

# The **REVIEW**

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*From the Pen of the Moderator*

## *A Blessed Fellowship*

by Jeff Bailey

It seems that as the world grows closer together (as a result of improving transportation and relative instantaneous communication), our Fundamental Baptist Churches seem to be growing further apart. In most cases this distancing has little to do with legitimate issues, but rather is usually a combination of many factors; such as different philosophies of ministries, theological nitpicking, an unhealthy sense of competition, and especially the lack of commitment on the part of Church members that often leads to membership exchanges between sister Churches. When we deny ourselves the blessing of fellowship with our sister Churches, we miss what the early Church found to be one of their greatest sources of strength. The bottom line is that we need each other now more than ever.



Jeff Bailey, Moderator

Nothing can replace the need for local cooperation between likeminded, fundamental Baptist Churches; but the Independent Baptist Fellowship of North America can be a tremendous resource to Churches. A fellowship such as ours can meet a number of needs. Every Church has a need for information, but it is the rare Pastor who has time to gather information about colleges, mission agencies, legislative issues affecting our movement, and developing theological issues that may have an impact on our Churches.

The IBFNA fills this void. We are working diligently to make the IBFNA *Review* an indispensable reservoir of information. At each of our conferences, workshops are presented that deal with different areas of concern. The IBFNA also gives the local church a more significant voice in speaking out on these issues. There truly is strength in numbers when Churches who are of one mind come together. Regional and National Conferences provide attendees with a

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sense of identity that helps them avoid the "only I am left" perspective on ministry. As the IBFNA Conference Coordinator, I have had the privilege of seeing people cultivate friendships that seem to grow in quality year by year. I have especially enjoyed getting to know godly church members who attend our conferences each year.

Our annual Conferences are important for Pastors who are in regular need for encouragement. Churches often fail to appreciate the need of their Pastors to break away and sit under the instruction of the Word of God in order to recharge their "spiritual battery". This is especially true of the Pastor who has no assistant to fill the pulpit from time to time.

The IBFNA exists to lead the cause for Biblical Separation, but as one can see that is hardly the only benefit of being part of this great fellowship.

### Staying on Course

The question of the future of the fellowship naturally arises. Where is the IBFNA headed? I cannot answer that question definitively, but I can share with you a few thoughts and concerns. First and foremost, we must endeavor to keep the pulpit hot in our meetings. It is the pulpit that defines us along with our official publications. We must fearlessly confront the issues that relate to our purpose, namely Biblical Separation. We must not concern ourselves with the criticisms of those who despise Separation. They will certainly say that we only beat one note on the drum, but if that note is the right note, then why would we fear to beat it loudly.

We need to recognize though, that keeping the pulpit hot is not enough. The current leaders of the GARBC grew up in the Association at a time when the pulpit was hot. They waited patiently and when the opportunity arose to take things in a different direction, they did so. Contrary to the belief of some, a hot pulpit does not always drive away compromisers. If it did, associations, fellowships, and denominations would not repudiate the principles upon which they were founded. A fellowship must go beyond the pulpit and endeavor to enforce its doctrinal distinctives. We must be willing to limit our fellowship in order to maintain our convictions.

We need to recognize that while the enemy is the same and the cause unchanged, the terrain of the battlefield is shifting constantly. It is vital that we educate ourselves on the issues of the day. I find it noteworthy that many of the battlefields that we are currently engaging were judged just a generation ago to have conquered territory. The field of Bibliology is a significant case in point. When the IBFNA adopted its Articles of Faith in Philadelphia in 1991, our Statement on Preservation was not in doubt. We deliberately chose to leave the issue of Preservation to each one's own conscience and, with but a few exceptions, the members of this fellowship have honored our original sentiments. The battlefield has, however, gone beyond legitimate debate on Preservation. Inspiration and Inerrancy are now the field in which the battle is being joined. We, as fundamentalists considered this fight to have ended years ago, but we are finding that we are wrong in that assessment. We must not allow our tolerance in the area of Preservation keep us from dealing with the subject of Bibliology. It was refreshing to see at our conference in Cleveland, a workshop on Inspiration by Dr. Ken Brown. It was an encouragement for me to look into the room and see men with differing positions participating in the discussion and finding complete unity in this vital area of theology.

