



IBFNA

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THE REVIEW

19th Annual IBFNA Family Conference Now History by Dr. Bob Payne, Moderator

It is hard to believe that the 2009 IBFNA Conference is now behind us. Although some familiar faces were not with us this year for one reason or other, the attendance was still good. The Holy Spirit moved in people's hearts this year in an unusual way. I think that those of you who stayed right through to the end of the conference were glad that you did. Keep in mind that even if you were not able to be with us this year, most of the sessions are online at IBFNA.org.

This year's conference brought a new addition to our fellowship. Dr. Richard Harris was chosen by the fellowship to represent the IBFNA in churches, colleges, and conferences. If you would like to contact Dr. Harris about a speaking engagement, please drop him an email at richard h18073@comcast.net.

Additionally, let me say that I am grateful to all of you who planned or participated in the conference under the leadership of this year's conference chairman, Pastor Mark Strangman. I offer to **all** of you a heart-felt "thank-you" for making this year's conference such a successful one to the glory of God!

The theme of the conference was *For Such a Time As This*. In these perilous times of doctrinal compromise may each one of us cling to the One "who is able to keep [us]...from falling" (Jude 24). May we follow the prescription that Jude gives to his readers to remain strong in a day of apostasy:

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. (Jude 20-21)

Here Jude uses three Greek participles to communicate to us how we can "keep [ourselves]...in [the sphere of] the love of God" and so insulate ourselves from false teaching:

1. "**Building** yourselves up on your most holy faith." We can only have an intimate love relationship with God as we grow and build ourselves up spiritually. Spending daily time in the Word of God is paramount to our spiritual growth.

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IBFNA CONFERENCE 2009

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Conference Report

by Pastor Jeff Bailey



The Independent Baptist Fellowship of North America gathered for their 19th Annual Conference in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Pittsburgh near the Pittsburgh International Airport from June 23-25, 2009. The conference featured thoughtful and insightful preaching on a variety of topics. Workshop sessions allowed for group interaction on a variety of current topics, and music that was encouraging and God-honoring was a blessing to all. The highlight of any conference is generally considered to be the renewal of friendships and the camaraderie of like-minded brethren. The 2009 gathering was no exception. The theme of the conference was “For such a Time as This” taken from the book of Esther. The messages and workshops focused on contemporary themes of interest to the Fundamental Baptist Movement. While none of the messages or workshops dealt directly with Esther, taken as a whole, they developed a critique of our contemporary challenges and a biblical answer to those challenges.

Each day began with a morning devotional by Clay Nuttall, a former moderator of the Fellowship and currently a missionary with Baptists Equipping Nationals based in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The sessions focused on the need to increase biblical knowledge in our churches. On Tuesday, in the first conference meeting, he explored the approach taken in many Bible-believing churches toward familiar passages. Brother Nuttall presented his belief that the danger of studying familiar texts is that we are so acquainted with the content that we often miss rich truths that the text has to offer. His text was taken from John 3:14, and looking at other texts, such as I Corinthians 10 which demonstrated the truths that we often overlook in familiar texts. Wednesday morning, Dr. Nuttall examined John 1 and the background of John the Baptist while illustrating how backgrounds of biblical characters influenced their actions and utterances. He concluded the series on Thursday by directing attention to the cross of Christ. “I fear greatly that we have lost the majesty of the cross” said Nuttall, and he developed this theme by a careful consideration of John 19:37.

The preaching sessions began with the traditional message on Biblical Separation that has been the hallmark of each conference since the founding of the Fellowship in 1991. Vic Perry, pastor of East Lawrence Baptist Church in Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania, brought this year’s message. The title of the message, “Don’t be a Carcass by the Way” was taken from I Kings 13. Numerous passages were utilized to trace the theme of Biblical Separation throughout Scripture. Timely illustrations of the dangers facing us were given, and the admonitions were well received. Brother Ed Mason, pastor of Carleton Community Baptist Church in Carleton, Michigan, followed Brother Perry on Tuesday afternoon with a message from Exodus 32 entitled “Facing Tough Issues with a Tender Heart.” The emphasis of Mason’s message was an exhortation to deal with the difficult circumstances with a sensitivity to the Spirit and a generosity of spirit toward people. Tom Hamilton, the treasurer of the Fellowship and pastor of Stony Point Baptist Church of Kansas City, Kansas, brought the Tuesday preaching to a close with his evening message entitled “Goliath is Never the Problem.” The message taken from I Samuel 19 focused on the issue that the immediate challenges that we face are not the real problems, but rather the real challenge for us today is to walk by faith understanding that God brings difficulties into our life in order to demonstrate His glory. The Wednesday preaching began with a message from Greg Ward, assistant pastor of Berean Baptist Church in Belleville, Michigan, entitled “The Need of Our Time: Christ” from Hebrews 2. The focus of the message was on the all-sufficiency of Christ and the need of every generation to respond to the truth of the gospel. Following an afternoon of touring in the Pittsburgh area, the Fellowship gathered again on Wednesday evening to hear a message from Jeff Bailey, a former moderator of the Fellowship and pastor of Grace Baptist Church of Attleboro, Massachusetts, from

