



**BAPTIST
WORLD
ALLIANCE**



FROM THE **PRESIDENT'S DESK**

A Message for the New Year

The best way to begin a new year is to be wholeheartedly involved in the work that God is doing in the world.

The way in which God engages in the world is the guarantee of the goodness, the justice, the love, the tenderness, the service, the freedom that God himself produces in human beings and in his creation.

The church is alive in its obedience to Jesus in everything for which it must train itself to live wisely, responsibly, and with commitment.

However, the church lives in a world full of temptations, pains, insecurities, and darkness so that its commitment to mission faces resistance, setbacks, and complications. For this reason, its hope cannot be confused with naive optimism.

Its hope is based on the conviction of the Lordship of Jesus and on the certainty of the light of his living and effective Word.

However, the reality of God at work in the world and the call of Christ to be heralds and servants of his plan of life is the most hopeful, strengthening, realistic and challenging way to begin a new year and live in fullness.

The church does not proclaim a way out or a forgetfulness of reality. It does not invite us to live as if nothing were happening. It does not adhere to apathy or human insensitivity.

On the contrary, the church is called to announce and to live in a profound and committed way the reality offered by Jesus with his redeeming presence and liberating work in every place and at every moment.

Nothing is more real and more authentic than God acting in our world, in our cities and towns, in our cultures, together with real persons.

The proclamation of hope with which we wish to live the new year does not seek an ecclesial triumphalism. It is not the proclamation of ourselves or of our institutions. It is not the search for power or glory.

The hope with which we seek to live is Christ himself – the way, the truth, the life.

It includes solidarity, compassion, service to all human beings without discrimination – particularly to so many suffering, deprived, unprotected people throughout the world – and care for the divine creation.

The way the Lord serves the world is the example to follow.

His empathy, his love, his sensitivity to every human being is invigorating. This involves attending to the lament of so many in every corner of the world for the multiplicity of hurts and pains they suffer.

As a worldwide Baptist family, we commit ourselves to proclaim and live the Kingdom of God and his justice and to work for the social and personal changes from the inside out that the Lord brings about.

Together with the biblical writer we pray: "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen." (2 Corinthians 13:14)

We believe that longing for a good year includes opening ourselves to the fullness of joy that Jesus is and brings. It involves integrating ourselves into the community he helps us build, and a good year is especially opening ourselves to the eternity-quality life that he is and that he so generously shares with us.

On behalf of the Baptist World Alliance and Baptists in 128 countries and territories, may we in this new year enjoy together the powerful, loving, just, wise, and redemptive action of God in our world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tomás Mackey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "M".

Rev. Tomás Mackey
President
Baptist World Alliance