

2001 Resolutions

#1 – Resolution on Moral Decline and Christian Holiness

WHEREAS, the moral condition of the state of Texas has greatly declined as demonstrated by the frequency and violence of criminal activities, the overwhelming rate at which families are torn apart, and cavalier attitudes toward personal financial responsibility; and

WHEREAS, gambling, pornography, the abuse of drugs, the use of alcoholic beverages, and other vices have all contributed to this self-destructive status; and

WHEREAS, Baptist people have held high the standard of morality as taught in Scripture, regarding themselves as salt and light in a sinful and dark world (Matthew 5:13-16).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, encourage all individuals, churches, and organizations affiliated with our state convention to make holiness a high priority in their homes, churches, and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon our Texas lawmakers to support bills encouraging higher standards of morality and to oppose bills which discourage morality, such as those which promote gambling, a lottery, or the further proliferation of legalized alcohol sales; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we remember the promise of 2 Chronicles 2:14, which says, “If my people, which are called by name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

#2 – Resolution on the Family

WHEREAS, a U.S. Census Bureau report ending in 2000 reflects that, during the period from 1990-2000, the institution of the family continues the downward spiral that began in the early seventies, in that:

- (1) Households headed by unmarried partners grew by 72%
- (2) Households headed by single mothers increased by over 25%
- (3) Households led by single fathers grew by almost 62%
- (4) Traditional nuclear families dropped below 25% of households
- (5) A third of all babies were born to unmarried mothers
- (6) Cohabitation increased by 100%
- (7) A growing number of unmarried women in the 20s and 30s choose to bear and raise children alone; and

WHEREAS, social pressures opposing divorce and cohabitation are disappearing; our culture is abandoning its commitment to biblical marriage; many are unaware of biblical moral principles which were previously commonly held; and the divorce rate is soaring even among Christians; and

WHEREAS, these trends indicate a further lessening of the influence of the family, which would hinder evangelism since the family is critical to the propagation of the faith; and

WHEREAS, the Defense of Marriage Act submitted to the last session of the Texas legislature affirms the biblical definition of the family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage our pastors to teach youth and young adults the scriptural basis of marriage, to conduct marriage conferences, and to encourage the older generation of Christians to teach the younger generations the benefits of long term commitment in marriage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that encourage our churches to emphasize the annual SBC Christian Home Week; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we challenge every church to pray for families and teach the biblical basis of marriage; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we urge our legislature and other officials to pass the Defense of Marriage Act.

#3 – Resolution o Stem Cell Research

WHEREAS, all human life is sacred from the point of conception (Exodus 20:13; Psalm 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:4-5); and

WHEREAS, human beings “created” for the purpose of scientific research nonetheless remain human beings (Genesis 1:27; 9:6); and

WHEREAS, the destruction of human embryos and the abortion of human babies is murder; and

WHEREAS, even a secular document, The Nuremberg Code, recognizes the moral abhorrence of scientific research knowingly built upon the murder of human life; and

WHEREAS, the use of God-given resources to seek to alleviate and prevent human suffering by any righteous method is good; and

WHEREAS, stem cell research may possibly hold potential for human healing; and

WHEREAS, multiple sources for stem cells which are not harvested as the result of the murder of the donor exist; and

WHEREAS, potential financial gain from unrestricted stem cell research is likely to encourage further murder of unborn children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention affirm President Bush for preventing future murder for the sake of scientific research; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support only scientific research which does not utilize stem cell lines obtained by the murder of humans (at any stage of life from conception forward) unless the victim has made an informed donation of body tissue for research; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon our state and federal governments to allow no public funding of such immoral research, and to make such research illegal.

