

# **GLOBAL BAPTIST PEACE CONFERENCE**

**February 9-14, 2009**

**ROME, ITALY**

## **DECLARATION OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he hath anointed me  
to preach the gospel to the poor;  
he hath sent me to heal  
the brokenhearted,  
to preach deliverance to the captives,  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty them that are bruised,  
To preach the acceptable year of the Lord”.  
Luke 4:18-19

Meeting together, 28 brothers and sisters from Latin American and Caribbean countries, region of the world called Abya Yala by our ancestors, and as part of the Global Baptist Peace Conference, before the Lord of history, this conference and the world,

WE DECLARE our commitment to peaces to continue to struggle for liberty, a historical legacy of our Baptist forefathers and mothers. Liberty, which to be real has as a necessary condition the justice that God’s Shalom brings, that is full life.

Because of this, WE ASK THE LORD:

- To bless the efforts for peace that churches and Christian organizations, our muslim brothers and sisters and other religions of the world.
- To bless the spirit and letter, as much as the practice of the Charter of Earth of the United Nations.
- To bless the work done by the nations to reach the goals of Development of the Millenium, to the end of diminishing hunger and poverty of the world, also the eradication of the cause that makes those evils avoidable.

At the same time, WE DEPLORE:

- The attack to life that as a national and world system and structure does the savage capitalism.
- The industry of armaments that nurtures militarism in the world causing wars and violence.
- The unjust distribution of natural resources and the riches of people.

- The unjust privatization of science and technology now in the hands of the powerful countries.
- The use of political power to favor the economical interests of particular groups in certain countries and international relations.
- The racism, sexism and reification of the woman, and the degradation of the economic immigrants.
- The traffic of drugs and the ideological tyranny that power-groups inflict controlling the communication media such as the written press and TV.
- The abuse of the natural resources and the destruction of the environment, risking the future of the new generations.

**WE FIRMLY DEMAND:**

- The end of the economic embargo, that for 50 years the U.S.A. has imposed on our sister Republic of Cuba. An embargo that has hampered seriously the development of a social system that aims its autonomy.
- That the indictments against the five cubans jailed in U.S.A., who taking into account the many acts of sabotage and assaults to the Cuban population were developing measures of prevention.
- The respect for the interests of life, culture and cosmovision of indigenous and afro descendent peoples. Particularly that the economic and political process actually in course in Bolivia and Equator.

We also express our support to the Alternativa Bolivariana for the Americas (ALBA) because it is a project of integration that promotes the peace of the people. In this sense we call on those who try to obstacle it.

At the same time we ask the Lord to intervene in the process of justice and peace of sister countries of Colombia, Nicaragua and El Salvador, that the victims of the conflicts and the empoverished be repaired and restituted appropriately and on time.

Finally we share the dream of beginning a process that will foster a Latin American and Caribbean fellowship in unity towards peace. Our unity is very important to promote peace. It is very useful to count with the support of the young people and teh rest of the sectors that forme the churches to the peace efforts.

With faith in God, giver of life, lover of peace with justice and liberator of victims, we affirm the declaration of his glory.

**MARANATHA, COME LORD JESUS!**