May our brethren hear from us the certain trumpet of conviction in a day when there are very few who are willing to heed its call.



# PERSPECTIVES

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## *NCC, Habitat for Humanity ... And Money*

by Ralph G. Colas

The National Council of Churches (NCC), like its counterpart the World Council of Churches (WCC) has been for the past years financially identified by "red ink". The NCC has 36 mainline Protestant, African-American and Orthodox communions with 140,000 local churches in its membership.

However, like the WCC, many of the denominations that are NCC members do not financially support the ecumenical organization. Also some of the denominations themselves have had to cut back on their own budgets and therefore the NCC has been on the ropes financially. The former General Secretary, Rev. Joan Brown Campbell and others spent money like it was going out of style and several major denominations began to withhold their regular support.

Now that the Rev. Campbell is no longer the General Secretary and Rev. Bob Edgar has replaced her, the funds have begun to come into the NCC. Today, after a major reorganization of staff, facilities and budget, the NCC is back in the black. The NCC has become a partner with Habitat for Humanity and Children's Defense Fund and these bring in large gifts. Bob Edgar said, "Our donor support is up by double-and triple-digit percentages."

However, with great press coverage the NCC announced that the Lilly Endowment of Indianapolis, Indiana has awarded this ecumenical organization a \$500,000 grant to help the NCC develop resources for new programs. Some the NCC's programs include Bible translation (which produced the Revised and New Revised Standard Versions), 14 Christian education programs, a Washington-based public policy office, extensive interfaith relationships and a mobilization to reduce poverty in America.

As one looks at the programs and plans of the NCC it is easy to observe there is not one thing concerning winning individuals to Christ nor seeking to teach them important spiritual truths. These religious leaders are committed to another Gospel and another Christ.

Recently while I was sharing pertinent information about such organizations with a group of believers in a Sunday School class, one lady spoke up and said, "My sister is in a church that is in the National and World Councils of Churches. I am sure she has no ideas of their agenda or what happens to the dollars she gives to her church." That is the tragic situation and God's own need to be watchmen on the wall exposing wolves in sheep's clothing who have rejected the Truth and turned unto fables. (II Tim 4:4).

May God enable us in the Independent Baptist Fellowship of North America to be informed about religious apostasy and compromise but also to determine that we shall, "... having done all to stand. Stand therefore" (Ephesians 6:13-14) Dr. Robert T. Ketcham, a stalwart of the Faith used to tell us, "It says STAND and not SCRAM!"



### **PERSPECTIVES**

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# EDITOR'S REPORT

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## *Conference 2002, September 11, and a Few Letters From and To President Jefferson*

by Dave Reinhardt

As has been the case over the years, we had a great conference in Cleveland from June 25-27: "Our Christ-Centered Vision: Fulfilling the Mandate in our Generation." This *Review* reveals graphically what transpired at the meetings as well as contains the resolutions we passed at the conference. You can hear the sermons preached as well as the music either by tapes, which you can obtain through our IBFNA office in Sellersville or on the internet at our IBFNA website:

[http://www.ibfna.org/IBFNA/2002\\_audio.htm](http://www.ibfna.org/IBFNA/2002_audio.htm)

September 11 remains a major focus in our country. Over this past year we have been crushed with the pictures and sounds of that horrible day. We have also been shocked in recent months about reports that our nation's intelligence agencies had information before September 11 that something big was coming down. I recently completed Bill Gertz's *Breakdown: How America's Intelligence Failures Led to September 11*. Rush Limbaugh, Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, and Edwin Meese, III, all express some agreement with the author on the dust jacket of the book.

