

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES

521 E. Godfrey Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19120-2123.

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To the IBFNA Fellowship

My Dear Brothers & Sisters of the IBFNA,

I sincerely hope that this letter finds you well and in good health, rejoicing in our gracious Lord and resting peacefully in His love and care. Much has occurred since we were last together in June, 2019 with Brother Mike Ascher and the wonderful brethren of Good News Baptist Church in Chesapeake, Virginia. We were all set to meet for our 2020 conference this past June with Brother Jeff Bailey in Attleboro, Massachusetts, when the world turned upside down and so much around us changed. How could we ever have dreamed that the basic “normalcy” of our everyday life would require the wearing of a mask for simply going to the store for a loaf of bread and milk! Many of us closed our churches and only met online, something personally I do not believe I could ever do again. We canceled our conference (and most of our lives over the past 6 months) and tried to make some sense of all the reports and information which flooded us.

Through all of these trying times it is so good to know that we serve a great God! He has been and always will be faithful to us above all that we could ask or think. He never changes and is still in the business of changing lives through the glorious gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ! The message that we have from Him to the world is the exclusive message of hope and peace. Paul tells us in Romans 15:4, “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” Think of that with me for just a moment. The learning of Scripture brings us patience and comfort, which establishes our hope! This is what we must share with the world, and this is the message of the IBFNA.

Please allow me to recommend the latest edition of the *Review*. Included in this edition are some wonderful remembrances of Doctor Robert Delnay, who truly was a mentor to many of us. Of special note is a reprinting of his letter to the leadership of the IBFNA from 2004. His words still ring true today, maybe even with more dynamic impact!

I am so longing to be together next June at our conference. Brother Jeff and the brethren of Grace Baptist Church have graciously extended an invitation to open up their facilities to us again next year as they were prepared to do this past summer. Won't you set your calendars right now for June 22-24 and plan on meeting together for good fellowship and great preaching? We unfortunately missed the conference this past summer, which is even more incentive to commit to meeting together next year. I cannot wait to see you then. May the Lord bless you, and may the Lord bless the IBFNA.

Sincerely in His Service,

Mark

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