



IBFNA

THE REVIEW

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2006 Annual Family Conference in Lancaster, PA

by Dr. Richard Harris

The program for the Annual Conference of the Independent Baptist Fellowship of North America in June 2006 seems to be shaping up well. The dates are June 20, 21 and 22 which are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. There is renewed interest in the Fellowship, and a number of new people are joining with us. We're looking forward to a good conference.

It will be held at the Quality Inn and Suites on Route 272 just north of Route 30 in Lancaster, PA. The Inn has great facilities at reasonable prices. The cost of a single/double room for the conference is \$72.00 per night, plus tax; and there is a \$6.00 fee for each additional adult. **To receive this discounted price, reservations must be made by June 1, 2006 by calling the Quality Inn at 717-569-0477. Please refer to account #4781 when making reservations.** Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. There is a large outdoor swimming pool that will be open in June that will be great for families.

We are doing our best to keep our conferences family oriented, and the city of Lancaster is a very friendly family resort area with much for families to see and do. We want you to bring your wife and children with you if at all possible. It is also our feeling that churches should help pastors with the expense of this trip. If you would contact us and give us permission to do so, we will help make your church aware of this need for you.

There is a very special treat available to everyone this year on Wednesday afternoon. Sight and Sound Productions at the Millennium Theatre in Lancaster will be presenting a heart-stirring performance based on the Book of Ruth. It is a magnificent production for the whole family, even though it is not inexpensive. Making a trip into the area is not complete without it. The prices are listed as follows: Adults - \$38.00, Teens (ages 13 - 18) \$25.00, and children (below 12) \$15.00. **I must have your reservation for this before you come. It is generally "sold out," and I must be able to hold the seats. Payment to the IBFNA will be necessary by May 15 for these reservations.** We have also adjusted the Conference schedule so you will be able to attend this performance. To make reservations, please go to our website at www.ibfna.org. Click on "Communications" on the lower right side of the home page and then click on "From the Moderator."

The Conference theme for 2006 is "Building the Body and Defending the Flock," which is appropriate for these days of turmoil in which we must minister. A partial list of the speakers and workshop leaders is as follows: Dr. Thomas Nieman, Dr. Dan Brown, Rev. Charles Edwards, Rev. Paul Gustine, Rev. Phil Gingery, Rev. Mark Strangman, Dr. Ted Clater, Rev. Jeff Bailey, Rev. Tom Hamilton, Dr. Bob Payne and others you will enjoy as well. These will be great days of opportunity. The Lord has privileged us to live in these "last days" prior to His soon return. Let's be faithful to Him and encourage one another.

"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name." (Malachi 3:16) *

Inside pages :

- 2 Pot Roast
- 3 Perspectives
- 4 In Memory
- 6 Editorial

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MOM'S POT ROAST

by Pastor Charles Edwards

My mother made the best beef pot roast imaginable. Cooking the meal was a daylong activity with an odor filling the house reminding us that supper tonight was special. She would start the roast on the stove in the pot and a little water, cover and begin the simmering. After the water and the roast were warm and had begun the cooking process, she added onions which had been peeled and quartered, potatoes which had been washed and quartered, and then (my favorite) washed and brushed carrots which she sliced into two to three inch segments. From morning to evening this combination would simmer on the stove (this was long before Rival's slow cooker), and the smell would radiate through the house making supper a much-anticipated event. As the day progressed my sister and I would hope that Dad would be home early so we could sit down at the table and "devour" mom's famous pot roast. What was special? The flavor of the roast had invaded the onion, potato and the carrot so that they had a new flavor that was indescribably delicious. We knew they would be just right when mom put the meal on the table; the carrot was not its bright orange, the potato had lost its whiteness, and they both took on the darker hue of the meat. Even the onion, though identifiable, was no longer translucent but dark with only a hint of its original translucence. The meat fell apart with the touch of the fork and was delicious in its own right, but it was the special taste of the vegetables that made mom's beef pot roast exceptional. This wasn't a meal that could be thrown together. Time was required to make certain that the carrot lost its bite, the onion lost its pungent odor and offensive taste, and the potato lost its crunch. Oh, you could still identify each part of the meal with each part taking its rightful place on the plate, but they were delightfully changed. Each was identified with a new look and best of all a new taste.

The meal met some fine standards. The pleasant taste, the fine aroma and the fact that we were all full and

satisfied were all that mattered. In fact, as far as I was concerned, it met all of the necessary standards (as most boys, I thought anything close to a food pyramid must be somewhere in Egypt). This meal had satisfied all the basic needs of our family, had been sincerely prepared and accomplished the goal intended. How can you argue with this kind of success? The truth is we thought nothing more about anything other than we were full and satisfied. What is at issue is, of course, the standard of nutritional success. In the case of eating habits, most would be more than satisfied; but a serious nutritionist would be concerned about many things, especially the loss of all the nutrients contained within those food items. They work, of course, to a higher nutritional standard.

