

OUR PURPOSE
TO MAINTAIN A
TESTIMONY TO THE
TRUTH OF THE
BIBLE AS HISTORI-
CALLY HELD BY
BAPTISTS.

The Baptist Bulletin

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BELDEN BAPTISTS QUIT CONVENTION IN FIGHT ON REDS

Assail Modernism; Join New Movement

Charging that the modernism of the Northern Baptist convention is tending toward cordial espousal of state socialism or communism the Belden Avenue Baptist church, 2309 North Halsted street, yesterday announced its withdrawal from that convention. The Belden Avenue church is one of the largest Baptist congregations in the city.

Revealed for the first time in the same announcement is the rapid development of a new Baptist convention which not only repudiates pulpit socialism but also affirms adherence to the historic "New Hampshire confession" which was officially set aside by the 1922 sessions of the Northern Baptist convention.

The new convention, it was learned, was first projected in Chicago two years ago. According to the Rev. Howard Fulton, pastor of the Belden Avenue church, the convention now has a membership of about 200 churches and will hold its fourth annual sessions at Grand Rapids, Mich., next May.

Quits Other Groups

Its name is "The General Association of Regular Baptist Churches in the United States." The Rev. Dr. R. T. Ketcham of Gary is president.

The Belden Avenue church also withdrew from the Chicago Baptist association and the Illinois Baptist State convention. The Rev. Mr. Fulton, in making public the resolution of withdrawal, said that it was adopted with only two members of his congregation dissenting. The resolution was prepared by the board of deacons of the church under the chairmanship of G. A. Connor.

The resolution declared that socialistically inclined modernists have seized control "of our conventions, policies, and programs."

Resolutions

WE, the Board of Deacons of the Belden Avenue Baptist Church, recommend to the Church the following resolutions for adoption: Feb. 20, 1935.

WHEREAS: There have arisen within our Baptist ranks men who no longer hold

By The Rev. John Evans
In Chicago Daily Tribune

the historic and scriptural faith of Regular Baptists, and

WHEREAS: These men have gained control of our conventions, policies, and programs and have injected their pernicious doctrines into the same so that our missionary enterprises, educational institutions, and administrative policies are no longer conducted in accordance with the faith set forth in the Holy Scriptures and historically held by the Regular Baptists, and

WHEREAS: Years of faithful and persistent effort to correct and remove these deplorable conditions and bring the Conventions back to the faith of our fathers have resulted in no apparent success, and

WHEREAS: On the contrary there is a very apparent and gradual move toward even worse conditions as evidenced by the action of the Northern Baptist Convention at Indianapolis in 1922 when it refused to go on record as adopting that historic document known as The New Hampshire Confession of Faith as their standard, and

As further evidenced by the American Baptist Convention in Milwaukee in 1924 when it declared its determination to pursue the Inclusive Policy; that is, the policy of retaining on and sending to the Mission Field both fundamentalists and modernists, and

As further evidenced by the Northern Baptist Convention in 1925 at Seattle when the Committee appointed to investigate the Foreign Mission situation reported the presence of modernism on the Foreign Mission Field, said Convention voted down the Hinson resolution to adopt the report of the Committee and recall the modernistic missionaries, and

As further evidenced by the Northern Baptist Convention in 1926 at Washington, D. C., when it refused to go on record as limiting membership in the Convention to churches in which immersion of believers is recognized and practiced as a prerequisite to membership, and

As further evidenced by a decided sympathy for some of the recommendations of the Laymen's Missionary Appraisal Committee which pleads for the conglomerate mixture of the best in all religions, and

As further evidenced by a tendency in the Convention and co-operating organizations to show sympathy toward this God-denying, Christ-hating, Communism, and

As exemplified in the Northern Baptist Convention at Rochester last year when it adopted Socialistic and Pacifistic resolutions, and

