



**European Baptist Federation Council  
Nazareth, Israel  
21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

The Council of the European Baptist Federation

**Rejoices** in the words of Jesus Christ **who said in the town of Nazareth;**

**The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.**

**Luke 4:18-19**

**Understands** the current events in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa as an opportunity for peaceful and positive changes. We encourage all Baptists in the region to a lifestyle of Christian discipleship and prayer and in doing so to be salt and light wherever they are placed.

**Finds hope** in the commitment of our Baptist heritage and identity to religious freedom and human rights for all people of all religions to live together at peace with each other. We affirm our oneness with our Arab **and Israeli** brothers and sisters in Christ as **together** we follow the example of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

**Calls** for unity among the member Unions of the European Baptist Federation with all Christians in the Middle East, especially our Arab Baptist brothers and sisters, encouraging them in this season of social unrest and political uncertainty. We welcome meaningful dialogue and encourage a fresh engagement of peaceful and legal processes set up for purposes of freedom, justice and democracy.

**Condemns** every form of violent protest and repression of peaceful demonstrations in the Arab World and expresses great concern about recent attacks made on Christians and Christian churches by extremist groups, especially in Egypt and Iraq.

**Encourages** Baptists in the Middle East to explore further how an authentic Christian witness can be made with conviction, courtesy and respect in a Muslim majority context.

**Invites** the world family of Baptists to pray and work for freedom and justice in the **Middle East** and Arab world, **seeking** a just solution for the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine and to participate in our Unions through local justice and peace initiatives in the member countries of the European Baptist Federation.