The proposition that people in our government bear a heavy responsibility for what happened is striking. Lack of communication, a kind of turf mentality, insensitivity perhaps connected to boredom, a mercenary attitude, pride, and even ineptitude all evidence themselves in the pages of the text. Gertz ends with a "new intelligence structure" that will do the job today as did the one generations ago that helped us have victory in the Second World War (p. 170). The degeneration in the old structure, its lack of effectiveness, cannot really be denied, though some still refuse

to see it.

The IBFNA also exists to sound a warning, raise a standard for the Lord. Obviously, communication, an openness, an intolerance toward any weakening of our Baptist convictions, an honest humility and untiring boldness, a wholeheartedness in our love for the Lord and for our brethren, an ongoing commitment to handle accurately the Bible, God's written Word -- to rightly divide it, to cut it straight -- all of these things are very important. We have a great heritage. The battle for the Lord is ours today. May He find us faithful.

It may also be interesting to note that Gertz begins his book with a quotation from President Thomas Jefferson dating back to 1801: "I do not believe war the most certain means of enforcing principles. Those peaceable coercions which are in the power of every nation, if undertaken in concert and in time of peace, are more likely to produce the desired effect." Unfortunately this quotation is not completely accurate. Jefferson actually wrote the following to Robert R. Livingston, the United States Minister to France, on September 9, 1801: "Nor do I believe war the most certain means of enforcing them. Those peaceable coercions which are in the power of every nation, if undertaken in concert & in time of peace, are more likely to produce the desired effect." Gertz and others replace the pronoun "them" with the



noun "principles."

The antecedent in the context of Jefferson's letter, though, is not simply "principles," but "*these* principles." He was dealing with a specific situation, maritime law -- "free bottoms, free goods" and naval blockades. In contrast to other nations in Europe, England was unwilling to affirm that neutral ships from America engaged in commerce with England's enemy, France, were to be exempted from British search and seizure. Jefferson was not wanting to have America go to war with England over these principles, but he wanted America's agent to France to know his point of view. It's in the context of England, Europe, and maritime law that "*these* principles" were to experience "peaceable coercions." There were indeed other principles in Jefferson's purview that called for military coercions (c.f., the *Declaration of Independence* and the Revolutionary War). For the record, the following website is a resource to see the full context of Jefferson's 1801 letter:

<http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/P/tj3/writings/brf/jefl140.htm>

Less than a month later, on October 7, 1801, the Danbury Baptist Association wrote a letter to President Jefferson and expressed the following: "Our sentiments are uniformly on the side of religious liberty: that Religion is at all times and places a matter between God and individuals, that no man ought to suffer in name, person, or effects on account of his religious opinions, [and] that the legitimate power of civil government extends no further than to punish the man who works ill to his neighbor:" The words "no further" leave no doubt that the Danbury Baptists wanted civil government's role restrained. A few sentences later these Baptists praised Jefferson for his approach to government, in contrast to that of some others: "It is not to be wondered at therefore if those who seek after power and gain, under the pretense of government and Religion, should reproach their fellow men, [or] should reproach their Chief Magistrate, as an enemy of religion, law, and good order, because he will not, dares not, assume the prerogative of Jehovah and make laws to govern the Kingdom of Christ."

President Jefferson's response to the Danbury Baptist Association about three months later, on January 1,

1802, undoubtedly encouraged them: "Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legislative powers of government reach actions only, and not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature would 'make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' thus building a wall of separation between Church and State." Jefferson's words affirmed what the Danbury Baptists had already stated: that United States government was not "to assume the prerogatives of Jehovah and make laws to govern the Kingdom of Christ."

Like the broadening of Jefferson's maritime principles for "peaceable coercions" so that we now have a maxim that "war is not the most certain means of enforcing principles," Jefferson's wall of separation has expanded, almost undergone a transcontinental shift over the years in our society so that we now have the government moving in to define what are acceptable ideals and doctrines in churches. Bible-believing Baptist churches' teachings about corporal punishment for children, the roles of men and women, abortion, homosexuality are but a few of the areas of tension.