As exemplified by the action of the Monroe County Association and Rochester Baptist Union which recently approved a set of resolutions to be presented to the Northern Baptist Convention at Colorado Springs, which, if adopted by them, will commit the Convention to State Socialism or Communism, and

As exemplified by permitting Communist mass-meetings to be held in Brook's House, a so-called Baptist Christian center in Hammond, Indiana, under the supervision of the Rev. John M. Hestenes, Director of Christian Centers for the American Baptist Home Mission Society — One of these meetings was the commemoration of the eleventh anniversary of the death of N. I. Lenin who led the Communist Revolution in Russia, and

WHEREAS: While recognizing the presence of many sound missionaries on Baptist Mission Fields, at home and abroad, yet because of present policies and programs of the Northern Baptist Convention and co-operating organizations, we cannot support them without co-operating and compromising with anti-Christian modernism and atheistic communism, and

WHEREAS: We cannot co-operate with the above mentioned Conventions and societies without suffering the indictment of II John 9-11, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God

speed: for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." And

WHEREAS: We are commanded to have no fellowship with those who deny the faith of Christ and are to be separated from them, II Cor. 6:14-18, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of the living God with idols; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." And

WHEREAS: In years gone by hundreds and thousands of dollars were given by old fashioned, historic Baptists for the purpose of erecting this house of worship and propagating the Baptist faith in this community, and

WHEREAS: We feel a debt of honor to these donors who in some measure made this Church and ministry possible, to see to it that the Scriptural faith of historic Baptists is perpetuated, not only within these walls but in the regions beyond, at home and abroad through every association and fellowship of the Church itself, and

WHEREAS: The Chicago Baptist Association and the Illinois Baptist State Convention are promoting the policies and programs of the Northern Baptist Convention and co-operating organizations including the above-mentioned abominations,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

First: That we, THE BELDEN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHICAGO, re-affirm and confess our adherence to the historic Baptist faith as contained in our confession and set forth in the NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFESSION and other similar confessions.

Second: That we shall continue to propagate this faith and will continue to support only those who adhere to this faith at home and abroad

Third: That we declare ourselves in fellowship with the Association of Regular Baptist Church in the United States and do hereby subscribe to its Constitution, By-laws, and Articles of Faith.

Fourth: That we cease fellowship and co-operation with the Chicago Baptist Association, Illinois Baptist State Convention and the Northern Baptist Convention.

Fifth: That it shall be distinctly understood that ceasing to fellowship with any association or convention of Baptist Churches does not constitute disunion with

the denomination as clearly established in resolution SIX.

Sixth: That we base the authority for this action upon the teaching of the New Testament which declares the absolute sovereignty of each local church and upon Hiscox's Directory for Baptist Churches published by the American Baptist Publication Society and commended with increased confidence to the favor of the American Baptists as a sound and scriptural exposition of New Testament Church polity as represented by our faith and practice. We quote: **Article Five**, Page 335, "No church is under obligation to affiliate with an association and any connected church can withdraw co-operation at any time for any reasons which seem to itself sufficient without prejudice to either its evangelical or denominational reputation and standing. But while it continues associated, it must abide by the rules and regulations, mutually agreed upon, by which the body is governed."

SIGNED BY THE BOARD OF DEACONS

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WELCOME TO GRAND RAPIDS

The Pastor and official board and members of the Wealthy Street Baptist Temple of Grand Rapids, Michigan, extend a cordial and hearty welcome to all Bible-believing Baptist throughout the country to the three day Bible conference and fellowship to be held April 30 through May 2nd, the annual meeting of the General Association of Regular Baptists.

This conference is primarily for spiritual awakening and quickening among those who love and worship the same great God and Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that as Baptists in these days of rapid spiritual declension and deepening apostasy such a fellowship is imperative to refresh our souls as we "fight the good fight of faith" the meanwhile seeking at all times to be filled by His Spirit with "the peace of God that passeth all understanding."

