

Independent Baptist REVIEW

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Rev. Jack Keep, Editor

A NEW BEGINNING

ARCHE HEMISOU PANTOU "*The beginning is half of all.*" (Old Greek Proverb).

This is the first issue of the Independent Baptist Review. It was brought into existence with the organization of a fellowship of separatist, fundamentalist Baptists on October 1-3, 1990. The following news release details the organizational meeting.

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP FORMED

On Wednesday, October 3, 1990, the "INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP" was formed in the city of Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Quoting from it's "STATEMENT OF PURPOSE," this new Baptist Fellowship came into existence:

"To establish a nationwide fundamentalist, separatist association of Baptists to provide fellowship, counsel, a uniform standard of Biblical faith and practice, and a vehicle for cooperation in promoting the evangelistic, church planting and educational goals of the fellowship; and further to emphasize the Biblical teaching on separation from unbelievers in religious work (primary separation) and separation from believers who ignore or disobey the Bible's teaching of primary separation; and to raise a standard for personal separation from worldliness and worldly practices reflecting the truth that believers are new creatures in Christ."

The IBF adopted a 'TRANSITIONAL' set of By-Laws and Articles of Faith. At the present time, membership in the INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP is open to "Pastors and church members who agree without reservation to the Constitution and Articles of Faith." At their next meeting at the Crescentville Baptist Church, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on Monday through Wednesday, June 17-19, 1991, membership may be extended to local churches as well. At that time, the members will receive the report of the "Committee on Constitution and Articles of Faith" for discussion, amendment, and final adoption. Baptist pastors, deacons, students, and women were represented among the founding members of the Fellowship. Charter membership will remain open until the close of the June meeting.

It may be of historical interest that there were more than twice as many people at this foundational meeting than those who met in 1932 at the founding of the GARBC. Baptist Pastors and other men and women were gathered for this historic "Inaugural Conference" from the eleven states of California, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, Virginia, Florida, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. The meetings were chaired in a fair and able manner by Pastor Charles Dear, of Philadelphia, who was elected Moderator. Other officers are:

Pastor Jerry Johnson, from Hanover, Pennsylvania, Secretary/Clerk, and Pastor Jack Keep, from Dale City, Virginia, Treasurer and Editor of the INDEPENDENT BAPTIST REVIEW. Prior to the conference ten pastors from across the nation had been enlisted to prepare the positional documents which were discussed, modified, and passed at this meeting. Nine and one half hours were set aside for organizational business. Five messages were given on the topics of the primacy of the local church, the equality of the brethren, Christ the Head of the church, congregational government, and the mission of the church.

Here are a few decisions which came out of the Oshkosh meetings: (1) Annual conferences will include expository Bible preaching and address current issues of concern to the churches. (2) The King James Version will be used by the conference speakers. (3) Baptist distinctives will be honored. (4) Both primary and secondary separation will be adhered to. (5) Members will reaffirm annually their agreement with the Constitution and Articles of Faith to retain membership. (6) Approval of mission boards, social agencies, and schools will be left to the local church. (7) There will be an equality of the brethren in the Fellowship rather than a hierarchy. (8) Instead of a council system, there will be a moderator who, with the secretary/clerk, will serve for a one year term, cannot succeed himself, and may serve only two terms. (9) Detailed statements on the doctrines of Bible inerrancy, Bible preservation, salvation through Christ, and the number and function of Biblical officers were adopted.

Prepared by Rev. D.A. Waite,
Th.D., Ph.D.

MEMBERSHIP IN IBF

To become a member of The Independent Baptist Fellowship write to the Secretary, Rev. Jerry

Johnson at R.D. 3, Box 49W, Hanover, Pa. 17331

Membership is open to Baptist Pastors and church members in agreement with the provisional Doctrinal statement and position papers.

FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF IBF

Meet us in Philadelphia, Pa. for the first Annual Conference of the Independent Baptist Fellowship, June 17 - 19, 1991. The conference will be hosted by the Crescentville Baptist Church. We hope to be able to hold one of the sessions in the historic Pennypack Baptist Church where the first Baptist Association in America was formed in 1707. We are looking forward to a grand time of fellowship, Christ honoring music and good preaching. There are a number of important business matters to discuss relative to the adoption of a Constitution and By-Laws so it is important that you contact the Secretary about membership in I.B.F. so you can take part in the discussion.

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST REVIEW

We are planning to make this newsletter an effective means of communication with our constituency. At present we are working on funds received in offerings at the Oshkosh meeting. We plan to publish quarterly as funds are available. If you or your church would like to help, contact the Treasurer, Rev. Jack Keep at 14836 N. Ashdale Ave., Dale City, Va. 22193.

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