But tensions are not new. As in 1801, there are "those who seek after power and gain, under the pretense of government and Religion" and those who for the sake of "religion, law, and good order" want government to be extremely proactive in all areas. What has shifted is the understanding that Jefferson was not building a wall to enable government to more fully control and homogenize society but rather to delineate and delimit its own role. Today the practical perception is the opposite, that the wall exists to hold religion in check, to keep its teachings from influencing - may we say, from infecting - society. Government has developed a powerful weaponry to accomplish this objective: tax laws, social legislation, zoning restrictions, and even "secular," public, education,

Of course, the government on occasion allows churches to be an exception to its pervading disposition. Churches may identify homosexuality as sin, an



abomination, and not necessarily lose their tax status at this juncture. Let the people of the churches, though, express any disdain for homosexuality in their communities, and government feels a strong incentive to take action.

The situation in Connecticut as described by the Danbury Baptists when writing to Jefferson seems relevant to today. "And such has been our laws and usages, and such still are, [so] that Religion is con-

sidered as the first object of Legislation, and therefore what religious privileges we enjoy (as a minor part of the State) we enjoy as favors granted, and not as inalienable rights. And these favors we receive at the expense of such degrading acknowledgments, as are inconsistent with the rights of freemen." At this two-hundredth anniversary of Jefferson's response to that letter, we seem to have come nearly full circle, almost back to the point from which our Danbury Baptist forefathers started.

# ***RESOLUTIONS***

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## ***The Local Church and Its Ministry Today***

WHEREAS, the local church is God's ordained, corporate institution for carrying on His work today, being in all matters of membership, polity, associations, government, discipline, finances and benevolence the final authority (Matthew 18:15,18; I Timothy 3:15), and

WHEREAS, the local church is promised God's power, presence and blessings until His return (Matthew 16:18; 28:18,20), and

WHEREAS, God expects all believers in this age to be faithful members of a local church involved in its worship, fellowship, service, support, accountability and outreach (Acts 2:42, 47; 15:14; I Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:11,16; Hebrews 10:24,25), and

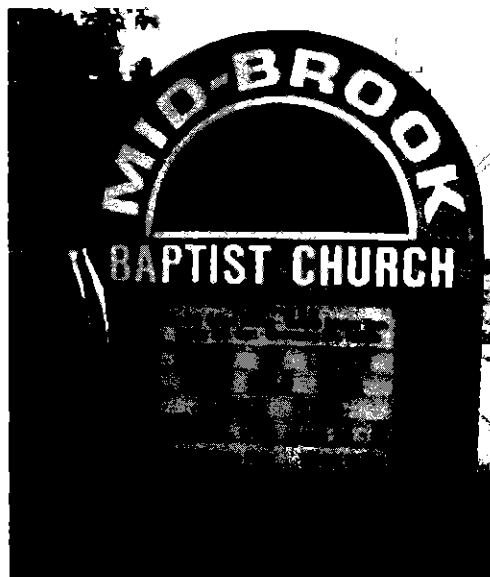
WHEREAS, the Word of God reveals some very special and specific terms for the Church, terms which denote how God views that which was purchased by His Son's own shed blood (Acts 20:28); House of God (I Timothy 3:15); a Holy Temple of the Lord (Ephesians 2:21); Family of God (Ephesians 3:15); Wife (Revelation 19:7); Body (Ephesians 1:22); Golden Candlestick (Revelation 1:12,13, 20); and Flock of God (I Peter 5:2), and

WHEREAS, there is a concerted attack upon the Church today from various sources, ranging from heretical radio preachers declaring the local church is no longer valid and ought to be discarded to fun-

damental Baptist mission agency executives who deny the local church's authority

over missionaries sent out by that local church if assisted by a mission agency, to name a few, and

WHEREAS, para-church organizations, such as schools, mission and social agencies, youth programs and evangelistic ministries are proliferating and are more and more usurping the preeminence and place of the local church in ministry, support and loyalty,



BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the members of the Independent Baptist Fellowship of North America (IBFNA) meeting in Middleburg Heights, Ohio, on June 25-27, 2002, do hereby call all believers to lift up, honor, support, and actively participate in the ministry of their local, fundamental, Bible-believing, Christ-honoring, Baptist Church; and that if a believer is not now a member of a local church where the Word of God is taught, honored and obeyed, he ought to seek out such a church so he can fulfill the God-given mandate to be involved with and under the discipline of a local church. We also call upon all believers to give a preeminence in service and support to the local church itself and not to para-church organizations or any other ministry that pur-

ports to support or complement the local church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon all fundamental Pastors to proclaim the wonderful truth of God's Word as it relates to the local church and its special place in the heart of God and that they clearly teach the Christian's need for both allegiance and responsibility to the local church. We call upon all para-church organizations to clearly declare their practical subservience to the local church in its autonomy and authority in all ministry.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the IBFNA as an organization reaffirms its commitment to the authority and autonomy of the local church.

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## *The Increasing Perils of Homosexuality and Pedophilia In America*

WHEREAS, recent events have demonstrated the acceptance of homosexual priests in the Roman Catholic Church, both in their churches and seminaries, for many years and

WHEREAS, this acceptance of homosexual men in the priesthood has contributed to the crimes of pedophilia against children and ephebophilia against teenagers, who were entrusted within the care and ministries of the Roman Catholic Church, and

WHEREAS, these crimes have caused serious long-term mental, physical and spiritual damages to the young victims, and

WHEREAS, most research clearly shows that pedophiles and ephebophiles cannot be psychologically rehabilitated, making them a continuing threat to others, and

WHEREAS, there are legitimate cause-and-effect issues raised by the Roman Catholic Church which impose celibacy (contrary to Scripture) upon its personnel and the significantly higher number of pedophilia and ephebophilia incidents within Roman Catholic ministries, and

WHEREAS, recent revelations have shown that pedophilia and ephebophilia are not limited to the Roman Catholic Church but have also been acknowledged by the Mormons, as well as others, and

WHEREAS, much has been done to shield these predators from criminal prosecution and from the knowledge of the public, resulting in more victims in more places across our country, as well as other places in the world, and

WHEREAS, sexual perversions such as homosexuality, pedophilia, ephebophilia, incest, rape and adultery are clearly marked as sins in Scripture, deserving strong condemnation from both the true Church and the State,

BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED that we the members of the Independent Baptist Fellowship of North America meeting in Middleburg Heights, Ohio, on June 25-27, 2002, do hereby condemn sexual perversions, as defined by the Scriptures, and warn against the tacit approval of homosexual lifestyles

and practices, as well as the coverup of related crimes by the Roman Catholic Church,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we mark the Roman Catholic Church as apostate for its perversion of Bible doctrine including the requirement of celibacy within its clergy (I Timothy 4:1-3) and consider the recent lawsuits and investigations as the reaping of a whirlwind of its own making by its blatant disobedience to Scripture,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we condemn any organization which seeks to make sexual perversions

more acceptable and conceals criminal acts against children and teenagers, including the Roman Catholic Church, the Mormons as well as Planned Parenthood and the National Abortion Federation, which have offered abortions to victims of statutory rape but concealed the crimes from law enforcement authorities. We further note that no civilization in history that accepted sexual perversity, such as homosexuality, has ever survived for very long and encourage our government's leadership to deny any legitimacy to such people since more than 35 percent of all sex crimes in America are committed by homosexuals.

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## *Resolution Regarding the Pledge of Allegiance*

WHEREAS in an apparent declaration of war against God, a panel of the United States 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional because it describes our country as "one nation under God," and

WHEREAS this court decision came because an atheist filed the action because his daughter was offended when the students in her elementary school recited the Pledge of Allegiance, and

WHEREAS all of our founding fathers honored the Word of God and used Biblical principles in developing our foundational documents including the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, and

WHEREAS the principle of separation of church and state has been perverted from the founding fathers' principle of no state church to the absolute exclusion of God and Christianity from any matters pertaining to government or public functions, threatening the tax-exempt status of churches and religious institutions, as well as abridging the first-amendment

rights of believers, and

WHEREAS this extreme abuse of the principle of the separation of church and state contradicts the decisions of our nation's Continental Congress to expend funds for the building of churches for Native Americans and the common practice of holding regular church services in the Capitol building, and

