

A MESSAGE TO THE BAPTISTS OF THE WORLD
from the Executive Committee of the
BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE
Tølløse, Denmark
August 4 - 8, 1952

The Baptist World Alliance, through its Executive Committee, meeting in Tølløse, Denmark, August 4 - 8, 1952, would greet all Baptist everywhere in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. In all our deliberations we have been mindful of our common heritage in the Lord and of our continuing mission in His name to the whole world. We would not glory in our numbers but we cannot be unmindful that not fewer than eighteen million people today throughout the world are members of Baptist churches. Several million more cherish those convictions, attitudes, and purposes which by God's good grace have come to us from the New Testament. With all of these we have been bound together in a world-wide fellowship. This is all the Lord's doing, and it is in Him that we would glory and to Him that we would offer praise.

We as Baptists are set today in a world of revolutionary change. New paganisms, flushed with recent and notable victories, seek to bring all the world into captivity to concepts and to patterns of behavior utterly foreign to Christian life and thought. Old religions, also, spurred on by rising tides of nationalism, are showing new life and new opposition to the ideas and ideals of the Kingdom of our Lord. Even in those lands where our churches have been long established and have enjoyed the manifold blessings of God, demonic powers have found new and alluring ways to entice people, young and old, into paths which lead to moral and spiritual decay and death.

In this world, Baptists are commissioned of God to provide their own redemptive and revolutionary faith - a faith which centers in Him who said, "Behold, I make all things new", and who continually demonstrates His power to make of any man a new creature living in a new universe. We are not frantically searching for an alternative to any so-called way of life, because we believe with all our hearts and minds that we have found in Jesus Christ the One who is Himself the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Jesus, the Living Lord and the Lord of Life, would we proclaim to a world which He loves and to which He would bring salvation, full and complete, in righteousness and peace, for both individuals and communities.

To this high purpose, God in Christ has called us all. He has set us in the world for such a time as this. We thank God that we are not working alone; that other men and women of many names also love our Lord in sincerity and truth and are faithful witnesses to His redeeming grace. But we would be less than true to ourselves and less than faithful to our Lord if we did not recognize His divine calling to us Baptists to proclaim by life and by word, in faithful witness and in loving ministry, the truth as God has given us to see it. This we shall, please God, continue to do, and to do in continuing hope and good cheer.

We are painfully aware that situations obtain in the world today which make impossible face to face contact with our brethren in some lands. No frontiers, however, separate us in the fellowship of the Spirit; and in prayer for one another we can continually renew our oneness in Christ. Accordingly we urge Baptists continually to pray for one other. We would urge them also to pray for the peace of the world and for the establishment and maintenance of those conditions of righteousness and justice in all the relations of life which make for peace.

We would remind all our people that we labor not in vain in the Lord - that we serve One who is not only all-loving, but all-wise and almighty, and One whose redemptive purpose will prevail. At a time when the hearts of many are failing them in foreboding and in fear, we would call on all Baptists throughout the world to be not fearful but believing, full of faith and hope:

"For he has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he has set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him, according to the counsel of his will, we who first hoped in Christ have been destined and appointed to live for the praise of his glory."