

SECTION TWO:

Southern Baptist Convention Resolution

"On Christian Witness and Voluntary Associations

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Section II: S.B.C. Resolution on Secret Societies

It is helpful to the Interfaith Witness Department of the Home Mission Board that the 1992 Southern Baptist Convention unanimously passed a resolution which addresses its responsibility in regard to the Masonic Lodge. The resolution states:

"On Christian Witness and Voluntary Associations"

"WHEREAS, We are called to be in the world but not of the world; and

WHEREAS, We are called to maintain biblical standards of holiness and to avoid compromise of our Christian witness, or cooperation which would threaten that witness; and

WHEREAS, We are called to maintain Christian witness openly before the world; and

WHEREAS, We recognize the value of many social, fraternal, and philanthropic organizations.

Therefore, Be it **RESOLVED**, That we, the messengers to the 135th session of the Southern Baptist Convention, call upon all Christians to maintain personal purity in all activities, associations, or memberships; avoiding any association which conflicts with clear biblical teaching, including those teachings concerning the taking of oaths, the secrecy of activities, mystical knowledge, or racial discrimination; and

Be it further **RESOLVED**, We affirm that biblical doctrine is to be open and public knowledge and that the Christian faith is to be a clear and public expression of the truth that Jesus Christ is the only means of salvation, that the Bible is our infallible guide, and that salvation comes by the Gospel of grace and not by works; and

Be it finally **RESOLVED**, That we urge all Southern Baptists to refrain from participation or membership in organizations with teachings, oaths, or mystical knowledge which are contrary to the Bible and to the public expression of our faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ, which must be above all reproach."



The "be-it-resolved" sections of this resolution give guidance and support to the responsibility which has been given to the Home Mission Board's Interfaith Witness Department in regard to Freemasonry.

First Section

The first "be-it-resolved" section of this resolution states:

Therefore, Be it **RESOLVED**, That we, the messengers to the 135th session of the Southern Baptist Convention, call upon all Christians to maintain personal purity in all activities, associations, or memberships; avoiding any association which conflicts with clear biblical teaching, including those teachings concerning the taking of oaths, the secrecy of activities, mystical knowledge, or racial discrimination; and

This resolution identifies as "incompatible with Christianity" organizations which:

1. Require the "taking of oaths"
2. Require "the secrecy of activities"
3. Teach "mystical knowledge"
4. Practice "racial discrimination"

According to this resolution, adopted without dissenting vote at the Southern Baptist Convention, if it is established that Freemasonry practices any and all of these, then it is incompatible with Christianity.

Taking of Oaths

In Section V of this study entitled, "The First Three Degrees of the Masonic Lodge", the oaths which are taken by the Masons are identified. Furthermore, in the Heirloom Masonic Bible (document #6, page 29, in Section VI of this study) the following appears:

- "Q. What is the character of the oath required of Masons?
- A. Before any candidate for the mysteries, symbols, tenets, and secrets of Freemasonry can be admitted to a Lodge he is required to make a solemn oath by which he pledges secrecy and assumes the obligation of faithfully conforming his life to the teachings of the Order...The oath of a Mason is administered with solemn rites symbolizing and emphasizing the profound and meaningful character of the obligations being assumed...The Masonic oath is attended with the imprecation of certain penalties in the event of violation..." (p. 52, column two)

Therefore, Freemasonry meets this first criterion for condemnation established by the S.B.C. in 1992

Secrecy of Activities

The second standard against which activities are to be measured which Christians should avoid is "secrecy of activities." Masons will argue that they are not a secret organization because their places of meeting are clearly marked. This is begging the question. The issue is not whether or not the Masonic Lodge conceal its existence, and it is not whether or not its places of meeting are marked, the issue is can anyone, anywhere walk into a Masonic Lodge and attend all of its meetings? The answer is obviously, "No, they can not."

