

## **Social Security Reform Act**

WHEREAS the U.S. Congress, for the first time in America's history, has imposed a direct compulsory tax on our churches through its passage of the Social Security Reform Act of 1983; and

WHEREAS we believe this to be a violation of the separation of church and state which has been a part of that great body of Biblical truth, known as Baptist distinctives, firmly held by Regular Baptists and believed by our ancient forbears whose tenacious adherence to its concepts purchased for us the religious liberty we enjoy; and

WHEREAS we believe this act to be in violation of the First Amendment to our Constitution which restricts Congress from making any law prohibiting the "free exercise" of religion and which previous Congresses since 1935 have recognized;

BE IT RESOLVED that we the messengers of the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the GARBC meeting in Springfield, Illinois, June 24–28, 1985, do hereby strongly urge the fellowship of churches to pray and work toward a redress of this grievance. We further urge that substantive efforts be channeled into supporting the First Amendment Religious Freedom Case of Bethel Baptist Church of Sellersville, Pennsylvania, as they seek a federal court decision on the constitutionality of the law on behalf of all of us; and

WE FURTHER SUGGEST encouraging your Washington senators to vote for the passage of Senator Jesse Helm's bill (S1229) which would return churches to a voluntary relationship to the Social Security tax; and

IN CONCLUSION, RESOLVED that we commend our brother Dr. Richard Harris and Bethel Baptist Church for their courageous effort on behalf of all churches and the cause of separation of church and state.

*Springfield, Illinois  
June 24–28, 1985*