

## **Dr. Earle G. Griffith**

In expectation of the coming of Christ and the resurrection of the believing dead, Paul exhorted the servants of God to be "steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1Cor. 15: 58). When he came to the end of his own earthly life, he testified, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness" (2 Tim. 4:7, 8).

Many of God's people since that time have earnestly heeded the exhortation to abound in the work of the Lord and have now completed their ministries on earth with the assurance of a crown to be given by the Lord Jesus Christ. It is our conviction that among that number is Dr. Earle G. Griffith, a brother beloved among the people of God and for a number of years an encouragement and challenge to many of us.

Dr. Griffith entered the eternal presence of Christ at the age of 75 on June 10, 1971, after a brief illness.

He will long be remembered by many Regular Baptists for his leadership in the formation of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches and for a continued interest in its cause from the time of its beginning until the end of his journey on earth. He was one of the leaders in the Baptist Bible Union, the organization which terminated in the beginning of the GARBC. He was elected as the first vice president of the organization at the initial meeting of the Fellowship, May 15-18, 1932. The next year he became the president. When the organizational plan changed to the council system, Dr. Griffith was chosen as the first chairman of the Council.

During his ministry in the GARBC, he served as pastor of the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Toledo, Ohio; the Bethel Baptist Church in Erie, Pennsylvania; and the First Baptist Church of Johnson City, New York.

He became president of the Baptist Bible Seminary of Johnson City, New York, now the Baptist Bible College of Pennsylvania, in 1940, and served in this capacity until January, 1946, when he accepted a position with the National Bible Institute of New York City. For many years before his retirement, he was executive vice president of the Piedmont Bible College, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where he

continued to aid in the education of many Regular Baptist preachers and missionaries.

He authored a book on Baptist polity and wrote numerous articles for *The Baptist Bulletin*, *Daybreak*, and other periodicals.

The Association of Baptists for World Evangelism was close to the heart of Dr. Griffith, and as a member of the Council and the executive committee, he helped to advance the cause of missions in our Fellowship. For a number of years he also served on the Council of Baptist Mid-Missions.

THEREFORE in view of the dedicated service to Christ and the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, the Council of Fourteen recommends that the Association at this time express its great loss in the home going of Dr. Earle G. Griffith and extend our sympathy to Mrs. Griffith and the family.

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