The article in Section IX of this report deals with the difference between confidentiality and secrecy. (see Section IX, pages 11-17) In Section VI (p. 61) of this study, the book, The History and Evolution of Freemasonry, is outlined. Part of that outline quotes from Chapter XXVI entitled, "The Questions of Landmarks"; it states:

"Roscoe Pound, the distinguished jurist, who gave the subject much unbiased study, suggests the following which may be safely recognized as landmarks of the fraternity:

- (1) belief in God
- (2) belief in the persistence of personality
- (3) **a 'Book of the Law' as an indispensable part of the furniture of the Lodge** (emphasis added)
- (4) the legend of the third degree
- (5) secrecy
- (6) the symbolism of the operative art
- (7) that a Mason must be a man, free born, and of age..." (p. 312)

Regardless of which statement of the Landmarks (the unchangeable) characteristics of Freemasonry which each Grand Lodge accepts, secrecy is one of them. In this same volume, Albert Mackey's Landmarks of Freemasonry are listed (pp. 307-309). Section VI (p. 59) of this study establishes that twenty-one Grand Lodges in the United States have either formally adopted Mackey's Landmarks or they accept them by custom.

Mackey's Twenty-five Landmarks of Freemasonry include:

- Number 15. That no visitor not known to some brother present as a Mason can enter a lodge without undergoing examination.
- Number 23. **That Freemasonry is a secret society, in**

possession of secrets that can not be
divulged. (emphasis added)

Number 24. That Freemasonry consists of a speculative
science, founded on speculative art.

Number 25. That the landmarks of Masonry can never be
changed.

Therefore, Masonry meets the second criterion of the S.B.C.
resolution of organizations which are to be avoided by
Christians.

Mystical Knowledge

The third criterion of evaluation has to do with "mystical
knowledge." The word "mystic" is defined by Webster's as
"of or relating to mysteries or esoteric rites: occult; or
or relating to mysticism or mysics." "Mystical" is defined
as "based on subjective experience (as intuition or
insight)." Freemasonry promotes and is founded upon
"mystical knowledge". That is proved and demonstrated in the
document in Section IX, pp.1-5 of this study. That
information will not be repeated here.

It is at this point that Freemasonry's ultimate
incompatibility with Christianity is demonstrated. In
Section VIII of this study, a paper detailing "the Secret
Doctrine" of the Masonic Lodge is presented. The Secret
Doctrine teaches:

"...that Jesus Christ is not the only begotten Son of
God, but that each Mason may become a Christ by a
process known as Masonic Initiation. The Secret
Doctrine teaches that each Mason is his own Savior." (p.
vi)

In addition, every document in Section VI of this study
supports the existence of the Secret Doctrine. Many Masons
will deny its existence, as they are ignorant of its
existence. Modern Masonic scholars lament this ignorance and
wish to correct it by having Masons take the secrets of their
Craft more seriously.

Thus it is seen that Freemasonry is guilty of this third
criterion established by the S.B.C. as characteristic of
those organizations which are to be avoided by Christians.

Racial Discrimination

The fourth criterion given by the S.B.C. upon the basis of which to evaluate organizations which are to be avoided by believers is the practicing of "racial discrimination." Essentially, this means that a person is included or excluded from an association, membership or participation solely upon the basis of race or color.

As will be established in Section VI, beginning with page 67, the roots and principle teachings of Mormonism came from the Masonic Lodge. Without doubt, the exclusion of Blacks by the Mormons from the blasphemous Melchizedek Priesthood was based on the racism promoted by the Masonic Lodge.

While it is difficult to document, the Ku Klux Klan was founded by Freemasons and supported by Masons. If records were available to be examined it is certain that today the majority of Klan members would be found to be Masons, while the Lodge would correctly point out that the majority of Masons are not Klan members.

The book previously referenced (document #15 in Section VI, page 61 of this study), History and Evolution of Freemasonry copyrighted 1954 and republished in 1979 by the Charles T. Powner Company, addresses the racism of the Masonic Lodge in Chapter XXVII, entitled, "The Color Line". It states:

"Regardless of the apparent regular way and manner in which Negro Masonry was introduced into the United States, the question of its legitimacy has been one widely discussed and over which there has been much controversy due largely to racial prejudice. **The status of Negro Masonry in this country was perhaps never better defined than it was by Albert Pike in 1875, when he said, 'Prince Hall Lodge was as regular a Lodge as any Lodge created by competent authority. It had a perfect right to establish other Lodges and make itself a Mother Lodge. I am not inclined to meddle in the matter. I took my obligations from white men, not from negroes. When I have to accept negroes as brothers or leave Masonry, I shall leave it. Better let the thing drift.'** This very frank statement by Albert Pike sums up the exact feeling that is exhibited toward Negro Masonry at the present time." (emphasis added) (p. 319)

Not only does this recently published book affirm the esteemed position Albert Pike still holds in the Masonic hierarchy, it also convicts the Masonic Lodge of racism. Except for a few (less than ten) black members of several Northeastern United States Grand Lodges, no Black can join a regular Masonic Lodge. The history of Black Freemasonry in America is totally separated from that of White Freemasonry.

