



At Arm's Length

by Dr. Charles L. Dear Jr.
Moderator, IBFNA

In times when there are so many churches and parachurch organizations changing, it is always a question of how much of a change will cause us to sever our ties with others. Not being eager to give up on previously good ministries and long friendships, we graciously take a wait-and-see approach and decide

that for a while we will embrace them at arm's length. There are others whom we already know have gone over the Neo-evangelical hill and whom we have come to accept (so long as we keep them at a respectful distance that we feel will not jeopardize our own testimony) because we have developed personal ties or value special ministries not found elsewhere in fundamental circles. It sounds acceptable, even safe; nevertheless, there are some basic principles ignored by an "arm's length" philosophy.

"Separation must always be a matter of doctrinal position and never a measure of distance in relation to someone else."

The first false presumption is that Neo-evangelicalism, Evangelicalism and Liberalism or Modernism are either static or have run their course. While we may not all keep up on who has done what recently, we ought to agree that it is a biblical principle that "evil men . . . will wax worse and worse" (II Timothy 3:13). If Fundamentalists have never subscribed to the expectation that the world is getting better, why then should we expect that those who are selling out biblical Christianity will cease from their actions of compromise that undermine the authority of Scripture? If we would dare think that even Neo-evangelicalism has plateaued in some manner, we have been seriously deceived by Satan himself.

Inside pages:

- 2 | Perspectives
 - RCC Sacraments
 - The Pope
 - Jerry Falwell
- 3 | The Autobiography of Dwight L. Moody
- 4 | Editor's Clipboard
 - Constitution Amendment
 - American Council Messengers
 - ACCC & AWANA
 - Reflections from the Past
- 5 | Impressions from Annual Conference

Virgil Romans

- 6 | Maryland Regional
- 7 | RX for America
- 10 | Coming Events

continued, page three

PERSPECTIVES

- Roman Catholic Sacraments Some months ago while teaching a Sunday School lesson in a Bible-believing church, I was suddenly interrupted by a lady who forcefully declared, "What you just said is not true." Being caught off guard, I repeated what I had wanted to say: "The Roman Catholic Church teaches salvation by works." "That is what you said before, but it is a lie," she responded. With as much graciousness as I could muster, I replied, "The Roman Catholic Church adds sacraments and when anything is added to Christ's finished work on the cross of Calvary, salvation becomes a matter of works and not faith alone."
- The Pope A case in point, Pope John Paul II recently visited Saint Louis, Missouri. A news item reported, "For the Catholics attending and for the Holy Father himself, a major part of the experience of a papal visit is the sacraments, the rites through which Catholics believe they encounter God's grace." In Saint Louis, it took 1,000 priests about half an hour to distribute hosts (the bread that Catholics believe become the body of Christ) to more than 100,000 worshippers. Also in booths around the Kiel Center Concourse, priests met face-to-face with young people who wanted to receive the sacrament of reconciliation, also known as penance or confession. "In this sacrament," the pope said, "you experience the Savior's tender mercy and love in a most personal way, when you are freed from sin and its ugly companion, which is shame."

John Paul also stressed to the young people the importance of the once-in-a-lifetime sacraments of baptism and confirmation and urged them to "make weekly communion a real encounter with Jesus." The prayer service of this event in Saint Louis concluded with a raucous rock concert and pep rally. Along with the dancing, swaying crowd, 200 bishops clapped rhythmically to the throbbing beat of the rock bands before the pope appeared. Master of Ceremonies, Steve Angrisano, joked that the bishops would appear in the next music video of *dc Talk*, one of the groups that played for the rally.

"Rap music is in, let go of the past."

• **Jerry Falwell** – The group, *dc Talk*, leads into another topic. Dr. Jerry Falwell, on February 15, 1999, spoke at the Mid-winter Meeting of the Bible Baptist Church in San Diego, California. Falwell, after complimenting the CCM/rock music, said he loved Bob Jones University, but that its traditional music is terrible. He said, "You are not going to reach the youth of today with BJ's music. You have to have worship music to reach today's youth." He added that there is a place for *dc Talk*, so "hold your nose and let them do it. Rap music is in, let go of the past." (*dc Talk* is a CCM/rock band of Liberty University graduates that had their start at Liberty University.)