This, by my simple mind, is precisely the attitude and approach of ecumenism: Take the Scriptures, water them down, add a Presbyterian, a Baptist, a Lutheran and any other tasty morsel, let them simmer in the pot for a little while and soon we will have a palatable dish. As the pot roast provided a challenge to nutritional standards, ecumenism is a challenge to the authority of God's Word (II Corinthians 6; II Peter 2; II John; Jude). The ecumenical community has many "pot roast suppers" simmering. They enjoy the attention of the moment and, in many cases, fade away to be replaced by another. Two of those currently active within the church community are Promise Keepers and Women of Faith. These interdenominational ministries have lofty goals that are certainly appropriate and, if reached, would add great strength to the "church" they claim to serve. The goal of growing spiritually mature men and women is truly noble and certainly is much needed. Promise Keepers mission: "Promise Keepers is dedicated to igniting and uniting men to be passionate followers of Jesus Christ through the effective communication of the 7 Promises." Both organizations have, as part of their doctrinal statements, positions regarding the unity of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Promise Keepers is more up-front in their statement: "Our unity will be manifested as the Faithful reach beyond racial and denominational (emphasis mine) lines

In 2005 Pastor Charles Edwards retired from being the senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Castaic, California. He currently lives in North Carolina with his wife Carol.

"Pot Roast" continued on page 5

2006 PERSPECTIVES

by Dr. Ralph Colas



It was back in 1998 when I covered the World Council of Churches' (WCC) 8th Assembly in Harare, Zimbabwe, Africa. One of the speakers at that Assembly was Dr. Chung Hung Kyung, who is a Korean theologian. At the press conference following her address, in which she had praised other world religions, Kyung was challenged by a reporter as to what John 14:6 declares that Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven. This liberal "theologian" responded by saying that, "Jesus was mistaken and to witness to someone telling them that Jesus was the only way to Heaven was an act of violence!"

That was 8 years ago and now the WCC has its 9th Assembly scheduled for February 14-23, 2006, in Porto Alegre, Brazil. The theme for this meeting is, "God in your grace, transform the world." More than 3000 religious leaders have been invited to this major WCC Assembly.

As a member of the accredited press invited, the WCC sent me a copy of the book, **JOINT WORKING GROUP BETWEEN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**. On page 91 it declares, "The member churches of the WCC and the Roman Catholic Church are inspired by the same vision of God's plan to unite all things in Christ." Along with Roman Catholic participation will be representatives of the Pentecostal and Evangelical religious bodies. Three of the days include hour-long "Ecumenical Conversations" with such non-member groups. The WCC handbook identifies the WCC as "the world's most inclusive ecumenical organization." The WCC claims to have a membership of 347 denominations.

Here is a list of some of the themes for this ecumenical meeting: "Overcoming Poverty and Economic Injustice;" "Christian Identity in a Pluralistic Society;" "The Challenge of Racism;" "Bioethics;" "HIV/AIDS;" "The Changing Cultural Landscape;" "The Future of Ecumenism;" "Youth Overcoming Violence;" "True Expression of Partnership Between the Roman Catholic Church and the WCC."

However, I am pleased to announce that there will be another congress held in Porto Alegre at the same time. This one will not include liberals, Roman Catholics, Charismatics nor compromising Evangelicals. It is sponsored by the International Testimony to an Infallible Bible (ITIB). A group of Fundamentalists from all around the region will gather to be challenged and encouraged to be vocal watchmen on the wall, sounding the alarm against religious predators with designs against the sheep. This much-needed meeting is planned to educate and enlighten those who should be taking a good stand for the Truth and to encourage those who already are.

The Congress host, Dr. Roger Crowder, a missionary with Baptist World Mission and President of the Fundamental Baptist Seminary in Porto Alegre, has chosen to present a Biblical response to the false doctrine that will be presented at the WCC Assembly. The theme for the meeting of separatists is, "The Grace of God in Today's World." The purpose for this congress is intentional—to proclaim truth in opposition to the WCC's error. We must not ignore the fact that the tide of the anti-Christ religious system is swiftly rising against the Church.

We can thank the Lord that there are those in South America, and elsewhere too, who understand and want to obey the Biblical injunction of Ephesians 5:11, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

Those of us who are a part of the IBFNA must be prepared as well, not only to contend for the Faith, but to expose the deniers of the Faith, whether it is popular or not.