Therefore, according to the four criterion of this first "be-it-resolved" section of the resolution, **"On Christian Witness and Voluntary Associations"**, adopted by the S.B.C. in June, 1992, Freemasonry is one of those organizations which Christians, and particularly Southern Baptist Christians should avoid.

Second Section

The second "be-it-resolved" section of this resolution states:

Be it further **RESOLVED**, We affirm that biblical doctrine is to be open and public knowledge and that the Christian faith is to be a clear and public expression of the truth that Jesus Christ is the only means of salvation, that the Bible is our infallible guide, and that salvation comes by the Gospel of grace and not by works; and

This section of the resolution establishes the following criterion for Christians to evaluate their free associations. That which is Christian:

1. Is to be open and public knowledge
2. The Christian faith is to be a clear and public expression of the truth that Jesus Christ is the only means of salvation.
3. The Bible is our infallible guide.
4. Salvation comes by the Gospel of grace and not by works.

Open and Public Knowledge

It has already been established that Freemasonry is not "open and public". Freemasonry is exclusive and elitist. The Gospel message is "whosoever will may come." The message of Freemasonry is "only those that we chose may come."

Jesus Christ is the Only Way to Salvation

The second criterion of this section is "the Christian faith is to be a clear and public expression of the truth that Jesus Christ is the only means of salvation." The Masonic Lodge does not allow the preaching of the Gospel in its Lodges. In fact, the Masonic Lodge establishes that there are many ways to God. Section VII of this study established that the Masonic Lodge has a "plan of salvation", of which many Masons are ignorant, which does not include Jesus Christ. Section VIII of this study reveals the Secret Doctrine as addressed above.

On page 29 of the Heirloom Masonic Bible (Document #6 in Section VI of this study) the following statement appears:

"As a Master Mason, he is taught the last, the most important, and the most necessary of all Truth, that having been faithful to all his trusts, he is at last to die, and to receive the reward of his fidelity...his soul returns to God who gave it and his body which returns to dust shall be raised, incorruptible and glorified and qualified for entrance into the Grand Lodge of the Celestial City of God. By the instructions of that notable legend and of the entire Ritual, it is implied that we have been redeemed from the death of sin and the sepulcher of pollution. The essence of principles illustrated in the third degree brings ultimate triumph to every true, tested, tried and faithful Master Mason." (emphasis added) (p. 11, column two)

It is clear that Jesus Christ is not taught as the way to salvation by the Masonic Lodge. It is clear that works are the basis of man being approved by God.

The Bible is the Infallible Guide

Document Number Seven in Section VI (page 33) of this study is the Masonic Altar Bible which states;

"The direct textual quotations require no comment except the obvious one that references to the New Testament do not appear to have been made with evangelical or other dogmatic intent." (emphasis added) (p. 6)

The Bible is used by the Masonic Lodge to establish an illusion of a Christian foundation to its Craft. Yet, the clear teaching of the Word of God that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation is rejected. The phrase, "references to the New Testament do not appear to have been made with evangelical or other dogmatic intent", means exactly what it says: the Bible is not used to direct men to Christ and the truth of the Bible's claims for Christ are ignored.

The contempt in which Jesus Christ, the Word of God and Biblical doctrine are held is demonstrated by a quote from the Holy Bible Masonic Edition Cyclopedic Indexed (Copyright 1923, 1924, 1926, 1932, 1934, 1936, 1941, 1942). There is a long section of quotations from Albert Pike, which include

"The foregoing selections from Scripture, slightly paraphrased are peculiarly appropriate by reason of their reference to the principal symbol of the degree. See 2d chapter of First Epistle of Peter, and the 28th chapter of Isaiah." (p. 13, column one)

The Scripture which is "slightly paraphrased" is I Peter 2:5. As quoted by Pike it states:

"ye also, as living stones, be ye built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up sacrifices acceptable to God."