Dr. Falwell not only has become part of the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, but now also praised the rock group that performed for Pope John Paul II. Years ago, this pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia, embraced compromise, and he continues to influence many others to travel that same path.



PERSPECTIVES is written by
Dr. Ralph G. Colas, Executive Secretary
American Council of Christian Churches
World Council of Biblical Churches
P.O. Box 5455 • Bethlehem, PA 18015
tel (610) 865-3009 fax (610) 865-3033

It is very important that those of us who are identified with IBFNA determine we will not follow a crowd to do evil. The New Evangelical philosophy of the end justifying the means can destroy discernment and spiritual power. May God help us to remain vigilant and faithful to Him.

Apostasy is, by definition, a continuous state of change. Apart from efforts of godly men to be obedient to the Word of God and the ongoing ministry of the Holy Spirit, the prevailing gravity of sin and the corrupting influence of the old nature will continue to draw men away from the Truth. The problem, however, for us, as we draw the lines of fellowship, is that these changes prevent us from neatly assigning everyone a fixed theological pigeonhole. For example, many of the attributes once the exclusive domains of Evangelicals and Liberal-Modernists thirty years ago have cropped up among the Neo-evangelicals in recent years. John MacArthur, in his book, Reckless Faith, marks several changes that have migrated from Liberalism into the Neo-evangelical camp. The only problem is that while MacArthur deplores their presence, he will not separate from his friends over them. Quite the contrary, he simply may keep them at arm's length.

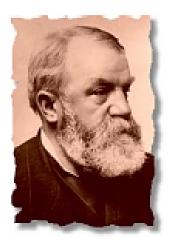
What are we saying? We are saying that **the hallmark** of compromisers is a dynamic perspective that pursues change, even for its own sake, and accommodation to the spirit of the age wherever possible. What we need to see is that compromisers of all degrees are part of a theological parade of different denominations and designations marching inexorably towards repudiation of the Scriptures and rank apostasy. Some, like the Liberal-Modernists of forty years ago are well down the parade route to unbelief. Others, however, who have just begun to yield the standards of Scripture to become followers of men more than followers of Jesus Christ, may be several blocks behind them and moving more slowly; but the ultimate destination is exactly the same. The only question is how much longer it will take them to arrive there.

It ought to be clear by now that keeping at arm's length will not protect anyone, because we have drawn a fatal conclusion. The false sense of security drawn from keeping at arm's length will compel us to ignore the continuing changes among apostates and their fellow-travelers. It is a dangerous and faulty conclusion that being fundamental is a matter of distance, not position, when in fact **the exact opposite is true**. Given the continuous change of apostasy, what fundamentalists should really see is **a growing gap** between themselves and all compromisers. The distance between (i.e. arm's length) cannot remain the same

unless we, too, are changing and moving in the same direction having silently joined their parade to spiritual oblivion. While we may find some small comfort that we are blocks, even miles, behind the Neo-evangelicals in this parade, we must also concede that we will soon find ourselves parading past milestones we had once marked as anathema to us in the past.

Separation must always be a matter of doctrinal position and never a measure of distance in relation to someone else. It is not measuring ourselves by ourselves, which the Apostle Paul warned us is unwise (II Cor. 10:12), nor is it measuring ourselves by revered spiritual leaders with feet of clay. It ought not even be a comparison between Separatists, but always a life, ministry or movement that is constantly measured by the Word of God. Let our standard always be the Scriptures (Isaiah 8:20); and where that brings us together for "a cause such as this," then we will enjoy sweet fellowship and mutual encouragement to stand firmly for the name of Jesus Christ.

The Autobiography of Dwight L. Moody, 1837-1899



"Someday you will read in the papers that D. L. Moody of East Northfield, Massachusetts, is dead. Don't you believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now; I shall have gone up higher, that's all: out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal—a body that

death cannot touch, that sin cannot taint; a body fashioned like unto His glorious body.