There are five regular Baptist churches in Grand Rapids which are doing all in their power to provide entertainment and meals for those planning to attend this Baptist fellowship. Beside the entertaining church there are: The Berean Baptist Church, Rev. C. E. Wood, pastor; Calvary Baptist, Rev. William Headley, pastor; Lake Drive Baptist, Rev. Gerard Knol, pastor; Second Baptist, Rev. I. Van Wes-

tenbrugge, pastor. We are planning to take care of as many as we possibly can without charge for overnight accommodations from Tuesday through Thursday night. At this writing we have free accommodation for 150, and we are hoping to make this 250 or more before the conference begins. Meals, at noon and night, will be served for those who are coming from a distance, at cost. The ladies of the entertaining Church have kindly consented to serve breakfast of coffee and rolls without cost, to all visitors.

Arrangements have been made with the Browning Hotel, which is run under excellent management with all modern conveniences in a quiet part of the city, to take care of all visitors, offering special rates. Room with bath occupied by four ministers, \$1.25 each. Double room, the same price. Rooms at private homes are being arranged for, near the church, at a nominal charge of 50 cents a night. We believe these prices will be within the range of those attending who desire this form of accommodation.

We would ask all who are planning to attend this fellowship to please send in your reservation IMMEDIATELY, care of the Wealthy Street Baptist Temple, Cor. Eastern and Wealthy, Grand Rapids.

There are a number of Spirit-filled, dynamic speakers scheduled to take part in the meetings. Some of the speakers will be: Dr. Robert Ketcham, president of the General Association of Regular Baptists, and pastor of the Central Baptist Church, Gary, Indiana; Dr. Howard Fulton, pastor of the Belden Avenue Baptist Church, Chicago, whose church recently took a courageous and deeply significant action by withdrawing entirely from the Northern Baptist Convention because of the Communism within the organization; Dr. W. Lee Rector, pastor of the First Orthodox Baptist Church of Ardmore, Oklahoma, an outstanding leader and speaker among orthodox Baptists in the Southland; Rev. Harold Strathearn, General Secretary of the Interstate Evangelistic Association of Rochester, N. Y., a man being mightily used of God in the fight against modernism; Dr. J. Frank Norris, dynamic pastor of the First Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Tex., who has recently been used of God in the Northland in a signal way. We mention just a few of the speakers; there will be a number of others.

As you come, pray definitely that this will not be just another conference with scheduled meetings arranged, but one where the Holy Spirit of God will move in our midst in such an overwhelming manner that everyone attending will be fired with a holy zeal for Jesus Christ our soon coming Lord and the salvation of precious souls. Brethren, "The coming of the Lord draweth nigh;" let us then "put on the whole armour of God" as we wage the final conflict in these last days.

STRANGE BED FELLOWS

Rev. R. T. Ketcham

I have before me on my desk as I write, a cartoon coming out of Communistic Russia and published by the Communistic Party of Russia. It portrays a grotesque picture of the Lord Jesus Christ with these words printed underneath, "Take, eat, this is my body." The communists' viewpoint of this Scripture is portrayed in this cartoon by the most revolting pictures of a horde of human beings tearing the body of Jesus Christ in pieces and feasting upon it. Women are seen to be gnawing at the fingers of His nail-pierced hands; great chunks of His flesh have been torn from His body and are being eaten by the surrounding crowd. His body has been opened and His internal organs are being eaten by others. We cannot go further in the description of this awful cartoon. We have had to force ourselves to even this brief description, but this is Communism!

I have before me also several articles telling of the brutal murder within the last month of John and Betty Stam at the hands of communists in China. These two talented young people were laying down their lives in China as missionaries under the China Inland Mission. This brutal murder of two witnesses of Jesus Christ reveals the heart of Communism.

I have before me also as I write, a news clipping from the Hammond Times (Hammond, Indiana) of January 24, 1935, announcing that "Hammond Communists will commemorate the eleventh anniversary of the death of N. I. Lenin at a memorial in Brooks House at 7:30 o'clock tonight." Lydia Oken, Director of the Gary, Indiana, Communist Workers School, is advertised as the principle speaker. The last paragraph of the article says, "Lenin's teachings and what they have brought to Russia will be discussed by the speaker."

