



Supreme Council of the
Evangelical Community in Syria and Lebanon
P.O Box 70 / 1065
Antelias
Lebanon

Brussels, 27 November 2016

Dear sisters and brothers,

On this first Sunday of the Advent period - the season of hope - our thoughts go to those for whom hope seems to be a forlorn dream, a state of mind that is constantly depressed by the grim realities of the day, a promise of God which seems further away than in any other time in history.

It is very difficult to see glimmers of hope in the lives of those who live in the area whose churches you represent. On a daily basis we see television images of the tremendous suffering of your people, of the bombing of houses and hospitals in Aleppo, and of refugee camps in the region which are filled to the brim. Even the doctors and the nurses who are trying to tend to the wounded seem to be specific targets of relentless bombing.

Faced with this situation, we often feel helpless and hopeless. We fervently pray for all those who suffer and for those who provide help where and when they can. Through our organisation called Protestant Solidarity, we collect money for the work of Action by Churches Together in your part of the world. Through our newly initiated project on Hope and Houses, our parishes try to help refugees, many of whom come from Syria, to find a roof over their head in Belgium. We realise that these are small measures compared to the sheer magnitude of the suffering. At the same time, they are an expression of our solidarity with your people.

We would like to let you know that you and your people are constantly in our minds and in our prayers, especially in this period of Advent in which we expect the coming of the Prince of Peace.

Yours in Christ,

Steven H. Fuite
President of the Synodal Council