

LANDMARK BAPTIST HISTORIAN

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This Inaugural Issue is dedicated to encouraging a free discussion concerning the fellowship of churches outside the California Cooperative Association of Missionary Baptist Churches.

This matter has been of much interest among our brethren through the years and has surfaced once again in the Summer of 2007.

Resolution of Ecclesiastical Fraternal Ties

Whereas: The California Cooperative Association of Missionary Baptist Churches is a fellowship of sovereign Churches, and the Association of such Churches is strictly voluntary and non-binding, wherein each Church encourages and aids other Churches in carrying out the Great Commission exclusively given to the Lord's Church; And Whereas: Fellowship among brethren is spiritually sweet; fulfills the command to love the brethren, acknowledges the fraternity of the saints in the light of God's Word, and that a breach of this love is injurious to the duties of both the child of God and Christ's Churches; And Whereas: There is a fraternal tie among the Churches within this Association and the Churches which are within the California State Association of Missionary Baptist Churches, also known as "The Old State," such ties are as following: the common goal of furthering the Kingdom of God, the history of origins of both Associations and of Churches, and the unity of the essential doctrines of the Gospel, such as Salvation, the nature and function of the Church, and the Trinity of God; And Whereas: In spite of the great history of common ancestry between each of the named Associations of Churches in California, there has arisen a great divide within our respective Associations which has separated Churches and Brethren, the cause of which appears to be based on differences of policy and manner of assessing the doctrinal integrity of some Churches;

Be it Resolved:

That this Cooperative Association of Missionary Baptist Churches meeting in Visalia in the year 2010, go on record as encouraging fellowship rather than discouraging, as aiding rather than hindering, and that we reach out our hand in Fraternal Fellowship to those Churches comprising the California State Association of Missionary Baptist Churches, recognizing their valued service in the furthering

of the Kingdom in their field of labor, and allow the healing to begin of the many wounds which have been inflicted,

And to encourage each Church to investigate and determine for themselves what, if any, recognition they may acknowledge to "Old State" Churches.

Done by order of Immanuel Missionary Baptist Church of Carson, Ca. March 28, 2010.

Elder Clifford Creel, Pastor
Church Clerk Debbie Meier

Presented at the Associational Meeting in Visalia on March 31, 2010.

Action Taken: Objection to the consideration of this Resolution was sustained by an excess of two-thirds vote.

Note: See Resolution # 2, page 34 & 35 of 2008 Minutes, Resolutions #1, #2, #3, pages 33-37 of 2009 Minutes; as well as Resolution #2, pages 33 & 34 of 2010 Minutes.



Echoes From the Past

Photo from 1938 Association Meeting
in Roseville, California



They are left to right: John Cooper (Salinas), Lee Dowdle (Taft), R. Y. Blalock (Modesto), G. W. Reynolds (Silver Lake), A. F. Simmons (Ducor), W. S. Wilburn, J. L. Whitmire and L. W. Wright (Pomona, not the pastor).

By Elder Harold Blalock

Comparison of Doctrinal Statements

What Confessions of Faith Can and Cannot Do

What they can do:

1. They can clarify the Baptist position.
2. They can help to preserve and conserve.
3. They can be used as a systematic approach to teaching.
4. They can serve as a guide in delinating fellowships.

What they cannot do:

1. They cannot stop heresy.
2. They cannot cure the heretic.
3. They cannot serve as the basis to debate orthodoxy.
4. They cannot be used as the final authority.
5. They cannot endure and in fact they should not.
6. They cannot be enforced, for no provision for creedal enforcement exists in Scripture and any such proposal by any person or institution or organization should be opposed as the first step toward a hierarchy and ultimate ruin of the Lord's churches.

From: **Missionary Baptist Perspectives-Chapter Three-Baptists and Confessions of Faith by John E. Penn, page 35-Copyright 1984, Bogard Press**

A careful comparison of the Doctrinal Statements of each Association would be beneficial for those that are seriously interested in the issue regarding "Newlightism" that our State Association has been debating over the past several years.