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IN MEMORY OF DR. GEORGE DOLLAR

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by Dr. Robert Delnay

What many of our younger men might not know is that George Dollar was for about 20 years “Mr. Fundamentalist” in our circles. He was brought up poor in a fishing village in New Brunswick and received Christ while listening to Gypsy Smith on a Boston radio station. Dollar was still a teen, and Smith is all but forgotten now. In the late 1930s, he went to Gordon College and Seminary for two degrees; and by 1950 he had two more master’s degrees from Boston University and Emory.

I met him in 1953, where we both taught at Columbia Bible College. When he founded Bethany Baptist Church, we joined; and when June and I went to Haiti in 1958, the church took on some of our support. By the time we got back, he had finished his doctorate at Boston University and was head of the History Department at Dallas. I became his graduate assistant, making him my mentor and boss.

I have deep memories of what he said at least twice. It went like this: “You do your research, wherever it might lead, whether you like what you find or not. Then you write it up. Then you put a title on it.” I have reason to believe that he followed his own counsel. His dissertation had been on the Puritan Samuel Willard, and I seem to remember that the family would have published it if only he had softened the account of Willard’s part in the witch trials. He told me he refused to change anything.

He was a real teacher. I never had the impression he wished I would get out of his office. His lectures were impressive, and he was a walking encyclopedia of church history. Somehow I remember one lecture on the migration of the Mormons, from Elmira to Salt Lake City, town by town. The story took an hour, and never a note. I still don’t know how he did it.

Another conviction I appreciated was his

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• in Clearwater, Florida. He is also a distinguished
• historian.
.....

separatism. I think it came from his knowledge of Modernism, how it devastated schools and churches in both Canada and the US. For a number of years he would spend his summers at the Boston Union Rescue Mission, working in the mission and doing research in the university libraries, majoring on New England Christianity. By that time, Unitarians had taken the older schools and churches; and whatever the Unitarians left, the Modernists had taken. Dollar had zero tolerance for religious piracy.

Then when New Evangelicalism began to dominate the religious scene, he saw the spiritual hazards in it. He saw through Ockenga and Graham. Years later I heard him at Denver, possibly at the New Testament Association. He made this statement, which I haven’t forgotten: “There are many things wrong with Fundamentalism; I grant that. But never forget Fundamentalism is the best thing that God ever did for the United States of America.”

The room fell silent for several seconds while the truth of that sank in. In 1968 he became VP of Piedmont Bible College. After two years, he went to Bob Jones University (1970-1976). There he published his *The History of Fundamentalism in the United States*, for years the standard text on the subject. In 1976 he was called to Central Baptist Seminary. During those years, he also had an extensive conference ministry. He was widely known and controversial. He retired to Florida after 1980, after which his conference ministry tapered off and much of his ministry was to rescue missions and some local pulpits. We stayed in correspondence; and every time I was in that part of Florida, I tried to have at least coffee with him. He was in declining health these last three years, and a week ago pneumonia set in. He went to be with his Lord January 17, 2006, at age 88. No one would say he was bashful about speaking his convictions.

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Editor’s Note: Other publications authored by George W. Dollar: *The Fight for Fundamentalism*, 1983; *The New Testament and New Pentecostalism*, 1978

“Pot Roast” continued from page 2

to demonstrate the reconciling power of Christ.” In some earlier publications the phraseology was “to break down denominational walls.” In this process is lost the fact that denominational lines are theological lines, created as a result of differences in Biblical belief. For example, the Biblical position regarding baptism is immersion; this is by statement (the meaning of the word) and by principle. What cannot be denied is that, allowed to simmer in these relationships, a change will be produced and the character of belief will be changed so that each takes on the taste of the other. Maybe what evolves when a “sprinkler” and an “immerser” simmer in a meeting for a while is a “pourer.” This is a good thing for pot roast suppers but a tragedy in theological matters. Though not a pragmatist, I found the following observation regarding Promise Keepers in “The Barna Update” of March 21, 2000, rather fascinating:

There is reason to believe that America experienced a small increase in the proportion of men who are born again between 1990 and 2000. However, the proportion is not quite beyond the range that can be explained by sampling error alone. We also find that the increase in the proportion of women who are born again was double that of men during the past decade. Church attendance among men has dropped in the past decade, as has Bible reading, Sunday school attendance and church volunteerism. Some good things have happened among men during the Nineties, but it does not appear that there has been a massive reawakening of the male soul in the last ten years.

While it would appear that the noble mission of Promise Keepers has not been reached, the effect it has had in breaking down denominational walls has been significant.