"I was born of the flesh in 1837. I was born of the spirit in 1856. That which is born of the flesh may die. That which is born of the Spirit will live forever."

Editor's Clipboard

by Paul W. Gustine

Constitution Amendment

One item from the Annual Family Bible Conference at Kansas City needs to be brought to your attention for prayer and consideration. Robert Payne, Belleville, MI, offered an amendment to our constitution following the procedure of Article VII.

Under Article IV. "Membership," add Letter E.: A member shall not hold membership in, or affiliation with, any organization or church that is characterized by apostasy, liberalism, modernism, new evangelicalism; or one that has embraced heretical and liberal doctrine, including, but not limited to, Promise Keepers, the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches, the **American Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention, the Conservative Baptist** Association, the National Association of **Evangelicals, the Independent Fundamental** Churches of America, and the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches. (This amendment shall become effective June, 15, 2001). [Editor's note: the official name of the American Baptist Convention was changed in 1972 to the American Baptist Churches in the USA.]

Lord willing, this amendment will be considered at the business session in Sellersville, PA, in 2000. It may be approved or rejected and is subject to the normal parliamentary process. There have been many discussions about the implementation of our separatist principles including a forum at Kansas City which was informative and judicious.

ACCC Messengers

Another item of business, the members appointed to be messengers to the American Council of Christian Churches are Richard Harris, Ray Taylor, Kevin Colas, Duane Brown, Clay Nuttall, Russ Carnagey, Allen Harris, William Hopewell, Tom Hamilton and Jerry Huffman.

ACCC & AWANA

The American Council of Christian Churches is to be commended for recent efforts to alert fundamental churches of the changes in policy by AWANA regarding Biblical separation. Remember the plea made by B. H. Carroll to L. R. Scarborough as he turned over the reigns of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to him (*This Day in Baptist History*, pages 463-64):

"My boy, on this Hill orthodoxy, the old truth is making one of its last stands, and I want to deliver to you a charge. . . . You will be elected president of the seminary. I want you, if there ever comes heresy in your faculty, to take it to your faculty. If they won't hear your, take it to the trustees. If they won't hear you, take it to the conventions that appointed them. If they won't hear you, take it to the common Baptists. . . I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to keep it lashed to the old Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Reflections from the Past

Dr. Colas' *Perspectives* article in this issue on the beliefs of the RCC and Jerry Falwell brings to mind a quote from the biography of Henry Parsons Crowell by Richard Ellsworth Day [Breakfast Table Autocrat (Chicago: Moody Press, 1946)]. "Mr. Crowell knew, too, old age had to be watched. Old age could become a softening down period. Softening down wasn't bad if it affected the heart; but the head! He had heard Softened Septuagenarians piously say: 'We have lived long enough to find people are not always villains! Often they are just mistaken.' Then he watched them walk off 'arm in arm with the devil" (p. 267-68). [The biography on Crowell by Day is a seminal book for separatist thought in Christian fundamentalism. See Ernest Pickering, Biblical Separation: The Struggle for a Pure Church (Schaumburg, IL: Regular Baptist Press, 1979), pp. 186-88; 224-25.]

I first thought of this quote with reference to Jerry Falwell when I read what he was reported to have said after a meeting with the notorious porno-peddler, Larry Flynt. "Falwell praised Flynt: 'He is a warm-hearted, very talented and very generous person whom I believe has much to offer the world.' [Calvary Contender, July 1, 1997, quoting the Los Angeles Times, June 11, 1997]" I don't know if the quotation by Henry Crowell is the answer to the enigma of the practice of Falwell, but it could be a factor.

Impressions from 1999 Annual Conference

My wife and I enjoyed the conference this past year and hope to bring others with us next year. The preaching is always encouraging and refreshing. The year is generally spent in giving, and it is always good to be able to relax and to receive. If there is one thing that Carol and I were blessed by, it was the fellowship. We were able to renew friendships which have been established some many years ago and some more recently. This fellowship is, of course, rooted in the commonality of the Holy Spirit, but it truly extends into the association of a belief in common truth. There was a sense at the conference of a desire to abide in that body of truth which is given to us in God's Word. For us, the key word would be fellowship.