WHEREAS closer scrutiny of the correspondence between the Danbury Baptist Association and President Thomas Jefferson, the only contemporary documents containing the words "separation of church and state," belies today's extreme misapplication of the principle prohibiting the exercise of religious freedom in government or public settings,



BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we the members of the Independent Baptist Fellowship of North America meeting in Middleburg Heights, Ohio, on June 25-27, 2002, do hereby condemn the error of the panel of the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals and



affirm the national honor of God understood and accepted through 1954 when the words "under God" were made a welcome addition in the Pledge of Allegiance, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we continue to educate our churches and the people of our nation regarding the true principle of church-state separation as it was understood and exercised by the founding fathers of our nation and supported by the courts until the close of the twentieth century, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we strive to preserve our God-given rights as guaranteed by the Declaration of Independence and Constitution of the United States and continue to seek that our nation truly be "under God," and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we will pray and communicate with our Senators and Representatives our alarm at the Court's decision and press for its reversal either through legislation or by the interven-

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## ***Terrorism in the United States and Believers***

WHEREAS, our homeland has been under the attack of militant, terrorist groups, even before September 11, 2001, while politicians and bureaucrats were preoccupied with their own re-elections and security, and

WHEREAS, our nation suffered a major loss to terrorism on September 11, 2001, in New York, Pennsylvania, and Arlington VA, which cost over 3,000 lives and millions of dollars in damages, and

WHEREAS, the previous administration, according to the FBI report "Project Megiddo," made fundamentalist Christian groups the targets of investigations and suspicion of terroristic threats against the United States, contrary to the truth, leaving our nation more vulnerable to subsequent attacks at the hands of foreign forces bent on the destruction of our nation, and

WHEREAS, regard for God, the Holy Scriptures, the Church and concern for eternity among the people of our nation enjoyed only a transient increase since September 11, 2001,

BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED that we the

members of the Independent Baptist Fellowship of North America meeting in Middleburg Heights, Ohio, on June 25-27, 2002, do hereby call for all believers to lift up our nation and its leaders in fervent prayer, mindful that God clearly stated that:

II Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

and:

Psalms 33:12 "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we recommend only those candidates for public office that take the security of our land seriously while preserving the Constitutional rights of our citizens, without enlarging either bureaucracy or the grasp of federal powers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that fundamentalist Christians deserve an apology from the Clinton Administration and the FBI, then under President Clinton's authority, which issued "Project Megiddo," denigrating Bible-believing Christians across our nation and bringing unwarranted suspicion upon the Church, while warnings of foreign attacks lacked sufficient attention or analysis to prevent the tragedies of September 11, 2001.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we endeavor in every ministry to challenge the lost with the need to trust in Jesus Christ as personal Savior before it is too late, knowing that the Lord may return at any moment and that terrorism can strike here as never before.

Furthermore, we call our nation to repentance from the systematic exclusion of God and His Word, as we also commend those leaders who advocate Bible study and prayer among government personnel (Psalm 127:1).

## *Responding To The Compromise in the GARBC*

WHEREAS, the Independent Baptist Fellowship of North America (IBFNA) exists to lead the cause for Biblical Separation, and this leadership requires both teaching the truth and warning against compromise (Colossians 1:28), and

WHEREAS, continuing compromise is evident in many of the churches affiliated with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches (GARBC) and its partnering schools and agencies, and

WHEREAS, symptomatic of this compromise is the appointment of Dr. William Brown, currently the President of new evangelical Bryan College in Dayton, Tennessee, as the next President of Cedarville University, and

WHEREAS, this appointment continues the theological decline Cedarville University has pursued for many years under the leadership of its retiring President, Dr. Paul Dixon, as demonstrated by the speakers in its chapel pulpit, the lack of separatist teaching in its classrooms, the rapid descent into worldliness in its most recent jazz festival, and the discarding of its former musical and theological standards, and