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2. “**Praying** in the [sphere of] the Holy Ghost.” This means that our prayer issues from a heart indwelt (which He does at salvation) and controlled by the Spirit. This is vital to an intimate love relationship with God! May God give each of us a *fervent* prayer life! Spurgeon commenting on the psalmist’s prayer in Ps. 109:4 wrote,

The Psalmist prayed in no cold-hearted manner, he gave himself to the exercise—threw his whole soul and heart into it—straining every sinew and muscle, as Jacob did when wrestling with the angel. Thus, and thus only, shall any of us speed at the throne of grace. As a shadow has no power because there is no substance in it, even so that supplication, in which a man’s proper self is not thoroughly present in agonizing earnestness and vehement desire, is utterly ineffectual, for it lacks that which would give it force....The common fault with the most of us is our readiness to yield to distractions. Our thoughts go roving hither and thither, and we make little progress towards our desired end. Like quicksilver our mind will not hold together, but rolls off this way and that. How great an evil this is! It injures us, and what is worse, it insults our God. What should we think of a petitioner, if, while having an audience with a prince, he should be playing with a feather or catching a fly?” (*Morning and Evening*, January 15, PM)

3. “**Looking** for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” We are to earnestly and expectantly look forward to the day when our Lord Jesus will snatch His church away and we will “forever be with the Lord” (1 Thess. 4:17). This eager anticipation will have the result of keeping us pure both practically and doctrinally (1 John 3:3).

As we remember our conference in this issue of *The Review*, we look forward to next year’s family conference, **June 22-24, 2010, in Charlotte, NC**. We will give you further details in upcoming communications. Plan now to be with us, and by all means invite another family to come too!



THE EXEC QUARTET



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**Here you can find important information regarding
the IBFNA along with an archive of *The Review***

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Deuteronomy 12 entitled “A Holy Church in a Hostile World.” The message examined the importance of the Church to be separated unto God and not just from the world. The Thursday morning session featured a timely message on Stem Cells and Stem Cell Research. The study was led by Dr. Mark Foster, a member of nearby Middletown Road Baptist Church and a well-known orthopedic surgeon in Pittsburgh. Dr. Foster used the “Powerpoint” medium to convey the medical, ethical, and biblical issues surrounding this controversial topic. Brother Chuck Phelps, former President of Maranatha Baptist Bible College and newly called to be pastor of Colonial Hills Baptist Church of Indianapolis, Indiana, brought the final two messages of the conference on Thursday afternoon and evening. The afternoon message, entitled “The Architect’s Awesome Plan,” focused on the need to recognize God’s work in leading us along the journey that he has laid out for us in this life. A strong admonition to submit to the will of God was delivered and well received. The evening message, entitled “Motivations that Maintain Ministers,” was meant as an encouragement to be faithful and to endure the challenges we face in a time such as this. The message was a fitting conclusion to the conference preaching.

Indispensable components of IBFNA Conferences are the workshops that address contemporary issues and allow for interaction of the participants with the workshop leaders. 2009 workshop leaders included the team of Tom Wolfe of International Partnership Ministries of Hanover,

Pennsylvania, and George Law of Baptists Equipping Nationals who led a workshop that introduced successful methods of training leaders internationally and discussed how some of those things could be implemented in the United States. Chip Edwards, the IBFNA webmaster and an experienced executive in the field of technology from Mooresville, North Carolina, led a discussion of the challenges of technology in relationship to church ministry and worship. Phil Gingery, the Minister of Music at Bible Baptist Church of West Chester, Pennsylvania, and the conference music coordinator and song leader, led a workshop on developing a biblical philosophy of music. Allen Harris, pastor of Hope Baptist Church of Hanover, Pennsylvania, brought forth a consideration of Christian Education, specifically the challenges that churches face in communicating doctrinal truth to children. Sherman Skeens, pastor of Carmel Baptist Church in Saegertown, Pennsylvania, presented the need to pay attention to the details in ministry as a necessary discipline in building effective ministry in the lives of people. Ted Clater, a longtime leader in the field of Christian Education as the Executive Director of the Keystone Christian Education Association led a discussion concerning some of the contemporary political issues facing churches. Dave Reinhardt, pastor of The Baptist Church of Danbury and a former editor of the IBFNA Review, led a discussion on the contemporary doctrinal issues facing churches. Becky Payne, wife of the current moderator Bob Payne, led a workshop dealing with some of the challenges faced by women in our churches.

