**Prayers of Intercession for Baptist Assembly 2016**

**Based on the Lord’s Prayer**

***Our Father in Heaven***

Your presence embraces a broken world.

In that world there are broken people, with many fleeing a world that they know and love, believing they have no choice but to leave their home because of persecution, discrimination and poverty.

Our Father in Heaven

We pray for your presence to envelope the many vulnerable people who have fled their homelands and embarked upon treacherous journeys to find solace, security in friendships and safety in foreign lands.

Our Father in Heaven

Today and tomorrow, hold their hands firmly, and the hands of their families firmly, in their pursuit for dignity and hope.

**Hallowed be your name**

And so we pray for the many refugees who have left Syria, Afghanistan, Northern Nigeria, Pakistan, India, Sudan, Egypt, Somalia, Iraq and Iran - forced to live lives of poverty, challenged by relentless indignity, lamenting loss.

Jehovah Jirah,

when refugees beg you for mercy, please respond by calling them by their names too. Reveal to them the characteristics in your name of love, mercy and justice.

**Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on Earth as in Heaven**

And so Father in Heaven, in whose name we pray, we pray for the many unaccompanied children, desperately trying to eke out an existence in foreign lands. As Baptist people, we pray that your Kingdom will come and your will be done for them.

We pray for the many women refugees struggling to survive in refugee camps. As Baptist people, we pray that your Kingdom will come and your will be done for them.

We pray for the many refugees who feel degraded and discriminated against. As Baptist people, we pray that your kingdom will come and your will be done for them.

We pray for the many asylum seekers seeking indefinite leave to remain in various European Countries. As Baptist people, we pray that your kingdom will come and your will be done for them.

**Give us today our daily bread**

God of provision, so many refugees are not just stranded in foreign countries, but hungry. Many have sojourned for days and nights without bread and water. Aware of your ability to provide, we pray that you will provide bread for the many famished refugees. For the refugees beset by injustice, lead them to justice...

**And forgive us our sins**

Forgive those sins that have violated the humanity of others,

those sins that have rejected the outsider,

those sins that have prevented us from fully embracing the other,

those sins that have stopped us from recognising our own power and privilege,

those sins that have obscured the image of God reflected in his children.

… As we forgive those who sin against us.

**Lead us not in temptation but deliver us from evil**

The evil of doing nothing. Watching with the callousness of indifference. Refusing, often because of our own prejudices, to make the necessary sacrifices to help the 'other.'

Deliver us we pray from such collusion and lead us not into temptation.

Instead, help our Associations to be supportive environments where vulnerable refugees experience unconditional embrace.

Help our churches to challenge the national policies that undermine and dehumanise refugees.

Help our colleges to be places that continue to equip students with a total commitment to the Christ who lived and breathed justice.

And so, our Father in Heaven, continue to teach us how to listen to you and respond in fervent prayer for the vulnerable and abandoned in our midst.

So together let's pray...

*Together we say the Lord’s Prayer*