**DOCTRINAL STATEMENT
OF THE
AMERICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

14. We believe that the depraved sinner is saved wholly by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and the requisites to regeneration are repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 13:3-5; John 3:16-18; Acts 20:21; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8, 9), and that the Holy Spirit convicts sinners, regenerates, seals, secures, and indwells every believer (John 3:6; John 16:8, 9; Rom. 8:9-11; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; Eph. 4:30; Titus 3:5).

Doctrinal Statement of the California Cooperative Association of Missionary Baptist Churches

15. We believe that the moment a person repents of his sin and places his faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour, he is born again, becomes a child of God, is personally indwelt by the Holy Spirit, receives forgiveness of all his sins and receives eternal life. He is also assured that from the moment of his physical death he will forever be in the presence of Christ, that he will be in the first resurrection and that he will not suffer any punishment in Hell or the Lake Fire, regardless of the degree of his faithfulness to God. This is because he is saved and kept wholly by God's Grace, apart from works. (John 3:36; John 5:24; John 10:27-30; Romans 8:35-39; Hebrews 10:39; I Peter 1:5; John 3:6; John 16:8,9; Romans 8:9-11; I Corinthians 6:19,20; Ephesians 2:8,9; Ephesians 4:30; Titus 3:5)

Doctrinal Statement of California State Missionary Baptist Association

Article V: SALVATION BY GRACE

Sinners cannot be saved by any work of their own. Salvation of the depraved sinner is only by grace through faith, Eph. 2:8-9. The gospel of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection is the only power to change sinners and give them life, John 10: 10, Rom. 1:16. This salvation occurs before baptism and church membership. Acts 8:36-38. At the moment of faith in Christ as their Savior, they are born of His Spirit. John 3:5-8. This birth of His seed remains in them and it cannot sin. I John 3:9. The Holy Spirit then witnesses with their new spirit that they are the children of God, Rom. 8:16. This salvation cannot be lost, I Cor. 3:15 No saved person can or ever will go to hell or the Lake of Fire, Rev. 20:15. God would have all to be saved, I Tim. 2:4. Jesus invites all to come unto Him, Matt. 11:28. All who remain in their condemned state do so because they will not believe. John 5:40.

Excerpt from: "History of the Landmark Baptists of California" Prepared by L. D. Perdue

1999 SIXTY-EIGHTH SESSION: March 29-31, 1999 The messenger body met with the Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, and Pastor Jim Burks with fifteen churches represented. The messengers voted to adopt the new Articles of Faith that had been worked on by the committee the previous year and was presented by the Bethel church of Whittier. (Note) Copy will be found in the chapter dealing with Articles of Faith. The resolutions committee recommends that churches who would offer changes to the new Doctrinal Statement send copies to each church for them to make changes if they desire.

Note Final adoption of this Doctrinal Statement in 2003

A Fifth Sunday Meeting at Tracy in 1944



Front row: Floyd Ingram, Luther Cooper, Earnest Crawford. Second Row: Ezra Mize, John Cooper, R. Y. Blalock, Tizz Griffin, Allen Tabor, Ted Cooper, Homer Jones, Roy Bell, Allen Adkins and Doc Cooper

From Landmark Jubille-1931 - 1981 page 50

October 14, 2007 Correspondence from:

Liberty Landmark Missionary Baptist Church
341 Claratina Ave.
Modesto, CA 95356

To our dear sister church in Oakdale,

We send you greetings in the love of Christ.

Newlight belief system, boiled down to its real essence, teaches salvation of the spirit of the individual is dependent on baptism and church membership. This is really Roman Catholic, Mormon, Church of Christ (Campbellite) doctrine and of other Protestants who teach salvation is not by grace through faith but that works of some sort are necessary. Salvation is not a mixture of our works and God's grace.

Liberty Landmark Missionary Baptist Church goes on record we believe and insist an individual repent of their sins and place their personal faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior before baptism is even considered. We require a real and personal testimony of salvation, else we will not baptize that person, as that is a false hope and is contrary to the New Testament teaching and example.