#4 – Resolution on the Attack on America, September 11, 2001

WHEREAS, the United States of America was viciously attacked by terrorists in heinous, barbarous acts on September 11, 2001, which killed approximately 5,000 innocent American citizens and international guests in New York City, in Washington, D.C., and in Somerset County, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the results of the acts of terrorism continue to the present day with the recent deaths of innocent Americans through biological warfare, and both the nation and the international community remain on constant and vigilant alert; and

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush, as our Commander-in-Chief, has responded to this “War on America” in a clear declaration of a “War on Terrorism,” and such declaration is the responsibility of civil government as clearly stated in the Scriptures in Romans 13:1-4; and

WHEREAS, this war on terrorism meets all the criteria of the “Just War Theory” as adopted by early church leaders, particularly Augustine, and delineated by Dr. Richard Land, Southern Baptists’ leading ethicist as President and CEO of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, the “Just War Theory” requires the presence of the seven following criteria: just cause, just intent, last resort, legitimate authority, limited goals, proportionality, and noncombatant immunity; and

WHEREAS, the United States’ measured and justified military action in response to the attack has been accompanied with compassionate humanitarian airdrops of food, clothing, and medical supplies to the Taliban-oppressed peoples of Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, the United State of America has provided eighty percent (80%) of the food donated by the world community to feed the refugees in Afghanistan since the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, President Bush has declared that the war on terrorism is not directed at any one nation or religious group and that the consensus of the civilized world community is that acts of terror are not to be tolerated; and

WHEREAS, the war on terrorism is expected to be waged covertly, as well as overtly, over a period of unknown duration.

THEREFORE BE RESOLVED that the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention meeting in Fort Worth, October 29-30, 2001, affirm President George W. Bush for his courageous leadership during these days of national and international crisis and further affirm his leadership team in all branches of the government for its adroit and keen handling of all dimensions of the crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we also affirm the leadership of both houses of Congress for their great spirit of national patriotism and unity as displayed in their willingness to work together against a common foe; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we unwaveringly denounce these acts of terrorism and barbarism as an attack on humanity and on civilization itself; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we fervently pray for the surviving victims and the families, co-workers, and friends of all the victims and that we pledge continued support for them and arduous recovery efforts through our actions, gifts, prayers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we pray for our enemies as instructed by our Lord in Matthew 5:43-45; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we convey our deep sense of national pride in having seen our fellow citizens come together in an incredible display of American resolve during the immediate aftermath of the attack; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we pledge to continue to pray that President Bush will have the hand of our great God upon him and that the spirit of wisdom and understanding will guide him and his advisors in every decision; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we ardently support our servicemen and servicewomen and all civil servants who bravely defend freedom's cause, both in our homeland and abroad; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we exhort all Americans to practice responsible citizenship, passionately supporting our just cause in the war on terrorism by heeding our leaders' warnings and instructions, both here and abroad; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the world community to help restore compassionate civil government in the regions affected by the present conflict as soon as the situation allows; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge all believers everywhere to continue to pray passionately for revival and repentance in the church in America, to strive to practice The Great Commission and The Great Commandment locally and globally, and to oppose vigorously the spirit of fear, to meet confidently and boldly the present crisis under the shield of protection of our sovereign God and Savior; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we firmly declare to the entire world that, like our forebears in the days of our struggle for independence, “with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we naturally pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.”

#5 – Resolution of Affirmation and Appreciation for the Baptist Press of the Southern Baptist Convention

WHEREAS, Baptist Press, the national news service of the Southern Baptist Convention since 1946, is the nation’s largest denominational news service, reaching nearly 1.2 million readers through forty-one state Baptist newspapers and journals, and various other secular and religious publications; and

WHEREAS, the ministry focus for Baptist Press is to inform and equip Southern Baptists for life, work and ministry through timely and accurate reporting about key events and persons in Baptist life as well as those outside of Baptists life who have the potential for impacting SBC ministries; and

WHEREAS, Baptist Press reporters and editors always perform at the highest of Christian and professional standards, consistently presenting pertinent articles that are thorough, accurate, balanced and void of inflammatory terms and prejudicial slants; and

WHEREAS, Baptist Press embraces the motto, “Tell the truth and trust the people,” believing that the people in the churches have the right and the ability to evaluate important issues for themselves; and

WHEREAS, conclusions drawn from fair and truthful Baptist Press reports which describe events and associations by Baptists are the responsibility of those Baptists and not of Baptist Press (Psalm 1:1; Proverbs 2:20; Proverbs 13:20; Proverbs 22:1; Amos 3:3; 1 Corinthians 15:33; 1 Thessalonians 5:22).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the messengers to the 2001 annual meeting of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, do endorse a free press and appreciate, affirm and applaud the honorable Christian editors and reporters of the Baptist Press for telling positive stories about the life-changing power of the gospel, the vigorous ministries of

Bible-believing churches, as well as examining the issues of our day such as abortion, the homosexual agenda, a biblical view of families, and the importance of biblical authority for an authentic Christian witness in a postmodern era.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we equally appreciate, affirm and applaud the faithful and creditable Christian work of the entire staff of the Southern Baptist Texan, the monthly publication of the SBTC.