Thankful for the Conference and Looking Ahead...

By Dr. Charles L. Dear, Editor



Annual IBFNA conferences have always been a breath of fresh air, compared to many other fellowship meetings across our country. It is amazing what changes can be found from one year to the next, as some groups continue to gravitate towards the contemporary and casual forms of worship and tepid preaching that barely exercises the Bible in your hands. We should be thankful for the godly men who graced the pulpit throughout our conference and brought forth God's Word, rather than the words of men. Every musician honored the Lord with uplifting music and singing that continue to be trademarks of our blessed Fellowship. The host committee and everyone who had a part in the program, especially those who led the teens, children and nursery, brought the conference together as a blessing to our families as well as pastors. The unique quality of the IBFNA lives on and holds great promise for the future. The question now, however, is how shall we carry on this blessing through the rest of the year until we meet again?

Moderator's letters, our website (www.ibfna.org), the annual directory, The Review and other occasional publications help keep us abreast of plans and issues facing us in these times; but we would do well to seek fellowship together more often, in the form of regional meetings, as we have done in the past. It is all too easy to sit back and wait for someone else to take the initiative, but we seek some

among us who recognize the need and are willing to open their church, gather others of like precious faith who do not know about our Fellowship, as well as IBFNA members and host a regional meeting. I'm sure Dr. Richard Harris, our newly appointed representative, would be glad to help you coordinate a regional meeting in your area. As we witness the changing spiritual landscape, it should be obvious to all of us that now is the time to make our Fellowship better known across the country. The longer we delay, the more likely younger men in the ministry will be drawn into compromising fellowship, simply because of the ignorance of a better alternative.

Younger men continue to be a concern for us. We were glad for the younger men who attended our conference and for their active participation, but there are others not hearing our message and being led astray by others. Rather than being prepared to challenge times such as this, we find an all too willing surrender of known and proven principles of the past being exchanged for empty promises of a success defined by the praise of men, more than the praise of God. What we are witnessing is a bitter irony of parallels between the politics of our times and the changes we are witnessing in the name of the Lord's work.

Consider, for example, the doctrine of Liberalism, so often dismissed as irrelevant by the contemporary and relegated in most Bible colleges and seminaries to church history, as long ago and far away. Need we say, for the record, that the rumors of its death in the 20th century have been more than exaggerated? While the names have been changed to protect the guilty, virtually every new movement, by whatever name it currently wears, can be traced back to the wave of apostasy that began at the close of the 19th century. The course of that apostasy into the 20th century, however, parallels the spirit of Liberalism that also infected the politics of our nation.

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TEEN CHOIR

PROMOTED TO HEAVEN

Fred Holdsworth

Fred Holdsworth, a member of the IBFNA, passed away on March 27, 2009. He would have been 70 this past June 3. He was a member of Trinity Baptist Church, in Concord NH, for over the last 10 years and was honored by the church for initiating their missionary closet program. He also taught their Seniors Sunday School Class and was a board member at Camp Joy and Maranatha Baptist College (15 years). Fred often brought the Maranatha display to our IBFNA conferences. He and his wife, Louise, would have been married 50 years this October, and they have 3 children and 18 grandchildren.

V. Ben Kendrick

On July 13, 2009, V. Ben Kendrick went home to be with the Lord Whom he served for more than 50 years. After growing up in Shickshinny PA and New Jersey, Ben and Nina were married in 1948. They went on to language school in France, on their way to what was then French Equatorial Africa, where they served as missionaries from 1951 through 1972. They returned stateside in 1972, and Ben held several different positions at Baptist Mid-Missions home office from 1972-1989. In more recent years, he was a deacon at Martinsville Baptist Tabernacle and directed their Men For Missions ministry, as well as serving on the Missions Committee. He also taught missions at Indiana Baptist College since 1989. Ben was an early member of the IBFNA and spoke at one of our national conferences. He also wrote several books recounting their missionary experiences.