This salvation is BEFORE and WITHOUT baptism. This salvation is eternal and can never be lost. This salvation is totally and completely the work of the Holy Spirit on the heart of the individual who hears the gospel message and is drawn by the Spirit to salvation and given assurance of salvation by the same Holy Spirit and are thus "born of the Spirit" so that the "Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

Without the Holy Spirit, salvation is impossible. At salvation, the relationship of that individual with each of the three Persons of the Trinity is radically changed forever.

The church was baptized in the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. That baptism of the Spirit is to the institution of the church. The individual must ALREADY have a new relationship with Christ through the Holy Spirit, BEFORE they come into the institution that was baptized in the Spirit. The church was started in the personal ministry of Christ, not at Pentecost, yet the church was baptized in the Spirit at Pentecost for the purpose of having "another Comforter."

Liberty desires fellowship with our sister churches. Based on (1. the above statement and (2. our articles of faith enclosed and (3. the personal testimony of salvation by our Pastor, also enclosed, we believe these to be sufficient evidence of our soundness.

We thank you for your interest in our fellowship.
Rick Howard, Pastor
Darlene Howard, Church Clerk

Approved by vote of the Liberty Church, Sunday, October 14, 2007



Personal Comments from This Editor:



Our National and State Doctrinal Statements are similar to that of our Old State brethren, leading an honest and unprejudiced mind to conclude that we are brethren of Like Faith and Practice.

It seems that a page has been torn from history to fan the flames of discord and division among good brethren. We have heard this charge, repeatedly against the Church in Oakdale.

1. The Example of Biblical History: Ahab & Elijah

King Ahab accused Elijah of the same thing (i.e. discord and division) when he asked: "Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the lord, and thou hast followed Ba-a-lim." / *Kings 18:17-18*

2. The Example of Secular History: Hitler & Goebbels



Joseph Goebbels

Misattributed

But the most brilliant propagandist technique will yield no success unless one fundamental principle is borne in mind constantly and with unflagging attention. It must confine itself to a few points and repeat them over and over. Here, as so often in this world, persistence is the first and most important requirement for success.

Actually from "War Propaganda", in Volume 1, chapter 6 of *Mein Kampf* (1925), by Adolph Hitler.

(multiple alternatives) If you repeat a lie often enough, it becomes the truth. // If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. // If you repeat a lie often enough, people will believe it // If you repeat a lie long enough, it becomes truth. // If you repeat a lie many times, people are bound to start believing it.

Copied from Wikipedia

Alas, so let us be as the brethren at Berea:

"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Acts 17:11

One wonders when these charges of causing "discord and division" within our Cooperative work and the persecution of the Oakdale Church will end.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by this Editor are not necessarily those held by the Landmark Baptist Church of Folsom. Items are published because of their historical nature.



Please send your comments and or Points of View, articles of historic value and especially photos for future publication to:

Lbfolsom@aol.com

Included here is the Church Covenant adopted by the First Baptist Church of San Francisco, at the time of their organization, on July 6, 1849.

See History of Landmark Baptists of California Volume One pages 33-34, written by this Editor on behalf of the History & Archives Committee of the California Cooperative Association.

~ **CHURCH COVENANT** ~

Having been, as we trust, brought by divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ, and to give up ourselves wholly to him; we do now solemnly and joyfully covenant with each other, TO WALK TOGETHER IN HIM WITH BROTHERLY LOVE, to his glory as our common Lord. We do, therefore, in his strength engage,

That we will exercise a mutual care, as members one of another, to promote the growth of the whole body in Christian knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to the end that we may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

That to promote and secure this object, we will uphold the public worship of God and the ordinances of his house; and hold constant communion with each other therein; that we will cheerfully contribute of our property for the support of the poor, and for the maintenance of a faithful ministry of the Gospel among us.

That we will not omit closet and family religion at home, nor allow ourselves in the too common neglect of the great duty of religiously training up our children, and those under our care, with a view to the service of Christ, and the enjoyment of heaven.