I have before me another news clipping from the same Hammond paper from an issue of last August in which a meeting of the Communists, under the auspices of the International Labor Defense, was to be held in this same Brooks House. The announced purpose of this meeting was to raise money for the defense of the famous Scottsboro negroes, who were convicted of rape. The principle speakers were announced as Eugene V. Bechtold, Representative of the Moscow Red Aid, and teacher in the Chicago Communist Workers School, and Dr. J. M. Hestenes, Superintendent of Brooks House.

Now what is Brooks House, and who is Dr. J. M. Hestenes? Brooks House, located at Hammond, Indiana, is the local Social Service Center of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, at least these centers used to be called Social Service Centers. The Society in recent years has changed the title of them to Christian

Centers in an endeavor to camouflage the woeful lack of real Christianity. Personally, I like the name applied to them by Dr. C. P. Stealey, namely, Soup and Soap Houses. There are over thirty of these Centers through the territory of the Northern Baptist Convention, and Dr. Hestenes, besides being the local Superintendent of the Brooks House, is also Director of a great deal of the work of all these Social Service Centers in the North.

Strange bed fellows indeed!! A Communism which can put out such a poster as described above; a Communism which can, with relentless fury, murder the missionaries of the Cross; a Communism which defends raping negroes, is made to feel perfectly at home in an American Baptist Home Mission Society auditorium! If I mistake not, the repercussions of this affair will shake things to pieces in the old Calumet district. How any Baptist, who still remembers how to even spell the word, can continue fellowship with such an outfit is past our ability to understand!

BAPTISTS AT GRAND RAPIDS

Dr. R. T. Ketcham

The annual meeting of the Association of Regular Baptist Churches in the United States will be meeting in the Wealthy Street Baptist Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 30 to May 2.

Mr. Harlie Stevick of Elyria, Ohio, will be in charge of the music, and several musicians will be present to add to the worship in song. Three young ladies from Los Angeles, California, are driving through with Marimba and Vibraharp.

Interest in the Association of Regular Baptist churches is increasing by leaps and bounds each week. There will be a great host of old-fashioned Baptists coming together for this three-day convocation, and once more we will breathe the old atmosphere of Baptist freedom.

It needs to be distinctly understood that the Association of Regular Baptist Churches stands for the minimum of organization and the maximum of fellowship. It is determined that there shall never again be among us, any kind of an overhead organization to which allegiance must be ascribed, but that there shall be a place of contingent-wide fellowship, where independent Baptist churches can come together for a time of prayer, Bible study, and missionary inspiration.

Churches wishing their representatives to have a voice in the Grand Rapids meeting ought to take steps to comply with Section I Article IV of the Constitution which reads as follows: "Any Baptist Church in the United States which subscribes to our Constitution and Confession of Faith and signifies in writing its desire to find fellowship with the Association,

may upon such written application, be received by a majority vote of the Association. Such application shall be presented to the Secretary of the Association. Each church shall be entitled to send messengers to the annual meeting on a representative basis as follows: three messengers for the first 100 members, or fraction thereof; two messengers for each additional 100 members, or fraction thereof."

It may be altogether possible that this article in the Constitution ought to be changed in some of its provisions. All of this will be discussed at the Grand Rapids meeting, but at any rate, the above is the present provision.

THE BREAK-UP IN THE NORTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION CONTINUES

By Rev. R. T. Ketcham, D. D.

Almost every week brings news to our desk of additional churches that are breaking with the Northern Baptist Convention. At last churches are beginning to wake up to the fact that withdrawal from the Northern Baptist Convention, and its subsidiary organizations, does not constitute withdrawal from the Baptist Denomination.

We understand perfectly that the word Denomination, in one sense, is foreign to Baptist usage, and yet we are perfectly willing to accept it as a label to denominate us from other Christian bodies, so in this sense we use the term Denomination.