> Charles Edwards Castaic, CA

A number of things stand out in my mind as I reflect on my time at the conference in Kansas City. Messages — What a blessing it was to hear God's Word so ably preached through a translator. What a neat experience it was to hear two different speakers use the same OT text. Old Friends — What a pleasant surprise it was to run into college classmates I hadn't seen since then. How come they had aged, but I hadn't (chuckle)? **Christian Gentlemen** — I was taught well by the example of all who handled controversial/ touchy matters in a Christ-honoring way. Spurgeon's Library — We got to handle some of the same volumes Spurgeon himself used at the William Jewell College tour. **Children's Meetings** — My two children (ages 8 & 11) had a great time in their meetings. They had many songs and stories to share with us.

> Jeff Briden Parsippany, NJ

Virgil Romans, 1925-1999

by George Zinn with contributions from the Romans family, Pastor Paul Hubble and Pastor James Grimes

Virgil Romans was a man with a perpetual smile. As his friend, for approximately thirty years, this is the way I remember him. He was always smiling, even when suffering the pain and agony of his terminal illness or any negative experience through which he was going. He couldn't talk about pain and suffering without smiling as he did so.

We had many precious times of fellowship together as friends. In his years of ministry at Terre Haute, Indiana, Pastor Romans had me come and fill his pulpit or present sermons in song on a number of occasions. The Thursday before Brother Romans passed away, he called and asked me to fill his pulpit on Sunday, March 14, 1999. His voice had the usual clear and vibrant lilt to it that told me he was probably smiling as he talked to me. Early the following Monday morning, March 15th, he joined his Savior in heaven. No wonder the vibrant sound and smile in his voice! Virgil must have known!

I was able to talk to Erlene, Virgil's wife, on the phone in preparation for this tribute to Brother Romans. She, along with their three children, has tendered the following information which the reader should enjoy, should be challenged and should find encouragement.

continued, page eight

1999-2000 IBFNA Officers

Moderator

Dr. Charles L. Dear Chkdear@juno.com

Secretary

Dr. David W. Reinhardt daver@ntplx.net

Treasurer

Rev. Jeffrey R. Bailey jbailey5@juno.com

Editor—THE REVIEW

Rev. Paul W. Gustine bbcn@crocker.com

Members of the IBFNA receive *THE REVIEW*, published four to six times per year, as part of their membership; non-members can subscribe for \$15 per year. Membership is \$15 for an individual or \$25 for a husband and wife.

IBFNA

Memberships & Subscriptions 754 East Rockhill Road Sellersville, PA 18960-1799 Office: (215) 536-9200

Fax: (215) 536-2229

E-mail: ibfna@bethelbc.org Web Site: http://www.ibfna.com

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS Layout & Design:

Jim Wendorf

Photos:

Review, Vol. 9, No. 1 provided by Jim Wendorf

Maryland Conference provided by Charles Dear

Pastor & Mrs. Virgil Romans provided by family

Drawings:

Dwight L. Moody provided by Moody Bible Institute Website

Report on the Maryland IBFNA Regional

by Pastor Richard A. Harris, Sellersville, PA

Pastor Mike Davidson and the People's Baptist Church of Frederick, Maryland, did a wonderful service in hosting an IBFNA Regional Conference. It was held on May 24-25, and the church family went out of their way to make every guest feel welcome. The fellowship was encouraging and inspirational. The preaching was superb.



Pictured left to right: Pastor Bud Calvert, Pastor Lou Baldwin, Pastor Norris Belcher and Pastor Mike Davidson

Pastor John VanGelderen of Preach the Word Ministries, Menomenee Falls, Wisconsin, preached on soul-winning and challenged us to cast out the net. Pastor Norris Belcher of the Church of the Open Door in Westminster, Maryland, gave an inspiring message on reaching our community. Pastor Bud Calvert of Fairfax Baptist Temple, Fairfax, Virginia, preached on world evangelism.

