

Statement by the Australasian-Middle East Christian Apostolic Churches (AMEC) concerning the quakes in south-eastern Turkey and northern Syria

Sydney, Australia, 15 February 2023 - The Australasian-Middle East Christian Apostolic Churches (AMEC) extends its heartfelt condolences to the people of Turkey and Syria worldwide who mourn the loss of loved ones following the catastrophic quakes on Monday 6 February in the region.

A week after the quakes, which have so far claimed the lives of over 33,000 people and injured more than 80,000, search-and-rescue efforts are continuing in the hope of finding more survivors beneath the rubble, despite a shortage of resources and fatigue.

“We are profoundly saddened by the devastation of the earthquakes and the huge loss of life,” said The Most Reverend Robert Rabbat, DD – AMEC President on behalf of the AMEC.

“We pray to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to grant rest for the souls of the dead, comfort to their families and loved ones, healing for the wounded and, hope and relief for the millions who have been displaced.

“The AMEC stands in solidarity with its suffering sisters and brothers in Turkey and Syria in this most painful and difficult times, and our faith remains in Christ, the light of the world, who will pour peace into the hearts of the millions people affected by this tragic event.”

“This disaster adds to the ordeal of all who continue to suffer from the tragedies of war, crises, epidemics, economic hardship, and the absence of daily basic necessities including medications. We hope and pray for immediate initiatives that will help secure relief and humanitarian aid in an area where it is much needed.”

Sunday 19 February is planned as a day of prayer across all churches beseeching Christ, our loving and merciful God, to grant peace and solace to the whole world.

Everyone is also encouraged to contact their parish priest if they are able to contribute financially to fundraising efforts.

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