

The Alliance of Baptists

A Statement on Zimbabwe

April 21, 2001

As a partner body of the Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe, the Alliance of Baptists, gathered in Annual Meeting today, reiterates its continuing solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe in their ongoing struggle with disease and poverty. We are painfully aware of the repeated devaluation of Zimbabwe's currency in recent years and the difficult choices consequently forced upon millions of Zimbabweans in their daily lives.

We take note as well of internal political uncertainty and external economic pressures, including that of the repayment of debt to international monetary organizations and to the more developed nations, including the United States of America. We implore our own government to expand upon the debt relief granted certain nations in legislation adopted in the last Congress so that no nation in the world, Zimbabwe included, is forced any longer to repay debts to the United States at the peril of its own citizens' lives and health.

We acknowledge the health crisis in Zimbabwe attributable to the spread of HIV/AIDS and implore our government and U.S.-based pharmaceutical companies to do everything in their power to make the necessary anti-AIDS medications available at more affordable prices to the millions of Zimbabweans and other Africans who have been, are being, and will be infected by this deadly virus.

Finally, we assure our sisters and brothers in the churches of the Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe of our fervent prayers for the efficacy of their witness to our common Savior and Sovereign, Jesus the Christ, in their society, even as we implore them to pray for us in the offering of our witness in our society.