For years Baptist churches in the North have breathed the atmosphere that the Northern Baptist Convention is the Denomination, but if the Northern Baptist Convention is the Denomination, then what is the Southern Baptist Convention, the Canadian Baptist Convention, and the British Baptist Union? Just because these churches do not belong to the Northern Baptist Convention, are they bolsheviks, and come-outers? Certainly not. Neither are the churches in the North which have withdrawn from the Northern Baptist Convention, and have placed their fellowship with the Association of Regular Baptist Churches. Because this truth is slowly but surely percolating into the Baptist conscience in the North, church after church is breaking with the Convention, while still they are Baptist churches in every sense of the word.

There is a group of over 30 churches in the state of Ohio which have withdrawn from the Conventions; another group of between 40 and 50 in Michigan; another group of 20 or more in Western Pennsylvania; another group of 30 or 40 in California, and an ever increasing group in the state of Indiana. In almost every state covered by the Northern Baptist Convention territory, there are churches that have severed every connection with the Convention. In addition to these churches there are hundreds which, while not form-

ally voting to withdraw, nevertheless are absolutely non-cooperative.

The program of the Conventions, overloaded with Modernism and now becoming more and more sympathetic with radical Socialism, and in some instances downright Communism, is proving too much for our churches in the North, and the reaction is setting in with a vengeance. Central Baptist Church of Gary, Indiana, with a membership of almost 1,100, on Wednesday night, February 13, voted the attached Resolutions and severed all connection with the Conventions. One week following this action, the Belden Avenue Baptist Church of Chicago, taking these same resolutions and adding to them much material which strengthened them, severed its connection with the Conventions, and so it goes.

On August 13 the American Baptist Home Mission Society's Settlement House in Hammond, Indiana, under the superintendency of Dr. J. M. Hestenes, was opened to a meeting of the Communists of the Calumet region, for the purpose of raising money to defend the Scottsboro negroes convicted of rape. We lodged a protest with every Baptist pastor in the Calumet region, with Dr. Hestenes, and with every official member of the Indiana State Convention, and to this hour not one of them has peeped.

Then, on last January 24 the same Home Mission Society's auditorium was opened to a meeting of the Young Communist League for the purpose of conducting a memorial on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the death of Lenin.

I have before me a cartoon taken from a Russian Communist paper which is revolting in the extreme. We make no apologies for the vivid description which we now give of that poster. As revolting as it will prove to be, our people need to know the truth. The picture portrays Christ in grotesque fashion, with a horde of little human beings swarming over his body, chewing it to pieces. Great chunks of flesh have been clawed from his body, and are dripping from the jowls of the mob. Two women have just pulled loose from the body an arm of Christ, and are hilariously engaged in gnawing at it. A preacher is pictured as having poked a hole in the side of Christ and stands with a great bucket, catching the outpouring stream of blood. Most revolting of all, the abdomen has been opened, and men and women are pictured eating the internal organs. This is the Communist's view of Christ, and Christianity. It is this same crowd which put to death on the China Mission field a few weeks ago, John and Betty Stam, and yet it is this same crowd that are made to feel perfectly at home in the American Baptist Home Mission Society's headquarters in Hammond, Indiana.

In an interview with Mr. Hestenes concerning this outrage he told Rev. R. F. Hamilton, assistant pastor of Central Bap-

tist Church of Gary, that he sought these contacts with Communists in the hope that he might win them to our position. He was proud of the fact that the Communist basketball team had asked his permission to play on Brooks House gymnasium floor, and desired to be admitted to the schedule, which request he had granted. Mr. Hamilton then read to Mr. Hestenes an item from the Young Communist League Handbook of Instructions in which they are instructed to contact settlement houses and athletic clubs for the very purpose of getting a wedge into these organizations. In reply to this Mr. Hestenes said, "Fine. What's wrong with that? That's the thing I want them to do. I hope they never cease such contacts, for so long as I am able to maintain contacts with them I am not afraid of what they might do."