That we will walk circumspectly in the world, that we may win their souls; remembering that God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind; that we are the light of the world and the salt of the earth, and that a city set on a hill cannot be hid.

That we will frequently exhort, and if occasion shall require, admonish one another, according to Matthew 18th, in the spirit of meekness; considering ourselves lest we also be tempted, and that as in baptism we have men buried with Christ, and raised again; so there is on us a special obligation henceforth to walk in newness of life.

And may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do his will; working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight through Jesus Christ: to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

by the Baptist Convention of New Hampshire ~ 1835
Written by Rev. John Newton Brown

"That we will frequently exhort, and if occasion shall require, admonish one another, according to Matthew 18th, in the spirit of meekness; considering ourselves lest we also be tempted,..."

CIRCULAR LETTER



Love to God and to the Brotherhood

By John Dickerson Bonner

The Divine commandment of our Saviour, is, that we shall love one another; to promote this object, shall our present effort be directed. We may promote Love, Union and Harmony, by the faithful performance of every duty enjoined upon us in the Word of God; by attendance upon the means of grace, and by a faithful adherence to our covenant relations, as the Sacramental host of God. While a departure from these principles will bring upon us confusion, strife, and every evil work. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, answered the Scribe, who interrogated him with regard to the first great commandment, with the word of his eternal truth, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord," "and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength." This is the first commandment: John 12th chapter, 29-30 verses. Therefore it is necessary to our acceptance with God, and to our enjoyment of his Holy Spirit, that we should give him our whole hearts, that we should come to him by whole-hearted repentance, with that faith which brings trust and confidence in Jesus Christ. Saying, as did Peter, "Lord, save, or I will perish." By this means, love is begotten in the heart, which flows out in obedience to God, in all things which he may require of us; Baptism, with all the ordinances, belonging to the house of God, not one of which may be neglected without offense in his sight.

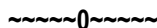
"If ye love me, keep my commandments." As the great family of Baptists, we believe in a strict observance of the word of God, in every point, great and small. If it be lawful to call any commandment of Jesus Christ small, and that not one is to be neglected or forgotten, when it is in the power of the individual to perform the same. That it is necessary to our acceptance with God, that we be found faithful in his sight; that to promote harmony, unity and love, we are compelled to adhere strictly to the time honored doctrine of one Lord, one faith, and one Baptism; one legally and lawful organized Church of Jesus Christ, spoken of by Daniel the Prophet: In the days of those Kings shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed, and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. – Daniel 2:44. Jesus Christ himself left with us the unmistakable landmarks of his kingdom, when he was baptized by John the Baptist, and came up straightway out of the water, the spirit of God descending upon him like a dove; and also a

voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased;" the love of God is manifested in his approbation of the deed done by the son. I would to God that the love of Christians for God, would lead them to acts of obedience, in following the Son of God, according to his example. Jesus Christ the last night of his stay here upon earth, called his disciples, Hearken, hear it, all ye descendants of other denominations – no account of any others, only the disciples. No invitation to sects, or denominations; as you would have us now give, contrary to the example of Christ. None only the kingdom that he himself set up, to commemorate the death and suffering of Christ. He says to them, as oft as ye do this, do it in remembrance of me. The Disciples now partake of this glorious ordinance, having all been baptized. According to John, (4th chapter and 1st and 2^d verses). They unite their voices together in a hymn of praise to God for the glorious institution of his visible kingdom here upon earth.

Let us, my dear brethren, unite in love together, for the continuance of the Faith once delivered to the Saints, of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Bear with undeviating firmness, the banner of our Great Law Giver, to the ends of the world, while there shall be inscribed on its ample folds, love to God, love to all the laws of Christ, and love to man. By the proper observance of the above principles, we may be able to promote peace, love and harmony among ourselves, also to show to the world the true principles of love to God, as esteeming Him more worthy to be obeyed, than the teachings of men.