When it comes to theology, the standard stands alone. As applied to theology, men are subservient to the written Word of a righteous and just God. Meeting simple needs, being sincerely held, even accomplishing noble goals aren’t the tools used as the evaluation standard. Even those who would call themselves “separatists” must continually be on guard lest there be slippage from the truth. Satan is active, aggressive, and uses any means necessary to gain the victory. Jude 4 talks about those who have slipped in the side door and

taken their places in the pews; the goal of which is to dilute and, if possible, destroy the gospel (body of Scriptural truth) and thus obtain victory. Satan is prolific in producing challenges to the truth of God’s Word, some more obvious than others, some requiring in-depth analysis to find the error. Organizations (churches and others) may begin on a solid Biblical position with well-stated and meaningful purpose, but failure to watch and contend for the truth will produce “pot roast.” Another ploy used by the Adversary is to create a diversion. He has successfully done so, creating much conversation and confusion over issues that have no Biblical standing. As we work to hold the truth in love, there must be a “chapter and verse” mentality to separate true issues from those that merely distract.

As noted in the case of Promise Keepers, the “pot roast” approach to success does not produce a living result. Certainly there are changed men, but they evidently are not the norm. Our goal must conform to the absolute standard of God’s Word for it alone produces lasting results. As we confront the challenges Satan puts forth, we must maintain our vigilance and combative character while not losing sight of a mission of the church to reach the lost and demonstrate God’s love through our actions. *

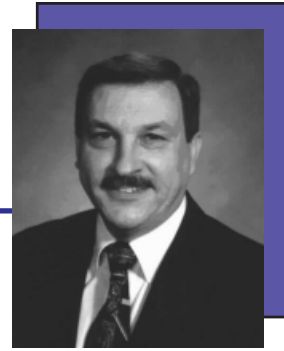
Corrections

In the previous edition of the REVIEW, the article on Baptist history (The Testimony of Milo Jewett) was attributed to Pastor Paul Gustine when, in fact, it was written by Dr. David L. Cummins and was transcribed from his This Day in Baptist History.

Also in the previous issue, we referred to Charles Schuller when the reference was actually to Robert Schuller of Crystal Cathedral fame.

Philadelphia Perspective

Editorial by Dr. Charles L. Dear



Did You Miss Evolution Sunday? Good!

“On 12 February 2006 hundreds of Christian churches from all portions of the country and a host of denominations will come together to discuss the compatibility of religion and science. For far too long, strident voices, in the name of Christianity, have been claiming that people must choose between religion and modern science. More than 10,000 Christian clergy have already signed The Clergy Letter demonstrating that this is a false dichotomy. Now, on the 197th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin, many of these leaders will bring this message to their congregations through sermons and/or discussion groups. Together, participating religious leaders will be making the statement that religion and science are not adversaries. And, together, they will be elevating the quality of the national debate on this topic.”

So reads the Clergy Letter Project, that demonstrates the inroads made by “science falsely so called” (I Timothy 6:20) into the fabric of churches which also profess to be Christian as well as Darwinian in their outlook. The mental gymnastics that allow such dualism spring from their limitations upon the authority of Scripture, more specifically, that the Bible is really just a nice religious allegory that teaches spiritual platitudes but does not speak to matters of science with the same veracity of modern science or scientists.

If the battle for Intelligent Design in Dover, Pennsylvania, was projected as a Fundamentalist conspiracy to bootstrap Creationism back into the public school classroom (so charged according to the court documents), then this is no less a conspiracy to replace Biblical Christianity with Secular Humanism in organizations still claiming to be Christian churches. Thus, on February 12, 2006, it was not Jesus Christ but Charles Darwin who was exalted upon his 197th birthday in 464 churches across America; and we as a nation are the poorer for it.

In recent times in Philadelphia, like other major cities across our nation, we are battling a wave of crime and murder that has reached major proportions. The politicians wring their hands and propose more laws, while the law enforcement people blame the lack of public cooperation for their failure to solve violent crimes. In a recent meeting with clergy from across the city with the police commissioner, we heard a recitation of all the terrible things happening and how so many efforts to curb crime had failed. Near the conclusion of the meeting, a pastor rose to speak:

“All we hear is we need more laws, but the truth is the laws we already have are not enforced. I’m tired of hearing politicians talk about the need for more laws because they don’t know what to do. The truth is, you can’t legislate morality, and what we are facing here is the absence of a moral sense of right and wrong...”

Another pastor echoed the same sentiment: “..Should any of us be surprised after God and the Bible have been taken away from our children?” The police commissioner stood speechless, as well he might, because we have sown to the wind and now reap the whirlwind.