As translated by the King James Version, I Peter 2:5 states:

"Ye also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

The highlighted portion of I Peter 2:5 is that part which is "slightly paraphrased." This is so in every verse of Scripture used in the Masonic Ritual, except the York Rite, the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ is removed.

Salvation Comes By Grace of God and Not By Works

It will be established in this study that the Masonic Lodge violates each of the points of the second section of the S.B.C. resolution, particularly in teaching an alternate plan of salvation which is based on works and equating the Lord Jesus Christ with other religious reformers.

Third Section

The third section of the resolution states:

Be it finally **RESOLVED**, That we urge all Southern Baptists to refrain from participation or membership in organizations with teachings, oaths, or mystical knowledge which are contrary to the Bible and to the public expression of our faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ, which must be above all reproach."

In that Freemasonry meets each of the criteria established in both section one and section two of the S.B.C. resolution, it qualifies as an organization which Christians and particularly Southern Baptists should avoid.

Final Comments

While the depth of the study required by the S.B.C. motion will go far beyond this statement, it is only necessary to demonstrate that the Masonic Lodge has oaths, secret activities, mystical knowledge and racial discrimination to establish that it is incompatible with Southern Baptist doctrine. It is public knowledge that to become a Mason one must take oaths of loyalty and silence. It is public knowledge that the Masonic Lodge carries out its activities in secret. It is public knowledge that the Masonic Lodge employs "mystical knowledge" in its rituals. It is public knowledge that no black can join a regular Lodge of Freemasons in America. Therefore, they formed their own lodges, called Prince Hall Lodges, which have no interchange with the Masonic Lodges to which 1.3 million Southern Baptists belong.

Therefore, the Convention which charged the Home Mission Board with the responsibility for making this study, also facilitated them in their decision by establishing the parameters required to declare Freemasonry "incompatible with the Christian faith and with Southern Baptist doctrine."

In a Baptist Press release dated May 15, 1992, Dr. Peter Wagner, professor of church growth at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, and author of a new book entitled, Warfare Prayer, was quoted as saying:

"I do not pretend any expertise in Masonry per se, but I have been researching spiritual warfare and have become aware that Freemasonry is much more than a fraternal or civic organization. I believe it is one of the Enemy's most subtle and pernicious front line agencies of deception designed ultimately to keep lost souls from being saved. Infiltration into our churches has been a frighteningly deceptive tactic that most of us have been (un)aware (sic) of until recently."

This comment from Dr. Wagner was also included in a letter dated December 9, 1991, which he wrote to Dr. Larry Lewis, President of the Home Mission Board. In Dr. Wagner's new book referenced above, he identifies Freemasonry as the chief obstacle to revival in Argentina. Once the strong hold of Freemasonry was removed, Dr. Wagner reports, revival broke out, with thousands being saved.

In the same Baptist Press release quoted above, Dr. Stephen Olford, Memphis-based Bible teacher and authority on spiritual awakening, is quoted as saying:

"I consider this (Freemasonry) movement to be one of Satan's most subtle forms of intrusion into the life of the church...Masonry is unbiblical, attacks the person and work of Christ and is a satanic deterrent in keeping able men from being and doing what they should in the life of the church."

Dr. Olford originally made these statements in an October 4, 1991 letter to Dr. Lewis. These kind of statements from outstanding Christian leaders, Southern Baptist and non Southern Baptist, can be multiplied many times over.

The H.M.B. is charged with the evangelization of America, with promoting church growth, and with seeking revival among Southern Baptist church members. There is nothing more directly and specifically related to that responsibility than the exposure of the true nature of Freemasonry. Nothing the H.M.B. can do will contribute more to revival in the S.B.C. than the encouragement of Southern Baptists to remove themselves from this occultic association and to encourage the removal of the influence of those affiliated with this occultic association from the leadership of Southern Baptist churches.

