can become His church that is increasingly pleasing to God. Amen!

By Pastor Silwanus Obadja M.Th.