The highlight of the conference for me was the ministry of Pastor Lou Baldwin from Crossroads Baptist Church, Bailey's Crossroads, VA. He shared a great personal testimony of how God had brought him to Himself and then called him to preach. His church under his leadership sponsors a program called COEBA, Conference on Evangelizing Black America. It is obvious God is blessing his efforts.

Thank you, Pastor Davidson, for taking the leadership in sponsoring the IBFNA regional. We thoroughly enjoyed it.

Your editor has been reading and reviewing information on and by Dwight L. Moody since he died 100 years ago, December 22, 1899. One cannot review this period without being amazed at the changes in our American culture. One item as an illustration is the advertisement on the back of the *Northfield Echoes*, Volume III, Number 4, 1896. "Mr. Moody to lead a great National Bible Class—The famous Northfield evangelist begins in the November *Ladies' Home Journal* a series of popular Bible studies in the form of a great National Bible Class, destined to prove the most helpful religious department ever sustained by a magazine. It will be known as Mr. Moody's Bible Class and will be written and personally conducted by Dwight L. Moody, bringing the influences of Northfield into every home." At the archive in the Dolben Library, Northfield Mt. Hermon Schools, I recently saw a companion article to the Bible studies printed in the *Ladies' Home Journal*, November 1898, "The Anecdotal Side of Mr. Moody." It had pictures of Moody, the environs of Northfield and the descriptions of the Bible conferences and other ministries. The next time you are a captive at the checkout in the local grocery see if there is anything like that in the magazines and tabloids!

RX for America

by D. L. Moody

There are two things necessary to the life of this nation; one is knowledge, the other righteousness.

The founders of the republic recognized the need of education, and framed their policy accordingly. Educational advantages were to be widely diffused, so that the curse of ignorance should not rest upon the people. The



same truth has been realized by nearly all reformers. Examine the theories of government put forward by socialistic writers and societies, from Plato to the present day, and you will find that emphasis is nearly always laid upon the establishment of schools and the diffusion of knowledge. In this country a good education has been put within the reach of the poorest. Rich men have devoted their wealth to the founding of colleges and other institutions, so that a higher education is accessible to those who desire it. Knowledge is increasing and becoming more general.

But of what use is knowledge alone, mere knowledge? It has no spiritual or moral power. The Bible says: "Knowledge puffeth up." It has not saved any of the old civilizations from annihilation. Egypt and Athens and Rome had knowledge, and yet they died of corruption. Education is powerless to prevent crime. In the state of Massachusetts, where education of every kind, public and private, has been longer and better established than in any other state of the Union, we had in 1850 one prisoner to every 800 of population; in 1880, there was one in about 450, and a year ago a Boston paper stated that one in every 225 was in jail.

Without righteousness, knowledge may become a keener instrument for wickedness. What we want is not education of the head alone, but rather regeneration of the heart by the Holy Ghost. Until the heart is made right all else will be wrong; for out of it are the issues of life. From within, out of the heart of man, proceed evil thoughts and all uncleanness. No amount of secular education can change its character. What is needed is a new heart, a knowledge of the true and living God. I believe this country is not lacking in regard to education, but we need a revival of gospel preaching—the plain, old-fashioned, unadulterated gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is righteousness that exalteth a nation.

As printed in a New York paper in 1896 and quoted by William R. Moody in *D. L. Moody*, New York: The MacMillan Company, 1930, pp. 310-11.

VIRGIL ROMANS, 1925-1999, continued

Virgil Romans and his twin, Victor Wayne, were born October 14, 1925, in Green Valley, Illinois, to Russell and Mary Romans.

While a teenager in Pekin, Illinois, Virgil attended services at the Seventh Street Gospel Tabernacle, now known as the Pekin Bible Church, founded by Pastor Howard K. Miller. It was during special services held by prison evangelist Tom Carter, that Virgil accepted God's gift of salvation at the age of 16.