Finally, I would like to respond to the stated concern that the Home Mission Board is in a no-win situation: if they agree with Masons, they will lose the support of those who consider it occultic; if they agree with the opponents of Masonry, they will lose the support of Masons. I understand and appreciate the concern which those in responsibility have for the welfare of the Board they serve. The fear of losing financial support may be a real one. What I would like to offer is a Biblical perspective.

In II Chronicles 25, the Word of God relates the incident which took place when Amaziah, king of Judah, hired the men of Israel, the Northern ten tribes, to fight with him against the Edomites. The prophet of God came and said:

"O king, let not the army of Israel go with thee; for the Lord is not with Israel, to wit, with all the children of Ephraim (the Northern ten tribes). But if thou wilt go, do it, be strong for the battle: God shall make thee fall before the enemy: for God hath power to help, and to cast down." (II Chronicles 25:8)

God is concerned that His people employ no alliances with the enemy of God in fulfilling His will. (See II Chronicles 19:2) God would rather His people be defeated than allow the enemy to boast that God needed help to achieve His purposes upon the earth. (See Genesis 14:22-24)

The Southern Baptist Convention, like Judah, is the Lord's anointed; the Masonic Lodge, like Ephraim, is not. The prophet of God declares that "the Lord is not with (the Masonic Lodge)." God admonishes Southern Baptists to separate themselves from the Masonic Lodge. We have two responses: heed God's warning or contemptuously ignore it. God's statement to us is the same as to Judah: If you go into the spiritual battle before you with the Masonic Lodge as an ally, you had better be ready for the battle, because you will find yourself fighting against God Himself. God would rather allow Southern Baptists to fail than to allow them to succeed allied with God's enemy through the Masonic Lodge.

Amaziah's immediate and first concern in response to the prophet's warning was, "what about all of the money that I am going to lose?" The Bible states:

"And Amaziah said to the man of God, but what shall we do for the hundred talents which I have given to the army of Israel? And the man of God answered, The Lord is able to give thee much more than this."

God is always concerned that His people trust Him rather than circumstances. It may appear to human reasoning that the Masonic Lodge and its members can radically effect the funding of missions in the S.B.C. If that is the case, it is a work of man. If it is a work of God, and it is, then God will multiple the funds required to do His work, His Way, in His time. It is not a childish, unrealistic position to say, "Let's obey God and trust Him!" God will replace every penny any Mason might withdraw. But, more than that, God will bless immeasurably our faithfulness in obeying Him in separating ourselves from the occultism of the Lodge.

The Bible declares that Amaziah obeyed God and "separated them, to wit, the army that was come to him out of Ephraim, to go home again...". (II Chronicles 25:10) "Separated" is the translation of a Hebrew word which means "to distinguish diverse things, to shut out as a mixed multitude." (Gesenius Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon of the Old Testament) II Corinthians 6:14-7:1 commands the same separation from those who have no "concord" with Christ -- those who are out of harmony with the message of the Lord Jesus Christ. God wants the S.B.C. to separate herself from the Masonic Lodge because the two organizations march to two difference masters. (See The Southern Baptist Convention and Freemasonry)

Amaziah won the battle with the Edomites; but, the Word of God relates there was a consequence to Amaziah's obedience:

"...wherefore their anger was greatly kindled against Judah, and they returned home in great anger...But the soldiers of the army which Amaziah sent back, that they should not go with him to battle, fell upon the cities of Judah, from Samaria even unto Beth-horon, and smote three thousand of them, and took much spoil." (II Chronicles 25:10b, 13)

The world does not take it kindly when God's people separate themselves. The world will accuse the church of bigotry, fanaticism and demagoguery. There is no question that Masons who have joined Southern Baptist churches will react angrily to the Convention taking a stand against Freemasonry. There is no question that they will attempt to ravage Southern Baptist churches. But, there is no question that our God is greater than the god of the Lodge. (See II Chronicles 32:7-8) In addition, **practicality is never an acceptable alternative to obedience.** Southern Baptists must never allow the fear of consequences to discourage them from obedience to God.

God wants a people who will be valiant for the truth regardless of the risk. He desires for His people to love Him more than their own life. The only matter which should be a concern to the Southern Baptist Convention is that we do not "(bring) the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be (our) gods." (II Chronicles 25:14) Southern Baptist must not adopt the methods, the standards or the goals of the world.

