

April 10, 2017

Arabic Baptist Church
187 Church St
Newton, MA 02458

Press Release

The Arabic Baptist Church hereby offers our love, sympathy, and encouragement to all of the oppressed people who are not free to live and worship as they choose. We specifically reach out to those affected by the bombings of the two Coptic Churches in Tanta and Alexandria in Egypt and the suffering in Syria recently.

We trust that God loves people. We may grieve and suffer on earth collectively with those who are harmed by evil. However we will not fear evil; God has the ultimate say and judgement in his chosen time. Though it is hard to see and experience evil and suffering, we know that God uses all circumstances for good. We are promised that in Romans 8:28: **“²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”**

It is in this time that we must exhibit **Love**. Anger and frustration must be tempered in light of accepting God’s sovereignty under which we live and die. As we celebrate this Holy week of Easter we invite all people to recognize that Jesus chose to conquer our hearts and minds with his sacrifice, even to death on the cross. Jesus gave us a choice to believe or reject him. Jesus never forced his message on anyone. He redeems all who choose to accept him freely. His message is Love, even towards our enemies.

We support our government with prayers for wisdom. It is because we rely on our government and our fellow citizens for protection that we must unify our country in prayer. We pray that our country would have a heart abounding with love for our enemies; not the evil of their deeds. We invite all to join us in that task of prayer as a nation.

Our goal is sharing the message of Christ Jesus, which is redemption for even the worst sinner who accepts grace. Our brothers and sisters in Egypt paid dearly for sharing that message openly on a Palm Sunday. We stand with them. They did nothing to deserve the evil that came to their door. We pray with them and for them. Finally, we direct you to the words of Jesus:

John 16:2, 33 “in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God.³ They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me.”

³³ “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Please join us this week reflecting on The Lord of peace, Christ Jesus, and the healing that faith brings especially in times of trouble.

Arabicbaptist.org