In this connection it is interesting to note the sequel to this interview, which took place Sunday night, March 10. Rev. Reid, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Indiana Harbor, Indiana, which is but a few miles from Hammond, conducts an open Forum on Sunday nights. It is a make-shift to secure assemblance of a crowd in lieu of a Gospel message. Pastor Reid announced through the papers that on Sunday night, March 10, he would tell the audience why the Central Baptist Church of Gary had withdrawn from the Northern Baptist Convention, and that Dr. Hestenes would be present to explain why he had allowed the Communists to hold meetings in Brooks House.

We sent a stenographer to this meeting, and there were thirty or forty of our members present, and like all these famous explanations, the only thing it did was to set up a need for further explanations. If we can keep the good brethren explaining long enough they will finally tell us all the inside secrets, for every time they explain they admit, as well as explain.

In his opening remarks the good pastor of the Indiana Harbor Church, with a great deal of emphasis, declared, "Any church where I preach, the people must not accept everything I say, for I do not agree with myself some times." We were glad for this frank advance notice that we did not have to accept what the good brother said, for what he said showed an abysmal ignorance of the facts.

Then, when the good Brother Hestenes arose to present his explanation of the Communists in Brooks House he sure enough let himself in for the need of further explanation. Discussing the basketball situation Dr. Hestenes said, "These boys now playing on the Communist basketball team were on our Brooks House team before they became Communists." Looks like the Communist contacts were working perfectly, but something has evidently gone haywire with the contacts of the good Doctor. On February 5 in an interview with Mr. Hamilton, Dr. Hestenes

declares that he deliberately lets these Communists into his place, so that he can keep his eye on them. On March 10 he admits that right under his nose the Communists have come in and captured some of his own members, not only for their basketball team, but for their political party.

Just a few more "stunts" like this, and the exodus from the Convention will be accelerated.

The Association of Regular Baptist Churches in the United States, under God, will be kept as a place of Baptist fellowship into which these churches may come. The Association is not a creation to provide official prominence for any "leader." Every man in the Association of Regular Baptist Churches stands on equal footing with every other man, and all of us bow in the presence of the great Head of the Church, to take our orders from Him.

NEWS ITEMS

Brother A. B. Machlin, formerly director of Hebrew Christian Mission work in the Northern Baptist Convention, has joined hands with Pastor H. B. Centz, a Presbyterian Hebrew Christian from Boston, Massachusetts. They together will visit towns, cities and villages throughout the U. S. A. where little or no Christian work is being done amongst the Jews.

Brother Machlin's presentation of the Jewish Passover in connection with the Lord's Supper is an object lesson which thrills both Jew and Christian. Brother Centz is a Bible teacher greatly used of God.

They report conferences recently held at Philpot Tabernacle, Hamilton, Can.; Central Baptist, London, Can.; Salamanca, N. Y., and Niagara Falls, N. Y. Many Jews were present at all these conferences and showed a keen interest by tarrying after the meetings closed to ask questions.

A most profitable Bible Conference was conducted by Dr. W. L. Pettingill in The First Baptist Church of Buffalo, N. Y., Feb. 10-20, with afternoon and evening sessions. Souls were saved. The Saints were refreshed. The crowds were unusually large. The Thank Offering was encouraging. The Book table receipts were in excess of \$160.00.

REV. JAMES MCGINLAY at Buffalo, N. Y. Mr. McGinlay conducted a five days meeting with the Cazenovia Park Baptist Church of Buffalo, N. Y. Dr. Palmer Muntz, Pastor. The house was packed from the first night by the crowds that thronged the building to hear him speak. The Editor of The Bulletin attended the meeting the last night but was unable to gain admission and with others was compelled to turn away. Pastor Howard Keithley of the Calvary Baptist Church has invited Brother McGinlay for a meeting in the early part of May.