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Consider the following: All Liberalism makes swelling promises on which it has never delivered. All Liberalism focuses attention upon the works of Men, rather than the supernatural working of God. All Liberalism dismisses the importance of history in exchange for the thrill of making new history, no matter how tragic its consequences may become. Liberalism would rather see the younger teach their elders what ought to be done, than have younger men pay heed to the voices of experience. All Liberalism holds utter contempt for simplicity, whether it be for small government or for the Gospel of Christ. Liberalism makes heroes of those outside the normal, traditional bounds of leadership, by cultivating personality cults extolling the virtues and courage of those who have broken away from commonly accepted constraints, whether it be the Constitution or the Scriptures. New and different become more desirable than true and Scriptural. The insistence that we can change the method, without changing the message has played as well in churches as any politician's clever ploy to seize power and deny basic, God-given rights.

The parallels should give us pause as we realize the growing possibility that we could awaken

one day to find that we have become more of a politician than a preacher, more of a people-pleaser than a God-pleaser, more content to trade in the empty promises of new things from Man than the promises of God that are yea, and amen. Perhaps the most disconcerting thought is the fear that I could become in the ministry the very thing I have come to hate in the halls of government.

Lest we dismiss all this as conjecture and fear-mongering, consider the outcomes of such changes in churches in recent years, more commonly found under younger leadership and compare them with what we see befalling our nation as a result of changes initiated by government. Men who attempted to clone some of the newer models of ministry, like Saddleback, left churches and/or the ministry when their church crashed and burned. People, usually older members have been driven out of their churches, because they refused to accept the changes imposed by the church leadership. Men who have been faithful in the ministry for years, as strong separatists, are now making concessions to the changes brought home from the schools by their young men "to keep peace in the family" or to try and overcome accusations of being "outdated" in their methods and preaching. The

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carnage resulting from both the deceit and oppression is all the more painful than what we are witnessing as the result of government actions, because it is all being done in the Name of the Lord and for the professed welfare of His Church.

Neither is it the time to embrace every fad that comes down the road or try to implement every new idea from the latest book we are reading. Most of the books out now come from far outside of our circles of fellowship, but some still struggle to find something good among reformed theology, repackaged Liberalism/Modernism and psychobabble.

Looking back to the theme of our conference, *For Such a Time as This*, we would do well to also look to a parallel found in Romans 13:11, "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."

It is important to know the times in which we minister. The pastor who keeps his head in the sand and knows little or nothing about the issues of our day or the impact political changes will bring into our churches and other ministries, is deceiving himself. Looking back again to the text of the conference theme in Esther 4:14, we should recognize that it was not just Esther who was born "for such a time as this." The revelation of the plots against the king from within the government came as a direct result of Mordecai the Jew sitting in the king's gate. He was there for such a time as was necessary to hear what was going on in the Persian government, including the plots by the opposition. Mordecai also had a critical decision to make when the assassination plot became known. Like the children of Issachar, he understood his times and knew what to do. God used that knowledge and Mordecai's actions to set the stage for the decision made later by Queen Esther which led to the profound defeat of the enemies of God's people.

When Paul says, "Knowing the time," (Romans 13:11) however, he is saying we must recognize this critical period of time in which we live. It is not just any time, nor was it just the particular

times in which Paul lived, but those critical junctures in history when the changes proposed and the changes already begun will make crucial differences in the times that follow. Does anyone doubt that we are living in just such a critical period, both in the church and in our nation? The hour has come not to be sleep walking our way through either our ministries or our lives. Far too much is at risk and this critical period requires our highest state of alertness, lest we forfeit the power of the Gospel message by adjusting to the times or lose the liberties we have thus far enjoyed to proclaim the Gospel both far and near.

Notice Paul's last admonition in Romans 13:11 "...For now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." Above everything else that challenges our hearts to be faithful in these times, we are reminded by Paul to be ready for the bridegroom's soon return. Where some might presume that it doesn't really matter what we do, since he is coming soon anyway, the Judgment Seat of Christ also looms closer than ever as well. Our accountability before Him should always be a motivation for faithfulness in His service.

One of the leading contemporary movements recently did a ten-year assessment of their impact on the lives of their followers and discovered that, although they had invested well over a million dollars, the spiritual lives of the people under their ministries had hardly improved over those years. A testimony from a former member of one of their churches confirmed their conclusion when he realized how little he had learned over as many years of his faithful attendance, and he left the church because he wanted something better. Would you be surprised to learn that nothing, so far as I know, has changed in those churches since that assessment? Catering to the superficial has always been popular, but spiritually hollow. It is truly "...having a form of godliness, by denying the power thereof." When we rightfully object to the trillions of dollars wasted by government, may we not likewise wonder what resources continue to be squandered playing church, with nary a thought about the fulfillment of the Great Commission or our accountability before the Lord.

MRS. JUDY MASON TEACHING THE CHILDREN



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