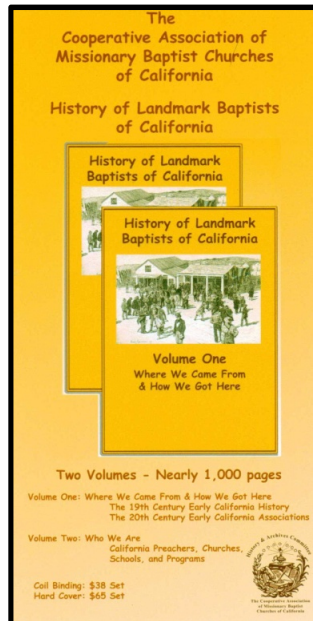
Woe unto them who teach for doctrines the commandments of men. God has said, "If any man shall add to these things," God shall add to him the plagues that are written in this book. And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

He that testifieth these things, saith surely, I come quickly. Amen. Even so come Lord Jesus. Rev. 22^d chapter, 19th and 20th verses.



CIRCULAR LETTER
of the *PACIFIC BAPTIST ASSOCIATION*
THIRD ANNUAL SESSION – 1859 – PP. 12 - 14.

NOTE: Additional "Circular Letters" will be published in future volumes, because each illustrates the doctrinal position of the men that wrote them and the views of the Associations of churches for which they were written. The "Letters" were used for instructional purposes and eventually fell into disuse.



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The History & Archives
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A heartfelt THANK YOU to these sisters for their long hours of typing and editing in assisting Bro. L. D. Perdue in the completion of this project.



Desiree Kedzierski



Marcia Mooney



Defending THE LANDMARKS OF BAPTIST FAITH

Visit it at:

www.baptistlandmarks.org

I highly recommend and commend this internet Blog, and the work of Elder Tom Blalock.

ABOUT THE EDITOR

John R. Blalock took over as editor of "The Western Baptist" newspaper from his father R. Y. Blalock in 1948, after returning from China and being held prisoner during world war II, and continued to publish it bi-monthly until he left for Japan as a missionary in 1953. When home on furlough from Japan and an auto accident prevented him from returning, he began a new paper "Landmarks of Baptist Faith". I do not know of a complete file of these papers anywhere. I have found some of them around the house. It is from the papers I have found that I have posted this BLOG to the Internet. If anyone reading this has copies of either of these papers and would like to share just E-Mail them to the address at the bottom of the page.

John R. Blalock is still alive and as I am writing this he will turn 99 in a few days. That will be November 3rd 2010.

It is my hope that by placing these articles on the world wide web, others will be able to read them and enjoy them. Christians will be encouraged, the lost may be convicted of their desperate need of salvation, and come to a saving knowledge of our Lord.



Current Editor: Elder Tom Blalock

ATTENTION!

We would love to hear from you. Please send your correspondence to: Lbfolsom@aol.com. Your articles & photos of a historical nature will be appreciated. Thanks.

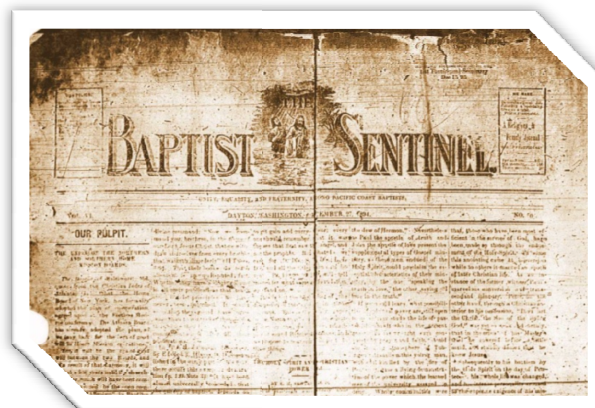


Minister Photos Needed

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 - James Arnold Burkholder
 - Leonard D. Buttram
- More requests each month.**



Articles from The Baptist Sentinel published during the 1890's, in the States of Washington & Oregon, will begin to appear in future publications.

This material was copied from Microfilm in the possession of the History & Archived Committee.