

Prayer

WHEREAS in this increasingly secular, yet religious age, when men are seeking all kinds of substitutes for the truth and when so many "religious" people view prayer only as a tool to accomplish their own selfish ends; and

WHEREAS church prayer meetings are filled with petitions for the healing of the body, but comparatively few seem concerned to pray for spiritual needs of believers and for those who are lost; and

WHEREAS pulpit prayers often seem to be exercises in futility because the prayers are often repetitive and ritualistic and because many members of the congregation are daydreaming instead of participating in the pastoral prayer; and

WHEREAS this is a day when families are disintegrating and times of family prayer are very infrequent in many homes;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the churches at the 42nd Annual Conference of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, June 25–29, 1973, announce our conviction that prayer is a means of the worship of a holy God, that it is essential to a victorious Christian life, and that our local church prayer meetings should be viewed as more than perfunctory religious exercises but times of soul-searching and definite pleading for heartfelt spiritual needs, and that regular times of family prayer should be conducted in every Christian home; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we begin implementing this resolution by earnest private and public prayer here at this conference, and that this be continued as we return to our places of ministry.

*Kansas City, Missouri
June 25–29, 1973*