#6 – Resolution of Appreciation for the SBTC staff and for churches providing assistance for the 2001 SBTC Annual Meeting

WHEREAS, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention annual meeting, October 29-30 in Fort Worth, TX, required volunteer workers to serve in a variety of ways; and

WHEREAS, Birchman Baptist Church, First Baptist Church of Fort Worth, and other local Baptist churches provided valuable assistance and volunteer workers; and

WHEREAS, the SBTC staff has provided effective leadership in the arrangements for our 2001 annual meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the messengers to the fourth annual meeting of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, express our deep appreciation for the hard work of these congregations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we pledge our prayers for these churches that God may prosper their ministries and bless them for the generous spirit of their service to our convention; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we express our gratitude to god for our Executive Director, Dr. Jim Richards, for our ministry staff, and our support staff as they serve the churches of the SBTC.

#7 – Resolution on Evangelism and Church Planting

WHEREAS, it is only by faith in Christ, without human works, that anyone is admitted into heaven (John 3:16; 6:47; Romans 10:8-10; Ephesians 2:8, 9; Revelation 21:25-27); and

WHEREAS, it is only that anyone can know God (John 14:2-6; Galatians 1:8, 9; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 1 John 2:23); and

WHEREAS, the authentic Jesus who saves is the Jesus revealed in the Bible as God Himself, (John 1:1-3, 14; John 20:26-29); and

WHEREAS, although it is neither the responsibility nor the capability of Christians to admit or deny anyone entrance into heaven, it is every Christian's obligation to share the

truth about Jesus as the only true Savior for any person, and to do so motivated by love, (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 10:12-15; 1 Thessalonians 2:3-4; 1 John 1:1-3; 1 John 4:13-15)/

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, we the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention affirm and support the efforts of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to evangelize and start new churches among non-Christians of all faiths throughout the world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we affirm and support the efforts of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to evangelize and start new churches among non-Christians of all faiths throughout North American; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we affirm and support the efforts of our state convention to evangelize and start new churches of all faiths among non-Christians of all faiths throughout Texas.

#8 – Resolution on Associations and Affiliations

WHEREAS, it is important that our witness for the Lord Jesus Christ always be loving, clear, and uncompromising; and

WHEREAS, there are many organizations with which we, as a convention and as individuals, agree in some areas but disagree in others; and

WHEREAS, benefit to our testimony for Christ can be derived from association with certain groups with which our differences are not basic and which are not known for any public positions which are contrary to our convictions; and

WHEREAS, our witness may be compromised by association with groups with which we are known to have basic differences in moral or theological beliefs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage all churches affiliated with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, the members of such churches, all organizations which claim to be Christian, and all believers to be careful in their associations and to avoid affiliation or identification with those groups whose actions bring reproach to the cause of Christ or discredit to biblical principles.

#9 – Resolution of Gratitude to God for the Growth of the SBTC

WHEREAS, our Gracious Heavenly Father has blessed the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC) more abundantly than could ever have been imagined; and

WHEREAS, at this time there are 925 churches affiliated with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention growing in 35 months from 120 the number is increasing every week; and

WHEREAS, over 140 new churches have been sponsored and begun by SBTC and churches which are affiliated with it during the first three years it has existed; and

WHEREAS, undesignated contributions to the SBTC have risen from three million dollars in 2000 to a projected amount over nine million in 2001, with 51% of this amount going to the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, the amount of additional designated giving has risen from three million in 2000 to a projected five million in 2001.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we praise God for His blessings, dedicate ourselves to work even more effectively to proclaim His gospel and invite all other Baptists in Texas who believe that “all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy” to cooperate with us as we seek to bring the lost to a saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and to promote righteousness in our state.

#10 – Resolution of appreciation for Dr. Rudy A. Hernández

BE IT RESOLVED that the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in Fort Worth, TX on October 29-30, wish to express our deep gratitude for the leadership of Dr. Rudy A. Hernández during his first term as president of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.