Virgil was quite a good baseball player, and he planned to play professionally upon graduation from high school. He even had a tryout with the New York Yankees, but World War II changed his plans. Virgil served as a scout for a U.S. Army infantry unit in Normandy, France, where he was wounded in his right temple by shrapnel from a German tank. Virgil recovered, but his eyesight was permanently affected, destroying his dream of a baseball career. However, God had other plans for Virgil Romans.

men. Several men from this class were called into the Lord's work, and Virgil was one of them. Pastor Harris recommended that he attend Midwest Bible and Missionary Institute in St. Louis, Missouri (now part of Calvary Bible College of Kansas City). Virgil earned the degree of Bachelor of Theology in 1951.

While a student, Virgil preached Sunday services in a

While a student, Virgil preached Sunday services in a small church in the Ozark Mountains and at Pleasant View Baptist Church in Liberty, Illinois. Pleasant View

> called Virgil as their full-time pastor after his graduation. Virgil and Erlene's son, Rick, was born January 12, 1952. The following year, Virgil accepted the pastorate of Southside Baptist Church, Chicago, Illinois. After a year in Chicago, the Lord called the Romans family to the Genoa City Bible Church near Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, where Virgil served as pastor for the next six years. Virgil and Erlene worked to build a strong youth program in this church, and several young people went into full-time Christian service from Genoa City Bible Church.



Pastor Virgil & Mrs. Erlene Romans

50th Wedding Anniversary March 26, 1994

The war ended, but Virgil did not yet have enough points to be discharged from the Army. He served awhile at Fort Bliss in Texas, and was assigned to a detail clearing tumbleweeds out of the chapel yard. Chaplain Chittim asked Corporal Romans if he would like to become his assistant to which Virgil agreed. In the following months, the Lord often placed Virgil in the company of men who had already answered the call of God to preach the Gospel.

Upon his discharge, Virgil returned to Pekin, to his high school sweetheart, Erlene Schappaugh, whom he had married March 26, 1944. Their baby daughter, Diana Kay, born December 18, 1945. Virgil obtained a job at Caterpillar Tractor Company, working on an assembly line with Floyd Wilson, a local minister who spent much time encouraging Virgil in his Christian walk, bringing him books and praying for him.

The Pekin Bible Church had called a new pastor, Dale Harris, who held a weekly Bible class for ex-service-

Virgil accepted the position of Associate Pastor at Calvary Bible Church in Columbus, Ohio, with senior minister, William Ashbrook in the autumn of 1959. Just a year later, Clyde Rodebaugh, longtime pastor of the Terre Haute Bible Center in Indiana, died suddenly, and Virgil was called as pastor to this church of over 1,000 members. For the next eleven years, Virgil served there, maintaining a grueling schedule of preaching, teaching a men's Sunday School class of 150, preparing a daily radio broadcast, and all the other responsibilities of a pastor. During those years he was also President of the Indiana Regional Independent Fundamental Churches of America and served on the IFCA National Committee. Virgil and Erlene's family kept growing. A year after celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary, daughter Julie Beth was born March 17, 1970.

The heavy workload and other health problems that stemmed from his World War II injury were taking their toll on Virgil. In June 1971, a group of believers asked

his help in starting a church across town in Terre Haute, and Virgil resigned his position at the Terre Haute Bible Center to become the first pastor of Faith Bible Church, where he served the Lord faithfully until his painful battle with bone cancer ended with his home going on March 15, 1999. This small work became known as Faith Baptist Church, and was for a short time a member of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches. Virgil enjoyed being a member of the Independent Baptist Fellowship of North America, and was honored to have helped write the constitution for this organization and to have brought a message at a national conference in Philadelphia.

In the nearly forty years Virgil Romans served the Lord in Terre Haute, he conducted over 1600 funeral services. His family believes the Lord gave him a special gift in dealing with the bereaved and bringing words of comfort to the broken in spirit. He genuinely cared about people, and had a tremendous depth of compassion both for his congregation and for people he met in day-to-day life. He is sorely missed by the many people whose lives he touched.