Those who have systematically excised the Bible and Biblical Christianity from the public classroom, the courtroom and the public square need to be held accountable for the results we see of every man doing that which is right in his own eyes.

The great irony, however, is that the city officials and law enforcement administrations are now calling for pastors and churches to get involved and help them wage the battle against crime. The prayer vigils and marches down the city streets will do little more than provide a show of sincerity and well-meaning intentions to be bundled into a five-second sound bite for the TV news; but for churches that have cast aside the power of the Gospel of Christ and the authority of the Word of God, there is little

continued on page 7

“Philadelphia Perspectives” continued

else to be offered. The exalting of Darwin from their pulpits has helped create the monstrosity we now all face on city streets.

The simple truth is that you can't do the Lord's work in the world's way. Theology cannot be isolated from either science, history or anthropology; and the Word of God is the final authority on every subject it addresses. Those like the 464 churches that conceded to Evolution are doomed to failure and cannot make any real difference in this world. Quite the contrary, our society needs to hear the whole counsel of God's Word; and it needs to hear it from those who still preach it.

The Secularists have effectively painted themselves into a corner; either they can persist in excluding Biblical Christianity and watch their problems multiply and society self-destruct, or they can unfetter the ministries that still preach God's Word and present Christ as the answer, giving opportunity to evangelize and testify to the power of God that still transforms lives today. The alternatives could not be clearer, either in cause or effect. The only question is who has the courage to tell the emperor he isn't wearing any clothes?

Hollywood Update

It was back around 1960 that I occasionally worked in an old barn that had been converted to an artist's studio in Huntingdon Valley, outside northeast Philadelphia. Lawrence Saint, the creator of the Washington Cathedral's North Rose Window (The Last Judgment) was developing sketches for a painting of the Prodigal Son. It was a few years since his son Nate and his companions had landed their airplane on a sand bar after repeated visits of dropping gifts from the airplane to the ground by a technique they developed that would later be adopted by the U.S. military. On January 8, 1956, Nate and his companions were speared to death; and the reports of their deaths sent a shockwave much like the summary executions of John and Betty Stamm by the Communist Chinese decades before. Those who have given their lives in the Lord's service should never be forgotten, and their sacrifices moved the hearts of others to enter into missionary service that still bears fruit today. Truly the blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church.

The story does not end there, however. Rachel Saint, Elizabeth Elliott and others would persist in bringing the Gospel of Christ to these very same Waodani people

there in the jungles of Ecuador and even lead those who murdered the missionaries to Christ. It is a compelling story that young people of this generation need to hear that stands in sharp contrast to the easy-believism, easy Christian lifestyle being portrayed today.

Enter Every Tribe Entertainment and the Hollywood movie version of these events entitled “End of the Spear;” and you will see a different message of sacrifice, one without the motivation of the Gospel. In fact, the very Gospel these men died to bring to the Waodani people is virtually absent from the movie. Certainly sacrifice and then forgiveness are there; but they have been lifted out of the context of God's love and, as a result, have made it a story more about people than Jesus Christ whose Name you will not hear in the movie.

Compounding that weakness is the fact that the leading role of Nate Saint was played by Chad Allen, a homosexual activist. Although some, like some Southern Baptists, have raised objections, there are others like Evangelist James Robison who still think the movie is worth seeing.

For those who still fail to see the agenda of a Hollywood bent on the redefinition (if not the destruction) of Biblical Christianity, consider another message between the scenes and dialog of the movie. If the message of the movie is making a sacrifice for a cause - albeit any compelling cause worthy of our very lives- and to love and forgive those who have most egregiously offended us (like murdering your father), then isn't it also saying that Bible-believing Christians should likewise embrace Chad Allen and his cause for “normalizing” Homosexuality? Does that sound outrageous? It should, but sometimes our naivete towards the unbelieving world puts us in more jeopardy than we may first realize. Sure, we can presume that this was all an accident; they just happened to pick this actor; they just happened to leave Jesus and the Gospel out of the script; and they just promoted the movie to the Churches as an olive branch of respect and friendship. Yea, and friendship with the world is no longer enmity with God (James 4:4). *

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2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO BE IN LANCASTER, PA

Plans are coming together for a great conference in June. The dates are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, June 20, 21, and 22. We will meet at the Quality Inn at Lancaster, Pennsylvania. There are going to be some exciting events taking place at this IBFNA Conference, and we don't want you to miss it; so put it on your calendar today. Remember, this is a family conference that will appeal to all ages. Lancaster is a great place to visit.

PLAN TO BE THERE!