There is one last lesson to learn from the life of Amaziah. In II Chronicles 25:16-17, the Bible states:

"And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that the king said unto him, Art thou made of the king's counsel? forbear; why shouldest thou be smitten? Then the prophet forbore, and said, I know that God hath determined to destroy thee, because thou hast done this, and hast not hearkened unto my counsel. Then Amaziah king of Judah took advice, and sent to Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, Come, let us see one another in the face."

Amaziah obeyed God in separating from the Ephraimites. He won the victory over the Edomites. Nevertheless, after adopting the gods of the Edomites, he ignores the "counsel" of the prophet of God and seeks the "advice" of men. The difference between "counsel" and "advice" is important in Christians' lives, but for the H.M.B. it will be vital in the

coming year. Many people are going to offer their "advice"; you desperately will need the "counsel of God." (See Proverbs 22:17-21) These concepts can be contrasted:

COUNSEL

ADVICE

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Originates with God in Revelation (Isaiah 11:1-4; Isaiah 9:6) | originates with man (Luke 16:15; II Cor. 10:15) |
| A. Based on Nature of God (Hebrews 6:16-20) | Based on nature of man (James 4:14-17) |
| b. Based on Foreknowledge (Isaiah 46:9-11) | Based on circumstances (II Kings 18-10) |
| c. Based on Truth (Revelation) (Luke 7:24-29) | Based on opinion (information) (Luke 7:30-35) |
| d. Appeals to the Spirit (Intuition) (I Cor. 2; Genesis 20:3) | Appeals to the Soul (Mind) (II Chron. 10: I Kings 12) |
| e. Is Eternal | Is Temporary |
| 2. Readily and always available (John 14:15-26) | Must be looked for (Proverbs 7) |
| 3. Requires searching (Proverbs 22:17-21) | Will be given without seeking (Proverbs 14:14-16) |
| 4. Results in life and that abundantly, because it meets our specific need. (John 5:39-40) | Results in death because it panders to our wants which continues our self-centeredness. (Prov.) |
| 5. Often minority report and sometimes singular report of the prophet of God. (II Chron. 18:13) | Often majority report (II Chron. 18:5) |
| 6. Reason may contradict (not irrational but cannot be subjected to logic as counsel often contradicts the conclusion of logic) | Eminently rational (often demonstrates man's capacity to reason logically to precisely the wrong decision) |
| 7. Requires a ready heart (available only to the humble and contrite, Isaiah 66:1-5) | Sought of those who desire to reinforce their error. (II Tim. 4:3, For the time is coming when people will not tolerate (endure) sound and wholesome instruction, but having ears itching (for something pleasing and gratifying), they will gather to themselves one teacher after another to a considerable number, chosen to satisfy their own liking and to foster the errors they hold.") |

It is my prayer and hope that the Home Mission Board will seek only the counsel of God, of His Word and of those who bow their knee only to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is my prayer and hope that you will strike a blow for the liberation of God's people from the stifling companionship of those who have compromised their testimony and who retard the movement of the Spirit of the Lord among Southern Baptists. It is my prayer that you will valiantly pursue the responsibility set before you. You may not want it; but, it is yours. Embrace it; delight in it; glorify God in and through it.

It is my desire to assist you in any way that I can. I am confident that the facts will speak for themselves, and that you will thusly speak for the Lord. God bless you, as you pursue this great opportunity given to you by the Lord. Do it without fear, save that of God. Do it without regard to circumstances; God will give you more than you lose.

WHEREAS, Though the Equal Access Act is a significant step toward a balanced concept of religious liberty, the Act still more closely resembles religious toleration rather than religious liberty, since the rights guaranteed by the law are tied to students' rights of free speech and assembly, rather than their right of free religious exercise.

Therefore, Be it RESOLVED, That we, the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, June 9-11, 1992, commend recent actions taken by the Supreme Court to recognize and enforce the free exercise of religion for students in our nation's public schools; and

Be it further RESOLVED, That we urge all Southern Baptist students vigorously and aggressively to seek all means by which they may share the love of God with their fellow students; and

Be it further RESOLVED, That we commend the Home Mission Board, Baptist state convention evangelism departments, and all Baptists exercising their religious liberties for the furtherance of the Gospel; and

Be it finally RESOLVED, That we encourage the United States Congress to seek means by which the Equal Access Act may be expanded to maximize the free exercise rights of public school students.