His children have special memories of their father. Rick, a funeral director in New Castle, Indiana, remembers assuming the role of chauffeur for Virgil when complications from his war wound necessitated him giving up driving for awhile. As a teenager, Rick went along on many visits with his dad. Diana, a nursing instructor in Chesterfield, Missouri, has cherished memories of music which was always an important part of Virgil's ministry. Diana and her dad often sang duets on the radio broadcasts and in church services over the years. Julie Beth, an employee of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, remembers her dad encouraging her to take an active part in church work, reciting Bible verses at nursing home services, and playing the piano while still a little girl. Erlene, Virgil's wife of nearly 55 years, recalls how her husband always put the Lord first throughout his life, and how he instilled a special love and taste for music in his children; so that, singing and playing music for the Lord was a family affair.

Upon learning of Virgil's home going, someone recalled the old song "Another Soldier Has Gone Home." Surely this is what has happened with Virgil. He fought many spiritual battles over the years against false doctrine and apostasy. He did not hesitate to stand up for what he believed the Lord saw as right. Virgil Romans loved the Lord; he loved the work he felt called to do; he loved his family; he loved his country and was proud to have served it. Above all, he was faithful. Surely all who knew him will miss him, but we take comfort in the words he must have heard when he awakened in Glory, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

The following account is from *Pastor Paul Hubble* who gave the message at Virgil's funeral service: "Two days before Virgil Romans went home to be with the Lord, I visited him in the hospital. My visit was short but precious. I leaned over his bed and said, 'Virgil, I saw your portrait in the scriptures yesterday. The moment I read the words of Psalm 40:8-10 I thought of you.' He smiled and gripped my hand, though he wasn't supposed to move his hand or arm.

"Less than a week later I used that same scripture as a basis of the sermon at his memorial service when I spoke on 'A Portrait of Virgil Romans.' Pastor Romans' life reflected each truth set forth in those verses in Psalm 40:8-10, and thereby magnified Christ in his daily life.

"I closed with Acts 13:36, 'For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers'. Brother Romans faithfully served his generation for forty-seven years."

A final word from Rev. James W. Grimes, Baptist Mid-Missions (retired): "It was our privilege to pastor in the same area when he was leading Bible Center at Terre Haute, and we were at Calvary Baptist Church in Brazil, IN, in the 60's and 70's. He impacted many lives from the pulpit and over the radio during those years. But we really got to know Pastor and Mrs. Romans later when we were in other church-planting ministries in southern Indiana, and they had moved to Faith Baptist Church in Terre Haute. He encouraged us greatly through missionary conferences, pastors' fellowship meetings, personal visits and phone calls. We also appreciated so much his compassionate efforts to help our son in a time of great need while living in Terre Haute some years ago. He was a faithful shepherd of his flock with a burden for souls at home and abroad and, above all, a dedicated defender of the Faith – as it reads in his 'favorite book' - 'not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ' (Rom. 1:16)."

Independent Baptist Fellowship of North America

Membership & Subscriptions 754 East Rockhill Road Sellersville, PA 18960-1799 Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage **PAID** Perkasie, PA Permit No. 89

IBFNA Coming Events

November 8, 1999, Regional Conference, Berean Baptist Church, Boone, IA; (515) 432-6028; Host Pastor: Gary Freel; with Featured Speaker: Dr. Kevin Bauder (CBTS)

June 20-22, 2000, Annual Family Bible Conference, 10th Anniversary, Bethel Baptist Church, Sellersville, PA; (215) 536-9200; Local Committee Chairman: Pastor Richard Harris

IBFNA Members are invited to also attend:

November 4-6, 1999, Confraternidad Internacional de Bautistas Independientes (CIBI), Buenos Aires, Argentina; For information: Michael McCubbins, (818) 773-9289

Extra copies of the 1999–2000 Membership Directory

are available for \$6.00 plus shipping to IBFNA members.

Membership and Subscription Office 754 East Rockhill Road Sellersville, PA 18960-1799