WHEREAS, the GARBC is cooperating with the theological compromise of Cedarville University, the site of the 2002 GARBC Annual Conference, through its partnering relationship, and

WHEREAS, partnering has proved no better than the approval system but has only served to deflect criticism of the GARBC, and

WHEREAS, we recognize that there are several of our fundamentalist brethren who remain in the GARBC,



BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the members of the IBFNA meeting in Annual Conference in Middleburg Heights, Ohio, June 25-27, 2002, do affirm that affiliation with the GARBC is inconsistent with the Biblical Doctrine of Separation that has been the very purpose of the IBFNA from its inception.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage all of our fundamentalist brethren to withdraw from the GARBC and that they rally together with the IBFNA in raising high the standard carried by the separatist founders of the GARBC.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we instruct the Editor of the IBFNA *Review* to provide Pastors and church members with current information about the compromise in the GARBC so that the IBFNA continues to follow the example of Dr. Robert T. Ketcham, Dr. Paul R. Jackson, and other past leaders of the GARBC, who challenged the compromises of their day and defended Biblical Separation in official GARBC publications.

# SPECIAL REPORT

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## *What Can We Learn from the Current Scandals in the Roman Catholic Church?*

by Paul W. Gustine

All quotations are taken from *The New American Bible*, New York: 1970; IMPRIMATUR: Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle, D.D., Archbishop of Washington

[Warning this Bible incorporates the Apocrypha into the Old Testament including adding sections within the Book of Daniel. Jews or any other Christian churches do not accept these books and sections as Scripture. The author's purpose is to demonstrate that many practices of the Roman Catholic Church conflict with the authority of the Word of God illustrated in a translation done under their auspices. This version should not be confused with the American Standard Version of 1901 or the New American Standard Bible, 1995, which are recommended by the author.]

### **Introduction**

Witness to Roman Catholics like all other lost people. Present your testimony of what Christ has done for you. A good Scripture would be Romans 10:9-10.

For if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Faith in the heart leads to justification, confession on the lips to salvation.

Emphasize that your faith is in the Lord Jesus and that you know God saves you on the authority of the promise of God's Word.

Do not attack their church. This will make them defensive. If they bring up the problems of their church or their doubts, do not just give your opinion.

Tell them to look at what God says in the Bible about each issue. Pray for them that as they read the Bible they themselves will begin to see by the help of the Holy Spirit the difference between what the Bible says and what their church teaches. When they trust the authority of God's Word instead of the authority of their church they can understand that they can be saved by faith in Jesus Christ alone.



### **Common Ground Upon Which You Can Appeal to Roman Catholics**

- Belief in the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- Belief in the Virgin Birth of Christ
- Belief in the Deity of Jesus Christ
- Belief in the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus Christ
- Belief in the Books of the Bible as Inspired by God

[Norman Nicklas, "The Roman Catholic Church," *Message*, Spring 2002, Vol. 50, No.9, p. 10]

### **1. Power over People**

"Through seven sacraments—Baptism, the Eucharist (Mass), Penance (confession), Confirmation, Holy Orders, Matrimony, and the Anointing of the Sick (last rites)—sanctifying grace is given to an individual who is now able to do meritorious works to earn eternal life." [Nicholas, same.] Warning: Do not marry into this system because your mate will live in fear that he or she must have the sacraments of the church to go to heaven. Also he or she will want them for the children of your union.

# ***Independent Baptist Fellowship of North America***

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## ***IBFNA Coming Events***

***October 28, 2002, IBFNA Regional Conference***

***Grace Baptist Church, White Hall, PA***



***Officers This Year: Dan Brown, Secretary; Tom Hamilton, Treasurer;  
Jeff Bailey, Moderator; Dave Reinhardt, Editor of the Review***



# **IBFNA Bible Conference: "Our Christ-Centered Vision: Fulfilling the Mandate in Our Generation"**

**June 25-27, 2002, Middleburg Heights, Ohio**

**A FEW SNAPSHOPS OF A GREAT TIME!**