**Resolution No. 6—
ON THE RIGHT OF RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM FOR ALL HUMAN BEINGS**

WHEREAS, Baptists recognize the true foundation of religious liberty in the biblical doctrine of God's creation of men and women in His image; and

WHEREAS, Baptists have a proud history and tradition of promoting religious liberty throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, While the U.S. Constitution affirms and guarantees the religious freedom of all Americans, this is a fundamental right to which all human beings are entitled, since it is ultimately an irrevocable gift from their Creator; and

WHEREAS, In 1948 the United Nations affirmed the right to religious freedom for all peoples in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states, "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance"; and

WHEREAS, Political and economic freedoms are recognitions of the God-given, inalienable and most fundamental right to religious freedom; and

WHEREAS, Last year our government committed U.S. military forces to defend the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has abstained from supporting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and which, according to authoritative studies, has the worst record of religious oppression in the world; and

WHEREAS, The nation of Kuwait, which was liberated at the expense of the lives of American and other coalition military personnel, does not adequately recognize and protect religious and political freedom for its citizens and guests; and

WHEREAS, A Presidential Permit has been required by Egyptian authorities since 1956, in order to build or repair churches, we note that the present government has not issued a single permit, thereby forcing many churches to be abandoned or condemned because of disrepair; and

WHEREAS, Religious liberties are similarly threatened or denied in various nations throughout the world.

Therefore, Be it RESOLVED, That we the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, June 9-11, 1992, urge the President of the United States to use the influence afforded by the successful outcome of the Persian Gulf war to influence all nations throughout the region of the Middle East to provide genuine religious freedom for the estimated 10 million Christians living in the Middle East, for the foreign nationals who must

work in those nations, and for all persons everywhere; and

Be it further RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our historic tradition of support for the God-given, inalienable right to religious freedom for all peoples of the world, and our conviction that political freedom, self-determination, and economic freedom are the necessary corollaries to religious liberty.

**Resolution No. 7—
ON CHRISTIAN WITNESS AND
VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS**

WHEREAS, We are called to be in the world but not of the world; and

WHEREAS, We are called to maintain biblical standards of holiness and to avoid compromise of our Christian witness, or cooperation which would threaten that witness; and

WHEREAS, We are called to maintain Christian witness openly before the world; and

WHEREAS, We recognize the value of many social, fraternal, and philanthropic organizations.

Therefore, Be it RESOLVED, That we, the messengers to the 135th session of the Southern Baptist Convention, call upon all Christians to maintain personal purity in all activities, associations, or memberships; avoiding any association which conflicts with clear biblical teaching, including those teachings concerning the taking of oaths, the secrecy of activities, mystical knowledge, or racial discrimination; and

Be it further RESOLVED, We affirm that biblical doctrine is to be open and public knowledge and that the Christian faith is to be a clear and public expression of the truth that Jesus Christ is the only means of salvation, that the Bible is our infallible guide, and that salvation comes by the Gospel of grace and not by works; and

Be it finally RESOLVED, That we urge all Southern Baptists to refrain from participation or membership in organizations with teachings, oaths, or mystical knowledge which are contrary to the Bible and to the public expression of our faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ, which must be above all reproach.

THANK YOU

**The Yamaha audio consoles
are provided by the
Yamaha Corporation of**

**The Rodgers Organ
being played today has
been provided by
Rodgers Instrument
Corporation and
Thomas Magee of
Rodgers Classic
Organs of Indiana.**

RECEPTION

**FOR
FOREIGN MISSIONARIES
AND
KEITH AND HELEN JEAN PARKS**

**ALL MESSENGERS AND GUESTS ARE
INVITED TO A RECEPTION FOR YOUR
FOREIGN MISSIONARIES AND KEITH AND
HELEN JEAN PARKS ON WEDNESDAY
AFTERNOON FROM 4:00-5:30 P.M. IN
THE CAPITOL BALLROOM OF THE
WESTIN HOTEL.**