

United Evangelical Mission · Rudolfstrasse 137 · D-42285 Wuppertal

To the UEM Church leaders,
To the UEM Council members,
To the UEM Co-workers
in Africa, Asia and Germany

General Secretariat

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vmd/um

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I am sending today my warmest greetings to you, my sisters and brothers in the UEM community, and I am wishing you our Lord's strength in these times as well as HIS perseverance in going through the pandemic times day-by-day.

On June 24th, we will celebrate St. John's the Baptist's Day. Thinking about St. John's life and his encounters, not only with our Lord Jesus Christ but with those he met in his life, I once again marvel the miracle of God's time plan and I admire the ways God is using us humans during our time on earth.

John, served – besides his many other tasks - as a kind of intermediate, who represented a transitional period, a man that connected two time-periods in the Gospel: Not only was he born shortly before our Lord Jesus Christ himself was born, John, who was human and a sinner as all of us are, was allowed and encouraged to baptize our Lord Jesus himself! If you think about it – what a wondrous course of events. God puts our world upside-down!

One thing during this event makes me especially happy: Although knowing that John, the Baptist, was a sinner and was of human nature, our Lord explicitly asked him to baptize him. Whoever wants to follow Jesus must be prepared to experience extraordinary things. In this time of the pandemic we have found new and unusual ways to practice our following of Christ. Perhaps we will also in the future develop completely new structures for fellowship in faith. This readiness for change is part of what discipleship means.

Soeren Kierkegaard once said:

"It is well known that Christ consistently used the expression follower. He never asks for admirers, worshippers, or adherents. No, he calls disciples. It is not adherents of a teaching but followers of a life Christ is looking for. Holiness is what we can strive for!"

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Let us altogether strive for this holiness in our lives because we know that we are encouraged by our Lord to do our work, despite the fact that we are not perfect. It takes courage to do it. John the Baptist reminds me of a courageous person who in his time announced changes to the world. He trusts that with Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit will come and with him the ability to change.

Let us trust together that God will provide this Holy Spirit and the needed power.

Wishing you and your families and all members of your church a blessed time in the middle of the year!

With greetings from all of the Management Team I remain your brother in Christ



Rev. Volker Martin Dally
(General Secretary)