

DARE TO PAY THE PRICE FOR CHRIST

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.” (Colossians 3:23-24 KJV)

As usual, in October 2024, we, the GMI family, will again hold a Retreat Encounter (Meeting) inviting all spiritual leaders, administrators, workers and congregation members in the GMI environment to unite and gather together in Braunfels, Hessen. One of the purposes of holding the retreat is to invite all members of the family of God throughout the ranks of GMI to be ready to pay the price for Christ, the benefits of which are extraordinary for each individual. We are all called to carry out ministry in accordance with His gifts, plans and will and we are challenged to dare to pay the price for Christ. It is very important to participate in this congregation's Retreat Encounter. But the Lord Jesus always gives freedom to everyone He calls (1 Corinthians 7:22). Basically, the Retreat Encounter (meeting) is an important means for achieving the church's vision and mission. His word in Ephesians 4:16 says - "From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." We as a large GMI family spread across 7 cities need to gather together at least once a year in this Retreat event and be bound together by the service of all its parts. The Retreat is a meeting place to strengthen each other and serve each other together. Even though we are "free people", God specifically wants us to be ready to serve Him and even dare to pay the price for Him. In the Gospel of John 12:26, the Lord Jesus said, "Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. Whoever serves Me the Father will honour." Fulfilling a calling according to God's plan and will is not easy if our hearts and minds are still filled with personal plans and desires. People who are ready to serve Christ must also be ready to pay the price for Christ. Through the implementation of this Encounter Retreat, all of us without exception are called to be ready to welcome Christ's second coming. Everyone in the GMI family and every servant of His is given the same opportunity to be able to prepare themselves to welcome the plan of His return. To fulfil this calling according to His plan and will, we need to pay the price for participation, sacrifice of time, money and energy. The Apostle Paul is a personal figure who can be an example and role model for those of us who long to fulfil His calling. In his calling, he always learned to forget what was behind him and direct himself to what was before him (Philippians 3:13). He was able to do that because he realised how important it was to live a life and ministry according to His plan and will. He also did not forget to remind others. Before his death he testified about what he had done: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7 KJV). And in the end, with full victory and confidence, he could say: "Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:8). He was convinced that this did not only apply to him, but also to all who were willing to pay the price for Christ, who were willing to fulfil his calling and who longed for his coming. May the Lord Jesus bless you!

By Pastor Silwanus Obadja M.Th.